



Module Handbook for the Design Futures (M.A.) degree programme

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The German version of this document is the legally binding version.
The English translation provided here is for information purposes only.

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List of abbreviations:

GENERAL		MODULE TYPES	
Cr =	ECTS-Credits	A =	Advanced module
PO =	Examination Regulations	B =	Basic module
S =	Self-study	P =	Compulsory module
SVP =	Study plan	W =	Elective module
SWS =	Semester hours per week	WP =	Required elective module
WL =	Workload	Z =	Additional module
		SEMESTER	
		SoSe =	Summer semester
		WiSe =	Winter semester

TEACHING FORMATS		ASSESSMENT FORMS	
E =	Individual tuition	HA =	Written assignment
GR =	Group tuition	K =	Written examination
H =	Observation	L =	Logbook
KG =	Small-group tuition	LN =	Coursework requirement
PR =	Project	M =	Oral examination
SE =	Seminar	MK =	Master's colloquium
Ü =	Practical class	PRO =	Audition
V =	Lecture	PK =	Presentation with colloquium
		PP =	Practical examination
		PRA =	Presentation
TYPES OF ASSESSMENT		PRA =	Presentation
b =	graded	D =	Documentation
u =	ungraded		

Mini glossary:

GR(x) Group tuition with group size x

Contact hours Total duration of class throughout the module, in hours

SWS Semester hour per week (1 SWS = 1 hour of teaching per semester week),
i.e. 1 SWS corresponds to 15 hours of contact time per semester of the module

Self-study Workload for the module / module component in hours, in addition to contact hours, which
students must complete on their own in order to pass the module successfully

Module component Courses within the module

WL Workload = total time commitment for the module / module component in hours;
the workload is the sum of class hours and self-study

** Where a coursework requirement (LN) is used as an assessment form, the lecturer specifies at the start of the course what evidence must be submitted in order to pass the module and formally informs all students.*

Module no.	Module title							
MA-DF-1	Artistic Core Subject C							
Semester				Frequency				
Semesters 1 to 3				Every semester				
	Dur.	Type	WL (h)	Contact hours ~ SWS	S (h)	b/u	Cr	Format
Total:	1 sem.	P	540	120 h ~ 8 SWS	420	b	18	
MA-DF-1.1: Artistic Development Project C: Material and Design Design for Interaction and Inquiry Experimental Design Design by Technology Society in Motion Form and Contexts	1 sem.	WP	540	120 h ~ 8 SWS	420	b	18	PR/E
* MA-IMD-1: Artistic Core Subject C (M.A. Intermedia Design)	1 sem.	WP	540	120 h ~ 8 SWS	420	b	18	PR/E
* BA-IMG-5.2 / BA-PD-5.2: Artistic Development Project B (B.A. Intermedia Design / Product Design)	1 sem.	WP	540	120 h ~ 8 SWS	420	b	18	PR/E/Ü/SE
* BA-KD-5.1 / BA-PD-5.1 / BA-FOTO-5: Artistic Studio Project B (B.A. Intermedia Design / Product Design / Photography)	1 sem.	WP	270	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	b	9	PR/E/Ü/SE
* BA-KD-1 / BA-PD-1: Artistic Core Subject A (B.A. Intermedia Design / Product Design)	1 sem.	WP	270	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	b	9	PR/E/Ü/SE
* BA-A-5: LAB	1 sem.	WP	540	120 h ~ 8 SWS	420	b	18	PR/E
* Eligible exchange modules; see the relevant Module Handbook								
Entry requirements								
Total:	Admission to an M.A. degree programme in the Department of Design							
Competence-based learning outcomes (incl. course content)								
Total:	The thematic content is shaped by futures-related design discourse and socially relevant issues. Across the module components, particular emphasis is placed on sustainability, new technologies and digitalisation as areas presenting extensive current and future societal challenges and opportunities. In this context, the transformation of the design discipline itself, incorporating transdisciplinary methods, also becomes the subject of design-based and discursive engagement. Depending on the topic, transdisciplinary project teams may also be formed with external project partners. The projects do not build on one another over the course of the programme. This gives students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in selected areas or broaden it across fields. Students may pursue intrinsically motivated topics and contribute them to the respective project questions presented by the teaching staff.							

MA-DF-1.1: Artistic Development Project C: Material and Design Design for Interaction and Inquiry Experimental Design Design by Technology Society in Motion Form and Contexts	Experimental Sustainability, Studies for the Future "Experimental Sustainability" is conceived as a laboratory in which the idea of sustainable development is put into practice through experimentation. It seeks routes to innovation with the potential to redefine the relationships between production and consumption, work and leisure, and the natural and technospheric worlds. The experiment is central to the studio work, creatively bringing together design practice, academic enquiry and responsible action. Connections with movements such as repair, DIY and maker culture, urban gardening, transition towns and voluntary simplicity should be explored and linked with established approaches to resource efficiency and the circular economy. Experimental Art and Design The "Experimental Art and Design" module component focuses on artistic and experimental explorations of materials, speculative-utopian designs and an interrogation of the world of things in a broader poetic sense. This generates impulses for further application-oriented design processes, or sculptures, objects, images, installations, graphics or films as autonomous artistic works. One focus is the concept of Social Sculpture, understood as an art practice that seeks to shape society. Design for Interaction & Inquiry Guided by methods of practice-based design research, the "Interaction and Inquiry" module component explores the design of interactions. It takes ergonomics, digital technologies and interactions with biology and biotechnology into account. The aim is not only to acquire applied knowledge, but above all to reflect on and critically question the current and possible future effects of these interactions and technologies on society, for example through conceptual, experimental and speculative design approaches. Within this discourse-oriented design practice, particular emphasis is placed on communicating and exhibiting the projects. Computational Experience The Computational Experience module component investigates, theoretically, experimentally and through applied work, how new disruptive technologies are changing our environment and how these changes can be understood as opportunities for design. Alongside critical engagement, designers are enabled to participate independently in social discourse and actively shape it. Developing advanced skills for delivering technology-based projects is as essential as creating functional prototypes and experiential scenarios. The thematic focus is on generative methods of form-finding and materialisation, the digital networking of things (IOT), and the merging of physical artefacts with digital data in extended reality (XR). Society in Motion The "Society in Motion" module component gives students the opportunity to explore diverse and individual social phenomena with a specific focus on "movement". The concept of "society" is understood as multidimensional and encompasses not only people as actors but also their artefacts and information. We describe the processes of change occurring within society between people, and between people and artefacts or information, as movement, and regard this dynamic as a challenging design task. Form and Contexts
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	"Form and Contexts" examines product environments and their contexts of use in both substantive and aesthetic terms. It considers aspects such as interculturality and changing social conditions, investigates their effects on aesthetic perception and user requirements, and translates them into products through design.
Transferability to other degree programmes	
Total:	Module MA-DF-1.1 may be credited towards the corresponding "Artistic Development Project" module components in all artistic-practical degree programmes in the Department of Design at Experience Level C.
Requirements for the award of credits	
Total:	Presentation / colloquium / documentation
Examination forms and duration	
Total:	PK/PRA/D, max. 20–30 min., graded
Composition of the module grade & weighting towards the overall degree grade	
Total:	If the module's examination consists of several module-component examinations, the module grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the component grades weighted according to the relevant ECTS credits. The individual grades for modules completed during the programme are weighted according to the ECTS credits allocated to the respective modules. Module examinations completed during the programme account for 60% and the final module examination for 40% of the overall grade.

