MASTER’S PROGRAM
SOUND STUDIES AND SONIC ARTS
Think with your ears.
Sound Studies and Sonic Arts is a low-residency, part-time postgraduate program, that is aimed at professional sound artists, designers, and scholars with a university degree or exceeding creative talent, who are wanting to pursue a Master’s degree in a stimulating, interdisciplinary environment.

The program serves to deepen theoretical and practical skills in the fields of audio-related theory and practice, particularly in cultural studies, musicology, aesthetics, sound art, performance, design, and media production.

We strive to teach students methods of scientific and theoretical work, of artistic research as well as artistic and creative practice. Graduates are to be able to apply aspects of auditive art and culture and their conveyance, sound design and consulting as well as scientific reflection within their professional field.

The Sound Studies and Sonic Arts program is held in English and spans over three years with alternating phases of residency and off campus projects, concluding with a Master project and a degree Master of Arts.

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts is run by the Berlin Career College at the University of the Arts, an institute that bundles the school’s efforts in continuing education. We maintain close ties with other UdK institutes and the Audio Communication Group of the Technical University Berlin and encourage students to pick from our broad curriculum or that of adjacent fields from the UdK or other Berlin universities to serve their own focus.
We investigate, question, analyse, and shape auditory cultures and practices. SoundS pursues a truly interdisciplinary approach to the world of sound where theoretical study and creative work interrelate.

mission
Sound Studies and Sonic Arts investigates, questions, analyses, and shapes auditory cultures and practices. Our methods are scholarly and artistic, our field is the world of sound with all its conditions and implications. In a truly interdisciplinary program, we confront theory, technology, design, and artistic creation, so that students may engage in a multi-faceted discourse to develop their specific practices.

what we offer
International artists and scholars teach and lecture at the department of Sound Studies and Sonic Arts. Internationally renowned sound artist Prof. Hans Peter Kuhn and prominent scholars Prof. Dr. Sabine Sanio and Prof. Volker Straebel are among the core faculty. Recent speakers have been David Behrman, Max Eastley, Bill Fontana, Brandon LaBelle, Christina Kubisch, Jonathan Sterne, Barry Truax, and Salomé Voegelin.

Festivals and Institutions such as Ars Electronica, the American Academy Berlin, Academy of the Arts Berlin, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart Berlin, Electro-acoustic Music Studies Network, and the Technical University Berlin’s Audio Communication Group and Electronic Music Studio have been cooperation partners of the Master’s program and offer a wide range of possibilities for artistic and academic exchange. The Sound Studies and Sonic Arts department also offers extra curricular activities to foster academic exchange and aesthetic experience. We (co-)produce artist talks and concerts, lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and other projects.

On a regular basis we invite renowned international artists and theorists to perform and speak about their work for the event series die Reihe. Beiträge zu auditiver Kunst und Kultur, produced in cooperation with the Audio Communication Group at the TU Berlin.
Sound Studies and Sonic Arts focuses on the two mainstays of theoretical discussion and practical exploration and creation in the field of auditive culture and art. Within the theoretical area, the program aims to further the theoretical and scientific advancement of students and to broaden their knowledge of auditive culture and art. Particular attention is given to methods of the fields of musicology, cultural studies, media studies, theory of art, design, and communication, as well as sociology, gender studies, and philosophy.

Classes in art and design in practice allow students to familiarize themselves with methods and procedures of artistic and creative work with sound and to implement conception, realization, and documentation.

The program also offers students the opportunity to develop their listening skills. These classes aim to enable students to describe and analyze characteristics and temporal and spatial changes in sound and sonic events. This is based on knowledge of music theory, musical and technical listening skills, and methods of musical notation, as well as basics of physical acoustics, psychoacoustics, phenomenology, and the theory of perception.

The Sound Studies and Sonic Arts program spans over three years with alternating phases of residency and off-campus projects, concluding with a Master project and the degree Master of Arts. In exceptional cases, students may apply for a condensed program duration to a two year full time Master’s program.
The Sound Studies and Sonic Arts Master’s program consists of alternating study phases (Basic, Focus, and Project). The Basic (first winter term) and Focus Phases (first and second summer term) consist of multiple courses for which attendance is mandatory. During Project Phases (second and third Winter term) students may work off campus and on their own time. Students need to pass an exam after the Basic Phases to gain access to the Focus Phase.

