

Who is Who?

UAx Day in Geneva, October 14, 2025

Ukrainian Sister Schools

2023-2025

Kyiv National I. K. KARPENKO-KARYI University of Theatre, Cinema and Television

The Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Karyi University of Theatre, Cinema and Television is one of the leading institutions of art education with its 100 years history.

The University is a cross-disciplinary institution of art education that graduates professional staff in dramatic art of Acting and Cinema-Television. The University includes the Institute of screen arts and Acting Faculty and fifteen departments. World famous art masters of theatre, cinema and television work, directors, actors of Academic theatres, the academicians and corresponding members of the National Academy of Arts in Ukraine work at the premises of the University.

International cooperation in the field of artistic culture is one of the priority directions of activity at the university. The university successfully collaborates with UNESCO Chair IT, the International Theatre Institute, participates in the festivals of dramatic schools in Romania, Spain, China, Peru, Bulgaria, Philippines. The university is a member of the Alliance of Theater Schools WTEA and a member of the Alliance of Film Schools BRIFEA. Students have presented their works at the festivals of Germany, the United States, France, Portugal, Japan, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, Belarus.

Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Karyi University of Theatre, Cinema and Television founded the international student film and television festival "Prologue" and the International Festival of theatre schools "Inspiration."



Olena Aleksandrova

Vice-Rector for International Relations

Olena Aleksandrova is a Doctor of Sciences in Philosophy and Professor. She currently serves as Vice-Rector for Research and International Cooperation at the I. K. Karpenko-Karyi Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television.

Previously, she held leading academic positions at Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University and Zaporizhzhia National University, where she worked as Dean, Department Head, and Professor.

Her academic background spans philosophy, history, psychology, and management.

Lviv National Academy of Arts

The Lviv National Academy of Arts was founded in 1946 on the basis of Lviv Art and Industrial School, known since 1876.

The Academy offers bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in art and design. There are various directions of applied art (ceramics, glass, metal, wood, textile), fine art (sculpture, painting, sacred art, contemporary art), design (interior design, fashion design, graphic design), restoration, cultural studies, art history and theory, art management. Based on these directions, the institution offers a wide range of programs, which are attended by 1200 students from all over Ukraine, as well as international students.

Since February 24, 2022, LNAA has become a hub for art students from across the entire war-torn country.



Vasyl Kosiv

Rector

Vasyl has been teaching visual communication since 1998. He graduated from Lviv Academy of Arts and received his PhD from Kharkiv Academy of Design and Arts. In 2003–2004 and 2015–2016 he was a Fulbright scholar in Kansas (KSU) and New York (Columbia). He served as a Deputy-Mayor of Lviv from 2006 to 2013. Vasyl Kosiv defended habilitation thesis in 2019, his monograph was awarded a grand-prix at the national rating “Book of the Year.”

In 2021, he was a visiting professor at the University of Warsaw. Since August 2021, Vasyl Kosiv has been a rector of the Lviv National Academy of Arts.

A.V. Nezhdanova Odesa National Academy of Music

A. V. Nezhdanova Odesa National Academy of Music was founded in 1913 and is the first music higher educational institution in Ukraine. The main activities of the Academy is training students to become highly qualified musicians and specialists from a Bachelor to a PhD degree, training and certification of educators, scientific and pedagogical staff; conducting research, methodical, and creative work. The areas of teaching and educational processes are: Piano, organ; Orchestral String Instruments; Orchestral wind and percussion instruments; Folk instruments; Singing; Choral conducting; Opera and symphony conducting; Musicology; Composition; Cultural Studies.

A.V. Nezhdanova ONMA works with the world's leading universities, institutions, organizations and foundations. Academy implements many joint international educational, creative and scientific projects and participates in ERASMUS+ academic exchange program.



Iryna Cherniaieva

Rector's Assistant for International Relations

Iryna was born in Odesa in Ukrainian artists' family. She visited a musical school and a school of arts, graduated from Odesa National University (foreign languages department), received a scholarship of German Academic Exchange Service and studied in Germany. After University Iryna worked in Public Administration in the Academy as a teacher and grew to hold leading positions.

Iryna has an extensive experience in organizing and conducting international conferences and teleconferences; participation in the work of OSCE missions and multinational headquarters; training students for international grants with internships; cooperation with international partners of higher education institutions.

Her scientific work she devoted to Germanic studies, intercultural communication, political discourse analysis, leadership and public management, internationalisation of art institutions; she owns more than 40 publications.

Kharkiv I.P. Kotlyarevsky University of Arts

Kharkiv I.P. Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts is one of the leading and oldest (founded in 1917) institutions of higher education in Ukraine, a creative, scientific and methodological center of music and theater education in Slobozhanshchyna.

Modern vectors of life of KhNUA reach a large number of creative, scientific, social, educational events, initiated by not only experienced teachers, but also young people – the Council of Young Scientists, the Student Scientific and Creative Society, the Student Council.

The University develops international relations with countries of the West and the East, is a partner of international programs in the field of education. The priority at the university is an individual approach to the training of specialists and an individual form of classes that ensure the formation of a unique artistic personality. KhNUA plays an important role in the cultural and educational life of Kharkiv and the country as a whole.



Iryna Sukhlenko

Vice-Rector

She graduated from Kharkiv State University of Arts named after Kotlyarevsky (2001) and completed an assistantship under the class of Professor V.O. Syriatskyi. In 2011 she defended her PhD thesis 'Performing style of Volodymyr Horovytsia in the development of the romantic tradition' (supervisor - Doctor of Arts, Professor V.G. Moskalenko).

Teaches piano, supervises bachelor's, master's and PhD theses. Author of more than 20 scientific articles in national and foreign professional journals, participant and organizer of international scientific conferences. Iryna Sukhlenko combines pedagogical, scientific, creative and educational activities. Director of the Kharkiv Assemblies Charitable Foundation, 2006 - 2020, Executive Director of the Kharkiv Assemblies International Music Festival. Assemblies International Music Festival, member of the organizing committee of the Kharkiv Assemblies Open Competition for Young Musicians, Performers and Composers.

Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts

Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts has a 100-year history, during which the peculiarities of training specialists in Kharkiv art education were formed.

Now the Academy provides art education in twenty-nine different educational programs at three levels of higher education and has four faculties:

Design: graphic design, industrial design, multimedia design, Environmental design, clothing design (footwear); architecture and urban planning; art therapy and communication practices;

Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, Restoration: graphics, street art and monumental art, easel painting, easel and monumental sculpture, restoration and examination of works of art, art history;

Audiovisual art and production: advertising and video art, photography and visual practices, production and art mentoring, event management; audiovisual art and production.

There are more than 1600 students at the Academy and 200 academic teachers. Most of the professors are distinguished artists in their fields. Besides its educational functions the Academy plays an important role in the cultural and social life of the country. The Academy cooperates with a number of foreign research centres and educational institutions. Having more than 20 partner institutions the Academy takes an active part in the Erasmus+ program.



Oleksandr Soboliev

Rector

Born in Kharkiv, 1977, graphic designer and design theorist, educated at Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts. He has been professionally associated with his alma mater almost 30 years: student, PhD student, Dean of the Faculty "Design", Vice-rector of the Academy, the Rector.

Full Professor, PhD (Design); he was one of the first to defend his PhD thesis on the specialty "Technical Aesthetics" on "Integration of Design and Marketing in Contemporary Design Culture".

Member of the working group at the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine; developed the procedure of obtaining the educational and creative degree of "Doctor of Art" and training in the creative post-graduate course.

Oleksandr Soboliev actively combines administrative, scientific and teaching work with professional activities in various areas of graphic design. His initiative in 2019 contributed to the opening in the Academy of the third in the world unique Museum of Eco-Poster "The 4th Block".

