



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

CURRICULUM

Bachelor of Music (BMus) programme

ELECTRONIC COMPOSITION

Aarhus

Effective as of 2019

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1 Introduction

Electronic Composition is a 3-year BMus programme at the Royal Academy of Music where students work with electronic music in an artistic and critically reflective manner. Taking the student's compositions as a starting point, the programme includes a broad range of subjects and projects that form the basis for the student's choice of further studies and future career.

The programme focuses on the student's composition and technical skills in an artistic context. It includes communication of music in practice, in writing, and in theory, and the programme concludes with a bachelor project where the student specialises in a subject chosen by the student him/herself.

The programme subjects are divided into the following fields:

- Main study area: subjects where the student works in an investigative, creative, and methodical manner as well as technical subjects that support this aspect
- Pedagogy: subjects where the student works with artistic communication and pedagogical practice
- General studies: history of electronic music where the student acquires knowledge of periods and works and studies theory and analysis from a critical and reflective perspective
- Artistic entrepreneurship: subjects and projects where the student gains experience as an entrepreneur and manager of dynamic processes and acquires career management tools, based on his/her artistic practice
- Bachelor project: specialisation including guidance and immersion in a subject chosen by the student

The elements of the programme are credited with ECTS points based on an assessment of the workload involved in the subjects.

2 Programme content, individual subjects, and examinations

	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	5th sem	6th sem	Total
Main study area							
Composition	10	10	10	10	10	15	65
Programming		5					5
Studio and sound engineering	5						5
Acoustics	5						5
Signal processing			5				5
Joint module	5						5
Pedagogy							
Communication		5					5
Pedagogical practice			5				5
Programming and composition training				5			5
General studies							
History of electronic music	5	5	5				15
Artistic entrepreneurship			5	5	5		15
Electives		5		10	15	5	35
Bachelor project						10	10
Total	30	30	30	30	30	30	180

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Composition

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Has acquired knowledge of various approaches, methods, and theories regarding composition technique, aesthetics, and style
- Is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own artistic practice
- Has acquired and is able to use technical and musical skills and forms of expression related to his/her work as a composer
- Is capable of making artistic choices and assessments
- Is able to communicate musical and artistic expression in a way that is relevant for a given target audience
- Is able to acknowledge and handle artistic challenges in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Can participate independently in various musical contexts
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and creative potential for development within composition, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts in relation to these
- Can apply technical knowledge of e.g. acoustics, programming, or signal processing in his/her artistic practice
- Can use entrepreneurial competences in his/her artistic practice

Content

Tuition includes the following:

- Guidance during artistic work with the student's own works, including sparring with fellow students
- Seminars providing in-depth theoretical and practical perspectives on selected subjects, including cooperation with other composition programmes
- Developing the student's capacity for critical reflection on his/her own works and those of others
- Project weeks that focus on the main study area and include technical, aesthetic, and analytical skills in the composition work

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one and class tuition from a team of main study area teachers and guest lecturers

Semesters

1st to 6th semester

Scope

65 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester: 1st year evaluation

Examination content

The student hands in works composed on the 1st and 2nd semesters and a brief written presentation of the works. At the oral examination, the student gives a short presentation of the works submitted and is subsequently evaluated orally by fellow students from the same year and the teachers.

Examination format

Written assignment and oral examination

Scope of written presentation: 1-2 pages

The works composed must be handed in by 1 May.

Duration of the oral examination: 30 minutes, including 15 minutes of presentation followed by 15 minutes of interview and questions from the teacher, the examiner, and fellow students. This is followed by 5 minutes of deliberation.

Total duration including deliberation: 35 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail.

The assessment must reflect whether the overall objectives of the programme are expected to be achievable for the subject over the three years of study.

After the 6th semester: examination

Examination content

The student hands in a representative selection of works composed on the 3rd to 6th semesters and a written presentation of the works (2-3 pages).

Oral examination: technical and aesthetic discussion of at least one of the works handed in, chosen by the student.

Examination format

Written assignment and oral examination

The works composed must be handed in by 1 May.

Duration of the oral examination: 45 minutes, including 20 minutes of artistic presentation of the works and 25 minutes of interview. Both parts are open to the public. This is followed by 15 minutes of deliberation.

Total duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade.

