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Machine in Flux – Wood, Sunjoo Lee, Ko de Beer
Photo: Ars Electronica, tom mesic

Transform your World
The Festival University

by

ARS ELECTRONICA
Art, Technology & Society

JKU
JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

August 30 – September 19, 2021

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Locations	Online and in Linz
Duration	3 weeks
Program dates	08/30/2021 – 09/19/2021*
Target group	Students from all disciplines 16 – 24 years
Application Deadline	07/25/2021
Language	English
Study Type	Festival University
Time Requirement	Full-time
Credits	Festival University certificate with 4,5 ECTS
Tuition Fees	Free / Travel, accommodation, meals covered

* Participants can shorten the duration to two weeks if the program overlaps with the start of the fall semester.

The program is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research as well as the Federal Province of Upper Austria.

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

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Structure

4 About this venture

5 About the program

6 Schedule

7 Eligibility

7 Terms of participation

7 Application

8 Mentors

8 Schedule

8 Contact

8 Privacy

9 Support

About this venture

Next-gen technical university—a think tank and do tank for a new technical university focused on digitalization and digital transformation.

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

In order 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 in collaboration with JKU. It will serve as a prototype and showcase for a university of the 21st century.

About the program

Ars Electronica and Johannes Kepler University will collaborate for the special and comprehensive festival university format “Transform your World.” 100 young people from all over the world and many different cultural backgrounds and disciplines will gather at the Ars Electronica Festival to explore and study new ways towards digital transformation and transformational change.

The **program design** offers

- 100 young people from Austria, Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Australia
- 20 mentors from science and art, from business and politics
- Students, young professionals and experts from:
    - Science and Technology,
    - Art and Design,
    - Social Activism and Politics,
    - Economy and Start-up-Business
- the opportunity to team-up for 3 weeks—On-site and On-line
- in 10 groups (10 participants per group)
- to study and explore transformational change
    - How can we initiate change?
    - How can we shape change?
    - How can we master change?

The Festival University is embedded in the **Ars Electronica Festival** and takes place around and during the festival period of Ars Electronica in Linz from September 8 – 12.

During the three-week program of the Festival University, **students will focus on how to:**

Discuss, Negotiate, and Decide:

- What is the most urgent thing to be changed?
- And why?

Explore, Collect, and Get Inspired

- What skills and whose expertise are needed?

Envision and Develop

- A new strategy for transformation and change
- How to deal with opposite positions?
- How to negotiate a joint course of action?

Schedule

Week I
08/30/21 – 09/05/21—all online

Week II+III
09/06/21 – 09/19/21—presence in Linz (*)

Week I
08/30/21 – 09/05/21 (online)

- Getting to know each other
- Introducing the themes, topics, mentors, programs, and methods
- Lectures and discussion
- Developing the “creative research questions”

Participants will travel to Linz on the weekend

Week II
09/06/21 – 09/12/21 (in Linz)*

- Collecting material, information and inspiration
- Meeting the artists and scientists
- Workshops, Hands-On Labs
- Ars Electronica Festival program

Week III
09/13/21 – 09/19/21 (in Linz)*/**

- Think it through and work it out
- Groups develop their strategies for change
- Excursion
- Final presentation and discussion of the results

* Due to the many travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, some exceptions can be made, e.g. online participation may be possible. Please note that the Festival University program contents may be subject to change.

** Participants can shorten the duration to two weeks (by not attending Week III) if the program overlaps with the start of their fall semester. Proof of term start date must be submitted.

Eligibility

The Festival University is intended for participants between the ages of 16 – 24 and from all disciplines. Participants do not need to be currently enrolled in a formal educational program from all disciplines and countries. (university, school...)

Applicants younger than 18 years need the permission of their parents/guardians and must submit a consent sheet with their submission (see Attachment II).

Terms of participation

There are no registration and/or tuition fees for this program.

Successful applicants will receive the following benefits

- Full participation in the program
- Travel, accommodation, and meals are covered (excluding personal expenses)
- Welcome package and Ars Electronica catalogue
- Full access to all online and onsite festival programs
- Participation in community dinners and events

Application

Your application (all documents must be in English) must include:

- A CV (max. 2 pages) or short biography (max. 200–300 words) incl. photo in high resolution (min. 1 MB) and contact details
- A video (max. 3 min) in which you present your interest and motivation to take part in the program (the video can be made in a very simple way with your smartphone).
- Information if you wish to participate online only or with a shortened duration from 08/30/21 – 09/11/21
- *Optional:* additional materials (max. 5 MB) that reflect your expertise (artwork and project, prototype, research, system, activity, strategy and business plan etc.)

Please submit all documents via email with the subject header
"Festival University 2021 – Application *Your Name*" to festival@ars.electronica.art.
All application documents must be sent via email with a WeTransfer download link (or alternative service) to your video and larger files.

A joint committee of evaluators comprised of Ars Electronica and Johannes Kepler University staff will assess the applications after the closure of the open call. The selected applicants will be announced immediately after the assessment.

Mentors

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

- Scientists, Researchers, Technologists,
- Academics and Practitioners
- Artists, Designer, Architects
- Musicians, Dancer, Performers
- Biologists, Genetic Engineers
- Experimental Physicists, Neuroscientists
- Cyber Security Specialists, Hacker
- 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.
They all share one interest: **to transform our world**

Schedule

- Applications Open: 06/29/2021
- Applications Close: 07/25/2021, 11:55 pm CEST
- Successful Applicants will be notified by: 08/04/2021

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact: **festival@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 purposes. Your application will be treated confidentially. Only selected members of Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG, Johannes Kepler University, Federal Province of Upper Austria, 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).

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Support

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Apply here

Deadline for applications:
July 25, 2021

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Attachment I: Entry Rights

The organizers and sponsors of the Festival Ars Electronica intend to make the results of the Festival University accessible to the public audience. 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 works. The entrants hereby consent to making their activities available for these purposes.
(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 & Co KG 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.
Entrants hereby consent to inclusion of all documentation material that will 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 & Co KG.

Public Relations and Documentation
Entrants hereby consent to the material that is being created during the workshops, as a whole or in part, being used, stored on a data storage medium, and/or made public on the internet or via some other digital medium by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG or by a third party authorized by Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG 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 and 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 & Co KG will accord all due consideration to the entrants' legitimate interests but assumes no statutory duty in this connection.

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Annex II: Consent Form

The following (sample) consent letter must be included in the application of 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 08/30/2021 to 09/19/2021

_____ _____
mm/dd/yyyy Signature(s) of person(s) giving consent