

NABA

NUOVA ACCADEMIA
DI BELLE ARTI

Call for Application
A.Y. 2026/27

**PhD in Artistic
Practice**

Doctoral School
MILAN CAMPUS
A.Y. 2026/27

Call for Application

PhD in Artistic Practice

Introduction and programme description

NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti together with HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design at University of Gothenburg (HDK-Valand) welcomes applications for its International **Doctorate in Artistic Practice**.

The **PhD in Artistic Practice** program provides individuals with the opportunity to immerse themselves in distinctive practice-based research projects within a collaborative learning environment, emphasizing a transdisciplinary and international approach.

For the next academic year, we are pleased to announce that the Academy decided to **invest in the professional development** of its own community, dedicating this call for project to **NABA Employees only**. Therefore we welcome applications from internal candidates who are permanently employed at any NABA Campus (*contratto a tempo indeterminato*). Centred on the concept of practice-based research, the PhD-in-Practice program draws inspiration from critical epistemologies and politically engaged frameworks. It conceives practice-based research as a dynamic space for negotiating social, political, and cultural issues, fostering interdisciplinary inquiry across the arts, academia, and diverse cultural contexts. NABA's primary goal with this professional development PhD program, is to elevate the academic standing of its staff, and to support and advance innovative artistic and research practices capable of generating outstanding contributions to knowledge. The program structure includes seminars, lectures, courses, research activities, and faculty project development. Active participation in program organization, including coordinating workshops, teaching activities, guest lectures, conferences, exhibitions, and screenings, is expected from participants.

Available positions

Two PhD positions are available with a duration of **five to six years part time**.

Entry requirements and eligibility

A 2nd level degree (MA) from a recognized university/academy, and submission of the required application material. Staff with an ongoing artistic practice are encouraged to apply. In addition to this, being the program aiming at the students' professional development, the project proposed must be relevant to NABA's activity and research interests. With this in mind, we consider artistic practice in its broader meaning.

As set out below, applicants must discuss and agree their proposals with their **Line Manager** before submission.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

HDK-Valand is currently finalising its procedure for the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**. RPL enables applicants who do not hold the formal academic qualifications required for admission, but who have acquired relevant knowledge, skills and competencies through professional experience, to have this prior learning assessed for eligibility to access courses and programmes. While the specific procedure has not yet been published at the time of this call, we encourage prospective applicants in this situation to submit an application nonetheless. We are confident that the RPL procedure will be in place before the application deadline. Although we cannot guarantee this outcome, we believe it is worthwhile to apply and have your application considered.

Programme structure and working arrangements

The programme is organised as a **part-time professional-development** pathway integrated into the candidate's working activity at NABA. The indicative average allocation of working time is:

- 25% usual non-project related job activity;
- 55% usual work activity that is also related to the PhD;
- 20% work activity exclusively related to the PhD program (such as writing, seminars attendance and courses etc).

The average time of completion is 5.3 years. Candidates are responsible for organising their time so that both work and study activities are pursued effectively. Any period of leave from work longer than five consecutive days and dedicated exclusively to PhD-related activity must be communicated at least one month in advance and agreed with the relevant Line Manager.

Application procedure

Key dates and application link

Applications open: **23 July 2026**

Application deadline: **7 September 2026, 12:00 CEST**

Online application form: [Click here](#)

Applications submitted after the deadline, or through channels other than the designated online form, will not be considered.

How to apply

1. Discuss the proposal with your Line Manager

Before submitting the application, applicants must discuss the complete proposed research project, its integration into their NABA working activities and the related workload with their line manager.

2. Complete the online application form

Enter the required personal, educational and professional information, together with the title of the research proposal, a brief research question, a proposal summary and the requested keywords.

3. Complete the application annexes

Download and complete Annexes A, B, C and D (Line Manager Approval Form). All mandatory fields must be completed. Annex D must be signed by both the line manager and the applicant.

4. Prepare the supporting documents

Prepare all required supporting documents in the formats and within the limits specified in this call and in the application templates.

5. Upload and submit

Upload the completed documents through the online form and submit the application no later than 7 September 2026 at 12:00 CEST.

Application package

The application must contain:

- Registration / Introduction
- Research Proposal
- Statement
- Time Plan
- Supporting Documents

Online application form: Personal and educational information; title of the research proposal; brief research question; proposal summary and keywords.

Annex A - Research Proposal: Research subject; theoretical framework; artistic context; fields of research; intended outcomes; research innovation; research process and method; previous research experience; bibliographic references (maximum 20 items); equipment and resources.

Annex B - Statement: Artistic statement; description of current practice; contribution to NABA; study-work balance.

Annex C - Time Plan: Planned activities and schedule per year.

Annex D - Line Manager Approval Form: Candidate and line manager information; project acknowledgement; workload and feasibility assessment; working-hours allocation; line manager and applicant declarations and signatures.

Supporting documents: Curriculum Vitae; portfolio; academic transcript; publications/presentations, if any; recommendation letters; proof of English-language proficiency; any additional HR documentation requested in the online form.

Detailed requirements for supporting documents

Curriculum Vitae

The Curriculum Vitae must be uploaded in PDF format. No specific layout is required.

Portfolio

The portfolio may include a maximum of 3 artworks or 3 projects and may contain up to 20 images assembled in a single PDF file. It may also include a maximum of 3 videos. Videos must be submitted as links to a digital platform, such as Vimeo, YouTube, a personal website or a blog; any password required to access the content must be included in the PDF.

