

**Akademie** der  
Bildenden  
Künste Nürnberg

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# The Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg

Around 2500 years ago in Athens the Greek philosopher Plato created the original model of the 'academy' with his school of philosophy: a sheltered secluded environment close to the name-giving *Akademeia* grove dedicated to free thinking, unfettered by any dogmas. This description applies to Nuremberg not only in respect of the unique academy grounds, but also and more importantly, to a key aspect of our fundamental self-conception: as an academy, and especially as the first art academy to be founded in the German-speaking world in 1662, we are committed to this original historical concept of the 'academy' institution. We regard our academy as a 'safe zone' of the (im)possible, a place of free creative experimentation, in which students can develop their own personal artistic leanings during the study process.

## *The academy as 'enabler'*

The art academy in Nuremberg provides a creative hands-on space in which apparent self-evidences can be sounded out and uncertainties turned into creative products. Within our liberal range of studies, we seek to enable a wide spectrum of forms and manifestations of contemporary artistic practice, while positioning them in the relevant social and historical-critical context. For our understanding of the academy also includes an engagement with 'the' history and theory of art, true to the spirit of a famous maxim, once coined by an artist of a vehemently non-academic character, around 150 years ago: "To know in order to do" (Gustave Courbet). The individual classes in particular, provide those productive frameworks within which core study missions can be realised: to inquire and challenge, explore and - especially in view of the many studios and opportunities to exhibit - to experiment, debate openly and respectfully disagree, and of (self) empowerment and (self) enabling. Thus, regardless of whether students study fine or applied art or art education (ultimately our courses share more common than divisive aspects), the academy lets them develop a personal artistic stance, while also crystallising their individual character. This process entails constant questioning of their position in relation to the present, and an appreciation of their role as part of a fundamentally internationalised field of work, the diversity of which unlocks wider horizons of creative activity for their own art practice.

## *Reflected freedom*

By nature, the academy provides creative space which must be accessible, nurtured and shaped, yet also critically examined. However, it cannot be ignored that as a result of 'democratising the values of creativity and freedom', artists have long ago ceased to be exceptional in character through self-realisation and an independent existence (Luc Boltanski/Ève Chiapello). 'Creativity' is no longer deemed a 'unique characteristic' of artists, the 'creativity imperative (Andreas Reckwitz) is meanwhile also directed at neoliberal workforce mobilisation and absorption. Consequently, the academy is also a place of creative-practical debate and theoretical reflection. They not only address the once grand 'art' emancipation project dominated by the driving forces of the Modern artists, but also and further, the influences between this artistic potential and its social reality.

## *Permanent re-vision*

If we still regard art as a fundamental social force, then we must keep on resounding, reappraising and unlocking its potentials - in critical reflection and creative practice. The question of art's position in contemporary society is undoubtedly also an aspect; and in this light an art academy must

constantly review its social situatedness and remit in practical terms, according to the present circumstances. Permanent re-vision thus also always poses the question of how the 'academy' today or 'today's academy' conceives itself and how we together aim to shape study and academy life. Posing such questions in a wide variety of media, discussing them and achieving a clearer focus is our core remit at the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg as safe zone of the (im)possible.

Today, students are taught in a complex of listed transparent pavilions built by Sep Ruf, supplemented since 2013 by an extension built by the Berlin architects Hascher + Jehle. Situated on the outskirts of the city, the campus is dominated by an intensive creative atmosphere.

Artistic techniques are taught in workshops equipped to a high standard. In the exhibition hall and the academy gallery, your artists present their work to the public, in some cases for the first time. Partnerships with European academies provide students with the opportunity to complete part of their studies abroad.

The academy is currently training around 330 students with an optimal supervision ratio.

# Degree Programs / Artistic Classes at the AdBK Nuremberg

You can apply for the degree programs in VISUAL ARTS (with their respective specializations) or ART EDUCATION.

