

Zurich University of the Arts

Master of Arts in Art Education

Degree Programme Regulations (DPR MAE)

13 December 2023

Based on § 2 para. 3 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Zurich University of the Arts of 2 November 2021, the University Board hereby decrees:

A. General Provisions

1. Subject

In addition to the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at ZHdK (RF), the Degree Programme Regulations (DPR) set out here govern the Master of Arts in Art Education.

2. Programme Objective

¹ The Master of Arts in Art Education is a practice-oriented programme that prepares graduates for demanding professional roles in art education and aesthetic-cultural education by combining subject-specific and research-based practices.

² Student-centred settings support students in acquiring a positioned, professional attitude and an exploratory, research-based approach, which are essential for meeting the current challenges in the respective fields of practice in a well-reflected manner.

³ Students majoring in teaching art earn a master's degree and an Upper Secondary Visual Arts Teaching Diploma in accordance with the regulations of the Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education² (EDK). The programme is based on the applicable requirements for vocational and educational training.

3. Majors in Art Education

¹ The master's degree programme comprises the following majors, each awarded 90 credits:

- a. Major in Teaching Art,
- b. Major in Critical Social Practice in Art Education.

² The annexes to these DPR describe the MA Majors in Art Education.

B. Admissions

4. Admissions

Programme admissions are governed by the provisions of the Regulatory Framework (RF).

5. Admissions Process and Entrance Examination Committee

¹ The admissions process comprises four stages:

- a. The University Office establishes whether applicants meet the University's admissions requirements (i.e. previous education, fulfilment of additional requirements in accordance with § 6, language proficiency and application documents);
- b. Applications are reviewed to verify whether applicants fulfil the admissions requirements for the subject-specific aptitude test;
- c. The Entrance Examination Committee verifies whether applicants fulfil the additional requirements and conducts the subject-specific aptitude test;
- d. Admissions decision.

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² The Head of Programme appoints an Entrance Examination Committee, comprising at least two persons (professors, members of the teaching and research staff or assistants) from the degree programme and the head of major.

6. Additional Admissions Requirements

¹ To be admitted to the MA Major in Art Education, applicants must hold:

- a. A bachelor's degree in art education from ZHdK or
- b. A bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree from a recognised or an accredited arts university that prepares students for a teaching career or for an educational role in the arts or design. Such candidates must possess the necessary creative-artistic and pedagogic-didactic knowledge and skills. Any missing coursework required to earn the teaching diploma must be completed either in advance or at a later date. The number of additional course credits is specified in a learning agreement to be concluded before students enter the programme.

² To be admitted to the MA Major in Critical Social Practice in Art Education, applicants must hold:

- a. A bachelor's degree in art education from ZHdK,
- b. A bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree from a recognised or an accredited higher education institution that prepares graduates for a teaching career or for an educational role in the arts or design,
- c. A bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree in an artistic or creative field of study from a recognised or an accredited higher education institution.

7. Evidence of Language Proficiency

¹ Students must provide evidence of an adequate knowledge of German and English.

² Students can demonstrate their adequate knowledge of German in one of the following ways:

- a. Native speaker or;
- b. German as a subject that was examined as part of their previous education (passed or at least grade 4) or;
- c. B2 certificate in German that was earned under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or
- d. A university degree (BA/MA) in a programme that was taught and examined in German.

³ Students can demonstrate their adequate knowledge of English in one of the following ways:

- a. Native speaker or
- b. English as a subject that was examined as part of their previous education (passed or at least grade 4) or;
- c. B2 certificate in English that was earned under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or
- d. A university degree (BA/MA) in a programme that was taught and examined in English.

⁴ Proof of the required language skills can be provided in the first two semesters. In this case, programme admission is subject to students providing evidence of their language proficiency at the latest by the end of their second semester. Students who fail to meet the language requirements may be expelled.

8. Verification

The University Office reviews the documents listed below to verify whether applicants meet the admissions requirements (previous education, additional requirements, language proficiency):

- a. Application form,
- b. CV,
- c. Digital documentation of artistic practice (visual material, links to published projects);
- d. Motivation letter,
- e. Students applying for admission to the MA Major in Teaching Art are required to submit one or two project ideas for a master's thesis; proposals are not binding for subsequent coursework,
- f. Students applying for admission to the MA Major in Critical Social Practice in Art Education are required to submit a project idea that is related to social, educational and creative approaches,
- g. Bachelor's degree in accordance with the RF, as well as previous education certificates in accordance with the RF and overarching legislation,
- h. Applicants seeking to earn a teaching certificate are required to submit a certificate of good conduct (excerpt from the criminal records register).

