

Master in Critical Creative Practices

2026/27



At a glance

Degree class: LM-65
ECTS credits: 120
Duration of the course: 2 years
Courses will be taught in: English
Places available: 30 EU + 5 non-EU
Campus: Bozen-Bolzano
Tuition fees: ca. € 1200 per year

Course description

This programme offers an up-front approach to contemporary challenges where art, design and technology converge to address and communicate powerful messages on global issues ranging from the climate crisis and energy transition to geopolitics and the inclusion of social minorities. The programme will enable designers and artists to develop interdisciplinary projects that combine rigorous artistic and design practice with advanced technological and theoretical applications.

Through three thematic studios - Natures-Cultures, Critical Environments and Techno-Human Expressions - students will explore new dimensions of artistic and design creation using traditional media as well as emerging technologies. The method of teaching integrates creative practice with a solid theoretical foundation, stimulating critical discourse and innovative solutions.

Online Info Sessions

We offer online information sessions in the coming months during which the master programme will be presented and where interested students can address their questions to professors and students. The Info Sessions take place on the following days:

- Thursday, 16 April 2026, 17:00 (CEST): [register here](#)
- Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 17:00 (CEST): [register here](#)

Study course structure

The course is structured over **four semesters** and **combines practical and theoretical learning**. Each of the three complementary macro areas is covered in a dedicated semester:

1. **Nature and Ecocriticism:** Focuses on theoretical and methodological approaches to contemporary environmental challenges through innovative artistic and design practices. Disciplines include ecocriticism, ecofeminism and urban ecology.
2. **Spatial Practices and Innovation in the Context of the Inhabited Environment:** Explores the socio-political dynamics of spatial practices in art and design, addressing challenges such as urbanisation, migration and digitalisation through theory and practice.
3. **Technology and Theory of Artistic Form:** Integrates advanced technologies (e.g. AR, AI, 3D printing) into artistic and design processes, encouraging experimental and interdisciplinary projects.

The **fourth semester** is dedicated to research and the development of the **final project**.

Study Plan - Master in Critical Creative Practices

1st Year

12 CP Studio 1 (Nature and Ecocriticism)

6 CP Natures-Cultures: Research based Art and Design

6 CP Ecocriticism

12 CP Studio 2 (Spatial Practices and Innovation in the Context of the Inhabited Environment)

6 CP Critical Environments

6 CP Histories and Theories of Spatial Practices

One of the following:

6 CP Design and Materials

6 CP Information Design and Visual Storytelling

6 CP Design and Production

6 CP Spatial Design

One of the following:

6 CP Histories of Science and Technologies

6 CP Histories, Theories and Critical Interpretations of Art

One of the following:

6 CP Policy Design, Democracy and Citizen Engagement

6 CP Project Development and Sustainability - Strategies for Sustainable Solutions:

Design Thinking in Public Services

2 CP Seminar

2nd Year

12 CP Studio 3 (Technology and Theory of Artistic Form)

6 CP Techno-Human-Expressions

6 CP Art Theories

One of the following:

6 CP Human Computer Interaction

6 CP Interaction and Communication design

One of the following:

6 CP Environmental Anthropology

6 CP Social Studies of Design and Culture

6 CP Media Studies

One of the following:

6 CP Gender Studies

6 CP Postcolonial Studies

6 CP	Seminar in Software Engineering Advances
3 CP	Language Course (Italian or German)*
12 CP	Free choice**
19 CP	Final exam***

Workshop Courses are a compulsory part of your study plan. To attend them, you must first complete the mandatory safety training (**Work Safety – Machinery Hazard – Chemical Risk**), as required by current regulations.

In the first semester, you will attend introductory workshop courses, which are compulsory to access the specialised ones. From the second semester onwards, you must choose and attend **at least one specialised workshop**.

Workshop courses do not carry credits, but attendance is mandatory.

*Language Course

Students must choose one of the two language courses offered, other than the language of the highschool diploma.

** Free Choice Courses

Students have to choose free choice courses for a total amount of 12 credit points. These courses may be chosen among those offered by the Faculty of Design and Art and/or those of the other faculties of unibz. At the beginning of each academic year, the Faculty announces which courses are offered and recognised as free choice.

