

# BASEhabitat | Postgraduate

## Master of Arts (CE) in Sustainable Architecture

### University of Arts Linz



© Haberkorn

**BASEhabitat**  
architecture for change



Partner of the UNESCO CHAIR  
earthen architecture, building cultures  
and sustainable development  
CRATERRE | AE&CC | ENSAG | UGA

**Kunstuniversität zu  
Linz**  
University of Arts Linz

The built environment has a significant impact on the way we live together. Today's construction activities are highly resource intensive and harmful to the environment and climate.

**BASEhabitat calls on architects and built environment professionals to innovate and develop solutions to address these pressing global challenges.**

**Become a builder of change!**



Students design and build a earth pavillion for the community garden of the Zünd Company in Altstätten, Switzerland (2020).

Credits: Marta Rota

## **BASEhabitat | Postgraduate Architecture of Change**

In response to the pressing global challenges we face - such as environmental degradation, dwindling resources, persistent poverty and growing inequality - there is an urgent need to equip future architects and professionals with new methods, tools and skills to address these issues.

The BASEhabitat Postgraduate programme is designed for students and professionals seeking an educational environment where they can expand their skills and knowledge to address social and environmental challenges.

The programme uniquely combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience, rethinking architectural practice by engaging diverse stakeholders in the design process. Emphasis is placed on understanding the environmental and social implications of design decisions, with a focus on material choices and sustainable construction methods.

The BASEhabitat Postgraduate programme is taught by a renowned international faculty of visiting architects and academics, alongside BASEhabitat's experienced teaching team. The curriculum emphasizes practical, hands-on experience, fostered within an interdisciplinary and international learning environment.

Recognising the environmental impact of the construction sector, the programme places particular emphasis on natural building materials, which have been at the heart of BASEhabitat's philosophy for over 20 years.

The BASEhabitat Postgraduate is a 1.5 year full-time programme taught in English. It is divided into three terms - Theory and Design, Hands-on Experience and Master Thesis - at the end of which students receive a Master of Arts in Continuing Education MA (CE) from the University of the Arts Linz.



# BASEhabitat | Postgraduate General information & Application

**Start date:** March 2, 2026

**End date:** September 24, 2027

**Duration:** 1.5 years (3 terms)

1. Theory and Design: March - September 2026
2. Hands-on experience: October - December 2026
3. Master thesis: February - July 2027  
Thesis defence: 23-24 September 2027

**Academic Accreditation:**

Master of Arts in Continuing Education MA (CE)

**Admission requirements:**

Bachelor's degree in architecture or a related subject-relevant degree with 180 ECTS in combination with some years of relevant professional experience.

**Credits:** 90 ECTS

**Tuition Fee:** 14.500 €

**Language:** English (Level B2)

**Participants:** Maximum 20

**>> APPLICATION PERIOD IS OPEN:  
February - August 2025**

**Deadline for applications:**

31 August 2025

**Admission interviews:**

- 1 Admission interview: beginning of April
- 2 Admission interview: end of June
- 3 Admission interview: beginning of September  
on a first come, first served basis

Please refer to the **download** section of our website for details of how to submit the required documents.



Clay Storming with Anna Heringer.

Credits: Marta Rota



Earth workshop with Gian Franco Noriega of Amaco (2022).

Credits: Marta Rota



## BASEhabitat International, Sustainable, Collaborative

BASEhabitat is a pioneering studio within the Department of Architecture at the University of Arts Linz, Austria. For 20 years, we have been at the forefront of social and sustainable architecture, with a strong focus on natural and locally sourced building materials. Our work is rooted in collaboration with community partners around the world.

BASEhabitat provides a comprehensive study programme, offering hands-on learning opportunities and real-scale projects. In addition to academic research, we engage in project planning and implementation, host exhibitions, conduct workshops, and provide on-site practice. Every two years, BASEhabitat also hosts the International Summer School, fostering learning and collaboration.



Discussion of student projects presenting affordable housing solutions for Gaborone, guest critics from Botswana, Linz (2019).

Credits: Ulrike Schwantner



Participants experiment with Rammed Earth during a workshop at the BASEhabitat International Summer School in Altmünster, Austria (2018).

Credits: Stefanie Hueber

### International Experience

BASEhabitat engages in the research, design, and implementation of architectural projects globally. Our work has earned international recognition, including prestigious awards such as the World Energy Globe. We have successfully completed projects in diverse regions like South Africa, India and Thailand.

### Global Network

BASEhabitat is a member of the UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures and Sustainable Development and maintains excellent relations with international schools and research institutions. Our projects connect us with architects, designers, craftsmen, and experts from around the globe, fostering a global network of professionals.