The VISUAL ARTS program offers thirteen artistic tracks, each led by a professor and focusing on different artistic specializations.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **with focus on fine arts**

- Professor Heike Baranowsky // Fine Arts
- Professor Constant Dullaart // Networked Materiality
- Professor Katja Eydel // Photography
- Professor Michael Hakimi // Fine Arts focusing on Painting
- Professor Susanne Kühn // Painting
- Professor Maria Loboda // Visual Arts (Sculpture)
- Prof. N.N. // Painting and Art Education
- Professor Anike Joyce Sadiq // Fine Arts and Art Pedagogy
- Professor Michael Stevenson // Sculpture
- Professor Lena Ziese // Fine Arts and Art Pedagogy

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **with focus on GRAPHIC DESIGN / COMMUNICATION DESIGN**

- Professor Friederike Girst // Graphic Design/Communication Design
- Professor Holger Felten // Graphic Design/Communication Design

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **with focus JEWELLERY AND ARTEFACTS**

- Professor Suska Mackert // Jewellery and Artefacts

## ART EDUCATION - subject Art for secondary schools in the classes

- Professor Anikę Joyce Sadiq // Fine Arts and Art Pedagogy
- Professor Lena Ziese // Fine Arts and Art Pedagogy
- N.N. // Painting and Art Education
- **all classes with focus FINE ARTS as well as GRAPHIC DESIGN/COMMUNICATION DESIGN and JEWELLERY AND ARTEFACTS**

In Bavaria, no second subject is necessary for the study programme Art Education (Secondary School Teaching).

## Interdisciplinary Study Offer

- Professor Eva von Platen-Hallermund // General Design (basic course)
- Professor Dr Lars Blunck // Art History
- Professor Dr Kerstin Stakemeier // Art Theory and Mediation
- Professor Dr Julia Lehner // Art and Economy
- **LEONARDO - Centre for Creativity and Innovation**  
*LEONARDO - Centre for Creativity and Innovation* is a cooperation between the Nuremberg Institute of Technology, the AdBK Nuremberg and the Nuremberg University of Music. LEONARDO supports and supervises interdisciplinary projects that deal with social, cultural and technological challenges and issues.
- **Venture Team Kultur**  
The *Venture Team Kultur* programme supports the development of autonomous and collective working methods and exhibition practices as well as strategic (self-)positioning in a dynamic and globally networked art system. The programme focuses on the core strategies of professionalisation, networking and consulting.

## Study Workshops

- Digital Workshop
- Photography Workshop
- Gold and Silversmithing Workshop
- Wood Sculpture
- Ceramics Workshop
- Lithography and Silkscreen Printing
- Painting Technique Workshop
- Media Lab

- Metalwork and Welding Workshop
- Paper Workshop
- Carpentry Workshop
- Stone Sculpture
- Intaglio Printing and Etching Workshop

## Admission and Study Counselling

Constanze Boscher and Stilla Leidel at the Academy's Student Secretary, Bingstr. 60, 90480 Nuremberg (Tel. 0049 (0)911/9404-0) will advise you on application and admission procedures for all study fields from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 12 pm.

In addition, every semester there is the opportunity to take part in portfolio counselling sessions with professors. The dates of the counselling days are regularly published on the Academy's homepage ([www.adbk-nuernberg.de](http://www.adbk-nuernberg.de)).

## Admission Requirements

Prerequisites for studying at the Academy are a pronounced artistic-creative talent and aptitude for the chosen field of study (see aptitude test).

### **1 | Proof of previous education in the diploma programme VISUAL ARTS**

Applicants for the diploma programme VISUAL ARTS must have a general or relevant subject-specific higher education entrance qualification or have completed vocational training. The Academy may grant exceptions in the case of exceptional artistic talent, which must be demonstrated in the aptitude test.