Academic transcript

The academic transcript must identify the applicant and include the accredited units undertaken, their full titles, the period of study and the result obtained for each unit, together with the title and completion status of the relevant qualification.

Publications and presentations

Where applicable, applicants may upload one PDF containing a maximum of 10 publications or presentations relevant to the proposed research.

Letters of recommendation

Applicants may submit up to 2 letters of recommendation.

English-language proficiency

Applicants must provide evidence of English-language proficiency as specified in the application form. This may consist of a valid C1-level English language certification or evidence that the required level of education was completed entirely in English. Applicants can contact Marco Baschiera via email and book an appointment with him for a specific PhD application language test. He will provide a level attribution and recommendation via email, please upload a pdf of the email in your application online form.

Assessment and submission rules

Selection Procedure

The selection of doctoral candidates is conducted in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, academic excellence, and merit-based assessment. The primary selection criterion is the applicant's demonstrated ability to successfully complete doctoral education.

Two doctoral positions are advertised through this call. **Eligibility is restricted to regularly employed staff members of NABA.** Following the application deadline, all applications are reviewed to verify compliance with the general and specific eligibility requirements and the completeness of the required documentation.

Eligible applications are assessed by an **Assessment Committee** appointed by the Dean of NABA.

The Committee consists of:

Daniele Bisello (Managing Director of NABA);

Guido Tattoni (Dean of NABA);

Vincenzo Estremo (PhD in Artistic Practice Course Leader NABA);

Mick Wilson (Director of Studies HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design);

Elena Raviola (Professor HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design);

Carlotta Cossutta (Research Fellow Università degli Studi di Milano).

The Committee is responsible for assessing applicants' eligibility, academic and artistic qualifications, research proposals, and overall suitability for doctoral education.

The assessment is based on a comprehensive evaluation of each applicant's qualifications, taking into account the quality and originality of previous artistic and scholarly work, the research proposal, critical and methodological competence, research potential, and the applicant's capacity to contribute to the research environment at NABA and HDK-Valand.

Assessment of the Research Proposal

Applicants are required to submit a research proposal demonstrating:

- a clearly defined research question (max 6 points);
- originality and relevance to the artistic research context (max 6 points);
- methodological awareness (max 6 points);
- a realistic research plan and timetable (max 6 points);
- the expected contribution to knowledge (max 6 points);
- the expected contribution to NABA (max 10 points).

The assessment also considers evidence of the applicant's capacity to undertake doctoral studies, including previous academic achievements, independent artistic or scholarly work, research experience, publications, exhibitions, collaborative projects, and the ability to carry out sustained long-term research.

Maximum score: 40 points.

Shortlisting

8–21 September 2026

Following the assessment of the written applications, the Assessment Committee prepares a shortlist of a maximum of 20 applicants demonstrating the strongest overall qualifications and research potential. Only shortlisted applicants are invited to the interview stage.

Interview Stage

September–October 2026

Shortlisted candidates participate in a structured interview with the Assessment Committee. The interview evaluates:

- Motivation for undertaking doctoral studies (*Max 10 points*);
- Ability to present the proposed project clearly and effectively (*Max. 10 points*);
- Ability to identify the resources required for the project and demonstrate how they will be managed (*Max. 10 points*);
- Ability to establish a clear relationship between methodology and research (*Max. 10 points*);
- Ability to present one's artistic practice within a research context (*Max. 10 points*);
- Ability to demonstrate the benefits and relevance of the proposed project within the context of the Academy (*Max. 10 points*).

Where appropriate, applicants may also be invited to present examples of their artistic practice.

Maximum score: 60 points.

Final Evaluation and Recommendation

Following the interviews, the Assessment Committee carries out a final evaluation and prepares:

- a written assessment of each shortlisted candidate;
- a ranked list of applicants;
- a reasoned recommendation for the allocation of the doctoral positions.

Admission Decision

Based on the recommendation of the Assessment Committee, the Dean of NABA submits the proposed candidates for admission to HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design, University of Gothenburg. The formal decision on admission to the PhD Programme in Artistic Practice is made by the competent authority at the University of Gothenburg in accordance with the University's Admission Regulations for Doctoral Education.

Notification

October 2026

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure following the formal admission decision. Successful applicants will receive information regarding admission, enrolment procedures, and the commencement of doctoral studies.

Formal submission requirements

- All fields marked as mandatory in the online form and application templates must be completed.
- Applicants must use the official application templates and must not alter their structure or file format.
- The word-count and item limits specified for each section must be respected.
- All files must be legible, complete and uploaded in the required format.
- Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- Applicants are responsible for the accuracy and truthfulness of all information and declarations submitted.
- Mandatory PDF format: All required application documents must be uploaded exclusively in PDF format. Documents submitted in any other format will not be accepted, and the application may consequently be considered incomplete.

Applicants are kindly requested to complete the attached forms using Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader.

Information and contacts

Online application form: [Click here](#)

General syllabus: https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2023-03/General%20Syllabus%20Artistic%20Practice%20Dr%20of%20Arts_2023-03-13.pdf

Rules for Doctoral Education at University of Gothenburg: <https://canvas.gu.se/courses/43090/pages/hdk-valand-new-phd-places-call-2026>

Contact email: phd@naba.it

Any updates or clarifications concerning the call will be communicated through NABA institutional channels. **Webinar:**

23 July 2026 at 11:00 a.m. CEST

[Click here to join the webinar](#)