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9. Admission to Subject-Specific Aptitude Test

Students who fulfil the requirements set out in § 8 and who have submitted the required application documents are admitted to the subject-specific aptitude test.

10. Subject-Specific Aptitude Test

¹ The subject-specific aptitude test has two parts.

² The first part of the aptitude test involves the assessment of the application documents. The positive assessment of these documents is a prerequisite for applicants being invited to the second part of the aptitude test.

³ The second part of the aptitude test comprises an admissions interview.

⁴ Programme admission is subject to the positive overall assessment of the application documents and of candidates' performance at the subject-specific aptitude test. If the number of candidates with a positive overall assessment exceeds the number of places, candidates will be admitted based on their ranking.

⁵ Candidates who fail their subject-specific aptitude test may repeat this only once for any degree programme.

11. Assessment Criteria

The following criteria are used to assess candidate aptitude:

- a. Suitability and developmental potential for the professional field as well as genuine motivation and commitment to pursuing a master's degree,
- b. Very good subject-specific and methodological competence in one's original discipline,
- c. Differentiated aesthetic perception and the ability to express oneself clearly and coherently,
- d. A strong interest in current developments, discourses and positions in the areas of study,
- e. Candidates must possess creative-artistic, cultural studies or pedagogic competence that enable to explore their questions and interests in their chosen area of study,
- f. Reflective thinking skills.

C. Student Performance

12. Credit Requirements

The number of credits required to pass the majors in art education is stipulated in the respective programme structures (see Annexes).

13. Assessment Criteria

¹ The following criteria are used to assess student performance:

- a. Timeliness and relevance of one's questions and interests,
- b. Appropriate consideration of the current state of research and critical debate (state of the art),
- c. Independent approach,
- d. Appropriate and feasible methodology,
- e. Structure and formal organisation of one's work,
- f. Linguistic and visual appropriateness,
- g. Self-reflexivity, transparent positioning.

² The following criteria are used to assess degree coursework and final examinations:

- a. Degree coursework and final examinations: Reflective quality and high professional, methodological and social competence,
- b. Master's thesis: Plausible content and argumentation, appropriateness of methods, aspirations and scope as well as positioning within relevant contexts and publics,
- c. Degree colloquium: Comprehensible and clearly structured presentation as well as stringent argumentation in the discussion with the jury.

³ These criteria are assessed in accordance with the envisaged programme outcomes (see annexes).

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D. Programme Organisation

14. Practical Experience (Internship)

¹ The Head of Programme must approve the type, content, duration and crediting of an internship prior to commencement.

² Internships are credited only if they meet the content and organisational requirements, which must be specified in a corresponding agreement.

³ Students must arrange internships themselves.

⁴ Art education faculty support students in choosing an internship.

E. Graduation

15. Major Graduation Requirements

¹ Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Art Education must fulfil the following requirements:

a. Master's thesis³,

b. Diploma colloquium: Presentation and defense of the master's thesis before the Examination Committee and examination of knowledge and reflective skills in the thematic context of the curriculum³.

² The Head of Programme appoints an Examination Committee, comprising the head of major, at least one person (professor, member of teaching and research staff or assistant) and one person external to the programme with expertise.

³ Students who wish to graduate from the MA Major in Art Education must be awarded a "Pass" or at least a grade of 4.0.

⁴ Students who are awarded a "Fail" or a grade below 4.0 may repeat their final examinations only once, at the next possible examination date.

F. Intellectual Property Rights

16. Copyright Ownership

¹ Copyright in all inventions, designs and copyrighted works created in degree programmes is owned by ZHdK.

² ZHdK reserves the right to decide on the licensing and transfer of intellectual property rights.

G. Final Provisions

17. Enactment

¹ These Degree Programme Regulations were enacted on 1 February 2024.

² These Regulations apply to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn semester or thereafter.

18. Transitional Provision

¹ Master's students who began their studies before the 2024/25 autumn semester will graduate from their programme in accordance with the Degree Programme Regulations for the ZHdK Master of Arts in Art Education of 26 August 2009 and with the respective curricular concept.

² In accordance with previous legislation, students must complete their degree programme before the end of the maximum period of study.

³ Students who interrupt their studies are subject to the new legislation. The terms and conditions of resumption as well as the accreditation of previous achievements are governed by § 34 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Programmes.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 3 July 2024. In Effect since 1 August 2024.

² Resolution of the University Board of 2 July 2025. In Effect since 1 August 2025.

³ Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.

