
Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Köln International School of Design (KISD)

Module Catalog

Integrated Design Research

Master of Arts

Content

Module Catalog Integrated Design Research, Master of Arts	3
1 Program Description	3
2 Graduate Profile	4
3 Fields of Activity	6
4 Study Plan	7
4.1 Study course Integrated Design	7
4.2 Study course European Design	8
5 Alternative Study Plan (study course Integrated Design)	9
6 Modules	10
6.1 Modules of the study phase “Research” (study course Integrated Design)	10
6.1.1 Design Research	10
6.1.2 Research Approaches	11
6.1.3 Relate & Reflect I	12
6.2 Modules of the study phase “International” (study course European Design)	13
6.2.1 International Design I	13
6.2.2 International Design II	14
6.2.3 Relate & Reflect I	15
6.3 Modules of the study phase “Elaboration”	16
6.3.1 Proposals	16
6.3.2 Research Surroundings	18
6.3.3 Final Thesis	19
6.3.4 Final Presentation	20
6.3.5 Relate & Reflect II	21
7 Overview of the Thematic Clusters	23

Module Catalog | Integrated Design Research, Master of Arts

1 Program Description

The MA “Integrated Design Research” focuses on research and development through and by design. Ultimate objective is the conception and establishment of a research practice specific to design, which continuously alternates between the following of rules and their transcension, in addition to analysis and synthesis. It facilitates gaining, documenting and refining knowledge through the design of artefacts, systems and processes. The practical design process by itself is in this sense not enough to be considered research. Rather the design has to be critically compared to other approaches, its relation to existing theories mapped and its position in discourse determined. Design is scientific research only if it promotes a fertile dialogue between theory and creative practice, generates new knowledge and communicates it comprehensibly. The Master’s thesis, being the key component of the course of study, focuses on a research through design approach of this kind within one of four Thematic Clusters: Material Systems & Lab Culture, Social & Public Innovation, Urban Intensities & Resources or Visual Cultures & Politics.

The course of study “Integrated Design” places special attention on the exploration and framing of problems and corresponding requirements for action. Ethical, functional and aesthetic aspects are considered in the development of concepts, processes and products. To establish experimental ways of creating that which has not existed, concrete methods of design and research are identified, examined and developed in lab-like situations.

The course of study is characterized by an integrated, intercultural and interdisciplinary environment as well as research- and practice-oriented design processes. Self-determined acquisition of knowledge takes the place of instruction as students concern themselves with questions of the social, cultural and aesthetic potency of design as well as its theorization. Drafts and designs are discussed as practices generating knowledge and projecting the world with regard to their contextual, historical and social embeddedness, also taking into account possible interdependencies of these practices and their transcultural entanglements. Thereby productive as well as deconstructive perspectives on historical and current practices of design emerge.

Research through design is conducted not just *for* but also *with* society. Transdisciplinary projects provide students with the opportunity of developing and realizing research and designs jointly with non-academic research institutions or non-academic partners in the cultural, civic, urban or economic realm. Furthermore, there is the possibility of integrating inter- or transcultural approaches by choosing to do a Double Degree with one of two current international partner schools, extending studies by one semester.

Degree	Master of Arts
Standard period of studies	4 semesters
Start of studies	winter term
Study courses	Integrated Design / European Design
Thematic Clusters	Material Systems & Lab Culture Social & Public Innovation Urban Intensities & Resources Visual Cultures & Politics
Language	English

2 Graduate Profile

Graduates of the Master's course "Integrated Design Research" demonstrate sophistication in both theory and design practice in the Thematic Cluster they choose to write their Master's thesis in. They furthermore have a broad understanding of the theories, methods, principles and practices of the other three Thematic Clusters. The course of study enables students to work in a differentiated and design-specific scientific and creative manner, contributes to a deeper understanding of cultural and social phenomena and imparts advanced competencies in design research and knowledge transfer. The graduates' work is research-oriented, theoretically and empirically well-founded, creative and experimental. They conceptualize and realize projects on their own and communicate design-specific scientific knowledge in a way that is also comprehensible to non-designers. They are able to familiarize themselves with complex design- and research-relevant topics and problems autonomously, effectively and in a self-organized manner. They are able to formulate their own research questions in one of the four Thematic Clusters and work on them employing advanced and specifically developed methods and modalities of research, analysis, evaluation and interpretation, as well as concept and draft.

KISD regards the systematic training and support of independent and self-responsible thinking and acting as its most urgent task and enables its students to set an individual thematic and/or methodical focus and develop personal profiles. Accordingly, the competencies listed below are not to be understood as a "catalog of criteria" to be fulfilled in its entirety by each individual but rather intend to systematically map the demands placed upon designers at different levels to provide the overview necessary for defining one's own focal points.

Constructing Problems: Graduates are able to observe and analyze (everyday) phenomena, practices and interactions in their cultural, social, technical and discursive contexts. On this basis they define independent research questions and problems and integrate theories, concepts and methods of design as well as of related disciplines in addressing them. They systematically acquire knowledge on their subject of interest, conduct scientific research, compile and consider pertinent literature and collect, analyze and evaluate data to arrive at new independent and well-founded insights, positions and judgments. Outlining the state of research to date, they are able to locate and determine the research gap which they attempt to close with their theoretical, empirical and creative approaches.

Thinking Design: Graduates are able to describe, analyze and interpret design phenomena and processes from a perspective of cultural sciences and design sciences in order to develop new theories, concepts and methods of draft. They spotlight conditions under which processes of draft and production take place and stimulate a broader theoretical discussion about the cultural, social, political, technical, ecological and economic interrelations of design, articulating design objectives within a realm of possibilities and suggesting potentials for transformation. Graduates are furthermore able to link theory formation and design-relevant research by understanding design processes and artefacts as a means to generate new and different forms of knowledge. Configuring independent forms of research through design, they critically reflect on the How and What of design and visualize the non-visible, such as norms, values and presuppositions. They understand the process of design to be a process of transformation and awareness.

Designing Processes: Graduates are able to deal confidently with uncertainty and dynamically changing framework conditions in processes of draft and development. First by defining these processes and differentiating their stages and components, then by defining procedures,

experimenting with media and materials, iteratively testing and evaluating their approaches and concepts, reflecting on intermediate results, adapting and further developing them, forming priorities despite missing information and making decisions- both independently and as part of a team.

Practicing Collaboration: Graduates understand design as a social practice based on collaboration with and participation of others in draft and development processes. They are able to lead intercultural as well as inter- and transdisciplinary teams by organizing team processes, reflecting and integrating the perspectives and thinking cultures present in these teams, enabling experiences and social interactions, facilitating processes of acquisition and negotiation and assuming responsibility towards the group. Through design, graduates are able to participate in the shaping of society, the digital transformation of the public sphere and to stimulate the interest of the community with their projects.

Developing Prototypes: Graduates are familiar with advanced practices and techniques of draft as well as analog and digital tools in accordance with their chosen thematic and methodical focus and can apply them in creative and unexpected manners. They are able to utilize prototypes as a means to generate knowledge by experimentally making use of tools of draft such as sketching, writing, modelling, mapping etc. and drawing attention to certain recurring patterns of thought and practice in design.

Creating Alternatives: Graduates are able to systematize draft processes by defining project-related criteria of form, function, material, medium, location, space and time as well as cultural, social, technical and economic contexts and framing objectives of sustainable development, diversity, integration and interculturality. They develop a variety of drafts taking into account criteria and objectives and use these drafts to make well-founded decisions in the development process to come to a programmatic result.

Translating Knowledge: Graduates are able to precisely describe, visualize and present design approaches, perspectives and solutions orally and in writing – including in a foreign language – by reflecting on culturally and socially shaped concepts of perception, thinking and designing and considering those concepts in their own work. They develop visual narrations which subvert traditional expectations and practices of perception in order to produce different standards of and visions for progress and improvement. They emphasize the contextuality of design and show how meaning may only be understood through the complex relation of images, sounds, texts and documents.

3 Fields of Activity

Having successfully completed the course of study, graduates are qualified to work in one of the following fields of action or a combination thereof:

Field of Activity A: *Conceptual work and project conception in society, science and economy*

Considering the growth of cultural and creative economies, there is a need for designers to develop a critical personality and distance with regard to the relation between design practices, society and economy. Integrated Design Research entails a responsibility to participate in the conception and design of social, scientific and economic processes, supervising them critically and giving impulses for development, without establishing or supporting hidden interests in control.

