

**Studyguide
Master's Exam
Research &
Lecture Performance**

**Academic Year
2025-2026**

**Koninklijk Conservatorium
Antwerpen**

This booklet is a manual for the **Integrated Master's Examination (Research &) Lecture Performance**. It contains the regulations and practicalities concerning the course units.

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1 Introduction

Since 2011-2012, the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp (KCA) has been giving a twofold interpretation to the **Integrated Master's Examination** of the Music Department. On the one hand, the student has to show that he/she is capable of linking a thorough research attitude to his/her performance practice, while on the other hand still being able to fulfill the predetermined artistic and technical criteria of his/her main discipline. The Integrated Master's Examination (24 ECTS) therefore consists of two parts: the Master's Examination Instrument/Voice, Composition, or Conducting (18 ECTS); and the Master's Examination Research and Lecture Performance (6 ECTS).

For students in the Music Education Degree is expanded to three parts, for a total of 30 ECTS: the Master's Examination Instrument/Voice, Composition, or Conducting (18 ECTS); the Master's Examination Research & Lecture Performance (3 ECTS); and the Master's Examination Educational Project in the Arts (9 ECTS). These three parts can be integrated to a larger extent. For more information, consult the Vademecum Master's Examination Educational Project in the Arts.

Program leading to the reflective part of the Master's Examination (Research & Lecture Performance).

The course Research starts in Bachelor 2 and ends in Master 1, and coaches the student in academic and reflective skills.

The names of the courses represent their essence:

- Bachelor 2: Research Skills
- Bachelor 3; Introduction to Artistic Research: the first steps towards pre-existing and relevant artistic research, and towards the student's own research.
- Master 1: Artistic Research
- Master 2: Masterproef (Research &) Lecture Performance

At the start of Master 1 the (research) subject of the Master's Examination are agreed upon in consultation with the student, by preference also the instrument/voice professor, the research supervisor, and the research coordinator. The student will be coached and guided by his/her supervisor throughout the entire process, on an individual basis, and with continuous communication. This leads to the final version of the Master's research, to be submitted at the end of Master 1. Throughout Master 2, the latter will lead up to the Master's Examination (Research &) Lecture Performance.

Important: Artistic Research and the Master's Examination (Research &) Lecture Performance are subject to vertical sequentiality. In other words, **students who do not pass Artistic Research cannot enroll in Master's Examination (Research &) Lecture Performance.**

Throughout Master 2 an addition to the paper (in function of performance practice) is still possible. Afterwards, **the final version of the Master's Examination Research** will be submitted.¹ Such an addition can take place in any or several of the following ways:

- written additions to the Master's research conducted in Artistic Research (Master 1);
- a summary of the research, combined with a video recording;

¹ Not applicable to students Educational Master. In Master 2 the latter only need to comply with the Master's Examination Lecture Performance.

- a log of the artistic process;
- et cetera.

During a Lecture Performance the student presents his/her research (including the link to performance practice) to an internal and external jury. Students in the Educational Master's Degree in Music do not submit a Master's paper Research in Master 2, but present the conducted research as a Lecture Performance in Master 1 (see below).

2 Master's Research Format (Master 1 plus Master 2)

In Master 1 the student will be guided by the supervisor in order to compile relevant sources and write down the essence of what has been discovered, applying the standards of academic writing. The student will present these first insights **orally** during the assessments in January, in presence of other students and the supervisor. During that presentation it is mandatory that a first connection is made between research and performance practice. This connection will be further developed during Semester 2. During the assessment in June the student presents **orally** the further results, in front of other students, the supervisor and a second jury member.

The student also delivers a short written version of the academic reflection on artistic research. This written text should focus on clarifying how the research has had an impact on the student's artistic performance practice. This written version will be submitted on Digitap (see below, Practicalities).

Any student willing to proceed with an alternative format of the research can do as such after consulting the coordinator (Yves Senden).

3 Submitting the versions

The written version of the research is submitted electronically in PDF and word processor format.

