

CURRICULUM

Master of Music (cand. musicae), musician

Degree course RHYTHMIC MUSICIAN Aarhus

Effective as of 2011

Content

1 Introduction.....	3
2 Course content, individual subjects, and examinations	4
2.1 Main study area	5
2.1.1 Main Instrument (HI).....	5
2.1.2 Electives.....	8
2.1.3 Ensemble Playing.....	9
2.1.4 Projects/One Year Project.....	11
2.1.5 Communication	13
2.1.6 Courses	14
2.1.7 Optional lessons	15
2.2 Entrepreneurial Studies	16
2.3 Master's project.....	18

1 Introduction

Content and opportunities

The MMus Rhythmic Musician degree course at The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, is a 2-year course (with a limited number of seats) during which students build upon the knowledge, skills, and qualifications as rhythmic musicians and teachers acquired during the BMus degree course. Taking their own musicianship as a starting point, students focus on their main instruments* as well as related subjects and projects that form the basis for student choices as regards their future careers. The master's degree also prepares students for postgraduate studies at soloist or PhD level.

The course structure

The degree course focuses on the student's development as a musician and an artist. Consequently, great emphasis is placed on the main instrument* as well as subjects that support and develop a creative and reflective approach to it. The course is characterised by a great degree of independence, eg regarding choice of projects, electives, and ensemble playing themes.

The Entrepreneurial Studies subject is concluded after the 3rd semester and provides the student with relevant tools for administering his/her artistic and pedagogical ambitions through e.g. self-management and entrepreneurial skills.

The MMus Rhythmic Musician degree course concludes with a student-defined master's project based on the student's artistic profile. The project constitutes the student's final specialisation.

** The student may seek permission to have Singing, Dancing, and Playing constitute the main instrument.*

The course subjects are divided into the following fields:

- **Main study area:** Subjects where the student is a performer as well as subjects and projects that support the student's artistic profile:
Main Instrument, Electives, Ensemble Playing, Communication, Projects, One Year Project, Courses, and Optional lessons
- **Entrepreneurial Studies:** Subjects and projects where students immerse themselves in the role as entrepreneurs and managers of dynamic processes and develop their career administration tools.
- **Master's project:** In addition to the project work itself and related guidance, students receive tuition in subjects that prepare them for the final project work.

2 Course content, individual subjects, and examinations

ECTS chart	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	Total
Main study area:					
Main Instrument	15	18	12	15	60
Electives	3	3			6
Ensemble Playing	3	3			6
Projects/One Year Project	3	3			6
Communication	3				6
Courses					
Optional lessons					
Entrepreneurial Studies	3	3	3		9
Master's project			15	15	30
Total	30	30	30	30	120

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Main Instrument (HI)

Objectives

Upon completion of the Main Instrument subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of internationally recognised artistic and technical practice, repertoire, methods, and theory.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.
- Has mastered artistic and technical skills and forms of expression.
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.
- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her musicianship in a globalised world.
- Can commence and direct musical ensemble playing and interdisciplinary cooperation in the musician and communicator role.
- Is able to act professionally as regards responsibilities and ethics.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

Tuition encompasses further development of the student's personal artistic expression and musical/technical ability.

Work may be done on the following:

- soloist skills
- improvisation
- composition
- aspects of ensemble playing
- accompaniment
- rhythm and timing
- phrasing, interpretation

- timbre, instrumental/vocal technique
- sight reading
- hearing
- imitation
- transcription
- transposition

Part of the tuition takes the form of preparation for and evaluation of student performances at concert cafés. The student is required to act as band leader and assume artistic responsibility for at least one concert annually (arranged in cooperation with the Academy). The teacher is expected to attend and evaluate this event.

Mandatory participation in Academy activities:

The Academy regularly arranges choir and orchestra projects and special seminars that the students must participate in. Participation in these is included in the ECTS points awarded for the Main Instrument subject.

