

# Study guide

## Creative project

Academic year  
2025-2026

**Koninklijk Conservatorium  
Antwerpen**

# Content

1. General information .....	2
2. Creative Project 1 & 2 (3 ECTS).....	3
3. Creative End Project (12 ECTS).....	4
4. Masterexam Creative End Project (24 ECTS).....	7

## 1. General information

Creative Project is situated within the artistic-production field and carries significant social relevance. Its primary focus is on exploring one's own artistic identity within a specific context or theme, while pushing artistic boundaries through originality and inventiveness. Participants work with a variety of creative elements, including thematic exploration, interdisciplinarity, improvisation and creation, intercultural reflection, multimedia integration, immersive experiences, and genre-transcending approaches. Collaboration and co-creation are central to the project, taking place at suitable venues and in partnership with external professional organizations. Beyond artistic performance, the project also emphasizes the development of entrepreneurial skills.

**Creative Project 1 & 2** involve active participation in a project. Participants may choose between a project offered by the KCA (often in collaboration with an external partner) or contributing to a *Creative End Project* organized by Master 2 students.

### Creative End Project (Master 2)

The *Creative End Project* is the culmination of the Master's program, focusing on the creation of an original artistic production. This work is developed in collaboration with fellow students or artists from within or outside the program, and in partnership with an external professional organization. The projects are presented extra-muros, in publicly accessible venues across Antwerp, as part of the annual spring festival.

The **Masterexam Creative End Project** involves the development of an original artistic production that demonstrates a distinctive creative approach. The project is carried out in collaboration with an external professional organization and is directly connected to the subject Research. Approval from all involved teachers is required in order to undertake this course unit.

### *Creative Project team*

Principal teacher and coach: Jeroen Malaise

Coaches: Junior Akwety, Naomi Beeldens, Nabou Claerhout, Mathias Coppens, Isaak Duerinck, Sam Gevers, Pieter Matthynssens and Lieselot De Wilde. See digitap for contact info.

### *Introduction sessions and contact moments*

At the beginning of the academic year, several introductory sessions are organized. Attendance is mandatory. The main info session will take place on **Friday 19 September 2025 between 13:30-15:30**. Further details can be found on the Digitap page. In addition, contact moments are scheduled at variable times throughout the year.

### *Online Portfolio Platform*

An introductory video is available on the Digitap page to help students navigate the Online Portfolio platform. The profile page on the platform serves as a presentation of the student's artistic identity through text, images, and video. The deadline for creating or updating this profile page is **24 October 2025**. Over the course of the project, students will compile a portfolio containing the required documentation. A template is available on the platform to support this process. Within a project, certain portfolio components may be shared and combined; however, individual components must remain separate. The final deadline for submitting the online portfolio is **Friday 12 June 2026**.

### *General agreements about communication, timing and evaluation*

**Communication** is a very essential aspect of the Creative Project course. Good communication enables a good workflow and will help you achieve the artistic results you want. This includes communication with your whole network: coach, teachers,

colleagues, (external) partners. Past experience shows that successful students have a constructive and proactive communication style. Important note: lack of constructive and proactive communication can lead to the cancellation of participation in a project, in which case the course cannot be completed in the current academic year.

**Timing.** In order to work with mutual respect and evaluate work properly, the Creative Project trajectory will be divided into clear time slots and deadlines. A good workflow and (self-) organization for all participants involved is a must. Important note: missing deadlines can lead to the cancellation of participation in a project, in which case the course cannot be completed in the current academic year.

**Evaluation.** Learning to engage with feedback, and how to react to it, helps us grow as artists. For this course we evaluate outcomes including performances, portfolios, and final contents. It is important to process feedback from coaches and teachers in a constructive way.

## 2. Creative Project 1 & 2 (3 ECTS)

**Creative Project 1 & 2** involve active participation in a project. Participants may choose either:

- a project offered by the program (often in collaboration with an external partner), or
- participation in a *Creative End Project* led by Master 2 students.

The deadline for submitting your choice is **Friday 10 October 2025**.

In addition to the artistic performance itself, the projects emphasize the development of entrepreneurship skills such as organization, production, and communication.

- *Creative Project 1 & 2* take place between November 2025 and June 2026.
- *Creative End Projects* are scheduled in spring 2026, from March through early June.

### *Pitch Creative End Project*

Throughout the academic year, students will work on developing a concept for a future *Creative End Project*. This process takes place in collaboration with fellow students and through guidance and discussions with Jeroen Malaise and one or more Creative Project coaches.

