



同濟大學  
TONGJI UNIVERSITY

di:'Angewandte

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien  
*University of Applied Arts Vienna*

# **Global Challenges and Sustainable Developments**

**Curriculum of the joint master's programme**

Joint master's programme  
(double degree)

Tongji University &

University of Applied Arts Vienna

Duration: 5 semesters

Programme number: 066 565

Version: winter semester 2023/24

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna on 10 April 2020.

Last modified: see university newsletter ("Mitteilungsblatt") No. 13 dtd 31 January 2023.

Only the version published in the official newsletter ("Mitteilungsblatt") of the University of Applied Arts Vienna is legally binding.

## Table of contents

§ 1. Point of departure, principles and objectives	2
§ 2. Legal basis and academic degree	3
§ 3. Duration and scope	3
§ 4. Qualification profile	3
§ 5. Language	4
§ 6. Programme structure	4
§ 7. Study fields and courses	4
§ 8. Admission and entrance exam	5
§ 9. Exam regulations	5
§ 10. Master's thesis	6
§ 11. Entry into force	6
APPENDIX: Distribution of courses	7

## § 1. Point of departure, principles and objectives

The joint master's programme "Global Challenges and Sustainable Developments" is set up as a double degree programme between the University of Applied Arts Vienna, hereinafter abbreviated as the Angewandte, and Tongji University Shanghai, hereinafter abbreviated as Tongji.

Both Vienna and Shanghai are major world cities enabling significant cultural mobility. The two universities already work in highly international environments and attract a great diversity of international students and staff. Both universities are evolving fields of applied artistic education by shifting from a tangible to an immaterial, expanded, idea of design for society, and by advancing educational fields in sustainable social change.

The joint programme "Global Challenges and Sustainable Developments" thus focuses on innovative forms of higher education for an international group of students in aesthetic, artistic, interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, and transdisciplinary strategies. In addition, it offers transcultural and intercultural competences for shaping and designing the future world.

Today's so called "Global Grand Challenges" can only be solved by highly coordinated groups of individuals who understand the complex inter-relativeness of economic, social, technical, environmental and scientific phenomena and their systemic interdependency. The study programme therefore provides an international group of students with the essential skills and knowledge to tackle the issues posed by the Global Grand Challenges that await them in the world of today and tomorrow. It also enables them to critically reflect and consider the global impact of the economic and political changes, a particular focus will be set on transnational relations. Thus, the main objective of this programme is to provide students with skills and abilities that will help them "provoke the system" by combining artistic and design-oriented thinking with knowledge in other societal areas. The study programme prepares students to become "radical generalists" who are able to offer new ways of identifying and solving the issues arising in the context of global challenges, by applying their competences for transformative innovation. These include:

- intercultural and transcultural competences (proficiency gained through intercultural exchange and student mobility with a focus on Chinese-European relations)
- deep knowledge of innovative strategies in research, design and realization of cross-disciplinary projects (by knowing how to cross, transcend, and exceed disciplinary boundaries through artistic and aesthetic methods)
- sustainability and responsibility as fundamental attitudes in artistic and design approaches (by outreaching to society through special internships, workshops, and projects)

## § 2. Legal basis and academic degree

### (1) Legal basis in Austria

The joint programme “Global Challenges and Sustainable Developments” is a double degree master’s programme between Tongji and the Angewandte pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 26, Austrian Universities Act 2002.

The programme is assigned to the group of “Interdisciplinary Studies” pursuant to § 54 para. 1, Austrian Universities Act 2002.

Upon successful completion of the programme, the student from the Angewandte is awarded a double degree: the “**Master of Arts**” (abbreviated **MA**) by the Angewandte (pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 11, Austrian Universities Act 2002) and either the “**Master of Fine Arts in Art Design**” or the “**Master of Mechanics in Industrial Design**” by Tongji University (depending on the focus of the master’s thesis).

### (2) Legal basis in China

The joint programme is established and operated pursuant to the *Procedures on the Cooperation of Graduate Dual Degree Programmes between Tongji University and Overseas Universities (Institutions of Higher Education)XY(2012) No.21*. For successful completion of the programme, evidence of successful participation in all compulsory courses of the curriculum and approval of the master’s thesis are required.

Upon successful completion of the programme, the student from Tongji is awarded a double degree: one from Tongji University (depending on the programme they belong to) and the “**Master of Arts**” (abbreviated **MA**) by the Angewandte.

## § 3. Duration and scope

At the Angewandte, the programme consists of **150 ECTS**, which equals a minimum period of **five semesters to complete the degree**. Students initially enrolled at the Angewandte need to acquire 60 ECTS of the Tongji curriculum at Tongji.

