

Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln Academy of Media Arts Cologne

How to apply

Nine-semester undergraduate course ("Diplom 1"), starting in the Winter Term 2026/27

Around fortyfive students will be accepted on the *Media and Fine Arts* ("Mediale Künste") nine-semester undergraduate course that begins in October 2026. Details on how the course is structured and organised can be found at www.khm.de.

The application process consists of two stages. All applicants must prove their artistic/creative aptitude with regard to the *Media and Fine Arts* course based on work samples and a thematic piece of work produced especially for the application. Preselection is carried out based on these work samples. In the second step, selected applicants will be invited to an interview.

The KHM strongly recommends to gain - before applying - practical experience in the professional area that you wish to work in, for example through an internship of several months in the fields of media or literature, or by independent creative practice.

Admission to all of the courses takes place at the start of each winter semester.

Deadlines for the application process 2026

■	February 2, 2026	Application deadline for the nine-semester undergraduate course
■	End of February 2026	Preselection based on the submitted material
■	Week number 10 and 11	Invitations to interviews will be sent (by email) Rejection letters will be sent (by email)
■	Week number 13	Interviews
■	Week number 14	Notification letters will be sent (by email)

General information

Applications can only be submitted online. Combining and completing a convincing application can take some time. We therefore recommend to check early if you have all necessary documents, certificates, work samples, etc at your disposal.

The online application portal will be open including February 2, 2026. After that an application is no longer possible. Incomplete applications cannot not be considered.

No information on the state of the application procedure can be disclosed by telephone. You will be informed of the results of the selection procedure by email. Should your email-address change during the application process, please inform the Student Office: studoffice@khm.de. There is no personalised confirmation of receipt. **Receipt of the application number serves as confirmation of receipt.** Please always quote the application number when enquiring.

Please consider the above mentioned time period for a possible invitation for an interview.

Requirements and documents

The educational requirement of an application is the general higher-education entrance qualification (=Abitur). If you do not have a general higher-education entrance qualification, you can apply for 'special artistic talent' in the application portal, which will then be automatically activated in the online form. Applicants, who have no equivalent school leaving certificate, have to submit their last school report.

Non-German-speaking applicants must provide proof of German language proficiency, at least level A2. The B2 certificate must be submitted at the latest upon enrolment. All certificates must be submitted in certified forms, non-German-speaking applicants must also submit a translated copy.

Following items must be uploaded to the online portal:

- University entrance qualification / A-levels (**certified translated copy**, German or English), **or** without A-Levels: the application to determine special artistic talent (last school report)
- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of motivation (1 page maximum)
- Current German language certificate
- Thematic work, component 1
- Thematic work, component 2
- up to 5 work samples
- Proof of internships (if available)
- completed page 5 of this document

The following link (see below) will take you to our online application form. Please fill it in completely, taking into account the detailed information, and upload the requested documents.

■ Thematic Work

A thematic piece of work, developed specifically for the application to the Academy of Media Arts Cologne, along with the samples of your previous literary-filmic-artistic-design work, serves to establish your aptitude for the Media and Fine Arts course.

The topic for applications to the course beginning in October 2026 is:

« **U n t e r g r u n d** »

The purpose of the task is to offer all applicants a possibility to tackle the multifaceted and broad-ranging topic « **U n t e r g r u n d** », which can be interpreted freely, openly and as imaginative as you like. In this we hope to be able to discover your artistic skills, your thought processes and your imagination in words, images, sound or other media.

The topic will be addressed in **two** components: artistic/creative and linguistic/analytical. Each component should present an independent interpretation of the topic and not implement the same idea.

Component 1: an exclusively written/ analytical response

Component 2: a literary (e.g.: literary text, script, scenic sketch) or artistic-creative response (e.g.: photo or photographic series, collage, painting/ sculpture, installation, sketchbook, sound art, performance, software or net-based concept, storyboard, short video or film sequence).

■ Application form

You will get to the online form here:

https://formulare.khm.de/lip/action/invoke.do?id=Bewerbung_Diplom1

Please complete the application form carefully and ensure that your documents are complete when uploading:

Please note the following information about the online procedure:

You can interrupt your online application at any point and **save** the intermediate status. After the **intermediate storage** you will receive a personalised link. This can be used to continue the application at a later date.

Please upload only one single file per document category, containing all pages of the document. Uploading a certificate with individual pages (one PDF file per page) is not permitted. Please upload text documents as pdf files only, not as individual jpeg files. Please pay particular attention to the quality and readability of your uploaded documents. If they cannot be read or evaluated, the application cannot be accepted. Please complete the last page (5) of this document and upload it to the application portal.

You will receive your application number only after submitting the complete form (Please also check the inbox of your spam folder).

Work samples

As the Academy of Media Arts Cologne review committee has a very large number of applications to view, we recommend to select examples that provide the best possible indication of the spectrum of your work within a limited amount of time. Also keep in mind that your artistic aptitude will not be judged in general, but rather with respect to the Media and Fine Arts course offered by the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. Please list all work samples in the corresponding list with title, format, length and your role/contribution. Include two sentences about the content of each work sample. All work samples must be uploaded to the application portal.

Form and scope of the work samples and thematic work

Work samples

- No more than 5, each of which may be made up of several parts
- Time-based work samples (e.g. videos, films, sound art and performances): please choose short, succinct examples with a **total running time of no more than 10 minutes** (no showreels), **max. 8 GB**

Thematic work

Component 1: No longer than 3 pages (font size 12pt, line spacing 1.5)

Component 2: 1 work samples, which may be made up of several parts

- Literary work: font size 12pt, line spacing 1.5
- Time-based work samples (e.g. videos, films, sound art and performances): a total playing time of **no more than 5 minutes**

Text-based work

Please save your texts in PDF format and upload them.

Video material

We expect your video material to be submitted as MP4 files. Video should be encoded with the H.264 codec at a bit rate of around 12-15 MBit/sec. (for HD), audio with the AAC codec. There are a multitude of free programmes in the Internet for the creation of such files.

Audio material

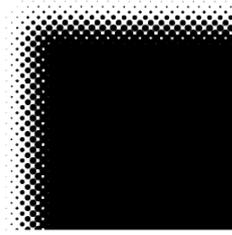
Please submit audio material as MP3 or WAV files, preferably at the highest bit rate possible.

Photographic material

Photos should have a resolution of no more than 72dpi and if possible be in JPEG format.

Cologne, October 2025

Please fill in and upload as
a single page



Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln Academy of Media Arts Cologne

Dear applicants,

In order to effectively shape the public relations of the Academy of Media Arts Cologne, we would like to know how you became aware of the KHM and its diploma programs. Therefore, we ask you to fill out this questionnaire. Please tick and / or name!
Thank you very much for your effort, with best regards

Dr. Juliane Kuhn
The Press and PR Management Department

Hearsay (friends, family, students etc.)

Internet, like:

KHM-Website

Studyportale, which, where?

Facebook

Instagramm

Social Media, other:

Info Day im December

Publications, which ones?

Public activities

Open Days 'Rundgang'

Exhibitions & filmscreenings:

Festival:

Lecture:

Other: