

Information on the study programme Master of Arts »Integrated Design«

The master degree programme Integrated Design goes beyond the traditional boundaries of design and combines interdisciplinary experiments with disciplinary excellence.

This three-semester model continues the **integrative, interdisciplinary and international** approach of our BA study course Integrated Design and consistently focuses on the further development of individual interdisciplinary questions and problems.

Thanks to a degree programme based on **research, development, and design**, students will be qualified to work independently and scientifically on well-founded projects, take management positions in design teams within dynamically developing design professions, or even continue their academic career.

KISD: Integrative, Interdisciplinary and International

The Köln International School of Design – KISD – an institute of the Cologne University of Applied Sciences, is part of one of the largest public universities in Europe. KISD offers its students a project-oriented and student-centered learning and research environment allowing students a high degree of flexibility and independence.

Integrative Studies

Since its foundation KISD has relied on a structure that consistently overcomes the traditional design boundaries and combines different design approaches, practices and techniques. Our master degree programme Integrated Design systematically integrates different design-specific perspectives both in theory and in practice.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Design is an integral part of our everyday culture and culture of knowledge and is thus incorporated into complex structures. In accordance with our holistic approach, design can only be regarded and developed by means of different scientific and design-related disciplines. The variety of our master degree programme's theories and techniques provides a basis for elaborating individual approaches to research, development and design.

Therefore, KISD systematically expands its interdisciplinary interfaces not only at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences but within its international network of partner universities and economic cooperation partners as well.

International Studies

The KISD degree programme pursues a strategy of internationalization covering projects with international partners and guests as well as crosscultural and transcultural phenomena and processes. With a high percentage of international students at KISD we put great emphasis on the promotion of cross-cultural competences.

Within the master degree programme KISD cooperates with international partner universities inside and outside Europe and offers the possibility to acquire a double degree after successfully completing an additional semester.

Interdisciplinary Studies in Design

The master degree programme Integrated Design aims at developing and expanding disciplinary excellence in design. This means being competent enough to position oneself with a clear design profile in different disciplines, professions and knowledge cultures. This capability is promoted by KISD by developing interdisciplinary-shaped subjects which are jointly represented by several areas of expertise and further developed in collaboration with both regional and international partners.

With regard to subjects such as "Urban Transformations" students pose their own questions and problems and combine them with theories, methods and techniques from culture sciences, social sciences, economics, or engineering. Consequently, the students combine interdisciplinary knowledge with design-specific competences and methods in their research-oriented, design-oriented or development-oriented master's theses.

Research-oriented theses aim at creating new knowledge and are regarded as an independent scientific discussion with objects, texts, or facts based on design-related questions. These include theory-oriented theses, which develop and verify suggestions based on existing design and other related scientific theories and models, as well as empirical theses that involve research while directly observing an object and documenting it.

Design and development-oriented theses link the procedures of research and design, analysis and synthesis. At first, its result is regarded as an option, which will only be put into concrete terms during the design process. Such theses formulate a design concept as an approach to a specific question while using the knowledge gained in an integrative manner. Within the framework of these theses, design and space requirements, social and cultural requirements, as well as technical, economical and functional demands will be worked out and evaluated with regard to the question asked. The concept developed this way will then be substantiated as artefact, product, space, system, interaction, or event by means of experimental and methodically driven processes. Links between research-based approaches and design and development-oriented theses are expressly encouraged and supported.

Programme and Course Structure

The master degree programme comprises three stages of study:

integrated, interdisciplinary and elaborated. Students will be assisted at all stages by several university professors and will be supported intensively by two supervisors during the second and third semester when determining an individual project.

Stage of Study: Integrated

In the first semester the students deal intensively with the term integrative design and independently carry out design-related design and development work. After intensive research they develop their own questions in projects and studios, work on prototypes and models in the KISDLabs and develop their own perspectives in the fields of theory, action and design - Integrated Design.

