JOHANNES KEPLER UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien
University of Applied Arts Vienna

Transformation Studies

Art x Science

Curriculum

Joint Bachelor's programme
Duration: 6 semesters
Programme number: 033 162

Version: winter semester 2024/25

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna on 21.06.2023.

Last modified: see university newsletter ("Mitteilungsblatt") No. 19 dtd 8 March 2024.

Only the version published in the university newsletter ("Mitteilungsblatt")
of the University of Applied Arts Vienna is legally binding.

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§ 1. Point of departure

We live in a world that is characterized by volatility, uncertainty, ambiguity, and an increasingly high degree of complexity. The manifold and interrelated areas of global and grand challenges — such as global conflicts, pandemics, aging societies, climate crises, democratic backlash, migration, economic inequality and poverty, as well as the ongoing digitization of social life and human labour, — require new ways to identify, understand and tackle problems at the interface of the arts, humanities, social, technical and other scientific disciplines.

Given the immense transformation of societies through digital and disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual worlds, machine learning, and data environments, the bachelor's programme Transformation Studies. Art x Science seeks to equip students with cross-disciplinary knowledge, skills, and competences needed to face present and future challenges. Studying transformation and its effect on the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal and aesthetic sphere is thus at the centre of the programme, which builds new bridges between the arts and sciences.

The Art x Science School for Transformation is an inter-university endeavour intertwining the strengths and expertise of the Johannes Kepler University Linz and the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Its goal is to develop, share and teach cross-disciplinary knowledge at the intersection of the arts and sciences, yielding new forms of creativity, invention, innovation, collaboration, and learning. Based on a comprehensive understanding of the transformative potential of artistic and scientific approaches, the programme lays a strong focus on the political, economic, social, technological environmental, legal and aesthetic dimensions of transformations. In cooperation with practice partners from outside the university – including artists, activists, entrepreneurs, (non-)governmental organizations, and other stakeholders – students of the bachelor's programme Transformation Studies. Art x Science will learn how to develop and implement cross-disciplinary projects for transformation by interweaving scientific and artistic approaches.

§ 2. Principles

The bachelor's programme Transformation Studies. Art x Science is a jointly established study programme with focus on the application of cross-disciplinary strategies in projects addressing transformative processes at the intersection of the arts and sciences. Embedded in a vibrant intellectual setting, bridging the competencies between the University of Applied Arts Vienna and the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, the programme will make significant contributions to the development of both artistic and scientific knowledge base, and especially their interface.

Students of the bachelor's programme are provided with expert knowledge in topics of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal and aesthetic transformation, as well as with personal skills, competences and abilities to face the grand global challenges, to identify problem areas, and to develop solutions for fields of transformation. Additionally, they learn how to involve stakeholders from diverse societal fields in the design and the development of transdisciplinary projects for transformation.

Learning, applying and developing methods, contextualizing data, and estimating the potentials of different spheres of knowledge are at the core of the curriculum, which is strongly project-orientated and personalized by a high number of free elective courses. Consequently, students are assessed on how they apply existing and newly developed skills, competences, and abilities to tackle identified problems.

§ 3. Legal basis and academic degree

(1) The bachelor's programme Transformation Studies. Art x Science is a jointly offered study programme offered by the Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU) and the University of Applied Arts Vienna (Angewandte), pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 27, Universities Act (UG). The programme is assigned to the group of "Interdisciplinary Studies" pursuant to § 54 para. 1, UG.

(2) Upon successful completion of the programme, the student is awarded the academic degree "Bachelor of Arts" (abbreviated BA), pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 10, UG.

(3) The certificate about the academic degree is issued in German with an English translation.

§ 4. Duration and scope

The bachelor's programme consists of 180 ECTS, which equals a period of six semesters to complete the degree.

§ 5. Qualification profile

The bachelor's programme Transformation Studies. Art x Science prepares its graduates both for subsequent master's studies and for the immediate professional application, where graduates will be able to develop cross-disciplinary projects in chosen fields of transformation. They qualify for fields of work both in public institutions and in the private sector, in non-governmental and non-academic organizations as well as in universities and other academic institutions.

Graduates are able to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- The ability to recognize and analyse the interrelated areas of global and grand challenges as a precondition to identify and address relevant topics, as well as to develop and design transformative processes.
- Theoretical and practical knowledge of using artistic approaches and interweaving them with scientific approaches in order to develop and implement cross-disciplinary projects.
- Theoretical and practical knowledge of the basic principles of technical, economic, and social sciences, and the arts and humanities, in order to identify and analyse problems emerging from the intersections of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal and aesthetic transformation processes.
- Social skills and personal competences adequate to individually and collaboratively conceive and design cross-disciplinary projects as well as communicating to and collaborating with academic and non-academic stakeholders.
- The ability to work in cross-disciplinary teams and trans- and intercultural working groups characterized by diversity and heterogeneity.