At Tongji, the programme consists of **46 TC** (for Master of Mechanics students) or **50 TC** (for Master of Fine Arts students). Students initially enrolled at Tongji need to acquire 60 ECTS, of the Angewandte curriculum at the Angewandte.

## § 4. Qualification profile

Graduates of the programme “Global Challenges and Sustainable Developments” are cultural translators and designers of communication and work processes between diverse disciplinary fields including art; they interact with both non-academic and academic groups, as well as with Chinese and European organizations.

Graduates are equipped with:

- profound abilities to discover and investigate topics connected to the Global Grand Challenges and to access them in full for their own strategic purposes
- sound theoretical and practical skills in applying artistic, design, and aesthetic strategies in various kinds of collaboration with diverse societal players
- intercultural and transcultural knowledge, experience, and competences in regard to the cultural, political, and societal differences and common grounds of the two contexts and two universities based in Vienna, Austria/Europe and Shanghai, China/Asia
- advanced competences to acquire and develop adaptivity for change, creative competence, social and emotional intelligence, societal responsibility, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge for strategic planning and communication. This includes basic knowledge and translational skills regarding paradigm-breaking findings in science and technology; philosophical approaches to science and technology; immaterial, sustainable and speculative design; political and socio-economic mechanisms, as well as global societal challenges.

They will work as experts in transformative innovation processes and also as transcultural mediators in cross-disciplinary projects between China and European and non-European countries.

## § 5. Language

(1) The programme is taught in English. Students submit all written works in English.

(2) Upon entry, students from the Angewandte have to provide evidence of English language proficiency at level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR.

On entry, students from Tongji have to provide evidence of English language proficiency in the TOEFL or IELTS or Chinese College English Test (CET).

- TOEFL (IBT= Internet Based Test, PBT= Paper Based Test)  
Total score: 92 (IBT), 580 (PBT)

- IELTS (Academic)  
Overall Band Score: 6.5  
Writing Band Score: 5.5

- CET 6  
Total Score: 425

## § 6. Programme structure

(1) Both universities, Tongji and the Angewandte, provide a range of courses relevant to their respective institutional, regional and cultural expertise. Students initially enrolled at Tongji and students initially enrolled at the Angewandte pursue different study paths. Both study paths comprise study phases at Tongji and at the Angewandte.

(2) The first semester is spent at the home university. Exchange periods start from the 2nd semester onwards for Angewandte students and from the 3rd semester onwards for Tongji students. In order to bring students from both universities together during their schedules will overlap geographically during two semesters: During the 2nd semester all students from the Angewandte and Tongji are in Shanghai, and during the 4th semester all spend their study time in Vienna. During these two semesters particular courses with opportunities for team and group work projects are offered at both universities. During the 4th semester students are encouraged to gain relevant experience outside of the university, which can be done through an internship, volunteering, or a self-initiated project. In each case a student from the Angewandte and a student from Tongji are to do this jointly, if possible.

	1 <sup>st</sup> semester winter term	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester summer term	3 <sup>rd</sup> semester winter term	4 <sup>th</sup> semester summer term	5 <sup>th</sup> semester winter term
Angewandte students	Vienna	Shanghai	Shanghai	Vienna	Vienna
Tongji students	Shanghai	Shanghai	Vienna	Vienna	Shanghai

(3) Both universities provide introductory courses on intercultural and transcultural topics regarding the respective host university to prepare their students for their study periods abroad.

(4) In the case of travel restrictions to China the following regulation comes into force: Angewandte students are provided with all courses required by the curriculum, and with the supervision of their master's projects, online by Tongji University.

## § 7. Study fields and courses

(1) The programme contains five study fields:

- A. Intercultural and transcultural collaboration
- B. Envisioning change/applying innovative strategies
- C. Radical interventions
- D. Applying artistic strategies
- E. Managing cross-disciplinary projects

(2) The compulsory courses are listed in the APPENDIX.

(3) Courses are offered according to the academic regulations of the partner universities.

## § 8. Admission and entrance exam

- (1) Applicants at the Angewandte undergo an entrance exam pursuant to § 75 Austrian Universities Act in which they demonstrate cross-disciplinary abilities to link artistic and creative knowledge with scientific processes and social phenomena. The entrance exam consists of the assessment of the application documents and an interview in front of an entrance examination committee. The applicant's invitation to the interview depends on the positive assessment of the application documents.
- (2) Applicants at Tongji are nominated on the basis of Tongji regulations.
- (3) The application documents include:
- a) a portfolio of past, independently produced sample work or collaboratively produced sample work with personal contributions clearly stated (e.g. abstracts of scientific work, samples of artistic work),
  - b) for Angewandte applicants a written research proposal for a master's thesis referring to one of the five study fields; for Tongji applicants a research proposal for a master's thesis referring to one of the five study fields approved by the Tongji thesis commission,
  - c) a letter of motivation with an explanation of interests in studying in China, respectively Austria, and an accompanying curriculum vitae,
  - d) 2 recommendation letters from professors,
  - e) the transcript,
  - f) other documents deemed necessary by the host universities.
- (4) The applicant's approval by the host university is based on the application documents, the assessment by the home university, and – if requested by the host university – an additional (online) interview.
- (5) The entrance examination is successfully completed on positive assessment of all parts, and after the host university approves the application on the basis of the application documents and the positive assessment of the home university.
- (6) At both universities admission is decided by a commission in which the interdisciplinary assessment competence is adequately represented.

