

Course Introduction

The undergraduate program focuses on producing entrepreneurial designers capable of discovering new human-centered issues, seeking creative solutions, and materializing these solutions in concrete aesthetic forms in consideration of business opportunities. The curriculum covers knowledge and skills about state-of-the-art technology to enable convergent design; ways of understanding humans and society to ensure designs are based on fundamental human values beyond simple usability; and knowledge and practical skills aimed at innovative commercialization of design ideas. To support this curriculum, the Department provides various facilities including a design modeling workshop, a digital fabrication room, a usability testing room, a visual photograph studio, a multimedia computer room, and a virtual/augmented reality simulation room.

The master's, master-doctorate, and doctorate programs are designed to train students to develop the capacity to produce the world's first and best design and research outcomes and ultimately to suggest and lead new design paradigms. The design and research outcomes of the Department highlight its continued efforts to advance beyond the traditional design research paradigms and take the initiative in proposing new design themes for research. In particular, the Department's research activities in the areas of human-computer interaction (HCI), user experience (UX), and interactive media design have demonstrated notable achievements in both academia and the industrial sector, domestically and internationally. It is also a pioneer in design-led business startups as well as social innovation through design.

The Department offers a student exchange program in partnership with prestigious universities in design: Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands; Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Cincinnati in the United States; and Aalto University in Finland. In addition, it has developed close collaborative relations with prominent design departments at Eindhoven University of Technology and the University of Twente (Netherlands); Royal College of Art (UK); Simon Fraser University (Canada); Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong); and Kyushu University (Japan).

A number of graduates from KAIST Department of Industrial Design are playing crucial roles in innovating and designing new products and system design at design research teams of large businesses and at specialized design firms. Others are teaching students in a range of educational institutions. More recently, increasingly more graduates are working as UX experts and design-oriented entrepreneurs, and many have grown into professionals combining design-based thoughts and innovative technology. As talented leaders with the creative capability to pioneer the future society, the students trained at the Department will make significant achievements in areas of creating products and services that directly contribute to forming a new living culture and advancing industries for the well-being of humankind.