Due to a cooperation of all Berlin universities, students may make use of the extensive curriculum and all courses offered by the Berlin University of the Arts and other Berlin Universities according to their own focus. These courses are typically taught in German; certain restrictions might apply.

School is in session for the winter term October 15 thru February 15 with a two-week winter break, and for the summer term April 15 thru July 15. Students may apply for Sound Studies and Sonic Arts every February to begin their studies in October.

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts is an all English program. It is therefore critical that our students have an ease and familiarity with spoken and written English. All applicants need to provide a proof of English language proficiency.

Since the Sound Studies and Sonic Arts program is part of the Berlin Career College at the Berlin University of the Arts, an institute that bundles the school’s efforts in continuing education, we levy a tuition. Normal tuition is 16,200 € for the three year program. Additionally to the tuition, there are semester fees of around 313 € (2019) which include various student services and free public transport within Berlin.

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts is an all English program. It is therefore critical that our students have an ease and familiarity with spoken and written English. All applicants need to provide a proof of English language proficiency.

degree: Master of Arts
academic year: starts every October
duration: 3 years (2 years in exceptional cases)
application period: February 1- March 1 for the following winter term. Application documents must arrive at the department before/on March 1.
tuition: 16,200 € for the entire program plus semester fees
Applicants need to meet the following requirements for the Sound Studies and Sonic Arts Master’s program:

• Diploma, Bachelor or equivalent higher education qualification (completed study from the University of the Arts Berlin or from a different artistic and/or scientific University within Germany or an equivalent national or international degree after at least six semesters of study), for exceptions see below.

• Relevant professional experience in the field of sound, minimum one year. In case applicant has no higher education a minimum of five years intensively working in the field of sound is required.

• Artistic and creative talent, which will be assessed during the entrance exam.

• English language competency. All applicants need to provide a proof of language proficiency from the following options:
  a) COE (Council of Europe): C1
  b) ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe): C1
  c) IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing System): 6.5
  d) Cambridge English Language Assessment: CAE (Certificate of Advanced English)
  e) TOEFL CBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language Computer Based Test): 270
  f) TOEFL PBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language Paper Based Test): 637
  g) TOEFL iBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test): 95
  h) degree in an English speaking Bachelor or Master’s program
  i) statement of English as mother tongue

In exceptional cases, admission can be granted even if an applicant has not earned a university degree but all necessary qualifications for the program were acquired during a professional career, throughout a proven intensive preoccupation with sound over five years, may that be artistic, creative, conceptual, theoretical or scientific. These candidates have to pass an aptitude test to be accepted to the program.
application

process

Our application period is in February 1 - March 1. Only during this time will you be able to access the application form online and apply for the Sound Studies and Sonic Arts program. Application material and work samples send by post need to be received during this period. Please choose an application TRACK 1, 2 or 3. Your choice can not be changed at a later point.

Download our handy application checklist!

application PHASE I: preparation

In case you hold a degree from a German university (TRACK 1) or do not have a university degree (TRACK 3) you can skip PHASE I and apply directly at UdK Berlin during our application period February 1 - March 1.

Applicants holding a degree from a non-German university (international and EU) (TRACK 2) please have your university reports translated into German or English and then apply for a Preliminary Review Documentation (VPD) at [www.uni-assist.de](http://www.uni-assist.de). Please be aware: You are responsible to apply for your VPD early enough to receive your review in time for our application period. Expect up to 6 weeks processing time.

application PHASE II: application

Between February 1 - March 1, you can apply for the program online. After submitting the online application you will need to supply the following documents by mail to the address given on the application form (see page 16). Please print out the online application form and send it with your documents and work samples to our office by March 1 (arrival date). We do not accept online work samples at this time.

