

Welcome to AFAD

(What you need to know
as a new student)



Academy of Fine Arts and Design
Study information for new students
Academic year 2026/27



Co-funded by
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PROGRAMME
SLOVAKIA



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Welcome

Welcome to the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava!

This brochure provides an overview of the services available to AFAD students.

Information and services are updated regularly. For the latest details, scan the QR code next to each section of this brochure. Each code takes you directly to the relevant page on the AFAD website.





Academic calendar 2026/27

Winter semester

16.09.2026 - 27.11.2026

Teaching of theoretical subjects and drawing

16.09.2026 - 08.12.2026

Studio teaching, preparatory and specialist courses

05.10.2026 - 09.10.2026 Diploma Week I

09.12.2026 - 16.12.2026

Departmental evaluation of preparatory courses and studios in bachelor's and master's studies

18.12.2026 - 20.12.2026

Student semester projects open to the public

23.12.2026 - 06.01.2027 Christmas holidays

07.01.2027 - 05.02.2027 Examination period



Summer semester

15.02.2027 - 07.05.2027

Teaching of theoretical subjects and drawing

15.02.2027 - 18.05.2027

Studio teaching, preparatory and specialist courses

01.03.2027 - 05.03.2027 Diploma Week II

19.05.2027 - 27.05.2027

Departmental evaluation of preparatory courses and studios in bachelor's and master's studies

28.05.2027 - 30.05.2027

Semester projects open to the public

08.06.2027 - 09.07.2027 Examination period

Counselling and support services





Department of support and counseling for students

counselling and support services

Starting at AFAD means finding your way around new teaching spaces, a new study system and a new community. The Department of support and counseling for students has prepared a student manual with answers to frequently asked questions.

If an important topic is missing, please email:

Tomáš Jančařík
jancarik@vsvu.sk



Psychological support and counselling for students

The department provides comprehensive, accessible support throughout your studies: from your first days, through periods of increased stress and difficult life situations, to preparing for professional practice.

University can be a time of personal and creative growth, but it also brings many challenges. Academic pressure, uncertainty, demanding deadlines, relationships, questions of identity and the future, and balancing study with personal life can affect your wellbeing and your ability to engage fully in your studies. The department aims to create a safe, supportive environment where students can seek help early, whether they are facing a crisis or simply need space to reflect, find direction or receive support.



Psychological counselling

AFAD provides its students with psychological counselling and support in the following areas:

- Problems, crises and conflicts in private life and creative artistic practice
- Difficult personal or emotional experiences (depression, anxiety, fear, relationship problems)
- Study counselling for difficulties with motivation, creative blocks, or working with teachers and other students
- Counselling and activities for students with specific needs
- Student ombuds services



Students with specific needs

AFAD works to provide an accessible environment for all students, including those with specific needs.

The Department of support and counseling for students can help you with:

- Individual consultations
- Adjustments to study conditions
- An individual study plan
- Support during entrance examinations
- Communication and guidance for teachers

Jana Yar and Martin Šarkan provide psychological counselling, ombuds services and support for students with specific needs.

Jana Yar
Wellbeing Coordinator
yar@vsvu.sk

Martin Šarkan
Counsellor - Psychologist | School Ombudsman
sarkan@vsvu.sk



Support for students from Ukraine

AFAD helps students from Ukraine adapt to a new environment and deal with the challenges of studying in another country, including accommodation, residence registration, health insurance, the education system and specific opportunities. It also connects new students from Ukraine with the existing Ukrainian community, the AFAD community and other international students. Further information, contact details and an information document in Ukrainian are available on the website.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact:

Oksana Sadovenko
sadovenko@vsvu.sk



Buddy system

The Buddy system is a peer support programme that helps students settle into their studies and life at AFAD. It promotes mental wellbeing, strengthens the school community and builds connections across year groups. Up-to-date information on how to connect with buddies and the ways they can help and support you is available on the website.

If you have any questions, contact the Buddy system coordinators.

Katka Brizendine Chebeňová
brizendine-chebenova@vsvu.sk

Jana Yar
yar@vsvu.sk



Academic information





Study FAQs

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Tomáš Jančařík
jancarik@vsvu.sk



Academic Library

The AFAD Academic Library is open to students and staff. It is located in the building at Hviezdoslavovo námestie 18.

Visit the website for the latest information on the library, its opening hours and services, and new additions to the library catalogue.





IT information

AFAD uses the AIS system to manage study administration. You can use AIS to find and enrol in courses, build your timetable and register for examinations.

Basic information on using AIS, a video tutorial and a PDF with detailed instructions are available and regularly updated on the website.



AFAD Intranet

The AFAD Intranet provides information about your studies, including the study guide and academic calendar, as well as opportunities such as grants, scholarships, internships and jobs. It also contains information on how AFAD operates, and on events and exhibitions.



Ethics Commission and Code of Ethics

At AFAD, we value fairness, inclusion and respectful relationships. The Code of Ethics sets out the basic ethical standards for the conduct of students, teaching staff and researchers in education, artistic practice, research and interpersonal relations.

The Code (in Slovak) is available on the Ethics Commission website. The commission considers reports of breaches of the AFAD Code of Ethics and generally recognised moral principles. For help with inappropriate behaviour, discrimination or violations of rights covered by the Code of Ethics, you can also contact the school ombudsman:

Martin Šarkan
Counsellor - Psychologist | School Ombudsman
sarkan@vsvu.sk



Academic Senate

The Academic Senate is a body of academic self-government at AFAD in Bratislava. At its meetings, it discusses current issues in school life, legislative requirements and the needs of the academy.

The student section of the Academic Senate has 7 members. You can contact them at:

scas@vsvu.sk





AFAD buildings

Hviezdoslavovo nám. 18

814 37 Bratislava

+421 948 931 501 (mobile)
+421 2 5942 8500

- Theory and History of Art
- Painting
- Architecture

Kocel'ova 23

821 08 Bratislava

+421 2 5942 8509

- Painting

Drotárska 44

811 02 Bratislava

+421 948 991 501 (mobile)
+421 2 6829 9500

- Digital Arts
- Drawing
- Applied Art
- Textiles
- Sculpture, Object, Installation
- Conservation and Restoration
- Intermedia
- Printmaking and Other Media
- Photography and New Media
- Design
- Visual Communication

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Department of support and counseling for
students

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