### **2 | Proof of previous education in the study programme ART EDUCATION - subject Art for secondary schools**

Applicants for the study programme ART EDUCATION - subject Art for secondary schools - double subject - must in any case provide proof of a general or relevant subject-specific higher education entrance qualifications or general or subject-specific higher education entrance qualifications for professionally qualified persons.

### **3 | Proof of previous education in the qualification programme ART EDUCATION - subject Art for secondary schools**

Applicants for the qualification programme ART EDUCATION - subject Art for secondary schools (double subject) must provide proof of a degree in Fine Arts from a domestic or foreign art college or academy. This degree may not date back more than ten years. In order to ensure an accelerated study of the double subject Art in five semesters, the three-week orientation internship should be completed before enrolment at the Academy. At least one week of the orientation internship must be completed at the type of school studied and one week at another type of school. Further information on this can be found at: <https://www.praktikumsamt.phil.fau.de/praktika/orientierungspraktikum/>

#### 4 | Pre-study internship

Applicants for the diploma programmes VISUAL ARTS as well as ART EDUCATION - subject Art for secondary schools (double subject) - must certify that they have completed an internship of at least eight weeks in a relevant profession which must be completed before the start of the degree programme. The internship can be divided into different periods and completed at different locations. The internship serves to acquire practical skills as a basis for studying in the field of Visual Arts. Proof must be provided at the latest at the start of the study programme by submitting a certificate from the employer stating the place, time and type of work. This proof is not required if the applicant has passed the final examination in a relevant profession. Unfortunately, the Academy cannot arrange internships.

#### 5 | International applicants

Applicants from non-German-speaking countries must provide proof of sufficient knowledge of the German language. For **Diploma program** at least **level B2 according to the CEFR** and for **Art Education** at least **level C1 according to CEFR** is required.

**Please note, however, that for enrolment at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) for the degree programme Educational Science, proof of German language proficiency at level C1 is required.**

Applicants who have acquired their general or subject-specific higher education entrance qualification outside the area of application of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, i.e. abroad, should upload all certificates and attestations required for recognition. The previous school education abroad must be described in detail in the CV. Applicants from China, Vietnam and India should upload the APS certificate. For further information, please contact the Student Secretary.

## Application

Depending on the program you choose, admission to the Academy requires different eligibility criteria as well as artistic and creative aptitude, which you must demonstrate through your **application portfolio** and the **aptitude test**. Applications must be uploaded to the Academy by **April 15, 2026** (deadline) via the online application portal, which will be activated at the start of the application period on March 15 at <https://adbk-nuernberg.de/bewerbung/bewerbung-und-aufnahmeverfahren/>.

It is not possible to apply for multiple degree programs. You may apply for only one degree program. The application portfolio and written documents will be accepted exclusively in digital form. Please allow sufficient time in advance to ensure that all your documents are fully uploaded to the application portal by April 15, 12:00 a.m. CET. Incomplete or interrupted submissions cannot be considered.

To apply, the following documents must be uploaded to the application portal by **April 15, 2026**, at the latest (final deadline):

- 1 | Letter of motivation stating the desired field of study
- 2 | Curriculum vitae in tabular form (with full details of school education and vocational pre-training)
- 3 | Passport photo
- 4 | Certificates and proof of previous education
- 5 | Digitised portfolio with at least 20 artistic works. Time-based digital works can be uploaded via an upload function in the upload portal. Note: You will find the upload function at the relevant place in the application portal
- 6 | Declaration that the work submitted was produced unaided  
(you can find a corresponding form on our homepage at [https://adbk-nuernberg.de/site/assets/files/3267/2023\\_mappenerklarung.pdf](https://adbk-nuernberg.de/site/assets/files/3267/2023_mappenerklarung.pdf))
- 7 | Proof of internship, if applicable (if already completed)
- 8 | For foreign applicants, proof of language proficiency at B2 / C1 level (if already acquired)

During the registration process on the portal, you will be asked to **list 1-4 classes in your order of preference**. It is advisable to visit the Academy's website or the websites of the individual classes before beginning the registration process to learn about the focus areas and teaching methods of the various classes, as well as the professors who lead them. Upon admission to the program, you will be enrolled in a class. Depending on capacity and other factors, we will take your class preferences as indicated on the portal into account whenever possible.

