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CURRICULUM FOR THE  
PHD PROGRAM IN  
**TRANSFORMATION STUDIES.**  
**ART X SCIENCE.**



Joint PhD Program in cooperation with  
University of Applied Arts Vienna.

**JKU**  
JOHANNES KEPLER  
UNIVERSITY LINZ

*di:* **angewandte**

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien  
*University of Applied Arts Vienna*

## Curriculum

### PhD program in Transformation Studies. Art x Science

Version of January 30, 2024

#### § 1 Point of Departure

We live in a world characterized by volatility, uncertainty, ambiguity, and an increasingly high degree of complexity. The manifold and interrelated areas of global and grand challenges — such as global conflicts, pandemics, aging societies, climate crises, democratic backlash, migration, economic inequality and poverty, as well as the ongoing digitization of social life and human labor and the impact of disruptive technologies such as AI — require new ways to identify, understand and tackle problems at the interface of the arts, humanities, social, technical and other scientific disciplines.

Given the immense transformation of societies, the PhD program **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** seeks to equip young and upcoming scholars with transdisciplinary knowledge, skills and competencies needed to face present and future challenges. Studying transformation and its effect on the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal spheres is thus at the center of the program, which builds new bridges between the arts and sciences.

The **Art x Science School for Transformation** is an inter-university endeavor intertwining the strengths and expertise of the Johannes Kepler University Linz and the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Its goal is to develop, share and teach transdisciplinary knowledge at the intersection of the arts, humanities and sciences, yielding new forms of creativity, invention, innovation, collaboration, and learning. Based on a comprehensive understanding of the transformative potential of artistic and scientific approaches, the program lays a strong focus on the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal dimensions of transformations. In cooperation with practice partners from outside the university – including artists, entrepreneurs, (non-)governmental organizations, activists, and other stakeholders – students of the PhD program in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** will develop their own research projects and, thereby, contribute to the academic discourse and society.

#### § 2 Principles

The inter-university PhD program in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** focuses on transdisciplinary knowledge production. Based on the student's interest, the dissertation/thesis will yield innovative research at the intersection of the arts and sciences. Embedded in a vibrant intellectual setting, bridging the competencies between Johannes Kepler University in Linz and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the program will make significant contributions to the development of both artistic and scientific knowledge base, and especially their interface.

The program focuses on identifying and researching the transformative potentials, problems, and implications of ongoing as well as future political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal change. To this end, it is essential to include relevant stakeholders driving and/or being affected by transformation.

Central to the program is the development of student-led scientific and artistic projects as well as a free practice of transdisciplinarity. Integrated into the research is a reflective examination of the methods and knowledge production processes within the respective scientific and/or artistic field.

### § 3 Legal Basis and Academic Degree

- (1) The PhD program in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** is a jointly offered study program offered by Johannes Kepler University Linz and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 27, Austrian Universities Act 2002.
- (2) The program is assigned to the group of “Interdisciplinary Studies” pursuant to § 54 para. 1, Austrian Universities Act 2002.
- (3) Upon successful completion of the program, the student is awarded the academic degree “Doctor of Philosophy” (abbreviated “PhD”), pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 14, Austrian Universities Act 2002.
- (4) The certificate for the academic degree is issued in German with an English translation.

### § 4 Duration and Scope

The PhD program in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** consists of 180 ECTS, which equals a study period of six semesters to complete the degree.

### § 5 Qualification Profile

The PhD program in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** serves to further develop the student’s ability to conduct independent, innovative research. The PhD program thus also serves the advancement of early scholars.

The PhD program in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** will enable graduates to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- to individually and collaboratively conduct transdisciplinary research by applying approaches from the arts, sciences and humanities,
- to critically reflect and create knowledge gain to understand and tackle complex challenges in the context of multi-dimensional transformation that contributes to the international academic discussion and to society,
- to shape cooperative structures in research (social competence, ability to lead, learn and work in diverse, transdisciplinary teams),
- to adequately communicate and discuss knowledge gain with the research community as well as with society, the interested public and citizens.

### § 6 Language

The program is taught in English. Students submit all written works in English.

