



Det Jyske  
Musikkonservatorium  
**The Royal Academy  
of Music**

## CURRICULUM

# **Master of Music (MMus) programme, Musician**

## **JAZZ/POP MUSIC**

Aarhus

Effective as of 2019

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# 1 Introduction

**Jazz/Pop Musician** is a 2-year MMus programme where students can continue the development of their knowledge, skills, and qualifications as jazz/pop musicians and music teachers.

Taking his/her musicianship as a starting point, the student immerses himself/herself in his/her main instrument and creative work, as well as related subjects and projects that form the basis of the student's choices in relation to a future artistic career.

Depending on the subject, electives and projects (35 ECTS in total) focus on artistic and/or pedagogical qualifications.

Artistic electives must make up at least 20 ECTS.

The programme thus forms the basis of the student's choices during his or her future career as a musician and possibly as a music teacher.

The MMus degree may also be used as a background for further studies at soloist level.

## **Programme structure**

The programme focuses on the student's development as a musician and artist.

Emphasis is placed on the main instrument and on subjects supporting and developing a creative and reflected approach to creating music.

The programme gives students a great deal of freedom, for example when choosing electives. Electives are studied in joint classes with other MMus students from all programmes.

Artistic entrepreneurship, which is concluded after the 2nd semester, provides the student with relevant tools for administering his/her artistic and pedagogical ambitions through e.g. self-management and entrepreneurial skills.

The programme concludes with a student-defined Master's project based on student interests and needs. The project constitutes the student's specialisation in jazz/pop music.

The programme subjects are divided into the following fields:

- Main study area: subjects where the student is a performer and creator, as well as subjects and projects that support the student's artistic profile
- Electives: subjects and projects supporting work as a performer, creator, or teacher
- Artistic entrepreneurship: subjects and projects where the student explores the role as entrepreneur and manager of dynamic processes, and in addition develops his/her career management tools
- Master's project: in addition to work on the project itself and attendant guidance, this includes tuition on subjects that prepare the student for the final project work

## 2 Programme content, individual subjects, and examinations

	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	Total
Main study area	15	15	10	10	50
Artistic entrepreneurship	5	5			10
Electives	10	10	10	5	35
Master's project			10	15	25
Total	30	30	30	30	120

## 2.1 Main study area

### 2.1.1 Main instrument, ensemble playing, and support projects

#### Objective

Upon completion of the course, 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 from artistic forms of expression and make qualified and reflected artistic choices
- Is able to work with artistic communication, particularly with regard to communicating his or her musical message, and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists
- Is able to manage complex creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her musicianship in a globalised world
- Can commence and conduct musical ensemble playing and interdisciplinary cooperation in the roles as musician and communicator
- Is able to act professionally as regards responsibilities and ethics
- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development, and to 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.

Tuition may also include working with art and communication processes in theory and practice.

As an example, tuition may include topics such as performance and theoretical and philosophical perspectives on artistic activity.

Tuition may include the following:

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

- phrasing, interpretation
- timbre, instrument/vocal technique
- sight reading
- learning by ear
- imitation
- transcription
- transposition

### **Tuition and work formats**

Possible tuition and work formats:

One-to-one tuition, class tuition, group work, guidance.

Work in band contexts.

Participation in Academy projects is an important part of the student's main study area activities.

Projects may be initiated by the Academy and by the student.

For wind players, participation in a big band is mandatory. Mandatory participation for wind players may not exceed two big band projects per semester, equivalent to 3 ECTS. Other students can apply for participation or be appointed by the big band leader.

A big band project is normally equivalent to 1.5 ECTS. By participating in at least 3 big band projects, students can receive credits for a 5 ECTS elective, for example. Students must apply for credit to the Head of Studies.

Part of the tuition takes the form of preparation for and evaluation of student performances at internal and external concerts. The student is required to act as band leader and assume artistic responsibility for at least two concerts annually. Participation in all of these work formats is part of the ECTS workload for the main study area.

### **Semesters**

1st to 4th semester

### **Scope**

50 ECTS

### **Evaluation and examination regulations**

After the 4th semester: Examination, own skills

*Examination content*

At a concert, the student performs a programme chosen by the student and featuring the student in an important role.

*Examination format*

Concert. Duration: 45 minutes

Total duration including deliberation: 75 minutes

*Marking and evaluation*

External marking. Grade.

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

## 2.2 Artistic entrepreneurship

### Objective

Upon completion of the course, 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
- 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 artistic profile and discuss vocational issues in relation to peers, audiences, and media
- Can commence and lead independently in various professional contexts, participate in cross-disciplinary artistic collaboration, and assume artistic citizenship
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own potential for creative development in a professional career context

### Content

The student's work with artistic entrepreneurship is based on the student's own projects and practice. Tuition seeks to support this and may include the following:

- Self-management
- Individual research
- Development of ideas
- Self-management
- Project design and management
- Communication
- Financials
- Music and issues in society
- Business plan
- Sales
- Marketing
- Partnerships and cooperation with other music industry players
- Cross-disciplinary artistic collaboration
- Artistic citizenship

1st semester is concluded with an assignment. This can be either a short written assignment (3 to 5 pages) or an oral presentation during class.