- Printout of completed application form (available online between Feb. 1- Mar. 1)
- uni assist e.V. Preliminary Review Documentation (VPD), (if applicable from PHASE I)
- Curriculum vitae in tabular form (in reverse chronological order: education, professional experience with sound, other professional experience, artistic projects, publications, further information)
- Proof of English language proficiency
- Record of professional experience and evidence of relevant professional experience in the field of sound
- University reports and certificates in photocopy
- Letter of motivation (max. 1 page A4)
- Work samples (dvd, cd, usb, music scores etc.; no more than 5 samples with a max. total length of 20 min, ordered by importance, most to least; add the following information: title, genre, length of project, year of creation, context, your role in the project, relation of chosen sample to whole project)

We do not accept online work samples at this time.

- Applicants from the People’s Republic of China need to obtain a certificate from the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS) in China.
application PHASE III: examination

Based on the submitted application documents, the admission committee will ask candidates to take part in a one-day entrance examination in May. This examination tests the applicant’s ability to evaluate sound environments discursively and conceptually. It is followed by a personal interview.

1) Candidates invited to the admission examination will be given a choice of exercise in the areas of art, design, or science. One week before the exam prospective students are to turn in title, abstract and all written parts to the examination committee in digital form. During the admission interview, candidates are to present their work within a given timeframe of 10 minutes.

2) In case of an aptitude test (track 3), the candidates will in addition receive an exercise to proof their capability of authoring a scientific work in the field of sound. This work is to be submitted in digital form one week before the admission exam.

3) The admission interview will consist of the following parts:
   • presentation of the submitted work from (1) and subsequent questioning
   • an oral examination in the field of theory (auditive art and culture), practice (sound art and auditive design), listening (basic musical and technical aural skills) and audio technology
   • an interview about the candidates motivation for studying the program
   • in case of an aptitude test: an interview about the submitted work from (2)

4) Candidates, who cannot be present at the admission exam because they sojourn outside of the EU may carry out the interview via Skype. The candidate should be aware and accepting of risks and disadvantages that may arise due to this.

application postal address

Please send your complete application documents for the Sound Studies and Sonic Arts Master’s program to be received between February 1 - March 1 to:

Please send your documents (letters only!) to:
Universität der Künste Berlin
Immatrikulations- und Prüfungsamt
Postfach 120544
10595 Berlin
Germany

When submitting a portfolio, package or using a private delivery service or a service that cannot deliver to postboxes, please use the following address:

Freight shipping address:
Universität der Künste Berlin
Immatrikulations- und Prüfungsamt
Einsteinufer 43
10587 Berlin

Please be aware, WE WILL NOT PAY FOR ANY TOLLS. Please make sure your parcel will not be tolled (e.g. no insurance etc.), otherwise we will have to deny receiving of your parcel.
Make listening your culture.
information

find us online
Find out more details on our website:
► www.udk-berlin.de/sounds
Don’t forget to subscribe to our newsletter to receive updates right to your inbox:
► www.udk-berlin.de/sounds/newsletter

SoundS on social media: 

talk to us
We invite you to attend one of our events or to contact us to arrange for a private consultation
► office@sounds.berlin
For questions about administrative issues or content of the program please contact us at
► ask@sounds.berlin

visit us
Universität der Künste Berlin | UdK Berlin Career College
Sound Studies and Sonic Arts
Lietzenburger Straße 45
10789 Berlin | 3rd floor
Tel (+49) (0)30 3185-2482

International Student Services
The International Office at the Berlin University of the Arts offers support and advice on a range of issues such as:
Study and research opportunities at UdK Berlin, application requirements and admission procedures,
Visa regulations and financing, accommodation, health and welfare, scholarship programs and grants.
► aaa@udk-berlin.de
► www.udk-berlin.de/service/international-office

Download our handy application checklist
Make sure you don’t miss a step, download our detailed step by step application checklist.
To share our passion with you and the Berlin sound art community, we invite renowned international artists and theorists to perform and speak about their work on a regular basis for our event series die Reihe. Contributions to auditory art and culture, organised in cooperation with the Audio Communication Group at the Technical University Berlin. Entrance is always free.

This event series takes place during the semester at various locations in Berlin.

► www.udk-berlin.de/diereihe
► www.ak.tu-berlin.de/reihe

SoundsAbout is a collaboration between the Master’s program Sound Studies and Sonic Arts at the University Berlin and the gallery Zwitschermaschine, offering a project space to present and discuss, question and celebrate the work and ideas of our students and their guests for three months every year.