- Deadline to deliver the pitch to Jeroen Malaise is **Thursday 30 April 2026**.
- Deadline to discuss the pitch with one or more of the coaches is **Friday 22 May 2026**.

### *Reviews*

Attending at least three Creative End Projects results in three different reviews that are added to the portfolio. Erasmus students can request an exception to this from Jeroen Malaise. The reviews do not apply to students of collaborative piano, composition and conducting.

### *NextDoors Week Participation*

A key component of the Creative Project process is the requirement to participate in at least two days of activities during **NextDoors Week, 9-13 February 2026**.

This participation may take the form of:

- contributing with one's own project, provided it demonstrates a sufficiently interdisciplinary focus, or
- joining an offered project that supports and enriches the participant's artistic profile.

Further details on how to submit a project proposal or register for an existing project will be announced between November 2025 and January 2026.

### *Evaluation*

To successfully pass, students must obtain at least 50% of the total points.

The evaluation consists of two equally weighted components:

- Artistic performance and project collaboration (50%)
- Portfolio (50%)

A second exam opportunity is only possible if the artistic performance has been successfully completed either before or during the first exam round.

## *Portfolio*

Throughout the project, a portfolio is created that contains the appropriate documentation. A template is available in the Online Portfolio. Within a project, portions of portfolios may be exchanged and combined, with the exception of individual items (self-assessment, etc.). A pitch for the future Creative End Project is added as part of the portfolio. Beforehand, this will be discussed with Jeroen Malaise and one of the coaches. Deadline for submitting the portfolio on the Online Portfolio platform is **Friday 12 June 2026**.

## *Important dates and deadlines*

Friday 19 September 2025 (13:30–15:30) – Info session (Witte Zaal)

Friday 10 October 2025 – Deadline: Meeting with Jeroen Malaise & submission of project choice (Creative Project 1 & 2)

Friday 24 October 2025 – Deadline: Edit and update Online Portfolio profile page

Week 9-13 February 2026 – Participation in NextDoors week.

Thursday 30 April 2026 – Deadline: Deliver CEP pitch to Jeroen Malaise

Friday 22 May 2026 – Deadline: Discuss pitch with one or more coaches

Friday 12 June 2026 – Deadline: Upload final portfolio to the online platform

## **3. Creative End Project (12 ECTS)**

The Creative End Projects are publicly accessible performances that take place extra muros in Antwerp as part of a spring festival. Each project is a professional-level artistic production developed in collaboration with an external venue and/or organization, under the guidance of principal teacher Jeroen Malaise and the assigned coach.

Preferably, the project is realized in partnership with one of the venues provided by the District of Antwerp. If an alternative location is desired for artistic reasons, prior approval from Jeroen Malaise is required.

Students are expected to take the lead both artistically and organizationally. The project begins with the development of a concept rooted in the student's artistic profile, which is created in collaboration with peers. Once approved by Jeroen Malaise, the concept is further elaborated into a feasible production at every level: artistic, organizational, financial, and technical. A professional standard is expected in all aspects.

The coach is closely involved throughout the process, from concept development to realization, and plays a key role in the final phase. During this last phase, participants must plan a run-through and a try-out in consultation with all parties involved. The try-out date must be communicated well in advance, with clear and effective communication maintained at all times.

The final performance should last between 45 and 90 minutes. Overlaps with chamber music or vocal/instrumental repertoire are possible, provided they have prior approval from Jeroen Malaise.

## *District of Antwerp and other partners*

For Creative Project, the KCA has a partnership with Antwerp District. There are several locations to work 'in residence,' if the concept of the project is approved by all parties involved. Performance space and technical assistance are provided at the location, and possibly publicity support. Some venues charge a financial fee for technical assistance, and possibly a 50/50 split of ticket sales revenue. It is important to meet a venue's specifications, such as general terms and conditions, timely submission of publicity materials and provision of a technical sheet. More info about the venues and technical possibilities will be given in info sessions and contact moments with Jeroen Malaise. Site visits will start in November 2024, after which a date will be chosen in consultation with the jury members (the coach, the principal subject teacher and Jeroen Malaise) and communicated by mail to all parties involved at the latest on **Friday 29 November 2024**.

For the Creative Project, KCA has a partnership with the District of Antwerp, offering several venues where students may work 'in residence', provided the project concept is approved by all parties involved.

At the selected venue, students are granted access to a performance space and technical support, with possible additional assistance for publicity. Please note that some venues charge fees for technical services and may require a 50/50 revenue split on ticket sales.

It is essential to comply with each venue's requirements, which may include:

- adhering to general terms and conditions,
- submitting publicity materials on time,
- and providing a detailed technical sheet.