Kyiv Municipal Academy of Performing and Circus Arts

Kyiv Municipal Academy of Performing and Circus Arts was founded in 1961. It is a unique place for getting a higher education with a bachelor and master degree. The Academy prepares specialists of international level in different areas – singing, dancing, acting, producing and of course – circus arts (juggling, clown, gymnastic, acrobatic, equilibristic, pantomime, illusion and manipulation). For 60 years of work, it had many former students who now work in leading circuses, theaters, global pop shows of the planet, many of them have become celebrities of European and Ukrainian show business.

The Kyiv Municipal Academy of Performing and Circus Arts is driven by a clear mission and set of goals that guide its activities and shape its educational programs. The academy's mission is to foster artistic excellence, cultivate creativity, and provide comprehensive education in the field of performing and circus arts. Its primary goal is to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and professional competencies necessary for successful careers in the performing arts industry.



Nina Araya

Assistant of rector, PhD of Arts, docent

In 2023, founded a charitable foundation for the development of Ukrainian art. Since 2020 to the present day, was working as a first deputy rector and after as an assistant to the rector at the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts (KMACPA). During this time, organized a series of events and student tours within Ukraine and abroad, including Hungary, Greece, France, Australia, Italy, Monte Carlo, and Germany. Participated in EU grants for the creation of international performative events.

From 2010 to 2020, worked at the National cultural-art and museum complex Mystetskyi Arsenal as a manager of educational projects. During this time, prepared and participated in the coordination of over 50 projects, exhibitions, and festivals. Had two internships in the USA, at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., as well as in other American cities such as New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Seattle.

In 2018, co-authored a textbook titled "Sociocultural Design in Art: Theory and Practice." In 2017, got PhD in arts with a specialization in "Theory and History of Culture."



Anna Kosenko

Student

My name is Anna. I am a third year Choreography student at The Kyiv Municipal Academy of Performing and Circus Arts. I've been dancing since I was a little kid. Graceful movements and emotional vulnerability always inspired me. I started learning choreography with Ukrainian national folk dance and then proceeded with classical and modern styles. Later, I worked on my acting skills and gained some experience with popular types of dances.

For 12 years I've been a part of New-Ans dance theater participating in group, solo and duet numbers. I have experience performing on different stages of various sizes, quality and importance. At this point beat and choreography is not just hobby, it is an integral part of my being. Various grand prix, first and second places certificates mark my merit and my lifelong journey that is only at the beginning. Currently, I continue to develop in choreography and share my experience with others. I work as a choreographer in a studio and at a school in Kyiv, the children I teach make me understand that I am on the right path.

I am very happy to have this opportunity to be here and open the world of choreography to all of you.

Transcarpathian Academy of Arts

The Transcarpathian Academy of Arts is a post-secondary academic art institute. It was founded in 2003 and is located in Uzhhorod, Ukraine.

The academy was formed with three departments, two of which are graduate departments. Department of Design was founded in 2004 and prepares bachelor and master-level specialists in graphic design, interior design, and environment design. Department of Fine and Decorative and Applied Arts was created in 2004, the department trains bachelor-level students in the following majors: painting, metalwork, ceramics and woodworking. It has full-time and part-time learning. Experienced teachers are also engaged to teach professional subjects. Most of the teachers are members of the Union of Artists (NSHU). The Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine annually holds the All-Ukrainian Painting Olympiad at the academy.

Department of Education and Social Sciences has the following disciplines: pedagogy and psychology, cultural studies, history of Ukraine; aesthetics; ethnopsychology, foundations of law; basics of economic theories; Ukrainian business language, philosophy, copyright, religious studies, sociology and political science, basics of management and marketing, teaching methods of special disciplines and others. The department held the annual national conference "Erdeliv Readings"; since 2008, the Scientific Bulletin of the Transcarpathian Art Institute has been published, where articles in the fields of pedagogy, design, art history and art education are published.



Mykhailo Pryymych

Rector

In 1983 studied at the Uzhhorod School of Applied Arts at the department of "Artistic Woodworking". In 1989 studied at the Lviv Academy of Arts, Department of "Artistic Woodworking". In 1998 postgraduate studies at the Lviv Academy of Arts. In 2001 defense of the dissertation "Decorative carving in the sacred art of Transcarpathia of the 18th–19th centuries (History. Typology. Artistic and stylistic features)." 2013 doctoral studies at the LNAM. 2018 defense of the doctoral dissertation "Church professional painting of Transcarpathia in the second half of the 18th - first half of the 20th centuries: folk tradition, Byzantine canonicity and Western European artistic influences."

Author of 5 monographs, one co-authored work and about 100 scientific publications. Participant of 4 exhibitions and 4 international plein airs. Laureate (2007; 2018; 2024) of the regional prize of Josip Bokshai and Adalbert Erdeli in the field of art history.

A black and white portrait of a young woman with dark, curly hair, looking slightly to the side. She is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Vladyslava Herych

Student

I'm Vladyslava — a third-year Graphic Design student. I work with a wide range of visual forms — from fine art to graphic and media design. My approach is based on combining artistic thinking with the structured logic of design. I create digital illustrations and traditional paintings that often explore social and political issues. My practice mainly includes illustrative posters, original sticker packs, postcards, concept art, and animation. I also work in the field of design — developing visual identities, logos, packaging design, and websites.

My works combine various styles — from realism to caricature — using graphic elements and typography. I often mix techniques and approaches from different disciplines, creating new visual languages. My art is characterized by vivid colors, expressive forms, a rebellious spirit, and strong conceptual accents.

My creative practice is always driven by ideas — never by mere “beauty.” I create to influence, to shape public opinion, and to foster critical perception. I often turn to satire and caricature, ridiculing social phenomena, human flaws, and politics. I believe that art has no boundaries, and that visual imagery communicates ideas faster than anything else — capable of changing perception itself.

R. Glier Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music

On January 18, 1868, the first music educational institution in Ukraine was founded in Kyiv. Today it is R. Glier Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music.

The founders of the performing arts schools were: pianists Mykola Lysenko, Volodymyr Pukhalskyi, Felix Blumenfeld, violinists Ivan Vodolskyi, Otakar Shevchyk, Mykhailo Erdenko, cellists M. Polyanichevskii, Vladyslav Aloiz, Friedrich Mulert, composer Reingold Glier, choir conductor Georgy Verivka, also Marko Gelis (folk instruments), Yosyp V. Shadek (music theory), Martin Petz, A. Wacker (vocals) and others.

Now R.Glier Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music-modern higher musical educational institution , which prepares specialists of the I-III educational and qualification level in the following qualifications: "Piano", "Orchestral string instruments", "Orchestral wind and percussion instruments", "Folk instruments", "Voice ", "Choir conducting", "Musicology", "Jazz studies".



Iryna Polstiankina

Head of the Educational and Methodological Department

Pianist, collaborative pianist and a musical and public figure, teacher. Honored Artist of Ukraine (2018). She graduated from the Voroshilovgrad Pedagogical Institute (now Luhansk, 1986), where she worked as collaborative pianist and as a teacher. Since 1998 she is working at the R.Glier Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music: since 2008 — Head of the Educational and Methodological Department, Associate Professor, Curator of the Academy's international creative projects and exchange programs ERASMUS+.

Since 1999 she has been the Executive Director of the International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz and President of the International Charitable Foundation of the Vladimir Horowitz Competition. She was Executive Director of the International Festivals "Kyiv Summer Musical Evenings" (since 1999), "Virtuosos of the Planet" (2006-2010), the International "Summer Music Academy" (since 2000; all Kyiv). She contributed to the high-level International Festival dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Horowitz (Kyiv, New York, Moscow, 2003), with the participation of the Prizewinners of the Vladimir Horowitz Competition. Since 2009 she has been participating in the annual General Assemblies of the World Federation of International Music Competitions and the European Union of Youth Music Competitions. On the initiative and with the support of the World Federation of International Music Competitions, she organized and facilitated a special competition in memory of Vladimir Horowitz in Geneva (Switzerland, 2023).

