

Brief general presentation

The Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo (NMH), the Academy of Music and Drama at the University of Gothenburg (HSM) and Rhythmic Music Conservatory in Copenhagen (RMC) are now offering a joint study programme at a master's level (in Danish: *kandidatuddannelse*) in the field of creative jazz/improvised music performance, with a focus on composition. The students have the opportunity to take advantage of the expertise of three separate institutions, as well as gaining access to a Scandinavian network with contacts in the relevant professions in Oslo, Gothenburg and Copenhagen.

The programme is open both to musicians who are studying or have studied jazz/improvised music and/or composition, and to other musicians with relevant qualifications.

Joint programme description

1. Name of programme

The name of the programme is: Nordic Master: The Composing Musician.
The acronym for the programme is NoCoM.

2. Teaching language

The programme is taught in the Scandinavian languages, and English when necessary.

3. Degrees awarded

Students who complete the programme will have the right to use the following degree titles, pursuant to the respective national regulations:

NMH:

HSM: Master of fine arts in music, with a specialization in improvisation and composition

RMC: cand. musicae (musiker, rytmisk); Master of Music (MMus) (Music Performance, NoCom).

4. The aim of the programme

The composing musician is an advanced two-year programme which, taking its starting point in the artistic profile of each individual student uses composition to help the students develop strong, fully-realised artistic profiles.

The programme is intended to support, inspire and educate "the composing musician". Students are to acquire knowledge, skills and competences that can guide them toward new types of artistic expression.

5. Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the master's programme, the students are expected to:

- 1 bring to fulfilment and mediate to an audience their artistic ambitions, with a personal profile in their practice both as composers and performers,
- 2 use composition and improvisation to create and develop music,
- 3 account for and discuss their artistic work and the problems to which they relate as artists in dialogue with their colleagues and the general public, national and international,
- 4 analyse and relate critically to material from artistic research , and use this in their own work,
- 5 use their knowledge and skills to develop their musical perspective and demonstrate independent artistic development ,
- 6 demonstrate ability to navigate in the rapidly-changing music sector of today,
- 7 in their capacity as artists be able to contribute to creative thinking and innovation in the field of professional musicianship,
- 8 demonstrate independence in their encounters with demanding artistic challenges and in initiating, participating in and leading various projects.
- 9 analyse and discuss problems associated with being a professional musician, considering both tradition and the contemporary,
- 10 have insights into and the ability to relate critically in reflecting on ethical norms and problems related to the profession .

6. Programme structure/study plan

The programme will consist of 120 ECTS, corresponding to two years of full-time studies, evenly distributed over the four semesters during which the programme runs.

The study plan consists of course modules as described below, with each partner academy contributing the relevant course offerings as described in the joint programme description.

Subject area	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Total
Composition/ performance	15	15	15		45
Semester projects	7.5	7.5	7.5		22.5
Electives	7.5	7.5	7.5		22.5
Master's project				30	30
ECTS per semester	30	30	30	30	120

All subject areas are to be assessed at the end of each semester, in accordance with local rules and requirements concerning assessment.

The students pursue the programme in a given order, spending semester 1 at their home institution, semesters two and three on exchanges, (one semester at each of the other two institutions), and the final semester back at their home institution.

The model for the exchange semesters is as follows:

Semester 1 (home institution)	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4 (home institution)
NMH	HSM	RMC	NMH
HSM	RMC	NMH	HSM
RMC	NMH	HSM	RMC

The studies to be pursued by each student during semesters 2 and 3 are regulated in the Learning Agreements. All exchange semesters must be approved by the end of each semester, and documented in the Transcript of Records.

7. Framework description of the subject areas

7.1. Composition/performance

In this subject area, the student is to acquire the musical and compositional skills required in order to complete his or her master's thesis. The content is to be based on the student's semester projects and is determined in consultation with the local advisor and main advisor within a given time frame (deadlines 1 November and 1 April) for subsequent semesters. The content for the first semester is decided prior to the beginning of the programme.

7.2 Semester projects

During semesters 1, 2 and 3, each student will plan, carry out and evaluate his or her semester project, taking advantage of the competence offered at each institution . The aim of these projects is to prepare the students for completing a master's thesis (in semester 4), but the projects and the master's thesis are not to overlap.

