

About

The Gerrit Rietveld Academie is a small, independent art and design school in Amsterdam. The academy has an international focus and brings together artistic knowledge from different perspectives.

The academy is home to a close-knit community of students and teachers from all over the world. Here, students and teachers create a learning environment where they work together, exchange ideas and generate new and innovative thinking.

Rietveld Academie students learn in an open and self-organising environment. They work independently and with each other and the world around them. This prepares them for their own practice, both individually and collaboratively. Graduates of the Rietveld Academie are able to make critical and experimental contributions to contexts, communities and situations - and even create these.

More than half of the students come from outside the Netherlands. This mix of different cultures is seen as a strength. Students and teachers are challenged to look at each other and their work from different perspectives and to exchange ideas. The language of instruction at the academy is English.

The Rietveld Academie offers a four-year bachelor's programme, which begins with a general year (the Basicyear). After this year, students can choose from 12 different specialisations, the departments. There is also a five-year part-time programme: DOGtime. All the departments are exploratory in nature and have an experimental approach to teaching.

The academy has 23 workshops, which are the heart of the school. These are spaces where students can experiment with different techniques and materials. In the workshops, students learn to use professional equipment and can experiment under the guidance of their tutors.

The course concludes with a final presentation at the annual graduation exhibition. Graduates are awarded the degree of BA in Art & Design (BA).

Students are expected to show initiative, be self-reflective and open to the exchange of ideas and collaboration with others. The academy is committed to inquiry, experimentation and critical questioning. We believe it is important for students to have an open and engaged attitude towards others and society.

Preparatory Trajectories

Are you interested in studying at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, but would first like to find out what it's like here and whether it's the right place for you? Or would you like to broaden your portfolio before applying for admission to the bachelor's programme? The academy offers two preliminary courses - one for orientation and one as preparation for the bachelor's programme.

Preliminary Courses
In both the Orientation Course and the Preparatory Course, you will come to the academy to create and discuss visual work with your tutors. You will take part in introductions to the general workshops, go on field trips and learn to reflect on your working process. You will build up a portfolio and experience the Rietveld Academie first hand through various assignments, which are in line with the nature of education at the academy. Both courses last 25 weeks. Which of the two preliminary courses to take mainly depends on your goal, your age and how much time you have per week.

The Orientation Course is an introduction. During the Orientation Course, you can explore whether studying art and design is for you by making and discussing. Classes are held on Saturday afternoons. Students are aged between 16 and 50 and come from a wide range of backgrounds - which is what makes this course so special.

The Preparatory Course is a more extensive programme of preparation. You will be taught for three to four half-days a week. Participants must be under 25 years of age and have completed at least a havo or mbo 4 diploma or the equivalent (EQF level 4). With appropriate development, students may be admitted to the first year (the Basicyear) of the academy's full-time bachelor's programme.

Before Starting Your Studies

Admission Procedure
To study at the Rietveld Academie, you must have completed at least a havo or mbo 4 diploma or the equivalent (EQF level 4). You must also have sufficient artistic development and experience. During the admissions procedure, the Rietveld Academie will assess your aptitude for the study. This procedure consists of two rounds: the consultation interview and the entrance examination.

The Consultation Interview
In the first round, a tutor will assess your potential suitability for the academy. You will be asked to present a wide range of work, as varied as possible and preferably no more than three years old. The work does not have to consist of end results alone. Sketches, ideas and plans can also provide an insight.

The Entrance Examination
To study at the Rietveld Academie, you must have completed at least a havo or mbo 4 diploma or the equivalent (EQF level 4). You must also have sufficient artistic development and experience. During the admissions procedure, the Rietveld Academie will assess your aptitude for the study. This procedure consists of two rounds: the consultation interview and the entrance examination.

The same procedure applies if you are applying for the second or third year of study. You do not need to do the online interview and instead will be asked to submit a portfolio PDF in Osiris to the department for evaluation. After a positive evaluation, you can take the entrance exam.

