Another perspective

The multidisciplinary experts at the School of Arts, Design and Architecture create better living environments and change the world through artistic means

Steeped in the deep and honored tradition of Finland’s cultural heritage, Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture (Aalto ARTS) educates towards the future with a focus on fostering a more innovative society. Our programs prepare students to be global citizens; providing graduates who offer valuable contributions to their communities with a focus on collaborative, compassionate, and unconventional solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today.

In an era of complexity and uncertainty, the exploration of art, design, and architecture can help us better understand our past and present to create another perspective. As new generations are faced with constant reinvention we must embrace more imaginative, intuitive, and aware ways of working. Aalto ARTS advocates for this -- what if -- approach at all levels. Through our multidisciplinary studies we look to move beyond academic silos, bridging the fields of art, technology, and business to forge something anew.

At Aalto ARTS those societal challenges and other “wicked problems” are tackled with a human approach, which highlights personal, emotional, and embodied experiences. Design in all scales of human environment and everyday life builds on our design tradition over many fields and embraces the expanding role of design in the development of products (large and small), the built environment, as well as services, for example, future transportation.

Narratives are key to people gaining better understanding of their history, the present-age, and our shared existence. At Aalto ARTS the power of stories – meanings and expressions; storytelling – is understood and applied within diverse contexts, such as images, films, games, texts, and multi-sensory productions.

Research is core to Aalto ARTS’ identity, we develop our artistic research practice as a strategic long-term, experimental, and academic activity which helps to pave the way for future art and cultural activities through greater insight and understanding in multicultural and multidisciplinary contexts.

We model a culture of sharing by embracing new ways of planning, producing, and distributing. As post-industrial design and the development of digitalization, have led to an ease in the distribution and dissemination of information. The relationship between consumers and designers is ever-changing, and so a newly co-created notion of design must become accessible and necessary as new service fields and industries emerge.

The further development of digital technologies during the next 15-years will have a drastic effect on the human condition as these technologies become even more pervasive. Through our focus on this digital society, we will empower our students to lead the way for new applications to every area of our digital life: society, culture, technology, and economics.

Contact information

Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture Student Exchange Services
Otaniementie 14, 02150 Espoo
PO Box 31000
FI-00076 AALTO
ERASMUS CODE: SF ESPOO 12
PIC-code: 991256096
Erasmus Charter Number (2014-2020):
257712-EPP-1-2014-1-FI-EPPKA3-ECHE
Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture:
arts.aalto.fi
Aalto University: www.aalto.fi/en
Information for Incoming Students:
https://into.aalto.fi/display/enuudet/Incoming+exchange+students

Contact details

Dean’s Office:
Anna Valtonen, Dean
Saija Hollmén, Vice Dean, Art & Creative Practices
Ossi Naukkarinen, Vice Dean, Research
Rasmus Vuori, Vice Dean, Education

Incoming Student Services:
Mari Kumpulainen, coordinator
+358 50 467 2734
in-exchange-arts@aalto.fi

Outgoing Student Services:
Johanna Virta, coordinator
+358 50 358 0886
out-exchange-arts@aalto.fi

Collaboration Agreements:
Iina Ekhom, international relations manager
+358 50 442 0722
iina.ekholm@aalto.fi

Personnel e-mail address:
firstname.lastname@aalto.fi
Academic information

Programmes in English

Master’s programmes (M.Sc. & M.A.):
Art Education, Cinematography, Collaborative and Industrial Design, Costume Design, Documentary Film, Fashion, Textile and Collection Design, Film and Television Producing, Film Directing, Film Editing, Film Sound Design, Landscape Architecture, Interior Architecture, Urban Studies and Planning, New Media (New Media Design and Production, Sound in New Media, Game Design and Production), Nordic Master’s Programme in Visual Culture and Art Education (NoVA), Photography, Production Design, Scenography, Screenwriting, Visual Communication Design, Visual Cultures, Curating and Contemporary Art, Contemporary Design

Multidisciplinary programmes (M.Sc. & M.A.):
Creative Sustainability (with School of Business and School of Engineering), International Design Business Management (IDBM, with School of Business and School of Science).

Elective and Theory Studies:

University Wide Art Studies:
https://into.aalto.fi/display/enopinnot/University+Wide+Art+Studies

Application information

Students interested in an exchange at the School of Arts, Design and Architecture are first to contact the study abroad coordinator at their home university. The School of Arts, Design and Architecture accepts exchange students nominated by its partner universities only. After being nominated by the home universities the students will receive a link to an online application form. Students are to provide a CV, a photo, portfolio and a transcript of records as attachments. Once the application is completed and approved, the students will receive an official letter of acceptance. More information at into.aalto.fi > New Students > Incoming Exchange Students

Application dates
March 15-April 15 and September 15-October 15

Language requirements
Although no official test records of English like TOEFL or IELTS are required, we expect nominated students to be proficient in English both in writing and in communicating in the classroom in order to fulfill the course assignments. The home institution verifies students’ proficiency prior to nominating them to Aalto. The expected level of English proficiency is equivalent to IELTS 6.5 (total) or TOEFL 92 (total).

Visa requirements
Depending on the nationality and the length of stay, the student may need a visa or a residence permit. Students should immediately proceed with the visa/residence permit application after receiving the letter of acceptance as the process takes up to 6 weeks. Travel arrangements should only be made once the visa/residence permit has been issued. Information about Finnish consulates and embassies can be found at formin.finland.fi.

On campus services
Group training and gym are offered by Unisport. Career Services offer career counselling, Aalto CareerWeb for vacant positions, workshops on CV writing and job hunting skills. And there is a campus wide wireless network available.

Health insurance
By joining the Aalto University Student Union students are entitled to the services provided by the Student Health Service (YTHS). The service does not cover all medical costs, so international students are expected to have a medical insurance of their own. For some international students it is mandatory to have a medical insurance in order to get a residence permit in Finland.

Housing
In the Helsinki region there are two large student housing organizations that Aalto works with: HOAS (Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region) and AYY (Aalto University Student Union). Student apartments typically consist of 3-5 bedrooms, a shared living room, kitchen and bathroom. Student apartments are situated around the Helsinki area. Students apply for housing directly through the above organizations.

Helsinki metropolitan area
Helsinki, the capital of Finland, is situated on the shore of southern Finland. It is the largest city with a population of over 600,000. The Helsinki metropolitan area consists of the cities Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen with a population of 1.4 million. The city is ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world in Monocle magazine’s Quality of Life Survey. The city has great cultural heritage and offers great outdoors: numerous islands, forests and greenery within easy reach of the city.

Useful links
MyHelsinki: myhelsinki.fi
City of Helsinki: helsinki.fi
Finnish Immigration Service: migri.fi
Student Health Service: (YTHS) ytha.fi
Studying in Finland: studyinfinland.fi
Helsinki Region Transport: hsl.fi
Finnish Railways (VR): vr.fi
Virtual Finland: virtual.finland.fi
Helsingin Sanomat (newspaper): hs.fi/english