*** Degree Thesis

In the fourth semester, you develop a final project as your master's degree. You can choose your project. Your work is overseen by a thesis supervisor and a co-supervisor. You present and discuss it in front of a commission.

Our ateliers

Ateliers are dynamic and collaborative workspaces designed to foster the exchange of ideas between students and supervisors, encouraging both individual and team work. Here, practice and theory seamlessly blend, providing an environment where students can apply theoretical knowledge to practical projects. Whether working on solo projects or collaborating with peers, students are supported by experienced supervisors who guide and inspire them throughout their academic journey.

Our Workshops

The workshops at our faculty are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, ensuring that students have access to the tools and resources they need to bring their design and artistic visions to life. Here you will find all the traditional and modern tools you need to turn your projects into reality. Skilled professionals manage our workshops and will help you by sharing their experience with you.

Exchange programmes and internships

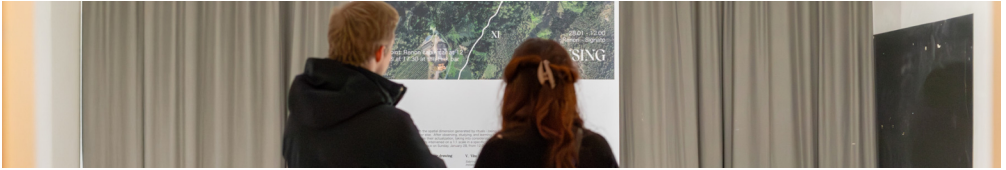
Currently we offer exchange programmes with partner universities all over the world and we are part of a large network of collaboration with employers in Italy and abroad where you can undertake your internship. However, this study programme does not require a compulsory internship.

Career opportunities

The programme is designed to train highly skilled professionals capable of working in interdisciplinary and pioneering contexts. Students are provided with advanced and up-to-date skills in the fields of design and art, with particular attention to the intersection of these fields with the latest technological developments and a deep understanding of the cultural aspects involved.

Graduates of the programme will be well-prepared to pursue careers in diverse and interdisciplinary fields, leveraging their advanced skills in design, art, and creative technologies. They will be equipped to work in areas such as multimedia and visual arts, art and design curatorship, and art direction, as well as in the management of cultural and creative projects.

Additionally, their expertise in innovation and sustainability will enable them to contribute to forward-thinking initiatives that shape the future of creative industries. With a strong foundation in both traditional and emerging media, graduates will be able to navigate and thrive in dynamic professional environments, addressing contemporary and future challenges in the cultural and technological landscape.



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Application and Admission

You can find all you need to know in order to apply and gain admission to this study programme by browsing through the information below.

Deadlines and important dates

Early Bird Application

Application: 02/03 - 28/04/2026 (by noon local time)

Language exams (online): 16/03/2026 (registration: 02 - 09/03/2026) and 16 - 17 and 20 - 21/04/2026 (registration: 24/03 - 08/04/2026)

Interview (online): 21/05/2026

Publication of ranking lists: by 27/05/2026

Payment of the 1st instalment of the tuition fees: by 05/06/2026 (by noon local time)

Enrolment: from 10/07 - 13/10/2026 (by noon local time)

Late Application (only for EU citizens)

Application: 28/05 - 02/07/2026 (by noon local time)

Language exams (online): 22 - 26/06/2026 (registration: 28/05 - 15/06/2026)

Interview (online): 21/07/2026

Publication of ranking lists: by 23/07/2026

Payment of the 1st instalment of the tuition fees: by 06/08/2026 (by noon local time)

Enrolment: from publication of the ranking list until 13/10/2026 (by noon local time)