Each semester project is to be a complete artistic project, a presentation in the form of a concert, recording or documentation, the format of which is to be set in consultation with the local advisor. A written reflection concerning the project process is also to be submitted in conjunction with each project.

Requirements concerning the various semester projects:

- At least one of the semester projects is to be interdisciplinary (for example it is to include collaboration with others in art forms such as dance, visual arts, film, etc.).
- At least one of the semester projects is to be carried out/presented externally outside the relevant institution).
- At least one of the written reflections is to be related to perspectives on the arts sector and the role of music in society.
- The student is to be a performing musician in at least one of the projects.

7.3. Electives

During semesters 1, 2 and 3, the student must, at the institution he or she is attending, choose elective courses that support the main subject areas of the programme.

Elective courses for the following semester are to be chosen in consultation with the local advisor and main advisor by specific dates (1 November and 1 April).

The courses to be studied for the first semester are to be determined before the student begins the programme.

7.4 Master's project

The master's project is an independent project consisting of two interrelated parts: one artistic/practical and one written.

- The artistic part: an artistic production in which the student is both composer and performer.
- The written part: a written reflection submitted by the student concerning the process involved in the master's project as well as an evaluation of the results. The scope of the written reflection is determined by the student's home institution.

Already as part of the application procedure for the programme, students are expected to present their ideas and reflections in their project description/master proposal.

8. Joint intensive modules

At the beginning of each semester all the students in the programme meet for a joint intensive module lasting approximately one week and hosted by one of the three institutions, in accordance with a rolling schedule.

The first three intensive modules are included in the subject area of "semester projects," while the fourth is included in the subject area Master's project..

Contents of the intensive modules:

- Presentations of the students' ideas/visions regarding their Master's project .
- Ensemble playing between students and staff.
- Planning of courses, semester projects and master's project .
- Presentations of artistic research
- Presentations of the local academies and their external collaborators

Further content is to be decided by the hosting institution .

9. Advising

Each student is assigned a main advisor at his or her home institution, normally a member of the permanent staff. The main advisor follows the student throughout the programme, and gives the student advice and feedback relating to artistic choices, aims and problems relating to the master's project . Each student is also assigned a local advisor at each of the exchange institutions. Both advisors consult with the student in coordinating the courses taken during semesters 2 and 3.

Advising sessions are to take place in the form of face-to-face appointments as well as by email or other forms of communication.

10. Eligibility requirements and admission

10.1 Eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible to apply for the programme, a student must have completed a bachelor's degree in music pursuant to the national requirements.

10.2 Joint admission criteria

In all the areas listed below, applicants must demonstrate qualifications at a level sufficient to commence the programme.

Applicants must

- Have the necessary instrumental, musical qualifications,
- have the necessary qualifications in composition,
- have the ability to develop, implement and evaluate independent artistic projects,
- have the ability to reflect, both in writing and verbally, on artistic work,
- have the ability to make and to consider independent artistic choices.

10.3.1 Application procedure

Applications are to be submitted to the institution the student wishes to be considered his or her home institution.

The application must include:

1. A personal description and a statement of the applicant's vision/aims for the programme a project description/master proposal.
2. A curriculum vitae containing the applicant's relevant artistic activities.
3. Recording(s) of the applicant's compositional work (of no more than 15 minutes' length), and possible supplementary material.
4. Documentation of completed bachelor's degree.

Applicants will be called to an audition in compliance with national guidelines.

10.3.2 Audition

The audition tests include:

1. A selection of repertoire, including improvisation, of the student's own choice, on his or her main instrument, of approximately 15 minutes' duration.
2. Presentation of projects carried out and an interview concerning the applicant's vision and plan regarding the programme, of approximately 15 minutes' duration.

Assessment in relation to local requirements and regulations.

Additional/supplementary entrance examinations may be given pursuant to local provisions.

Such tests are carried out pursuant to the national regulations, including administrative requirements.

11. Applications must be submitted by

- RMC: 1 March
- NMH: 15 December
- HSM: 15 January