

WELCOME TO AALTO ARTS!



BA in Design and Media orientation

Kuura Koivu, study coordinator

August 2026



**Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture**

Orientation week schedule

- What happens?
- Where?
- When?

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/bachelors-programme-in-design-and-media/starting-your-studies>

What courses make up your studies?

Degree structure

General studies	26 ECTS
Major studies	111 ECTS
Minor studies	18-43 ECTS
Elective studies	max. 25 ECTS
Total	180 ECTS

Total	General studies	Major studies	Minor studies	Elective studies
180	26	111	18-43	25*
ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS

*max 25 ECTS depending on the scope of the minor.

Major studies, 1st year

Compulsory courses in the major, 1st year

ARTX-C1016	Introductory Design Project	9	I / 1st year
ARTX-C1001	Design and Media Cultures (DoD Joint)	3	II / 1st year
MUO-C3042	Programming for Designers	3	II / 1st year
ARTX-C1021	Digital Design for People	4	III / 1st year
ARTX-C1003	Thematic Studio I	12	III-IV / 1st year
ARTX-C1008	Sustainable Design	6	V / 1st year
ARTX-C1022	Design Impact I	3	V / 1st year

Major studies, 2nd year

Compulsory courses in the major, 2nd year

MUO-C0006	History of Innovations and Design (DoD Joint)	3	I / 2nd year
ARTX-C1018	Digital Service Design Project	9	I / 2nd year
ARTX-C1011	Process Management for Media and Design	6	II / 2nd year
ARTX-C1020	Strategic Identity and Design	6	III / 2nd year
ARTX-C1013	Thematic Studio II	12	III-IV / 2nd year
ARTX-C1014	Design Futures	6	V / 2nd year
ARTX-C1006	Design Impact II	6	V / 2nd year
LC-1117	Integrated Oral and Written Skills	3	II / 2nd year

Major studies, 3rd year

Compulsory courses in the major, 3rd year

ARTX-C1023	Introduction to Research in Design and Media	4	I-II / 3rd year
ARTX-C1007	Design Impact III	6	III-V / 3rd year
ARTS3101.kand	Bachelor's Thesis and Seminar	10	III-IV / 3rd year
ARTS3101.matr	Maturity test	0	III-IV / 3rd year

General studies 26 cr

On general studies courses students study knowledge and skills that are common to all departments and students of Aalto ARTS.

General studies in the Bachelor's Programme in Design include art and theory studies, language and communication studies and other joint studies:

- Art and theory studies 9 cr**
- Other joint studies 8 cr**
- Language and communication studies 9 cr**



Art and theory studies 9 cr

ARTS-A0125 Introduction to Artistic Practices, 6 cr

ARTS-A0123 Theory of Contemporary Art Practices, 3 cr

These courses are scheduled in the recommended study timetable.

Other joint studies 8 cr

ARTS-A0128	University Study Skills, 2 cr
ARTS-A0111	Information Literacy, 1 cr
ARTS-A0129	Digital Tools for ARTS Studies, 2 cr

Aalto course, 3 cr

Aalto course is a degree-related course focusing on developing work-life skills. You can find the course selection in Student Guide and in your Sisu study plan.

Language studies 9 cr

Students educated in Finnish or Swedish

If not completed in previous 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.

Students educated in other languages than Finnish or Swedish

9 credits: 3 cr Finnish or Swedish, 3 cr English, and 3 cr in one other foreign language.

Minor Studies, min. 18 cr

- Select minor studies based on your interests
- Scope of minor studies is min. 18 credits.
- One minor is compulsory, but you can also include two minors in the bachelor's degree.
- It is possible to choose a minor within Aalto University, from another Finnish university or from university abroad during a student exchange.
- Application for ARTS' minors is in April and October. Apply during the 1st or 2nd study year.

Elective Studies, max. 25 cr

- Elective art and theory studies (TAITE)
- Individual courses from other programmes at Aalto University
- Courses from other Finnish universities (JOO)
- Language courses
- Exchange studies
- Internships (in Finland and abroad)

When do the courses take place?



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Curriculum 2026-2028

During the first year your studies consist mainly of major studies and general studies.

In the second year, the studies include not only major studies, but also elective studies and you can already start the minor studies.

In the third year in the autumn, it is possible to go on a student exchange. During 3rd year you are supposed to complete minor studies and/or elective studies.

Bachelor's thesis is to be completed also during the third-year spring.

