

**Royal  
Conservatoire  
The Hague**

A decorative graphic consisting of several black dots connected by yellow lines. The dots are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with lines connecting them to form a network. The lines are a bright yellow color, and the dots are solid black.

# Master Project Plan Guidelines

**Classical Music, Early Music, Jazz, Vocal (except Ensemble  
Singing), Conducting (except NMO), New Audiences and  
Innovative Practice (NAIP)**

# Master Project Plan guidelines

## Applying to the Master of Music programme

This document applies to applicants for the Master of Music programme in the following departments:

- **Classical Music Department: all disciplines, including ECMaster**
- **Early Music Department: all disciplines, including Organ & EMEM**
- **Vocal Department: all disciplines except Ensemble Singing**
- **Jazz Department: all disciplines**
- **Conducting Department: all disciplines except National Master Orchestral Conducting (NMO)**
- **New Audiences and Innovative Practice (NAIP)**

When you apply to the Master of Music programme, you need to submit a Master Project Plan. This is a study plan in which you express your personal plans for your master studies at the Royal Conservatoire. This document includes information on the Master of Music programme and offers guidelines on writing your Master Project Plan.

### Master of Music Programme

A master's programme at the Royal Conservatoire is a full-time two-year programme. 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 on the individual master programme pages and in the curriculum handbooks on the website of the Royal Conservatoire ([koncon.nl/en/programmes](http://koncon.nl/en/programmes)).

### Educational Philosophy

The educational philosophy of the Master of Music at the Royal Conservatoire enables you to develop your individual artistic vision, personal growth, inquisitive attitude, entrepreneurship and independence, while broadening your cultural horizon, as well as developing your instrumental and technical skills at a high qualitative level. We expect our alumni to not only be excellent performers and composers, but also professionals who can reflect on their role in society and navigate the complex realities of the music profession. To this end, our curriculum is based on three domains: artistic development, research, and professional integration. These domains come together in the Master Project, a unique feature of our programme.

### Master Project

During your studies, you are asked to create a Master Project with your own future in mind. 'Master Project' is an overarching term which combines the three domains: artistic development, research and professional integration. This way you will have an opportunity to experiment and develop your own professional practice. When creating your Master Project you should consider whether it will help you find your place or perhaps your niche in the professional practice after you have finished your studies. In order to develop your Master Project successfully, you will receive guidance and support from the Master Project Network: your main subject teacher, your research supervisor,

your professional integration coach, and your master circle leader. It is also possible and encouraged to do a Master Project in collaboration with other students.

Examples of a Master Project are:

- 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 connects to your final master's presentation (recital) or even takes place instead of your final presentation.
- Working together with a master composition student to create your own new repertoire, research the creative process, perform the works in an external, possibly unusual venue and present the composition at the end of your studies.
- Designing a new interdisciplinary work of art/performance, in collaboration with partners from the Royal Academy of Art and/or Royal Conservatoire, e.g. from the fields of visual arts, arts/science, dance, sonology.
- Developing an edition of repertoire that you will present at your final presentation which you have researched and worked on in your main subject lessons or developing a new method book that you will use in your teaching practice.
- Developing a website or online learning resources on a certain topic (such as, for instance, mental training), researching this topic and incorporating your findings into your artistic development.
- Developing a (series of) workshop(s) on a specific skill or aspect of performing, researching this aspect and then using the outcomes in your own practice, as well as to teach others.

This is a non-exhaustive list of examples, as there are many possibilities you can explore. You are encouraged to explore a theme for your Master Project that is closely linked to your cultural background (e.g. music from your home country) or to broader societal issues (e.g. diversity, climate change, etc.).

## Curriculum

The Master of Music curriculum is designed to guide your development in three domains:

- a. **Artistic Development:** you will receive individual tuition by the teacher or teachers of your main subject. As a master's student you will be allocated individual lessons with your teacher. It is also possible to divide the allotted time over different instruments (e.g. lessons in a modern instrument

and an early music instrument). Furthermore, you will participate in group lessons, combo lessons and ensemble classes, orchestral projects, masterclasses, big band projects or composition projects, and - in some departments - receive instruction by a coach pianist. You are asked to connect your artistic development to your Master Project. One way of doing this is by thinking carefully about your chosen repertoire.

- b. **Research:** throughout the two years of your studies you will conduct research on a topic of your own choice that is connected to your 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. The subject should also be directly connected to one of the research areas set by the Conservatoire. The nine research areas set by the Conservatoire are listed below. 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 attend an introductory course on research in the arts, receive individual research supervision and present your research results in the Research Symposium in your final year. You should relate your research to your Master Project and explain its complementarity with your artistic development (main subject studies) and professional integration activities.

### Nine Research Areas

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

- c. **Professional Integration:** finding your place in the profession is an important element of the master's curriculum. You will receive an introductory course on project management and you will be given the opportunity to design and initiate your own professional integration activities under supervision of a professional integration coach, typically an external expert. Your professional integration activities should be part of your Master Project and therefore be directly connected to the elements Artistic Development and Research.