A black and white photograph of a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored blouse tied at the waist and dark pants. She is singing into a microphone, with her eyes closed and her left hand raised in a gesture. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a stage setting.

Oleksandra Do

Student

Oleksandra Do is a 21-year-old jazz vocalist from Cherkasy, currently based in Kyiv. She studies Jazz Art at the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music named after R. Glier, where she is now in her third year. As both a soloist and a band leader, Oleksandra performs regularly, bringing her unique voice and style to the stage. Passionate about musical detail and expression, she enjoys transcribing and creating beautiful arrangements for her band.

Kherson National Technical University

Kherson National Technical University dates its history back to 1959. Alongside with being an accelerator for regional industrial development, the University is a lodestone for artistic youth and local cultural community. Department of Information Technology and Design offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in graphic design, multimedia design, fashion and textile, and interior design. Our mission is to train visionary and creative professionals who value different cultures and approaches, and who design with empathy and responsibility towards people and environment.

For over 200 students enrolled into design programs and for local arts people, Kherson National Technical University has become a platform that enables and empowers individuals, organizations and communities through arts collaborations of a wide range. Currently, a strong focus has been paid on the issue of post-war regions' renovation and revival.



Olena Cheplyuk

Rector

After her graduation from Kherson National Technical University in 1999, Olena has been closely involved in teaching and scientific activity at her alma mater, first at the Textile Technologies Chair, then at the Design Chair which she had been directing for 13 years. From May 2022 till April 2023, she was an Acting Rector. Since July 2023, she has been rector of the University.

The scope of her scientific interests embraces theoretical problems of fabric design and fabric formation process on looms, textile design, felting, ergonomics, psychology, including psychological aspects of teaching under current challenging circumstances (covid, war, online teaching), cross-disciplinary innovations in research and teaching, and leadership in education. She is an Organizing Committee General Chair of the International scientific and practical conference "SYNERGY OF SCIENCE AND BUSINESS IN THE POST-WAR RESTORATION OF KHERSON REGION".

National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture

The Ukrainian State Academy of Arts was founded on December 18th, 1917. Its foundation marked the existence of a sovereign country. The founders of the Academy contributed to the creation of the new state symbols of Ukraine. Thus, V. Krychevsky and H. Narbut were the authors of the first banknotes, stamps, military uniforms, fonts, and heraldry of the young country. They interpreted the ancient princely trident of Volodymyr the Great as a symbol of the new Ukraine. In the early years, a solid foundation was laid for the development of painting, graphics, and sculpture. A solid foundation for national artistic pedagogy was formed. Taras Shevchenko's dreams of art education in Kyiv were given a chance to be expressed in classical visual forms.

The National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture is a recognized leading artistic and educational center of the country. The Academy is committed to the innovative creative research and identification of modern artistic trends. It cares about the preservation of classical achievements in art education and about the education of professional artists who honor the classical basic knowledge in drawing, painting and plastics. The historical achievements and current state of the leading art institution in Ukraine confirm that it meets the high status of the Academy in all aspects of its activities. The total number of students is over 1000. The Academy maintains extensive international relations with art schools around the world. Within the framework of such cooperation, the Academy carries out extensive exhibition activities outside Ukraine, and invites foreign artists and teachers to hold exhibitions, lectures, and master classes. The Academy's teachers undergo internships abroad and participate in international scientific conferences. Today, the Academy's graduates represent the Ukrainian academic school on all continents, working in creative and teaching positions.

The main focus of the Academy's international activities and its internationalization remains the training of foreign students and stateless people. The Academy is developing cooperation on academic mobility of teachers and students, participation in EU educational programs, launching joint double degree programs based on an agreement with a partner university, etc.



Oleksandr Tsuhorka

Rector

Born in 1973 in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, Tsuhorka graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in 2001. Since 2008, he has served as Professor at the Department of Painting and Composition, and in 2019 became Head of the Monumental Painting Department. In 2021, he was appointed Rector of the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture.

His creative practice spans over 300 works of easel painting and numerous monumental projects. Among his notable works are the mural paintings for Mykola Prytysk Church in Kyiv (1996), the decorative panel Allegories of Arts (2001), and over 50 icons for the Church of the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Mamayeva Sloboda (2002–2009). As a production designer at the Taras Shevchenko National Opera and Ballet Theatre (2010–2011), he created stage designs and costumes for the ballet Lord of the Borysfen by Yevhen Stankovych. His later projects include the decorative panel Apotheosis of Arts (2017) and the Memorial Museum of the Artist and Teacher Mykola Storzhenko (2018).



Uliana Pashkova

Student

I am a multidisciplinary artist and proactive student at the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Kyiv, where I study Free Graphics and Illustration. My art practice mixes traditional printmaking with experimental methods and often explores memory, identity, the body, and transformation — on both personal and collective levels.

In recent years, I have been engaging with the European artistic and educational environment, which has expanded my understanding of how art and learning can influence one another. At my academy, I help younger students as a buddy, support them in adapting, and sometimes organize small workshops to share printmaking techniques with others.

I see education as a living, evolving process that I wish to contribute to and improve. I am deeply interested in sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, and building creative communities where knowledge circulates freely and art fosters dialogue, empathy, and mutual growth across cultures.

Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design

The Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (KNUTD) is a university in Kyiv, Ukraine. Disciplines taught at KNUTD are: Education/Pedagogy, Culture and art, Humanities, Social and behavioral sciences, Management and administration, Legal Sciences, Natural Sciences, Information Technology, Mechanical engineering, Electrical engineering, Automation and instrumentation, Chemical and bioengineering, Production and Technology, Healthcare, Service sector, Public administration and administration (MBA).

The mission of the art faculty and design faculty specifically is to meet the needs of the population in quality educational services regardless of their place of residence/stay; training of competitive specialists in the field of fine arts, light industry technologies, psychology and vocational education; active participation in personal development of a person, his/her education and improvement of abilities, formation of professional competencies. It addresses the need in provision of high-quality training of specialists in fine arts, decorative arts, restoration; professional education; psychology; technologies of light industry; materials science; development of scientific research in social and behavioral sciences, culture and art, education, production and technology, transfer of technologies and innovations to the real economy; international integration of the faculty's scientific and educational activities through participation in international educational and scientific projects, competitions, exhibitions in the field of light industry technologies, culture and art, education, social and behavioral sciences, academic mobility, publication activity, etc.; provision of high-quality training of clothing design specialists; graphic design; multimedia design; environment design; development of scientific research in the field of culture and art, production and technologies; international integration of scientific and educational activities of the faculty through participation in international educational and scientific projects, competitions, exhibitions in various fields of design, academic mobility, publishing activity, etc.

A black and white portrait of Kalyna Pashkevych, a woman with shoulder-length blonde hair and bangs, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

Kalyna Pashkevych

Dean of the Faculty of Design

Kalyna Pashkevych (Ph.D. in engineering) is a professor at the Chair of Ergonomics and Fashion Designing, Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design, Ukraine. Since 2014, she has been heading the scientific laboratory 'Design-Projecting of Clothes Made of Different Materials Using Modern Information Technologies'. She is a leading lecturer in the disciplines of 'Fundamentals of Designing of Garments', 'Computer Clothing Design' and 'Modern Methods of Fashion Design'.

She is the executive editor of the scientific professional journal Art & Design. She has authored more than 200 scientific and methodical works, textbooks, monographs, articles in scientific journals, lecture notes and reports at international scientific conferences on problems of fashion design.