Field of Activity B: *Interdisciplinary problem solving*

In the course of study for their Master's, students acquire the skills to concern themselves in both theory and practice with topics, contents and perspectives constitutive for society. They can furthermore critically apply them when dealing with interdisciplinary problems and processes of decision-making. The cross-disciplinary, project-focused structure of the course of study promotes the acquisition of competencies of independent and interdisciplinary work. Project tasks are individually formulated, transformed into concepts and artefacts and finally presented publicly. This also encourages improving one's abilities in the areas of self-organization and entrepreneurship.

Field of Activity C: *Development and innovation research*

After their studies, graduates use their abilities in design and design research to initiate and realize social, cultural and scientific developments of public responsibility and thus advance public affairs and social innovations in an instigating and formative manner. In theory and research, they contribute to the scholarly discourse on the relation between design, society, culture, politics and economics. The course of study being research-oriented, graduates may further expand their theoretical scientific objectives by doing a Ph.D. or choose a career in research or the communication of research.

Field of Activity D: *Intercultural and interdisciplinary communication*

In a society shaped by increasing participation, graduates of the course of study participate not only in the generation of knowledge but also in the translation of subjects, contents and positions into audio-visual concepts, assuming responsibility for their communication. In this sense, they are qualified to work on topics of public affairs in terms of both content and methodology in an outstanding manner.

4.2 Study course European Design

	1	2	3	4
Design Backbone	M01E Design International I Activities at European partner university of the MEDes-network 28	M02E Design International II Activities at European partner university of the MEDes-network 28	M03 Proposals Proposal I 6 Proposal II 6 Colloquium 2 MIP 6 20	M05 Final Thesis Master Thesis 20 20
			M04 Research Surroundings Portfolio 4 Courses 4 8	M06 Final Presentation Thesis Pres. 2 Colloquium 2 Publication 2 6
Design Skills				
Design Reflection	R01E Relate & Reflect I Mentoring 2 Study Journal 2 4		R02 Relate & Reflect II Mentoring 2 Study Journal 2 KISDTalks, Lectures, Presentations 2 6	
	2. Partner University International 2		Elaboration	

6 Modules

6.1 Modules of the study phase “Research” (study course Integrated Design)

6.1.1 Design Research

Module Code:	M01
Module Title:	Design Research
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	35
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	2 semesters
Recommended for Semester:	1. and 2. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Carolin Höfler, Prof. Andreas Wrede
Lecturers:	Lecturers of KISD, guest lecturers
Learning Outcome:	<p>The students are able to realize complex research and draft projects within the course of study's Thematic Clusters. They are able to reflect on them and assess them from a multitude of design- relevant perspectives so as to independently develop and elaborate theoretical and design-specific research approaches in their second phase of study. They acquire these skills by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– observing and analyzing concrete (everyday) phenomena, situations, practices and interactions in their cultural, social, technical and discursive contexts,– independently developing research-relevant questions and problems, and integrating theories, concepts and methods of design as well as of related disciplines in addressing them,– articulating design objectives within a realm of possibilities, and suggesting potentials for transformation,– configuring processes of research and development, experimenting with media and materials, exploring and iteratively testing their approaches and concepts,– experimenting and researching in both the analog and digital creation process realms utilizing different design tools,– developing a variety of drafts while taking into account criteria and objectives, and using these drafts to make well-founded decisions in the development process,– working in intercultural as well as inter- and transdisciplinary teams, reflecting on the perspectives and thinking cultures present in these teams, enabling experiences and social interactions and negotiating solution-oriented compromises.
Module Content:	<p>Students select projects and scientific seminars from the Thematic Clusters offered at KISD (see Additional Remarks) in which they concern themselves with topics, methods and potentials of design-research. It is on the basis of specifically targeted research and critical evaluation that phenomena relevant to the studies of Integrated Design are investigated and scientifically examined. The focus is on the differing perspectives of the fields of research present at KISD on socially, culturally, politically and ecologically relevant questions. Of particular interest in this regard is the quality of both research and acquisition of systematic design processes, their theories, heuristics and models, as well as their description and reflection at an appropriate academic and design-specific level (e.g. as a presentation of drafts, a written and a visual elaboration).</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Projects (27 CP), scientific seminars (8 CP)