At the Academy

Assessment
At two points in each academic year, tutors assess progress and work with students. They look at various aspects such as creative ability, effort, presentation, technique, communication and the ability to reflect on and analyse your work. The Rietveld Academie does not use numbers or letters as grades but deliberately opts for textual evaluations. These texts reflect on the student's learning process and provide feedback for further development.

Credits
For each positive assessment, a student receives 30 credits (ECTS). After two positive assessments, for which the student receives a maximum of 60 credits, they can progress to the next academic year.

Study Support
In case of (study) difficulties, the mentor or head tutor is the first person the student can turn to. The mentor or head tutor may refer the student to the student dean, a coach or a group programme.



The student dean helps students with study skills, such as planning, communication and reflection. The dean can also help identify barriers to study and work with students to find solutions. The dean may refer students to others who can help them further.

Students who are struggling with work processes, motivation or concentration can enlist in the *StudySkillsProgram*. In this programme, students discuss what is holding them back, compare working methods and work together to find strategies for overcoming obstacles.

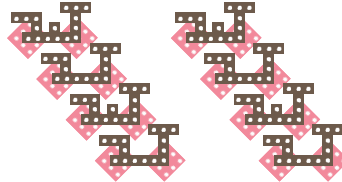
Studying With a Limitation
The Gerrit Rietveld Academie strives to give students with a disability or impairment the same opportunities as students without a disability. Because of the specific learning environment, we then look for tailor-made solutions. Usually, problems can easily be solved at the department level or with the help of the student dean. If more drastic adjustments are needed, we look for the best solution for the student.

Workshops
The academy's 23 workshops focus on investigative making. Some workshops are open to all students, while others are closely associated with a specific department and therefore have more limited access.

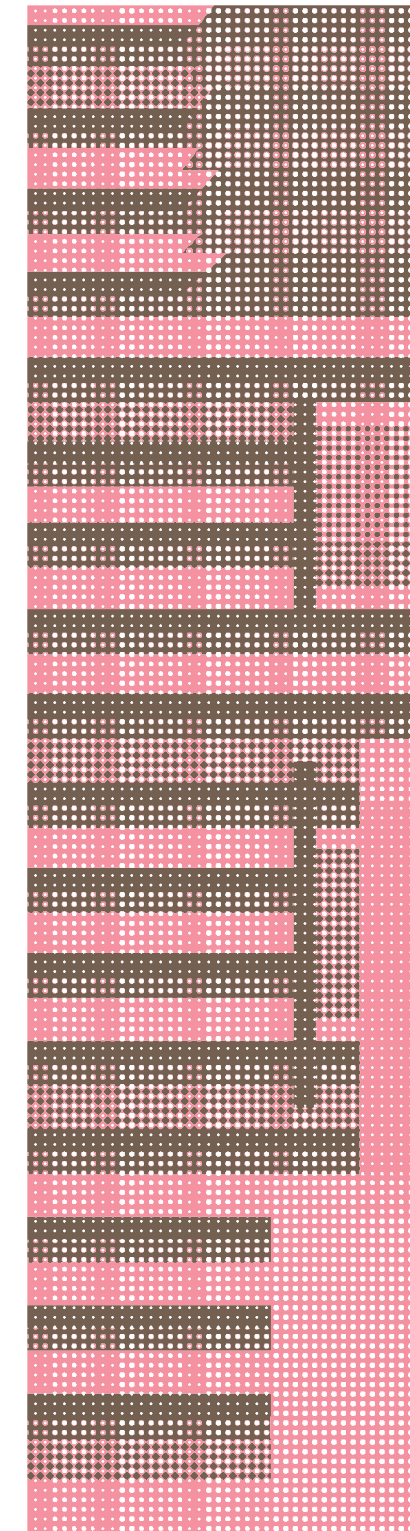
In each workshop, students have the opportunity to engage with a medium, material or discipline. Workshop specialists guide students in this process, not only in a practical sense, but also by helping them to develop and refine their ideas.

They help students think about the material aspects of their work, offer solutions or alternatives, and encourage self-reliance through knowledge transfer. There is always room for experimentation and failure. There are no assignments and no grading in the workshops.