## § 7 Program Structure and Courses

(1) To successfully complete the PhD program in **transdisciplinary research in Transformation Studies. Art x Science** the following achievements must be completed:

<b>Concepts and Topics in Transformation Studies Art x Science</b>	12 ECTS
<i>Concepts and Topics in Transformation Studies Art x Science</i> convey an understanding of the different knowledge cultures in the sciences and arts and their interplay. In addition, students are introduced to contemporary topics and positions of the transformation discourse in society, politics and business from different perspectives. Against this background, students are supported in contextualizing their research and developing transdisciplinary research designs with regard to their individual topics and thesis project.	
<b>Practices and Methods in Transformation Studies Art x Science</b>	15 ECTS
<i>Practices and Methods in Transformation Studies Art x Science</i> imparts practical knowledge for the practice of transdisciplinary research through collaborative project work by students together with external stakeholders. As part of the joint conception, planning and realization of a summer school, students also learn to develop, structure and discuss transformation-relevant topics in a transdisciplinary way and to position themselves in the international discourse.	
<b>Communication and Implementation in Transformation Studies Art x Science</b>	18 ECTS
<i>Communication and Implementation in Transformation Studies Art x Science</i> serves to convey different forms of communication of one's own research - to the scientific and artistic peer community, in university teaching and to the wider public. In addition, formats for the implementation of transformation knowledge outside of academia - in particular participatory and co-creative approaches - are taught and tested in a practice-orientated manner.	
<b>Dissertation/Thesis</b> incl. defense of Dissertation/Thesis	135 ECTS
<b>Total</b>	<b>180 ECTS</b>

(2) The recommended ideal course of study is that given in “APPENDIX: Global Map of Study Subjects”. The study program is aimed at full-time students as well as persons employed at research institutions and whose professional activities are coordinated with the dissertation/thesis project. Attendance is required for most courses. Other professionals with appropriate scheduling flexibility may complete the degree program but must expect a correspondingly longer duration of the study.

(3) The study program takes place at the Johannes Kepler University Linz and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, as well as at the Art x Science. School for Transformation’s premises in Vienna.

The assignment of the individual courses to the respective universities is shown in the recommended ideal course of study given in the APPENDIX.

(4) The names and types of all courses of the mandatory subjects taught at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, as well as their ECTS credits, their duration in hours per week, their codes, their registration requirements and their admission procedures (in case of limited availability of places) are described in the “Studienhandbuch der JKU Linz” ([studienhandbuch.jku.at](http://studienhandbuch.jku.at)) as well as the examination regulations for the examinations in the individual subjects and the examination standards for the course examinations.

(5) The possible types of courses as well as the examination regulations applicable to them for courses taught at the Johannes Kepler University Linz are described in §§ 13 and 14 of the “Satzung der JKU Linz – Satzungsteil Studienrecht” (JKU statute – “Studienrecht”).

(6) The possible types of courses as well as the examination regulations for courses taught at the University of Applied Arts Vienna are described in §§ 5 and 7-9 of the “Satzung der Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien – II. Teil: Studienrecht” (Angewandte statute – “Studienrecht”).

## § 8 Admission

(1) In addition to the general requirements stated in § 64 para. 4, Austrian Universities Act 2002, applicants for the PhD in **Transformation Studies. Art x Science** need a positive assessment concerning the suitability for the study program in accordance with the dissertation/thesis subject conforming paras. 3-4 (= qualitative admission requirement conforming § 63a para. 7 Austrian Universities Act).

(2) The admission to the PhD program requires evidence of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

(3) For the suitability assessment the following criteria must be considered:

1. adequate knowledge concerning the planned dissertation/thesis, in particular with regard to the intended subject area and the subject of the dissertation/thesis;
2. methodological knowledge and skills and/or practice based aptitude with regard to the planned dissertation/thesis;
3. scientific and/or artistic potential and transdisciplinary motivation for the realization of the planned dissertation/thesis;
4. feasibility of the planned dissertation/thesis.

(4) In order to prove their suitability, the candidates have to submit the following documents:

- a short biography, in which the applicants provide a written overview of their qualifications and (professional) experience;
- a short PhD proposal, in which the applicants describe their intended research project and how it creates transdisciplinary connections of artistic and scientific knowledge fields, and how it will contribute to transformation processes in society;
- a recommendation letter.

(5) The suitability of the applicant to complete a dissertation/thesis in the intended dissertation/thesis subject is deemed to be proven if the applicant has a provisional confirmation for the supervision of the dissertation/thesis from the supervisory team consisting of one supervisor from the University of Applied Arts Vienna and one from the Johannes Kepler University Linz. The provisional confirmation for the supervision of the dissertation/thesis has to be approved by the Art x Science. School for Transformation.

(6) If no provisional confirmation of supervision is submitted, an admission committee has to determine the suitability. The admission committee is appointed by the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the university to which admission was applied for in consultation with the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the other university. The admission committee consists of at least three members from both universities with relevant qualifications.

