

Apply Now!

The Festival University

by



ARS ELECTRONICA

Art, Technology & Society



JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

August 18 – September 14, 2022

Welcome

to

A different life is possible.
But how?

Planet B

Jeff and Elon
just left the
planet



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photo: Zoe Goldstein Photography, JCH fashion design, Silke Grabinger dancer

Welcome to Planet B

The Festival University



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JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

Locations	In Linz, Austria
Duration	4 weeks
Program dates	August 18th – September 14th, 2022
Target group	Students from all disciplines 16 – 25 years
Application Deadline	June 30th, 2022 – 11:59pm CEST
Language	English
Study type	Festival University
Time requirement	Full-time
Credits	6 ECTS
Stipends	There are no tuition fees. Our stipends will cover your flight, visa, and accommodation during the duration of the program, as well as your main meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) on-site.

The full scope of the services offered is subject to funding by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research and will be confirmed with the actual invitation to participate.

The program is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research.

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

Welcome to Planet B The Festival University 2022

200 Students—Faculty of 40 Experts, Lecturers, Mentors,
Inspirers—4 Weeks—1 Festival

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 jointly develop planetary strategies for change and transformation.

This second edition of the Festival University takes place in Linz

August 18 – September 14, 2022.

Up to 200 young people from all around world from different cultural and educational backgrounds will be invited and gather to explore and define new pathways towards transformational change. The Ars Electronica Festival will again be the public stage to present their ideas and the outcomes of the Festival University

With „Welcome to Planet B“ as the title for this year’s festival, the focus of the program is not just on climate change and its effects itself, but extends to the even more important questions of how we as a society, as nations, as a global community can respond to the challenges it poses.

- **How can we collaborate and cope with the massive transformations required?**
- **How can we set the changes in motion?**
- **How can we manage such changes?**
- **What consequences will all these changes bring?**
- **What will the world, our world, look like after we have managed this transformation?**

Key factors of this year's program:

- 200 young people from all around the world
- Age groups: 16 – 25 years
- Faculty of 40 experts from science, technology, art and humanitarian work to business and politics
- Students, young professionals and experts with diverse backgrounds in:
 - Science and technology,
 - Art and design,
 - Social activism and politics,
 - The economy, Law and entrepreneurial business
- 4 weeks on-site in Linz
- Collaboration and co-creation in teams
- Guided and supported by a group of facilitators
- Immersive experience focused on transformational and actionable change.
- No tuition fee.
- We will cover your flight, visa, and accommodation during the duration of the program, as well as your main meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) on-site.

If serious reasons prevent you from participating for the whole duration of the program, exceptions can be arranged.

Please contact us (festivaluniversity@ars.electronica.art) to work out a solution.

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What is the Festival University?

The Festival University is a unique type of collaboration between Ars Electronica Festival and Johannes Kepler University (JKU). Exciting and colorful like a festival and rooted in science and research like a university.

It is a prototype of a next-gen university—a think tank and do tank for a new type of university, focused on the skills and knowledge necessary to deal with transformation and transformational change on a planetary scale. It test-runs new strategies for teaching and explores new fields of research. Based on far-reaching trans-disciplinary collaborations between art and science, it combines creativity with innovation, generating excitement for new possibilities, yet shouldering responsibility for our world.

Why has this program been initiated?

To promote digital transformations in Austria, a science-policy initiative was started in 2020 to found a new technical university for digitalization and digital transformation 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. The primary focus here is international and interdisciplinary in character, and includes the establishment of an excellent research environment and new, forward-looking teaching models.

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 and JKU Linz for the second time. Vital support has been provided by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research.

Recap: About the first edition of Festival University

The first international Festival University was a field test and prototype of a “university of the future” that impressively demonstrated its potential as a prototype and showcase for a university of the 21st century. 100 students from 40 countries were selected from a total of 230 applicants for the Festival University in 2021. Their field of studies was as diverse as their cultural upbringing: Ranging from social and natural sciences to art, business, law, and technology and representing countries from all around the world, including Guatemala, Vietnam, Montenegro, Japan, Egypt, Germany, Lebanon, Nigeria, China, and the USA.

