

Department of Art and Media

Orientation 2025

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Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Orientation: Study Affairs

Master's Programme in Art and Media

Jaakko Kölhi

ARTS Learning Services – Student Services

August 2025

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Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Art and Media Student Services



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Scheduling appointments: mystudies.aalto.fi

Structure of the MA degree 120 cr

Major studies 60 cr

Master's thesis 30 cr

Elective studies 30 cr

Master's degree, 2 years

1st year

Major studies

Elective and language courses

2nd year autumn

Thesis seminar

Electives / minor / exchange

2nd year spring

Thesis seminar (continues)

Master's thesis

Recommended study timetable

Student Guide

- Student Guide
- Programmes
- Master's Programme in Art and Media
 - Starting your studies
 - Curriculum 2024–2026
 - Curriculum 2022–2024
- Recommended timetables**
- Course substitutions
- Planning your studies
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Master's Programme in Art and Media

Recommended timetables

- Art Education** +
- Photography** +
- Game Design and Development** +
- New Media** +
- Sound in New Media** +
- Visual Communication Design** +
- Visual Cultures, Curating and Contemporary Art** +

Fall semester - 2 periods and 2 intensive weeks.



Spring semester - 3 periods ja 3 intensive weeks.



Elective studies 30 cr

(not for Art Education / Kuvataidekasvatus)

Courses that you choose yourself! Your elective studies can include:

- **Elective courses of your own major**
- **Elective art and theory studies (TAITE)**
- **A minor**
- **Courses from other programmes/majors at Aalto University**
- **Language courses**
- **Courses from other Finnish universities (JOO)**
- **Exchange studies**
- **Internships (in Finland and abroad)**

Minor 18-30 cr

- **Part of the elective studies**
 - E.g. if you complete a 18 cr minor, you have 12 cr left for other elective courses
- **Can be from any field of study**
 - List of minors at students.aalto.fi
- **Some minors are “open”, some require application**
 - Read carefully the information on each minor
- **Application period for ARTS minors in April-May 2026**
 - aalto.fi: “Instructions for applying for ARTS Minors”

Exchange studies

- Possible to apply for student exchange for one semester (autumn 2026) to one of Aalto's partner institutions
- Exchange studies are included in the degree, typically as elective studies
- Interested in exchange? Start planning well in advance
- Application period for next autumn is in January 2026
- More information on the destinations, application criteria and other practicalities at students.aalto.fi:
→ Other studies → Exchange studies

Language requirements

1) Students educated in Finnish or Swedish

- A) If completed as part of a Finnish BA degree: no language requirements.
- B) If not completed as part of the BA degree, the language requirements are:
 - 9 credits: 3 cr in written and oral communication, 3 cr in the second national language of Finland, and 3 cr in one foreign language.

2) Students educated in other languages than Finnish or Swedish

- 3 credits in one foreign language
 - English (minimum level CEFR B2)
 - Spanish, Chinese, French, German or Russian (minimum level CEFR B1)
 - Finnish or Swedish (any level)

Language courses are part of the elective studies
students.aalto.fi -> Language and communication studies

Credit transfer

If you have completed individual courses in other universities, you can transfer them to Aalto and include them in your elective studies.

As a rule, you cannot transfer credits from your BA degree.

[students.aalto.fi:](http://students.aalto.fi)

-> Applications, instructions and guidelines -> Credit transfer

Individual study arrangements

- Every Aalto student has a right to receive reasonable individual study arrangements for medical reasons. A medical reason may be e.g. dyslexia, a sensory impairment, mental health condition or learning difficulty.
- Examples of individual study arrangements include additional time for examinations (1 hour at Aalto), a private space or computer for examinations, or adjusted schedules.
- Individual study arrangements are based on an assessment by a specialist, meaning you need a certificate from a doctor, psychologist or similar specialist explaining your need for individual study arrangements.
- **Contact person at ARTS:** Sonja Norpila, sonja.norpila@aalto.fi

Sisu – sisu.aalto.fi

- **Student and study information system**
- **Planning your studies**
 - Create and follow your personal study plan (PSP)
 - See your weekly schedule and lecture locations
- **Registering for courses**
 - Add courses to your plan and register for them
 - Check your completed credits
- **Submitting applications**
 - Apply for credit transfer, course substitution, graduation
- **Sisu clinic on Thursday at 10-12 am in room R102 (Väre)**
- **Detailed Sisu instructions at students.aalto.fi**

Where to find information?

students.aalto.fi

- curriculum, academic calendar, rules and regulations, instructions

sisu.aalto.fi

- personal study plan, course registration, grades, applications

mycourses.aalto.fi

- course homepages, assignments, materials

mail.aalto.fi

- newsletters, events, application periods

mystudies.aalto.fi

- services for students, scheduling appointments

Academic advisor

- **A faculty member in your own major**
- **Assigned to you in the beginning of your studies**
- **Your primary contact for questions related to the *contents* of your studies and your personal study plan**
 - What optional or elective courses should you take
 - Which minor would be suitable for you
 - What courses would support your career goals
 - Practical training / Internships
 - Thesis process
- **Student tutors** are fellow students from the department and can help you with practical questions during the start of your studies

Student Services

- ***Structure* of your studies: what is possible, what is not**
- **Technical issues with Sisu (study plan, course registration) and other platforms**
- **How to? Apply for a minor, for student exchange, for credit transfer...**

Väre building, M wing, 3rd floor, room M311

studentservices@aalto.fi

Schedule an appointment: mystudies.aalto.fi

What's next?

Welcome event today at 16:00 at MMK2 (Metallimiehenkuja 2)

Major specific orientation sessions today, Wednesday and Friday

(students.aalto.fi → Master's Programme in Art and Media → Starting your studies)

Thursday:

10:00-11:30 Study counselling clinic, IT Classroom R102 in Väre

12:30-14:00 Better Student Life at Aalto, Lecture hall A, Otakaari 1

10:00-15:00 Aalto Welcome Fair, Otakaari 1 lobby

Thank you!

Questions?

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26.8.2025