

Overview of the new course ‘design B’

Kyoto City University of Arts will introduce ‘design B’, a new course aiming to bring new values.

Modern times have seen a wide range of efforts made to improve society, from industrialisation to internationalisation and the recent advancement of informatisation. These advances have resulted in humans living increasingly convenient and affluent lives. However, modernisation has caused environmental problems and various other social issues, which are posing serious challenges for how we approach the future as we live in the present day. Needless to say, designers are deeply involved in production and consumption, thus playing a role in social issues. Therefore, the Department of Design will explore the potential of design to address these social issues and respond to social demands, which require collaboration across many different areas of expertise and an interdisciplinary approach. To this end, the department will integrate the three existing courses into one, namely ‘Integrated Design Specialities’. It will also introduce ‘design B’, a new course where students will take a more experimental and cutting-edge approach, going beyond existing frameworks and concepts.

Development of students’ ability to continue to question and practise the conception of design.

Students can choose their units under different themes. They will tackle various problems that cannot be addressed within existing design fields, gain a comprehensive and fundamental understanding of human beings and design, and learn to extend the meaning and role of design. As players paving the way for the future, students will develop the ability to discover unknown and unsolved issues in society and pursue original, innovative and critical design without restricting themselves to using traditional design techniques. They will also learn to think for themselves and undergo the entire design process, from designing a concept to finding practical solutions.

The ‘B’ in the course name, design B, has been taken from ‘becoming’, which refers to a state of flux. It is deemed to be an appropriate expression to depict how we modify ourselves as needed or describe how design newly emerges, evolves and changes. More importantly, we benefit from not specifying design outputs or defining the conception of design. In the new course, we will experimentally explore the construction of a design education system that can continue to adapt to changes and search for a new and constantly changing form of social implementation. ‘Becoming’ is purposely abbreviated to ‘B’ because the course is intended for students who can put themselves in an environment where they do not know what they will learn; that is, those who can take a proactive approach to creating their own learning and who are willing to take on such a challenge. It is hoped that the design B course will enable students to develop the ability to survive and design in an uncertain and complex modern society.

*Reference: Lectures given for each year in design B.

(During the transition period of the course system, we will implement the new curriculum in parallel with the old one.)

	Undergraduate Program								Master's program				Doctoral Program	
	1st year		2nd year		3rd year		4th year		1st year		2nd year			
	first semester	second semester	first semester	second semester	first semester	second semester	first semester	second semester	first semester	second semester	first semester	second semester		
	Foundation		Foundation of design				Speciality of design							
Integrated Design Specialities	Foundation Core Courses	Foundation of Design 1	Foundation of Integrated Design Specialities 1	Foundation of Integrated Design Specialities 2	Integrated Design Specialities 1	Integrated Design Specialities 1	Integrated Design Specialities 2	Integrated Design Specialities 2	Graduation work	Study on Integrated Design Specialities 1 Special Seminar 1	Study on Integrated Design Specialities 2 Special Seminar 2	Study on Integrated Design Specialities 3 Special Seminar 3	Study on Integrated Design Specialities 4 Special Seminar 4	Specialized Research Seminar (Integrated Design Specialities)
design B			design B (xyz-1)	design B (xyz-2)			design B (X)(Z)		Graduation work	Study on design B 1 Special Seminar 1	Study on design B 2 Special Seminar 2	Study on design B 3 Special Seminar 3	Study on design B 4 Special Seminar 4	Specialized Research Seminar (design B)