Assessment Method:	Oral contribution, written scientific paper, presentation, exhibition, Study Journal
Workload:	1050 h
Contact hours:	195 h
Self-study:	855 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	None
Recommended Reading:	Literature recommendations are project- and seminar-specific and are given at the beginning of the courses in Spaces.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	<p>In this module students attend at least one long-term and one mid-term project as well as one scientific seminar within the Thematic Cluster chosen by them in their application for the course of study. An additional mid-term and one short-term project as well as one more scientific seminar may be chosen from either of the four Thematic Clusters.</p> <p>There are short-term (3 CP), mid-term (6 CP) and long-term (12 CP) projects. Within the course of one semester, a maximum of one long-term in combination with one short-term or two consecutive mid-term or up to six consecutive short-term projects may be attended, according to the course offer. Long- and mid-term projects may not overlap.</p>
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.1.2 Research Approaches

Module Code:	M02
Module Title:	Research Approaches
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	18
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	2 semesters
Recommended for Semester:	1. and 2. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Carolin Höfler, Prof. Andreas Wrede
Lecturers:	Lecturers of KISD, guest lecturers
Learning Outcome:	<p>Students are able to utilize advanced development methods and techniques, as well as analog and digital tools, in creative and unexpected manners. In their second phase of studies, they will be increasingly expected to configure independent forms of research through design by which they critically reflect on the “how” and “what” of design, and visualize the invisible or intangible such as norms, values and presuppositions. They explore different methodical approaches of design as well as of related disciplines. Furthermore they reflect on and systematize individual ways of thinking and designing, and experiment with material and conceptual tools.</p>
Module Content:	<p>Within the module “Research Approaches” students concern themselves with methods of design research as well as experimental development-approaches and -techniques, and develop a deeper understanding of research through design. Processes of design</p>

research challenge the traditional understanding of methods: They continuously alternate between following rules and transcending them. They entail uncertainty and yet require precision and explication. They sometimes call for analysis, sometimes for synthesis and are oriented towards that which is initially a mere possibility. This is why design does not start with creating standardised solutions for clearly defined problems but in fact with the construction of problems. Thus, the applied methods are not to be seen as inflexible models of process but rather as experimental means to create what has not existed while at the same time questioning one's own patterns of thinking and acting.

In two Methods Labs the students explore methods of thought and practice as well as media specific to design research, and learn to connect them with those of other scientific fields. In lab-like situations concrete methodical practices are identified, examined and developed. In parallel students choose courses and/or working groups, and get to know or refine techniques of draft and realisation (such as drawing, modelling or rapid prototyping), expand their interdisciplinary competencies (for example in presenting, the training of teams or intercultural competencies) or advance their skills in design-specific software.

Teaching and Learning Methods:	Methods Labs (12 CP), courses and / or working groups (6 CP)
Assessment Method:	Oral contribution, written scientific paper, presentation, exhibition, Study Journal
Workload:	540 h
Contact hours:	142 h
Self-study:	398 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	None
Recommended Reading:	Literature recommendations are given at the beginning of the courses in Spaces.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	–
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.1.3 Relate & Reflect I

Module Code:	R01
Module Title:	Relate & Reflect I
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	7
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	2 semesters
Recommended for Semester:	1. and 2. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Carolin Höfler, Prof. Andreas Wrede
Lecturers:	Professors of KISD
Learning Outcome:	Students are able to describe their interests and research approaches as a designer, reflect on them critically, deriving well-reasoned objectives for their personal academic

