



Master's degree program

Open Design/Diseño Abierto para la Innovación

Hello. Nice to meet you!

The international Master's degree program **Open Design / Diseño Abierto para la Innovación** is an interdisciplinary continuing education double degree program, organized by the *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU)* and the *Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)*. The program is structured in four semesters. The first two semesters take place in Buenos Aires at the UBA and the third semester in Berlin at the HU. For the fourth semester, students may choose to develop and complete their Master's thesis in either Buenos Aires or Berlin. Successful graduates are awarded a Double Degree by the two universities.

The Master's degree program focuses on the »design turn« in interdisciplinary research, thus placing the concept of *Gestaltung* at the center of research. In German *Gestaltung* is more than design. It's not just about changing the aesthetic of things. *Gestaltung* is a creative process in which the work of the researcher changes the matter, creates it, modifies it or develops it, hence *Gestaltung* is a deliberate intervention.

The program prepares students in a broad spectrum of empirical methodologies that encompass cultural studies and humanities through analysis and historicizing, scientific experimentalisation from the natural sciences, and creative synthesis from the design disciplines, giving students the opportunity to reflect on complex problems that require input from multiple disciplines. Through the intensive exchange program between Argentina and Germany, students acquire intercultural skills understanding the different cultural practices and local knowledge as productive inter-culturality.

The main language of the Master's degree program is English. Basic knowledge of Spanish and German are also required. Students will have the opportunity to acquire or improve their knowledge of Spanish and/or German during their studies through integrated language courses.

Image: Globe © Kerstin Kühl, Image Knowledge Gestaltung 2014

Career prospects

The program prepares students in specific social and intercultural competencies, including critical reflection in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team; linguistic skills (English, German, Spanish); and experience in communication between internationally differentiated cultures of knowledge.

- Intercultural and interdisciplinary communication and mediation
- Interdisciplinary problem-solving, development and innovative research
- Conceptual work and project development for the industrial, scientific and social sectors
- Research and research facilitation

Partner Institutions

Open Design / Diseño Abierto para la Innovación is jointly organized by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) and the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA).

UBA

Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Urbanismo (School of Architecture, Design and Urbanism), *Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales* (School of Natural Sciences), *Facultad de Ingeniería* (School of Engineering);

In collaboration with *Centro Tomás Maldonado, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, Argentina*.

HU

Kultur-, Sozial- und Bildungswissenschaftliche Fakultät (Faculty of Humanity and Social Sciences), Cluster of Excellence »Matters of Activity«; *Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik*.

Fees and requirements

Tuition fees are 1,800 euro per semester.

Applicants must have completed a four-year university degree, with an attendance of no less than 2,600 sixty-minute hours. If applicants have a Bachelor's degree of less than four years in duration, they must submit proof of at least one year's work and/or research experience in their field of study.

For detailed information please visit our website under Applications:
www.master-open-design.org/applications

Contact

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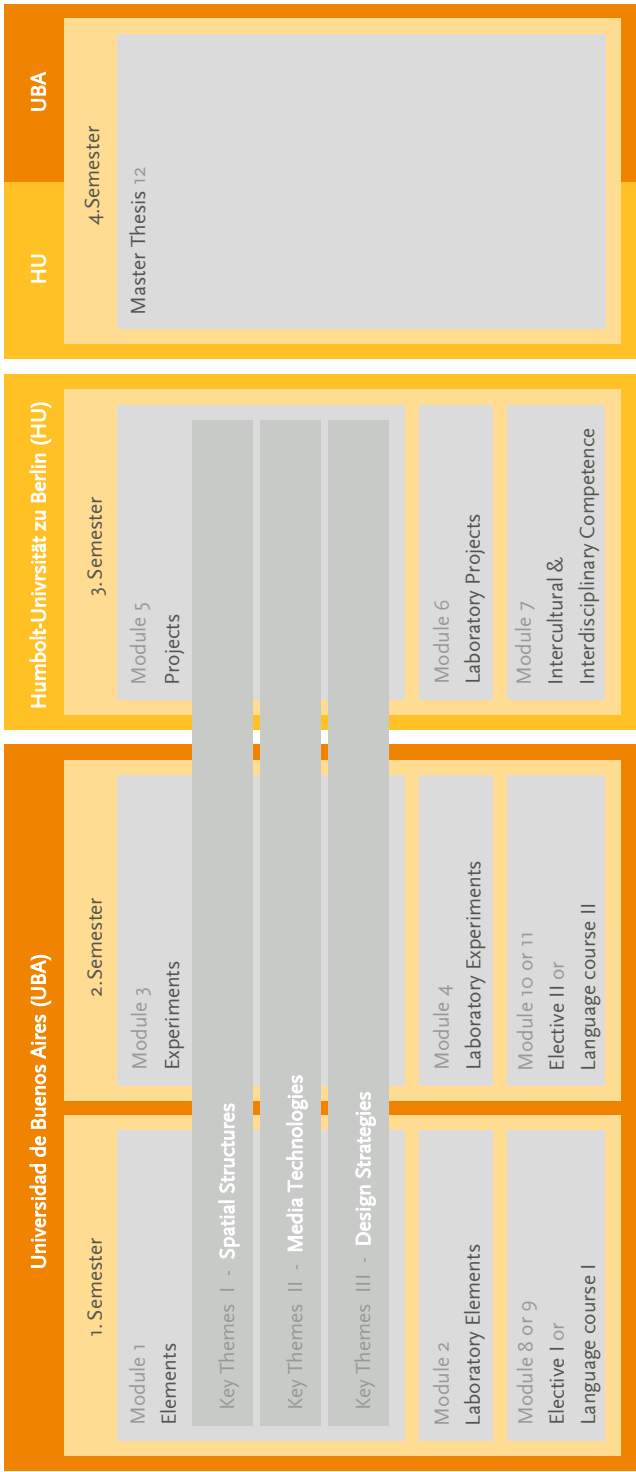
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Open Design / Diseño para la Innovación Program Structure

