



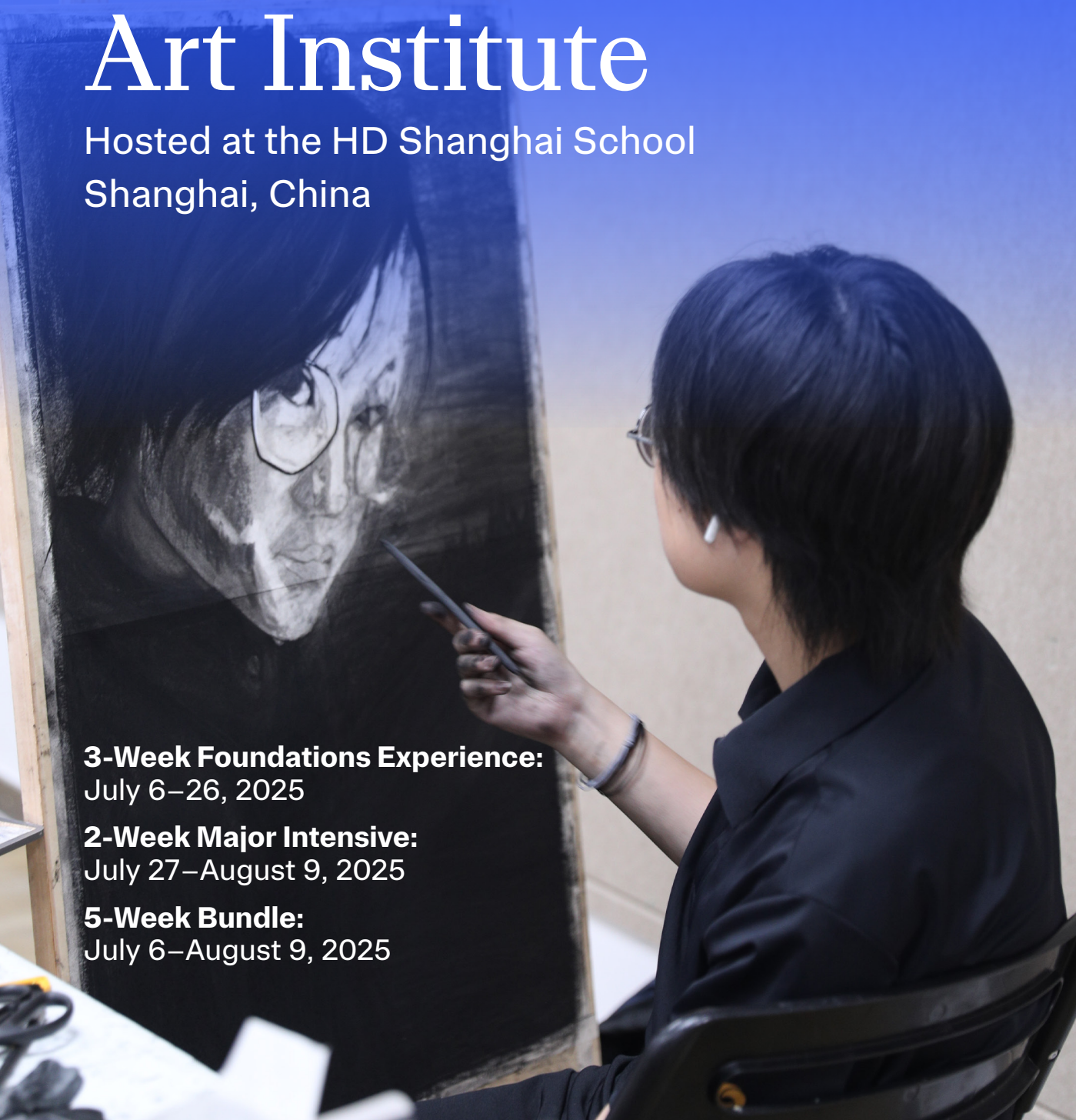
# Summer Teen Art Institute

Hosted at the HD Shanghai School  
Shanghai, China

**3-Week Foundations Experience:**  
July 6–26, 2025

**2-Week Major Intensive:**  
July 27–August 9, 2025

**5-Week Bundle:**  
July 6–August 9, 2025





# An immersive art & design experience

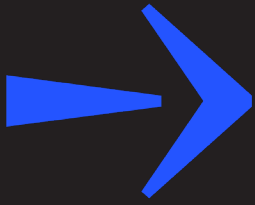
RISD Continuing Education is excited to announce the 4th annual Summer Teen Art Institute (STAI) in Shanghai, China. This residential program, hosted at the HD Shanghai School, connects high school students with RISD's renowned approach to art and design education. The institute is an exciting opportunity for students to immerse themselves into critical art and design practices. Students will develop their skills, discover their artistic voice, and define strategies for portfolio development and next steps in their art education.

