



# Open Design course

for refugees and asylum seekers

English spoken / No tuition fee / 8 weeks / Apply before 19 April 2016 /  
[opendesign.schoolofarts.be](http://opendesign.schoolofarts.be)



## KASK and Royal Conservatory welcome refugees.

Dear student refugee,

If you're talented in music, visual arts, design, theatre or audiovisual arts we like to invite you to our faculty. With the information brochure 'School of Arts Ghent for refugees' we wish to inform you about the various possibilities we offer to welcome you to our institute and its community.

As a faculty for higher art education we see it as our duty to actively engage in society. We strongly believe that an open society thrives upon education as well as upon culture and art. And we would like to offer you the combined strength and support of these foundations: learning through education, art and culture.

The Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK) and the Royal Conservatory together constitute the School of Arts of University College Ghent. For the academic year 2016-2017 the School of Arts offers some specific initiatives to support student-refugees in their choice for our institute.

You will find an overview of our study and research programmes, application requirements, admission tests, registration process, student services and scholarships for non-EU/EER nationals. On May 18th 2016 we organise an extra information session about studying higher education in Flanders for refugees and asylum seekers.

In addition, a multi-disciplinary 8-week course in Open Design will be hosted by the departments of autonomous arts and design. This course is open for both refugees and asylum seekers. The course will be held in English from May 2nd till June 30th 2016, and is free of charge. Deadline for applying is April 18th 2016. Below you can find all the information about this course.

Looking forward to meeting you



## Open Design course for refugees and asylum seekers.

Dear Open Design course candidate,

KASK / School of Arts Ghent offers a course in Open Design for asylum seekers and refugees currently staying in Belgium. The course programme focuses on Open Design approaches in media-, product- and systems design. The course method is based on co-creation and peer learning, and puts an emphasis on technological literacy and new media literacy.

This 8-week course is open for refugees, but also for asylum-seekers. The course will accept a maximum of 12 participants. Candidates should apply by sending some background information about themselves (see further). **Classes are taught in English. There is no tuition fee, participation is free of charge. If necessary, we can support your travel expenses to the course.**

Who are we looking for?

**We strongly encourage all candidates with an interest in the programme to apply.** Co-creation processes benefit from a shared understanding of Open Design principles, but also from diversity and multi-disciplinarity. Your cultural, artistic, educational or professional background can be a very good input for this course. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

**Start date: 2 May 2016**

**Deadline for applications: 18 April 2016**

Bram Crevits  
Open Design course coordinator



## 1. ABOUT OPEN DESIGN

The late 20th century saw the introduction of a vast array of information and communication technologies into society. In this, the beginning of the 21st century we are only starting to learn and deal with the real impact and possibilities of these technologies. One of the major developments can be found in the field of design, with the appearance of Open Design. Open Design is based on the free sharing of information, networked collaboration, digital fabrication; and fundamentally alters methods of creation.

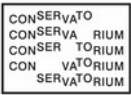
Open Design is the development of objects, communication media or systems through use of publicly shared design information, alternative design methods and/or open tools for design. It is a heterogeneous field closely tied to the sociotechnical implications of the internet (e.g. peer-to-peer processes), and tools of digital creation and fabrication. It can be situated as much in the realm of applied design as in experimental media art or the broader context of online- or network-culture. As a cultural phenomenon it can also be seen as a field of discourse, critically expanding our notion of design and conceptions of society. Therefore you will study the subject of Open Design both as a technological and as a cultural, artistic or critical practice.

## 2. PROFILE OF CANDIDATES: WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The course accepts participants with educational or professional backgrounds (or other experience) and skills from very diverse backgrounds. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about this.

### 2.1 DESIGN SKILLS

You can definitely apply if you have one of the following skills and have an interest in Open Design: **web design and web development** (html, css, javascript, python, php, mysql), **graphic design** (adobe, open source tools), **digital design and digital manufacturing** (3D modelling, 3D printing, laser-cutting,...), **computer programming**,



**open hardware** (arduino, raspberry pi, processing, pure data), **illustration**, drawing, creative **writing** (copywriting, storytelling, language and translation, journalism), **audiovisual** (sound-design, video editing, motion graphics, animation), **radio, electronic music, design theory and methodology**, specific design or **handicraft skills** such as furniture, fashion, textile design, tapestry... **marketing and advertising, printmaking:** (silkscreen, lithography, letterpress...) **project management, photography**,...