## Aptitude Test

Applicants must prove in an aptitude test that they have an outstanding artistic and creative talent and aptitude for their chosen field of study.

The aptitude test is structured as follows:

- 1 | **preselection round and portfolio review**
- 2 | **oral examination**

1 | For the preselection, in which admission to the oral examination is decided, applicants must submit their own work, which enables the assessment of artistic talent and aptitude (see application, 5 | portfolio).

2 | The oral examination is conducted as an individual examination and consists of an interview on artistic and technical questions lasting approximately ten minutes. The original artistic portfolio uploaded digitally in the application portal must be brought along to this appointment. Larger originals and interactive works can be presented on your own hardware. The date for the oral examination will be notified by email to applicants who have been admitted. The decision on the examination result will be made by a

committee. The aptitude test can only be repeated once for the same field of study.

## Enrolment

After passing the aptitude test, the study programme can be started in the winter semester, unless otherwise stipulated in the study or examination regulations. Enrolment is a prerequisite for admission to the study programme. You will receive more detailed information on enrolment when you receive your letter of admission. Personal enrolment is expected to take place at the Academy in mid-July. Once enrolment has been completed, students are bound by the provisions of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG) and the Academy's study regulations as amended.

A change of class is only possible in the study programme Art Education - subject Art for secondary schools (double subject) - after passing the probationary period, and in the diploma programme Visual Arts from the 3rd semester onwards during the re-registration period.

Students who are aiming for a degree in Art Education - subject Art for secondary schools (double subject) - can only enrol for the field of study Art Education.

## Pre-study Internships

List of relevant professions in which the internship for the individual fields of study can be completed. The list is intended as a guide. In cases of doubt, please contact the Student Secretary.

Artistic Assistant in a Studio, Gallery, or Museum | clothing technical assistant | concrete and reinforced concrete worker | sculptor, wood carver | floor, tile, mosaic and slab layer | bookbinder | set designer | wood turner | lathe operator | gemstone engraver, cutter, setter | electrician (craftwork) | precision mechanic | florist | photo and media technology assistant | photographer | gardener | design technology assistant | foundry mechanic | glass and porcelain painter | goldsmith | graphic / communication designer | engraver | industrial designer | instrument maker | coachbuilder | ceramist, ceramic modeler | church painter | painter and varnisher | make-up artist | bricklayer | mechanic | mechatronics technician | media designer | metalworker | fashion designer | model maker | fashion tailor, seamstress | optician | orthopaedic mechanic | bandage maker | upholsterer | product designer | interior decorator | restorer | saddler | shipbuilder, boat builder | sign and light advertising maker | smith | carpenter | silversmith | stone mason and stone sculptor | tattoo artist | textile designer | carpenter | watchmaker | event technician | toolmaker |

# Examinations and Certificates

## Diploma study programme Visual Arts with focus on Fine Arts, Graphic Design / Communication Design, Jewellery and Artefacts

The standard period of study is nine semesters, the preliminary diploma examination is taken at the end of the fourth semester and may be repeated once. The core study duration is five semesters and leads to the diploma examination, which may be repeated once. The academic degree "Diploma of the Academy of Visual Arts in Nuremberg" with an indication of the specialisation is awarded on passing the diploma examination.

### Art Education - subject Art for secondary schools (double subject)

Admission to the Academy in the study programme Art Education - subject Art for secondary schools (double subject) is on probation and is governed by the provisions of the statutes on the probationary period of the Academy of Fine Arts in Nuremberg dated December 20, 2006 in the currently valid version. The probationary period lasts two semesters. The probationary period examination takes place at the end of the lecture period of each semester and serves to determine whether the student is suitable to continue their studies. At the end of the probationary period, only students who have passed the probationary examination may re-enrol.

