

Foundation Studies in Visual Arts at the Reykjavik School of Visual Arts

Description: The programme provides foundation education in diverse visual arts subjects. A matriculation examination in visual arts prepares the student for entry into further studies at university level, in art and design subjects as well as humanities and social sciences. Studies in visual arts are also a good foundation for a wide range of occupations. Opportunities within the field of art and culture are constantly increasing concurrent with the rapid growth of creative industries in the world.

Admission Requirements: Applicants are required to have finished at least 60 secondary school credits, of which 30 are specified at second level; 10 in Icelandic, 10 in English, 5 in Danish and 5 in mathematics, and a minimum of 30 elective credits in languages, humanities, or sciences. An entrance examination is an integral part of the application process. An admissions committee reviews applications and assesses the test results.

Structure: The matriculation examination is made up of 200 secondary school credits, in which the student acquires skills on level 3 according to the Icelandic Qualifications Framework for Education. The programme offers 140 credits on the assumption that students complete 35 credits each term. The programme is divided into core subjects and course subjects, as well as 1 credit in health education each semester of the earlier academic year. The core consists of subjects that all students take but the course subjects are specific to the comprehensive foundation programme in visual arts. It is largely practical and art and design is integral in tackling academic subjects. Modules are either taught periodically throughout the semester or in continuous 1-6 credits groups.

Course assessment: The course assessment takes into account the learning objectives set out in the course description. The course description stipulates the submission of projects and the manner in which students' work in the course will be assessed. The assessment framework is set out in the curriculum, but assessment at the school is based on a continuous evaluation which focuses on a variety of methods to meet students' different needs. Practical courses assess both students' competence in specific aspects of the relevant field of study and also their ability to express themselves critically. In addition to grades, students receive guideline reports at the end of each module. In consultation with the school's educational counsellor, ways are sought to find solutions for students with learning difficulties.

Course progress regulations: To complete a module, students must attain a minimum grade of 5. Further information on the development of the studies and programme is to be found in the school curriculum.

Course objectives: At the end of the course students shall have the ability to:

- Realize their social responsibility and participate in democratic dialogue and collaboration
- Take advantage of their strengths
- Apply their knowledge of various ways of creating images
- Utilize their imagination, intuition and emotions in creating a work of art
- Develop and implement their ideas in an independent and intrepid manner
- Apply their knowledge of cultural history and engage in informed discussion about various issues related to the interaction of culture, art and society
- Organize their work in an independent and responsible manner
- Express themselves clearly, and critically about their own works and the works of others
- Understand the aesthetic, moral and social role of the artist
- Assess their strengths and place a value on their education.