Tuition and work formats

Possible tuition and work formats:

One-to-one tuition.

Concert evaluations.

Work in band contexts (supervision).

Projects organised by the Academy.

Class tuition.

Semesters

1st to 4th semester.

Scope

60 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th semester: Examination

Test of student skills

Examination content

The student chooses and performs a programme at a concert where the student plays a significant role.

Examination format

Concert. Duration: 45 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade. The evaluation must reflect to what extent the objectives of the degree course have been achieved.

2.1.2 Electives

The student may opt to participate in an existing class based on the catalogue of supplementary main subjects for a semester (excluding the pedagogical/communicative element) OR set up an independent class with at least 3 fellow students.

Objectives

For each class, the student and teacher agree which of the objectives for the subject in question must be fulfilled.

All pedagogical/communicative aspects, however, are absent.

Content

For each class, the student and teacher agree which part of the content for the subject is expected to be studied. All pedagogical/communicative aspects, however, are absent.

Tuition and work formats

For classes that already exist (based on the catalogue of supplementary main subjects), the tuition and work formats of the subject in question are used. If an independent class is set up, the students agree with the teacher(s) which tuition and work formats to use.

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

6 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

Certificate.

This certifies that the objectives have been achieved at a level at least corresponding to a Pass, and that current attendance rules have been followed.

2.1.3 Ensemble Playing

Objectives

Upon completion of the Ensemble Playing subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of recognised artistic and technical practice, repertoire, methods, and theory.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.
- Has mastered artistic and technical skills and forms of expression.
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression and make informed and reflected artistic decisions, especially in regard to developing his or her artistic expression.
- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to work in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner in a musical and artistic context.
- Can participate independently and constructively in various musical contexts.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

Tuition may comprise work on the following subjects: dynamic effects, arrangement (prepared in advance or spontaneous), jam sessions, musical communication skills, improvisation and accompaniment, composition/songwriting, phrasing and interpretation, sense of tempo, pulse, and subdivisions, period and form, and learning by ear and scores. To create suitable ensemble playing classes, the classes are put together based on student priorities. Every semester is usually concluded with a concert performance.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and concerts.

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

6 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 6th semester: Certificate

This certifies that the objectives have been achieved at a level at least corresponding to a Pass, and that current attendance rules have been followed.

2.1.4 Projects/One Year Project

Objectives

- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.
- Has mastered artistic and technical skills and forms of expression.
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.
- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and unpredictable creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her musicianship in a globalised world.
- Can commence and direct musical ensemble playing and interdisciplinary co-operation independently in the musician and communicator role.
- Is able to formulate and execute a cohesive project and carry it out through all phases from idea to realisation.
- Is able to act professionally as regards responsibilities and ethics.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

All projects must incorporate an artistic dimension, an entrepreneurial dimension, and relevant considerations and a written reflection regarding the project.

Tuition and work formats

In consultation with the director of studies, the student selects one major project (6 ECTS; the project runs during the 1st and 2nd semester) or two minor projects (3 ECTS each; one per semester). The student may choose between A and B:

- A. Participation in a joint project where the student plays a major role as a composer, arranger, conductor, entrepreneur, or similar.

The student's work must involve preparations for, participation in, and evaluation of the project.

Prior to the project, approval of a project description must be sought from the director of studies and the project manager. The project description must include the project title, a description of the idea behind the project, the work form, and the desired supervisor.

The project is supervised.

- B. Formulating, carrying out, and evaluating a project in the form of a solo project that the student is responsible for OR a group project in which the student cooperates with one or more fellow students.

Prior to the project, approval of a project description must be sought from the director of studies. The project description must include the project title, a description of the idea behind the project, the work and presentation form, and the desired supervisor.

The project is supervised.

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

6 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

No later than 2 weeks after the execution of each project, the student hands in 3 copies of a CD/DVD containing recordings of the project as well as a report (at least 4 pages) containing the objective, a description of the process (preparation and participation, both artistically and as regards the entrepreneurial aspect), and an evaluation. Relevant annexes in the form of scores or similar are to be attached.