## 2.2 OTHER BACKGROUNDS

If you have one or more of the above skills and you are willing to share this with others in the context of cooperative learning and co-creation, we strongly encourage you to apply. However, if you do not have one of the above skills but you have an interest in Open Design, then read the list below. We are also welcoming additional expertise and skills from applicants with a background in:

Architecture and Urbanism, Education sciences, Communication sciences, Anthropology or Cultural studies, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Biology, or other academic backgrounds.

## 3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should:

- demonstrate a keen interest in Open Design.
- ideally have educational or professional expertise related to the skills listed above.
- be at least 18 years of age.
- be able to attend class meetings 3 days/week at the School of Arts, Bijloke campus in Ghent.
- have basic computer skills.
- have at least basic English language skills.
- register via the application form (on our website, via mail or postal service).

## 4. COURSE DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 COURSE LEVEL

This intensive course will provide practical and theoretical competencies, and aims at a higher education learning level. It offers a broad and general overview of Open Design as a contemporary sociotechnical phenomenon, and facilitates individualised indepth and practice based learning of specific Open Design strategies and tactics. The course requires participants to attend classes 3 days per week.

### 4.2 COURSE METHOD

The methodological approach of the programme is based on peer learning and co-creation. We strongly believe in embedding the core principles of Open Design into the very structure of the programme.

Students are expected to bring their own knowledge and skills to the course, and engage thoroughly in sharing and collaborating with each other. For this approach of cooperative learning we seek to create a group of students maximising complementary expertise and creative talent, bringing together basic and highly specialised skills. In order to establish an interesting, valuable and unique learning environment, candidates are selected based on a competitive and carefully managed admission process. This process does not only try to identify skills and knowledge, but will also focus on your ability to share your expertise with others.

### 4.3 COURSE FOCUS

The course will theoretically and conceptually contextualize Open Design as an innovation practice and as a practice of artistic expression, as well as a practice of civic engagement.

This course will introduce and discuss a broad spectrum of tools and methods and their underlying narratives. For this, Open Design is approached as a possible basis for

various related fields in art and design. You will explore examples from participatory design, social design, critical design, speculative design and experimental media art (art and technology, art and activism, bio-art,...). Introductions are offered in free and open source software tools (for networked communication, media creation and digital modelling) as well as open hardware and digital fabrication tools (Raspberry Pi, Arduino, 3D printing, laser-cutting). You will experiment with these tools and learn to implement them in your own design and creation process.

## 4.4 COURSE STRUCTURE

The course has a simple structure, with the initial month emphasizing 'input' and the final month focusing on 'output'. During the 'output month' you will translate your obtained understanding of Open Design and new media and technology skills into proper design projects. We foresee a wide range of possible outcomes which can include: media creations or publications (books, magazines/editions, texts, videos, audio-works,... ), digital creations (websites, apps, software), speculative design (objects, prototypes, visualisations,...), interactive objects or installations etc.

## 4.5 EVALUATION

Final evaluation of the candidates is based on self-assessment. You will be evaluating your own and your fellow participants' achievements. Moreover you will be asked to evaluate the course and help us refine it for future candidates. Please note that this is not an officially accredited course programme. Participants do receive a Certificate of Completion, but for now this is not related to an official degree.

## 4.6 TEACHERS

The course is coordinated by a core team of teachers representing the design and autonomous arts departments of our faculty. Additional teachers of the faculty may be invited as guests during the course should this be required, as well as invited guest lecturers external to the school (designers, artists, scientists, technicians, craftsman).

## 5. STUDENT SUPPORT AND FACILITIES

### 5.1 FACILITIES

The Media Art and Printmaking studios will host the course. These studios offer shared working stations (Linux/Mac/PC), audiovisual facilities (studio, recording and editing equipment), a fab lab (3D printing, laser-cutting), large format digital printing, silkscreen printing etc. If necessary, access to other studios and facilities of the faculty can be requested (wood-workshop, textile studio,...). The campus also provides with lending facilities for borrowing equipment. The studios are located at an 8 minute walking distance from the train station (Gent Sint-Pieters station).

