



The Florence Academy of Art
/ S W E D E N

Academic Immersion Year

Drawing, Painting and Art History, 40 weeks
Beginning - Intermediate - Advanced levels welcome

In this program, students discover the richness of figurative and realistic painting fused with academic draughtsmanship, and endeavour to discover how the masters created works of universal significance.

THE FLORENCE ACADEMY OF ART / SWEDEN campus is located on the top and second floor of a renovated paper mill in Kvarnbyn, a small, picturesque neighbourhood 10 minutes outside of Gothenburg, Sweden. Students of all levels work together under one roof. You will be welcomed into a community of hard working students that includes the three year Academic Program and other workshops and courses. All of the instructors work in studios on the school premises, allowing students to benefit not only from daily instruction but also from watching the professional artist at work. This relationship, developed over many hours spent together in the studio, is significant to the general atmosphere of the school and is considered fundamental to the student's development.

The faculty will guide students through the techniques and materials that will improve their understanding of how to translate three-dimensional forms into two dimensions. Instruction is designed to take students of all levels through a series of exercises aimed to develop their observational skills and accuracy in drawing and painting, whilst learning a methodology to observe and translate directly from nature.

After an introduction of studying old master drawings to understand measurement, proportion and shadow shape, students progress to drawing from the plaster cast, and painting the still life, portrait and the figure while practicing the use of pencil, charcoal and oil. The program allows students to experience each part of the three year Academic Program in Drawing and Painting curriculum at The Florence Academy of Art.

Working from life is a unique and fulfilling experience, one that is fundamental to the training at The Florence Academy of Art and central to a long-standing tradition. Working from a live model, students will learn how to approach the human figure, observing proportion, body type and gesture and important anatomical points. With pencil there will be a focus on outline and shadow line to explain the form. With charcoal and oil paint, focus will be on mass and overall sense of light and atmosphere through comparison of light and shadow shapes.

At the end of each week students will be encouraged to continue to work on the exercises in the program, or work on their own projects under the guidance of instructors. Additional visits to the Museum of Natural History and Gothenburg Museum of Art to sketch from their respective collections will be scheduled.

There are three levels of this program, enabling students an individualised time of study at the FAA:

1. **Experience** – students focus on getting acquainted with materials and a variety of projects.
2. **Intensive** – students with prior experience looking to improve accuracy and efficiency.
3. **Foundation** – students will work on fundamentals, aiming for an application to the Academic Program at FAA (or similar institution).

We welcome students of all experience levels. In the beginning of the school year, and in dialogue with the Program Director, students will choose which level they will follow during the year.

STUDIO PROJECTS IN DEPTH

I. Copy of 19th Century Bague drawings & Old Master copies, 6 weeks

Students begin by copying 19th Century drawings produced by Charles Bague by request of Jean-Léon Gérôme. Originally discovered in the archives of the Victoria and Albert museum by Florence Academy founder, Daniel Graves, and brought to use in the drawing program at FAA, the simplified forms of the Bague drawings enable students to understand our process, focusing on outline, proportion, value and line quality and acquire the ability to translate three-dimensional form into two dimensions. Reproductions of drawings and paintings by Old Masters will also be studied in this course.

II. Cast Drawing & Painting, 4 + 3 weeks

The practice of drawing from classical statuary helped great painters of the past learn their craft. By copying plaster casts, students continue to develop observation and drawing skills whilst learning to work from nature. Ultimately, this practice allows them to confront one of the greatest challenges: the human figure. Emphasis is placed on describing form through the relationship of light and shadow, controlling values and rendering edges.

III. Portraiture in charcoal and oil, 8 weeks

In this part of the course students will apply the fundamental concepts acquired while studying the casts on the human form. Drawing and painting the portrait from a model requires a high level of focus and a sound method. Accuracy in proportion and shapes, anatomy, structure are all demanding aspects of the endeavour to render a person's likeness and expression.

IV. Still life, 3 weeks

In still life projects, strong emphasis is placed on design and composition. The ability to render different materials and the sense of space convincingly is gained through careful observation and variety of paint application.

V. Figure Drawing & Painting from Life, 8 weeks + one morning per week

The figure is the centre of the Academy's curriculum and will be at the core of our Academic Introduction Year. Students will be introduced to the human form through weekly pencil studies from life. Through these exercises they will learn how to observe and record nature, using simple line and shadow shapes. They will then progress to longer studies (2-10 days) in charcoal and oil that will develop awareness of anatomy and focus on light and shadow to explain form. Models will pose for three hours per session, allowing time for students to make careful observations and produce an accurate drawing or painting.

VI. Student's choice, 1.5 days per week

Two days per week the students have the option to continue their work with the exercise of the week to reach a deeper understanding, and a higher level of finish – or focus their attention on a project of their choice. This gives each student a possibility to get acquainted with new materials and try new techniques. Examples of projects to engage in during the Student's choice: Portrait, Self-portrait, Landscape, Still life, Printmaking, Composition, Master copy

VII. Electives I, 3 weeks

During three weeks at the beginning of spring, students will choose between a variety of subjects including: Portraiture, Still life, Print making, Landscape, Figure study. This course gives students experience and prepares for more focused study in Electives II.