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

2.1.2 Studio and sound technology

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses elementary knowledge of technical practice, methods, and theory within studio and sound technology
- Has acquired and is able to use technical skills within studio and sound technology
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and potential for creative development within studio and sound technology
- Is conversant with the uses of studio and sound technology in an artistic context and has acquired practical experience in this field

Content

Among other things, tuition includes an elementary introduction to the following:

- Developing basic student theoretical knowledge of, and experience with, sound technology
- Sound studio set-up and microphone technique
- Process-related and artistic aspects of mixing the student's own works and those of others
- Practical exercises

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and participation in supervised concert and/or studio production

Semesters

1st semester

Scope

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.

2.1.3 Acoustics

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses elementary knowledge of acoustics and sound formation and is conversant with wave theory and instrument acoustics
- Is able to acknowledge and handle acoustics-related challenges in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Is able to apply theoretical knowledge of acoustics in an artistic context and has acquired practical experience in this field
- Is able to communicate technical terminology and issues within acoustics in a way that is relevant to peers

Content

Developing an understanding of sound, room acoustics, and instrument acoustics. Tuition includes studying various theories as well as practical exercises with follow-up assignments. Students must hand in at least 2 written assignments over the course of the semester. In addition, tuition is coordinated with Composition subject tuition in order to integrate the acquired knowledge in creative composition work.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Semesters

1st semester

Scope

5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

At the exam, the student draws a topic from curriculum. After 30 minutes of preparation, the student explains the topic at a conversation and answers questions that illuminate acoustics from both a technical and a compositional / musical perspective.

Sound samples and own compositions may be included in the presentation.

Examination format

Oral examination with aids.

Duration: 30 minutes of preparation. 25 minutes exam/conversation and 5 minutes of deliberation.

Total duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail.

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

2.1.4 Programming

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses elementary knowledge of programming, for example in a graphical programming environment
- Has acquired and is able to use elementary technical programming skills
- Is conversant with the uses of programming in an artistic context and has acquired practical experience in this field
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and potential for creative development within programming

Content

Tuition may include the following:

- Working in the graphical programming environment Max/MSP
- A general overview of data processing, MIDI, and digital audio in the programme
- Max/MSP options for interacting with other software and hardware
- An elementary understanding of interactive music applications and computer music instruments
- Integrating subject themes in the main study area and the student's work as a composer

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Includes work on a public presentation of functional software developed during classes.

Semesters

2nd semester

Scope

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.

2.1.5 Signal processing

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Has acquired signal processing skills and is able to integrate them in an artistic context
- Is able to communicate technical terminology and issues in a way that is relevant to peers
- Is able to handle technical challenges in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Is able to integrate themes from the course in the main study area and apply them in his/her work as a composer

Content

Developing an understanding of sound and a range of techniques for analogue and digital signal processing used in the production of electronic music.

Tuition includes studying various theories as well as practical exercises with follow-up written assignments. In addition, tuition is coordinated with Composition tuition in order to integrate the acquired knowledge in creative composition work.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition. Students must hand in at least one written assignment over the course of the semester.

Semesters

3rd semester

Scope

5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

At the exam, the student draws a topic from the curriculum. Afterwards it is possible to ask the teacher questions to understand the assignment.

The student has 24 hours to answer the assignment in writing, where both a technical and a musical/compositional answer to questions within the topic is desired.

Examination format

Written assignment. Students are given 24 hours to complete the assignment.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail.

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

2.1.6 Joint module

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Is capable of making artistic choices and assessments
- Is able to search for and acquire relevant information
- Can participate independently in cooperation with fellow professionals

Content

Tuition may include the following themes:

- Study technique
- An overview of music history
- Critical reflection
- Knowledge of artistic citizenship
- Knowledge of the Academy as a place of study, including digital platforms
- Musical interventions
- Co-creation projects
- An introduction to artistic entrepreneurship

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and group work

Semesters

1st semester

Scope

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.

2.2 Pedagogy

2.2.1 Communication

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Is able to communicate verbally and musically with peers, pupils, and other non-specialists
- Is able to reflect on his/her practice and choice of methods in relation to communication situations
- Possesses knowledge of concepts, trends, and positions within art and aesthetics
- Has acquired relevant communication tools
- Understands the relation between artist, recipient/audience, and work

Content

Developing the student's general understanding of the subject and communicative ability

Tuition includes various subject areas within electronic music production such as communicating existing music and optionally the student's compositions.