Under the motto “Transform your world,” the Festival University students worked together in groups and co-developed strategies and tools to effectively initiate change on a personal and societal level. During hands-on workshops, they immersed themselves in six key topics: Investigative Journalism, Autonomous Vehicles, Circular Economy, Creative Robotics, Drones & Swarm Behavior, and Transforming the Body.

Internationally renowned scientists, artists, and business professionals, such as Josef Penninger, Kilian Kleinschmidt, Joseph Herscher, and leading professors of Johannes Kepler University, including Elke Schüßler and Cristina Olaverri-Monreal shared their expertise with the students in interactive and insightful lectures.

A key highlight of the program experience was their participation in the Ars Electronica Festival, where they presented the outcome of their workshops to guests from the Festival.





“ Read from students participating
in the inaugural Festival University 2021:

“For us to be effective in driving change and progress, we need to engage in dialogue—it takes different opinions and views. All of that was possible at Festival University and it was very exciting for me.”

Merle, 23, Germany, Europa Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt Oder

“We are passionate students, so we need passionate professors who not only understand but really live what they do with all their senses. Especially with a new university, there need to be real open feedback channels. Students and professors need to learn with and from each other.”

Chiara, 23, Italy, University of Johannesburg

“There were overwhelming and inspiring personal moments and encounters at Festival University. It was really good after a period of distance learning.”

Nathan, 22, France, Eindhoven University of Technology

“Connecting diverse people and an interdisciplinary approach are important building blocks for me in creating a new university.”

Kai-Jui, 20, Taiwan, National Tsing Hua University

”

Check out video documentation from the inaugural Festival University 2021

Program Structure

Phase 1: Preparation and formation

In the first phase the theme and premises of the Festival University 2022 are established. Climate change is not primarily a technological problem, although technology plays a central role in causing and combating it; the social, political, economic aspects are the crucial points. Thus, the central task in this phase will be to understand technology, its design and use in a larger context. Hence, the focus will be less on individual technical, scientific aspects, and more on understanding and managing the overarching connections.

Phase 2: Fact-checking the Status Quo

Reality Check:

- What is the current state of climate change?
- What are the sources of information and facts, and which communication and lobbying structures shape public opinion?
- How far have we grasped the dimension of the problem?

Opportunities Check

- What options do we have to counter climate change and the resultant planetary crisis?
- How feasible are these options, how likely is their success?
- What possibilities do we have to change our habits, and our behavior and how can we implement them?

Consequences Check

- How can we present and communicate the dimension of the problem?
- How likely is it that the possible and necessary measures will be implemented?
- What consequences have to be expected in each scenario and how can we mitigate them?

Phase 3: Step on the Stage

The third phase is dedicated to encouragement and empowerment, not only to think about ideas and strategies, positions and statements that are adequate to the dimension of the problem, but also to make them heard and visible. Therefore, all students will engage in public presentations within the framework of the Ars Electronica Festival from September 7th to 11th:

- On the stages of the festival, in the city's public spaces, in media channels.
- In cooperation with industry and business, in dialogue with science, research and teaching.
- In dialog with political bodies and representatives (such as the City Senate, Provincial Government or Federal Ministries).

Faculty

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

- Scientists, researchers, technology experts
- Academics and practitioners
- Artists, designer, architects
- Musicians, dancer, performers
- Biologists, genetic engineers
- Experimental physicists, neuroscientists
- Cyber security specialists, hackers
- 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.

Participants' Experience

The aim of the Festival University 2022 is of course not to find actual solutions for the problems of climate change within just 4 weeks, but to tackle head-on the contradictory and conflicting realities of the problem and to develop skills to act within the multitude of aspects by looking at the whole.

In addition to the lectures, presentations, and mentoring sessions, the students will attend interactive, hands-on workshops in smaller groups dedicated to specific themes. The inputs received through these sessions will aid students in their preparations of public presentation as part of the Ars Electronica Festival.

Students are also invited to join excursions and visit renowned regional organizations and significant sight-seeing spots in Linz and its surroundings. Various team events (such as welcome and closing events, barbecues, and trips) will round off the experience of the Festival University, enhancing social cohesion and a sense of common identity and purpose.

A crucial factor of change management is collaboration and co-creation. Thus, the programming aims to create a collaborative community spirit among the participants. A key aspect here is a shared code of co-creation that the participants will co-develop at the beginning of the program and set common values and principles for their teamwork. Each group will be assigned a dedicated facilitator to guide the participants through their journey. Furthermore, all participants traveling to Linz will stay in the same venue to further enable a shared program experience.