For group projects, it must be clear which part of the project the student is responsible for.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking (supervisor and internal examiner). Pass/fail as well as a short written statement.

2.1.5 Communication

Objectives

- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.
- Is able to work with artistic communication, especially with a view to communicating his/her musical message, and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and unpredictable creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her musicianship in a globalised world.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

Work is done on artistic and communicative processes in theory and practice. Tuition covers subjects like performance, theoretical and philosophical perspectives on artistic activity, peer supervision, and coaching.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition with all other MMus Rhythmic Musician students.

Semesters

1st semester.

Scope

3 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 3rd semester: Certificate

This certifies that the objectives have been achieved at a level at least corresponding to a Pass, and that current attendance rules have been followed.

2.1.6 Courses

Objectives

Upon completion of Courses, the student:

- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts
- Possesses knowledge of a series of subjects chosen by the student him/herself that augment existing subjects.

Content

Every year, the course committee organises a number of courses: Study courses, year courses, class courses, and possibly instrument-specific courses. The study courses may be executed during scheduled joint classes and elsewhere.

Tuition and work formats

Tuition format and organisation depends on the course content.

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

No ECTS points. Tuition is an optional opportunity for the students.

Evaluation and examination regulations

None.

2.1.7 Optional lessons

Objectives

Upon completion of the optional lessons, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of a series of subjects chosen by the student him/herself that augment existing subjects.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own artistic practice.
- Has mastered artistic and technical skills and forms of expression.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.
- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

The student may apply for optional lessons to augment the degree course.

Tuition and work formats

Lessons in accordance with the application. May be class or one-to-one tuition.

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

No ECTS points. Tuition is an optional opportunity for the students.

Evaluation and examination regulations

None.

2.2 Entrepreneurial Studies

Objective

Upon completion of the Entrepreneurial Studies subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of the music business and culture in an international context.
- Understands and is able to reflect on professional practice and the complex relations between music industry players.
- Commands programme creation and communication with a view to employment in music.
- Is able to assess challenges and issues in relation to his/her career, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected career decisions.
- Is able to communicate his/her own profile and discuss vocational issues in relation to peers, audiences, and media players.
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in relation to the music business and culture in a globalised world.
- Can commence and lead independently in various professional contexts and interdisciplinary cooperation.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own potential for creative development in a professional career context.

Content

Tuition on the individual semesters covers various subjects including:

1st semester:

- Career plan
- Individual research
- Self-management
- Communication
- Financials
- Music and society

2nd semester:

- Business plan
- Sales
- Marketing
- Partnerships and cooperation with other music industry players
- Development of ideas
- Project design

3rd semester:

- Project management
- Individual and group guidance
- Realising a project
- Career plan

Mandatory assignments

To pass each semester, the student must hand in an online learning portfolio containing the work/assignments completed over the course of the semester.

At the start of the tuition course, the teacher announces which online platform is to be used.

The semester can only be passed if the assignments have been handed in and approved by the teacher. All assignments must relate theory and/or method to practice.

1st semester: Development of a career plan drawing on perspectives from the interview with a business professional chosen by the student

2nd semester: Development of business plan for project

3rd semester: Examination assignment

Scope of written assignments on the 1st and 2nd semester: 3 to 5 pages.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, seminars and individual guidance.

Scope

9 ECTS towards the degree.

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format:

Oral examination based on the examination assignment.

Duration: 20 minutes

Discussion: 10 minutes

The examination assignment is handed in online and consists of two parts:

- A well-developed presentation portfolio/home page with a professional look
- A project assignment/learning portfolio Scope: 5-7 pages or corresponding video material/accessible portfolio content. The assignment must include a reflection on the student's practical experience with entrepreneurial activities and must relate to 2-3 themes from the core areas of the subject with relevant literature (theory and/or method).

