



**Module Handbook for the Master's
Degree Program Design Futures, M.A.**

for the examination regulations no. 424 dated 07/27/.2022

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The English translation is provided for information purposes only.

Table of Contents

DFM 1	Project	Page 4
DFM 2	Workshop/Symposium	Page 7
DFM 3	MMT (Media, Methods, Theory)	Page 9
DFM 4	Presenting and exhibiting	Page 11
DFM5	Master's Thesis	Page 12

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List of abbreviations:

GENERAL	MODULE TYPES	ELEMENT TYPES	EXAMINATION TYPES
Cr = ECTS credits	A = Advanced module	I = Individual lessons	D = Documentation
ER = Examination regulation	B = Basic module	GR = Group lessons	TP = Term paper
S = Self-study	C = Compulsory module	W = Work shadowing	EXM = Exam
CP = Course plan	E = Elective module (optional)	PR = Project	COL = Colloquium
	CE = Compulsory elective module	SE = Seminar	O = oral examination
	AM = Additional module	EX = Exercise	PC = Presentation in the Colloquium
SHW = Semester hours per week		L = Lecture	PE = Practical examination
WL = Workload	SEMESTER	TYPES OF EXAMINATION	PR = Presentation
	SuSe = Summer semester	g = graded	P = Paper
	WiSe = Winter semester	u = ungraded	

Module no.	Module name							
DFM 1	Design Futures Project							
Semester				Cycle				
1st - 3rd semester				every semester				
	Durati on	Module type	WL (h)	Contact time ~ SHW	S (h)	Exam type	Cr	Event type
Total:	3 sem.	C	1620	180 h ~ 12 SHW	1440	g	54	
DFM 1.1 Teaching areas Design Futures according to SHW	1 sem.	CE	540	60 h ~ 4 SHW	480	g	18	PR
DFM 1.2 Master's program in Communication Design, "Project" module	1 sem.	CE	540	60 h ~ 4 SHW	480	g	18	PR/S/EX
DFM 1.3 Master's program Photography Studies and Practice Module "Photography Project"	1 sem.	CE	540	60 h ~ 4 SHW	480	g	18	PR/S/EX
DFM 1.4 LAB	1 sem.	CE	540	60 h ~ 4 SHW	480	g	18	PR
Participation requirements								
Total:	Admission to a Master's degree course in the Department of Design at Folkwang University of the Arts, basic knowledge of project work from the first degree course, creative expressiveness in 2 and/or 3 dimensions, willingness to experiment, basic conceptual skills, implementation skills, transformation skills and the ability to reflect							
Competence-oriented learning objectives (incl. teaching content)								
Total:	<p>The process and method-related projects in the Design Futures Master's program include the design process characteristic of the Folkwang University of the Arts with its four focal points of experimentation, conception, implementation and reflection. The thematic content is determined by a future-oriented design discourse and socially relevant problems. Special attention is paid to the areas of sustainability as well as new technologies and digitalization, as areas of extensive current and future social challenges and potentials. Alongside this, the transformation of the design discipline itself, with the integration of transdisciplinary methods, is also the subject of a creative and discursive debate. Depending on the subject area, transdisciplinary project teams can also be formed with external project partners. The projects do not build on each other during the course of study. This gives students the opportunity to deepen or broaden their knowledge across the board. Students can pursue intrinsically motivated topics and contribute to the respective project questions presented by the lecturers.</p> <p>Interaction and Inquiry Guided by methods of practice-based design research, the sub-module "Interaction and Inquiry" is an examination of interaction design, with a particular focus on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology. The aim is not only to acquire application knowledge, but above all to discuss and question the current and potential future impact of these technologies on society, for example through conceptual, experimental and speculative design approaches.</p>							