Program Schedule

Prolog: (Online)

After selecting all the participants, online sessions will be arranged in August to clarify details regarding travel, accommodation, and visa, as well as to introduce the detailed program schedule of the Festival University 2022.

Introduction & getting to know each other:

August 18th – August 21st, 2022 (in Linz)

- Getting to know each other
- Defining the Code of Co-Creation
- Introducing the themes, topics, mentors, programs and methods
- Lectures and Discussion of phase 1

Preparation: August 22nd – September 4th, 2022 (in Linz)

- Meeting the experts
- Gathering material, information and inspiration
- Preparing reports on topics developed in phase 1 and phase 2
- Attending workshops and hands-on-labs
- Excursions
- Preparing final presentations

On Stage: September 7th – 11th, 2022 (in Linz)

- Participating in the Ars Electronica Festival program
- Final public presentation and interventions

Wrap-up: September 12th – 14th, 2022 (in Linz)

- Preparing the final report and documentation

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- Participants will be expected to arrive in Linz latest by August 18th, 2022 afternoon
 - Final course day will be September 14th. Participants may depart the following day, September 15th.
 - If serious reasons prevent you from participating for the whole duration of the program, exceptions can be arranged. Please contact us to work out a solution.
 - Participants who are still in school can shorten the duration if the program overlaps with the start of their fall semester. Proof of term start date must be provided.

Eligibility

The Festival University is intended for participants between the ages of 16 –25 and from all disciplines. Participants do not need to be currently enrolled in a formal educational program (university, school...).

Applicants younger than 18 years need the express permission of their parents to attend (and must submit a consent sheet for this purpose together with their submission as attached in Annex II).

Furthermore, all participants must have a valid travel insurance including health coverage for the whole duration of the program. Students will be informed about the latest official COVID-19 requirements (if any) prior to the start of the program.

Terms of participation

There are no registration and tuition fees for this program.

All successful applicants will receive the following benefits

- Full participation in the program including community events, excursions and social activities
- Travel, accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) are covered (excluding personal expenses)
- Welcome package
- Full access to all Ars Electronica Festival programs
- Certificate of participation issued by Johannes Kepler University

Application

Timetable

- Applications open: June 13th, 2022
- Applications close: June 30th, 2022 – 11:55pm CEST
- Selected applicants notified by: July 14th, 2022
- Once the students have been selected, they will be notified via email to then start arranging travel, visa and accommodation.

The following details are requested for the application process (all information must be in English):

- Personal details
- Your educational background and interests
- Your interest and motivation to participate in the Festival University 2022 including a video (max. 3 minutes) answering the following question:
 - **What makes you the ideal candidate for this program and how do you resonate with the focus of the Festival University 2022?**
- Optional: additional materials reflecting your passion and expertise (artwork and project, prototype, research, system, activity, strategy and business plan, link to websites, etc.).
- When providing links, please ensure their accessibility and provide passwords whenever necessary,

Please fill in the application form via

<https://forms.office.com/r/156VVFgi9Q>

by June 30th, 2022 (11:59pm CEST) latest.

No alternative forms of submission and no late applications will be accepted.

Please note that parts of your application, including your video, may be used for communication and made be public in case you are selected.

Contact

If you have any questions or require any support, feel free to reach out to our team via festivaluniversity@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 purpose. Your application will be treated confidentially. Only selected members of Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG, Johannes Kepler University 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.

[Apply here](#)

**Deadline for applications:
30th June, 2022**

Annex I: Entry Rights

The organizers and sponsors of the Festival Ars Electronica intend to make the results of the Festival University accessible to the wider public. 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 results of the said festival. The entrants hereby consent to making their activities available for these purposes as a condition of participation.

(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 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.

As a condition of participation, entrants hereby consent to inclusion of all documentation material which is going to 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.

Public Relations and Documentation

Likewise as a condition of participation, entrants hereby consent to the material which is being created during the workshops, as a whole or in part, being used, stored to a data storage medium, and/or made public on the internet or via some other digital medium by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH or by a third party authorized by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH 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, 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 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 should be attached to the application for 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 08/18/2022 – 09/14/2022

mm/dd/yyyy

Signature(s) of person(s) giving consent