

Postgraduate | BASEhabitat

Master of Advanced Studies - Architecture

University of Arts Linz



Credits: BASEhabitat

The built environment has an enormous role in the way we live together in this world. Today`s construction activities are extremely resource-intensive and harmful to the environment and our climate.

BASEhabitat invites built environment professionals to develop radically new ideas for dealing with these global challenges.

Become a builder of change!



Credits: Kurt Hoerbst

Postgraduate | **BASEhabitat** architecture of change

Aware of the global challenges we face, ranging from environmental destruction and dwindling resources to prolonged poverty and growing inequality, the need to prepare future architects and professionals to deal with current problems in the field requires new methods and tools, including a repertoire of skills.

Responding to this urgent need, the Postgraduate BASEhabitat is aimed at students and professionals who are looking for an educational context in which to learn and enhance their skills and abilities by expanding their range of action to address social and environmental issues.

The program, combining theoretical knowledge and practical experience, explores the practice of architecture in a different way, involving diverse actors within the design process, understanding the implications of design decisions by focusing on in-depth choices of materials and construction methods.

It is taught by an international body of visiting renowned architects and scholars as well as BASEhabitat`s teaching staff. The approach is focused on hands-on experience, in a context of professionals from various disciplines and an international learning environment.

As today`s construction activities are extremely resource-intensive and harmful to the environment and our climate, special attention is given to natural building materials that have been at the hearth of BASEhabitat for the past 15 years.

The Postgraduate BASEhabitat is a full-time study program taught in English lasting one and a half years, divided into three terms (theory and design, hands-on experience and master thesis), at the end of which students receive a Master of Advanced Studies in Architecture - BASEhabitat (MAS) from the University of the Arts and Design Linz.

Postgraduate | BASEhabitat

General information

Start date

March 2025

Timeframe

Start: March 2025

End: Sept 2026

Duration

3 terms (full-time)

- THEORY AND DESIGN: March 2025 - Sept 2025

- HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

- MASTER THESIS: Febr 2026 - July 2026

(thesis defense: Sept 2026)

Academic accreditation

Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) Architecture

Credits

90 ECTS

Language

English (level B2)

Tuition Fee

10.200 €

Participants

max. 20

Application information

Application

Application starts in April 2024

Late application possible until available places are filled.

Required Qualification

Graduate Degree or University BA + MA Degree
in architecture or a comparable branch

See the **Download** section on our website on how to submit
the required documents.

Further information

www.basehabitat.org

basehabitat.postgrad@kunstuni-linz.at



Credits: Markus Dobmeier



Credits: BASEhabitat

BASEhabitat international, sustainable, collaborative

BASEhabitat is a studio in the department of architecture at the University of Art and Design Linz. We have been working in the field of social and sustainable architecture and spatial development for more than 15 years now. Our focus is on local and natural construction materials. We collaborate with community partners from around the world.

BASEhabitat offers a wide study program, hands-on learning opportunities and real-scale projects.

BASEhabitat works in planning and realizing projects, as well as in research on an academic level. Outside of academia, BASEhabitat develops exhibitions, offers workshops, on-site practice and hosts a bi-annual International Summer School.



Photo: Stefanie Hueber



Credits: BASEhabitat

International Experience

BASEhabitat works in research, planning and implementing architectural projects. The worldwide positive feedback and reputation and multiple international awards, like the World Energy Globe, are rewards for our dedication and work. Our projects have taken us to countries around the world, such as Ecuador, India and South Africa.

Global Network

BASEhabitat is a member of the UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures and Sustainable Development and maintains excellent relations with international schools and research facilities. Our work and projects have put us in touch with a large number of architects, designers, craftsmen and experts from around the world.

Summer School

The BASEhabitat Summer School is a biennial set of workshops, where like-minded professionals from more than 40 countries come together to learn from and work with renowned experts in earthen architecture and bamboo construction.

Curriculum structure

Postgraduate | BASEhabitat

The program consists of a year-and-a-half full-time study divided over three terms for a total 90 ECTS to obtain the degree. It starts in March 2024 and the participants will graduate at the end of September 2025.

1 THEORY AND DESIGN

40 ECTS

March – September

6 months at University of Art and Design Linz, Austria
3 modules focused on the three aspects of sustainability (social, environmental and economic) anchored by theoretical lessons, seminars and practical workshops.

2 HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

20 ECTS

October – December

3 months on a BASEhabitat construction site
Construction phase combined with design aspects and reflections under the guidance of the BASEhabitat construction manager.

3 MASTER THESIS

30 ECTS

February – July | thesis defense in September

6 months not tied to a particular place
Thesis development that includes theoretical work, architectural design and portfolio under the supervision of a guest professor.



