

Demands of the Occupation of the University of Applied Arts Vienna

We stand in solidarity with the occupations of the University of Vienna, University of Innsbruck, University of Salzburg, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and their respective demands, as well as the international occupations on End Fossil. We also stand shoulder to shoulder with the Mittelbau of the universities and share their demands. Furthermore, we are in deep solidarity with the powerful protests in Iran and Afghanistan. The order of demands does not imply any prioritization.

1. University for Future must act

We demand the development of an ambitious sustainability strategy with the participation of students and experts. This has already been promised for the end of 2021 at the latest (cf. Development Plan 2022-2027 [2]) and has still not been done so far. We demand the unconditional and consistent implementation of the defined goals. Measures taken and goals missed must be communicated clearly and openly. In particular, concrete measures should be taken with regard to the CO₂ neutrality by 2030 set out in the University For Future Declaration [1]. Annual progress reports should be shared and critically discussed with all university members, experts and the public. We also call for concrete measures such as:

(a) Vegan/vegetarian canteens with inexpensive prices for all. In order for the cafeteria to be affordable for all, a full meal must not cost more than 3.50 Euros. Therefore, it must be subsidized. For a sustainable everyday study life, it is essential to provide students and employees with regional and healthy food. We are convinced that this is the task of the university. A sustainable cafeteria represents an important contribution to climate protection and an increase in the quality of life compared to individualized meals (e.g. from the supermarket).

b) Transparency about the energy supply (energy forms and saving measures) and the material cycles, as well as recycling systems of the university. We demand transparency as a first step, because no data on the university's CO₂ balance is yet available. Concrete measures must be taken subsequently.

c) Contribution to a radical mobility turnaround. To this end, the university must, on the one hand, provide the infrastructure for climate-friendly travel (e.g., bicycle racks, showers). On the other hand, it must set up a travel fund for sustainable travel. This is because it is often cheaper to travel to excursions, stays abroad or exhibitions using climate-damaging means of transport (e.g. airplane). We demand that the university covers the difference to more ecological means of transportation (e.g. night train).

d) Paid positions to implement and monitor the progress of climate neutrality at each institution.

e) Deliberate disassociation from anti-sustainable corporations (e.g., weapons and military equipment, fossil fuel and agricultural corporations) and lobbies. This includes, in particular, a ban on third-party funding and recruitment events, as well as other forms of collaboration. We also demand that the university withdraws invested funds from investments that support fossil technologies (divestment). Investments should only be made in sustainable, social, ethical and environmental investments. These should be selected according to Agenda 21 of the UN World Commission or other suitable sustainability indices. To verify these measures, we demand complete transparency on all finances.

f) We call on the University to reflect on extractivist practices and colonial exploitation of people, land and ecosystems and to work to end this violence.

2. Radical Change - End Discriminatory Structures

The current goals and strategies of the university regarding the issue of anti-discrimination (see Development Plan 2022-2027 [2]) are not sufficient. The University of Applied Arts Vienna, as an elitist and exclusive institution, is rooted in discriminatory social and academic structures - we need a radical systematic change.

By summer 2023, the Angewandte must develop a consistent strategy, with the involvement and payment of students and experts, on how it will counteract these discriminatory power structures inside and outside the university. The development of discrimination-sensitive learning and exchange spaces must be sustainably funded and resourced. In addition, any language barriers that exist at the university should be dismantled. For example, in relation to technical equipment (such as printers), as well as on the internet platform for study matters ("base"). The university must commit to ending discriminatory structures and initiate further concrete measures for accessibility (in all university buildings). It should also financially support self-organized groups in their anti-discrimination work. Demands of the Occupation of the University of Applied Arts

3. Integrate System Critique into the University and the Curriculum.

Critique of the system and climate justice are important components of a contemporary education. Therefore, we call for:

(a) Climate justice module. Financial support for the integration of aspects of sustainable development in existing studies. Additional positions must be created for this purpose,

with special attention to queer, feminist, decolonial, racism- and capitalism-critical perspectives. We demand a compulsory module for all students, which is focused on the critical and intensive examination of colonialism and climate justice and their systematic origins. For the concrete content of these courses as well as the appointment of lecturers, we demand student co-determination.

b) Democratized courses and spaces. We demand the establishment of democratized, student-organized learning events in all study programs. Self-organized spaces for the exchange of radical solutions and innovative ideas should be created. These should promote dialogue across disciplinary or task boundaries, including with actors in politics and civil society.

c) Facilitate cross-institutional co-enrollment and credit transfer.

d) Democratization of teaching. We call for the inclusion of student perspectives in the revision of all curricula through accessible committees, at least half of which are composed of voting students. We also call for appropriate compensation for student co-determination work.

4. Precarity

Especially in times of crisis, the precarious conditions under which students and staff, as well as external employees, have to operate at the university become more acute. Therefore, we demand from the university increased accommodation, transparent support and relief for the benefit of students. Financial and bureaucratic hurdles must be removed promptly and replaced by a supportive infrastructure. Specifically, we demand:

(a) accommodations for working students and students who perform care work. This includes the elimination of attendance requirements. Demands of the occupation of the University of Applied Arts

b) Provision of all materials and licenses necessary for studying (this includes materials for using the workshops, e.g. paints, clay, paper, as well as licenses e.g. MS Office and Adobe Creative Cloud).

c) Abolition of fees for students from third countries, as well as equal access to all internal university funding for all students.

d) Abolition of fees for long-term students.

e) Automated provision of social insurance for all students.

f) Provision and or placement of affordable dormitory space.

- (g) Provision of sustained free mental health counseling.
- (h) Improve accessibility for prospective students, targeting first-generation working-class students, for example, without a university entrance qualification
- i) Improve conditions for student employees, and provide better pay and long-term employment for mid-level students
- j) Fair and direct employment of everyone working for the university. This includes, but is not limited to, cleaning staff, security, and facilities management
- k) Better financing of the workshops and their employees Compliance

The demands should be ensured by appropriately trained and paid persons, including student perspectives, as well as experts in a committee.

Let's *really* apply future!

Vienna, December 05, 2022

[1] https://www.dieangewandte.at/university_for_future

[2] https://www.dieangewandte.at/jart/prj3/angewandte-2016/data/uploads/Universitaet/Orangization/EP22_27.pdf