

CURRICULUM

Master of Music (MMus) programme

Electronic Music Production
Aalborg

Effective as of 2025

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1 Introduction

The Master's programme in Electronic Music Production (MMus) at the Royal Academy of Music is a two-year programme where the primary focus is music production within contemporary popular music forms of expression. Upon completion, the student should be able to handle a variety of tasks in the professional commercial job market while also maintaining an individual artistic profile.

The programme focuses on the student's skills and artistic expression within electronic music production.

The subjects in the programme are divided into the following areas:

- **Main Study Area:** in Electronic Music Production, students work individually and in small groups on production skills and artistic expression. The emphasis is on developing the student's artistic practice, especially in commercial contexts. Tuition is grounded in an artistic approach to acquiring production-technical methods at a professional level.
- **Focused Topics:** joint mandatory courses in recording, mixing, and mastering.
- **Electives:** courses in which the student can specialize, e.g., Film Music, Game Audio, Songwriting, Live Sound, Internship, My Artistic Project, and Other Instrument.
- **Entrepreneurship:** a course in which, based on their own artistic and/or commercial practice, the student gains experience as an entrepreneur, as a leader of dynamic processes, and acquires tools for career management. The student is also expected to collaborate with external partners during the programme.
- **Master's Project:** specialization with supervision and in-depth study of a self-selected topic within Electronic Music Production.

The elements of the programme are credited with ECTS points based on an assessment of the workload associated with each subject.

2 Programme Content

	1 st sem	2 nd sem	3 rd sem	4 th sem	In total
Main Study Area					
Electronic Music Production	15	15	10	10	50
Electives*	10	10	10	5	35
Entrepreneurship	5	5			10
Master's Project			10	15	25
In total	30	30	30	30	120

*The electives are described in the Elective Course Catalogue for the Master's Programme in Electronic Music Production.

2.1 Main Study Area

2.1.1 Electronic Music Production

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Masters artistic and production-technical skills and forms of expressions at a professional/advanced level.
- Has acquired aesthetic as well as technical skills within electronic sound and music production.
- Has acquired analytical and reflective approaches to electronic sound and music production.
- Is able to understand and reflect on practice and choice of method in relation to their own artistic development.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression, formulate relevant solution models, and make qualified and reflective artistic choices.
- Is able to carry out artistic dissemination and discuss music-disciplinary and professional issues with both peers and non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and unpredictable creative challenges in developing and carrying out a production practice in a globalized world.
- Is able to independently initiate and lead cross-disciplinary collaboration in the role of producer, engineer and/or communicator.
- Is able to act professionally with respect to responsibility and ethics.
- Is able to independently take responsibility for their own learning needs, opportunities for specialization, and creative development potential, and structure time and work effort.

Content

The course focuses on further developing the student's production skills and artistic expression.

Particular emphasis is placed on the development of the student's artistic practice within commercial contexts.

The course includes working with music production in various professional contexts, including collaboration with other stakeholders in the music industry. As part of the course, students must participate in a number of professional productions, mainly with external partners.

Focused topics: - joint mandatory course in recording (sound and studio technique), mixing, and mastering.

FLEX classes (optional):

In semesters 1-3, students also have the opportunity to apply for classes within a self-chosen topic that supplements that main area. Interested students apply for FLEX classes to the Head of Studies no later than May 15 before the start of the academic year. The application must include a short motivation and, if relevant, preferred teacher(s).

The first year concludes with an individual presentation from each student, followed by peer evaluation. The presentation is part of the classes and is not an examination.

The student must submit 20-25 minutes of music during the first year of study, along with a written reflection assignment. The pieces must be submitted as audio files and/or video.

The written assignment must be 3-5 pages (excl. appendices). If one or more of the pieces are produced in collaboration with others, the student must account for their own contribution to the piece.

The music is presented to the other students in the programme. The student prepares an oral presentation about the submitted pieces and the reflection assignments, after which the presentation and pieces are evaluated orally with participation from fellow students and teachers.

