
HKB

Hochschule der Künste Bern
Bern University of the Arts

EN

Master Contemporary Arts Practice



Berner Fachhochschule
Bern University of Applied Sciences

Welcome

Our Master of Arts in Contemporary Arts Practice (MA CAP) programme is a unique course offered by HKB – Bern University of the Arts. The two-year curriculum has been designed to develop your artistic authorship in a discursive setting. You will reflect on and debate current issues in contemporary arts practice. You may also opt to work with artists from various other disciplines.

As an MA CAP graduate student in one of four study pathways – Fine Arts, Sound Arts, Performance Art, and Creative Writing/Literary Translation – you will be able to access a wide range of study profiles. Moreover, at the beginning of each new semester, you will be consulted on whether you wish to focus on a specific field or prefer to engage either in trans-disciplinary or collaborative work.

In the course of this two-year artistic programme, a team of renowned tutors will support you in your creative treatment of sound, texts, visual materials, and the human body through individual mentoring sessions, instruction in theory, and a wide range of classes and reflection seminars on arts practice. You will also engage in group work and study trips, and will be able to present your work to fellow students

at colloquia, and engage with a larger audience at public showcasing events. Our excellent facilities include artist, film and audio recording studios, workshops for printing and mechanical work, and a media library.

To foster your career prospects as an MA CAP graduate, you will acquire and develop essential skills to thrive as a professional in a constantly changing cultural environment. The programme is designed to nurture your ability to engage in teamwork, reflect on your own artistic work, and on designing multidisciplinary concepts and activities. You will learn how to retain your autonomy in project work and state your own, unique position. You will also acquire the practical skills required in your future career.

The booklet has more details for you. We hope you will enjoy reading it, and look forward to welcoming you on our programme.

Andrea Gohl, Head of Studies
MA CAP

Andi Schoon & Thomas Strässle, Joint Heads
Y Institute – Centre for Transdisciplinary Education





MA Contemporary Arts Practice

The Master of Arts in Contemporary Arts Practice (MA CAP) is a transdisciplinary programme for artists engaged in Fine Arts, Sound Arts, Performance Art, and Creative Writing/Literary Translation.

As an MA CAP graduate student, you will be able to tailor your studies to your own requirements. The programme aims to foster independent artistic positions in a context of collective and interdisciplinary relationships. The curriculum will sharpen your artistic practices through direct engagement with alternative artistic strategies. Exploring current discourse in other art forms will shape your view of your own work.

Alongside your individual artistic work, as a graduate student you will also focus on engaging in interdisciplinary projects. You will acquire collaborative approaches and transdisciplinary communication skills that will enable you to thrive in your future postgraduate career and professional activity.

As an MA CAP graduate artist, you will be able to engage in a range of different activities, or you will find employment in the art world, especially in a position that requires co-operative intercultural and transdisciplinary dialogue between various art scenes.

Possible areas of activity for Sound Arts graduates include the musical/artistic design of media projects, the composition and realisation of interactive pieces for concerts and performances, the creation of soundscapes, compositions for sound installations, film and video soundtracks and the like.

As an MA CAP graduate in Fine Arts and Performance Art, you will continue to develop your autonomous work. If you study for an MA CAP in Creative Writing/Literary Translation, you will focus on completing and publishing a major work.

If you would prefer to focus on research, your MA CAP degree will enable you to join a PhD programme. In combination with work and research experience, as well as relevant methodological and teaching qualifications, you will be able to embark on a teaching career at a college, university or similar. As an MA CAP graduate, you will be qualified for any range of careers, some of which may not yet exist.

Previous pages:

The home of MA CAP, Schwabstrasse 10, Bern, Switzerland
Photograph: Sebastien Verdon

Barbara Pfyffer, *Double*. In-situ installation, 2016
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon

Right: Alizé Rose-May Monod, *We take up space*. Video with Adriane Morard and Anna Sauter-McDowell, 27'30", 2017
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon





Jonas Schmidt and Caroline Bourrit, *Kopfkino*. Performance, 2017
ACT Performance Festival, Dampfzentrale Bern. Photograph: Corinne Futterlieb



Till Hillbrecht, *B-Seite II*. Record and manipulated record player, 2013
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon



Grégory Sugnaux, *Dans les plis*. Found objects, papier-mâché, acrylic, porous Ytong concrete, various formats, 2017
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sébastien Verdon







Sanja Latinovic, *Do not cross*. Performance, 2016
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Andres Villa Torres







Left: Angela Neto Marques, *Untitled*. Video loop 5', 2017
MA CAP, Schwabstrasse 10, Bern. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon

Above: Karin Lehmann, *Abguss mit Ergänzungen*. Photograph (framed analogue print on Baryte paper), text, postcard. Photograph:
88 x 24.5 cm. Text: ream of A4 paper. Postcard: 14 x 10.5 cm, 2012. PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon



Janiv Oron, *sources of uncertainty*. 2 rotary speakers, foamed plastic, 2015. *another variation for rotary speakers*, limited vinyl edition, 20 x 10", 2015. PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon





Jürgen Bogle, *Fantasy Grrll – Study IX* (by fake is fabulous inc.). Performance with Jürgen Bogle, Christoph Studer-Harper, Alizé Rose-May Monod, Marta Margnetti, Benjamin Sunarjo, 2016. PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sabrina Friio



Manuela Imperatori, *Der Wind darf nicht zu stark sein*. Performance, 2015
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sanja Latinovic



Andrés Villa Torres and Eugen Danzinger, *Critical Mass*. Machine learning and face tracking algorithms. Mixed media, various formats, 2017. PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon





Martina Lussi, *Taktiler Feld*. Installation, 2016
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon





Michael Fehr, *Wo das liegt ist alles*. Visual projection and book launch, 2012
PasquArt Biel/Bienne. Photograph: Sebastien Verdon

Research

The MA CAP programme is primarily designed to lead to an MA degree in arts and artistic practice. However, as a graduate student, you may wish to focus on art-related research, given that the HKB also offers projects that examine the significance of such research.

Research activities at HKB are practice-oriented and combine scientific, artistic, and technological approaches with a focus on socially relevant questions. Such activities may result in performances, process-oriented outcomes, or publications. Research activities cover four transdisciplinary focal points that relate to culture and the fine arts: Intermediality, Interpretation, Communication Design, and Artistic/Cultural Material Studies. As an MA CAP graduate student, you may include Research as a minor study pathway and will be able to gain insights into research projects. As an MA CAP graduate, you will be qualified to pursue your research in a PhD programme at GSA – Graduate School of the Arts Bern, a joint programme offered by HKB and the University of Bern that is unique to Switzerland.

One current research project relating to MA CAP, for example, is *Das essayistische Prinzip* (The Essayistic Principle). Its director is Thomas Strässle, Co-Head of the Y Institute – Centre for Transdisciplinary Education. Situated along the boundary between art and science, the essay is a distinct form that nevertheless displays features from both fields.

It has a scientific purpose in that its aim is to increase knowledge. Yet, insofar as it claims aesthetic autonomy, the essay is inherently an art form. To what extent, therefore, should the essayistic principle be conceived of as being – or not being – dependent on the medium in which it manifests itself? What are the forms and formats whereby it does so? What similarities are there between a literary, philosophical, film or photo essay? In other words, and given the current aesthetic discourse, to what extent is the essay informed by fields and areas that lie far beyond the pale of literature and philosophy? To what extent are we concerned with a meta-aesthetic principle?

Infrastructure

The building at Schwabstrasse 10, Bern, with four floors and a spacious **rooftop terrace**, is home to the MA CAP programme. As a student, you will enjoy the brightly lit **studios and seminar rooms**, and will be able to use several **exhibition galleries**, the **analogue photo lab**, and the **kitchen**. The friendly Schwabstrasse atmosphere extends to work and production facilities at several other venues that form part of HKB:

At the service centre at Fellerstrasse 11, a stone's throw from Schwabstrasse 10, you will find a Printing Workshop, a MediaLab, a Media Library, and a Mechanical Workshop. Moreover, as an MA CAP student, you will be able to consult our experts, who will gladly provide hands-on advice and support.