§ 6. Language

The programme is taught in English. Students submit all written works in English. In regard to focus areas and free electives, students can also choose from a range of courses in German or any other language.

§ 7. Programme structure and study fields

The programme seeks to provide students with the unique possibility to understand and address global challenges from at the same time artistic and scientific perspectives.

(1) General programme structure:

At the beginning of the study programme students are introduced to the main areas of knowledge of arts, humanities, sciences, with focus on transformation theories and practices, as well as basic skills and competencies needed to identify and address problem fields.

Furthermore, they are provided with a wide range of possibilities to deepen their knowledge and abilities to develop and realize cross-disciplinary projects. The option to freely select courses from any university helps students to find their individual interest in diverse fields of transformation. They learn how to integrate economic and business topics in their projects, focusing on collaborations with societal stakeholders (field project, summer school). By integrating learned contents at the end of their fourth semester they start to frame their bachelor's thesis topics, after which the developed approaches finally are combined and reflected in a bachelor's thesis.

(2) The programme is structured in **five study fields** which cover the learning objectives in strong relation to the qualifications students have to gain.

The five study fields are:

- Understand! Transformation (42 ECTS)
- Focus! Transformation areas (30 ECTS)
- Implement! Methods and tools (24 ECTS)
- Transform! Project work (70 ECTS)
- Individualize! Free electives (14 ECTS)

Understand! Transformation

Students gain theoretical knowledge of the basic principles of technical, economic, and social sciences, and the humanities, in order to identify and analyse problems emerging from the intersections of political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal transformation processes. They train the ability to recognize and analyse the interrelated areas of global and grand challenges as a precondition to identify and address relevant topics.

Focus! Transformation areas

In this study field students can set their individual focus areas and deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge of political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal transformation processes. They get theoretical and practical knowledge of artistic and scientific approaches to later on develop and implement cross-disciplinary projects.

They select **two** out of **five focus areas**:

- Digital transformation,
- Social transformation,
- Business and Economic Transformation,
- Cultural transformation,
- Media transformation.

In each of the two focus areas they have to complete a minimum of 10 ECTS, and in total they have to complete 30 ECTS within those two chosen focus areas. Each focus area offers numerous courses from each university, and students can individually choose their electives out of this range of defined courses.

Implement! Methods and tools

Students gain basic practical knowledge in artistic and scientific methods and strategies. They train social skills and personal competencies adequate to individually and collaboratively conceive and design cross-disciplinary projects as well as communicate to and collaborate with academic and non-academic stakeholders.

Transform! Project work

Students learn to work in cross-disciplinary teams and trans- and intercultural working groups characterized by diversity and heterogeneity. Right from the start they individually and collaboratively realize projects. In their last semester they concentrate their gained knowledge in a bachelor's thesis.

Individualize! Free electives

Students have to cover 14 ECTS in **free electives** which can entirely be chosen individually from any recognized national or international postsecondary educational institution.

(3) Courses are usually only offered once per year. The assignment of the individual courses to the participating universities can be found in the APPENDIX: Ideal course of study semesters.

(4) For courses at the JKU: The name and type of the individual courses of the subjects, their scope in ECTS credits and units, the division numbers, the procedure for determining the order of allocation in courses with a limited number of participants as well as any registration requirements can be found in the JKU course catalogue. The types of courses used and the examination regulations applicable to them are regulated in §§ 13 and 14 of the JKU statute section "Studienrecht".

(5) For courses at Angewandte: The name and type of the individual courses of the subjects, their scope in ECTS credits as well as any registration requirements can be found on the Angewandte base. The types of courses used and the examination regulations applicable to them are regulated in §§ 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Part II of the Angewandte "Satzung".

§ 8. Admission and entrance exam

(1) According to the Regulation of the Rectorate of the JKU and according to the Regulation of the Rectorate of the Angewandte on the Regulation of Responsibilities for the Execution of the Study Law Provisions in the jointly established bachelor's programme **Transformation Studies. Art x Science**, the admission to the study programme is to be carried out by the Angewandte. Upon admission to the Angewandte, the student also becomes a member of the JKU.

(2) Admission to the bachelor's programme requires

- the possession of the general university entrance qualification;
- evidence of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);
- an entrance exam in accordance with § 63 para. 1, subpara. 4 Austrian Universities Act in conjunction with § 51 para 2, subpara. 19 Austrian Universities Act.

The examination process consists of

- the assessment of the application documents by an entrance examination committee;
- an interview before the committee.

(3) The committee is to be appointed by the Dean of Studies at the Angewandte, following the Angewandte "Satzung", Studienrechtlicher Teil § 7.