Preparatory courses and Freshers Days

Freshers Days: 28 - 29/09/2026

1st semester

Classes: 28/09 - 23/12/2026

Holidays: 24/12/2026 - 06/01/2027

Classes: 07 - 23/01/2027

Exams: 25/01 - 20/02/2027

2nd semester

Classes: 01/03 - 25/03/2027

Holidays: 26 - 29/03/2027

Classes: 30/03 - 12/06/2027

Exams: 14/06 - 10/07/2027

Autumn session

Exams: 23/08 - 25/09/2027

Available places

EU citizens and citizens given parity of treatment

Early Bird Application: 20

Late Application: 10

Non-EU citizens (living abroad)

Early Bird Application: 5

Entry requirements

In order to gain admission to this programme you need one of the following qualifications:

1. A bachelor degree (*) in one of the following Italian degree classes or an equivalent qualification gained abroad:

- M.D. 270/04:
 - L-3 Discipline delle arti figurative, della musica, dello spettacolo e della moda
 - L-4 Disegno industriale
 - L-17 Scienze dell'Architettura
 - L-21 Scienze della pianificazione territoriale, urbanistica, paesaggistica e ambientale
 - L-10 Lettere
 - L-5 Filosofia
- M.D. 509/99:
 - 23 Scienze e tecnologie delle arti figurative, della musica, dello spettacolo e della moda
 - 42 Disegno industriale
 - 04 Scienze dell'architettura e dell'ingegneria edile
 - 07 Urbanistica e scienza della pianificazione territoriale, urbanistica, paesaggistica e ambientale
 - 05 Lettere
 - 29 Filosofia

(*) Italian citizen who have obtained their degree abroad must also have a secondary school leaving qualification.

or

2. a Diploma Accademico di primo livello of the "Accademie di Belle Arti" or

a Diploma Accademico di primo livello of the "Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche"

- DAPL03 Scuola di decorazione
- DAPL04 Scuola di grafica
- DAPL05 Scuola di scenografia

- DAPL06 Scuola di progettazione artistica per l'impresa
- DAPL08 Scuola di nuove tecnologie dell'arte
- DIPL01 Scuola di progettazione grafica ed editoriale
- DIPL02 Scuola di Design

or:

3. If you have another Italian degree, you need 12 credit points in the following scientific disciplinary sectors or in equivalent subjects of the "Accademia di Belle Arti" or of the "Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche":

- ICAR/13 Industrial Design
- ICAR/14 Architectural and Urban Composition
- ICAR/15 Landscape Design
- ICAR/17 Representation of Architecture
- ICAR/18 History of Architecture
- L-ART/03 History of Contemporary Art
- L-ART/04 Museology, art and restoration criticism
- L-ART/05 Performing arts
- L-ART/06 Cinema, photography and television
- M-FIL/04 Aesthetics
- M-FIL/05 Philosophy and theory of language

or

4. a bachelor degree, university diploma or equivalent degree of another class or study qualifications earned abroad can be valued as adequate if, during your study career and before the beginning of the admission procedure, you have gained 12 credit points in the following fields: Design, Architecture, Arts, Museology, Cinema, Photography, Media Studies or Philosophy.

A commission checks the validity and equivalence of the credit points.

If you have not yet graduated at the time of application:

You can apply, but you will be admitted conditionally and need to submit your diploma by the enrolment deadline.

If you graduate after the enrolment deadline:

You cannot enrol and you will lose your place, which will be offered to the subsequent applicant in the ranking list. In this case you should not pay the tuition fees to secure your admission. You will be able to submit a late enrolment request and, only if there still are available places, you can enrol by 12 December 2025.

To be admitted you must fulfil the language requirements indicated in the section "Language requirements".

According to national regulations, simultaneous enrolment in a maximum of 2 programmes is possible (however, the two programmes must not belong to the same class, e.g., LM-69/LM-69 and must differ for at least 2/3 of the course contents).

Language requirements

The official teaching language is English. Therefore, the following language requirements apply, otherwise you will be excluded from the admission procedure:

Entry level (to gain admission)

English: B2

The levels of the Common European Framework of Reference apply.

You can demonstrate your language proficiency in the application portal (in the section “upload language certificates” and/or “enrol for language exams”) after you have created an application in the section “create/manage applications”.

- In case your final certificate has been awarded by an **Italian** public institution, you need to submit a self-declaration.
- In case your final certificate has been awarded by a **foreign** public institution, you need to upload diploma scanned copy of the original.