The 2025 institute will offer back-to-back art and design experiences for rising 9–12 grade students and recent grade 12 graduates (must be at least 14 years old at the time of the program).



## About RISD

Founded in 1877, Rhode Island School of Design is one of the oldest and best-known colleges of art and design in the U.S. Each year, approximately 2,300 students from around the world pursue a creative, studio-based education at RISD, which offers rigorous bachelor's and master's degree programs in 19 architecture, design, fine arts and art education majors. Today, RISD stands out among the world's preeminent colleges of art and design.



# Three options, one unforgettable experience

New students can enroll in the full five-week program, or can choose to only participate in the three-week foundations experience or two-week major intensive. Returning students can continue their experience by enrolling in the two-week major intensive.

## 3-WEEK FOUNDATIONS EXPERIENCE

The institute will start with a three-week foundational program, which incorporates the fundamentals of drawing explorations, design essentials, process, materials, rigorous inquiry, and conceptual thinking. Students in this program will participate in two courses: Design Essentials and Drawing Explorations. This three-week experience runs from July 6–26, 2025.

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## 2-WEEK MAJOR INTENSIVE

By popular demand, the institute will offer a two-week in-depth exploration of a specific discipline. Students will have the opportunity to build on their foundational work by selecting a major, which will allow them to focus on a particular field in design or fine art. This intensive program will allow students to explore the methods and approaches of specific industries and the ways in which art and design education can be applied across society. This two-week experience runs from July 27–August 9, 2025.

*Please note: We recommended that students complete the foundations experience prior to participating in the major intensive, but it is not required. Students who have not participated in the foundations experience are welcome to apply for the major intensive. When applying they will be asked to provide additional evidence of their skills and commitment to the program.*

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## 5-WEEK INTENSIVE

Students who are admitted to both programs can bundle these experiences for a discounted rate. Both portions of the program inform and build upon one another to create a truly one-of-a-kind experience. The full five-week program runs from July 6–August 9, 2025.



“My child is very interested in visual art and wants to study visual art in college. **This program provides a perfect opportunity for her to enrich her learning experience and a platform to communicate with peers who also love art.**”

*-Parent of former program participant*

## Dynamic learning, hands-on support

Both programs will include live Zoom meeting times with RISD instructors (18 hours per course), daily in-person studio work facilitated by on-site RISD alumni instructors, enrichment and developmental opportunities, open work time for assignments and a final exhibition, and small group collaborations or personalized support from on-site tutors. Additional coursework and engagement will occur through Canvas, our learning management system. The program will conclude with a final exhibition and a certificate of completion.

Courses are taught by RISD instructors who are professional artists adept at pushing students to focus on process and experimental-based artmaking to help achieve unexpected results. Instructors provide final assessments and feedback for a student’s continued artistic and portfolio development, as well as insight into potential education and career opportunities.

In studio, coursework is project-based and experiential, and provides students the opportunity to be challenged in new ways of thinking, explore meaning in their work and give voice to their personal visual expression—key assets sought by art college portfolio reviewers. Emphasis in studio work is on exploration and inquiry through demonstrations and assignments, research and material investigations. Students will participate in critiques and receive feedback on their work. Critique is crucial to creative process and advancement; it provides students with a visual language that can reinforce, challenge and change ideas. Throughout the program students will develop a series of visual studies—investigation through sketching and prototyping—that will inform their portfolio development.

# Laying the foundation

## 3-WEEK FOUNDATIONS EXPERIENCE (JULY 6–26, 2025)

Learn the skills, methods, and ways of thinking that are necessary for every RISD undergraduate and artist to succeed. Participants will learn from expert instructors as they incorporate RISD's key approaches to making. Following RISD's pedagogy will allow students to experience the key fundamentals they will need as they look to enhance their skills and further achieve their art and design goals. All participants will take both of the following courses:

### Drawing Explorations

Drawing skills provide the primary foundation and means of communicating ideas for all areas of art and design. This course begins with the fundamental platform of traditional analysis and representation. Through discussions, demonstrations, and exercises, students explore objects, the human figure, and spatial contexts, honing their abilities in light and shade, proportion, and composition. The curriculum goes beyond rendering, encouraging dynamic mark-making using alternative methods and materials to convey expressive interpretations of volume, movement, and depth. The class pulls from a selection of various media such as graphite, charcoal, pen and ink, collage, pastels, and found materials to explore different drawing processes. Students delve into principles like tone, volume, weight, contour, light and shadow, line, and form, drawing inspiration from observation, research, memory, feeling, and imagination. Extensive drawing periods and fast-paced exercises train students to accept mistakes necessary for success and innovation.