Kharkiv State Academy of Culture

Kharkiv State Academy of Culture (KhSAC) is a dynamic, forward-looking institution of higher education that prepares students for professional careers in a wide variety of fields of activity, such as communication and information, business and administration, social work, culture and arts. Its unique feature is that education in such different study areas is carried out in one academic complex with strong interdisciplinary links, which has made it possible for the Academy to become one of the top centres of culture and education in Ukraine.

Established in 1929, KhSAC had long been the only higher education institution providing competent specialists for the cultural sector of Ukraine. It was the first in Ukraine to start education in library and information science (LIS) and, later, in cultural studies. Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, as well as Rivne State Humanitarian University first appeared as KhSAC's affiliated institutions. Today the Academy is a modern university-type institution accredited at the highest, 4th level, providing the best education in the country in LIS and cultural studies. The Academy offers a broad range of bachelor and master degree programmes in 14 subject areas (specialities) of 7 fields of study: "Culture", "Art", "Teacher Education", "Management and Administration", "Journalism and Information", "Specific Categories", "Service Sector". Over the years of its existence the Kharkiv State Academy of Culture has educated about 40,000 professionals, including more than 400 international students from 42 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America. Many international graduates of KhSAC occupy top positions at ministries and cultural institutions in their countries.

The education process in the Academy is aimed at the formation of a creative attitude to the chosen major, to the development of practical skills which enable graduates to solve professional problems in the most effective way. The main object of teaching is to develop in future specialists the systemic approach to the solution of complicated technical and social situations, strategic thinking, social and professional mobility, life long striving for self-education and self-improvement.

A portrait of Nataliia Riabukha, a woman with shoulder-length reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue top. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. A small, ornate brooch is pinned to her left lapel. The background is a warm, textured wall.

Nataliia Riabukha

Acting Rector

Nataliia Riabukha, Doctor of Art Criticism and Professor, has served as Acting Rector of the Kharkiv State Academy of Culture since 2022. Born in Kharkiv in 1977, she graduated from the B. Lyatoshynsky Kharkiv Music College and the Kharkiv National University of Arts as a pianist, teacher, and accompanist. Affiliated with the Academy since 2001, she combines academic scholarship with teaching and leadership.

She defended her PhD thesis *The Miniature as a Phenomenon of Musical Culture* (2004) and her doctoral dissertation *The Transformation of the Sound Image of the World in Piano Culture* (2017). The author of over 130 scholarly works, including the monograph *The Sound Image of the World* (2016), her research focuses on the philosophy of sound, musical aesthetics, and piano performance.

Since 2017, Dr. Riabukha has held various leadership roles within the Academy, and as Acting Rector, she actively promotes Ukrainian culture through international cooperation and academic partnerships, positioning the Academy as a center of cultural resilience and innovation.

Mykhailo Boychuk Kyiv State Academy of Decorative and Applied Arts and Design

The Kyiv State Institute of Decorative Arts and Design named after Mikhail Boychuk was founded in December 1999 on the basis of the Kyiv Art and Industrial College. However, the "young" institute can not be considered, because it is based on the old traditions of Ukrainian national art. The institute begins its pedigree with the Drawing School of Mykola Murashko, the Kyiv Art School (1900-1920) and the Kyiv School of Applied Arts (1938 - 1957), which became the first professional school for such light-emitting Ukrainian painters as Nikolai Pymonenko, Alexander Murashko, Ivan Іжакевич, Foty Krasitsky, Kazimir Malevich, and later Alexander Arkhipenko and Ivan Kavalieridze, Anatoly Petrytsky and Oleksandr Ekster and painter-boy chemist Ivan Padalka and Vasyl Sedlyar.

The works of pupils and teachers are kept by museums of Germany, Australia, the USA, Canada, Italy, Poland, Russia, Romania, Hungary, Japan, Syria, Czech Republic and other countries. Teachers and graduates of the educational institution are authors of numerous works of art, their compositions are decorated with interiors of the palace "Ukraine", VL Vernadsky National Library, Kiev railway station, metro stations "Golden Gate," "Minsk," metro stations "Khreshchatyk" "(Ceramic panels), the Kyiv Museum of Medicine (Tripot's "Holodomor"). Among the teachers of the institute are those who participated in the revival of the Kiev shrines: St. Michael's Cathedral, the Assumption Cathedral of the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra, the monument to Princess Olga, Yaroslav the Wise; authors of monuments to Vladislav Gorodetsky, Leonid Bykov, park sculptures.

On 25 March 2024, Russian forces bombed the Mykhailo Boichuk Kyiv State Academy of Decorative Applied Arts and Design. This attack serves as a stark reminder of the targeted destruction of Ukrainian art and cultural institutions amidst the ongoing war on Ukraine. The bombardment not only caused structural devastation to the campus buildings but also put the safety of students and employees within the academy at risk. Reports indicate severe damage to the school's gym, painting studios, conference hall, and other facilities.



Kateryna Nahirniak

Senior Lecturer at the Department of Graphic Design

Kateryna's professional experience includes working in publishing houses as a graphic designer, in television projects as a production designer, and in an international media publisher, where she was engaged in the full cycle of video content production for social media.

Her creative practice is distinguished by its versatility and the combination of various forms of art. Experience in the field of media and visual content has contributed to the development of dynamic artistic thinking, the ability to work in a fast-paced environment, and a commitment to high standards of quality.

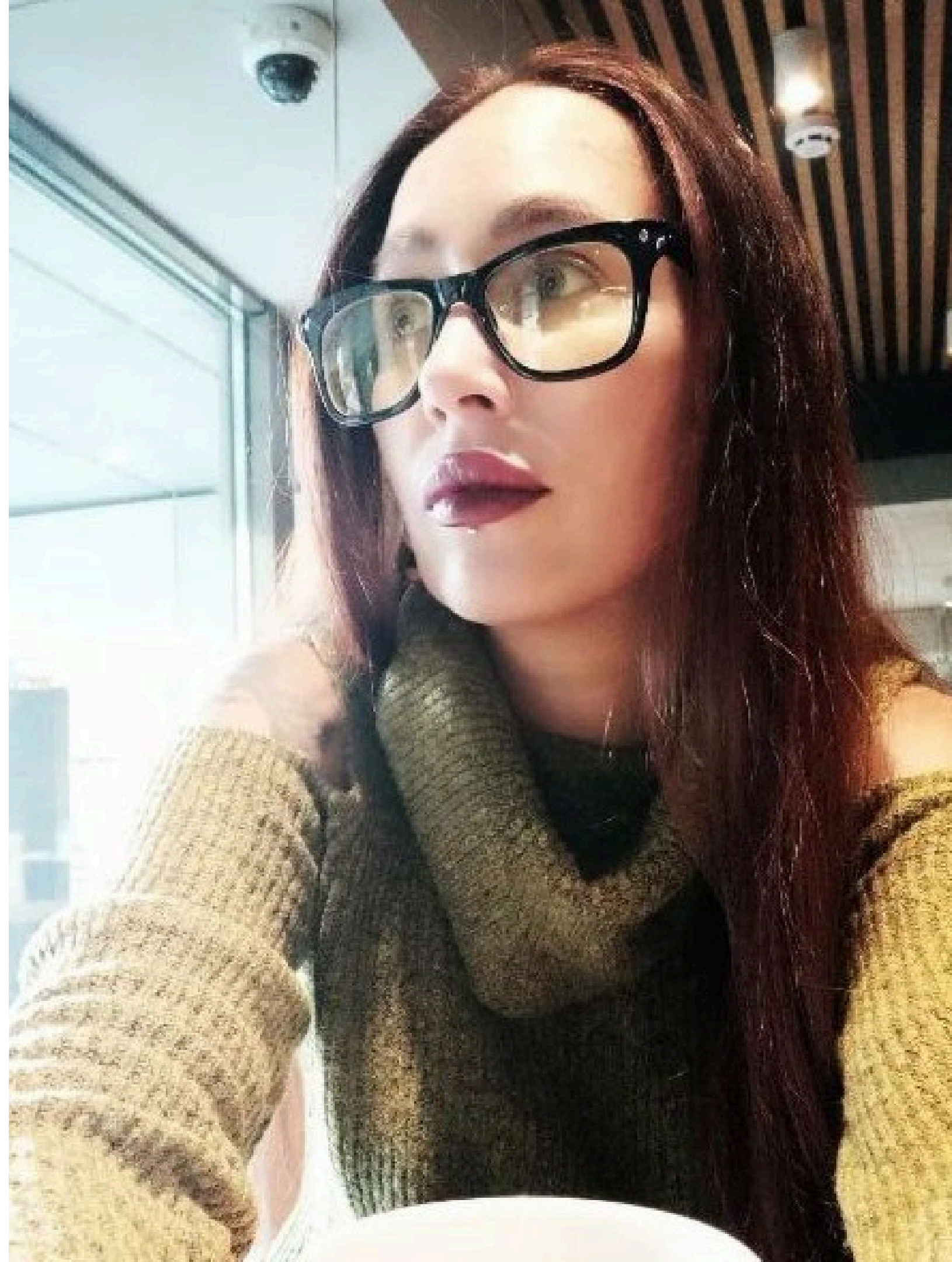
Her professional interests include contemporary ceramics, multimedia art, and graphic design.