In Master 1 (Artistic Research) the final version will be submitted on Digitap, Juni 2025 (see below, Practicalities).

In Master 2 the **final version including additions**² are submitted in December 2025 via Digitap. This is part of the Master's Examination Research.

Students of the Educational Master in Music are exempt of this version (see study curriculum) and only do a Lecture Performance in which they present their research to a jury, verbally and by means of an artistic performance (see below).

Important: these students Educational Master in Music have to submit in Master 2 a final version (see below, 7. Practicalities). This text is exactly the same as the final version of master 1, without additions. You only need to change the title page: mention 'masterpaper' (not: Artistic Research) and the correct academical year.

Submission of versions is compulsory.

² These additions are not required for students Educational Master.

4 Specification for Each Subject

4.1 General Procedure

The Master's Examination Lecture Performance movie lasts max. 15 minutes.

4.2 Master's Examination Instrument/Voice – Strings (high and low)

- If the Integrated Master's Degree is linked to a Creative Project, it is possible to link the contents with the Characteristics of the Orchestra Course.

4.3 Master's Examination Composition

- The emphasis of this research is on the artistic trajectory of the student, specified by his or her methodology; explanation of the context, style, the technicalities, the orchestration, the relation to other art and society.
- In the analysis-part the own work needs to be theoretically analyzed.

4.4 Master's Examination Conducting (choir, brass band, orchestra)

- Students of Composition are advised to choose the elective Research Project 1 and 2.
- Students develop an individual critical dissertation concerning one or more of the parts of the rehearsal programme or final concert:
 - a) A form analysis of a composition from which students draw conclusions with a view on conducting it.
 - b) Style analysis (e.g. what characteristics of this work are typical of Stravinsky?).
 - c) Historical situation to complete the picture.
 - d) Explanation of the selection and structure of the programme.
 - e) Justification of the artistic choices based on students' methodology, artistic journey, technical process, instruments, sources of inspiration, relation to other arts and social situation.
 - f) Report on internships as auditors: what insights have the student gained, what have they learned? Discussion of the rehearsal process, artistic trajectory. Report on talks with conductor, comparisons of recordings, comparisons of rehearsals of the same work by different conductors.
- The Master's examination related to the academic reflection takes place either after the Master's Examination Conducting, or during one of the predetermined dates (see §7.3)

4.5 Master's Examination Creative project

- The student realizes a creative project of 60 minutes in which he/she performs as a musician and (co-)concert organizer. For this the student can collaborate with fellow students and/or external artists. The concert project does not include works that are presented in the exams instrument or chamber music. The Creative Final Project must be presented during the appropriate exam period (period after the Easter vacations until the end of June).
- Around one or more programme components of the master's thesis Creative Final Project the student works out an individual critical reflection (= artistic research), written down in the master paper. Since the reflection and the elaboration of the Creative Project are intrinsically intertwined, it will become fully clear during the

execution of the Creative Project in which way the reflection led to the result. This is both an individual process of the student who worked out the critical reflection, as well as of the fellow students and third parties with whom he collaborated. Immediately after completion of the Creative Project, the student is invited to further explain his artistic research in an interview with the jury.

If the subject lends itself to it and it is organizationally feasible, in consultation with the responsible teachers (Jeroen Malaise for the Creative End Project; Yves Senden for the artistic research), a separate (i.e. not on the day of the Creative Project) arranged interview with the jury concerning the artistic research can still be opted for.

- Delivery of an individual sales dossier for the final project/recital, in accordance with the specifications of the lecturer responsible for the course unit.