Tuition may take the form of practical exercises, theoretical presentations, and discussions drawing on relevant literature on subjects such as rhetoric, psychology, etc.

As part of tuition, students develop a brief teaching training course for their fellow students on critical artistic reflection, supervised by the teacher. The course is evaluated orally.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Semesters

2nd semester

Scope

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.

2.2.2 Pedagogical practice

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses elementary knowledge of relevant pedagogical concepts, theories, and methods
- Is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to teaching and communication situations
- Possesses elementary tuition skills in the field of electronic music
- Is able to create and arrange a pedagogical course with a suitable progression
- Is able to independently participate in and lead cooperation with peers and non-specialists
- Is able to identify and handle pedagogical challenges in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and potential for artistic development in the field of pedagogy, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts in relation to the organisation of teaching courses

Content

Development of the student's ability to communicate and teach electronic music. Tuition includes various subject areas within electronic composition and music production. The class includes planning and executing tuition courses (where pupils compose, produce and/or write songs), communication of existing music through presentations and practical exercises, and studying practical and theoretical methods for planning and evaluating composition tuition.

Tuition takes the form of practical exercises and discussions and draws on relevant literature.

The class includes a training course at a Danish folk high school or a similar training location and requires that students stay at the school.

Over a 2-week period, students carry out electronic composition tuition in groups. The supervisor watches the tuition, either on location or via film recordings, and evaluates the students as a group and individually.

In addition, students receive guidance from a teacher at the training location. The course is concluded by a thorough evaluation.

No later than 14 days prior to the examination, students must hand in an assignment including a report about the course as well as a description of the methods, theories, or similar that the student has tried out in practice after becoming acquainted with them during theory classes.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and internship

Semesters

3rd semester

Scope

5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format

Written assignment and oral examination

Written 8-10-page assignment

The assignment must include the following:

- Objective
- A short presentation of the training course/internship
- A reflection on the learning outcome for the pupils in relation to the student's pedagogical practice
- An account of selected pedagogical concepts, theories, and/or methods that the student has tested during the training course, and a reflection on own experience with this
- Examples of tuition materials developed by the student (optional)

Additional teaching material and audio samples of the pupils work can be attached as an appendix.

The assignment must be handed in by the deadline communicated by the Study Administration, but no later than 14 days prior to the examination.

Oral examination:

The student gives a 10-minute presentation, after which the examination takes the form of a 10-minute dialogue between student, examiner, and teacher.

This is followed by 10 minutes of deliberation.

Total duration including deliberation: 30 minutes

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade.

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

2.2.3 Programming and composition teaching practice

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Can communicate verbally and musically with advanced level students, for example regarding the use of programming in composition work
- Can communicate programming knowledge to advanced level students
- Is able to independently participate in and lead cooperation and creative processes
- Can create a progressively ordered tuition course in consultation with the supervisor
- Is able to demonstrate programming through practical experience with creative composition processes

Content

The training course includes work on subjects related to tuition in programming and composition. In consultation with the supervisor and fellow students, the student creates his/her own tuition materials and plans one or more tuition courses for advanced level pupils with a suitable progression.

At the beginning of the semester, the course is planned in cooperation with students in the class guided by the supervisor. After this, the students themselves arrange training course tuition. Selected training sessions are attended by the supervisor who provides regular evaluation and feedback during the course.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, group work, training, and supervision

Semesters

4th semester

Scope

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.

2.3 General studies

2.3.1 History of electronic music

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of concepts of music history and music theory as well as key composers and artists
- Understands and is able to reflect on relevant terms of music theory as used about electronic music
- Is able to apply relevant critical and analytical approaches to electronic music
- Is able to search for and acquire relevant information
- Is able to communicate in writing to peers and non-specialists
- Is able to take an investigative and analytical approach to issues of music history
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs in the subject curriculum
- Is capable of taking a critical approach to music theory concepts

Content

The history of electronic music. Studying, analysing, and discussing relevant concepts of music history and music theory as well as key composers and artists.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, written assignments, and student presentations

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Scope

15 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd semesters: written assignment

Examination content

Written assignment. Scope: 5-7 pages

The title and subject of the assignment is defined by the teacher in consultation with the student.

