

Apply Now!



Transform your World
The Festival University
by



ARS ELECTRONICA

Art, Technology & Society



JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

August 30 – September 19, 2021

Transform your World The Festival University



by

ARS ELECTRONICA

Art, Technology & Society



JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

Locations	Online and in Linz, Austria
Duration	3 weeks
Program dates	Aug. 30th, 2021 – Sept. 19th, 2021*
Target group	Students from all disciplines, age: 16 – 24 years
Submission of application	Sent to festival@ars.electronica.art latest by July 25th, 2021, 11.59 pm GMT+2 (Austria)
Language	English
Study type	Festival University
Time requirement	Full-time
Sven Jürgensmeier	Festival University certificate with 4.5 ECTS
Travel, accommodation	We'll cover your flight, visa, and accommodation, as well as your main meals on-site

* Participants can shorten the duration to two weeks if the program overlaps with the start of the fall semester.

The program is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research as well as the Federal Province of Upper Austria.

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research



Structure

- 4 About this venture
- 5 About the program
- 7 Schedule
- 9 Eligibility
- 9 Terms of participation
- 9 Application
- 10 Mentors
- 10 Schedule
- 10 Contact
- 10 Privacy
- 11 Support

About this venture

Next-gen technical university—
a think tank and do tank for a
new technical university focused
on digitalization and digital
transformation.

To promote Austria and digitalization, a science-policy initiative was started in 2020 to found a new technical university for transformation and transformational change in Upper Austria. This is a great opportunity and responsibility to develop state-of-the-art programs and structures that meet the challenges of the 21st century. An international and interdisciplinary character is the primary focus here, as well as the establishment of an excellent research environment and new, forward-looking teaching models.

In order to promote this exciting venture internationally—to attract young people from all over the world and also to harness the experiences and ideas of interested communities from all fields—the Festival University project will be realized by Ars Electronica in collaboration with JKU. It will serve as a prototype and showcase for a university of the 21st century.

About the program

What does it take to initiate actual change? What transformation can students spark for a better tomorrow? What collaborative concepts of transformational change can students from all around the world working together for three weeks create?

Global challenges of tomorrow require a new approach – one based on creativity and co-creation. The Festival University, a joint initiative between Ars Electronica and Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU), invites students from around the world to together define transformational strategies.

This inaugural program is taking place in a hybrid form, with participants joining online as well as in-person in Linz, Austria, between Aug. 30th, 2021, and Sept. 19th, 2021. Up to 100 young people from all around world with different cultural and educational backgrounds will gather to explore and define new ways towards digital transformation and transformational change.

Programming:

Over three weeks, students collaborate in teams to create strategies of transformation for specific challenge fields and to answer the following questions:

- How can we initiate change?
- How can we shape change?
- How can we master change?

To answer these questions from a holistic perspective, students will attend inspirational and insightful talks and hands-on workshops delivered by subject matter experts, including:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Brain-Computer Interface
- Robotics
- (Forensic) Journalism
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Sustainability
- Art and Future Thinking
- The Power of Storytelling for Transformation

Each topic will be explored from a technological and socially critical perspective as well as through the lens of art. The inputs received through these program sessions will allow students to define strategies on transformational change for global challenges of tomorrow.

In addition to these presentations, students are also invited to join excursions to renowned local organizations and significant sight-seeing spots in Linz and its surroundings.

Subject matter experts:

The workshops and talks are delivered by subject matter experts from Ars Electronica, the Johannes Kepler University, and their partner organizations.

Speakers will be announced in the coming days.

Final presentation:

All teams will present their strategies on transformational change for global challenges of tomorrow on Friday, Sept. 17th, 2021, during a closing event hosted at the main square in Linz and online.