Module no.	Module title							
MA-DF-2	Specialist Knowledge C / Foundation Knowledge C							
Semester					Frequency			
Semesters 1–3					Every semester			
	Dur.	Type	WL (h)	Contact hours ~ SWS	S (h)	b/u	Cr	Format
Total:	1 sem.	P	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	
MA-DF-2.1: Symposium Design Futures	1 sem.	WP	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	E/Se/Ü/KG
MA-DF-2.2: Exhibition Practice	1 sem.	WP	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	E/Se/Ü/KG
MA-DF-2.3: Design Perspectives	1 sem.	WP	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	E/Se/Ü/KG
* MA-IMD-2: Foundation Subjects C (M.A. Communication Design)	1 sem.	WP	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	E/Se/Ü/KG
* BA-IMG-6 / BA-PD-6 / BA-FOTO-6: Foundation Subjects B (B.A. Communication Design / Product Design / Photography)	1 sem.	WP	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	SE/Ü
* BA-IMG-2 / BA-PD-2: Foundation Subjects A (B.A. Communication Design / Product Design)	1 sem.	WP	180	60 h ~ 4 SWS	120	u	6	E/Se/Ü/KG
* Eligible exchange modules; see the relevant module handbooks								
Entry requirements								
Total:	Admission to an M.A. degree programme in the Department of Design at Folkwang University of the Arts							
Competence-based learning outcomes (incl. course content)								
Total	The module teaches methods, techniques and modes of production (craft-based, digital and industrial) that relate to, or investigate, future developments in design. The module also includes offerings such as "After Master", in which students can prepare to embark on their chosen design direction after completing the Master's degree. It develops skills in exhibiting and presenting, as well as in planning and participating in symposia.							
MA-DF-2.1: Symposium Design Futures	Students jointly devise, organise and deliver a workshop, lecture series or symposium on a topic within current and future-oriented design discourse. Within the workshop, lecture series or symposium, they take responsibility for external networking in relation to their interests in current and future-oriented design discourse. They contribute their own work from individual areas of focus. Teaching staff moderate the project and make recommendations on visual and substantive communication. Students participate actively in the symposium and workshop activities while, in parallel, developing independent organisational skills, communication and facilitation skills, and thematic responsibility. Interdisciplinary and communication skills are strengthened through teamwork. During participation, students are expected to experience both the role of critical participant and that of reflective facilitator/organiser, thereby developing advanced communication and facilitation skills and thematic responsibility. Working independently as a team, students learn to organise and deliver a workshop, lecture series or symposium on their topics. Working within a network strengthens interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and communication skills.							

	Students learn to present their work to a wider public, to improve the communicative qualities of their design work, and to exhibit and curate it in relation to space. This also includes the design of exhibition furniture and exhibition communications (invitations, posters, web, digital platforms, etc.). In addition, students take responsibility for presenting and contacting relevant companies and institutions. They learn to represent their work confidently and professionally to third parties. The module concludes with a public exhibition of student work, supervised by two professors from the Design Futures Master's degree programme.
MA-DF-2.2: Exhibition Practice	Students learn to present their work to a broader public, to strengthen the communicative qualities of their design projects, and to exhibit and curate them in relation to specific spatial contexts. This also includes the design of exhibition furniture and exhibition communication, such as invitations, posters, websites, and digital platforms. In addition, students take responsibility for presenting their work to and establishing contact with relevant companies and institutions. They learn to represent their work confidently and professionally to external audiences. The module concludes with a public exhibition of student work, supervised by two lecturers from the Master's programme in Design Futures.
MA-DF-2.3: Design Perspectives	- Practice-based Design Research - Experimental Sustainability, Studies for the Future - Computational Experience course - Society in Motion course - Form and Contexts course - Experimental Design - Social Design - Design Theory The courses introduce students to future-oriented design perspectives (e.g. artistic practices, academic writing and research, an understanding of sustainable design, philosophy of design, practical research methods, design techniques, etc.).
Transferability to other degree programmes	
Total:	May be credited towards the corresponding "Specialist Knowledge / Foundation Knowledge" module components in all artistic-practical degree programmes in the Department of Design at Experience Level C.
Requirements for the award of credits	
Total:	Presentation / colloquium / documentation
Examination forms and duration	
Total:	PK/PRA/D, max. 20–30 min., ungraded (pass / no pass)
Composition of the module grade & weighting towards the overall degree grade	
Total:	The module is ungraded.

Module no.	Module title							
MA-A-1	Theory C - Design Futures							
Semester					Frequency			
Semesters 1–2 / two semesters					Every semester			
	Dur.	Type	WL (h)	Contact hours ~ SWS	S (h)	b/u	Cr	Format
Total:	3 sem.	P	180	30 h ~ 2 SWS	150	b	6	
MA-A-1.1 Design Research - Design Futures	1 sem.	WP	180	30 h ~ 2 SWS	150	b	6	Se/V/Ü
MA-A-1.2 Culture and Society	1 sem.	WP	180	30 h ~ 2 SWS	150	b	6	Se/V/Ü
MA-A-1.3 Philosophy	1 sem.	WP	180	30 h ~ 2 SWS	150	b	6	Se/V/Ü
MA-A-1.4 Theory and History of Photography	1 sem.	WP	180	30 h ~ 2 SWS	150	b	6	Se/V/Ü
Entry requirements								
Total:	Admission to a degree programme in the Department of Design at Folkwang University of the Arts							
Competence-based learning outcomes (incl. course content)								
Total:	<u>Learning outcomes:</u> Students have command of the relevant terminology, enabling them to describe, reflect on and interpret design concepts in different theoretical contexts. They possess both subject-specific and general theoretical knowledge, together with the corresponding methodological and reflective skills. – Teaching specialist knowledge of the methods, principles, concepts, working practices and subject matter of the respective disciplines, taking account of social, historical, legal and technical contexts, with a strong research orientation – Fostering abstract, interconnected and interdisciplinary thinking – Strengthening problem-solving skills, self-organisation and teamwork – Ability to communicate complex content and relationships in speech and writing; training in general presentation and working techniques – Ability to acquire knowledge independently <u>Course content:</u> The aim is to engage with theory that addresses, or relates to, image production and design. The principal method is the production of texts. The module components may provide a strongly discipline-specific perspective but may also focus on complementary contexts that considerably broaden the range of perspectives.							

MA-A-1.1 Design Research – Design Futures	<u>Learning outcomes:</u> Students can apply the key aspects of transdisciplinary work: bringing together phenomena of everyday life with academic questions, and vice versa. By engaging with historical and contemporary texts in design studies, they are able to present and discuss important design phenomena in all their complexity and substantiate them with examples from practice. Through textual analysis and group discussions, students gain command of the relevant terminology. They are able to structure complex and seemingly unfamiliar texts and put them to productive use for the relevant question. In addition, students engage with Research through Design and reflect on how their own field of design can develop in an academically grounded and future-oriented way. A further focus is the discourse on the influence of new technologies and social developments on design processes and design research, both through critical enquiry and through exploratory consideration of future design possibilities. <u>Course content:</u> Art and design research enables students to recognise and reflect on the designed environment. This is achieved by teaching historical positions in design and engaging with contemporary design. The relationships between design decisions and major cultural, political and sociological developments and issues are made explicit. The observation and interpretation of everyday aesthetic phenomena are continually considered in the courses. The history of visual culture, in its complex interweaving with Industrial Design, Photography, Design Futures, art and other manifestations of aesthetic dimensions, also forms part of the art and design research seminars. The courses enable academic engagement with topics such as "Aesthetic Experience and Perception", "Time and Space in Designing Objects", phenomenological theories, and the "History of Interaction". Art history and visual studies form an integral part of the teaching. Engagement with questions of design pedagogy is also a defining feature. Students acquire knowledge of concepts in design education and are able to reflect on them and apply their didactics and methodology in educational and communication projects.
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MA-A-1.2 Culture and Society	<u>Learning outcomes:</u> The "Culture and Society" module component brings together courses from cultural and social-science disciplines and is described here using Gender and Diversity Studies as an example. Students recognise different theoretical approaches in Gender and Diversity Studies and can critically examine lines of argument. Through engagement with theoretical texts in Gender and Diversity Studies, they can articulate and defend their own informed position confidently in speech and writing. They are able to question cultural representations of difference, for example in photographs, films, written texts and objects. Students are also enabled to respond reflectively to negative social stereotypes in their own design and artistic practice. <u>Course content:</u> The "Culture and Society" module component brings together courses from cultural and social-science disciplines and is described here using Gender and Diversity Studies as an example. Categories of difference, such as gender, sexual orientation, "race", disability or class, are socially constructed. At the same time, social positioning along these categories has concrete material effects on each individual's lived experience. Students learn to distinguish between different theoretical approaches to gender and diversity; examples include post-structuralist, materialist, phenomenological and affect-theoretical approaches. An intersectional approach, which always considers categories of difference in their mutual intersections, is central. It is essential to convey the historical contexts in which these continually dynamic categories of difference are embedded. Students also gain an understanding that shifts in meaning always take place within the tension between hegemonic orders and the emancipatory efforts of social movements. Finally, attention is drawn to the construction processes and effects of socially unmarked positions such as whiteness, heterosexuality and cisgender identity.
MA-A-1.3 Philosophy	<u>Learning outcomes:</u> Students are given space to reflect on their theoretical, conceptual, artistic and design work within a philosophical framework that brings their work into dialogue with intellectual history and the history of ideas. Equal importance is attached to precise conceptual analysis and clear linguistic expression, and to developing design practitioners who are able to question and reflect thoroughly on their own work in theoretical and historical terms. <u>Course content:</u> In keeping with the Folkwang tradition of uniting artistic, design and academic disciplines, Philosophy provides theoretical foundations under the heading "Philosophies of Form". These rest on three pillars: (1) aesthetics, (2) philosophy of media and (3) epistemology, in their historical and systematic interrelations with art, design and technology. At the centre is the question of the emergence of form, which can be understood as the gravitational centre of these areas of philosophical research and lies directly within the interests of the Photography, Industrial Design and Design Futures degree programmes, as well as the Institute of Art and Design Studies. Complementing courses that address formations of knowledge and philosophies sedimented in design and art (and vice versa), parallel courses provide sound knowledge of relevant philosophical texts, discourses and methods through close reading.

MA-A-1.4 Theory and History of Photography	<u>Learning outcomes:</u> Students have sound knowledge of the history of photography and its theoretical traditions. They are proficient in analysing images, structures and production processes. Photographic images are understood as part of visual culture and can be situated within the history of images. <u>Course content:</u> Teaching in the Theory and History of Photography covers the full historical breadth of the medium, i.e. almost two hundred years. It addresses the complete spectrum of materialities and technologies, as well as functions and uses. Particular emphasis is also placed on critical analysis of the medium, in which different paradigms of theory formation from the humanities and cultural studies play an important role, including aesthetics, phenomenology and semiotics.
Transferability to other degree programmes	
Total:	The module is offered across degree programmes in Design Futures.
Requirements for the award of credits	
Total:	Passing the module-component assessments
Examination forms and duration	
Total:	M (20–30 min.), R (duration announced by the lecturer at the start of the course), K or HA
Composition of the module grade & weighting towards the overall degree grade	
Total:	If the module examination consists of several module-component examinations, the module grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the component grades weighted according to the relevant ECTS credits. The individual grades for modules completed during the programme are weighted according to the ECTS credits allocated to the respective modules. Module assessments completed during the programme account for 60% and the final module assessment for 40% of the overall grade.

Module no.	Module title							
MA-DF-3	Proposal							
Semester				Frequency				
3rd semester				Every semester				
	Dur.	Type	WL (h)	Contact hours ~ SWS	S (h)	b/u	Cr	Format
Total:	1 sem.	P	180	30 h ~ 2 SWS	150	b	6	
MA-DF-3.1: Proposal for the Master's Project	1 sem.	WP	90	15 h ~ 1 SWS	75	b	3	Se/V/Ü
Entry requirements								
Total:	30 ECTS							
Competence-based learning outcomes (incl. course content)								
Total:	In the "Proposal" module, students develop the substantive and structural basis for their Master's project.							
MA-DF-3.1: Proposal for the Master's Project	The aim is to develop a well-founded and convincing proposal that clearly articulates both the research question and the methodological approach. Students reflect on their position within the chosen subject area and clarify the relevance and objectives of their project. The module supports individual topic development through targeted prompts, joint discussions and feedback sessions within the group and with supervising lecturers. Alongside sharpening the thematic focus, formal aspects such as structure, scheduling and literature research are also addressed. The resulting proposal serves as the binding basis for the subsequent Master's project and is presented and submitted at the end of the module.							
Transferability to other degree programmes								
Total:	none							
Requirements for the award of credits								
Total:	A proposal prepared in accordance with the stated criteria							
Examination forms and duration								
Total:	HA/K/M/R, graded							
Composition of the module grade & weighting towards the overall degree grade								
Total:	If the module examination consists of several module-component examinations, the module grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the component grades weighted according to the relevant ECTS credits. The individual grades for modules completed during the programme are weighted according to the ECTS credits allocated to the respective modules. Module assessments completed during the programme account for 60% and the final module assessment for 40% of the overall grade.							

Module no.	Module title							
MA-A-3:	Jour Fixe (additional offering)							
Semester					Frequency			
1st semester					Every winter semester			
	Dur.	Type	WL (h)	Contact hours ~ SWS	S (h)	b/u	Cr	Format
Total:	1 sem.	Z	30	15 h ~ 1 SWS	15	u	1	
Entry requirements								
Total:	None							
Competence-based learning outcomes (incl. course content)								
Total:	Initial in-depth orientation to the programme and the structure of the study environment <u>Course content:</u> A first-semester week for all first-semester students in the Department, introducing the programme structures, institutional facilities and the local area. Examples of topics include: an introduction to the nature of university study; an introduction to the structure and staff of the Department; an introduction to the Department's workshops; the history and structure of Folkwang University of the Arts; an introduction to the degree programmes in the Department of Design; an introduction to Zollverein and its history; the library and how to use it; and an excursion to museums and collections in Essen.							
Transferability to other degree programmes								
Total:	The module is offered across all artistic-practical degree programmes in the Department of Design.							
Requirements for the award of credits								
Total:	-							
Assessment forms and duration								
Total:	-							
Composition of the module grade & weighting towards the overall degree grade								
Total:	-							

Module no.	Module title							
MA-DF-4:	Final Degree Module							
Semester				Frequency				
4th semester / one semester				Every semester				
	Dur.	Type	WL (h)	Contact hours ~ SWS	S (h)	b/u	Cr	Format
Total:	1 sem.	P	900	30 h ~ 2 SWS	870	b	30	
MA-DF-4.1: Master's Project	1 sem.	P	540	15 h ~ 1 SWS	525	b	18	PR/E
MA-DF-4.2: Presentation, Exhibition	1 sem.	P	180	5 h ~ 0.3 SWS	176	b	6	PR/E
MA-DF-4.3: Thesis	1 sem.	P	180	10 h ~ 0.6 SWS	176	b	6	PR/E
Entry requirements								
Total:	For admission to the final module, evidence of 90 ECTS credits is required. 60 ECTS credits must be evidenced before registration; the outstanding 30 ECTS credits, including the grades, must be submitted no later than three weeks after registration to the Examinations Office. Registration only becomes effective once this has been done; however, the completion period is not extended by a further three weeks.							
Competence-based learning outcomes (incl. course content)								
Total:	<u>Learning outcomes:</u> Graduates are able to set their own topics and address a complex question competently and reflectively, and translate it into a design appropriately and responsibly. <u>Course content:</u> Supervision takes place in individual consultation appointments with the respective assessing lecturers during the teaching period.							
MA-DF-4.1: Master's Project	Students develop a design concept and realise it in a meaningful form (physical model, scenario, film, etc.).							
MA-DF-4.2: Presentation, Exhibition	Students learn to represent their work confidently and professionally to third parties. Before the public exhibition and presentation, they contact relevant companies and institutions where appropriate.							
MA-DF-4.3: Thesis	Students develop the fundamental academic thesis for their project topic. They formulate it in writing and support it with relevant references to literature and sources.							
Transferability to other degree programmes								
Total:	none							
Requirements for the award of credits								
Total:	Passing the module examinations							
Assessment forms and duration								
Total:	PK							
MA-DF-4.1: Master's Project	Artistic and design Master's project (project work and a presentation open to the university public with examination colloquium, 30 + 15 minutes), graded							
MA-DF-4.2: Presentation, Exhibition	Presentation of the thesis and Master's project open to the university public, documentation of the work, graded							
MA-DF-4.3: Thesis	Design research thesis (written assignment of approximately 50 pages), graded							
Composition of the module grade & weighting towards the overall degree grade								
Total:	The grade for the final module examination accounts for 40% of the overall grade							