5 Expectation and Evaluation

The following aspects related to content and format are taken into consideration during the evaluation of the Master's Examination Research & Lecture Performance:

- Has the student thoroughly executed the assignment as demanded and described in this vademecum?
- Is there a clear connection between the research (as described in the Master's research) and the artistic practice?
- Does the student display a critical mindset? Is all the information provided relevant and not plagiarized?
- Did the research add value to the artistic practice? The added value must at least be that the reflection of the student leads to a new practice-based understanding; in that case, there is 'research with new personal insight'. Additionally (but not necessarily), the investigation can be of such a nature that also unknown territory is explored; in that case, we speak of 'research with new output'.
- Did the student follow up on the remarks and suggestions given during the feedback moments throughout the academic year (permanent evaluation)?
- Is the Master's research's formatting and use of language correct and without errors? Does it comply to the Style Guide?
- Is the structure of the work clear? Does the conclusion answer questions formulated in the introduction of the work?
- Were a sufficient amount of sources found and used correctly? Are the bibliography and discography sufficiently diverse and up-to-date? Did the student reflect critically on the included sources?

6 Practicalities Master 1

De **oral presentations** belong to the organization of the assessments; timestamps will be communicated in time.

The requirements for submitting the written text for Artistic Research are the following:

- Only a digital version must be submitted (a physical/paper version is not necessary).

- Submitting is done via Digitap, in two formats: a PDF format and a word processor format (.doc, .docx, .odt et cetera).
- Optional accompanying attachments (scores et cetera) may not exceed a 400 MB file size.
- File name must be: LastName_FirstName_final-version.extension (e.g.: Jones_Tom_final-version.docx & Jones_Tom_final-version.pdf).
- The text may be written in Dutch, French, German, or English. The text must be free of grammatical and spelling errors.

Deadlines:

- September/October 2025: consultation period (student, main course teacher, research teacher, coordinator): defining the research subject/
- Monday June 1st, 2026: the final version of the Artistic Research is submitted via Digitap.
- Deadline second examination period: Monday August 17th 2026 via Digitap.

Period/date	What	Version	Digital copy to	Physical copy to
September/October 2025	Discussion of topic			
Mon 01.06.2026, 23h59		Final version	Digitap	N/A
Mon 17.08.2026, 23h59	2nd examination period	Final version	Digitap	N/A

7 Practicalities Master 2

Master's Research requirements:

- Both a digital and physical/paper version must be submitted.
- Submitting digitally is done via Digitap, in two formats: a PDF format and a word processor format (.doc, .docx, .odt et cetera).
- Optional accompanying attachments (scores et cetera) may not exceed a 400 MB file size.
- File name must be: LastName_FirstName_final-version.extension (e.g.: Jones_Tom_final-version.docx & Jones_Tom_final-version.pdf).
- Submitting physically (paper version): not necessary, unless you are asked by Yves Senden to do so.
- The text may be written in Dutch, French, German, or English. The text must be free of grammatical and spelling errors.
- **For the students Educational Master: submit in Master 2 a final version. This text is exactly the same as the final version of master 1, without additions. Change the title page: mention 'masterpaper' (not: Research 4) and the correct academical year.**

Deadlines:

- Monday December 8th, 2025: submitting the digital version (Digitap) of the Master's Research's final version (if applicable, including additions). Note: students Composition have a separate deadline: Monday March 2nd, 2026.
- Deadline second examination period: Monday August 17th, 2026, 23h59; digital version via Digitap.
- Hard copies (on paper) are no longer required, unless you are personally asked to do so by Yves Senden.

Period/date	What/who	Version	Digital copy	Paper copy
Mon 08.12.2025, 23h59	All students (minus students Composition)	Master's Research	Digitap	Only on demand by Yves Senden
Mon 02.03.2026, 23h59	Only students Composition	Master's Research	Digitap	Only on demand by Yves Senden
Mon 17.08.2025 23h59	Second examination period	Master's Research	Digitap	Only on demand by Yves Senden

8 Organization of examination dates

The student must present the results of their research to a jury.

The Lecture Performances, in which the research is presented, will be organized online as follows:

- First Exam Period
 - 22.02.2026: Upload film (Panopto)
 - 16.03.2026: Jury sends questions to the student via email
 - 18.03.2026: Student responds to the questions via email
- Second Exam Period
 - 16.08.2026: Upload film (Panopto)
 - 21.08.2026: Jury sends questions to the student via email
 - 24.08.2026: Student responds to the questions via email