### 5.2 STUDENT AFFAIRS

Participants of the open design course can get support by the Student Services Department of the School of Arts Ghent. We provide participants with information, advice and support on administrative, social and financial level. Specific study or travel expenses to the course can be compensated.

A member of the student affairs department will be present during the admission interview for specific information about your administrative situation as a participant.

If you already have questions about financial, social or administrative aspects you can contact us at [refugees@schoolofarts.be](mailto:refugees@schoolofarts.be)

### 5.3 ABOUT US

The course is organised by the Royal Academy for Fine Arts (KASK) in the city of Ghent. With this initiative specifically offered to asylum seekers and refugees we would like to welcome you to our institute and its community. As a faculty for higher art education we see it as our duty to actively engage in society. We strongly believe that an open society thrives upon education as well as upon culture and art. With this specialised course in Open Design we would like to offer you the combined strength and support of these





foundations: learning through education, art and culture, as well as providing you with useful contemporary tools and techniques of our digital age.

This course is conceived as a preparation for further education or professional orientation. Classes are taught in English, and we welcome you in the Dutch-speaking environment of our community.

## 6. APPLICATION FORM

Candidates should send us registration information (in English), where they provide some biographical information and their expectations from the course. This can be filled out on our website, or you can send us an email or use normal postal service.

**You should answer the following questions:**

1. Your name, age, and your contact information (address, email, telephone).
2. Who are you and what is your background (education, professional,..) You can add URL's with previous work, if you want?
3. What do you expect from the course, and what can you offer to the course?

You can register on our website in an online form:

<http://opendesign.schoolofarts.be>

Or sent via email to:

[opendesign@schoolofarts.be](mailto:opendesign@schoolofarts.be)

You can also send us a written or printed application to:

**KASK/School of Arts Gent  
Open Design Course  
Jozef Kluyskensstraat 2  
9000 Gent (B)**



## 7. OVERVIEW ADMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- Deadline for applications: **April 18th 2016**
- When you are selected in the first round you'll be invited for an intake interview which will be held on Saturday **23th April 2016** in Ghent.  
(An Arabic speaking person will be available at the interview, as well as a member of the Student Services department for administrative questions)
- The course starts on **May 2th 2016**

We can only accept 12 candidates. Please note that the selection is based on your skills, but we also wish to create a balanced group (with age, gender and background diversity). If you are not selected this doesn't mean that we don't value your talent.

## 8. CONTACT US

For more information do not hesitate to contact us.

Via email:

[opendesign@schoolofarts.be](mailto:opendesign@schoolofarts.be)

by telephone:

0471 982990



## 9. OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR REFUGEES AT KASK AND ROYAL CONSERVATORY GHENT

If you're talented in music, visual arts, design, theatre or audiovisual arts we also like to invite you to our regular study programmes. We offer an English master programme, research opportunities as well as advanced programmes.

Please visit our website for more information:

<http://schoolofartsgent.be/en/education/kask-royal-conservatory-welcome-refugees>

### 9.1 OPEN DAY

You are welcome to visit School of Arts Ghent on our open day. In the information sessions you will find out everything there is to know about our programmes and you can visit the studios and infrastructure. Students will exhibit their work and there will be a host of other special activities.

Sunday 17 April 2016 between 10.00am and 5.00pm

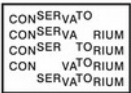
Location: School of Arts Gent, Campus Bijloke, Auditory Cirque, Pasteurlaan 2,  
9000 Gent.

### 9.2 INFORMATION SESSION FOR REFUGEES

We also invite you for an additional information session specifically for refugees for refugees and asylum seekers: "Studying Higher Education in Flanders".

Date: Wednesday 18 May 2016, 6.00. PM.-8.00. PM

Location: School of Arts Gent, Campus Bijloke, Auditory Cirque, Pasteurlaan 2,  
9000 Gent.



# Open Design course registration form

You can send us this via postal service, or send us an email with your registration information. You can also register on our website ([opendesign.schoolofarts.be](http://opendesign.schoolofarts.be))

## 1. Personalia

Name: .....

Age: .....

Contact information: (address, telephone, email,...)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## 2. Biographical information

Tell us something about yourself. (in English)

What is your professional/educational/cultural background?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