## § 9. Exam regulations

- (1) At the Angewandte grades are to be awarded on the basis of a five-tier scale (unless explicitly defined otherwise): Positive evaluation is "Excellent (1)", "Good (2)", "Satisfactory (3)" and "Sufficient (4)", negative is "Insufficient (5)".
- (2) At Tongji grades are to be awarded on the basis of the following scale:

Hundred percentage point	Grade	Grade
90-100	A	Excellent
80-89	B	Good
70-79	C	Satisfactory
60-69	D	Pass
0-59	E	Failure

- (3) The master's programme ends with the positive assessment of the master's thesis (approbation). The final examination consists of an assessment and the presentation of the master's thesis. The students in this joint programme will have to present their thesis to the examination committee of both universities for the respective degree (the presentation to the host university can be done online). The academic accomplishment of the master's thesis is to be evaluated according to the requirement of the respective university.

## § 10. Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis consists of the development and the realization of an interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, or transdisciplinary research project in a chosen study field using artistic as well as scientific strategies. The use and interlinking of these strategies must be described and reflected on in a written paper (according to standards for academic writing).

(2) The master's thesis topic must be contextualized in one of the following study fields:

- A. Intercultural and transcultural collaboration
- B. Envisioning change/applying innovative strategies
- C. Radical interventions
- D. Applying artistic strategies
- E. Managing cross-disciplinary projects

As the programme focuses on the application of innovative strategies to global challenges, it is recommended to apply the chosen study field to one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(3) The study coordinator at the Angewandte is to support the student in finding an adequate supervising tutor (with *venia docendi*) and one or more teaching staff members who are suitably qualified and have agreed to support the master's thesis. Prerequisite is the student's written submission of a concept for the master's thesis that includes a schedule of time and content.

(4) Prerequisite for admission to the master's thesis is the evidence that all exams and course assessments have been successfully completed.

(5) The master's thesis must be conducted independently (with the support of the supervising tutor). Students enrolled at Tongji may not conduct a thesis together (if the master's thesis is conducted at the Angewandte, exceptions are possible if authorized by the study coordinator and the supervising tutor).

(6) The master's thesis is to be written with the support of a supervising tutor from the Angewandte and Tongji for students initially enrolled at the Angewandte (language English). It is to be written with the support of a supervising tutor from Tongji and the Angewandte for students initially enrolled at Tongji (languages English and Chinese). To qualify for the double degree, the master's thesis is to be presented both universities.

(7) The thesis will be assessed according to the regulations of the respective university for the related degree. At the Angewandte, the public presentation of the master's thesis is in a format of the student's choice. Also, at the Angewandte, the thesis is assessed by a committee, which in any case includes the supervising tutor.

## § 11. Entry into force

(1) This curriculum enters into force on 1 September 2020 in China and on 1 October 2020 in Austria.

(2) In case of compelling reasons, both universities can mutually agree on a different programme structure.

(3) For the initial round (starting in the academic year 2020/21) a different programme structure has already been agreed upon: the programme will start in different semesters at Tongji and the Angewandte.

Angewandte students		1 <sup>st</sup> semester summer term	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester winter term	3 <sup>rd</sup> semester summer term	4 <sup>th</sup> semester winter term	5 <sup>th</sup> semester summer term
		Vienna	Shanghai	Shanghai	Vienna	Vienna
Tongji students	1 <sup>st</sup> semester winter term	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester summer term	3 <sup>rd</sup> semester winter term	4 <sup>th</sup> semester summer term	5 <sup>th</sup> semester winter term	
	Shanghai	Shanghai	Vienna	Vienna	Shanghai	

(4) Amendments to the curriculum require identical resolutions by Tongji and the Angewandte.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In order to enter into force on 1 October, the amendment must be passed by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna by 31 March of the same year (pursuant to § 4 para. 1 of part II of the Statute on Study Law of the University of Applied Arts Vienna).