The final team presentation will explore the following aspects:

- Discuss, Negotiate, and Decide:
 - What is the most urgent thing to be changed?
 - And why?
- Explore, Collect, and Get Inspired
 - What skills and whose expertise are needed?
- Envision and Develop
 - How does a new strategy for transformation and change look like?
 - How to deal with opposite positions?
 - How to negotiate a joint course of action?

Further guidelines on the presentation will be shared with the students during the Kick-Off Event.

Participants' experience:

A crucial factor of transformation is collaboration and co-creation. Thus, the programming is focused on enabling a collaborative community spirit among the participants. All participants traveling to Linz will be staying in the same venue.

Each group, consisting of up to 10 students, will be assigned a dedicated facilitator who will guide the participants through their journey.

Furthermore, we invite the students to capture their experience through videos and photos, which will then be shared with the broader public.

Schedule

WEEK 1

Aug. 30th – Sept. 5th

Online

- Team formation and getting to know each other
- Introduction to the program, speakers, team facilitators, and methodologies
- Definition of challenge-focus
- Participating in online talks, workshops and discussions
- Developing the “creative research question”

Participants will travel to Linz on the weekend.

WEEK 2

Sept. 6th – Sept. 12th

In Linz & online*

- Participating in (online) talks, hands-on workshops, and team-discussions
- Collecting relevant information
- Meeting and learning from subject matter experts (artists, scientists, researchers etc.)
- Attending the Ars Electronica Festival
- Joining excursions

WEEK 3

Sept. 13th – Sept. 18th

In Linz & online* / **

- Participating in (online) talks, hands-on workshops and team-discussions
- Joining excursions
- Defining the transformation strategy and preparing the final presentation
- Submission of presentation & trial run
- Official closing event with presentations at the main square in Linz and online
- Closing team dinner

Participants will return to their home country on the weekend.

* Due to the various travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, online participation may be possible if an in-person participation is not feasible. Please note that the Festival University program for online participation might differ than those for in-person participants.

** Participants can shorten the duration to two weeks (by not attending Week 3) if the program overlaps with the start of their fall semester. Proof of term start date must be provided.

Daily program structure:

Morning

- Joint breakfast*
- Inspirational and insightful talk by an expert, including Q&A (2 hours)

Noon

- Joint team lunch*

Afternoon

- Hands-on workshop(s) or excursion (3 hours)
- A daily check-in with team facilitator (½ hour)

Evening

- Team dinner*

* Due to the various travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, online participation may be possible if an in-person participation is not feasible. Please note that the Festival University program for online participation might differ than those for in-person participants.

Eligibility

The Festival University is intended for participants between the ages of 16 – 24 and from all disciplines. Participants do not need to be currently enrolled in a formal educational program from all disciplines and countries. (university, school...)

Applicants younger than 18 years need the permission of their parents/guardians and must submit a consent sheet with their submission (see Attachment II).

Terms of participation

There are no registration and/or tuition fees for this program.

Successful applicants will receive the following benefits

- Full participation in the program
- Travel, accommodation, and meals are covered (excluding personal expenses)
- Welcome package and Ars Electronica catalogue
- Full access to all online and onsite festival programs
- Participation in community dinners and events

Application

Your application (all documents must be in English) must include:

- A CV (max. 2 pages) or short biography (max. 200–300 words) incl. photo in high resolution (min. 1 MB) and contact details
- A video (max. 3 min) in which you present your interest and motivation to take part in the program (the video can be made in a very simple way with your smartphone).
- Information if you wish to participate online only or with a shortened duration from Aug. 30th, 2021 – Sept. 11th, 2021
- *Optional:* additional materials (max. 5 MB) that reflect your expertise (artwork and project, prototype, research, system, activity, strategy and business plan etc.)

Please submit all documents via email with the subject header “Festival University 2021 – Application Your Name” to festival@ars.electronica.art latest by July 25th, 2021 11.59 pm GMT+2 (Austria).

All application documents must be sent via email with a WeTransfer download link (or alternative service) to your video and larger files.