	<p>development as a designer as well as for their individual plans regarding their studies and their work, and elaborate on them in the written form by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conceptualising their approaches and work results within the Thematic Clusters of the course of study, – reflecting on the work and team processes that preceded these results, – comparing them with the processes of other student groups and – critically evaluating their own strengths and weaknesses, <p>to be able to adopt a personal attitude towards research through design in the field of theory, practice and development that is “Integrated Design”.</p>
Module Content:	<p>Within the course “Design Exploration” students at the beginning of their studies get an overview of the teaching and research areas at KISD and an insight into the course of study’s four Thematic Clusters.</p> <p>Subject of the module is furthermore the (concurrent and retrospective) reflection of the modules “Design Research” and “Research Approaches”. Accompanied by mentoring meetings with the heads of the study program, students reflect on connections and synergies between the courses and the work approaches required in aforementioned modules in the Study Journal, furthermore integrating impulses from the KISDtalks. Of central interest is locating their individual interests as a designer as well as their research approaches in the course of study’s Thematic Clusters.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Design Exploration (1 CP), mentoring (2 CP), KISDtalks, KISDIectures (2 CP), Study Journal (2 CP)
Assessment Method:	Study Journal
Workload:	210 h
Contact hours:	110 h
Self-study:	100 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	None
Recommended Reading:	Literature recommendations are topic-related and are given as part of the lectures (KISDtalks, KISDIectures) and the mentoring.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	Upon completion of the module, students determine the Thematic Cluster in which they will complete the working-formats of the second phase of studies (Proposals, Master Self-Initiated Project, Final Thesis).
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.2 Modules of the study phase “International” (study course European Design)

6.2.1 International Design I

Module Code:	M01E
Module Title:	International Design I
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	28
Language:	English / language of instruction at the respective partner university of the MEDes-network
Duration of Module:	1 semester

Recommended for Semester:	1. semester
Frequency:	Winter term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Philipp Heidkamp
Lecturers:	Lecturers at the respective partner university of the MEDes-network
Learning Outcome:	The learning outcome and its objectives and content are in accordance with the curricula offered by the respective European partner universities of the MEDes-network. Beyond this, the module serves as a possibility to acquire and expand international and intercultural competencies and skills, to practice self-organization and to deepen foreign language skills.
Module Content:	Students attend this module in the context of their one year study time at Master's level at a European partner university of the MEDes-network. The program for the content of modules and objectives is within the regulatory framework of existing European guidelines for programs of this kind and is set according to the respective curricula at those European institutions.
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Projects, seminars, courses etc. of choice (see Particularities)
Assessment Method:	See Particularities
Workload:	840 h
Contact hours:	210 h
Self-study:	630 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	None
Recommended Reading:	See Particularities
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	See Particularities
Particularities:	The module is attended in the context of a respective study program/course at a European partner university of the MEDes-network. Units of instruction and units of examination as well as the requirements for credits are set in accordance with the regulatory framework of the respective partner universities and are fully accredited on the basis of the MEDes-agreement. Control and assurance of the quality is carried out by the module Relate & Reflect (R01E).
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.2.2 International Design II

Module Code:	M02E
Module Title:	International Design II
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	28
Language:	English / language of instruction at the respective partner university of the MEDes-network
Duration of Module:	1 semester
Recommended for Semester:	2. semester
Frequency:	Summer term

Module Coordinator:	Prof. Philipp Heidkamp
Lecturers:	Lecturers at the respective partner university of the MEDes-network
Learning Outcome:	The learning outcome and its objectives and content are in accordance with the curricula offered by the respective European partner universities of the MEDes-network. Beyond this, the module serves as a possibility to acquire and expand international and intercultural competencies and skills, to practice self-organization and to deepen foreign language skills.
Module Content:	Students attend this module in the context of their one year study time at Master's level at a European partner university of the MEDes-network. The program for the content of modules and objectives is within the regulatory framework of existing European guidelines for programs of this kind and is set according to the respective curricula at those European institutions.
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Projects, seminars, courses etc. of choice (see Particularities)
Assessment Method:	See Particularities
Workload:	840 h
Contact hours:	210 h
Self-study:	630 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	None
Recommended Reading:	See Particularities
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	See Particularities
Particularities:	The module is attended in the context of a respective study program/course at a European partner university of the MEDes-network. Units of instruction and units of examination as well as the requirements for credits are set in accordance with the regulatory framework of the respective partner universities and are fully accredited on the basis of the MEDes-agreement. Control and assurance of the quality is carried out by the module Relate & Reflect (R01E).
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.2.3 Relate & Reflect I

Module Code:	R01E
Module Title:	Relate & Reflect I
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	4
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	2 semesters
Recommended for Semester:	1. and 2. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Philipp Heidkamp
Lecturers:	Professors of KISD

