

Application Guide for Graduate Studies at UNIST Design

Revised as of Fri Nov 24 2023

Hi! So you are applying for graduate study at Design UNIST! Preparing your application may seem daunting. Here's our little guide to help you along your way.

Preferred field of study

Approximately 500 words in English

Design has many sub-disciplines, and these are reflected in the variety of expertise we boast at UNIST Design. Describe the research field and research direction you are interested in. Explore our website for the labs, visit the individual lab's website and see what they do in terms of academic research, as well as design practice.

Study plan

Approximately 800 words in English

Provide a clear and concise account of your study objectives, including how UNIST Design can support these. Be specific about your specialized interests in your chosen field of study. Describe the study program you expect to undertake, and explain how your plan builds upon your previous training and future objectives.

Personal statement

Approximately 800 words in English

Graduate study is as much about people as it is about ploughing through books, making prototypes and solving real-world problems. You need to know us through our website. Now, please provide a description of yourself, your life, and/or your goals.

Portfolio

Free-format, 3-5 projects, 2-3 pages each, PDF, under 10 mb

Your portfolio shows what you are capable of as a designer, thinker and problem solver. It is an essential tool for us to evaluate your ability to achieve your goal during your graduate study. Each project may include:

1. Project objectives (given/or self-initiated)
2. Problem definition
3. Process & methods
4. User benefit & social / commercial impact
5. Final design outcome

Research Proposal – PhD only

Approximately 1,000 words in English

1. Introduction

Provide a sketch of context, trends, status quo, technology, definition of terms, brief history of planned research topic, including citation of publications, and existing works as required. What is your proposal, and how does it locate within existing work in the area?

2. Problem Definition

Indicate the knowledge gap or issue your project will aim to address. What is the problem or gap in understanding?

3. Possible Process Planning

Explain how you may address the gap or issue you wish to tackle. For example, possible steps in your research project. What will you do?

5. Expected Results & Contribution

What results might you expect to derive from your project, and what contribution do you hope to make?

Preparing yourself for the interview

Interview is probably the most important part of your application process where you do not only answer the questions from selection committee members, but also ask questions about UNIST Design – i.e., it's a dialogue. Below is an guide for you to maximize your chance to have a good conversion:

For master study, master-PhD combined

Fifteen minutes

- Highlights from submitted portfolio – 3 minutes
- Summary/highlights from preferred study field in detail – 1 minute
- Summary/highlights from study plan – 2 minutes
- Summary/highlights from personal statement – 2 minutes
- Discussion/Q&A – 7 minutes

PhD

Fifteen minutes

- Highlights from the submitted portfolio and/or published papers (if submitted) – 4 minutes
- Summary/highlights of research proposal – 4 minutes
- Discussion/Q&A – 7 minutes