- Analogue/Digital Film Workshop
- Audiovisual Services
- Bookbinding Workshop
- CAD/CAM
- Ceramics Workshop
- Computer Workshop
- Editing Studios
- Fashion Workshop
- Glass Workshop
- GraPrintshop
- Jewellery Workshop
- Letterpress Workshop
- Library
- Metal Workshop
- Photography Workshop
- Printmaking Workshop
- Sound Studio
- Screen printing Workshop
- Textile Workshop
- Weaving Workshop
- Willem Rieder Film Studio
- Wood Workshop
- X-Lab



Stodium Generale
The Studium Generale Rietveld Academie is a comprehensive theory programme for all Rietveld students and teachers, and is also open to people outside the academy. The aim is to bring thinking and making together and to show how art and design are intertwined with other fields.



Gerrit Rietveld Academie

Full-time Bachelor Programmes

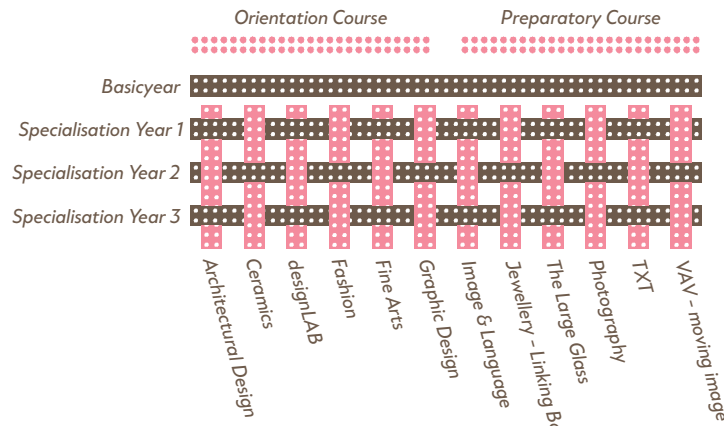
Basicyear
At the Rietveld Academie, all students complete the Basicyear before beginning a specialisation. The Basicyear is the first year of the four-year bachelor's programme. This general formative year offers a broad and coherent programme, all the components of which are compulsory. The programme focuses on an intensive introduction to a wide range of working methods, concepts and views, with the aim of relating them to your own interests and abilities.

A collaborative first year leads to an understanding of your interests and creative potential. It anticipates the academy-wide exchanges and collaborations of the senior years.

The Basicyear lays the foundation for independent work. The initial level and pace are high; hard work is required. At the same time, it is a special and stimulating year, suited to inspiring artists and designers with an adventurous, open and curious attitude. A critical eye and a willingness to collaborate are prerequisites for optimal participation in the programme.



During the Basicyear
In the Basicyear, you will be assigned to a group with its own classroom and a regular team of tutors. One of these tutors will be your mentor, who will oversee your overall development throughout the year. During the Basicyear, you will work on assignments. Twice a year you will be assessed on your progress through a presentation of your work. For the theoretical part of the course, you will write an essay. At the end of the Basicyear, you and your tutors will consider whether you have a good enough foundation to continue your studies. To help you make an informed choice about which specialisation to take, you will get to know all the departments and workshops during the year.

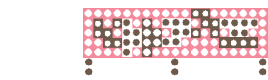


Architectural Design
The Architectural Design department focuses on the relationships between space, people and society. Students learn to apply a spatial perspective to the world, both in its present state and its possible future. They work at the intersection of art and architecture. Architectural design is understood in its broadest sense, ranging from buildings, interiors, scenography, urban design and public space to infrastructure, interfaces, networks, materials, organisms, bodies and beyond.

Ceramics
The Ceramics department provides an environment in which students can explore and develop all kinds of artistic concepts and techniques through the materiality of clay.