Learning Outcome:	Students are able to analyze and critically reflect their own processes of learning and developing and to subsequently draw consequences and objectives for their personal development as a designer in the European context, elaborating them in the written and the visual form as well as in dialogue. They consider the course of study as well as the specific cultural character of the design profession, identify and reflect on personal strengths and weaknesses, especially in international and intercultural contexts of work and life, and by this reflection make well-founded decisions with regard to the choice of a Thematic Cluster as well as their personal thematic, methodic and creative profile.
Module Content:	The objective of this module is for students to critically reflect on the experiences and knowledge gained during their international and intercultural studies at one of the partner universities of the MEDes-network. They relate their experiences to their individual works and approaches taken within the field of theory, practice and development that is "Integrated Design". By reflecting on the variety of cultural and professional contexts as well as their own concrete experiences, students are to expand their ability to develop independent positions and to know and relate divergent perspectives, thereby developing compatibility. The objective is furthermore the (pro- as well as retrospective) reflection on the thematic orientation of the "Proposals", especially with regard to newly gained experiences, methodic approaches and cultural perspectives. Students relate their own work to associated fields of research and practice. The mentor can, based on their many years of knowing them, provide valuable input and guidance. Together they will determine which lecturers at the partner universities might be suitable as a supervisor for the Final Thesis. Additionally, questions of individual professional and career plans and the exploration of possible external partners for co-operations are subject of the mentoring.
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Mentoring (2 CP), Study Journal (2 CP)
Assessment Method:	Study Journal
Workload:	120 h
Contact hours:	50 h
Self-study:	70 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	None
Recommended Reading:	Literature recommendations are topic-related and are given as part of the mentoring.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	Supervision of students in the context of the mentoring program is carried out online. Upon completion of the module, students determine the Thematic Cluster in which they will complete the working-formats of the second phase of studies (Proposals, Master Self-Initiated Project, Final Thesis).
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.3 Modules of the study phase "Elaboration"

6.3.1 Proposals

Module Code:	M03
Module Title:	Proposals
Type of Module:	Compulsory module

ECTS Credits:	20
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	1 semester
Recommended for Semester:	3. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Michael Gais
Lecturers:	Professors of KISD
Learning Outcome:	<p>Students are able to identify and investigate topics relevant to design within their chosen Thematic Cluster and to analyze and interpret related phenomena and practices in their cultural, social, technical and discursive contexts. On this basis, they are able to develop independent research questions and problems and work on them while integrating theories, concepts and methods of design as well as of related disciplines. Students conduct scientific research, compile and consider pertinent literature, collect and analyze data, outline the state of research to date, investigate into their chosen subject matter from both a theoretical and a design perspective, experiment with media and materials, test their approaches and prototypes and, based on this, define a complex scientific design project which they will pursue in their Master's thesis.</p> <p>They are able to lead intercultural as well as inter- and transdisciplinary teams by organizing team processes, reflecting and integrating the perspectives and thinking cultures present in groups, enabling experiences and social interactions, facilitating processes of acquisition and negotiation and assuming responsibility towards the group.</p>
Module Content:	<p>Within the "Master Self-Initiated Project" (MIP) students develop and realize a self-initiated project in a team with other students. The MIP as an experimental research and draft project may be seen as a preparation for the "Proposals". Furthermore, students may work with cooperation partners (research establishments, institutions, organizations, initiatives, companies, etc). Thematically, the MIP is to be completed in that Cluster that the students will be writing their thesis in, as decided in their second semester, with the MIP ideally being supervised by the same lecturer who will also supervise the Final Thesis.</p> <p>In the "Proposals", which will be the basis of the Final Thesis, students identify and investigate two topics within the framework of their chosen Thematic Cluster, independently develop critical research questions and establish a connection to design practices on a methodological level. Regardless of whether the focus of the thesis is on the aspect of research, development or draft, a detailed written paper that meets the requirements of academic and scientific practice and systematics is expected. Of special interest is conveying the complexity, the relevance and the guiding research question or problem of the process in a comprehensible way. The results of the Proposals are to be presented and defended in a colloquium</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods:	2 Proposals (each 6 CP), Colloquium (2 CP), Master Self-Initiated Project (6 CP)
Assessment Method:	Written scientific paper, oral examination, presentation, exhibition
Workload:	600 h
Contact hours:	74 h
Self-study:	526 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	all modules of the first phase of studies