Luhansk State Academy of Culture and Arts

It was founded on April 8, 2002, according to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, as "Luhansk State Institute of Culture and Arts". On April 2, 2012, according to the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the educational institution was renamed to "Luhansk State Academy of Culture and Arts". Until 2014, the Academy had three divisions — the Children's Academy of Arts, the College, and the Academy itself. The Academy had three faculties — culture, music and fine arts.

In 2014, after the temporary occupation of Luhansk by LPR gang formations, according to the order of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine No. 966 of November 10, 2014, the educational institution was relocated to Kyiv. Students of the academy who expressed a desire to continue their studies in the educational system of Ukraine continued their studies at the material and technical and educational and production base of the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts. The National University of Bioresources and Nature Management provided a dormitory for students of the Academy.

In October 2024, the State Service for the Quality of Education, as the central body of the executive power of Ukraine, which implements the state policy in the field of education, in particular on issues of ensuring the quality of education, published an updated rating of educational institutions of Ukraine that have a high degree of risk. In particular, the Luhansk State Academy of Culture and Arts was included in the list of educational institutions with a high degree of risk.



Yuliia Kholmakova

Representative of International Relations Department

Yuliia is a Senior Lecturer, International Relations Department representative.

She has been a senior lecturer at Luhansk State Academy of Culture and Arts since 2006, currently teaching English for professional purposes to bachelor's level students in fields such as acting and music. From 2007 to 2014 directed an amateur English theatre at the Department of Translation and Psycholinguistics, adapted and staged plays by British and American playwrights. In cooperation with actors and stage directors organized thematic events dedicated to English-speaking cultural holidays like Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas etc., enriching students' understanding of diverse traditions.

Non-Ukrainian Sister Schools

2023-2025

Estonian Academy of Arts Tallin, Estonia

Founded in 1914, the Estonian Academy of Arts is the oldest and only public university of visual culture in Estonia. The Academy offers over 30 curricula in the four faculties of Architecture, Design, Art Culture and Fine Arts.

1200 students from all parts of the world are engaged in studies and research to cultivate their analytical abilities and critical thinking with the aim to develop into environmentally and socially conscientious creators. They are taught by lecturers and instructors who are professionals in their field – internationally recognised artists, architects, designers, and scholars who provide unique, individualised study and personal mentorship in an interdisciplinary and synergetic atmosphere. EKA is listed among Top 200 Architecture and Design Universities by QS World University Rankings.

The Estonian Academy of Arts' new building, designed by its alumni, was inaugurated in 2018 and has since received over ten awards for its architecture, including interior design. Located between the picturesque UNESCO world heritage medieval Old Town and the vibrant and hip Kalamaja districts, the Academy stands as an oasis of art culture in the midst.

A black and white portrait of Anne Pikkov, a woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a light-colored collared shirt. She is looking slightly to the left with a gentle smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

Anne Pikkov

Vice-rector for Academic Affairs

Anne is an experienced administrator, educator, and Art Director with a robust trajectory of contributions to both industry and academia. She joined the Estonian Academy of the Arts as a visiting teacher in 1998; she has been leading the Continuing Education Department since 2006 and in addition took on the position of Vice-Rector in 2014. Anne serves on several boards as part of her service to the profession, including qArted of Nordic-Baltic Network, the Estonian Academy of Arts Foundation, and The Union of Estonian Graphic Designers.

Anne is the recipient of numerous awards for her work as a children's books illustrator and designer; her publications and work are included in exhibitions nationally and throughout Europe on an ongoing basis. In 2016 she was recognized with the "Raisin of the Year" award for most extraordinary children's book. Anne holds a BA and MA degree in Graphic Design from the Estonian Academy of the Arts.



Sandra Mell

Head of International Relations

Sandra has been involved in several projects and networks regionally and globally, and is currently also active in ELIA PIE group. On February 24, 2022, on Estonian Independence Day, EKA decided to open its doors and hearts to Ukrainian refugee students and she was a keen and vocal advocate, among many in ELIA, for opening the mobility funding schemes (i.e ERASMUS and Nordplus) to the ones in need the most this year. She is a believer in international education and convinced that mobility and exchange, also ERASMUS programme (perhaps without its too high ambitious digitalisation aims) will make this world still a better place.

Royal College of Music Stockholm, Sweden

The Royal College of Music, Stockholm (Swedish: Kungliga Musikhögskolan i Stockholm) is the oldest institution of higher education in music in Sweden, founded in 1771 as the conservatory of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music. The institution was made independent of the Academy in 1971 and is now a public authority directly under the Ministry of Education and Research. Vice-chancellor from June 2019 is Helena Wessman, former general manager of Berwaldhallen.



Anna Maria Koziomtzis

Head of Academy

Anna Maria Koziomtzis is an esteemed music education professional with extensive experience in leadership, academic management, and performance arts education. Based in the Greater Stockholm Metropolitan Area, she currently holds the position of Head of Academy at the Royal College of Music (Kungliga Musikhögskolan) in Stockholm, a role she has fulfilled since July 2018. In this capacity, she oversees the Academy of Classical Music, Composing, Conducting, and Music Theory, contributing significantly to the institution's academic and artistic direction. Prior to her current position, Anna Maria was Head of Department at the Royal College of Music from July 2015 to June 2018, where she provided strategic and operational leadership. Her earlier tenure at the University of Gothenburg further highlights her robust academic background. From October 2013 to July 2014, she served as Senior Lecturer and Acting Head of Department at the Academy of Music and Drama. Between 2006 and 2012, she held roles as Senior Lecturer and Senior Faculty Administrator, specializing in the Opera and Musical Theatre programs. Anna Maria's academic qualifications include a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Music Education from the University of Gothenburg. She is well-regarded for her expertise in lecturing, musical theatre, and curriculum development, with her skills endorsed by peers and colleagues across institutions.

Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology Warsaw, Poland

PJAIT is a university founded in 1994 by the Foundation for the Development of Information Technology, established on the basis of an agreement between the governments of Poland and Japan in 1993. It was entered into the register of non-state higher education schools by the decision of the Minister of National Education of November 30, 1994.

