



THE ARTISTIC FACULTY

BFA Programme in Photography, 180 credits

Konstnärligt kandidatprogram i fotografi, 180 högskolepoäng

Programme code: K1FOT

First cycle / Grundnivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Dean of the Faculty on 03-07-2017 (G 2017/349) and was last revised on 26-09-2023 (GU 2023/1692) to be valid from 15-10-2023, Autumn semester 2024.

Responsible Department/Equivalent: HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

2. Purpose

The programme aims to develop the students' photographic expression and deepen the student's understanding of photography's various contexts. The students will develop photographic methods, practices and knowledge of the photographic field.

The studies are based on the various historical and contemporary applications of the medium, as well as its changing technological conditions. The function and significance of photography in art, science, archives, technology, media, popular culture and other relevant contexts are examined. Emphasis is also placed on photography's aesthetic, as well as social and political aspects. The latter must be seen against the background of photography's presence in and impact on modern society in both a historical and global perspective.

After completed studies, the student must be able to work independently as a photographer.

3. Entry requirements

General entrance requirements.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography (Konstnärlig kandidatexamen i fotografi).

5. Outcomes

General outcomes for Degree of Bachelor in Fine Arts

According to Higher Education Ordinance (see SFS 1993:100, System of Qualifications, Annex 2):

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor in Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the principal field (main field of study), including knowledge of the practical and theoretical foundation of the field, knowledge and experience of methods and processes in the field as well as specialised study within the field.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor in Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to describe, analyse and interpret design, techniques and content as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the main field of study
- demonstrate the ability in the main field of study to create, realise and express his or her own ideas, identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems autonomously and to undertake artistic tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor in Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

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6. Content and structure

The history and development of photography are closely intertwined with the advancement of science, modern society, art, and technology. Photographic expressions face continuous substantive and technical changes. Therefore, in education, special emphasis is placed on critical reflection and problematisation based on several photographic expressions within a contemporary field.

Teaching is conducted with an investigative and critical approach, grounded in photographic tradition, while remaining open to new possibilities presented by technological progress and emerging theories.

During the first year, students are taught through practical exercises in various methods, techniques, and themes to explore different ways of working photographically. The focus is on learning to work through a process, building practical skills for independent experimentation, and practising reflection on photography as a medium, its history, practices and methods.

During the second year, the teaching mainly deals with how photography relates to specific forms and contexts. The student is trained in relating to a given outcome or context. The photographic work is contextualised and tested through different forms of presentation and specified in method, approach, design and theme.

During the third year, the student undertake a Bachelor's Degree project in photography and write an essay related to their own photographic work. Students design and plan their independent artistic degree work in dialogue with a supervisor, continuously progressing towards interim goals throughout the year. Students must be capable of specifying their design within the context to which their individual work is directed. Concurrently, a course in career orientation is undertaken, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to work

professionally in the photographic field. The third year concludes with both oral and written presentations, reflecting on the degree project work within contemporary contexts, and summarising the student's own photographic practice.

Overall, the programme is structured across different course categories during the initial two years:

Photographic history and theory: The aim is to provide students with knowledge of the area's history and contemporary practices, underpinning theoretical perspectives, and deeper exploration within the field. Students read, identify, and formulate issues related to photographic theory and practice, while also discussing and experimenting with various forms of texts. Fundamental practices of academic writing and different forms of academic texts are introduced and applied. In the latter part of the programme, students engage in independent in-depth studies. The courses are tiered to offer progressive depth and advancement.

Photographic design: Students are taught various photographic questions, subjects, methods, or approaches, along with various practical and technical processes. The aim is to enhance artistic ability and encourage reflection on the creative process. Seminars involve presenting and critically discussing their own and others' photographic designs, methods, and approaches. The courses are tiered to offer progressive depth and advancement.

Photographic technology and visualization: Students are taught fundamental photographic techniques to independently deepen and develop their practical skills in photographic design. Drawing from the history and development of photographic technology, students are introduced to tools necessary for professional work as photographers.

The third year includes the following courses:

Photographic composition: Students learn to formulate and design an independent photographic work based on an independent choice of materials, techniques, and methods, as well as an in-depth analysis of specific issues and challenges currently within the relevant discipline.

Bachelor's essay in photography: During the fifth semester, students write an essay addressing a problem related to their own practice and the subject area. This essay is an integral part of the programme's degree project.

Working life knowledge: Provides guidance on the knowledge and skills required to operate independently within a professional working environment.

Bachelor's Degree project: The degree project course, which occupies the entire final semester, involves independently developing and executing a photographic project, understanding the optimal presentation methods, and effectively communicating content and theoretical frameworks verbally and in writing to a specified target audience.

Elective Programme Courses

Several of the educational programmes offered at the department include compulsory elective programme courses. These courses aim to offer complementary education in artistic practices in addition to the programmes' subject specialisations. The range of elective courses provides opportunities for the student to broaden their knowledge and develop their skills and abilities.

Within the elective courses, students meet across department subjects. Students apply for the elective courses based on an annual course offering.

The studies are divided into the following courses:

Year 1

Semester 1

Photographic Composition I - Introduction to Photographic Methods and Practices, 15 credits

History of Photography, 7,5 credits

Photographic Technology and Visualisation I, 7,5 credits

Semester 2

Photographic Design II – Development of Photographic Practices and Methods, 15 credits

Theory Formation in Photography – An Introduction, 7.5 credits

Photographic Technology and Visualisation II, 7,5 credits

Year 2

Semester 3

Photographic Composition III - Format and Context I 15 credits

Photography and Theory, and Practice - Analysis and Interpretation, 7.5 credits

Elective Course, 7.5 credits

Semester 4

Photographic Composition IV - Format and Context II, 15 credits

Photography, Theory and Practice - in-depth studies, 7.5 credits

Elective Course, 7.5 credits

Year 3

Semester 5

Photographic Composition V - Advanced Studies, 15 credits

Working Life Knowledge, 7.5 credits

Bachelor's Thesis in Photography (includes Bachelor's essay), 7.5 credits

Semester 6

Bachelor Thesis in Photography (includes Bachelor's degree project), 30 credits

7. Guaranteed admission

A student who follows the programme at the normal pace is guaranteed admission. Guaranteed admission at University of Gothenburg consists of two kinds, it can be general or limited.

The programme applies a limited guaranteed admission to the elective programme courses, which means that it is not possible to guarantee admission according to the student's

ranking order of selected elective courses. However, the student is always guaranteed admission to one of the elective courses given at the department the current semester.

8. Transitional regulations

This programme syllabus (GU 2023/1692) applies to students admitted to the programme from the autumn semester 2024.

Students who have begun the programme before the autumn semester 2024 and have unfinished courses according to the older version of the programme syllabus have the right to complete these through additional examinations, at most two years after the courses have been changed or discontinued.

Students who thereafter still have unfinished older courses may complete the programme according to the current programme syllabus and course structure. An individual study plan for the remaining parts of the programme may be required.

9. Other information

The language of instruction is Swedish. Some teaching components may be held in English.

The student pays for material costs for individual projects and expenses for possible study trips.

The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).