Further information about the available venues and their technical specifications will be shared during info sessions and contact meetings with Jeroen Malaise. Site visits are scheduled to begin in November 2025, after which the final project date will be chosen in consultation with the jury members (the coach, the main teacher, and Jeroen Malaise). This date will be communicated by email to all parties no later than **Friday 28 November 2025**.

### *Creative Project team, coaching and jury members*

Principal teacher, coach and department chair: Jeroen Malaise.

Coaches: Junior Akwety, Naomi Beeldens, Nabou Claerhout, Mathias Coppens, Isaak Duerinck, Lieselot De Wilde, Sam Gevers and Pieter Matthyssens. For more info on the coaches see digitap.

The number of coaching sessions depends on the specific needs of the project; however, seven sessions are provided as a guideline. The main teacher is also involved in monitoring the repertoire and providing general artistic advice.

For the final performance, the main teacher(s), assistant(s), coach, and, if available, Jeroen Malaise will serve as jury members. It is therefore essential to consider their availability when scheduling the performance date.

The coach remains actively involved throughout the project's development and progress, playing a key role in the final phase. Timely scheduling of rehearsals and a try-out is crucial, and these must be communicated in advance to ensure the coach can be present.

### *Financial support*

The Conservatoire does not provide financial support for projects organized within the framework of the Creative Project. However, through the partnership with the District of Antwerp, it is possible to charge an entrance fee, provided there is prior approval and clear agreement with the venue. Be aware that each venue has its own conditions, and some may charge a small fee for hosting the performance.

If an entrance fee is charged, students may also be responsible for SABAM rights for works that are not in the public domain. It is the responsibility of the students to determine the correct procedures for obtaining these rights.

When arranging a venue, it is essential to clarify all details and financial agreements beforehand. Questions regarding expense reports or invoices can be directed to [www.cultuurloket.be](http://www.cultuurloket.be), and it is recommended to schedule an online appointment in advance.

### *Next Doors project week*

A key component of the Creative End Project process is the requirement to participate in at least two days of activities during **NextDoors Week (9-13 February 2026)**.

This participation may take the form of:

- contributing with one's own project, provided it demonstrates a sufficiently interdisciplinary focus, or
- joining an offered project that supports and enriches the participant's artistic profile.

### *Promotion*

Publicity, promotion, and communication are entirely the responsibility of the student. All standard project information—including title, image, participants, performance date, start time, and a brief project description—must be submitted no later than **Friday 6 February 2026**. Additional information and updates will be communicated via Digitap announcements.

For projects in collaboration with a District Antwerp location, students are also required to provide specific promotional materials to the chosen venue.

All printed and digital communications must include the correct logos of the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp and AP Hogeschool. Templates for posters, flyers, leaflets, websites, and other materials can be downloaded from the Digitap page. For specific questions regarding communications, please contact [greet.vandenbulcke@ap.be](mailto:greet.vandenbulcke@ap.be).

### *Planning, organisation & deadlines*

Projects can take place between March and 10 June 2026. The date must be approved by the main teacher, the coach and Jeroen Malaise.

### *Important dates and deadlines*

Friday 19 September 2025 13:30-15:30: info session witte zaal.

Friday 26 September 2025 - deadline update CEP pitch.

Friday 24 October 2025 - deadline meeting coach.

Friday 24 October 2025 - deadline update Online Portfolio profile page

Friday 29 November 2024 - deadline info location, date and start time + confirmation coach and main teacher

Friday 6 February 2025 - deadline to deliver event publicity and info

Week 9-13 February – Participation in NextDoors week

Date online publication trailer/teaser (date to be agreed with coach)

Date run-through of performance (date to be agreed upon with coach)

Date tryout of performance (date to be agreed upon with coach)

Friday 12 June 2025 - upload portfolio (online portfolio platform)

Failure to meet deadlines or maintain timely (mail) communication may result in exclusion from the Creative Project, making it impossible to pass this course in the current academic year. A Creative End Project can only be completed if the assigned coach has received all information regarding rehearsals, run-throughs, and try-outs well in advance, and has sufficient opportunity to provide guidance and help shape the project.

In the second semester, we'll share a checklist to help make sure all the important things get taken care of.

### *Online Portfolio Platform*

Throughout the course of the project, students are required to compile a portfolio containing the relevant documentation. A template is available on the Online Portfolio platform. The portfolio is intended to serve as a reflection of the project, giving readers a deeper understanding of its development and process, and as a source of promotional content. It will be assessed accordingly.