### Design Essentials

Often under-emphasized in early creative development, good design skills provide artists and designers with the means to investigate visual phenomena and provide solutions to unasked questions. This course introduces students to some of the essential principles of design, including balance, rhythm, and harmony, through a series of exercises utilizing line, color, pattern, shape, and texture. Once familiar with the traditional "rules" of design, assignments are structured to help students abstract, disrupt, and unhinge formal elements to convey personal meaning and expression of complex ideas into simple form through a variety of methods and materials. In addition to project assignments, students maintain a collage sketchbook of investigations to help build a collection of ideas to inform future work.

# Schedule

Each day, students will take either Design or Drawing on an alternating basis. For example, Cohort 1 will have Design every Monday and Wednesday and Drawing on Tuesdays and Thursdays. While the exact schedule is subject to change, please see below for an example week of what students can expect from the program.

## MONDAY–THURSDAY

**7:30–10:30 am** Live Class Time  
*Students are in person with their cohorts and alumni tutors. RISD instructors and TAs are live via Zoom.*

### Remainder of the day

- Studio work with cohorts
- Enrichment opportunities
- Assignment completion
- Small group work and 1:1 support
- Development of final exhibition

## FRIDAY

- Studio work with cohorts
- Enrichment opportunities
- Assignment completion
- Small group work and 1:1 support
- Development of final exhibition

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Program Move-in & Orientation:**  
July 6, 2025

**Program Closing &  
Final Exhibition:**  
July 26, 2025 (TBD)

**Program Move-Out** (*unless staying for 2-week major intensive*):  
July 26, 2025

# In-depth exploration

## 2-WEEK MAJOR INTENSIVE\* (JULY 27–AUGUST 9, 2025)

**\*NOTE:** While we recommend that students complete the Institute's foundation program prior to participating in the majors, it is not required. If you have not completed the foundations experience, you will be required to complete some additional information when applying.

Build on the foundational knowledge you have developed as you immerse yourself into a specific area of study. Choose a major and take your skills to a new level. Participants will learn from expert instructors as they explore a specific art and design discipline. Students will deepen their knowledge in art and design and learn how these are applied in their selected field. Participants can apply for one of the following courses:

### Illustration

From fashion and film to book design and animation, illustration touches many art and design industries. It is an ideal major for those with a strong interest in using images to tell a story. You'll learn the fundamental skills of creating a compelling narrative, from design, text integration, character creation and color palette, to concept development and storyboarding. Participants will also learn about a variety of fields and platforms in which illustrated content serves as a means of expression. This can include satire, advertising, social commentary and fiction.

### Animation

Animation is a powerful medium that transforms art into motion, deepens storytelling, and enhances the viewer's experience. It is used across industries like film, television, gaming, and digital media. In this course, you will explore foundational principles such as squash and stretch, timing, and anticipation to craft sequences that evoke emotion and connect with audiences. Using Adobe Animate, design original characters, create simple backgrounds, and an animated storyboard. Spend studio time refining your drawing skills while experimenting with movement. In class, you will develop a deeper understanding of how animation connects with viewers and shapes storytelling. By the end of the course, you will have a new addition to your portfolio that highlights your creative vision and technical growth.

# Schedule

While the exact schedule is subject to change, please see below for an example week of what students can expect from the program.

## MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY

**7:30–10:30am** Live Class Time

*Students are in person with their cohorts and alumni tutors. RISD instructors and TAs are live via Zoom.*

### Remainder of the day

- Studio work with cohorts
- Enrichment opportunities
- Assignment completion
- Small group work and 1:1 support
- Development of final exhibition

## WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

- Studio work with cohorts
- Enrichment opportunities
- Assignment completion
- Small group work
- 1:1 support
- Portfolio development
- Development of final exhibition

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Program Move-in & Orientation:

July 27, 2025

### Program Closing & Final Exhibition:

August 9, 2025

### Program Move-Out:

August 9, 2025



“This program was really helpful and **gave me the experience of making art all day, every day.** And I do feel like going to an art college would be a good idea after attending! I really like to work with people who are also interested in art, it was so nice!”

