



## DESIGNHÖGSKOLAN UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

# Autumn 2026 work samples for application to BFA

## Task 1: Cleaner sewers

Sewage systems carry water runoff and human waste to treatment plants and into the environment. Despite local regulations on what should be poured down a kitchen sink, emptied into a street drain, flushed down a bathroom toilet, many things end up in sewers that are harmful for urban infrastructures and the natural environment. For example, this can include grease, wet wipes, menstrual products, dental floss, coffee grinds, medication, and toxic chemicals.

**Question:** *How can we prevent the wrong things from ending up in local sewers?*

Can drains and pipes be designed in a different way? Can people be informed better? Can people be motivated to care beyond what is immediately visible or important to themselves? You may also be inspired to find new purposes for waste that is not allowed into sewers.

**Your task** is to develop **three proposals** for how we can prevent people from putting an inappropriate object, material, or substance down a sink, drain, or toilet. All three proposals should be based upon the same thing that you want to prevent from ending up in a sewer. Show your three proposals with sketches. Next, choose one proposal that you think is the best and make a more thorough drawing/sketch. It should be clear which proposal you have chosen. Write your arguments for the chosen sketch and describe what is good about your solution (around 100-150 words). The assignment may be presented on a maximum of 3 pages.

## Task 2: Slow design

Modern society is often based upon values of efficiency that prioritize ease and speed. This means that objects and experiences are often designed to be seamless and fast.

**Question:** What are people missing with all this rushing around?

**Your task** is to redesign **an existing object or experience** to be slower. Take inspiration from your everyday life, routines, or observations. Make a design proposal in a creative format of your choice. It should include at least one image of the final proposal and two images of your process. Write a short description about your redesign (100-150 words). The assignment may be presented on a maximum of 3 pages.



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### Task 3: 3-D objects

Take a photo of a 3-dimensional object, such as a sculpture you made in art class or an object you made with your hands. Briefly describe the inspiration for the object.

### Task 4: Still Life

On a table, arrange a mealtime scene with food. It should include a candle, a bowl, edible things, and a glass half filled with drink. Make a drawing by hand of the whole thing with a pencil on white paper in A4 format.

### Free works (optional)

In addition to the homework assignment, you can submit a free work to express your artistic talents or interests. It can be sketches, drawings, paintings, photographs of sculptures, etc. It is not compulsory but can be helpful in assessing your artistic abilities and development opportunities. This is limited to one additional free work, which should be presented on a maximum of 1 page.

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## Instructions for work samples and motivation letter

- Work samples (and any free work) are submitted in the form of design sketches, drawings and explanatory texts. It can also be photos of models, prototypes, paintings in any technology or digital works created in a computer environment.
- Scan/photograph your creations with good quality and readability adapted for screen viewing.
- The work sample is uploaded in PDF format of a maximum of 9 pages. It is possible to present several items on the same page.
- Do not write your name on the pages of the PDF. This is important so that your work samples can be assessed anonymously.

In the **motivation letter**, you tell us about who you are, what education you have, professional experience (include summer jobs) and why you want to train as an industrial designer. The motivation letter is submitted/uploaded together with work samples in a separate PDF document and can be a maximum of 2 A4 pages.

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## Naming of the documents

Name the PDF documents with your registration number (8 digits). This applies to both the work samples and the cover letter. Examples: "12345678.worksample" and "12345678.motivationletter."

**Uploading of work samples takes place via Umeå Institute of Design's website.**

Work samples and motivation letter must be uploaded no later than **February 2, 2024**.



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Submitted material is stored for two years. Applicants who do not want work samples to be saved should contact us no later than **16 May 2026**. It is not possible to reuse an assignment from another admission round.

**Questions about application and upload:** [adrian.lowander@umu.se](mailto:adrian.lowander@umu.se)