



# Application and admission to the Master of Music programme

Classical Music department, Early Music department,  
Vocal department, Jazz department, Conducting  
department (except NMO)

**PLEASE NOTE: this document only applies to students wishing to be admitted to the Master of Music programme in the following departments and master specialisations:**

- Classical Music Department: all disciplines in the Master of Music including all master specialisations
- Early Music Department: all disciplines in the Master of Music
- Vocal Department: all disciplines in the Master of Music
- Jazz Department: all disciplines in the Master of Music
- Conducting Department: all disciplines in the Master of Music except the National Master Orchestral Conducting - NMO

## Curriculum

A master's programme at the Royal Conservatoire is a two-year course. The total annual course load is 60 ECTS, but can be higher depending on the courses you choose to follow and your participation in projects or your own productions. Further information can be found in the section on master programmes of the Royal Conservatoire website ([koncon.nl](http://koncon.nl)) and in the Curriculum Handbooks (also published on the website).

## Educational philosophy

The educational philosophy of the Master of Music at the Royal Conservatoire is dedicated to developing your individual artistic vision, personal growth, inquisitive attitude and independence, and your instrumental and technical skills at a high qualitative level. We want our alumni to be excellent performers and composers, but also professionals who can reflect on their role in society and navigate the complex realities of today's music profession.

## Three domains

To this end, the curriculum is designed to guide your development (usually on an individual basis, but also in groups) in three domains:

1. Artistic Development: you will receive individual tuition by the teachers of your main subject. As a master's student you

will be allocated a fixed amount of individual contact time with your teachers. In consultation with the head of your department, the allotted time can be used as you see fit for tuition in your main subject by one or more teachers of your choice. It is also possible to divide the allotted time over different instruments (e.g. lessons in a modern instrument and an early music instrument). The allotted time varies from one department to another. Furthermore, you will participate in group lessons, combo lessons and ensemble classes, orchestral projects, Big Band projects or composition projects, and - in some departments - receive instruction by a Coach Pianist.

2. Research: you will also conduct research in a subject connected to one of the research areas set by the Conservatoire (see a list below) or a subject of your own choice. The subject should be directly connected with your instrument/main subject (e.g. repertoire, historically informed practice, creating new compositions or making your own instrument), but could also be more pedagogical or theoretical in nature. In addition to the relevance for your own artistic and intellectual development, the results of your research should also provide inspiration for your peers. During your studies, you will receive individual research supervision and attend an introductory course on research in the arts, as well as monthly master circles and electives.
3. Preparation for Professional Practice: your preparation for the profession is an important element of the curriculum for the master's programme. You will be given the opportunity to initiate your own Master Project, under supervision, and carry it out during or at the end of the course. To this end you will receive an introductory course on entrepreneurship and coaching on your own project by entrepreneurial coaches (these are typically external experts from professional practice) individually or in small groups.

An important goal for every student in the Master of Music programme is to develop and complete his/her own Master Project that will integrate all these three elements. Examples of such a Master Project could be:

- Organising your own external performance event, festival, concert series or tour for which you have researched the repertoire to be presented during these events and which ideally has a connection to your final master's recital or even take place instead of your final recital.
- Working together with a master composition student to create your own new repertoire, research the

creative process and present the composition at the end of your studies.

- Developing an edition of repertoire that you will present at your final recital or a method book that you will use in your teaching practice.

This is just a non-exhaustive list of examples, as there are many possibilities you can explore, but what you should consider is whether your Master Project will help you to find your place in professional practice after you have finished your studies, in order to create your 'own niche'. You will receive intensive guidance from the head of your department, your teachers, the master research team and the entrepreneurial coaches to ensure you will complete the Master Project successfully. You could also choose to do a project in collaboration with other students.

## Schedule

The schedule of your master of music programme will be as follows:

- **Semester 1**  
Intro courses 'Research in the Arts' and 'Professional Integration & Project Management'. At the end of this semester, you will have a project plan ready for your Master Project, which will integrate all three domains of the master programme (as described above).
- **Semester 2**  
Master circles start with an introduction to the themes they will be addressing. These master circles will be organised around the research areas formulated by the Conservatoire (see list of areas below). You will also be assigned to your individual research supervisors and professional integration coaches who will assist you with the further development of your Master Project. In some departments there will be a preliminary presentation of your Master Project during the Master Recital at the end of the second semester. Master electives usually take place in this semester.
- **Semester 3**  
Continuation of the sessions with individual research supervisors and professional integration coaches. This is also a good moment to go abroad on an ERASMUS exchange.
- **Semester 4**  
Finalisation and implementation of your Master Project, master research presentation and final recital. A combination of the implementation of the Master Project and the final recital is encouraged.