In particular, the analogue **Printing Workshop's** high-quality equipment will allow you to explore any kind of manual printing technique. The **MediaLab** provides work spaces, cutting rooms and various studios, as well as any equipment required if you wish to focus on photography and/or audio-visual design. Visit the **Media Library** to consult a large array of books, journals and films on art, design, and transdisciplinarity. The **Mechanical Workshop** provides professional facilities for ceramic artists as well as artists working with metal, textiles, wood and synthetic materials. Also located here is the **MaterialPool** with its vast collection of material samples.

The **Sound Studio** at the HKB Music Division, at Papiermühlestrasse 13, is available if you are pursuing your own projects as an MA CAP student in Sound Arts. The studio boasts modern equipment and a spacious control room, as well as analogue and digital links to other multifunctional rooms for more sophisticated sound productions. The **Music Library** is also located at Papiermühlestrasse 13.

The Creative Writing/Literary Translation pathway is closely associated with the SLI – Swiss Literature Institute in Biel/Bienne; as an MA CAP student, you will have free use of the **SLI library**.

Finally, as an MA CAP student you will also have access to studio facilities and a seminar room at PROGR – Zentrum für Kulturproduktion, an arts centre and cultural hub in the centre of Bern. Its location makes the PROGR the perfect venue for close contacts with the local arts scene.





Specifications

Your profile

You are committed to or are already working in a transdisciplinary context. You can formulate the concept for a sophisticated artistic project – in a genre or range of genres of your choosing – that you wish to realise in the context of the MA CAP programme. You envisage such a project not merely as a stand-alone, but also as an integral part of your personal artistic development. You wish to engage with the contents and methodologies relevant to artistic research. You have already acquired the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that will enable you to be an active programme participant. You are also experienced in creating and presenting your own artistic work, and in establishing relevant networks. You are adept at working both autonomously and as part of a group. If the above describes you, please do apply for a place on the MA CAP programme.

Qualifications required for admission

Bachelor (equivalent) degree in Fine Arts, Sound Arts, Performance Art, Creative Writing/Literary Translation, or in a related field of study. If you have not yet received your Bachelor degree, you are required to submit a current Transcript of Records. The MA CAP degree course is open to Bachelor (equivalent) graduates only, and admission is only valid for the current year of study.

Application

Your online application must include the following documents:

- *Motivational letter* (745 words): Please describe your objective(s) in the MA CAP degree course, including your specific focus, and how you intend to achieve your goals.
- *Dossier*: Include a representative selection of your own works. If you have any prior qualifications in Creative Writing/Literary Translation, please include one or more of your own pieces in any genre (min. 5,950 words, max. 14,880 words).

Please visit our website for further information.

Aptitude test

After a review of all applications, selected candidates will be invited to give a presentation. The interview will focus on your motivation to embark on the MA CAP programme. Candidates with prior qualifications in Sound or Performance Arts will be expected to present a performative piece. This option is also available to candidates wishing to embark on any other pathways.

Duration

120 credits

Full-time study

2-year programme

Under exceptional circumstances, the director of studies may grant an extension to a 3rd year.

Languages

The majority of lectures, tutorials, etc. are held in German (some in French). Individual mentoring sessions may be held in German, French and/or English. All seminars in Creative Writing/Literary Translation are held in German and French.

Costs

CHF 800–900 per semester (inc. study and examination fees).

The scholarship fund of HKB – Bern University of the Arts may provide partial or full support to means-tested students. Depending on parents' financial situation, Swiss nationals may also apply for scholarships from their respective home cantons.

Contacts

Bern University of the Arts HKB
MA Contemporary Arts Practice
Schwabstrasse 10
3018 Bern
Switzerland
+41 31 848 49 07
hkb-cap.ch
cap@hkb.bfh.ch

Head of Studies

Andrea Gohl

CAP Secretariat and Operational assistance

Sandra Lemp

Heads, CAP Pathways

Hans Rudolf Reust and Anselm Stalder
(*Fine Arts*)

Michael Harenberg and Daniel Weissberg
(*Sound Arts*)

Stefan Humbel and Arno Renken
(*Creative Writing/Literary Translation*)

Valerian Maly
(*Performance Art*)

Accessibility

People with physical or mental impairments or a chronic condition can study at HKB provided they meet the usual admission criteria. We are particularly keen to create a sustainably inclusive cultural environment.

Fine Arts
Sound Arts
**Creative Writing/
Literary
Translation**
Performance Art

