

University Professor in Design Studies

Salary Scale: W3

The University of Art Braunschweig (HBK Braunschweig) is establishing a new institute specialising in design, and is looking to appoint a University Professor in Design Studies (salary scale: W3) from 01.04.2027.

This is a permanent appointment. The successful applicant will be appointed as a civil servant in accordance with German civil service regulations, if applicable, or otherwise as an employee.

HBK Braunschweig is an internationally orientated university specialising in the arts that is entitled to award doctoral degrees and grant 'Habilitationen' (professorial qualifications). With around 1,000 students enrolled in the fields of Fine Arts, Art Education, Performing Arts, Design and Design Studies, Visual Communication, Art Studies and Media Studies, HBK Braunschweig is among the major universities of the arts in Germany.

HBK Braunschweig is embarking on a comprehensive restructure of its design departments. Alongside the establishment of a new faculty and the appointment of several new professors, the existing degree programmes in this area are undergoing redevelopment. This process is largely based on the profound change in the concept of design brought about by the impending ecological and social transformation.

Tasks and responsibilities

The focus of the new professorship in Design Studies is the analytical investigation of design as product, process and medium (including its functional aspects) in its cultural and societal environment. The appointee will be tasked with equipping students with the academic and theoretical foundations they need to engage with the concept and practice of design, and will implement a culture of research through design. They will make an ongoing contribution to the development of the theory of design, especially in the areas of product and communication design. They will consider the history, culture and mediality of design, with an especial interest in its development and positioning within current understandings of the discipline. This will include an analysis of the material culture of artefacts along with the foundations of semiotic theory, to enable an understanding of aesthetic, especially visual, signifiers. The role will further include considerations of the history of design as an academic discipline, the development of various fields and tools of design and how these have changed over time and the place of design within society as a whole.

Teaching and research will thus mainly be in the areas of design theory, design processes and design history. Ideally, the new professor will also engage with the question of how design is taught as a school subject, e.g., in secondary schools, especially in terms of product language and design thinking.

Requirements for employment:

- University degree in the field of design.
- Doctoral degree.
- A Habilitation degree (entitling the holder to teach at professorial level) or equivalent
- Proven teaching ability demonstrated through teaching experience in a relevant subject which includes the skills necessary to teach the foundations of all design degree programmes offered by the HBK.

The requirements of the position are defined under Section 25 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (Niedersächsisches Hochschulgesetz, NHG).

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following experience and qualifications:

- Outstanding expertise in the practice of design, with a profound and broad knowledge of the various aspects of design described above.
- A strong record of relevant publications, public talks and other forms of participation in contemporary design discourse.
- An international track record of research which will help to foster and grow a culture of innovation and transformation as the basis for the restructured institute and complement its research specialisms.
- Relevant experience and willingness to pioneer and deliver new research projects and attract significant external funding.
- Willingness to supervise doctoral students.
- Willingness to actively engage with the whole spectrum of academic self-governance.
- It is vital that the new post-holder has the willingness and skillset to play an active role in planning and developing restructuring processes at the HBK.
- Fluency in written and spoken German to at least C1 level of the Common European Reference Framework. This is due to the unique organisational requirements that are connected with the development of the new degree programmes, in addition to the fact that teaching will be conducted in German. The ability to teach in English, however, is also highly desirable.

We are particularly interested in candidates who can offer experience in developing new degree programmes and who have an interest in collaborative processes and in the ongoing development of a team-oriented workplace through cross-departmental and collaborative teaching. The successful applicant will see themselves as part of a broad interdisciplinary network. They will be familiar with currents of contemporary cultural thought and be capable of integrating socio-political discourse into their teaching in a responsible, considered way. They must also demonstrate a clear interest in integrating the topic of sustainable development into their understanding and teaching of design.

As a requirement of the position, all candidates are expected to demonstrate social and leadership competencies and to promote equality and diversity, and to make a positive contribution to combating discrimination at the university. All candidates must demonstrate excellent communication skills and the competence to work with other departments across the university in order to promote an integrated approach to teaching and learning.

We are pleased to announce that thanks to the success of our efforts in the area of equal opportunities, the HBK Braunschweig fully meets the requirements of the Lower Saxony Equalities Act and the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act in ensuring women are equally represented on our staff. We welcome applications from all genders.

Subject to the same provisions, preference will also be given to disabled candidates (please enclose evidence of the relevant disability with your application).

The HBK Braunschweig cultivates a culture of diversity. We therefore particularly welcome from candidates who will increase the diversity of our staff and student body or who are actively working towards a culture of diversity.



The HBK Braunschweig is a member of the Dual Career Network (South-East Lower Saxony) and offers support to candidates and their families in managing dual careers.

Due to the especial requirements of the restructuring process, this position is not suitable for part-time employment.

Please submit your application including a cover letter, CV, relevant degree certificates and transcripts, list of publications and previous teaching experience, an outline of your approach to teaching and a list of externally funded projects that you have led or participated in **by 15.03.2026** stating „Application W3 Design Studies“ in the subject line to berufungen@hbk-bs.de. Documents should be **submitted as a single PDF** file no larger than 20 MB. Please note that applications submitted in other file formats will not be accepted.

Unfortunately, we are unable to reimburse any costs in relation to your application.

Personal data provided as part of your application will be processed by HBK Braunschweig on the basis of the following legislation: Section 88, Lower Saxony Civil Servant Act (NBG) (for German civil servants) or Section 12, Lower Saxony Data Protection Act in conjunction with Section 88 NBG (for employees who are not civil servants). Should your application be unsuccessful, all documents and data relating to your application and all personal data will be destroyed/deleted six months after the recruitment and selection process is legally completed. Detailed information regarding data protection during the recruitment process can be found [here](#).

Enquiries in relation to the application process should be addressed to Ms Carina Haas at berufungen@hbk-bs.de, or by phone at +49 (0)531 / 391 9343.