You can demonstrate language proficiency through:

1. **the main teaching language in your final high school year**, if English (recognised as C1). **Foreign qualifications:** If the main teaching language is not clearly stated on your high school diploma, please also upload a letter/document issued by your high school stating the medium of instruction.
2. **a bachelor or master degree** in English (recognised as C1). unibz graduates must upload the language certificates obtained and/or declare that they have passed language exams at the unibz Language Centre (B2, B2+ or C1). **Foreign qualifications:** If the teaching language is not clearly stated on your University degree, please also upload a letter/document issued by your University stating the medium of instruction during your studies.
3. **a recognised language certificate** (see the list of recognised certificates) If you cannot upload the certificates, you can send them by e-mail as PDF files or deliver them in person to the Language Centre by the application deadline (see “Deadlines” section).
4. **language exams organised by the unibz Language Centre.** You can register for these exams online through the application portal (in the section “enrol for language exams”) after you have filled out your application in the section “create/manage applications”. The registration periods are indicated in the “Deadlines” section. If you start your application outside a language exams registration period, you must return to the portal during one of the periods indicated above in order to register for an exam. Information regarding the structure of the language proficiency exams, their duration, their administration, and typical processing time for the publication of the results can be found on the following webpage.

For information on studying in three languages also visit the following page.

Online application

Your application must be submitted online through the Application Portal. The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

- You need to create an account and upload a valid ID card or passport (front/back). Please note: if your document is invalid, incomplete or unreadable, you will be excluded from the admission procedure;
- Fill in the online form and upload the attachments listed under “Admission procedure”;
- If you gained your qualification abroad, you must also upload the diploma of your qualification: if you are not yet in possession of the diploma, you’ll need to upload it upon enrolment;
- Complete and submit the online application by the deadline. Once the application has been sent, it cannot be modified. Filled-in forms which have not been sent correctly will not be taken into consideration.

Please note: Mendacious declarations will be criminally prosecuted and will result in the automatic exclusion from the ranking list.

EU-Citizens and equivalent

You might apply for more than one study programme. If you are excluded in the first session, you might apply again in the second one.

Considered as equivalent are:

1. Citizens from Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, San Marino and the Vatican City State;
2. Non-EU citizens with a valid permit to stay in Italy (see article 39, paragraph 5 of decree no. 286 of 25.07.1998: “**permesso di soggiorno**” (residence permit) for work, family reasons, political or humanitarian asylum, religious reasons). In this case, you apply directly to the University as described above and must submit a copy of your valid permit to stay. A permit to stay for study reasons or a visa for tourism is **not valid**. If the permit has expired, you must attach a renewal request. **Please note** that if you do not upload the permit in the application portal, you will be automatically considered a non-EU citizen living abroad and therefore subject to the admission procedure through the Italian authorities in your country of origin.

Non-EU-Citizens (living outside of Italy)

Only one application period is offered. After the deadline it is not possible to apply anymore. Application fee: € 50.

Once the ranking list has been published, if you have gained admission, secure it by paying the first instalment and then start your visa application on the University portal. The application on University is mandatory, otherwise you will not be allowed to enrol. On University you can apply for one study programme only.

Admission procedure

The admission procedure includes **2 stages**, candidates can gain a maximum score of **100 points**

Stage 1: Evaluation of the documents
max 60 points

The first stage is an evaluation of the documents that must be uploaded by the respective application deadline.

In Stage 1 will be evaluated the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae: **max 20 points**
- Portfolio: **max 20 points**
- Outline of a project proposal: **max 20 points**

Candidates must achieve a **minimum score of 30/60 total points** in Stage 1, **in order to be admitted** to Stage 2.