Portfolios from participating students may be combined for a single project. The deadline for the complete portfolio is **Friday 12 June 2026**, with submission via the Online Portfolio platform.

The portfolio template includes several mandatory components, such as a trailer or teaser (to be published before the performance date) and an aftermovie.

### *Entrepreneurial skills*

Parallel to the creation process of the project, production aspects are highlighted using entrepreneurship skills. This is also incorporated into the portfolio.

### *Evaluation*

To successfully pass, students must obtain at least 50% of the total points.

The evaluation consists of two equally weighted components:

- Artistic performance and project collaboration (50%)
- Portfolio (50%)

A second exam round is only possible if the artistic performance has been successfully completed either before or during the first exam round.

Evaluation of the performance is based on three domains: a productional component, the artistic performance, and a societal relevance. An evaluation document is available via digitap.

There is no possibility for the project to take place during the second exam round. Second exam round is only possible if the artistic performance is successfully completed before or during the first exam round.

### *Lending equipment from the RCA*

The Conservatoire does not provide materials or technical resources for Creative Project performances.

Exceptions apply to music stands and, if available, a limited selection of small percussion instruments.

Use of percussion instruments is only permitted after completing the step-by-step procedure outlined in the manual (see Digitap page).

### *Percussion and grand piano*

The RCA has a limited budget to provide percussion instruments and a grand piano at one external location. This support is only possible if multiple projects are clustered at the same venue within a short time frame. Final planning for this must be confirmed no later than November 2024.

For more information contact Jeroen Malaise.

#### 4. Masterexam Creative End Project (24 ECTS)

To qualify as a Master exam, a Creative Project must demonstrate significant artistic added value and a distinctive creative interpretation, with research fully integrated as an essential component. Since the Master exam builds upon the framework of the Creative End Project, it is crucial to first meet the associated requirements.

The project should move beyond conventional performance formats, exploring new concert experiences that can resonate within the broader cultural landscape. In alignment with the student's artistic profile and target audience, the concept must be developed with the potential to evolve into a professional-level art project. Alongside the student's active artistic leadership, all relevant aspects of project realization are taken into account.

Repertoire overlap with chamber music and/or instrument/vocal exams is possible, subject to approval. Please note that piano accompanists are not responsible for accompanying the final project.

Program duration: minimum 60 minutes, maximum 90 minutes

Approval: To include the Master Thesis Creative Final Project in the curriculum, prior permission from Jeroen Malaise and Yves Senden is required, no later than the academic year preceding the performance.

##### *Communication*

Clear and consistent communication is an essential component of the Master Exam Creative End Project. Students are expected to take the initiative in keeping the team of teachers and coaches regularly informed about the project's progress.

##### *Entrepreneurial skills*

As the Master Exam Creative End Project aims to create a performance with a place in the cultural landscape, entrepreneurial skills are essential. These are demonstrated throughout the work process, and documented in the portfolio.

##### *Planning and organisation*

Students must contact Jeroen Malaise and Yves Senden at the beginning of the preceding academic year to request admission to this course unit. The project proposal is developed in consultation with the main teacher (who acts as supervisor), the academic supervisor, and Jeroen Malaise.

Projects may take place between 1 March and 10 June 2026. The proposed date must be approved by the main teacher, coach, Jeroen Malaise, and Yves Senden.

##### *Important dates and deadlines*

(see also deadlines Creative End Project)

Failure to respect deadlines or (email) communication may lead to exclusion from the Creative Project, making it impossible to pass the course in the current academic year. A Master Exam Creative End Project can only be approved if the coach and Jeroen Malaise receive timely information regarding rehearsal schedules, run-throughs, and try-outs, and are given the opportunity to provide input in shaping the project.

##### *Research*

For more info on the research component, contact [yves.senden@ap.be](mailto:yves.senden@ap.be).

##### *Portfolio*

Throughout the project, students are required to compile a portfolio containing appropriate documentation. A template is available in the Online Portfolio platform. For group projects, the individual portfolios of participating students may be combined into a single project portfolio.

##### *Evaluation*

To pass, students must achieve at least 50% of the total marks. Please note that it is not possible to schedule the project during the second exam round. The evaluation is structured as follows:

- Production and artistic performance within the project: 50% of the total grade
- Research component: 25% of the total grade
- Portfolio: 25% of the total grade

### *Jury members*

The jury consists of the main teacher (or assistant), the coach, Jeroen Malaise, Yves Senden, and an external jury member. When scheduling a performance date, it is essential to consider the availability of all jury members. It is possible and even recommended for the student to propose an external jury member with a relevant profile who is active in the cultural landscape.