PJAIT offers education at the bachelor's, engineer's, master's, postgraduate and doctoral levels. It has the right to award the academic degree of doctor of technical sciences in computer science and mechanics , as well as doctor of fine arts in the discipline of fine arts. Its educational offer includes studies in: Computer Science, Informational Management, New Media Arts (Graphics Design), Interior Design, and the Culture of Japan.

The university has signed agreements with 31 universities in Europe and 7 in Japan regarding student exchange. It also has agreements related to teaching staff and conducting joint research, projects, training and organizing scientific conferences.



Anna Eichler

Artist and educator

Anna Eichler is a visual artist and educator working in the Faculty of New Media Art at the Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology in Warsaw, Poland. She specialises in oil painting and mural painting. In PJAiT, Anna Eichler teaches Visual Literacy – Drawing and Colour, Illustration, and Mural Design and Techniques. She is the leader in foundation teaching for the zero-year and first-year graphic design students, working with them during regular classes and international workshops, like Social Design Course, Creativity! and Open-Air, among others.

In the past five years, Anna Eichler has had two individual exhibitions, participated in group exhibitions, and, as the art director of Redsheels, produced and painted over 15 murals in Poland with her crew. One of her most important projects is 'Women of Liberty' in Gdańsk – a 400 square meters mural commemorating the vital role that women of all ages and classes played in the Solidarity movement in Poland. Redsheels – the female mural painting crew supported women in the mural industry and trained them in mural painting, production and design, realising art and social design projects or grass-root projects, rather than painting advertisements.

London Contemporary Dance School ***London, UK***

London Contemporary Dance School (informally LCDS) is a contemporary dance school located in London, England. Previously part of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama, since 2022 LCDS has been independently registered with the Office for Students. It was founded by Robin Howard in 1966 to train new dancers for his company, London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

London Contemporary Dance School and its partner company, London Contemporary Dance Theatre, were founded in 1966 under the governance of the Contemporary Dance Trust. After receiving support from its founder, Robin Howard, the Contemporary Dance Trust moved to 17 Duke's Road in 1969, which it renamed The Place. In 1982, LCDS began offering a BA Honours degree in Contemporary Dance, validated by the University of Kent.

LCDS teaches a variety of contemporary dance techniques including release-based, Limón, Humphrey and Contact Improvisation, as well as dance and performance styles including hip-hop/groove, authentic jazz, circus skills, flying low and South Asian dance techniques. As part of its courses LCDS also offers pilates, body conditioning, free electives in Choreology, Anatomy and Scenography, and ballet studies. The course is developed on the principles of periodisation, a training method developed from sport science using the strategic planning of training, performances, and rest periods to optimize physical and psychological wellbeing. LCDS provides both undergraduate and postgraduate vocational training as well as a PhD research programme in contemporary dance.



Josh Slater

Director of Higher Education

Josh Slater is Director of Higher Education: Pedagogy & Enhancement at London Contemporary Dance School, The Place, and a dance artist-researcher. He has over a decade of experience across universities and conservatoires, specialising in curriculum innovation, quality enhancement and inclusive teaching practice. His doctoral research at Coventry University's Centre for Dance Research explores falling as a choreographic practice of risk, resilience and repetition. Josh publishes in peer-reviewed journals and edited collections, serves as Assistant Editor for *Choreographic Practices*, and contributes to the sector as an external examiner, trustee and mentor.

Film University Babelberg Konrad Wolf Potsdam, Germany

It is a place of independent research, teaching and art. Founded in 1954, it is Germany's largest film school with an international reputation.

In July 2014, it became the first German film school to achieve university status. With its unique interdisciplinary educational profile, successful productions and innovative research projects, the film university makes a decisive contribution to the future of moving image media. Knowledge and insights, innovative audiovisual formats, as well as services, technologies, ideas and experiences are transferred to companies and society. In addition, the only art university in the state of Brandenburg is a place of cultural and political debate.

Not only as a place to study, but also as a place to work, the Filmuniversität Babelsberg is inspiring and versatile, offering creative as well as dedicated people an excellent working environment. It is an integral part of Babelsberg's media city with close ties to Berlin. There is no other place in Germany where film history, present and future are so concentrated together. The university also benefits from the efficient science and research structure of its immediate surroundings. Potsdam is the city in Germany with the highest density of scientists - each of the major German research communities is represented here.

A portrait of Susanne Stürmer, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a grey t-shirt and a red and white patterned scarf. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a red wall and a white structure.

Susanne Stürmer

President

Dr Susanne Stürmer is president of Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF since October 2013. Prior to this, she was Managing Director at UFA, Germany's largest Film and TV production company. In October 2011 she became part-time professor at Film University, teaching new media / online production. Susanne Stürmer studied Economics, holds a PhD in this field and has long experience in media and film.

Film University Babelsberg received university status in June 2014. Since being president, Susanne manages the process of sharpening the university's unique profile together with all members of the university. While further strengthening the successful film development and production work of the school, the Film University builds her research profile with the three pillars art, technology and science. From September 2016, a new scientific/artistic PhD amends the program. In parallel a number of new and innovative teaching and research programs and formats, also integrating external partners, were developed. Susanne puts a strong effort in tightening the relationship between the school and the film and media companies in Germany and worldwide as well as between the film schools in Germany.

Susanne Stürmer is vice chair of the board of the media industry network media.net in Berlin-Brandenburg, elected representative of the state of Brandenburg at the advisory board of ZDF (largest public broadcaster in Germany) and member of the arbitration committee of the broadcaster ARD. Since December 2016 she is a member of the ELIA Representative Board. In November 2022, she is running for election to become President of ELIA.

Berklee College of Music Valencia Valencia, Spain

Since 2012, Berklee College of Music has also operated a campus in Valencia, Spain. Berklee València is the Berklee College of Music's first international campus, housed in the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía. Queen Sofía Palace of the Arts is the final structure built as part of a grand City of Arts and Sciences concept designed by the Valencia-born and internationally known architect Santiago Calatrava, which began construction in 1995 and was opened on 8 October 2005.

Berklee's campus in València regularly offers unique programs in contemporary music. These include clinics, workshops, and seminars as well as short, concentrated sessions in areas such as performance, flamenco, film scoring, music business, technology and production, and education.

It also offers a two-week summer performance program in addition to the five-week program in Boston.

Simone Pilon

Executive Director

Simone Pilon is the executive director for Berklee Valencia, responsible for the vision, strategic direction, and day-to-day operations of all areas of the Valencia campus. She is charged with the development and execution of Berklee's academic strategy on the Valencia campus, including new programs and partnerships, career development and student success efforts, and community outreach. Prior to assuming this role, Pilon served as dean of academic affairs at the Valencia campus, where she played a leading role in academic strategy, overseeing the graduate and undergraduate programs, academic records and services, library, and technology. Pilon joined Berklee Valencia in 2020. She previously served as chair of Berklee's Liberal Arts Department in Boston, serving students at both Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Prior to Berklee, Pilon worked as a professor of French and director of international studies at Franklin College in Indiana. As a faculty member, she taught French language and literature as well as interdisciplinary and study abroad courses. As director of international studies, she led campus internationalization efforts, including developing and nurturing partnerships and overseeing short-term and faculty-led study abroad programs. Pilon co-edited the book *Woodstock Then and Now: A 50th Anniversary Celebration* (Clemson University Press) with Berklee faculty member Alex Ludwig. She also prepared a student edition of Louis Hémon's novel *Maria Chapdelaine* with Molière and Company. She has published articles and book reviews in international journals and has served as a technical reviewer for the series of CliffsNotes, Dummies, and Everything books. She has presented on topics relating to French language and literature, pedagogy, and internationalization at national and international conferences. Pilon has traveled, studied, and worked internationally, including as a Fulbright-Hays scholar to Morocco and Tunisia. She holds a PhD in Québécois literature from Université Laval and an MA in French literature from McGill University.