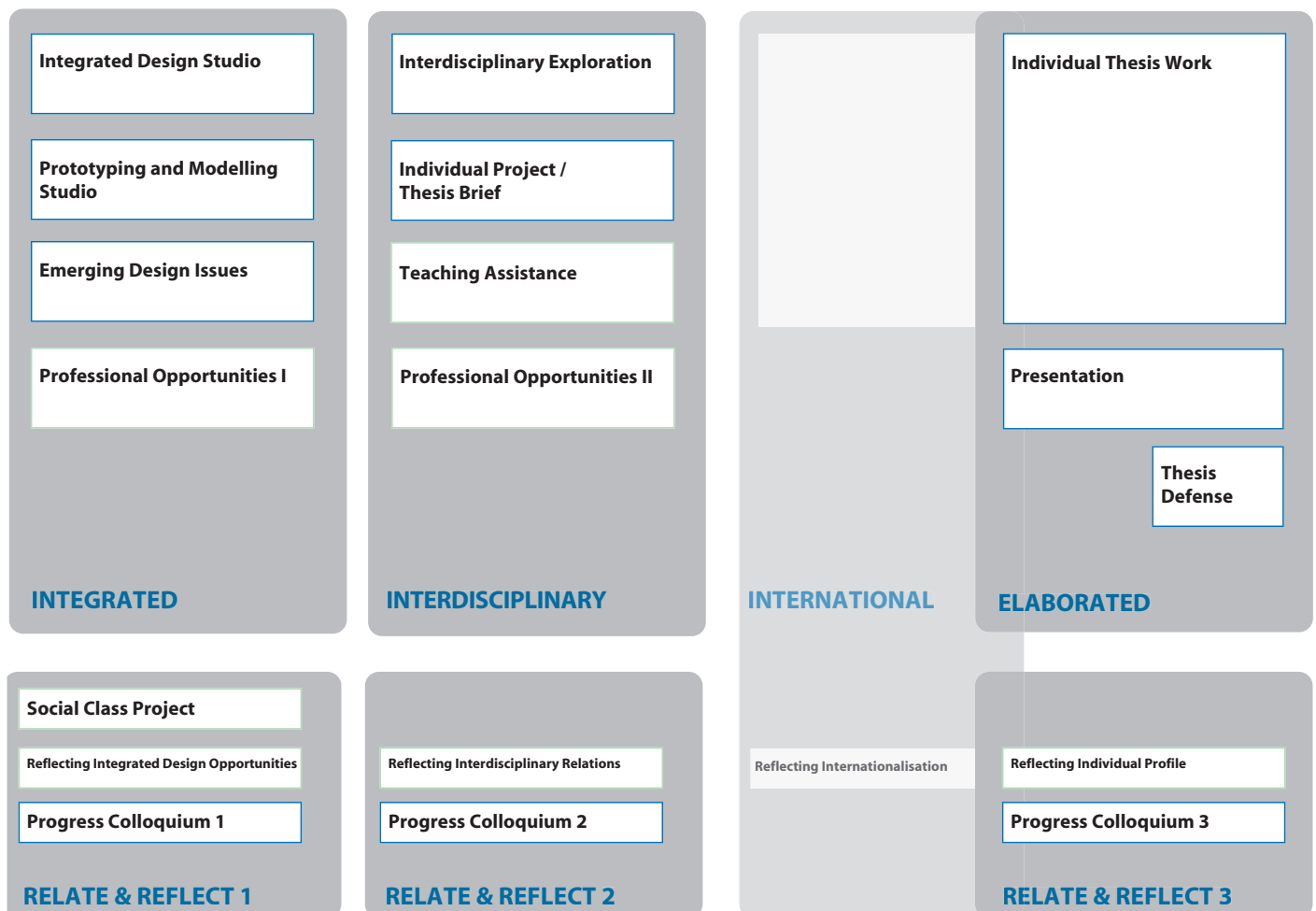
Simultaneously, students explore the possibilities of professionalization while getting to know and to evaluate the range of professional prospects in design within the Professional Opportunities.

Stage of Study: Interdisciplinary

In the second semester the students work out individual research, development and design approaches and incorporate them into a reasonable interdisciplinary context in accordance with the subject chosen by them. The students develop their individual approaches by means of design-specific plotting tools; e.g. drawing, texting, modelling or mapping, and then relate them to other disciplines. In this context, social, cultural and global dimensions of design are discussed with partners from industry, culture, education, and research. Enriched by their own teaching experience the semester finishes with the depiction of a defined subject approach and a draft presentation for further work.

Stage of Study: Elaborated

The third semester is dedicated to self-dependent elaboration of the master's thesis. The subjects of the second semester are further developed and, at least in two of the KISD areas of expertise, related systematically and interdisciplinarily. Part of the work includes a detailed and professional documentation, a presentation or exhibition within the university, and a colloquium.



Relate & Reflect During the Course of Study

All stages of study will be accompanied by a mentoring programme and a colloquium, giving the students the chance to discuss their development and objectives among each other. In this context, peer learning is regarded as an important aspect of the studies. The colloquium includes personal reflection and provides an open culture of discussion and feedback with participants such as the KISD professors and lecturers, students and external partners. Therefore, mentoring and colloquiums are ground-breaking elements within the formation of a comprehensive spectrum of expertise.

Double Degree With Tongji University Shanghai/China

Within the subject "Urban Transformations", outstanding students have the possibility to acquire a double degree after successfully completing an additional semester at the College of Design and Innovation in Shanghai, China – the Master of Design of Tongji University. Further partners and subjects are in the planning stage and will follow.

Professional Prospects

Our students explore different possibilities of professionalization in permanently changing occupational fields and realities already at the beginning of the master degree programme. It is essential to develop an understanding for the economical, social and technological relations of one's own work throughout the entire studies.

