

China Academy of Art 2026 International Student (Doctoral Program Taught in English) Admissions Major Catalog

Degree Type	Discipline Code & Name	Admission Direction Code	Major Direction	Major Direction Introduction	Admissions Supervisor (Group)	Instructors	Requirement of Study Plan	Faculty
Academic Doctorate	Design Studies 140300	1	Design Inter-discipline & Visual Communication	Design Inter-discipline represents a systematic framework that explores the interdisciplinary relationships of design studies with the natural sciences, and with the humanities and social sciences. Visual communication, on the other hand, employs visual language as a means to socially narrate these interdisciplinary connections through communication channels. The focus of this research direction lies in connecting visual tracing and genealogical design rooted in the real world and its content production; value extraction and narrative design centered on brand systems and their community communication; and communication strategies and holistic design utilizing omni-media integration and its spatial platforms. Ultimately, this research aims to integrate the two major academic domains of visual communication and design humanities through a holistic perspective and comprehensive thinking, encapsulating their exterior and interior dimensions.	Jiang Jun Chen Zhengda	Patricia Parsons Allan Parsons	Freely discuss based on the research direction.	School of Visual Communication
		2	Industrial Design Practice and Theoretical Research	While engaging in rigorous research on global cultures, this study examines and foregrounds the relationship between China's ancient, modern, and contemporary design culture and its social development. It strives to achieve a deep synthesis of Chinese and Western learning, pursuing multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research through the concept and mindset of cultural comparison. In particular, it adopts a scientific approach and an ecological thinking to track worldwide academic progress and technological achievements across multiple fields. On this basis, it selects meaningful research topics to systematically investigate various dimensions of Chinese culture, while also exploring pressing issues in the development of design cultures globally. The study seeks to present contemporary Chinese academic perspectives, invite professionals worldwide who are committed to comparative cultural studies to join this endeavor, and articulate a rational and meaningful "Chinese voice" on the global academic stage—thereby contributing to a new model of scholarly research for the new era.	Fang Hai Wang Yun Liu Zheng Lin Lu	Helena Hyvonen Tapani Hyvonen	This direction encompasses research on product innovation design from regional culture to intelligent technology. Please elaborate on relevant design research and practice by drawing on your own academic background and future development.	School of Industrial Design

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Professional Doctorate	Design 135700	3	Design for Social Innovation & Visual Communication	This research direction is based on the definition of “social design” that emphasizes design as a driver of social innovation, as well as the thematic project-based pedagogical model and social practice derived therefrom. Specifically, it employs visual communication as the primary means of content production, collaboration, and knowledge sharing to promote technological evolution and organizational innovation aligned with overarching social development goals—including dynamic equilibrium and sustainable development. At the same time, by focusing on thematic areas such as ecological design, spontaneous design, participatory design, design for healing, and social innovation service design, it provides theoretical synthesis and pedagogical guidance for a vertically integrated, practice-oriented project-based curriculum spanning bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels. Furthermore, it introduces sociality as a shared value across all design disciplines encompassed by design studies, establishing it as the foundational ethics of designers and a fundamental attribute of design itself.	Jiang Jun Bi Xuefeng Zheng Chao	Patricia Parsons Allan Parsons	Freely discuss based on the research direction.	School of Visual Communication
		4	Design for Product Innovation	This research focuses on comparative studies of Chinese and Western design culture; the interrelationships among design, crafts art, and technological innovation in the context of globalization and the AI era; and comprehensive and comparative studies of visual cultures across China, the West, and the world. It emphasizes the dual importance of both “design” and “design research,” adopting a “mega-design” perspective that moves from the disciplinary to the interdisciplinary and even to the trans-disciplinary. The ultimate goal is to cultivate top-tier innovative talents with strong design, narrative, interactive, and empathetic abilities.	Wang Yun Zhang Junjie	Helena Hyvonen Tapani Hyvonen	Freely discuss based on the research direction.	School of Industrial Design
		5	Digital Technology Design	This research direction is situated within the context of big data and artificial intelligence, pursuing comprehensive innovation design led by artistic vision and enabled by digital technologies and technological literacy. Grounded in the department’s mission to “reinvent the everyday, restore design’s humanistic spirit,” this research takes sociological inquiry as its starting point, embraces the integration of art and science as its methodological pathway, and adopts technology-empowered cultural preservation and innovation as its guiding design pedagogy and research philosophy. It seeks to integrate humanistic spirit, social responsibility, and technological literacy, breaking down traditional disciplinary boundaries. Oriented toward the intersection of art, digital technology, and design, it focuses on key areas such as cultural-technology integration and AI-driven creativity, thereby generating original design works and theoretical research outcomes. The ultimate goal is to cultivate professional doctoral talents equipped with four core competencies: aesthetic judgment, social awareness, technological agility, and innovative breakthrough.	Wu Xiaohua Chen Yan Anthony Dunne Fiona Raby	/	Freely discuss based on the research direction.	School of Design and Innovation