(7) Admission is granted at the student's choice at one of the two universities at which the degree program is offered. In accordance with § 54e para. 4 UG the student also becomes a member of the other university upon admission.

### **§ 9 Dissertation/Thesis Agreement**

(1) Prior to the conclusion of the dissertation/thesis agreement, students have to complete the first dissertation colloquium in which they have to present their dissertation project. This first colloquium is an oral examination worth 3 ECTS, which is to be taken before an examination committee. This presentation must in any case include the objective of the project, the current state of the art in the field of the project, the planned methodology to be used, and the financial or material resources required to realize the dissertation/thesis, as well as a time schedule.

(2) The examination committee for the first colloquium, which consists of three members, is appointed by the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the university at which admission to the degree program was granted in consultation with the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the other university. If a supervisor or the supervisory team has already been confirmed, the prospective supervisor(s) must be appointed as a member of the examination committee.

(3) After the successful passing of the first dissertation colloquium, a dissertation/thesis agreement between the student and the supervisors needs to be concluded.

(4) After the dissertation/ thesis agreement has been signed by the supervisory team and the PhD candidate, it must be submitted for approval to the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the university at which admission to the degree program was granted. The respective officer from the other university will be sought for consent by the approving officer.

### **§ 10 Dissertation/Thesis and Defense**

(1) The dissertation/thesis has to be conducted in the field of "Transformation Studies. Art x Science", and according to its transdisciplinary character, two supervisors have to be appointed, one from each university and qualified in the respective suitable fields, represented at the two

universities. The supervisor who is member of the admitting university is formally understood as the first supervisor.

- (2) The supervision of the dissertation/thesis is the shared responsibility of the two supervisors.
- (3) The submission of the dissertation/thesis is only permitted after the completion of all obligatory and elective courses.
- (4) The dissertation/thesis can be submitted as a written monograph or selection from a collection of thematically related publications; as individual contributions intended for publication (cumulative dissertation); as an artistic research project related to the research topics complemented by a documentation in written form according to academic standards which may consist of one or several (cumulative) projects. The dissertation/thesis must be submitted to the university at which the student was admitted.
- (5) After discussing the dissertation/thesis from their different areas of expertise and regarding the transformative potential of the outcomes, each supervisor has to assess the dissertation/thesis independently, regarding the specific requirements of his\*her\*their own subject area and the way how the thesis successfully manages to connect the different subject areas, as well as the work process. A joint statement according § 37b para. 3 subpara. 1 JKU statute is not possible.
- (6) The defense requires the PhD candidates to publicly present their research process including their strategies of coping with linking subjects from art and science, the main outcomes and their specific relevance for the transformation of society.
- (7) The defense committee is appointed by the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the university at which the dissertation agreement was submitted for approval, in consultation with the officer to administrate matters concerning the enforcement of study law of the other university based on the proposal by the Art x Science School for Transformation. The defense committee consists of five persons. One member has to be an external expert from non-academia in order to account for the transformational potential of the dissertation/thesis for society.
- (8) Grading of the dissertation/thesis is done by the defense committee based on the assessments of the supervisors, an external academic reviewer, and the assessment during the defense, which forms the basis for grading the defense.

## **§ 11 Entry into Force**

The curriculum enters into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024.

APPENDIX: Global Map of Study Subjects

APPENDIX: Global Map of Study Subjects – PhD program in Transformation Studies. Art x Science

Semester 1	
Course	ECTS
Contemporary Debates on Transformation ANG	3
Gender & Diversity JKU	3
Colloquium JKU	1,5
Colloquium ANG	1,5
Dissertation/Thesis	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Semester 2	
Course	ECTS
Knowledge Cultures I: Lectures Series ANG	3
Knowledge Cultures II: Research Seminar JKU	3
Writing Workshop JKU	3
Teaching Transformation JKU	3
Dissertation/Thesis	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Semester 3	
Course	ECTS
Collaborative Hands-on Project ANG	3
Collaborative Hands-on Project JKU	3
Summer School conceptualization ANG	3
Colloquium JKU	1,5
Colloquium ANG	1,5
Dissertation/Thesis	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Semester 4	
Course	ECTS
Summer School ANG	3
Summer School JKU	3
Dissertation/Thesis	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Semester 5	
Course	ECTS
Implementing Transformation ANG	3
Colloquium JKU	1,5
Colloquium ANG	1,5
Dissertation/Thesis	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Semester 6	
Course	ECTS
Dissertation/Thesis	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>