A joint committee of evaluators comprised of Ars Electronica and Johannes Kepler University staff will assess the applications after the closure of the open call. The selected applicants will be announced immediately after the assessment.

Mentors

In a dynamic environment, participants and young professionals will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and benefit from leading experts. The mentors come from all over the world and their expertise covers a wide range of topics:

- Scientists, Researchers, Technologists,
- Academics and Practitioners
- Artists, Designer, Architects
- Musicians, Dancer, Performers
- Biologists, Genetic Engineers
- Experimental Physicists, Neuroscientists
- Cyber Security Specialists, Hacker
- Entrepreneurs, Venture-Capitalists, and Philosophers

Some of them come from major European, US and Japanese universities and companies.

Some come from places you may never have even heard of.

They all share one interest: **to transform our world**

Schedule

- Applications Open: June 29th, 2021
- Applications Close: July 25th, 2021, 11.59 pm GMT+2 (Austria)
- Successful Applicants will be notified by: Aug. 8th, 2021

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact: festival@ars.electronica.art

Privacy

Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG respects each person's right to privacy. We do not sell or distribute personal information for commercial purposes. Your application will be treated confidentially. Only selected members of Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG, Johannes Kepler University, Federal Province of Upper Austria, and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research have access to your application. Processing of the applicant's personal data takes place in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679).

Support

The program is organized by Ars Electronica Linz and Johannes Kepler University and supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research as well as the Federal Province of Upper Austria.

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research



[Apply here](#)

Deadline for applications:
July 25th, 2021, 11.59 pm GMT+2 (Austria)

Follow us on

Subscribe to newsletter

<https://ars.electronica.art/news/en/newsletter/>

Attachment I: Entry Rights

The organizers and sponsors of the Festival Ars Electronica intend to make the results of the Festival University accessible to the public audience. To achieve this, they intend to conduct a public relations campaign in print media outlets, radio and TV stations, and on the internet, as well as in various publications and by public presentations of the works. The entrants hereby consent to making their activities available for these purposes.

(There will be no commercial exploitation of the ideas and works that are created during the course of this Festival University.)

Ars Electronica Archive

Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG maintains an archive for the purpose of documenting digital media art and intends to make the contents of this archive accessible by interested members of the public both on site and on the internet.

Entrants hereby consent to inclusion of all documentation material that will be produced during the Festival University as well as to its public display both online and in the context of exhibits staged by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG.

Public Relations and Documentation

Entrants hereby consent to the material that is being created during the workshops, as a whole or in part, being used, stored on a data storage medium, and/or made public on the internet or via some other digital medium by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG or by a third party authorized by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG for purposes of public relations, advertising & promotion, documentation, archiving, or scientific research.

The exercise of this right is restricted to activities for the purpose of disseminating information about and/or promoting the Festival University and the Ars Electronica Festival. Prior consent is required for any activities that go beyond this scope and/or constitute commercial usage. In using such works, Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG will accord all due consideration to the entrants' legitimate interests but assumes no statutory duty in this connection.

Annex II: Consent Form

The following (sample) consent letter must be included in the application of all applicants aged 16 or 17 years old.

Consent Letter for applicants aged 16 or 17 years old

To Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG,

I / We,

Full name(s) of parent(s) / guardians / organization giving consent

Address:

Street address, city

Province/state, country

Telephone and email:

Telephone

E-mail

am / are the parent(s), legal guardian(s) (or other authorized person(s) or organization with custody rights, access rights or parental authority over the following child):

Information about travelling child

Name:

Child's full name

Date and place of birth:

mm/dd/yyyy

City, province/territory

Number and date of
issue of passport
(if available):

Number

mm/dd/yyyy

Issuing authority of
passport
(if available):

Country where passport was issued

This child has my / our consent to travel alone and take part in the Festival University program from 08/30/2021 to 09/19/2021

mm/dd/yyyy

Signature(s) of person(s) giving consent