Credits: Stefanie Hueber

1 Theory and Design at the University of Art and Design in Linz

Team
 Anna Heringer
 Martin Rauch
 Elisa Engel
 ...
 soon announced

Timeframe 1 term:
 March 2025 - Sept 2025

- During the first term, students will be introduced to several topics and methods from different disciplines, with a focus on the **three aspects of sustainability** (social, environmental and economic) in order to establish a set of common design tools.
- The term is organized around a project-based design studio with a unique focus every year, anchored by theoretical lectures, seminars and practical workshops.
- Students will discover natural building materials and examine various techniques in order to understand how to design with them. Furthermore, students will analyse vernacular and contemporary projects and visit some example architectural projects in Austria. Participatory methods and decision-making processes will be explored as a tool to engage with different stakeholders. Students will get practical skills to start their own community-based projects after completing their studies.
- In conjunction with the courses, a theory seminar linked to the design studio fosters an atmosphere of intellectual exchange that challenges the discipline of traditionally conceived architecture.
- Each year BASEhabitat organizes a one-week practical master class led by Martin Rauch. In addition, students will begin to define the topic of their thesis project to be completed in the third term of study.

1 TERM: Theory and Design [40 ECTS]

March 2025 September 2025

DESIGN STUDIO Project-based studio [10 ECTS]
THEORY SEMINAR Lecture series [5 ECTS]
SUSTAINABILITY: Environmental aspect Natural building materials [7 ECTS]
SUSTAINABILITY: Social aspect Participatory methods [4 ECTS]
SUSTAINABILITY: Economic aspect Social entrepreneurship [4 ECTS]
THESIS SEMINAR Preparation Master Thesis [2 ECTS]
SPECIALIZATION Consultation with experts [3 ECTS]
PRACTICAL MASTER CLASS Martin Rauch [5 ECTS]



Credits: Elisa Engel



Credits: BASEhabitat

2 Hands-on Experience on a BASEhabitat construction site

Team:
BASEhabitat construction manager

Timeframe 2 term:
Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

- The second term takes students to a BASEhabitat construction site, which can be located anywhere in the world. The project in which the students will be involved is not linked to the design studio of the first term.
- Students will experience the local context of the project, understand the climatic conditions, available building materials and construction techniques, and visit some architectural examples of the area.
- Students will plan the construction phase, optimizing the architectural solutions and developing the technical details of the project.
- Working as a team, they will be actively involved in the construction phase, under the guidance of the BASEhabitat construction manager. Students will learn how to build with natural building materials on a real construction site by gaining hands-on skills.
- The practical work will be followed by an extensive report documenting the construction process, including critical reflections.



2 TERM: Hands-on experience [20 ECTS]

October
2025

December
2025

HANDS-ON PRACTICE

Project not linked to the Design Studio [10 ECTS]

PLANNING HANDS-ON PRACTICE

Preparation [5 ECTS]

REFLECTIONS HANDS-ON PRACTICE

Documentation [5 ECTS]



Credits: BASEhabitat

3 Master Thesis not bound to a particular location

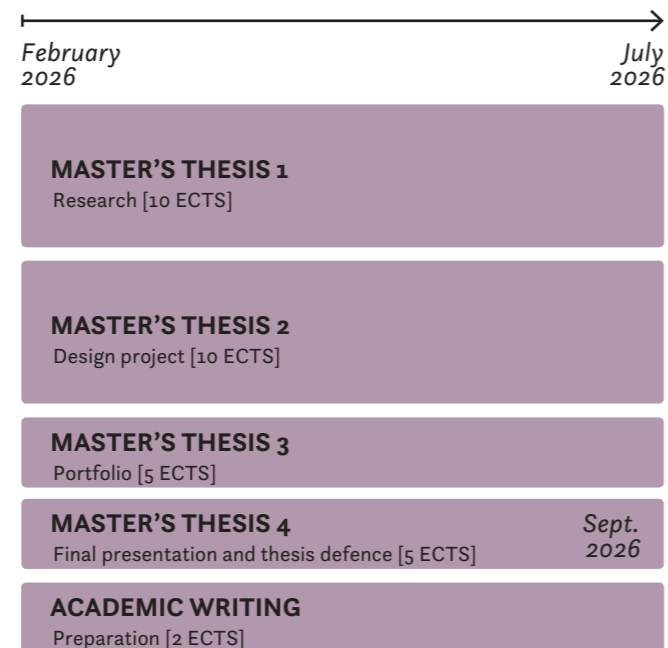
Team:
guest professors
BASEhabitat team

Timeframe 3 term:
Febr 2026 - July 2026

Thesis defence:
Sept 2026

- During this final term of study, students will develop a master's thesis that includes theoretical work and an architectural design, demonstrating their ability to critically synthesize the knowledge acquired during previous terms and apply it in a personal project.
- The master's thesis is an individual work of the student under the guidance of a professor. It also contains the portfolio which includes the projects developed during the first and second term.
- Students will write their thesis in a place of their choice and supervision will take place via online communication.
- The final exam consists of a presentation of the thesis to an audience in Linz or in an online format in September 2023.

3 TERM: Master Thesis [30 ECTS]

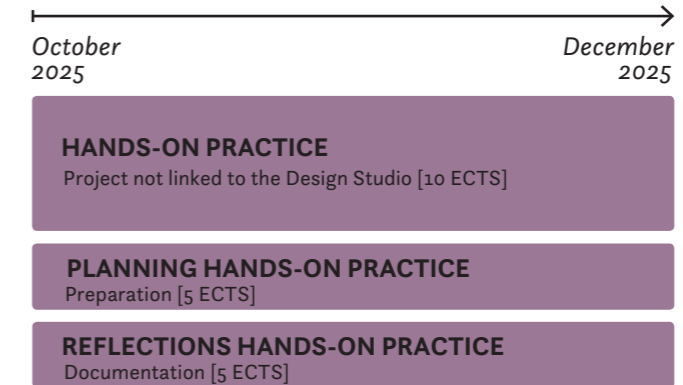


1 TERM: Theory and Design [40 ECTS]

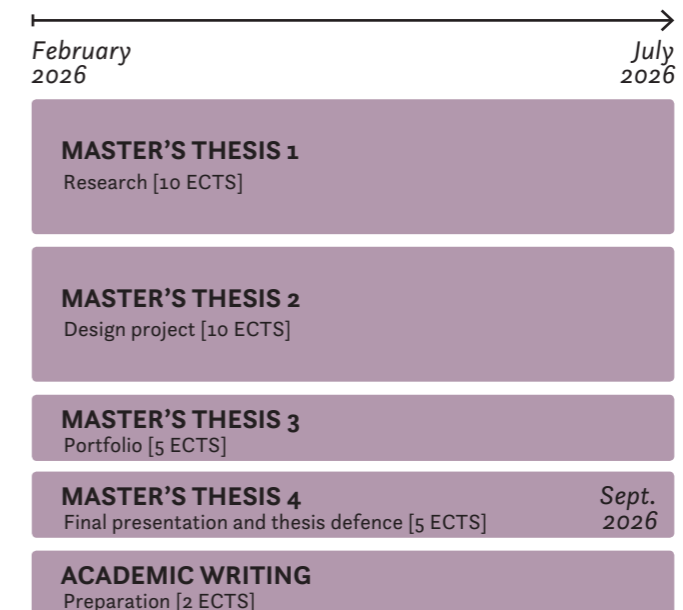


2025

2 TERM: Hands-on experience [20 ECTS]



3 TERM: Master Thesis [30 ECTS]



2026

2025–2026 Application

The application process for the BASEhabitat Postgraduate Degree consists of the following steps:

- Submit your application documents. Applicants should send their application to:
basehabitat.postgrad@kunstuni-linz.at
See the Download section on our website on how to submit your application.
- Evaluation of your application. Your application will be evaluated by at least two members of BASEhabitat. Applications will only be evaluated once during an academic year.
- After reviewing your application, selected applicants will receive an interview invitation by email from BASEhabitat. Interviews are by invitation only and conducted by a member of BASEhabitat, who will have thoroughly read your entire application package. The invitation will be sent by email. Interviews are conducted via Zoom or, when logistically possible, held in person in Linz. Following the interview, students will either be accepted or rejected to the program.
- Applicants will be informed about their application status within a week of their interview.
- After being admitted to the Postgraduate BASEhabitat, applicants will receive an admission letter and a payment letter which helps you to arrange funding through a scholarship or study loan. On the letter there are payment details and a request to submit a non-refundable deposit fee of 20% to confirm your participation.
- The full tuition fee payment must be made before the payment deadline. Please note that these payments are part of the admissions process. BASEhabitat will finalize your enrolment to the program after full payment is received on our account before the payment deadline.
- The course fee does not include travel, accommodation, or study material costs either in Linz or on the construction site.



Foto: Stefanie Hueber

Study at the University of Art and Design Linz

There are many reasons to study architecture at the University of Art and Design Linz:

- The small number of students makes for a familiar atmosphere in the studios and workshops and ensures close interaction with supervisors and professors.
- The light-flooded studios and the location in the heart of the city are a great source of inspiration.
- Linz, with its young and vibrant art scene (Ars Electronica), is a great place to study.
- Linz is located in the centre of Europe: 185 km from Vienna, 243 km from Prague and 574 km from Venice.

Those factors create an encouraging environment for you to thrive both in teams with fellow students and individually.

BASEhabitat

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die architektur

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