2nd semester: examination assignment

### Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, seminars, and individual guidance

## **Scope**

10 ECTS

## **Semesters**

1st to 2nd semester

## **Evaluation and examination regulations**

After the 2nd semester: examination

*Examination format*

Oral examination (25 minutes) based on the examination assignment. Scope: 8-10 pages excluding annexes

The examination assignment must provide a perspective on central issues pertaining to the subject with relevant literature (theory and/or method).

During the oral examination, the student relates theory to his/her own professional practice and uses this as a starting point for a reflection on his/her professional and personal development.

The assignment must be handed in by the date communicated by the Study Administration.

Total duration including deliberation: 40 minutes

*Marking and evaluation*

Internal marking. Grade.

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

## 2.3 Electives

Every year, the Academy offers a number of pedagogical and artistic electives of 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS. The ECTS workload is stated in the description of each elective.

A total of 35 ECTS is to be earned from electives.

Students on **MMus Jazz/Pop Musician** must choose artistic electives for at least 20 ECTS.

### **Content and objectives**

The content and related objectives of the electives are stated in the descriptions of each elective.

### **Tuition and work formats**

Electives are primarily executed as class tuition. Where relevant, however, other options are possible; this will be stated in the description of each elective.

### **Semesters and scope**

1st semester – 10 ECTS

2nd semester – 10 ECTS

3rd semester – 10 ECTS

4th semester – 5 ECTS

### **Evaluation and examination regulations**

Certificate with the evaluation Approved/Not approved. 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.

Some pedagogical electives are evaluated using internal censorship. When relevant, this is stated in the elective catalogue.

## 2.4 Master's project

### Objective

Upon completion of the course, 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 methods in relation to the project
- Has acquired mastery of relevant methods, tools, and forms of expression within the chosen project area
- Is able to identify project relevant knowledge and evaluate, create, and choose from project-related solution models
- Can communicate and discuss project ideas and results achieved verbally and in writing
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in relation to project work
- Is able to find relevant cooperation partners and act critically and professionally in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation
- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs and potential for development in relation to project work and draft and manage a realistic schedule

### Content

The master's project builds upon (one or more of) the student's main study areas but may draw on cross-disciplinary approaches.

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

- 1) Work within one or more of the following areas
  - a) Composition/songwriting/arrangement
  - b) Professional artistic performance
  - c) Pedagogics/communication
  - d) Artistic entrepreneurship
- 2) Written assignment. Scope: 15-30 pages excluding annexes

The joint guidance classes for the master's project include tuition on assignment writing topics such as project formats, research methodology, interview technique, and literature searches. Tuition may be scheduled together with Artistic entrepreneurship.

### Tuition and work formats

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

Individual project guidance is provided.

In addition, the Master's project is prepared and supported in joint guidance classes.

### Important dates

#### 1 April, 2nd semester

The student submits the following to the project coordinator: a preliminary title and a brief description of one or more project ideas, and a prioritised application for a project

supervisor.

### **Early September, 3rd semester**

Introductory meeting with the project coordinator

The student is introduced to the scope, form, and opportunities of the master's project and is prepared for creating the project description.

Study groups of 3-6 students are set up.

The groups convene at least three times during the project period.

### **1 November, 3rd semester**

The project description is submitted for approval with the project coordinator.

This first project description must include the following:

- Title
- Objective
- Motivation (personal and general)
- A description of the product (the content itself and the result of the project)
- A description of the process:
  - preparation (literature, music references, interviews, etc.)
  - elements of the project process (for example, rehearsals, recordings, work with composition/songwriting, cooperation partners, etc.)
- Schedule

### **1 February, 4th semester**

In consultation with the project supervisor, the student creates a final project description on which the rest of the work, and the evaluation of the project, are based.

This project description is binding in relation to handing in the written project. The requirements of the descriptions are stated above.

### **15 April, 4th semester**

The written assignment is handed in. Scope: 15-30 pages excluding annexes

The assignment is handed in along with all other relevant material that the board of examiners must be familiar with before the examination.

### **Semesters**

3rd to 4th semester

### **Scope**

25 ECTS

### **Evaluation and examination regulations**

*Examination format*

A: Presentation (30 minutes)

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

- A concert incorporating oral communication
- A teaching situation using a project-related approach
- A lecture/presentation of the project including documentation of the artistic/performative dimension in the form of a portfolio, CD/DVD recordings or similar

It is important that the presentation elaborates, or provides perspectives on, the content of the written assignment.

The repertoires of the examination concert and the artistic/performative dimension of the master's project may overlap.

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

Deliberation and preparation of statement (20 minutes)

Total duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

*Marking and evaluation*

External marking. Grade and a written statement.

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