Recommended Reading:	Judith Wolfsberger: Frei geschrieben. Mut, Freiheit und Strategie für wissenschaftliche Abschlussarbeiten. Wien ²2021.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	Proposals and MIP must be completed within the Thematic Cluster chosen by the students at the end of the second semester.
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.3.2 Research Surroundings

Module Code:	M04
Module Title:	Research Surroundings
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	8
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	1 semester
Recommended for Semester:	3. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Carolin Höfler, Prof. Andreas Wrede
Lecturers:	Lecturers of KISD, guest lecturers
Learning Outcome:	Students are able to use their creative and intellectual resources to position themselves and their projects in the professional environment by identifying and articulating their personal priorities in work and research while expanding their draft and development abilities and their technical skills. They are able to improve their usage of design tools. In addition to the ability to communicate visually, students are also able to communicate linguistically at a high academic level, ensuring connectivity to other disciplines.
Module Content:	<p>Students attend a portfolio course, the objective of which is the process-oriented development of personal interests and research questions, so as to be able to establish an independent creative and scientific attitude. Working on the portfolio stimulates a continuous reflection and a drawing of connections between the individual courses of the MA program. The course encourages presentations and discussions of individual ideas, processes, and results.</p> <p>In parallel students attend additional courses amounting to 4 CP to get to know or refine techniques of draft and realisation (such as drawing, modeling or rapid prototyping), expand their interdisciplinary competencies (for example in presenting, the training of teams or intercultural competencies) or advance their skills in design-specific software.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Courses (8 CP)
Assessment Method:	Oral contribution, Study Journal
Workload:	240 h
Contact hours:	120 h

Self-study:	120 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	All modules of the first phase of studies
Recommended Reading:	Literature recommendations are given at the beginning of the courses in Spaces.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	–
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.3.3 Final Thesis

Module Code:	M05
Module Title:	Final Thesis
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	20
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	1 semester
Recommended for Semester:	4. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Michael Gais
Lecturers:	Professors of KISD, where applicable external examiners
Learning Outcome:	<p>Students are able to conceive and realize a complex, innovative development and research project in their chosen Thematic Cluster on the basis of their Proposals. They have the abilities to observe, analyze and interpret phenomena, situations and processes relevant to their project in their cultural, social, technical and discursive contexts. On this basis, they are able to develop independent research questions and problems and work on them while integrating theories, concepts and methods of design as well as of related disciplines. In accordance with their chosen thematic and methodical focus, they are familiar with advanced practices and techniques of draft as well as analog and digital tools, applying them in their exploration and realization of artefacts and processes by which new forms of knowledge are generated and alternative perspectives are provided. They are able to explore complex problems, open up new areas of research and create innovative designs by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – systematically acquiring knowledge on their subject of interest, conducting scientific research, compiling and considering pertinent literature, collecting, analyzing and evaluating data, – outlining the state of research to date and locating the research gap which they attempt to close with their theoretical, empirical and creative approaches, – identifying and analyzing conditions under which processes of design and production take place and exposing cultural, social, political, technical, ecological and economic interrelations of design, – articulating design objectives within a realm of possibilities and suggesting potentials for transformation, – utilizing prototypes as tools to generate knowledge, – drawing attention to certain recurring patterns of thought and practice in design by experimentally making use of tools of draft such as sketching, writing, modelling, mapping etc.,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – defining project-related criteria of form, function, material, medium, location, space and time as well as cultural, social, technical and economic contexts and framing objectives of sustainable development, diversity, integration and interculturality, – developing a variety of drafts taking into account criteria and objectives and using these drafts to make well-founded decisions in the development process.
Module Content:	The Master's thesis is a draft project including a written elaboration (description, analysis and interpretation) or a theory paper based within the cultural studies including a distinct design-oriented dimension and is completed in the Thematic Cluster chosen by the students. The Final Thesis is the central work of KISD graduates and showcases the integrative research and design skills, which the students have acquired and expanded during their studies.
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Final Thesis (20 CP)
Assessment Method:	Final Thesis
Workload:	600 h
Contact hours:	30 h
Self-study:	570 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	M03
Recommended Reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bolker, Joan: Writing your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day. A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing your Doctoral Thesis. New York: Holt 2009. – Elbow, Peter: Writing with Power. Techniques for Mastering the Writing Process. New York: Oxford University Press 1998.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	The Final Thesis must be completed within the Thematic Cluster chosen by the students at the end of the second semester.
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.3.4 Final Presentation