Examination format

Written assignment

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

The diploma will include the average of the three grades.

2.4 Artistic entrepreneurship

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses elementary knowledge of the music industry and culture in a modern, globalised world
- Understands and is able to reflect on artistic practice and the relations between the music industry and various players in the cultural sphere
- Is able to create programmes and communicate with a view to employment in music
- Is able to appraise challenges and issues in relation to his/her own career
- Is able to work in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner in relation to the music industry and culture in a globalised world
- Is able to act with integrity in various professional contexts and participate in relevant cross-disciplinary cooperation

Content

Tuition on the individual semesters may include the following:

- Self-management
- Critical reflection
- Networking
- Internal communication, e.g. dialogic communication
- External communication, e.g. press releases, social media, and elevator speeches
- Planning and execution of training courses
- Development of ideas
- Project management
- Fund raising
- Planning and execution of a joint class project
- Cross-disciplinary artistic collaboration
- Artistic citizenship

3rd and 4th semesters are concluded with a written or oral presentation. This can be either a short written assignment (2 to 4 pages) or an oral presentation during class. The assignments are defined by the teacher at the beginning of the semester.

Scope

15 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and seminars plus individual guidance

Semesters

3rd to 5th semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format

Oral examination (20 minutes) based on the examination assignment. The assignment must be handed in by the date communicated by the Study Administration.

Scope of the examination assignment: 5-7 pages excluding annexes.

The examination assignment must provide a perspective on central issues pertaining to the subject with relevant literature (theory and/or method) as well as a reflection on the student's practical experience with entrepreneurship.

The oral examination elaborates on the assignment, and the student reflects on his/her professional and personal development.

Total duration including deliberation: 35 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.5 Electives

Every year, the Academy offers a number of electives within the study areas described in the curriculum. The main focus is on the main study area and the pedagogical area. Out of the total of 35 ECTS to be earned from electives on the BMus programme, at least 15 ECTS must be related to the main study area, and at least 15 ECTS must be related to the pedagogical area.

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

2nd semester – 5 ECTS

4th semester – 10 ECTS

5th semester – 15 ECTS

6th semester – 5 ECTS

Electives can correspond to 5 or 10 ECTS. This will be stated in the description of each elective.

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.

2.6 Bachelor project

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of practice, methods, and theory within the chosen project area
- Is able to reflect on his/her practice and choice of methods in relation to the project
- Is able to use relevant methods, tools, and forms of expression within the chosen project area
- Is able to independently identify and acquire knowledge that is both project-relevant and generally acknowledged
- Is able to communicate project idea and results orally and in writing
- Is able to work on a project basis in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Is able to find relevant cooperation partners and act professionally in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation

Content

The bachelor project takes one main area as its starting point but may include other, cross-disciplinary approaches.

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

- 1) One or more of the following subject themes:
 - a) Composition
 - b) Professional artistic performance
 - c) Pedagogy
 - d) Artistic entrepreneurship
- 2) Communication of the above
- 3) A written reflection. Scope: 10-20 pages excluding annexes

Item 1) may for example take the form of a composition, concert, artistic intervention, performance, installation, recording, tuition course, or innovative work with various formats.

Item 2) may for example take the form of a detailed oral presentation at the final examination, or an independently created presentation using digital media.

Tuition and work formats

Guidance in individual project work as well as study group work

- At the beginning of the 5th semester, a description of the intended bachelor project (including the title and idea of the project as well as the name of the desired supervisor) must be submitted by the student for approval by the head of studies.

- No later than 3 weeks hereafter, the student receives the provisionally approved project description.
- After provisional approval, project descriptions and work plans are presented and developed in study groups.
- By 1 February on the 6th semester, the student in cooperation with the supervisor drafts the final project description which is submitted to the project coordinator for final approval.
- The project coordinator sends the approved project description to the student and the supervisor no later than 15 February on the 6th semester.

The written part of the project including the project description must be handed in by 15 April.

Semesters

6th semester

Scope

10 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

After the 6th semester: examination

Presentation in accordance with the approved project description.

Examination format

a. Presentation (30 minutes) Depending on the nature of the project, the presentation may take the following forms:

- A concert with optional oral communication
- A teaching situation using a project-related approach
- A lecture/presentation of the project based on the chosen subject themes

b. Interview with the board of examiners (10 minutes)

c. 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.