

Royal
Conservatoire
The Hague

Master Project Plan Guidelines

Art of Sound



Master Project Plan guidelines

Applying to the Master of Music programme

This document applies to applicants for the **Master of Music in Art of Sound** programme

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).

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 producers, 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. A 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:

- Producing your own album, concert series, sound design for music or music theatre, movie score, immersive audio project, broadcast project or electronic music production, for which you have researched the repertoire, technology or historical context that is related to the project.
- 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, artscience, 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, researching this topic and incorporating your findings into your artistic development.

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.).

What does the master curriculum look like?

Master Circle

You will participate in monthly Art of Sound master circles with your peers facilitated by a master circle leader. The Master Circle is the place where the three elements of the Master Project come together and where the Master Project as a whole is discussed with your peers. 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. 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.

- 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 classical recording and sound reinforcement). Furthermore, you will participate in producing, recording and sound reinforcement projects, and in semester projects based on a dedicated theme that is relevant to the current professional practice. In your individual main subject lessons you will be encouraged to consider your own artistic goals and work towards them. You are asked to connect your artistic development to your Master Project, which means it should also be linked to the Research and Professional Integration domains. One way of doing this is by thinking carefully about your chosen repertoire.
- 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. Your research should also relate to your professional integration activities. 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.

- 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. A professional integration activity is an activity you initiate and organise yourself (or with fellow students) that takes place outside the Royal Conservatoire and that can take many shapes and forms. Your professional integration activity should be part of your Master Project and therefore be directly connected to the Artistic Development and Research domains.

Entry requirements

The general application rules are explained on 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.

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:

- Why would you like to continue your studies after your bachelor's?
You can include your artistic goals, the teacher(s) you wish to study with and why; a proposal with regards to applying technology in relation to specific musical repertoire; characteristic repertoire of certain musical styles and the historical influence of technology on those musical styles;

cross-departmental and interdisciplinary initiatives are encouraged (e.g. collaborations with the classical, early music, jazz, composition or sonology departments departments); your thoughts on improvisation, composition, and/or arranging in relation to studio production, recording or concert sound reinforcement practice. If you are interested in a period of study abroad through exchange programmes such as ERASMUS then you can mention your ideas here.

- What is the theme and working title of your Master Project?
- What is your motivation and inspiration for 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 (Artistic Development, Research, Professional Integration)?
- What is your intended research topic and working title of your research?
You are advised to choose research topics that are closely related to your own artistic practice and development.
- What is your intended Professional Integration Activity?
*Think about your future: How do you see your future as a professional? What kind of artist do you want to be? What kind of activities do you want your professional practice to include? What steps can you take to help you shape your desired future career?
How can this professional integration activity help you to develop, realise and maintain relationships with the professional music practice? Do you prefer to explore this by yourself or in collaboration with others?*
- What steps do you plan to take and how will you use developing an artistic vision, doing research and developing a professional integration activity in order to execute your Master Project and meet your goals?
- How do you think others in the artistic field could learn and/or benefit from your Master Project?

Need inspiration? Have you looked at our [animation](#) yet?

Criteria & Checklist

Your Master Project Plan will be assessed using the following criteria: integration, autonomy, understanding, and realism & viability. When preparing your Master Project Plan, it can be helpful to use this checklist:

- Integration: Does your Master Project Plan show that you have understood the connection between the three domains

and have integrated and synthesised these in a creative and promising matter?

- **Autonomy:** Does your Master Project Plan show an autonomous approach to your studies? Think about taking initiative, dedication, independent and pro-active thinking.
- **Understanding:** Does your Master Project Plan show that you understand the wider cultural and professional context of a musician?
- **Realism & viability:** Is your Master Project Plan realistic? Are your proposed artistic goals, research topic, and professional integration activity viable? Can your proposed activities be supported by two years of study?

It should be clear from your Master Project Plan 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 experiment with and develop your own identity as a reflective and entrepreneurial practitioner at a high artistic level in preparation of working in the music profession.

Application procedure

The Master Project Plan (as well as other documentation) has to be uploaded in 'Osiris Aanmeld', the online application tool of the Royal Conservatoire. You are required to follow the procedure as explained on 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 in joint Master Projects. Good luck - we look forward to reading your Master Project Plan!