UAx Day - 14/10/25

HKU University of the Arts Utrecht, The Netherlands

HKU University of the Arts Utrecht, the Netherlands, distinguishes itself with higher education in the arts and media. We are a driving force in courses and innovation for the creative industries, and one of the large art universities in Europe. HKU has nine schools with a total of 4400 students: Fine Art, Design, Music and Technology, Games and Interaction, Art and Economics, Media, Utrechts Conservatorium, Theatre and Creative Transformation.

Through art, we contribute to innovation – in established and emerging professional practices, in the creative industry and in the cultural sector. This is reflected in our slogan: 'The art of HKU: new practices, new solutions'.

The world is changing rapidly. We believe that collaboration between art disciplines and between art and other domains contributes to innovation. It also increases our ability to adapt in times of social change. For over 35 years, this belief has inspired our major contribution to innovating the professional creative sector and our response to topical social issues.

A portrait of Marjanne Paardekooper, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair and bangs, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue top. The background is a plain, light color.

Marjanne Paardekooper

Head Research Development

During the last three years, I have been active as Director of the Centre for Research, Innovation and Internationalization at HKU University of the Arts Utrecht in the Netherlands. Prior to that, I was Programme Manager Creative Design for Development and Research Moderator at the same University, with a special focus on R&D projects for Art and Technology, Media, Music and Technology and Art and Economics in Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana, Vietnam, Indonesia, South Korea and Costa Rica. Board Activity outside of ELIA: At Le Grand Cru, a Dutch non-profit organisation that creates international productions and professionalisation programmes with dance companies from non-Western cultures.

Board Activity ELIA: Part of the team that supported the development of ELIA when it was established 28 years ago. Member of the Representative Board since 2014. Coordinator of the ELIA Working Group Art in Education since June 2018. HKU University of the Arts Utrecht is one of the Supporting Members of ELIA.

Stockholm University of the Arts

Stockholm, Sweden

Stockholm University of the Arts (SKH) provides education and conducts research in circus, dance, film, media, opera, and theatre. Through pioneering education and research we create conditions for the arts as dynamic, challenging and independent forces in society. SKH's students, doctoral students, teachers and researchers together contribute to a university environment that dives deeply into specific art practices while encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration.

SKH is at the forefront of artistic research in Sweden, and in 2016 became the first artistic research institution in Sweden to start admitting doctoral students. Research is closely woven into everything done here. There are currently over 20 doctoral students, over 50 ongoing research projects, several recurring conferences and a research journal in VIS – Nordic Journal for Artistic Research.

Being admitted to a study programme at SKH should always be special. Many programmes are only available here nationally, and some are unique in the whole world – narrow specialist programmes on the international cutting edge, bachelor's programmes with student productions embedded in the heart of the arts world, master's programmes that challenge professional practices in new ways. There are currently around 500 students at SKH.

Jonatan Palmqvist

Director of Administration

I am University Director at Stockholm University of the Arts, Stockholms Konstnärliga Högskola, SKH.

I lead the administration, and my mandate is to ensure that the university as a whole works towards its overarching strategic goals. My background is in economics, and I have previously served as Chief Financial Officer in the public sector, related to the arts field. In my current role, I focus on fostering collaboration between administrative support and academic teaching and research.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family and running marathons.



Therese Kruse

Director of Educational Administration

I am the Director of the Educational Administration Department which includes the International Office.

LUCA School of Arts Ghent, Belgium

LUCA School of Arts is a creative hub for nearly 5,000 people: over 4,000 students and 800 colleagues. LUCA offers them an educational and research environment to further develop their creative talent. We do this through higher education programs in the broad field of the arts, and through artistic research, embedded within an associated Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven. LUCA has campuses in four cities: Ghent, Brussels, Leuven, and Genk.

LUCA is a multidisciplinary educational and research environment where creative talent can develop and flourish artistically, performing-wise, and technically. LUCA promotes the practice of art and creative design, as well as the development of innovative insights. LUCA offers integrated training in which practice, research, and reflection go hand in hand. Space for choice, cross-connections, and specializations is offered and encouraged, and an attitude of lifelong learning is encouraged. This training enables students to fully develop their ambitions and engage in a creative society, each with their own profile.

Through strong networks, both with partners in the educational field and with leading cultural organizations and actors from the profit and non-profit sectors, students and lecturers have the opportunity to disseminate their teaching and research activities from a broad perspective on an international platform. Respect for authenticity, diversity and integrity form the basic principles that inspire the university of applied sciences in its view of humanity and society. Inspired by the valuable and multifaceted Christian ideology, LUCA aims to carry out its mission in dialogue with and in the service of an open, sustainable, pluralistic, and culturally diverse society.

Geert Werkers

Vice Dean of Education

I am currently the Vice Dean of Education at LUCA School of Arts. Trained as an audio-visual maker, I previously ran my own studio, Sien, the Art of Exposure, as Head of Design (www.sien.be). During this time, I developed my expertise in the disclosure of art and heritage. My goal is to provide young people with a strong foundation for their future, and I believe that studying arts and design is an excellent tool to achieve this. It challenges students across a wide range of competences and skills. ELIA, particularly the UAx program, aligns perfectly with this goal and adds the intercultural dimension that I highly value.

School of Arts and Design, Polytechnic of Leiria Leiria, Portugal

The School of Arts and Design (ESAD.CR) is nationally and internationally recognised for its creative teaching methodologies and applied research. Founded in 1988, this school attracts students from all over the world every academic year. ESAD.CR currently has around 1,600 students and over 130 experienced teachers, who have been internationally distinguished in the most wide-ranging creative areas.

A black and white portrait of Cláudia Pernencar, a woman with short dark hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a dark top and large, light-colored earrings. The background is a light, textured grey.

Cláudia Pernencar

Dean

Cláudia holds a Ph.D. in Digital Media from NOVA FCSH (Austin Texas University CoLab Program). She is a Professor at [ESAD.CR](#), Polytechnic of Leiria, where she teaches Design for Health and Wellbeing, Translation Design, and Multimedia Design. As an ICNOVA/NOVA FCSH researcher, she has been collaborating with FIOCRUZ-CE in Brazil on scientific projects related to digital health and public basic health, particularly among vulnerable populations in Brazilian communities.

In 2022, she co-founded the Portuguese startup UXVolution and the greatest strength of it is identifying points of innovation in digital health through Design practices.

Organizers and Contributors of the UAx Day

OCTOBER 14, 2025



Mary Jane Jacob

Director

Abakanowicz Charitable

Foundation

Mary Jane Jacob is a curator and writer who championed public, site-specific, and socially engaged art in the US as a shared practice and public discourse through the landmark exhibitions “Places with a Past” and “Places with a Future” in Charleston, South Carolina; “Culture in Action” in Chicago; and “Conversations at the Castle” during the Atlanta Olympics. Previously as chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and Los Angeles, she had staged some of the first US shows of American and European artists. Then probing creative practitioners’ relationship to audiences and society she co-edited *Buddha Mind in Contemporary Art*, *Learning Mind: Experience into Art*, *Chicago Makes Modern*, and the *Chicago Social Practice History Series*. Her book, *Dewey for Artists*, published by the University of Chicago Press, narrates these themes as lived and promoted by the socially progressive American philosopher John Dewey. Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, her major touring exhibition of avantgarde Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz will open at Tate Modern in London in November 2022.