(4) The application documents (written and uploaded submission) consist of

- a **short biography**, in which the applicants provide a written overview of their qualifications and (professional) experience;
- a **motivation letter**, in which the applicants describe their expectations of the programme and their interest in cross-disciplinary connections of the artistic and scientific knowledge fields, as well as in possible chosen focus field of transformation;
- an **assignment** published in advance of the application deadline; the submission consists of texts and/or (audio)visual material (pictures, drawings, sketches, photos, podcasts, videos, etc.).

(5) In the interview, the entrance exam committee discusses the motivation to study, main areas of interest regarding the programme goals and the extent of creativity shown in working on the assignment.

§ 9. Exam regulations

(1) At JKU, the examination regulations for the examinations in the individual subjects as well as the examination standards for the course examinations can be found in the JKU course catalogue.

(2) At Angewandte, the examination regulations for the examinations in the individual subjects as well as the examination standards for the course examinations can be found in the Angewandte "Satzung".

(3) The bachelor's programme **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** is concluded by the successful completion of all subjects (including the bachelor's thesis) and the free electives.

§ 10. Bachelor's thesis

(1) The bachelor's thesis consists of the development and the realization of a cross-disciplinary project in using artistic as well as scientific approaches and interweaving them purposefully. The use and interlinking of these approaches must be described and reflected on in a written paper according to the standards for academic writing.

(2) Students of the bachelor's programme must complete a bachelor's thesis according to § 80 UG in the course "SE Bachelor thesis".

(3) Students are recommended to complete 150 ECTS in the bachelor's programme **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** before attending the "SE Bachelor thesis".

(4) The bachelor's thesis will be graded in combination with the seminar "SE Bachelor thesis" by the teacher of this course.

(5) The academic success is demonstrated in a presentation as part of the seminar "SE Bachelor thesis".

(6) The topic of the bachelor's thesis has to be expressed in the certificate.

§ 11. Entry into force

This curriculum enters into force on 1 October 2023.

APPENDIX: Ideal course of study semesters

1st semester

Study field	Course title	SWH	ECTS	Course type	JKU	ANG
Transform! Project work	START WEEKS	3	6	UE		6
	START WEEKS	3	6	UE	6	
Understand! Transformation	Introduction to philosophies of transformation	2	2	VU		2
	History and philosophy of art	2	2	VO		2
	History and philosophy of science	2	3	KV	3	
	Theories of sustainability	2	2	VU		2
	Introduction to media theories	2	3	PS		3
	Topics in artistic strategies	1	2	SEw		2
Implement! Methods and tools	Research methods in humanities	2	2	UE		2
	Artistic research methods	2	2	UE		2
ECTS in total			30		9	21

2nd semester

Study field	Course title	SWH	ECTS	Course type	JKU	ANG
Understand! Transformation	Policy strategies for transformation	2	3	SE	3	
	Decoding gender	2	3	KV	3	
	Evolution of disruptive technologies	2	3	KS	3	
	Information technology for transformation	2	3	KV	3	
	Analog/Digital cultures	2	2	VD		2
Implement! Methods and tools	Academic Writing	2	3	PS	3	
	Research methods in science	2	3	KS	3	
Transform! Project work	Cross-disciplinary project work	4	10	PA		10
ECTS in total			30		18	12

3rd semester

Study field	Course title	SWH	ECTS	Course type	JKU	ANG
Understand! Transformation	Law and legal systems	2	3	SE	3	
	History and philosophy of human rights	2	2	VU		2
	Theories of social and digital transformation	2	3	VU	3	

	Fundamentals of organization and innovation for transformation	2	3	KS	3	
	Economics for transformation	2	3	SE	3	
Implement! Methods and tools	Managing projects in virtual teams	2	3	IK	3	
	English for transformation studies	2	2	UE		2
	Reflection of study and work progress	1	2	UE		2
Transform! Project work	Project in artistic strategies	3	9	PA		9
ECTS in total			30		15	15

4th semester

Study field	Course title	SWH	ECTS	Course type	JKU	ANG
Implement! Methods and tools	Inter- and transcultural team work	1	2	UE		2
	Communication and presentation skills for Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary working	1	2	UE		2
Transform! Project work	Summer school	3	6	UE		6
	Summer school	3	6	UE	6	
Focus! Transformation areas	--individually chosen--		14			
ECTS in total			30		6	10

5th semester

Study field	Course title	SWH	ECTS	Course type	JKU	ANG
Individualize! Free electives	--individually chosen--		4			
Focus! Transformation areas	--individually chosen--		5			
Implement! Methods and tools	Future designing and open foresight	2	3	UE	3	
Transform! Project work	Field project	1	6	UE		6
	Field project	1	6	UE	6	
	Entrepreneuring the future	3	6	SE	6	
ECTS in total			30		15	6

6th semester

Study field	Course title	SWH	ECTS	Course type	JKU	ANG
Individualize! Free electives	--individually chosen--		10			

Focus! Transformation areas	--individually chosen--		11			
Transform! Project work	Bachelor thesis	2	9	SE		
ECTS in total			30			