



Admission Procedure Master of Arts in Musical Performance: Producing/Performance Jazz, focus on composition

Guideline for the admission procedure

The admission procedure of the Hochschule für Musik/FHNW for the Master of Arts in Musical Performance, Producing/Performance Jazz with focus on Composition takes place in several phases.

Please note: You choose one main subject (focus subject) and one complementary subject (combination subject). If you choose main subject (focus subject) Composition, you choose between Performance and Production as your complementary subject. Please state your main (focus) and complementary subject clearly in your motivation letter when applying and upload the requested materials for both the main and complementary subject before February 15, 2023.

In exceptional cases, you may be allowed to study two complementary subjects, both Performance and Production, if your main subject (focus subject) is Composition. A separate admission exam will be necessary if you want to audition for a second complementary subject. This additional audition will take place after the second round of the regular admission procedure, upon request. No material needs to be submitted for a possible additional exam at the time of applying.

Composition Dossier

Three compositions from the candidate's current compositional work must be submitted:

- Audio files in MP3 format
- Corresponding scores (PDF)

Dossier Complementary Subject (Performance or Production):

Complementary Subject Performance:

An audiovisual (image/sound) recording must be submitted. At least three pieces of the candidate's current musical work are presented with an ensemble and/or as a soloist. We are interested in getting to know the applicant's artistic identity, which can be rendered through musical interaction and expression as well as through personal compositions and arrangements by the candidate. The selection of the recorded music should document both the interpretative and improvisational skills and the applicant's familiarity and affinity with jazz and/or with jazz related musical genres.

Complementary subject production:

A sound file of a recording/mix (studio production) and/or a film/video soundtrack or a remix/sound design produced by the candidate, submitted with a short written (PDF) documenting the production method.



Upload and transmission

- Please upload to either Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com>) or YouTube (<https://youtube.com>).
- Access to the video must be granted until the end of June 2023.
- The composition dossier is labeled with the candidate's name and can be saved under "Work list/Work" in the registration tool.
- Please submit the list of video links (instrumental/vocal performances) together with the application no later than **February 15, 2023**.

Letter of motivation

Please document your previous general and musical education in the letter of motivation. In addition, your motivation for and expectations of this Master degree study program should be outlined.

Master Project Plan

During this master's program, students develop their individual artistic profile. In doing so, they commit to exploring and researching topics connected to their artistic development and documenting this process. Students look to contextualize their own work with the work of others and will share the artistic outcome. At the end of their studies, they will present the results of this exploration in a master thesis, documenting the artistic process and research. They will also publicly present their master project in a concert/presentation.

The **Master Project Plan** needs to be submitted with the application. In it, the candidate outlines her/his artistic interests and sketches a personal approach to artistic development and artistic research. During the course of study, research questions and the methodological approach can and may evolve.

When sketching the areas of your interest in the master project plan, please include aspects of professional development as well, outlining your plans to integrate your work in the professional field.

The following items should be addressed in the Master Project Plan:

- Musical/artistic interests and questions
- Contextualization of your own artistic work with that of other musicians and artists
- Aims and implementation of your master studies
- Plans for professional integration during and after studies

Pre-selection

Based on the submitted dossier (composition dossier, video recordings/production dossier, letter of motivation, Master Project Plan), a committee decides on the admission to the second round that constitutes of a live audition. Candidates who are admitted to the second round will be notified about the date of the live audition.



Audition

-Hearing composition (duration: 20 minutes)

Presentation of up to 4 notated original compositions with different instrumentations. Both recordings (audio files) and musical scores should be presented, supplemented by prepared explanations of the individual compositions (colloquium). One of the compositions must be written for the instrumentation of a "large ensemble" (at least sextet). The scores and audio samples must be submitted electronically at least 14 days prior the second round (live audition). The presentation may also include compositions that have already been submitted for pre-selection.

In the compositions presented, a connection to the artistic interest outlined in the Master Project Plan should be apparent.

- Complementary subject

At the request of the committee, audition (for complementary subject Performance; two to three pieces are to be prepared) or presentation (for complementary subject production: short presentation/audition of one to two personal productions).

Accompaniment (for complementary subject Performance): The audition can be completed with the student's own rhythm section (always the case for online auditions) or with a rhythm section organized by the university. If the audition is performed with a rhythm section (piano, bass, drums) organized by the university, the repertoire must be selected in such a way that it can be accompanied without prior rehearsal based on the scores provided in paper by the candidate.

- Master Project Plan: Hearing/Q&A with the committee (duration: 10 minutes)

Following the audition, the Master Project Plan is discussed. The candidate briefly presents the intended study plans and aims, and the committee then asks questions.

Choice of audition mode

At the Jazz Institute of the HSM/FHNW we offer the option to attend the second round (audition) in **presence** (on site) or **online** (live online audition). Both options will be assessed with equal attention. You must choose the mode of the audition (second round) already when submitting your application. Without expressing the wish to do the second round online, you will participate in a live (in presence) audition. Of course, local applicable COVID measures and regulations will apply at all times.

Requirements for the online audition (if chosen at the time of application)

- The online audition has to be performed with an ensemble (at least a duo).
- It is necessary to ensure the best possible conditions for a good transmission quality of the stream. We use the platform ZOOM. We recommend registering in advance on <http://zoom.us> to familiarize yourself with the platform.
- We recommend the use of an external microphone and, if necessary, an audio interface. For the online admission procedure, we will send a zoom link by e-mail in advance.