VII. Electives II, 5 weeks

At the end of the year, students will choose one of the following subjects for a longer project: Landscape painting, Still life – advanced, Cast Drawing - advanced

VIII. Evening classes, optional

During the Academic Year, students are invited to participate in the evening classes of the Academic Program. This is a good opportunity to engage with the larger community of the Academy. Classes include: Figure Drawing, Anatomy and Art History.

ART SUPPLIES All materials necessary to complete the program will be provided. Students are encouraged to bring their own drawing and oil painting materials. A supply list will be provided to all students.

ART HISTORY INSTRUCTION The tradition of representational, figurative and realistic painting includes an almost limitless range of knowledge and approaches. During the program students will be introduced to some of the work of the old masters and seek to understand how to benefit from their contributions to the art world. Museum visits will be included in the curriculum, as well as impromptu shop talks for guidance during the different projects.

MATERIALS AND STUDIO SAFETY Knowledge of the materials used in the daily practice is not only a way to improve technical aspects of drawing and painting – it is also required for a sustainable work environment and to ensure personal safety. Throughout the program there will be continuous shoptalks, demos and lectures to make sure materials are handled according to best practice.

ACADEMIC IMMERSION YEAR, DAILY SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09.00 - 12.00	Studio hours. Orientation, set up	Studio hours See syllabus	Studio hours See syllabus	Figure drawing	Student's choice
13.00 - 16.00	Studio hours See syllabus	Studio hours See syllabus	Studio hours See syllabus	Student's choice	Student's choice

ACADEMIC IMMERSION YEAR, SYLLABUS – FALL SEMESTER

Week no	Course
Week 1	Bargue Course, Master Copies
Week 2	1 – 5 Block-ins
Week 3	2 – 3 Bargue Drawings in pencil
Week 4	1 – 2 Bargue Drawings in charcoal
Week 5	1 – 4 Studies of Old Masters, Charcoal
Week 6	Portrait Drawing
Week 7	2 – 4 Drawings from model, charcoal, charcoal and chalk
Week 8	Figure Drawing
Week 9	2 – 4 Drawings from model, charcoal, charcoal and chalk
Week 10	Cast Drawing
Week 11	1 – 3 Drawings of casts from the school collection, charcoal, charcoal and chalk
Week 12	
Week 13	
Week 14	Portrait Drawing
Week 15	2 – 4 Drawings from model, charcoal, charcoal and chalk
Week 16	Figure Drawing
Week 17	2 – 4 Drawings from Model, charcoal, charcoal and chalk
Week 18	Master Copies, oil

ACADEMIC IMMERSION YEAR, SYLLABUS – SPRING SEMESTER

	Description
Week 1	Cast Painting 1 – 2 Paintings of casts from the school collection, grisaille palette, oil on canvas
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	Still life 1 – 2 Paintings of still life setup, limited palette, oil on canvas
Week 5	
Week 6	
Week 7	Portrait Painting 1 – 4 Paintings from model, Limited palette, oil on canvas
Week 8	
Week 9	Figure Painting 1 – 4 Paintings from model, Limited palette, oil on canvas
Week 10	
Week 11	Student's choice Portrait, Self portrait, Landscape, Still life, Printmaking,
Week 12	
Week 13	
Week 14	Electives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape: smaller studies, 1 enlarged studio painting • Still life II: 1 – 2 Paintings of still life setup, (Full palette) • Cast Drawing II: 1 Cast Drawing adv. Charcoal, chalk
Week 15	
Week 16	
Week 17	
Week 18	
Week 19	Portrait Painting 1 – 4 Paintings from model, limited palette, oil on canvas
Week 20	
Week 21	Figure Painting 2 – 4 Paintings from model, limited palette, oil on canvas
Week 22	

CALENDAR 2024-2025

Fall Semester: August 12 – December 13 (18 weeks)
 Spring Semester: January 6 – June 6 (22 weeks)

ENTRY CONDITIONS There is no application process for the Academic Immersion Year, all levels are welcome. Students are accepted on a first come first serve basis. The applicant must possess knowledge in the Swedish and/or English language.

ADMISSION Students are registered in the program upon paying the non-refundable deposit of SEK 10,000.00. Tuition balance in the amount of SEK 162,000.00, must be paid within 30 days of paying the deposit. If a student registers in the program less than 30 days before first day of class, the tuition fee must be paid in full before the student can attend.

STUDIO POLICY The Florence Academy of Art endeavors to provide an educational environment conducive to encouraging the artistic talents of each student. This requires that all students respect the policies of the Academy, its instructors, and the other students in the program. By enrolling in the Academy, students agree to subscribe to the Studio Policy.

REFUND Students may request refunds (less the non-refundable deposit) up until June 15th. Any period of absence during the program, whatever the motive or duration, will not be refunded. The Florence Academy of Art reserves the right to make changes in teaching staff or curriculum when necessary.

The Studio Policy, as well as further info about refunds, student services, accreditation etc is available on www.florenceacademyofart.se, or upon request.