Students specialising in art education must provide proof of successful completion of three courses from the study programme Art Education. The current study and examination regulations apply to the diploma degree programme.

The first state examination for secondary school teachers in Bavaria can be taken after the 8th semester (nine semesters standard period of study) at the earliest. Academic achievements from previous studies can be credited upon application to the Examination Office of the AdBK. The field of study Art Education is a double subject in Bavaria. It is not possible to study an extension subject at the Academy.

## Study Fees

A contribution to the Student Union Erlangen Nuremberg (Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nürnberg) of 72 euros is to be paid per semester. For further information please contact the Student Secretary.

## Semester Ticket

Academy students have the opportunity to purchase a discounted "Deutschlandticket". In order to be able to purchase the ticket, an authorisation check is necessary. This check is carried out automatically by logging into myCampus with your Academy user ID (you will receive your user ID when you enrol in person). You can then purchase the "Deutschlandticket" in the VAG shop (<https://meinabo.vag.de>) from the start of your studies in October.

## Student Grants

Students who need financial support and fulfil the eligibility requirements can receive a student grant according to the provisions of the Federal Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetzes [BAföG]). Further information can be obtained from the Grant Administration Department of the Student Union Erlangen Nuremberg, Andreij Sacharow Platz 1, 90403 Nuremberg (Tel.:0049 (0)911 588570). Application forms are also available here and applications for funding can be submitted.

## Transfer Students

In principle, students changing universities require the same qualifications as regular students. Students who have successfully completed their basic studies or a probationary period at a university of fine arts within Germany or the EU can be exempted from the oral examination. The application deadlines here are January 15 of each year for students starting in the following summer semester and April 15 for students starting in the following winter semester. If an application deadline falls on a weekend, the application documents must be submitted on the Friday before.

Applications as university transfer students are not submitted via the application portal. Further information can be obtained from the Student Secretary.

## Visiting Students

Visiting students have the opportunity to take part in **Nude Drawing, Art-Related Sciences lectures** and **Art Classes**. Visiting students generally require the same qualifications as regular students. The Academy may authorize exceptions in special cases. The fee for attending the lectures is currently € 100 per semester for Nude Drawing, €100 for lectures on Art-Related Sciences and € 300 for attending Art Classes. Combinations are possible at the mentioned prices.

Applications are submitted through the online application portal. The portal is open for enrolment from March ,1 to March, 31 for the following summer semester and from September, 1 to September, 30 for the following winter semester.

## Language Courses

Students of the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg can attend language courses and take exams at the Language Center of the "Technische Hochschule Nürnberg" at a reduced fee. Unfortunately, the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg cannot refund any expenses. International first-year students can take the German Language Test for University Entrance (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang - DSH) at the Language Center.

# Student Accommodation and Social Support Services

This is provided solely via the Student Union Erlangen Nuremberg (Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nürnberg), office in Nuremberg, Andreij Sacharow Platz 1, 90403 Nuremberg (Tel.:0049 (0)911 588570): <https://www.werkswelt.de/>

## Contact

Application and admission procedures  
Constanze Boscher and Stilla Leidel

AdBK Nürnberg, Bingstraße 60, 90480 Nuremberg

Tel.	Ms Constanze Boscher	0049 (0)911/9404-142
	Ms Stilla Leidel	0049 (0)911/9404-115

Mon-Fri, 8 am - 12 pm

[bewerbung@adbk-nuernberg.de](mailto:bewerbung@adbk-nuernberg.de)

[www.adbk-nuernberg.de](http://www.adbk-nuernberg.de)  
[www.adbk-nuernberg.de/bewerbung](http://www.adbk-nuernberg.de/bewerbung)

- März 2 / 2026 -