Marking and evaluation:

Internal marking. Evaluation: grade. The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives of the course have been achieved.

2.3 Master's project

Objective

Upon completion of the master's project, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of practice, methods and theory within the chosen project area.
- Understands and is able to reflect on his/her practice and choice of specialist methods in relation to the project.
- Has mastered relevant methods, tools and forms of expression for creative, performative, and/or pedagogical work.
- Is able to identify project relevant knowledge in an independent and critical manner and evaluate, create and choose from project related solution models.
- May communicate and discuss project idea and results orally and in writing to both peers and non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in relation to project work.
- Is able to independently find relevant cooperation partners and act critically and professionally in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs and potential for development in relation to project work, and to draft and manage realistic schedules.

Content

The student chooses and defines his/her own master's project. The project must include the following elements:

- At least one of the following dimensions: an artistic, performative, pedagogical or theoretical dimension
- A communicative dimension
- A written reflection. Scope: 15 to 30 pages

The repertoire of the 4th semester main instrument concert may overlap that of the master's project.

Tuition and work formats

Individually, in large groups and in study groups

The main project is completed during the 3rd and 4th semesters.

Individual project guidance is provided by the main supervisor, possibly assisted by an external supervisor.

Preparations for the project are made in the Master's Project: Joint Classes subject.

The Master's Project: Joint Classes subject includes tuition in project management, method awareness, literature searches, interview techniques, etc. and provides an introduction to various research methods.

During the course, student projects are used as case studies as applicable.

The student prepares his/her own project plan as part of the tuition.

Deadlines

1 April, 2nd semester

The student sends a preliminary title and a draft of the content to the project coordinator along with a prioritised application for a main supervisor.

Early September, 3rd semester

In the Master's Project: Joint Classes subject, the students are introduced to the scope, form and expectations/options in connection with the master's project and are instructed to prepare a preliminary project description.

Study groups of 3 to 4 students are formed. The group convenes at least three times during the project period. A report of these meetings must be included as an annex to the written part of the project.

1 November, 3rd semester

The preliminary project description is submitted for review by the project coordinator. This includes a description of the intended master's project as regards title, work format, plans for project realisation and final presentation format.

1 February, 4th semester

In cooperation with the main supervisor, the student prepares the final project description which forms the foundation for the remaining work and the evaluation of the project.

This project description is binding in relation to the written part of the project.

1 April, 4th semester

The written reflection (including material that the examiners are expected to be familiar with at the presentation) is handed in.

Special regulations regarding the written reflection

In the written reflection, the student should account for e.g. the following:

- The chosen angle of the project

Which delimitations have been made, and for what reasons?

- The target audience of the project. "Who am I trying to reach?"

An identification and description of these as well as an evaluation of the degree to which they have been involved in work on the project.

- Music business anchoring. "Who may assist me?"

Where and how is the project meant to be located on the local/national/international music scene? This includes an evaluation of, and proactive measures in relation to, stakeholders.

- Traditions

An account of the artistic/pedagogical/performance related tradition that the project aspires to be a part of, including a list of relevant literature (in the broad sense of books, articles, TV shows, interviews, recordings, websites, etc.).

In addition, the written reflection must include the following:

- Literature list
- Abstract

Short summary (max. ½ page) of the project in English

- Annexes
All relevant material is included as annexes, including the final project description and reports from study group meetings.

Late May, 4th semester

Presentation of final project
See the evaluation and examination regulations.

Semesters

3rd to 4th semester

Scope

30 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format

A: Presentation (30 minutes)

Depending on the nature of the project, the presentation may take the following forms:

- A concert incorporating oral communication
- A teaching situation using a project approach
- A lecture

B: Interview with the board of examiners (10 minutes)

Duration of presentation and interview: 40 minutes. Duration of exam including discussion: 60 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade and a written statement.

The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives have been achieved.