## Admission requirements

You must pass an entrance exam before you enter the master's programme. The exam comprises the following elements:

1. A realistic study plan, the so-called Master Plan;
2. A high artistic and instrumental level attained in the bachelor's exam at the Royal Conservatoire;
3. Students from outside the Royal Conservatoire must give a convincing performance during an intake interview, demonstrating their insight and motivation for the chosen study and associated elements of the curriculum as well as making it clear that they are aware of the course load during the next two years and are willing to devote sufficient time to their studies. These applicants are required to submit the Master Plan as well.

## Timeline

Students from the Bachelor of Music programme of the Royal Conservatoire wanting to apply for the master's programme: you must do this via Studielink **before the deadline of 1 March 2020**. You are required to follow the procedure for applying as is explained on [koncon.nl](http://koncon.nl), in which it is explained that the Master Plan (next to other documents) has to be uploaded in Osiris Aanmeld, the online application tool of the Royal Conservatoire.

External applicants: you should also submit the Master Plan with your other documentation as part of the admission procedure as explained on [koncon.nl](http://koncon.nl) **before the deadline of 1 March 2020**.

Once the Master Plan is uploaded in Osiris Aanmeld it will be seen as ready for admission. In case any improvements should be made, you will be informed about this via email. An approved Master Plan will be distributed to the members of the admission committee.

## Master Plan

In the Master Plan, you are asked to describe how you think the master's programme and your Master Project will influence the attainment of your future career goals. It is important to ensure that the Master Plan describes the abovementioned three domains and how these three domains will be integrated into one Master Project.

**The total length of the Master Plan should not be less than 2 and not longer than 3 A4.**

The three abovementioned domains should be described taking into the account the following elements:

a. **Your artistic vision: what are your ideas about the main instrument or subject component of your master's studies.**

Your ideas could encompass:

- The reasons why you want to continue your studies after the bachelor's study; the teacher you wish to study with and why;
- A proposal with regards to repertoire of certain composers or certain periods; cross-departmental initiatives will be encouraged (e.g. combinations of classical and early music or jazz and classical music or composition with performance);
- Your thoughts on improvisation, composition, and/or arranging;
- Composition students should indicate the motivation for their choice of profile (instrumental/vocal music, electronic/computer music or multidisciplinary).

b. **Research: what are your interests?** The research component is an important part of your Master Project. In brief, each student in the master's programme has to conduct research that is part of his/her Master Project. Your research is supervised on an individual basis by research supervisors and discussed in Master circles, which consist of students with similar research topics. Regarding research topics: you are advised to choose research topics that are closely related to your own artistic practice and continuing development in the following research areas:

- Art of Interpretation: historically/contextually informed performance practice
- Instruments & Techniques: instrumental design/techniques/acoustics
- Music in Public Space: diversity/interculturality/social engagement
- Creative Practice: improvisation/composition/experimental practice
- Beyond Discipline: multi-inter-transdisciplinarity/collaborative practice
- Musical Training, Performance & Cognition
- Aesthetics & Cultural Discourse
- Educational Settings
- Music Theory & Aural Skills

► **Please indicate which research area most fits your intended research topic.**

c. **Professional preparation: how do you see your role as future professional?** You should describe how your Master Project will help you to develop, realize and maintain the relationships with professional music practice, and important movements and trends, nationally and internationally. Here your ideas on a period of study abroad period through exchange programmes such as ERASMUS could also be mentioned.

Taking into account your ideas on these three domains, the Master Plan must include the following information about your Master Project:

1. Title of your Master Project;
2. What do you want to do in your project? What is your motivation and goal of your Master Project, for your own artistic practice as well as for others? Does the project relate to the state of the art in the field of inquiry and to what others have done?
3. How will you execute your project? What will be your research question and which methods will you use to reach your goals?
4. What will be end product of your Master Project, what will be the chosen format of presentation?

The Master Plan should be written in English.

Please note that the Master Plan is primarily meant as an assessment tool during the entrance examination. It is therefore possible that your final plan for a Master Project will be different from what you have described in your Master Plan, but it could also be the same.

### Assessment

The admission to the Master of Music programme will be an assessment of the following selection criteria, based on an entrance audition/interview (for external students) or Bachelor of Music examination (for Royal Conservatoire students), and the information provided in the Master Plan:

1. High artistic and instrumental level in the main instrument or subject.
  - In the Master Plan and during the interview there should be evidence of:

- Own initiative (independent and pro-active thinking) and dedication
- Creativity: the ability to synthesize and integrate the three master domains
- Understanding of the student's wider cultural and professional context
- A realistic approach showing that the proposed activities can be supported by two years of study.

It should be clear from the assessment that you have understood the purpose of the Master of Music programme, i.e. that the programme is not just a continuation of two more years of individual lessons, but is rather based on an holistic educational philosophy that will help you to develop your own identity as a reflective practitioner of a high artistic level in preparation of your entrance into the music profession.