## APPENDIX: Distribution of courses

### Courses provided by the Angewandte

(1) Practical, theoretical, and intermixed courses for Angewandte students in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and for Tongji students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester:

	Type	Contact hours	ECTS
IS_SD Cross-disciplinary Project Work I	PW	4	12
Introduction into Intercultural and Transcultural Collaboration	VU	2	2
Introduction to Sustainable Development Theories	VU	2	2
for Angewandte students (1st Semester):	VU	2	2
Introduction into Chinese Language, History & Culture			
for TONGJI students (3rd semester):			
Introduction into European Politics, History & Culture			
Reflection of Study and Work Progress	SE	1	2
Communication & Presentation Skills for Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Teamwork	UE	1	2
Artistic & Design Strategies I	VU	4	4
Free Electives:	various	4	4
Practical, theoretical, and intermixed new learning and teaching offers from the following areas depending on the schedule of available courses at the Angewandte: media theory, game design, digital performance, sustainable & speculative design, digital DIY & hacker cultures, transcultural studies, museum studies, philosophy ...			

(2) Practical, theoretical, and intermixed courses for Angewandte students in the 4<sup>th</sup> semester and for Tongji students in the 4<sup>th</sup> semester:

	Type	Contact hours	ECTS
Groundwork of Master's Project	PW	3	10
IS_SD Cross-disciplinary Project Work II (SDG topic)	PW	2	6
Artistic & Design Strategies II	VU	4	4
Reflection of Study and Work Progress	SE	1	2
Free Electives:	various	8	8
Practical, theoretical, and intermixed new learning and teaching offers from the following areas depending on the schedule of available courses at the Angewandte: media theory, game design, digital performance, sustainable & speculative design, digital DIY & hacker cultures, transcultural studies, museum studies, philosophy ...			

(3) Angewandte students in the 5th semester:

	ECTS
Master's Thesis	30

## Courses provided by Tongji

(1) Practical, theoretical, and intermixed courses for **Master of Fine Arts** students from the Angewandte in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester include:

COURSE	SEM	TC
Chinese Language	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3
A General View of China	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3
Topic Defense for Degree Thesis	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1
Code of Academic Integrity	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1
Tongji University Advanced Lectures for Graduate Students	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2
Professional Practice	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6
Graduation Design	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6
Final Thesis Presentation	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0
Free Electives:	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10

Angewandte students are required to acquire 10 TC (equiv. 25 ECTS) in semester 2 and 3 by selecting from the course list offered by Tongji University.

(2) Practical, theoretical, and intermixed courses for **Master of Mechanics** students from the Angewandte in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester include:

COURSE	SEM	TC
Chinese Language	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3
A General View of China	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3
Engineering Ethics	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2
Code of Academic Integrity	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1
Topic Defense for Degree Thesis	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1
Tongji University Advanced Lectures for Graduate Students	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2
Professional Practice	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6
Final Thesis Presentation	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0
Free Electives:	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8

Angewandte students are required to acquire 8 TC (equiv. 20 ECTS) in semester 2 and 3 by selecting from the course list offered by Tongji University.



(3) Practical, theoretical, and intermixed courses for **Master of Fine Arts** students from Tongji in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester include:

COURSE	SEM	TC
Research on the Theory and Practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics	1 <sup>st</sup>	2
Foreign Language English	1 <sup>st</sup>	3
Code of Academic Integrity	1 <sup>st</sup>	1
Tongji University Advanced Lectures for Graduate Students	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2
Free Electives A: Tongji students are required to acquire 9 TC (equiv. 22.5 ECTS) in semester 1 by selecting from the core course list offered by Tongji University.	1 <sup>st</sup>	9
Free Electives B: Tongji students are required to acquire 9 TC (equiv. 22.5 ECTS) in semester 2 by selecting from the core course list offered by Tongji University.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9
Free Electives C: Tongji students are required to acquire 2 TC (equiv. 5 ECTS) in semester 1 or 2 by selecting from the course list offered by Tongji University.	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2

(4) Practical, theoretical, and intermixed courses for **Master of Mechanics** students from Tongji in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester include:

COURSE	SEM	TC
Research on the Theory and Practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics	1 <sup>st</sup>	2
Foreign Language English	1 <sup>st</sup>	3
Code of Academic Integrity	1 <sup>st</sup>	1
Engineering Ethics	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2
Tongji University Advanced Lectures for Graduate Students	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2
Free Electives A: Tongji students are required to acquire 9 TC (equiv. 22.5 ECTS) in semester 1 by selecting from the core course list offered by Tongji University.	1 <sup>st</sup>	9
Free Electives B: Tongji students are required to acquire 7 TC (equiv. 17.5 ECTS) in semester 2 by selecting from the core course list offered by Tongji University.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7
Free Electives C: Tongji students are required to acquire 2 TC (equiv. 5 ECTS) in semester 1 or 2 by selecting from the course list offered by Tongji University.	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2