*-Former Participant*



## Long-term outcomes that matter

Courses are taught by expert instructors and professional artists who are adept at pushing students to focus on process and experimental-based artmaking to help achieve unexpected results. Instructors provide final assessments and recommendations for students' continued artistic development, as well as insight into potential education and career opportunities. These experts, along with a dedicated team of RISD undergraduate Teaching Assistants and RISD Alumni Tutors, help ensure that a student leaves with so much more than when they arrived!

Students will:

- **Immerse themselves** in rigorous visual and critical inquiry, designed to encourage experimentation and challenge ideas, motivations, and assumptions.
- **Strengthen their ability** to observe, conceptualize, analyze, and create.
- **Focus on the process** of conceptual thinking and making; move beyond their initial concepts to immerse themselves in a critique culture that will be inspirational to them and their peers.
- **Gain skills** to prepare them for college-level art and design studies in the context of China, the US and beyond; understanding of portfolio development and documentation of work.
- **Learn from RISD instructors**, who are themselves leaders in the fields of art and design education.
- **Expand their skills** in time management, critical thinking, and creative problem solving.
- **Build their confidence** as an artist and as an individual, while also learning to master a range of tools, materials, processes, and techniques.
- **Develop a final showcase** with their peers.
- **Participate in info sessions** and portfolio reviews with RISD Admissions
- **Receive** a letter grade and a certificate of completion.
- **Network** with RISD instructors, staff, alumni, students, and like minded peers
- **Enjoy a fun and rewarding experience**



# Beyond the studio

In addition to a vibrant studio culture and interaction with expert instructors, students will benefit from additional enrichment opportunities that are included as part of this experience.

## **Residential Student Experience**

Co-curricular enrichment opportunities will be provided during weekends and off hours for student attendees. These will be provided directly by an experienced team from the HD Shanghai School.

## **Student Support**

Students participating in this program will be supported with a full suite of services while attending the program. The HD Shanghai School provides a wide array of resources and facilities including dining, housing, fitness, and open studio time. In addition, expert staff are on hand to ensure the successful ongoing management of student health and safety, conduct concerns, family questions, and fun.

## **Developing Your Future**

As a participant in the Summer Teen Art Institute, you're invited to have your portfolio reviewed virtually by a RISD representative. This will occur in mid-August, after the program concludes and is coordinated through the RISD Admissions office. This is a great opportunity to receive direct feedback on what's successful in your work, and what to think about developing further or improving upon in preparation for your college applications. These live, online portfolio reviews are 10-15 minutes long.

The Institute is also excited to offer an information session and Q&A with representatives from RISD Admissions. This will occur during the program.





## Program Cost

Total program costs\* are below in USD:

### Foundations Experience (3 weeks):

\$7,450 Tuition

\$1,000 Residential Fee

### Major Intensive (2 weeks):

\$5,600 Tuition

\$700 Residential Fee

### 5-Week Bundle:

\$12,625 Tuition (*special bundle rate for participating in all 5 weeks in the same year*)

\$1,700 Residential Fee

Note: Tuition includes all necessary art supplies.

\*Fees do not include transportation or additional personal costs



# Application

Applications for the RISD Summer Teen Art Institute at HD Shanghai School open on January 22, 2025 at 9 am ET. All applications must be completed online and include all of the below requirements in order to be reviewed for admission. Applications are reviewed on a rolling, first come-first served basis. If space permits, final applications will be due by May 8, 2025 at 12 pm ET.

## Application Requirements

*For all applicants:*

- \$60 non-refundable application fee
- Proof of English proficiency. If English is not your primary language you are required to show a proficiency level above 79 on the TOEFL, 100 on Duolingo, or 6.5 on the IELTS.
- At the time of the program, student participants must be at least 14 years old AND rising into grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 OR be a new 2025 graduate from grade 12.

*For students applying to the 3 week foundations experience:*

- Submission of artwork (details and requirements will be provided in the application)

*For students applying to the 2 week major intensive:*

- You must have already completed the 3 week foundations experience in 2022-2024, or plan to in 2025 OR
- If you did not complete the 3 week foundations experience you must do all of the following:
  - Submission of artwork (details and requirements will be provided in the application)
  - 2 written essays (details and requirements will be provided in the application)

*For students applying to the 5 week bundle:*

- You must attend the full program including the first 3 weeks (Foundations Experience)
- Submission of artwork (details and requirements will be provided in the application)



Visit our website & [apply here](#)



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