### Summer School

The BASEhabitat Summer School, held every two years, is a series of workshops that brings together professionals from over 40 countries. Participants learn from and collaborate with renowned experts in earthen architecture and bamboo construction, creating a rich exchange of knowledge and skills.



## Postgraduate | BASEhabitat

### Curriculum structure

The programme comprises 1.5 years of full-time study, divided into three semesters, for a total of 90 ECTS credits. It starts on 2 March 2026 and participants will graduate on 23-24 September 2027.

#### 1 THEORY AND DESIGN

40 ECTS

March – September

6 months at the University of Arts Linz, Austria

3 modules focusing on the three aspects of sustainability (social, environmental and economic) anchored by theoretical lessons, seminars and practical workshops.

#### 2 HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

20 ECTS

October – December

3 months on a BASEhabitat construction site

Construction phase combined with design aspects and reflection under the guidance of the BASEhabitat construction manager.

#### 3 MASTER THESIS

30 ECTS

February – July | thesis defense in September

6 months not bound to a particular place

Development of a dissertation including theoretical work, architectural design and portfolio under the supervision of a professor.



Learning together: hands-on experience for students and craftsmen on the construction site of teachers' housing in Sunderpur, India (2012-2015). Credits: Stefanie Hueber



## 1 Theory and Design at the University of Arts Linz

### Team

Anna Heringer  
Martin Rauch  
Elisa Engel  
...  
soon announced

### Timeframe 1 term:

March - September 2026

- The first semester introduces students to a range of interdisciplinary topics and methods, focusing on the three pillars of sustainability - social, environmental and economic - to establish a common set of design tools.
- The semester is centred around a project-based design studio with a different theme each year, complemented by lectures, seminars and practical workshops.
- Students will explore natural building materials and techniques and learn how to integrate them into their designs. They will also analyse both vernacular and contemporary projects and visit exemplary architectural sites in Austria.
- Each year BASEhabitat organises a one-week practical masterclass with Martin Rauch at Lehm Ton Erde.
- Students engage in participatory design methods to engage different stakeholders and gain the practical skills necessary to initiate community-based projects after graduation.
- In conjunction with the courses, a theory seminar linked to the design studio fosters an atmosphere of intellectual exchange that challenges the discipline of architecture.
- During this semester, students begin to define the topic of their dissertation project, which is completed in the third semester.

### 1 TERM: Theory and Design [40 ECTS]

March  
2026

September  
2026

#### DESIGN STUDIO

Project-based studio [10 ECTS]

#### THEORY SEMINAR

Lecture series [5 ECTS]

#### SUSTAINABILITY: Environmental aspect

Natural building materials [7 ECTS]

#### SUSTAINABILITY: Social aspect

Participatory methods [4 ECTS]

#### SUSTAINABILITY: Economic aspect

Social entrepreneurship [4 ECTS]

#### THESIS SEMINAR

Preparation Master Thesis [2 ECTS]

#### SPECIALIZATION

Consultation with experts [3 ECTS]

#### PRACTICAL MASTER CLASS

Martin Rauch [5 ECTS]



A collaborative working environment.

Credits: Elisa Engel



Gain practical skills to initiate community projects.

Credits: Marta Rota



Lehm-Ton-Erde Baukunst GmbH is a long-standing partner of BASEhabitat. Excursion to the ERDEN Werhalle in Schlins, Austria (2022).

Credits: Marta Rota



## 2 Hands-on Experience on a BASEhabitat construction site

**Team:**  
BASEhabitat construction manager

**Timeframe 2 term:**  
October - December 2026

- In the second term, students take part in a BASEhabitat construction site somewhere in the world. This project is independent of the first term design studio.
- Students immerse themselves in the local context, learning about the region's climate, available materials and construction techniques, while also visiting notable architectural sites.
- They plan the construction phase, optimising solutions and developing technical details. Working as part of a team, students will be directly involved in the construction process under the guidance of a BASEhabitat site manager, gaining hands-on experience with natural building materials.
- On completion, students will produce a detailed report documenting the construction process, including critical reflections on the project.
- BASEhabitat's emphasis on practical experience ensures that students don't just learn theory but are actively involved in the building process. Working on real projects in different parts of the world, students develop the technical skills needed to design and build using natural materials in a variety of environmental and social contexts. The immersive experience of a BASEhabitat building site provides an invaluable insight into sustainable architecture.