The assignment may include:

- Reflection on practice and methodological choices in relation to their own artistic practice.
- Description of technical knowledge, e.g. production and mixing, in the applied artistic practice.
- Highlights from their own development process.
- If working with songwriting: artistic and stylistic considerations in relation to composition, lyrics, and production.
- Reflection on the context of the compositions and possible target audience.
- Description of the piece's potential application.

Audio files must be submitted as mp3 or aac files. Any video material must be submitted as an active link.

The pieces and reflection assignment must be submitted digitally in accordance with the Study Administration's instructions on a date announced by the Study Administration, no later than 14 days before the evaluation.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, individual supervision and camps/workshops.

Semesters

1st – 4th semester

Scope

50 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After 4th semester: Examination and written assignment

Examination content

The assignment must be submitted on a date announced by the Study Administration. The student must submit 30-40 minutes of music produces during the Master's programme. If one or more pieces have been produced in collaboration with others, the student must account for their own contribution. The pieces must be submitted as audio recordings and/or video.

In addition, a written assignment of 3-5 pages (excl. appendices) must be submitted. The assignment should reflect on the pieces' intention, creations, form, context, or other relevant parameters.

In a public presentation, the student gives a technical and aesthetic review of at least one of the submitted pieces and also explains the artistic intentions.

Examination format

Student presentation: 20 minutes.

Conversation: 25 minutes.

Deliberation and feedback: 20 minutes.

Total duration incl. deliberation and feedback: 65 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade and written statement.

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

2.1.2 Electives

The academy offers a number of electives each year worth either 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS credits. The number of ECTS will be stated in the individual elective course description. In total, 35 ECTS are allocated to electives.

Content and objective

The content of the electives and their associated learning objectives are described in the individual elective course description.

Tuition and work formats

The electives are primarily taught in class groups, but other formats may be planned where relevant and will be specified in the individual elective course descriptions.

Semesters and scope

1st semester – 10 ECTS

2nd semester – 10 ECTS

3rd semester – 10 ECTS

4th semester – 5 ECTS

2.2 Entrepreneurship

Objectives

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 their career, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected career decisions
- Is able to communicate their own artistic profile and discuss vocational issues in relation to peers, audiences, and media.
- Can commence and lead independently in various professional contexts.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for their own potential for creative development in a professional career context.

Content

In working with artistic and commercial entrepreneurship, the student takes a starting point in their own projects and practice. Tuition aims to support this and may include the following topics:

- Self-management
- Individual research
- Idea development
- Project design and management
- Communication
- Business plan
- Financials
- Fundraising
- Sales
- Network
- Marketing
- Audience development
- Branding and digital strategy
- Introduction to copyright, licensing, and contractual matters.
- Working communities and collaboration with other stakeholders in the music industry.

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 supervision.

Scope

10 ECTS

Semesters

1st – 2nd semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

After 2. semester: Examination

Examination content

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

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 their own professional practice and uses this as a starting point for a reflection on their professional and personal development.

The assignment must be submitted by a date announced by the Study Administration.

Examination format

Oral presentation: 10 minutes.

Conversation: 15 minutes.

Deliberation and feedback: 15 minutes.

Total duration incl. deliberation and feedback: 40 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.3 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 their 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 with integrity and professionalism in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation.
- Is able to assume responsibility for their 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) Music production/songwriting
 - b) Professional artistic performance
 - c) Pedagogics/communication
 - d) Artistic entrepreneurship
 - e) Technical/technological methods & considerations
- 2) Written assignment. Scope: 15-30 pages (excl. appendices).

Tuition and work formats

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

Important Dates

1st of April 2nd semester

The student submits to the project coordinator a provisional title and a brief description

of one or more project ideas, together with a ranked request 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.

The students form a study group that meets at least three times during the projects period.

1st of 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 (e.g. work with production, external collaborators, etc.)
- Time plan

1st of 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.

1st of April 4th semester

The written assignment is handed in. Scope: 15-30 pages (excl. appendices). 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 – 4th semester

Scope

25 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

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 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.

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

Examination format

Presentation: 30 minutes.

Conversation: 10 minutes.

Deliberation and feedback: 20 minutes.

Total duration incl. deliberation and feedback: 60 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade and a written statement.

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