Verinoka Skliarova

General Director of the NGO ART DOT, founder of Art Therapy Force

Veronika Skliarova is a Ukrainian cultural manager, theatre producer, and art curator whose work sits at the intersection of artistic innovation and health care. Director general of the NGO ART DOT and the founder of Art Therapy Force, a pioneering initiative that integrates trauma-informed art practices into Ukraine's cultural and educational sectors. Art Therapy Force works with multimodal approaches in art therapy, collaborating with universities, hospitals, and international partners to train artists and therapists in supporting communities affected by war, displacement, and trauma.

Skliarova is also the program director of Parade-Fest, a multidisciplinary festival based in Kharkiv that explores themes of identity, inclusion, and civic engagement through performance and public art. Notable theatre productions are: "Crimea, 5 a.m.," (Kyiv-London), "With fire and rage" (Liverpool), and "Lesia. History" (Lviv), etc which have been staged across Ukraine and Europe. Following the full-scale invasion in 2022, she launched Anthology24, a collection of contemporary Ukrainian theatre texts that document the cultural and emotional landscape of wartime Ukraine. In 2023, she participated in the Scotland-Ukraine Art Residencies program at Cove Park, focusing on the global dispersion of Ukrainian art and the resilience of cultural identity in exile. Following the residency results, she curated the second day, "Migration" of the main event on culture strategy in Ukraine, the Congress of Culture. Project Healing Arts week in Lviv has become an important Arts and Health event in Ukraine. Veronika is the WHO research coordinator on "Arts and Health asset map". Through her multifaceted work, Skliarova continues to shape Ukraine's cultural response to crisis, using art as both a tool for resistance and a pathway to healing.



Christopher Bailey

World Health Organization & co-founder of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab

Christopher Bailey is the Arts and Health Lead at the World Health Organization and a co-founder of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab. The lab focuses on the evidence base for the health benefits of the arts by building up a global network of research centers to look at effective practice as well as the foundational science of why the arts may benefit physical, mental and social wellbeing. The emphasis of the program is supporting underserved communities around the world. Through its Healing Arts activities, the program also engages with the global media and communities to promote pro-health messaging and build solidarity on health issues through all media. Educated at Columbia and Oxford Universities as well as the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, after a career as a professional actor and playwright, Bailey joined the Rockefeller Foundation as their Research Manager, and from there was recruited to WHO where he led the Health Informatics work and later their on-line communications team before starting the Arts and Health program.

As an ambassador for the field, Bailey has also performed original pieces such as Stage 4: Cancer and the Imagination, Strangers in Time: transgenerational trauma and the arts, and The Vanishing Point: A journey into Blindness and Perception, in venues around the world, from the Hamwe Festival in Rwanda, to the Wellcome Collection in London, to the World Bank in DC, as well as Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in NY, the LA Opera, LACMA, and Warner Bros Studios in LA, and the Conservatory of Music in San Francisco, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Budapest Opera, the National Theatre of the Ukraine, and the Kennedy Center among many others. The basic message of his work is to amplify the WHO definition of health which states that health is not merely the absence of disease and infirmity, but the attainment of the highest level of physical, mental and social wellbeing. The arts have uniquely evolved to do just that.



Cees de Graaff

Strategic Consultant

Cees de Graaff is a leader in the international cultural sector with over 25 years of experience directing diverse cultural organizations.

Throughout his career, he has spearheaded strategic collaborations involving artists, creative industries, governmental bodies, and civil society, championing the power of culture to bridge divides and foster mutual understanding. His dedication has demonstrated that cultural partnerships can overcome political, economic, and social challenges to inspire recognition and empathy. In 2023, Cees transitioned into independent consultancy, leveraging his strategic management expertise to advise organizations globally.

He currently supports initiatives such as 'Ro3kvit: Urban Coalition for Ukraine,' focusing on organizational development and fair practices, and collaborates with various institutions on enhancing international impact. Cees' expertise includes executive coaching, temporary management, project oversight, and strategic development for cultural outreach.

He holds a Master's degree in Social Studies from the University of Amsterdam and has completed advanced coaching training. His past roles include serving as President of the EU National Institutes for Culture and board leadership in multiple cultural organizations. He remains committed to empowering leaders and fostering the resilience of cultural institutions worldwide.



Rebecca Duclos

Concordia University, Canada & Chair of UAx, representative board member ELIA

Professor of Art History Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University. Over the past decade, I have held senior administrative positions in Canada and America. I recently concluded my mandate as Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec and was previously Graduate Dean at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

My career has spanned numerous continents and has also involved work in the cultural, as well as academic, sector as a professional curator in arts and design organisations and museums. While my PhD is in Art History and Visual Studies from the University of Manchester, my earlier degrees were in Museum Studies, Art Education, and Classical Civilization and Near Eastern Archaeology (all taken in Canada). With equal interests in contemporary art and material culture analysis, arts administration and independent artistic and curatorial practice, I have been fortunate to have a broad and wonderfully challenging career. On the international level, I have had the great privilege to be a multi-year reviewer for international applications for both the Fulbright Program and the American Association of American Women.



Silke Lange

*Univeristy of the Arts London,
Central Saint Martins, UK*

Associate Dean of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement and Reader. Silke Lange is a member of the ELIA Advocacy Sounding Board and over the past few years has had active involvement with ELIA events and initiatives.

Silke is an artist, educator, and researcher.

She has over twenty years' experience in creative arts education in a variety of roles and organisations, across levels and subjects, and geographical borders. She is Associate Dean of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement and Reader in Hybrid and Participatory Pedagogies at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Silke is an advocate for intercultural dialogue through collaborative and participatory practices in arts and design that set and support agendas for social change. She promotes the application of creative processes to challenge societal perspectives and transforming institutional structures through innovative and propositional forms of practices.



Maria Hansen

European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA)

Maria Hansen has been Executive Director of ELIA since 2017. Born and raised in Germany, she holds an MBA from the University of Ottawa (Canada). She worked in the management of the performing arts for more than 30 years, in Canada and the Netherlands.

Prior to joining ELIA, she was managing director of the Municipal Theatre and Concerthall Philharmonie in Haarlem, Netherlands, running an organisations of more than 100 staff.

Maria served as board member of many organisations, including the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) from 2009–2016. She received ISPA's Patrick Hayes Award honoring transformative leadership in 2020. Maria is a member of the University Council of Nuremberg University of Music in Germany, board member of Oorkaan, and (until recently) the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. She chairs the Hogenbijn Foundation which awards two annual prizes in film making and classical music in the Netherlands.



Uliana Furiv

European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA)

Uliana is the UAx Platform Manager responsible for overseeing the implementation of the UAx Platform from 2023-2025. Through the UAx project, she supports war-affected art students in Ukraine and the capacity building of their higher arts education institutions.

She was born and raised in Ukraine and completed her undergraduate studies at Wesleyan University in Nebraska, USA and Chernivtis National University in Ukraine. She holds an MSc in Research and Innovation in Higher Education from the University of Tampere, with a thesis on Ukrainian Higher Education During Armed Conflict: Perspectives of Crisis Management.

Prior to relocating from Ukraine last year, she was living in Paris, France overseeing an international research project on flexible learning pathways at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning from 2018-2022.



Dasha Lohvynova

European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA)

Dasha is the UAx Platform Coordinator, responsible for the operational and practical aspects of the project.

Originally from Ukraine, Dasha moved to the Netherlands in 2019 to pursue studies in art history at Leiden University, where she earned a BA in Arts, Media & Society. In 2024, she earned MA in Cultural Heritage from the University of Amsterdam.

Alongside her work with UAx, Dasha is an independent art historian and researcher focusing on contemporary Ukrainian art and the cultural dynamics of the so-called Eastern Europe. She also develops curatorial projects and writes about art, identity, and heritage.