### 2 TERM: Hands-on experience [20 ECTS]

October  
2026

December  
2026

#### HANDS-ON PRACTICE

Project not linked to the Design Studio [10 ECTS]

#### PLANNING HANDS-ON PRACTICE

Preparation [5 ECTS]

#### REFLECTIONS HANDS-ON PRACTICE

Documentation [5 ECTS]



Hands-on experience in Baan Doi, Thailand: adobe production (2022).

Credits: Florian Fend | BASEhabitat



Hands-on experience in Baan Doi, Thailand: bamboo preparation.



Hands-on experience in Baan Doi, Thailand: preparation of the adobe mix.



### 3 Master Thesis

Free choice of location

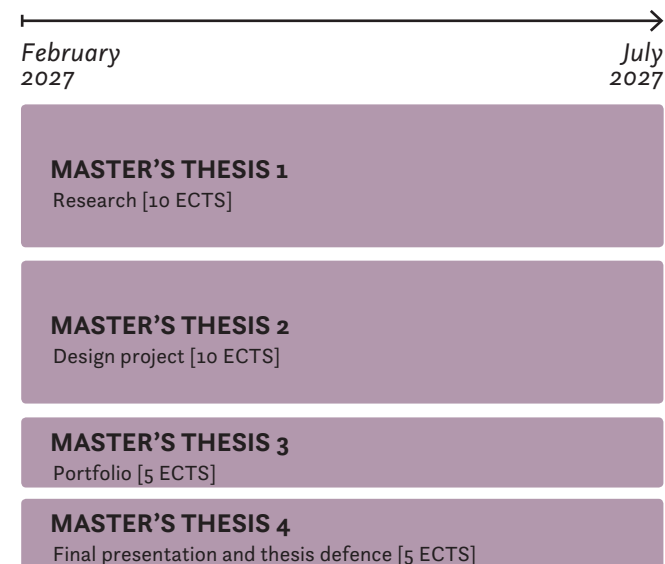
**Team:**  
guest professors  
BASEhabitat team

**Timeframe 3 term:**  
February - July 2027

**Thesis defence:**  
23-24 September 2027

- In the final semester, students develop their Master's thesis, which combines theoretical research and architectural design, demonstrating their ability to synthesise knowledge from previous semesters and apply it to a personal project.
- The dissertation is an individual project supervised by a professor and includes a portfolio of work developed throughout the programme. Each student is paired with a mentor who provides guidance on the research and architectural project. This ensures that students are supported throughout their academic journey.
- Students can complete their dissertation from any location, with online supervision. The programme concludes with a thesis presentation in Linz or via an online format, scheduled for 23-24 September 2027.

#### 3 TERM: Master Thesis [30 ECTS]

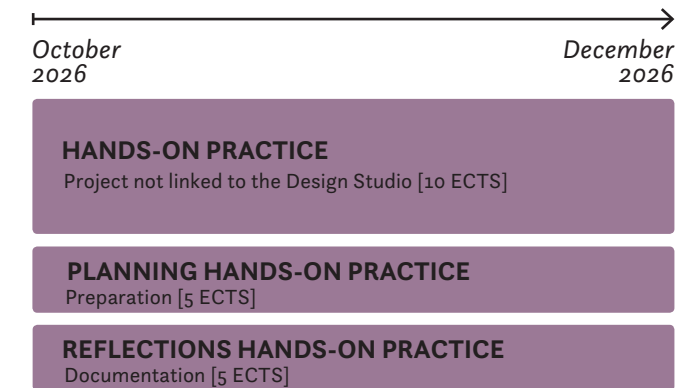


#### 1 TERM: Theory and Design [40 ECTS]

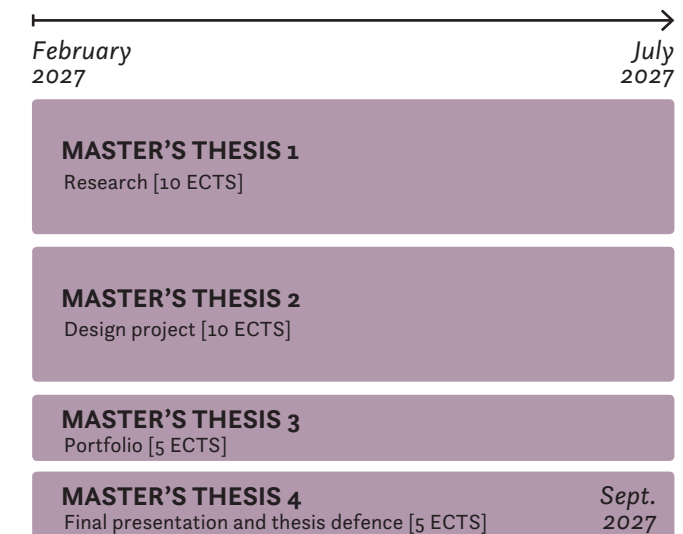


2026

#### 2 TERM: Hands-on Experience [20 ECTS]



#### 3 TERM: Master Thesis [30 ECTS]



2027





Learning on a real scale. Retouching a rammed earth wall during a workshop with Lehm-Ton-Erde Baukunst GmbH in Wolfurt, Austria (2022).