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Master of Arts in Art Education

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Teaching Art

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Art Education with a Major in Teaching Art» in combination with «Teaching Diploma for Baccalaureate Schools, Subject Area Visual Arts»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- Subject-specific qualifications in the artistic-creative field,
- Prior knowledge of the educational sciences and the methods of teaching art (subject-specific didactics).

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Be able to understand and use art as a social sphere of action, as a medium of communication and as an aesthetic horizon of experience,
- Possess extensive technical, creative, methodological and conceptual, subject-specific practical knowledge and skills, which they will be able to apply and develop flexibly and as circumstances require in planning and implementing individual and collaborative artistic and creative explorations,
- Possess subject-specific knowledge of the theoretical and contemporary discourses in art, design, culture and media, and be able to relate these discourses conceptually, critically and reflectively to both their artistic-creative and their professional practice,
- Be able to independently plan, implement and evaluate Visual Arts lessons in accordance with the framework and requirements applicable at upper secondary schools,
- Be able to design specific, differentiated and gender-sensitive lessons, taking into account the individual and cultural backgrounds of the respective learners and learning groups,
- Be able to account for, reflect on and further develop their professional self-concept and actions in a differentiated and convincing manner against the background of subject-didactic and educational theories and discourses,
- Be able to constructively contribute the knowledge acquired during their studies to developing their subject and schools,
- Be able to apply the research-based findings and insights gained during the programme to the practice-oriented further development of their subject and profession.

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Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Teaching Art must earn at least 90 credits.	
In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below:	
Projects	min. 18 Credits from C-Modules
Studio	min. 6 Credits from CE-Modules
Discourses	min. 6 Credits from CE-Modules
Professionalisation*	min. 30 Credits, of which 27 Credits from C-Modules and 3 Credits from CE-Modules
Graduation	min. 30 Credits from C-Modules

Key: C = Compulsory Module; CE = Compulsory Elective Module

* 30 credits in the Professionalisation module area are awarded for professional training, i.e. to earn the Visual Arts Teaching Diploma at Upper Secondary Schools EDK. These 30 credits form part of the degree programme in accordance with the Regulations on the Recognition of Teaching Diplomas for Teaching at Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Schools of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) and are integrated into subject-specific training

Enactment and Effectiveness

¹ This Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations was enacted on 1 February 2024. It was approved by the University Board on 13 December 2023.

² This Annex applies to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn semester or thereafter.

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Master of Arts in Art Education Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Critical Social Practice in Art Education

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Art Education with a Major in Critical Social Practice in Art Education»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess prior knowledge of art and cultural education and/or of creative-artistic practice and/or of socio-cultural and education-related professions and fields of work.

The major is aimed at students who possess specific (professional) practical experience and/or who are seeking to pursue practice-oriented questions about teaching art and design and who wish to develop their own or innovative artistic and design practices at the interface of social change, outreach or educational projects.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Be able to convincingly account for their professional action in day-to-day practice based on social space, situational, economic and ecological analyses,
- Be able to understand and use art as a social sphere of action, as a medium of communication and as an aesthetic horizon of experience,
- Be able to apply the research-based findings and insights gained during the programme to the practice-oriented further development of their subject and profession,
- Be able to develop and describe their own positions in relevant fields of discourse (education, art, art theory, cultural and social analysis, philosophy),
- Possess subject-specific knowledge of the theoretical and contemporary discourses in art, design, culture, media, society and politics, and be able to relate these discourses conceptually, critically and reflectively to both their artistic-creative and professional practice,
- Be able to conceptualise, plan, implement, manage and evaluate art and creative education programmes,
- Be able to use flexible and varied forms and methods of communication and interaction in different teaching situations, as well as develop these forms and methods further in relation to and with those involved,
- Be able to work in teams, be cooperative, and able to take resourceful and well-integrated action,
- Possess the competencies needed to work as independent professionals in the aesthetic-cultural and socio-cultural field.

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Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Critical Social Practice in Art Education must earn at least 90 credits.

In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below:

Projects	min. 18 Credits, of which 15 Credits from C-Modules and 3 Credits from CE-Modules
Studio	min. 12 Credits from CE-Modules
Discourses	min. 15 Credits, of which 3 Credits from C-Modules and 12 Credits from CE-Modules ¹
Professionalisation	min. 15 Credits, of which 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Graduation	min. 30 Credits from C-Modules

Key: C = Compulsory Module; CE = Compulsory Elective Module

Enactment and Effectiveness

¹ This Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations was enacted on 1 February 2024. It was approved by the University Board on 13 December 2023.

² This Annex applies to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn semester or thereafter.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 19 June 2024. In Effect from 1 August 2024.