Our students develop an individual profile within a broad spectrum of expertise, which unites methodological, theoretical, social, and communicative aspects. In this context, individual visions of professional perspectives are developed. Our graduates are qualified to manage and guide complex design processes in a permanently developing professional manner, and to carry out individual scientific research and development work.

Requirements and Application Procedure Master of Arts »Integrated Design«

Requirements: If you want to apply for the master degree programme at KISD, an academic degree is required (BA or higher) covering 3.5 years of study time (210 ECTS). As the course language is English, you should have proof of English proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS or other). For TOEFL a minimum score of 79 (Internet based version) is required. The master degree programme is extremely demanding and benefits a lot from peer learning. Therefore, you will be asked for some information about yourself and your study plan.

Curriculum Vitae: Let us know what you have done before and what makes you a unique applicant and prospective student.

Motivation Letter: Please communicate why you want to study the graduate programme Integrated Design, why in Germany and why at KISD. We aim to understand how much you know about us and how this meets your own expectations regarding the programme. Thus, let us also know what exactly you expect from your graduate studies at KISD. This might be a precise depiction of an integrated design project you have in mind – or a substantial argumentation to support your general interest in the field of integrated design. Please try to be as clear and comprehensive as possible in presenting your expectations and interests.

Reference or Letter of Recommendation: Please send us at least one recommendation letter either from academic or from professional institutions/organisations. The author should also act as a personal referee – in case we need more information about you.

Portfolio: We recommend you to update and adapt your existing portfolio for the assessment. Choose projects and experiences that give a good overview both of your fields of interest and your design/design-related experience and qualifications. Works can come from academic, professional or free projects.

Testified Copies of Certificates of Previous Study Course(s): We need to know what you have studied before (BA or higher).

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Important

For non-German applicants:

If you do not hold an academic degree (BA or higher) from a German university, you need to apply additionally at <http://www.uni-assist.de>. They will check your national degree qualifications.

For all applicants:

Please note, all documents should be adequately designed. We do not define a "style sheet" for the presentation of your application – so this is your opportunity to give us an idea of your skills and competence in presenting specific interests regarding our programme.

Application period: 1 August – 10 October.
Applications must be submitted by 10 October.
<https://application.kisd.de/>

MA »Integrated Design« at KISD in a nutshell

Degree Programme:	MA »Integrated Design«
Study Courses:	»Interdisciplinary Studies in Design« »European Studies in Design«
Academic Degree:	Master of Arts
Standard Time to Degree:	3 Semester

ETCS Credits:	90 ECTS
Language:	English
Head of Programme:	Prof. Philipp Heidkamp Prof. Andreas Wrede
Specific Feature:	Double Degree Programme with various partner universities (optional)

Fees and Cost of Living

KISD is an institute of the Cologne University of Applied Sciences. Semester fees are set at approx. EUR 235 per semester – standard at most German universities. The fee includes public transport and all costs of administration.

Additionally, students are expected to have health insurance. Living costs in Cologne can vary depending on one's level, however, a minimum of approx. EUR 750 per month should be calculated. Please note that no scholarships will be granted by the Cologne University of Applied Sciences or our institute.



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Keen on Studying with Us at KISD?

KISD is an institute of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences of the Cologne University of Applied Sciences, which is the largest of its kind in Germany. Approx. 22,600 students are taught by about 420 professors. The eleven faculties and the Institute for Technology and Resources Management in the Tropics and Subtropics offer more than 80 courses – half of which are in engineering sciences or humanities and the other half in social sciences; and, recently, also in applied natural sciences. The Cologne University of Applied Sciences is a full member of the Association of European Institutions of Higher Education (EUA). It belongs to the UAS 7 association of German universities of applied sciences and to the Innovation Alliance of Universities in North-Rhine Westphalia.

KISD is located in the city centre, within walking distance from the Rhine and the new Rheinauhafen on the river's old South Quay. Many of our students live close by, and therefore are able to combine living and working in an ideal manner.

KISD is unique in making no distinction between visual communication and product design – distinctions that are obsolete and have been replaced by an integrated approach as formulated in the MA Integrated Design. This is confirmed by external sources, e.g. Business Week has ranked KISD already twice among the best design schools in the world. The city of Cologne is the fourth largest in Germany, with a million inhabitants. In total, Cologne hosts 80,000 students. Because of its wide range of cultural activities, its central location in Europe, its excellent transport links, Cologne is the ideal place to study. Countless annual trade shows, fairs, exhibitions, and events offer the opportunity for experience, exchange, and cooperation. Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, and the Ruhr valley are reachable within an hour or two. Paris, Munich, Hamburg, and Berlin in approx. four hours. Thanks to the excellent flight links, every major European city is easily and cheaply within reach. Thus, over the years, an exchange across regional and national borders has developed. Cologne stands firm by its tradition of being a cosmopolitan, tolerant and connected city.