

MODULE DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Field	Design and Fine Arts	
Program	MA Design	
Major	All majors	
Module title	Master's Thesis : theoretical project	
Code	2MaDe21	DDISO814FE26
Course Type	Master	
Semester	Semester 4	
ECTS Credits	9	
Prerequisites	Validation of all Semester 1 – 2 modules (60 credits)	
Languages	French / English	
Place	ECAL	

Skills targeted General learning objectives	This module constitutes of the student's theoretical Master's thesis. It concludes with a written thesis that must be an original contribution to the field of design. The thesis must show that the student has acquired: • in-depth knowledge and understanding of the specific chosen area and its mechanisms based on the state-of-the-art • ability to analyse, summarize and theoretically reflect and criticise, to develop convincing arguments • capacity for research and innovation • a methodology enabling him/her to efficiently manage creation processes.
Teaching content and form	The student will develop and carry out research related to his/her final theoretical research project under the supervision of one or possibly two tutors, but will mainly work independently. Depending on the specialization and/or the nature and progress of his/her thesis work, the student will receive support via • seminar courses in small groups • meetings and interviews with specialists • presentations, discussions and individual or group criticism at different stages of his/her research • regular personal consultation with his/her tutor. Depending on the personal study project, the final-year thesis and practical project may constitute a single body of work. Nonetheless, the thesis shall be assessed on its own merits and be validated before the practical project.
Forms of assessment and validation	The thesis will be assessed by an exam review board comprising at least one member from the major and one member external to the HES-SO MA in Design programme. Assessment will be in the form of a personal defence and may take into account the regularity in meetings with the tutor/s and active participation in supervised activities. The student must achieve a minimum grade of 4 to obtain credits.
Remedial teaching	If a student receives a failing grade, but not below 3.5, he/she can present additional work to correct the shortfall. In the event of a grade below 3.5, the student must repeat the module the following academic year, in accordance with procedures agreed to with the head of the module. There is no remedial measure after repetition of the module.
Professors	Wayne Daly, Roland Früh, Emily Clare Groves, Christophe Guignard, Claus Gunti, Anniina Koivu, Clothilde Morette, Brynjar Sigurdarson

In charge of the module	Anniina Koivu		
Description validated on	12 August 2026	By	Anniina Koivu

The French text is authentic