The following documents **need to be uploaded in the application portal:**

1. Academic background:

- **if graduated in Italy:** diploma supplement or substitute-declaration (following the Italian D.P.R. no. 445/2000) of the degree awarded, final grade, exams passed with corresponding grade, the dates in which the exams were passed, the credit points, the subject areas, and the teaching hours;
- **if graduated abroad:** diploma supplement or final degree certificate issued by the foreign university (to be translated into English if in a language other than Italian, German or English) detailing the final mark, exams passed as well as corresponding grades, the dates in which the exams were passed, the credit points, and the teaching hours. A description of the contents of single courses is recommended; it is advisable to attach a declaration of value or similar document by the university with the indication of the lowest grade needed in order to achieve the degree as well as the highest mark obtainable;
- **if not graduated yet:** please upload the list of your passed exams (see the section entitled "Confirmation of Study Place and Enrolment").

2. Curriculum vitae in English (pdf) max 20 points

Will be evaluated the consistence of the previous academic career with the contents of the course and significant experiences not included in academic training.

3. Portfolio in English max file size 20 MB (pdf) max 20 points

Will be evaluated:

- Consistence of the projects with the contents of the course
- Observational and judgment skills
- Innovative and creative thinking
- Formal qualities of the portfolio in relation to artistic and design production

4. Outline of a project proposal (pdf) max 20 points

Will be evaluated:

- Consistence with the contents of the course
- Observational and judgment skills
- Innovative and creative thinking

To assess your interest in the programme, we invite you to submit an **outline of a project proposal**. This exercise aims to understand your awareness of the subjects taught and your

ability to connect them in a coherent and meaningful way. What are the most pressing issues that, in your view, should be considered by practitioners in the field of art or design working at the intersection of culture and technology? What answers should be provided to the urgent questions that the present confronts us with? In a maximum of two A4 pages, we expect you:

- to explain the core ideas of your project via an abstract describing the context in which the project is positioned and the topics that will be addressed;
- to visualise it concisely with the help of images (these can include graphics, explicative diagrams, references, sketches, etc.) that will enable us to understand how the project could be formalised.

We are not looking for fully developed projects but for compelling ideas that demonstrate your thought process and creativity.

We are very interested in the candidates' motivation and their ability to communicate it, which is why it is very important that artificial intelligence is not used in the drafting of this document.

Failure to upload the curriculum vitae and the outline of a project proposal by the deadlines will result in the exclusion from the admission procedure.

Based on the documents received, the commission will decide which applicants will be admitted to the second stage of the admission process.

Stage 2: Interview **max 40 points**

The second stage consists in an online interview aimed at having a dialogue to gain a deeper understanding on the candidate's ideas, experiences and points of view.

Will be evaluated:

- Interdisciplinary interest
- Communication skills
- Creative abilities of the candidates

The interview, lasting approximately 15 minutes, will cover:

- Portfolio, curriculum vitae, and project proposal (if deemed appropriate, candidates may use material documenting personal interests and/or previous experiences)
- General questions on topics related to design and/or art in relation to the specifics of the programme
- Experience already acquired in the field of study
- Inter- and transdisciplinary experiences
- Innovative and creative thinking
- Ability to discuss and reflect critically

Candidates must achieve a minimum score of 60/100 total points to be eligible for the enrolment.

Priority Criteria

In the case of equal overall scores, priority will be given in the following order:

1. Score obtained for the interview
2. Sum of the scores obtained for the portfolio and curriculum vitae
3. Score obtained for the outline of a project proposal

Only in the case of further ties, the younger candidate will be preferred.

Ranking lists

The Admission Committee will only evaluate the documents uploaded in the portal by the application deadline. The ranking lists with the admitted students will be published here and are only valid for the respective academic year.

Secure your admission and enrolment

If you have been admitted to more than one study programme, you can secure your admission for a maximum of 2 programmes by paying the designated rate twice. By confirming your place, you renounce admission to the other programmes.

1. Choose the study programme and pay the fees (to secure your admission) in the application portal.

The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

If you do not meet this deadline, you will automatically be excluded and the next applicant in the ranking list will be admitted.

For EU citizens and citizens given parity of treatment only: any remaining places of the early bird application, will be offered in the late application.

Please note: Paying university fees does not confer student status, which is only obtained by enrolling. If you pay but do not enrol, you are not entitled to a refund, except for non-EU applicants living abroad who do not obtain the necessary documents for enrolment from the Italian authorities in their country.

