

NABA

NUOVA ACCADEMIA
DI BELLE ARTI

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PhD IN ARTISTIC
PRACTICE

A.Y. 2025/26

NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti together with **HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design at University of Gothenburg (HDK-Valand)** calls for applications for its International PhD in Artistic Practice programme.

Introduction

The PhD in Artistic Practice at NABA, in collaboration with HDK-Valand (Gothenburg University), is an innovative doctoral program bridging two academic institutions at the intersection of artistic production and critical inquiry. Through sustained dialogue between NABA campus in Milan and HDK-Valand (University of Gothenburg), doctoral candidates enter a unique European research environment that emphasises experimental approaches and transdisciplinary exchange. Based at NABA's Milan campus and awarding a doctoral degree from HDK-Valand, the program provides a framework for developing ambitious practice-led projects that contribute to new directions in contemporary cultural production.

PhD programme description

The PhD in Artistic Practice provides individuals with the opportunity to immerse themselves in distinctive practice-based research projects within a collaborative learning environment, emphasizing a transdisciplinary and international approach. The Doctorate programme is the result of a collaboration between two prestigious international institutions (NABA and HDK-Valand). It will be based in Italy at NABA Milan Campus, awarded by HDK-Valand, and coordinated at NABA by Professor Vincenzo Estremo and at HDK-Valand by Professor Mick Wilson.

HDK-Valand brings to this collaboration its acclaimed tradition in artistic research across Photography, Literary Composition, Film, Design, Craft and Fine Art, with an expansive understanding of creative practice that welcomes both traditional and emerging forms of artistic inquiry.

NABA combines tradition and innovation in Design, Fashion, Media, Communication, and Visual Arts. As Italy's largest art Academy, with the two campus in Milan and Rome it is part of the AFAM system under the Ministry of University and Research (MUR).

We welcome applications across the wide spectrum of creative practices centered on the concept of practice-based research. The PhD programme draws inspiration from critical epistemologies and political and emancipatory frameworks. It perceives practice-based research as a dynamic space for negotiating social, political, and cultural issues, encompassing interdisciplinary research in the arts, academia, activism, and diverse subcultures. The programme particularly welcomes projects that:

→ Engage with critical epistemologies and emancipatory frameworks;

→ Connect artistic practice with broader social and political contexts;

→ Contribute to interdisciplinary dialogue between arts, academia, activism, and subcultures.

NABA's primary goal with the PhD programme is to explore and promote alternative visions in art, transforming knowledge into subjects of outstanding research.

Programme Offer and Structure

■ Available Positions and Funding

One fully funded PhD position* is currently available, with the following options:

→ Full-time: 4-year duration with a salary of 26.000€ per year (before tax);

→ Part-time: Up to 8-year duration with a proportionally distributed salary.

Each position includes additional project funding to support your research activities (funds vary based on annual availability and the allocated budget).

■ Programme Requirements and Activities

While residence in Milan is not required, candidates should note that regular presence is expected for:

→ Monthly research seminars and lectures;

→ Teaching responsibilities (100 hours per year for full-time positions);

→ Faculty project development activities;

→ Regular supervision meetings;

→ Participation in the academic life of the department through workshops, conferences, exhibitions, and screenings.

As part of this unique international programme, doctoral researchers will also:

→ Have access to HDK-Valand's full doctoral course catalog;

→ Join a diverse community of international doctoral researchers at both institutions;

→ Participate in joint research seminars connecting NABA and HDK-Valand communities;

→ Benefit from the research environments of both institutions.

■ Support and Resources

Each PhD candidate will receive:

→ A dedicated NABA tutor as primary point of contact and support;

→ Access to NABA's specialised facilities including library e-resources; craft and media workshops and many others;

→ Integration into NABA's international network of artists, researchers, and cultural institutions;

→ Teaching development opportunities;

→ Support for conference participation and research dissemination;

→ Regular opportunities to present work through NABA's exhibition program.

Who can apply?

→ A second cycle degree (MA) from an accredited institution is required;

→ Applicants with an ongoing artistic career are encouraged to apply;

→ Only applicants who already hold a valid work permit for Italy are eligible to apply.

Application documents

To apply for the PhD in Artistic Practice programme, each candidate must digitally upload the following documents through the designated [online portal](#):

→ Application Form;

→ Portfolio;

→ Academic Transcript;

→ Curriculum Vitae (PDF format);

→ Contact information of one reference;

→ English Language Certification;

→ Deadline for application May 9th, 2025, 6 PM UTC+2

■ Application form

Only the file available in the PhD page of NABA's website will be accepted as a valid application form. Please [download it](#) and fill it in without altering the file format. Incomplete or altered files will make your application not considered. Make sure you will not exceed the wordcount limit for each section: exceeding the wordcount limit will make your application invalid.

■ Portfolio

You can include a maximum of 3 artworks or 3 projects. The portfolio can contain:

→ Maximum of 10 images assembled in a PDF file;

→ Maximum of 3 videos.

Please make sure that you do not exceed the maximum number of images and videos when compiling your portfolio. In order to submit videos, please provide links to a digital platform, such as Vimeo, YouTube or your own website or blog, by including the URL address in the PDF file. If necessary, please provide a password.

■ Academic transcript

The academic transcript must include:

→ The name of the student;

→ The accredited units of the University undertaken by the student, specifying the

full title, the period of study, and the result attained for each unit;

→ The full title of any award in which the student has enrolled;

→ Where the student has completed an award, a statement certifying that fact, and where the student has graduated, a statement certifying the graduation.

■ Curriculum Vitae

CVs can be submitted in any layout, in PDF format.

■ Email Contact information of one reference

The reference will be contacted only if the candidate is shortlisted for an interview.

■ Proof of English level

The programme requires one of the following:

→ A valid English C1 level certification (IELTS or Cambridge);

→ A postgraduate degree (MA) entirely successfully completed in English;

→ A self-certification of English proficiency at the C1 level, which will later be verified by the university's language center.

Due to the high volume of applications, we receive, NABA will not provide individual feedback on submitted applications.

■ Interview

A selected number of shortlisted applicants will be invited for online interviews scheduled for June 23rd and June 30th. The interview link and further details will be provided one week before the scheduled interview dates.