Credits: Haberkorn

*“The course equipped me with holistic knowledge and skills in designing and building with natural materials and managing a sustainable community-led construction project. It allowed me to make many lasting connections within the global earth-building community, a very helpful support network.”*

Anna Chorzepa | Poland | Alumna



Exploring local bamboo as a building material. Hands-on experience in Thailand, building a sustainable agriculture centre for the NGO Baan Doi.

Credits: Marta Rota





Bamboo is a locally available CO<sub>2</sub> storage resource for construction. The guest house is designed and built by BASEhabitat students, Thailand (2022). Credits: Paul Eis



Materials science in theory and practical application during a clay plastering workshop with site manager Dominik Abbrederis in Zöbing, Austria (2022). Credits: Marta Rota

*“The BASEhabitat Postgraduate programme provided me with fresh perspectives on using architecture to strengthen local culture, support local economies, and foster environmental balance. It refined my skills with natural materials and deepened my sense of responsibility, allowing me to approach each project with a more socially conscious mindset.”*

Pooja Parameswararao | India | Alumna





Discussion on the future of earth building during the excursion in Vorarlberg with Martin Rauch and Anna Heringer, the pioneers of earth construction (2020).

Credits: Marta Rota

*“I strongly believe that architecture is a tool to improve lives. As architects, we have the power to influence society and make a change. While building structures, we can also build justice and trust.”*

Anna Heringer | architect | honorary professor of the UNESCO Chair of Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures, and Sustainable Development

*“Earth is an amazing building material. I want to share the know-how I have gained over the years experimenting and researching with rammed earth. My vision is to encourage our society to build with earth and to believe in its potentials.”*

Martin Rauch | earth building pioneer | Lehm Ton Erde Baukunst founder and director



## Study at the University of Arts Linz

- **Personalized Learning Environment:** The small student-to-faculty ratio ensures close interaction between students and professors, creating a supportive atmosphere.
- **Inspiring Location:** Our light-filled studios in the heart of Linz provide a creative workspace surrounded by the city's rich cultural and architectural heritage.
- **Vibrant art scene:** Linz is home to a dynamic art community, enriched by internationally renowned events such as Ars Electronica.
- **Central European hub:** Linz's strategic location offers easy access to major cultural capitals like Vienna, Prague and Venice, perfect for architecture excursions, site visits, and cultural enrichment that broaden your design perspective.

All of these factors combine to create an academic environment in which students can thrive, both in collaborative teams and on individual projects.



University of Arts Linz located in the heart of Linz.

Credits: Stefanie Hueber

## Application process

The application process for the BASEhabitat Postgraduate programme consists of the following steps:

- 1. Submit your application:** Send your application to [basehabitat.postgrad@kunstuni-linz.at](mailto:basehabitat.postgrad@kunstuni-linz.at). Detailed instructions can be found in the download section of our website.
- 2. Evaluation:** Your application will be reviewed by a minimum of two BASEhabitat members. Please note that applications will be evaluated immediately after submission.
- 3. Interview invitation:** Selected applicants will receive an interview invitation by email. Interviews will be conducted via Zoom.
- 4. Notification:** You will be notified of your application status within a week of your interview. Applicants will then be informed whether or not they have been accepted.
- 5. Admission and payment:** Upon admission, you will receive both an acceptance letter and a payment letter. The payment letter will help you in arranging funding and will include details for submitting a non-refundable 20% deposit to secure your place.
- 6. Final payment:** Full payment of tuition fees is required by the deadline specified in the payment letter. Your enrolment will only be confirmed once the payment is received.

Please note that the tuition fee does not cover travel, accommodation, or study materials for Linz or the construction site.





Anna Heringer together with Martin Rauch, pioneers of earth construction, developed Claystorming, a 3D sketching method with clay models.

Credits: Marta Rota

**BASEhabitat**

**Kunstuniversität Linz | University of Arts Linz  
die architektur**

Hauptplatz 6 | 4020 Linz | Austria

Telefon +43.732.78 98-3242

E-Mail [basehabitat.postgrad@kunstuni-linz.at](mailto:basehabitat.postgrad@kunstuni-linz.at)

[www.basehabitat.org](http://www.basehabitat.org)