2. Enrol online in the application portal.

The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

Enrolment is recommended as early as possible, so you have the possibility to upload incomplete documents before the deadline.

If you do not meet the enrolment deadline, you will be excluded and the next applicant in the ranking list will be admitted.

Admission with reservation:

If you do not have the required academic qualification, you will be given a conditional offer for a study place and you must submit your qualification upon enrolment. If you achieve your qualification after the enrolment deadline, you cannot enrol, and you will lose your place which will be offered to the subsequent applicant in the ranking list. **Advice:** If you achieve your qualification after the enrolment deadline, you should not pay the tuition fees to confirm the study place. You will be able to submit a late enrolment request and, only if there are study

places still available, you can enrol by 11 December 2026.

Students intending to transfer from another Italian University to unibz must submit to the Student Office - at the beginning of the academic year - a copy of the transfer application presented at the university of provenance.

3. If you have a foreign university degree, during enrolment you must upload:

- degree diploma of your Bachelor
- official translation of your degree into Italian (not necessary if the documents have been issued in German or English)
- Diploma supplement, where it must be indicated: that you have achieved at least 180 credit points (ECTS) and that the qualification gives access to a master programme

Depending on the foreign education system your degree belongs to, you must also upload:

a) EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein:

- Statement of **Correspondence** of your Bachelor degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy

b) Non-EU countries that are signatories to the Lisbon Convention:

- Statement of **Correspondence** of your Bachelor degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy **and**
- Statement of **Verification** of your Bachelor degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

c) Non-EU countries that are not signatories of the Lisbon Convention:

- Statement of **Comparability** of your Bachelor degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA) **and**
- Statement of **Verification** of your Bachelor degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

unibz performs the necessary checks on your foreign qualification and in case of doubt reserves the right to request additional documents.

Please note that if you do not possess a valid admission qualification, you can be excluded with Rector's decree even after enrolment.

If you are a non-EU citizen living abroad:

If you are eligible for admission (check the ranking lists) and have also applied on University, the Italian Authorities in your own country will issue you the entry visa for studies/university.

This will allow you to arrive in Italy to enrol for the study programme that you have applied for, after passing the admission procedure.

According to Italian law, within 8 working days of your arrival in Italy, you must have applied for the residence permit: as soon as you arrive, get in touch with the Advisory Service and you will be given the necessary information for starting the procedure.

Once you will obtain your residence permit (permesso di soggiorno), you have to hand it in at

the Student Office personally or via e-mail.

Tuition fees

Fees amount to € 1200

- **1st instalment (€ 600)**: includes the revenue stamp of € 16.
- **2nd instalment (€ 600)**: must be paid by March of the following year

Delayed payment of the second instalment will result in a fine being levied. If you have not paid the tuition fees, you will be unable to take exams and will not be able to transfer to other universities or other study programmes.

If you drop out of a programme, interrupt your studies or are excluded from studies, you are not entitled to reimbursement of the fees.

Exemption from the tuition fees is granted to:

- Students with a disability recognized under article 3, paragraph 1, of Law No 104/1992, or with a disability up to or exceeding 66%: the disability certificate, issued by the health authorities, must be handed in at the beginning of the academic year.
- Foreign students who have been granted a scholarship from the Italian government.

Students who benefit from a scholarship granted by the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano are entitled to receive a refund of the tuition fees.

Recognition of credit points from previous studies

Credit points from previous university studies can only be recognised **after enrolment** if the exams taken at the university of provenance are equivalent in content to those offered at unibz.

The Advisory Service provides support regarding your choice of study. In many cases a simple call or a short request is enough to get the relevant information (Tel. +39 0471 012100).

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Italy - 39100, Bozen-Bolzano
Tel +39 0471 015000
design-art@unibz.it

Opening Hours

Mo, Wed: 10:00-12:00

Thu: 14:00-16:00

Tue, Fri: online only, 10:00 - 12:00

Alternatively, you may call us
throughout the week or book an
online appointment

Subject to change.
Latest update: 16.04.2026