In the department, we strongly encourage artistic research, learning to contextualise works of art, dealing with audiences and the role of the artist in society. In this environment, a solid technical introduction to the ceramics process is provided, including the construction of forms, mould making, casting, turning and glazing.

designLAB
A lab is a place to ask questions, experiment, research and test ideas. At designLAB, we work in a similar way. We question elements of our surroundings - their functionality and materiality - to create new narratives that aim to redefine how we experience the world. Driven by curiosity and the urge to experiment, we explore familiar crafts and techniques to find new ways to create, think and tell stories.



Fashion
The Fashion department invites you to explore the different cultural and social meanings of clothes and fashion with a critical and open attitude. Through various classes, you'll be supported and encouraged to challenge and question the established commercial fashion system and to work towards more social, radical, inclusive, multidisciplinary, sustainable and multivoiced forms of fashion. When you study fashion at the Rietveld, you will be supported in developing your own way of working while engaging with and supporting the community. Theory and practice, as well as material, technical and conceptual processes, are intertwined to support your creative and experimental process. Your work can take many forms, from research projects to clothing collections, performances, publications and installations.

Fine Arts
The Fine Arts department prepares students to become professional visual artists, ready to engage in the art world and to pursue the best postgraduate courses and residency's both in the Netherlands and internationally. On joining the department, students enter into an ongoing dialogue about the possibilities of fine art as a creative practice and a research discipline. Our teaching approach is rooted in individual studio practice, complemented by one-to-one tutorials, group classes, theory courses, field trips and curatorial practice, fostering both individual growth and collective exploration.

Graphic Design
Graphic design shapes the way we experience our surroundings and plays a vital role in everyday life. In our Graphic Design department, students explore how to communicate visually through typography, image creation, design theory and writing. We provide the tools to turn ideas into tangible forms, blending analogue and digital techniques with a focus on content and context. Students develop their skills through hands-on assignments, independent projects and real-world opportunities. Our team of tutors, all practising designers, artists, and theorists, actively engage with contemporary practice and inspire students to push boundaries and critically engage with the world through their work.

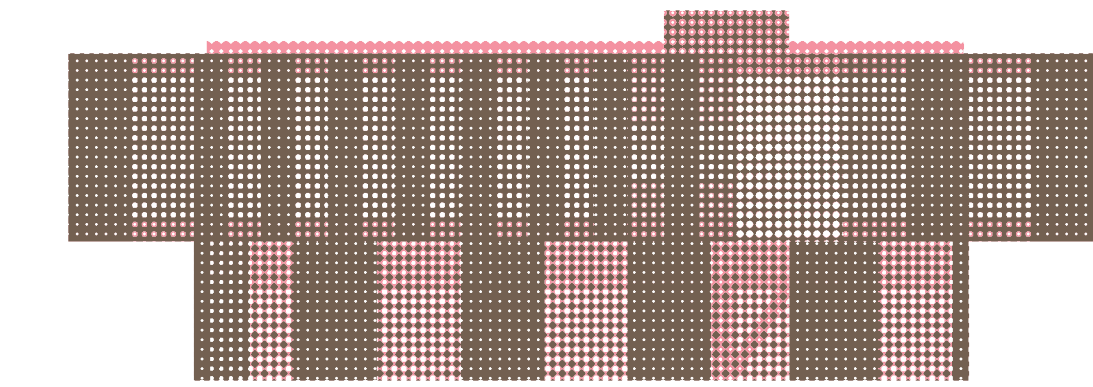


Image and Language
In the Image and Language department we experiment and explore language in the context of visual art. A way of thinking with and through language is fundamental at this department. We want to approach language from more perspectives than only the literary forms such as prose, essay and poetry. Considering language as rich and complex material, Image and Language offers an environment in which projects concerned and made with language can be developed. Outcomes at Image and Language can be anything from poems to essays, podcasts, stories, videos, paintings, sculptures, performances, new forms or endless enumerations.

Jewellery - Linking Bodies
By exploring the meaning of jewellery in different contexts and emphasising its role as a means of connecting bodies to each other and to our environment, the Jewellery - Linking Bodies department seeks to draw attention to and focus on the in-between, exploring in detail what it is that connects us. Students' personal artistic development as well as their ability to develop collective practices is crucial in this regard. Throughout the course, small-scale exploration and experimentation with a range of materials, skills and jewellery techniques are taught, in which dimension and ecology are more important than ever.