Additionally, you will participate in monthly master circles with your peers facilitated by a master circle leader. In these circles you can discuss matters related to your Master Project. At the end of the first year you are asked to do a Master Project Presentation on your work so far which will take place in the master circle. In the second semester of the first year you enrol in one or more electives. The first semester of the second year would be a good moment to go abroad on an ERASMUS exchange. You are encouraged to combine your professional integration activities and research findings as part of the Master Project with your final presentation if applicable.

### Entry requirements

The general application rules are explained on [koncon.nl/en/application-process](http://koncon.nl/en/application-process). For the exact entry requirements for your main subject, please check the individual master programme pages on [koncon.nl/en/programmes](http://koncon.nl/en/programmes).

During your entry examination (for external applicants) or your bachelor final presentation (for internal applicants) you not only need to give a high level performance but also convincingly demonstrate your understanding of and motivation for your Master Project based on your submitted Master Project Plan. You should also show that you are aware of the course load during the coming two years and are willing to devote sufficient time to your studies.

### Master Project Plan guidelines

The Master Project Plan is a realistic study plan in which you describe your idea for your Master Project, explaining how your artistic development goals, your chosen research topic and ideas for your professional integration activities will

come together. The Master Project Plan should be written in English. The total length of the Master Project Plan should be between 500-750 words.

Your Master Project Plan should include the following information:

- What is the theme and working title of your Master Project?
- What are your goals and what would be the end product(s) of your Master Project in each of the three domains?
- What is your motivation and inspiration for your Master Project?
- What steps do you plan to take and how will you use doing research and developing professional integration activities in order to execute your Master Project and meet your goals?
- What is your intended research topic and working title of your research?
- Which of the nine research areas of the Royal Conservatoire (see Curriculum – Research) fits your intended research topic most? You will be enrolled in a master circle based on the research area.
- How do you think others in the artistic field could learn and/or benefit from your Master Project?

Need help to get started? The following guidelines can help you write your Master Project Plan.

#### a. Artistic development

What are your ideas about the main subject component of your master's studies? Your ideas could encompass:

- The reasons why you want to continue your studies after a bachelor programme; the teacher(s) you wish to study with and why;
- A proposal with regards to repertoire of certain composers or certain periods; cross-departmental and interdisciplinary initiatives are encouraged (e.g. combinations of classical and early music or jazz and classical music or composition with performance) – how does this repertoire or these initiatives connect to your Master Project;
- Your thoughts on improvisation, composition, and/or arranging.
- If you are interested in a period of study abroad through exchange programmes such as ERASMUS then you can mention your ideas here.

## b. Research

What are your interests? You are advised to choose research topics that are closely related to your own artistic practice and development. Your topic should be linked to one of the nine research areas:

1. Art of Interpretation: historically/contextually informed performance practice
2. Instruments & Techniques: instrumental design/ techniques/acoustics
3. Music in Public Space: diversity/interculturality/ social engagement
4. Creative Practice: improvisation/composition/ experimental practice
5. Beyond Discipline: multi-inter-transdisciplinarity/ collaborative practice
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## c. Professional Integration

- How do you see your future as a professional?
- What steps can you take to help you shape your desired future career?
- How can the professional integration activities in your Master Project help you to develop, realise and maintain relationships with the professional music practice?
- What would be a good context for you to create and develop your own artistic projects?
- Do you prefer to explore this by yourself or in collaboration with others?
- What kind of investments would be needed and what can be said about your long-term goals?

## Criteria

Your Master Project Plan will be assessed using the following criteria:

- **Autonomy:** initiative, dedication, independent and pro-active thinking
- **Integration:** the ability to synthesize and integrate the three master domains in a creative and promising manner
- **Understanding:** understanding of the wider cultural and professional context of a musician
- **Realism:** a realistic approach showing that the proposed activities can be supported by two years of study

It should be clear from your Master Project Plan and interview that you have understood the purpose of the Master of Music programme, i.e. that the programme is not simply a continuation of two more years of individual lessons, but a programme based on a holistic educational philosophy that will help you to develop your own identity as a reflective and entrepreneurial practitioner at a high artistic level in preparation of working in the music profession.

## Application deadline

The Master Project Plan (as well as other documentation) has to be uploaded in 'Osiris Aanmeld', the online application tool of the Royal Conservatoire, **before the deadline of 28 February 2022**. You are required to follow the procedure as explained on [koncon.nl/en/application-process/entrance-exams](https://koncon.nl/en/application-process/entrance-exams).

Please make sure you upload your final version only, as your uploaded Master Project Plan will be distributed to the admissions committee. If your Master Project Plan is incomplete, you may be asked via email to make changes before your Master Project Plan is forwarded to the admissions committee. It is important to underline that you cannot be admitted to the Master of Music without having submitted a Master Project Plan that is approved in the admission process.

And finally, please note that the Master Project Plan is primarily meant as an assessment tool during the entrance examination. During your studies, you are of course allowed to make changes to your original plans, or collaborate with fellow students. Good luck - we look forward to reading your Master Project Plan!