

Continuing Education:

Kent State University, School of Visual Communication Design

<http://www2.kent.edu/vcd/grad/index.cfm>

Design research is agile and responsive. It's about knowing an end user so well that you understand his uniqueness, his challenges and most importantly, his opportunities. Students in the MA and MFA programs in the School of Visual Communication Design take a proactive, in-depth approach to learning research methods and tackling unframed design problems with ethnographic research and interviews, bringing the world to the classroom and vice versa.

NC State Design

<http://design.ncsu.edu>

The NC State University College of Design prepares designers who, in the broadest sense, shape the world. Our curriculum integrates practical, ethical, and aesthetic thought and action to enhance the meaning and quality of life through the creation of knowledge informing the critical study of artifacts and places.

Stanford D-School

<http://dschool.stanford.edu/our-point-of-view/#innovators>

The d.school is a hub for innovators at Stanford. Students and faculty in engineering, medicine, business, law, the humanities, sciences, and education find their way here to take on the world's messy problems together. Human values are at the heart of our collaborative approach.

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design

<http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/news/all-news/feed.html>

The investigative, speculative aspect of the work of the Graduate School of Design is akin to Walter Benjamin's wresting of tradition from its tendency to conform. Rethinking the conventions of design practice is, for us, an optimistic and essential project, undertaken with the knowledge that our efforts make a difference in the physical environment. The GSD offers an exciting setting for interaction and the exchange of ideas through the combination of disciplines—architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning and design—together with the research of our studio-based as well as MDes and doctoral programs.

Illinois Institute of Technology - Institute of Design

<http://admissions.iit.edu/graduate/programs/institute-design>

IIT Institute of Design (ID) is located in Chicago. The institute is dedicated to improving the process of innovation by developing and teaching a more methodological and human-centered approach to design. Students learn advanced design methods and frameworks such as problem framing, user research, and prototyping to help them address the large-scale, ambiguous problems facing companies, government, and civic organizations.

Carnegie Mellon - Design

<http://www.design.cmu.edu/content/master-design>

The Master of Design (MDes) in Design for Interactions is a two-year professional degree for students with an undergraduate degree in design or previous design experience. Our new curriculum situates research within the larger context of the interactions between people, organizations, and the natural world. Students in the MDes program engage in research-based design for services and social innovation that aim to catalyze the transition to more-sustainable futures.

MIT - D Lab

<http://d-lab.mit.edu/courses/design>

D-Lab: Design addresses problems faced by underserved communities, with a focus on design, experimentation, and prototyping processes. Particular attention is placed on constraints faced when designing for developing countries. Multidisciplinary teams work on semester-long projects in collaboration with community partners, field practitioners, and experts in relevant fields.

MICA

[http://www.mica.edu/Programs_of_Study/Graduate_Programs/Graphic_Design_\(MFA\).html](http://www.mica.edu/Programs_of_Study/Graduate_Programs/Graphic_Design_(MFA).html)

MFA graphic students at MICA are encouraged to view themselves as cultural producers, “practical visionaries,” and “utopian entrepreneurs” who actively initiate projects. Whether the work takes the form of publications, websites, products, or exhibitions, students focus on advancing a personal vision and public message.

The Ohio State

<https://design.osu.edu/grad/programs/drd>

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in design research and development is centered on design research, with the objective of developing new concepts, theories, and outcomes that are tested with methods of evaluation for performance, usability, and user satisfaction. The techniques and tools applied may be those traditional to design practice, or those evolving from experimentation and/or electronic media. Critical to this discovery process is the engagement of a primary research effort.

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

<http://arts.vcu.edu/graphicdesign/mfa/>

The graduate program in visual communications is oriented toward individuals interested in conducting visual or theoretical research, and in investigating the intersection of function and expression in design problem solving. The faculty emphasizes a rigorous theoretical framework, an historical perspective, and an awareness of contemporary issues as the basis for addressing present and future communication problems.