

Master Study Plan Guidelines



Composition, Instrumental and Vocal Learning & Teaching, Music Education according to the Kodály Concept, Theory of Music, Ensemble Singing, National Master Orchestral Conducting (NMO)



Master Study Plan guidelines

Applying to the Master of Music programme

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

- **Composition**
- **Instrumental and Vocal Learning & Teaching**
- **Music Education according to the Kodály Concept**
- **Theory of Music**
- **Ensemble Singing**
- **National Master Orchestral Conducting (NMO)**

When you apply to the Master of Music programme, you need to submit a Master Study Plan. This is a study plan in which you express your personal plans for your master studies at the Royal Conservatoire. To help you write this Master Study Plan this document includes information on the Master of Music programme and offers guidelines on writing your Master Study 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, like a curriculum overview, 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 want our alumni to be excellent performers, teachers and composers, but also professionals who can reflect on their role in society and navigate the complex realities of today's and tomorrow's music profession. To this end, the curriculum is based on three domains: Artistic Development, Research, and Professional Integration. Instrumental and Vocal Learning & Teaching, and Music Education according to the Kodály Concept have a fourth domain: Music Educational Theories and Didactic Skills.

Entry requirements

The general application rules are explained on koncon.nl/en/application-process. For the exact entry requirements for your main subject or discipline, please check the individual master programme pages on koncon.nl/en/programmes.

During your entry examination (for external applicants) or your final presentation (for internal applicants if applicable)

you not only need to give a high level performance or submit a high level portfolio but also convincingly demonstrate your understanding of and motivation for your chosen study and its curriculum based on your submitted Master Study 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 Study Plan guidelines

The Master Study Plan is a realistic personal plan in which you describe how you think the master's programme will influence the attainment of your future career goals. This plan should contain your motivation for following the Master programme, the goals you wish to accomplish in your main subject or discipline, your proposal for a research project and its relation to your main subject or discipline and any other personal wishes for the study. Your Master Study Plan should include your thoughts on the curriculum domains, taking into account the guidelines below. The Master Study Plan should be written in English. The total length of the Master Study Plan should be between 500-750 words.

The following guidelines can help you write your Master Study Plan.

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 specialisation in the repertoire of certain composers, certain periods, certain styles, teaching strategies, didactic material;
- If you are interested in a period of study abroad through exchange programmes such as ERASMUS then you can mention your ideas here;
- Your thoughts on improvisation, composition, and/or arranging;
- Instrumental and Vocal Learning & Teaching / Music Education according to the Kodály Concept students: please give your thoughts on teaching and learning music.

Research

The research component belongs to the core curriculum of the master's programme. In brief, each student in the master's programme has to conduct research that is ideally closely related to their own artistic or teaching practice and continuing development. 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, discuss your research with your peers in monthly master circles, follow an elective course, and present your research results in the Research Symposium in your final year. Please include the following information in your Master Study Plan:

- What is the topic and working title of your research project?
- What are your research goals?
- What is your motivation and inspiration for your research?
- What steps and methods do you plan to take and use in order to execute your research project and meet your goals?
- How do you think others in the artistic field could learn and/or benefit from your research project?

Professional Integration

In this part of the plan you describe how, during your master's studies, you would like to develop, realise and maintain the relationships with the professional music practice, and important movements and trends, nationally and internationally. How do you see your future as a professional? What steps can you take to help you shape your desired future career? You can also mention your ideas on your personal, present and future performances, projects and teaching activities.

Music Educational Theories and Didactic Skills

Instrumental and Vocal Learning & Teaching / Music Education according to the Kodály Concept students: please add your thoughts and ideas on music pedagogy and its connection to your research project.

Criteria

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

- **Autonomy:** initiative, dedication, independent and proactive thinking

- Integration: the ability to synthesize and integrate the 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 Study 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 Study 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 2021**. You are required to follow the procedure as explained on [koncon.nl/en/application-process/entrance-exams](https://www.koncon.nl/en/application-process/entrance-exams).

Please make sure you upload your final version only, as your uploaded Master Study Plan will be distributed to the admissions committee. If your Master Study Plan is incomplete, you may be asked via email to make changes before your Master Study Plan is forwarded to the admissions committee.

And finally, please note that the Master Study Plan is primarily meant as an assessment tool during the entrance examination. You are allowed to make changes to your original plans during your studies, if you are offered a place on the master's programme at the Royal Conservatoire.