To be more specific ...

The first three semesters of the Master’s degree program each focus on a semester theme which addresses current social, economic and scientific processes. This semester theme is approached through *three key theme* seminars taking place over the first three semesters.

The core of each of the first three semesters is the *laboratory module*, which involves a *laboratory project* and *exercise*. These complement the *seminars* and allow students to develop project-oriented research on the corresponding *semester theme*.

During the fourth semester, students develop and realize their *Master’s thesis*, applying the acquired interdisciplinary skills to develop and solve, theoretically and methodically, a chosen thesis reflecting current scientific research.

Key Theme I: Spatial Structures

Students acquire expertise in historical and theoretical description and application of spatial structures within different sciences, thus synthesizing this knowledge into new spatial structures in different disciplines such as physics and architecture, materials research and design.

Key Theme II: Media Technologies

Students acquire expertise in the history and theory of media technologies, including the transfer, processing and conservation of data and objects. Students learn about media technologies from a historical perspective and apply their knowledge productively in processes of *Gestaltung*.

Key Theme III: Design Strategies

Students acquire expertise in diverse design strategies within the different disciplines analyzing these as comparative processes of *Gestaltung*. Furthermore, students realize concrete projects in a special nexus of *Gestaltung* and interdisciplinary knowledge.

1st Semester - UBA

Elements

Based on their acquired knowledge of historical, theoretical and material properties as basic elements of *Gestaltung* in the different disciplines, students interpret spatial structures and analyze their importance as interdisciplinary distributors of knowledge.

Laboratory Elements

On the basis of the foundational elements of *Gestaltung* and research processes (draft, concept, model, etc.), students gain interdisciplinary project skills and extensive experience of software programs.

Elective I

In this module, students study and gain insight into the perspectives and research methods of other disciplines.

Language Course I

Students acquire language skills in English, Spanish, and/or German. The course level is defined by the student’s previous knowledge of the language.

2nd Semester - UBA

Experiments

Students acquire basic knowledge of experimentation and the development of experimental systems in the distinct disciplines. They study the use of basic media technologies and analyze the structure of scientific and humanistic experimental systems as well as those concerning Gestaltung.

Laboratory Experiments

On the basis of the foundation elements of experimentation and the structure of experimental systems, students master interdisciplinary methods and acquire extensive user experience in media technology, design strategy and the methods, structure and evaluation of experiments.

Elective II

In this module students examine other fields of study in order to understand the perspectives and research methods of other disciplines.

Language Course II

Students acquire language skills in English, Spanish, and/or German. The course level is defined by the student’s previous knowledge of the language.

3rd Semester - HU

Projects

Students analyze specific interdisciplinary design processes that integrate analytical-historical and experimental procedures in a complex manner. They apply design strategies for the development of innovative projects, thus bringing together the various elements of *Gestaltung* and empirical methods.

Laboratory Projects

The module offers the students course-specific, practical, and subject-oriented research and project work focused on a semester theme. Students solve given problems in interdisciplinary groups, developing project management skills.

Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Competence

Students examine the differences between disciplines and cultures and reflect on intercultural experience from historical and theoretical perspectives. Students acquire knowledge on different cultural practices as productive inter-culturality.

4th Semester - HU or UBA

During the fourth semester students work on their Master’s thesis either in Buenos Aires or Berlin.