The Large Glass
The Large Glass department focuses on the implications of glass in the fine arts. The emphasis is mainly on the individual artistic position of the student, who is encouraged to experiment and explore the limits of materiality. We have a strong and unique position in our conceptual approach to glass as a sculptural material in contemporary art. Students are taught 'reading and writing', drawing, spatial thinking, critical reflection, art practice and the techniques of glassmaking. Technique is a tool, not an end in itself.

Photography
The Photography department focuses on the development of an autonomous artistic practice and encourages the development of a critical attitude. We challenge the medium of photography technically, conceptually and theoretically by questioning photographic traditions, conventions and developments. Reflection on contemporary image culture is an essential element of the programme. We are open-minded makers, ready to explore and experience the world intellectually and visually.

TXT
The textile department is called TXT, short for textile and text. Both words are derived from the Latin verb *tessere*, meaning 'to weave'. The department explores the relationship between materiality and the written word from different perspectives. This makes TXT a department for making and thinking, for hands and head. In the weaving and the textile workshops, students learn a variety of textile-making and printing techniques. During their studies, students translate these techniques into different fields of work and research.

VAV - moving image
The VAV - moving image department focuses on the development of moving images. In contemporary fine art, the concept of the moving image has become one of the most important means of expression. We encourage research across a range of disciplines, including film, video, sound, animation, performance and installation, where video is combined with two-dimensional and three works. It is at this interface between image and sound, analogue and digital, factual and fantastic, that unique works can be created.



Sandberg Instituut
As the postgraduate programme of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, the Sandberg Instituut offers master's degrees in Fine Arts & Design and Interior Architecture through the main (permanent) departments of Critical Studies, Design, The Dirty Art Department, Fine Arts, and Studio for Immediate Spaces. In addition, each year a new temporary programme is launched reflecting a particular urgency or theme in society and the arts.

Through all its departments, the Sandberg Instituut aims to broaden and deepen the practice of artists and designers, while also welcoming students from other fields and disciplines. It offers a uniquely small-scale, open and interdisciplinary environment that fosters critical inquiry and reflection combined with diverse and experimental approaches to practice.

More information
Would you like to hear from our students and alumni what it's like to study at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie? Or are you thinking of applying? Visit one of our Open Days and/or the Graduation Show to really get to know the academy. Would you like to know more about the admissions procedure, deadlines and tuition fees? Visit our website for more information: www.rietveldacademie.nl.

Part-time Bachelor Programme

DOGtime
DOGtime is the part-time bachelor programme of the Rietveld Academie. Our curriculum is challenging, critical and progressive. The programme provides a solid foundation for beginners and is deepening for advanced students.

The programme lasts five years: two propaedeutic years and three in-depth advanced higher years with majors in Expanded Painting (EP) and Unstable Media (UM). Classes take place in the evenings from 18:45 to 21:45 hrs. From the third year you will have a workspace in the department where you can work on your projects during the day and in the evening. The propaedeutic programme offers a wide range of disciplines, from painting to digital media. Through focused assignments and accurate feedback, you will improve your techniques, research skills and media choices.

DOGtime Expanded Painting
Drawing on the rich history of painting and image-making, you will develop your own vision. You'll explore the boundaries of painting, for example by expanding the dimensions of the traditional canvas, or by using other media, such as sound, video, and performance, or ecological approaches.

DOGtime Unstable Media
In this course, you will dive deep into the application and history of 'the medium' in art: Is the medium the message? The work of Unstable Media students covers a broad spectrum, from generative software art and performance to interactive installations with text, sound or image. Creative research is central, with art, technology and culture constantly questioning, influencing and reinforcing each other.

Despite the differences in approach, overlap between Expanded Painting and Unstable Media is possible. Joint classes encourage the exchange of knowledge and broaden the possibilities. At the interface of stable and unstable media, innovative and exciting forms of interaction can emerge.