Module Code:	M06
Module Title:	Final Presentation
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	6
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	1 semester
Recommended for Semester:	4. semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term
Module Coordinator:	Prof. Michael Gais
Lecturers:	Professors of KISD, where applicable external examiners

Learning Outcome:	<p>Students are able to precisely describe, visualize and present design approaches, perspectives and solutions orally and in writing – including in a foreign language – by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – reflecting on culturally and socially shaped concepts of perception, thinking and designing and considering those concepts in their own work, – developing (audio-)visual narrations which subvert traditional expectations and practices of perception in order to produce different standards of, and visions for, progress and improvement, – emphasizing the contextuality of design and showing how meaning may only be understood through the complex relation of images, sounds, texts and documents.
Module Content:	<p>Within the module “Final Presentation” processes and results of the Final Thesis are presented (“Thesis Presentation”) in a form that is addressed at and of interest to both designers and non-specialists equally. Following this university-public presentation, a “Colloquium” is held, taking a critical look at various aspects of the work and instigating a discussion on further perspectives of the results. The communication of the students’ work furthermore entails taking part in the exhibition of all Final Theses (“Publication”) during the annual KISDparcours. In doing so, they integrate their own work into a larger exhibition context, relate it to other exhibits and scenographies, developing suitable forms of presentation by means of which they are able to spatially represent the results obtained in their thesis, rendering them clear and vivid for a heterogeneous audience.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Thesis Presentation, Colloquium, Publication (each 2 CP)
Assessment Method:	Thesis Presentation, Colloquium, Publication
Workload:	180 h
Contact hours:	12 h
Self-study:	168 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	M05
Recommended Reading:	–
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	Confer § 30 of the examination regulations for the course of study “Integrated Design Research”.
Last update:	28 September 2021

6.3.5 Relate & Reflect II

Module Code:	R02
Module Title:	Relate & Reflect II
Type of Module:	Compulsory module
ECTS Credits:	6
Language:	English
Duration of Module:	2 semesters
Recommended for Semester:	3. and 4. Semester
Frequency:	Winter and summer term

Module Coordinator:	All professors of KISD
Lecturers:	Professors of KISD
Learning Outcome:	Students are able to analyze their individual processes of learning, drafting and researching, reflect on them critically, deriving well-reasoned consequences and objectives for their personal development as well as for their individual plans regarding their last phase of studies, and elaborate on them in dialogue as well as in the written form. They specifically address their future development as a designer after completing the MA program, identify personal strengths and weaknesses and by this reflection are able to position themselves and make well-founded decisions with regards to the thematic, methodical and creative orientation of their "Proposals" and their "Final Thesis" as well as their future career.
Module Content:	Subject of this module is the (pro- and retrospective) reflection of the modules "Proposals", "Research Surroundings" and "Final Thesis". Accompanied by mentoring meetings with the supervisors of their Final Thesis, students reflect on connections and synergies between the courses and the work approaches required in aforementioned modules in their Study Journal and integrate impulses from the KISDtalks. Of special interest is determining the significance of what has been achieved so far for further development as well as the visual and verbal elaboration of their personal profile as an "Integrated Designer". The mentoring program furthermore focuses on the development and support of the two "Proposals" and the "Final Thesis", also with regard to the student's individual career plans after graduation
Teaching and Learning Methods:	Mentoring (2 CP), KISDtalks, KISDIectures (2 CP), Study Journal (2 CP)
Assessment Method:	Study Journal
Workload:	180 h
Contact hours:	100 h
Self-study:	80 h
Recommended Prerequisites:	All modules of the first phase of study
Recommended Reading:	Literature recommendations are topic-related and are given as part of the lectures (KISDtalks, KISDIectures) and the mentoring.
Use of the Module in Other Degree Programs:	–
Particularities:	–
Last update:	28 September 2021

7 Overview of the Thematic Clusters

- Material Systems & Lab Culture
- Social & Public Innovation
- Urban Intensities & Resources
- Visual Cultures & Politics

Appendix

- Module Matrix Master Integrated Design Research

Imprint:

TH Köln
Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54
50968 Köln

www.th-koeln.de