	<p>Experimental sustainability, studies for the future</p> <p>"Experimental Sustainability" sees itself as a laboratory in which the idea of sustainable development articulated in the 1987 Brundtland Report is implemented in a practical and experimental way. Ways are sought for innovations that have the potential to redefine the relationships between production and consumption, work and leisure, nature and the technosphere. At the heart of the studio works is the experiment, in which craftsmanship, design, scientific and responsible action are creatively brought together. The ability to connect with movements such as repair, DIY and maker culture, urban gardening, transition town, voluntary simplicity is desired and should be combined with already established approaches to resource efficiency and the circular economy.</p> <p>Computational Experience</p> <p>The Computational Experience sub-module examines theoretically, experimentally and practically how new disruptive technologies change our environment and how they can be understood as a design opportunity. In addition to critical analysis, designers should be enabled to participate in the social discourse in a responsible manner and actively shape it. The teaching of advanced skills for the implementation of technological projects is just as essential a component as the creation of functional prototypes and tangible scenarios.</p> <p>The thematic focus is on generative form-finding and materialization methods, the digital networking of things (IOT) and the merging of physical artefacts with digital data in augmented reality (AR).</p> <p>Society in Motion</p> <p>The sub-module "Society in Motion" offers students the opportunity to explore diverse and individual social phenomena with a specific focus on "motion". The term "society" is to be understood multidimensionally and includes not only people as actors, but also their artifacts and information. We refer to the processes of change that take place within society between people and people, as well as between people and artifacts or information, as movement and see this dynamic as a challenging design task.</p> <p>Form and Contexts</p> <p>"Form and Contexts" deals with the content and aesthetics of product environments and their usage contexts. Aspects such as interculturality and changing social conditions play a role here, which are examined in terms of their effects on aesthetic perception and usage requirements and are transformed into products in terms of design.</p> <p>Experimental Design</p> <p>The sub-module "Experimental Design" focuses on artistic-experimental material explorations, speculative-utopian designs and the questioning of the (thing) world in a broader poetic sense. Impulses arise for further application-oriented design processes or for sculptures, objects, pictures, installations, graphics or films in the sense of autonomous artistic works. One focus is on social sculpture in the sense of art that aims to have a formative influence on society.</p>
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	<p>Social Design Every form of design produces responsibility for which courageous and committed designers are needed who are capable of making actors' knowledge visible, usable and communicable in social contexts. Using methods of design ethnography, participatory design and co-design, we conduct research on site in "real" living spaces (e.g. neighborhoods, facilities for the elderly, schools, etc.) using interactive and tangible prototypes at eye level with co-designers as experts in their own everyday lives. Holistic design (e.g. through product, interface, communication design etc.) takes place in the field of tension between sociology and psychology in connection with our applied design research projects in interdisciplinary project teams. The aim of the "Social Design" module is to equip designers with a broad range of skills so that they can take on a responsible role as shapers of the future in social transformation processes.</p>
Creditability for other degree programs	
Total:	DFM 1.1 can also be credited to the Master's degree programs in communication design and photography
Requirements for the awarding of Cr	
Total:	Passing the module examination
Exam types and duration	
DFM 1.1 Teaching areas Design Futures	Presentation (20 - 30 minutes) with colloquium, graded, Comprehensive, structured data submission as specified by the teacher
DFM 1.2 Master's program in Communication Design, "Project" module	Presentation with colloquium
DFM 1.3 Master's program Photography Studies and Practice Module "Photography Project"	Presentation with colloquium
DFM 1.4 LAB	Presentation with colloquium
Composition of the module grade & weighting for the overall grade of the degree program	
Total:	The module examinations taken during the course of study count for 60% of the overall grade. The individual grades are weighted according to their ECTS credits. The final module examination counts for 40% of the overall grade.

Module no.	Module name							
DFM 2	Workshop/Symposium							
Semester					Cycle			
1st + 3rd semester					annually (start during WiSe)			
	Duration	Module type	WL (h)	Contact time ~ SHW	S (h)	Exam type	Cr	Event type
Total:	2 sem.	C	360	60 h ~ 4 SHW	300	g	12	
DFM 2.1 Workshop, lecture series or symposium	1 sem.	C	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	g	6	PR/S
DFM 2.2 Conception, organization and implementation of a workshop, lecture series or symposium	1 sem.	C	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	g	6	PR/S
Participation requirements								
Total:	<p>The prerequisite for participation in the DFM 2.1 module section is admission to the Master's degree program in Design Futures.</p> <p>Participation in the module part DFM 2.2 requires the successful completion of the module part DFM2.1.</p>							
Competence-oriented learning objectives (incl. teaching content)								
Total:	<p>The cross-semester module workshop/symposium/future networks is a core element of the Master's program Design Futures as a content platform for current and future-oriented design discourse. It is an "educational module" in which students in higher semesters, among other things, guide first-semester students. In addition, students are encouraged to actively create and maintain external networks for their interests and future topics as professional designers. The teachers provide support in a moderating role.</p> <p>Module part DFM 2.1: Workshop, lecture series or symposium: The students of the first semester conceive, organize and realize a workshop, a series of lectures or a symposium together with the students of the third semester on a topic in the current and future-oriented design discourse.</p> <p>Module part DFM 2.2: Workshop and Future Networks: In the workshop, lecture series or symposium, the 3rd semester students take on the role of external networking with regard to their interests in the current and future-oriented design discourse. They make their own contributions from their individual areas of specialization. The lecturers moderate the project and make recommendations for visual and content-related communication.</p> <p>In the first semester, students are active participants in the symposium and workshops, while in the third semester they learn independent organization, mediation skills and thematic responsibility. Interdisciplinary and communicative skills are strengthened through teamwork.</p> <p>By participating in both sub-modules, students should pass through the role of critical participants as well as reflective mediators/organizers and thereby acquire advanced mediation skills and thematic responsibility. The students learn to independently organize and carry out a workshop, a series of lectures or a symposium on their topics in a team. Working in a network strengthens interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and communicative skills.</p>							

	The two sub-modules, which build on each other, represent a single unit in terms of content, which is summarized in the module “Workshop/Symposium/Future Networks”.
Creditability for other degree programs	
Total:	none
Requirements for the awarding of Cr	
Total:	Passing the module examinations
Exam types and duration	
DFM 2.1 Workshop, lecture series or symposium	Participation and written documentation, graded
DFM 2.2 Conception, organization and implementation of a workshop, lecture series or symposium	Practical examination in the form of a seminar, lecture or workshop, graded
Composition of the module grade & weighting for the overall grade of the degree program	
Total:	The module examinations taken during the course of study count for 60% of the overall grade. The individual grades are weighted according to their ECTS credits. The final module examination counts for 40% of the overall grade.

Module no.	Module name							
DFM 3	MMT (Media, Methods, Theory)							
Semester					Cycle			
1st - 3rd semester					every semester			
	Durati on	Module type	WL (h)	Contact time ~ SHW	S (h)	Exam type	Cr	Event type
Total:	3 sem.	C	540	90 h ~ 6 SHW	450	g	18	
DFM 3.1 Media, methods and theories from the teaching areas Design Futures / Design Sciences according to SHW	1 sem.	CE	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	g	6	S/EX
DFM 3.2 Master's degree program in Communication Design, "MMT" module	1 sem.	CE	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	g	6	S/EX
DFM 3.3 Master's degree program in Communication Design, module "Scientific specialization"	1 sem.	CE	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	g	6	S/EX
DFM 3.4 Offers from the Master's programs of the FB4	1 sem.	CE	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	g	6	S/EX
Participation requirements								
Total:	Admission to a Master's degree program in the Department of Design at the Folkwang University of the Arts, basic knowledge of the methodological, medial and scientific work from the first degree course							
Competence-oriented learning objectives (incl. teaching content)								
Total:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MMT Practice-based Design Research - MMT Experimental sustainability, studies for the future - MMT offer Computational Experience - MMT offer Society in Motion - MMT Offer Form and Contexts - MMT Experimental Design - MMT Social Design - MMT Design Science <p>In the seminars, students are taught design-relevant media, methods and theories (e.g. scientific writing and work, understanding of sustainable design, philosophy of design, practical research methods, design techniques, etc.).</p>							
Credibility for other degree programs								
Total:	also creditable for the Master's degree programs in Communication Design and Photography Studies and Practice							
Requirements for the awarding of Cr								
Total:	Passing the module examination							
Exam types and duration								
Total:	Homework, practical examination, presentation (20 - 30 minutes) or paper, graded, comprehensive, structured data submission as specified by the lecturer							
DFM 3.1 Media, methods and theories from the	Homework, practical exam, presentation or paper							

Module Handbook Design Futures, M.A., for ER No. 424 from 07/27/2022

Teaching areas Design Futures / Design sciences	
DFM 3.2 Master's program in Communication Design, module "MMT"	Term paper or practical examination or presentation or paper
DFM 3.3 Master's degree program in Communication Design, module "Scientific specialization"	Oral examination or presentation or written examination or term paper
DFM 3.4 Offers from all Master's programs of the FB4	Presentation or colloquium
Composition of the module grade & weighting for the overall grade of the degree program	
Total:	The module examinations taken during the course of study count for 60% of the overall grade. The individual grades are weighted according to their ECTS credits. The final module examination counts for 40% of the overall grade.

Module no.	Module name							
DFM 4	Presenting and exhibiting							
Semester					Cycle			
2nd semester					annually in the summer semester			
	Durati on	Module type	WL (h)	Contact time ~ SHW	S (h)	Exam type	Cr	Event type
Total:	1 sem.	C	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	u	6	
DFM 4.1 Seminar + exhibition	1 sem.	C	180	30 h ~ 2 SHW	150	u	6	S/EX
Participation requirements								
Total:	A successfully completed "Project" module, basic knowledge of presenting and exhibiting from the first-degree course							
Competence-oriented learning objectives (incl. teaching content)								
Total:	<p>Students learn to present their work to a wider public, to improve the communicative qualities of their creative work and to exhibit and curate it in a space-related manner. This also includes the design of exhibition furniture and exhibition communication (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.</p> <p>The module ends with a public exhibition of student work, supervised by two professors from the Design Futures Master's program.</p>							
Creditability for other degree programs								
Total:	none							
Requirements for the awarding of Cr								
Total:	Passing the module examination:							
Exam types and duration								
Total:	Presentation with colloquium (20 - 30 minutes), practical examination, Documentation as specified by the teacher							
DFM 4.1 Seminar + exhibition	Presentation with colloquium (20 - 30 minutes), practical examination, Documentation as specified by the teacher							
Composition of the module grade & weighting for the overall grade of the degree program								
Total:	The module is ungraded							

Module no.	Module name							
DFM 5	Master's thesis							
Semester					Cycle			
4th semester					annually in the SuSe			
	Durati on	Module type	WL (h)	Contact time ~ SHW	S (h)	Exam type	Cr	Event type
Total:	1 sem.		900	12 h ~ 0.8 SHW	888	g	30	
IDM 5.1 Master Thesis	1 sem.	C	150	4 h	146	g	6	PR
IDM 5.2 Master project	1 sem.	C	600	4 h	596	g	18	PR
IDM 5.3 Presentation, Exhibition	1 sem.	C	150	4 h	146	g	6	PR
Participation requirements								
Total:	To be admitted to the final module, students must provide proof of 90 ECTS credits. 60 ECTS credits must be provided before registration, and the remaining 30 ECTS credits, including the grades, must be submitted to the Examinations Office no later than three weeks after registration. Registration only becomes effective after this, but the processing time is not extended by a further three weeks.							
Competence-oriented learning objectives (incl. teaching content)								
Total:	Graduates are able to set their own topics, work on complex issues competently and reflectively and implement them appropriately and responsibly in a design. Supervision takes place in individual meetings with the examining lecturer during the lecture period.							
IDM 5.1 Master project	The students develop a design concept and implement it in a meaningful form (model, scenario, movie, etc...).							
IDM 5.2 Master Thesis	The students work on the basic scientific thesis for their project topic. They formulate these in writing and substantiate them with relevant literature and sources.							
IDM 5.3 Presentation, Exhibition	Students learn to present their work to third parties in a confident and professional manner. They contact relevant companies and institutions in advance of the public exhibition and presentation.							
Credibility for other degree programs								
Total:	none							
Requirements for the awarding of Cr								
Total:	Passing the module examinations							
Exam types and duration								
DFM 5.1 Master Thesis	design science thesis (term paper approx. 50 pages), graded							
DFM 5.2 Master project	creative-artistic Master's project (project work and public university presentation with examination colloquium, 30 + 15 minutes), graded							
DFM 5.3 Presentation, Exhibition	Public university presentation of the thesis and the Master's project, documentation of the work, graded							
Composition of the module grade & weighting for the overall grade of the degree program								
Total:	The module examinations taken during the course of study count for 60% of the overall grade. The individual grades are weighted according to their ECTS credits. The final module examination counts for 40% of the overall grade.							