1st Year

Period I 13 cr

ARTX-C1016
Introductory Design
Project
9 cr

ARTS-A0125
Introduction to Artistic Practices
6 cr

ARTS-A0128
University Study Skills
2 cr

Period II 10 cr

ARTX-C1001
Design & media cultures
3 cr

MUO-C3042
Programming for
Designers
3 cr

Period III 14 cr

ARTS-A0111
Information
literacy
1 cr

ARTX-C1003
Thematic studio I
12 cr

ARTX-C1021
Digital Design for People
4 cr

Finnish/Swedish
3 cr

Period IV 11 cr

ARTS-A0129
Digital Tools for ARTS
Studies
2 cr

LCA-1002 Expressing
Your Expertise
3 cr

Period V 12 cr

ARTX-C1008
Sustainable Design
6 cr

ARTX-C1022
Design Impact I
3 cr

ARTS-A0123
Theory of Contemporary
Art Practices
3 cr

**2nd
Year**

Period I

12 cr

ARTX-C1018
Digital service design
project
9 cr

MUO-C0006
History of Innovations
and Design
3 cr

Period II

12 cr

ARTX-C1011
Process management
for media & design
6 cr

LC-1117
Integrated oral &
written skills (w)
3 cr

Elective(s)
3 cr

Period III

12 cr

ARTX-C1020
Strategic identity &
design
6 cr

ARTX-C1013
Thematic design studio II
12 (6 + 6) cr

Period IV

12 cr

**Cross-School course
(elective)**
3 cr

Elective(s)
3 cr

Period V

12 cr

ARTX-C1014
Design futures
6 cr

ARTX-C1006
Design impact II
6 cr



3rd
Year

Period I

Period II

Period III

Period IV

Period V

Minor
min 18 cr

ARTX-C1023
Introduction to Research in Design & Media
4 cr

ARTS3101.kand
Bachelor thesis & seminar
10 cr

ARTX-C1007
Design impact III
6 cr

Language studies
3 cr

Electives
max 28 cr

Exchange studies



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Exchange studies

- Preferred to do during the autumn of 3rd study year
- Start planning in beginning of the 2nd study year!
- Talk to your academic advisor
- The programme has to approve the exchange studies
- More information in Student Guide: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/other-studies/exchange-studies>

Recommended study timetable

The structure for studies and the recommended study timetable can be found in Student Guide <https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/bachelors-programme-in-design/recommended-timetable>

It is recommended for you to proceed with your studies in this order, as the major courses are only arranged once a year.

In addition, the learning objectives of the courses are based on the knowledge and skills of previous courses.

Personal Study Plan, PSP

(HOPS in Finnish)

- Every student must have a personal study plan (PSP) in Sisu
- PSP is created in Sisu before the orientation week or during the orientation week at latest.
- You must have a PSP and you must have included courses in your PSP to be able to register to courses.
- You will finalise the PSP during the University Study Skills course.

Registration for courses

- Registration takes place on Sisu! <https://sisu.aalto.fi>
- Registration opens 4 weeks before and closes 1 week before a new study period begins.
- Instructions: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/applications-instructions-and-guidelines/registration-for-courses-in-sisu-a-quick-guide>
- If you need help, visit the pop-op study guidance clinic on Thursday at 10.00-11.30 in Väre, R102 IT-room, 1st floor.

Credit transfer

If you have completed studies at other university than Aalto or have other prior learning that is relevant to your degree, you can apply for transfer credits towards your Aalto degree.

See Student Guide ➡ “Applications” ➡ “Credit transfer”

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/applications-instructions-and-guidelines/credit-transfer>

Individual study arrangements

Each Aalto student has a right to receive reasonable individual study arrangements for medical reasons. A medical reason may be dyslexia, a sensory impairment, mental health condition or learning difficulty.

Do not send any medical certificates through regular email. There is instructions on how to do it: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/individual-study-arrangements>

Contact: Sonja Norpila, sonja.norpila@aalto.fi

Things to take into consideration:

1. Note that you can be absent from studies for 1 academic year only by registering as non-attending -> you can register as non-attending after this as well, but it will be counted towards your study time and will affect the scholarship and the study time you will have left to use for Master's studies.
2. Students from outside the EU: You can apply for a permanent residence permit once you have completed the BA degree AND 15 ECTS of Finnish or Swedish language courses during your studies. Read more [here](#).

Where to find info?
Whom to ask for help?



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Where to find information?

Look for information yourself

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/student-guide> (anything related to your studies)

sisu.aalto.fi (study plan and course registration)

mycourses.aalto.fi (course specific information)

Read your Aalto email!

mail.aalto.fi

- your own programme mailing list: students-design-ba-2026@aalto.fi
- your own department mailing list
- ARTS students' mailing list

Ask your academic advisor if you have questions or concerns about the content of your studies

Academic advisor

Teppo Vienamo

teppo.vienamo@aalto.fi

Study coordinator

Kuura Koivu

The programme's study coordinator can help you for example with Sisu issues.

You can book a time for a meeting through email
studentservices@aalto.fi

The meeting can happen on campus (Väre) or in Zoom.

If you have general questions related to the studies

(Tuition fees, scholarships, transcript of records, certificate of attendance, enrolling for the academic year, etc)

Learning Services:

studentservices@aalto.fi

Väre, 3rd floor, room M311

Opening hours: tue at 10-12, wed-thu at 12-15

Thank you!



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture