



General programme description

European Chamber Music Master Programme – ECMaster

The higher music education institutions:

- Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris (CNSMDP)
- Fondazione Scuola di Musica di Fiesole Onlus (SMF)
- Koninklijk Conservatorium, Den Haag (KC)
- Lietuvos muzikos ir teatro akademija, Vilnius (LMTA)
- Norges musikkhøgskole, Oslo (NMH)
- Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (RNCM)
- Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien (mdw)

in cooperation with European Chamber Music Academy (ECMA), are offering a joint European master programme in Chamber Music.

ECMA is an association of European music universities, conservatoires and festivals in the field of chamber music. Within the ECMA-programme, the partner institutions host regular sessions throughout the year in different places all over Europe. Renowned tutors work intensively with selected young professional ensembles who are receiving on-going training and additional creative impulses through lectures, round tables and interdisciplinary workshops. ECMA is constantly re-evaluating the treasures of cultural heritage and reflecting the traditions of understanding and interpretation of the vast chamber music repertoire from the 18th to the 20th century. This approach is based on research into the philosophy and musical language of the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as direct contact and collaboration with contemporary composers to help develop new creative potential for state-of-the-art interpretation. Experiencing the different backgrounds and heritage of European cultures contributes to a wider horizons and a deeper understanding of music. By building networks with concert promoters and festivals, and strongly supporting co-operation for performances, ECMA also assists young chamber music groups negotiate the commercial music market.

All ECMA partner institutions share a similar vision: to contribute, through music, to a society and a future that is greatly enhanced through the arts.

This document is a general programme description that applies to all partner institutions. The partners of the Consortium offering the European Chamber Music Master Programme have adopted their own programme descriptions based on this general description and in line with national regulations.

General programme description

Programme	European Chamber Music Master Programme
Acronym	ECMAster
Duration	120 ECTS, two years of full-time study
Language of instruction	English/ local language if applicable

The European Chamber Music Master Programme is an advanced two-year programme, which aims to educate students to act as strong, independent and innovative musicians with a profile in chamber music and to meet the high, professional standards that are expected in tomorrow's music scene.

Key aspects of the programme include the development of the ensemble's artistic intentions and abilities as chamber musicians. It also focuses on the individual student's abilities of artistic self-expression in a chamber music group, as well as the refinement of her or his musical technical skills on their own instrument. The programme covers the rehearsal and performance of a comprehensive repertoire. The ensemble's area of interest and interpretative choices are deepened and challenged through research and reflective practice.

The European Chamber Music Master is a *joint programme*, which means that the programme has a joint programme description and structure that applies to all institutions, as described in this document. The detailed course descriptions might differ from institution to institution, within the framework of this document and the general programme description, and each institution awards the degree to its *own* students. Students have the opportunity to take advantage of the expertise, culture and tradition of three separate institutions, as well as gaining access to a European network of contacts in the relevant profession through ECMA. Students spend semesters 1 and 4 at their home institution and semesters 2 and 3 at two different host institutions. Exchange semesters at partner institutions and intensive programmes (ECMA Sessions) are both obligatory in this master programme.

The order of rotation is as follows:

SEMESTERS	1	Home institution
	2	Fiesole, Manchester, Oslo or Vienna
	3	Paris, The Hague or Vilnius
	4	Home institution

Admission requirements

Bachelor's degree in Music or equivalent qualifications. Applicants must be a member of an established ensemble, and all ensemble members must apply at the same time and to the same institution. The programme is open to established ensembles with a standard instrument combination:

- String quartets
- Piano trios
- String trios
- Piano quartets
- Wind quintets
- Brass quintets
- Saxophone quartets
- Other ensembles with an established original repertoire of sufficient scope. These will need specific approval by the home institution and the host institutions for semesters 2 and 3. These ensembles must have a minimum of three and a maximum of five musicians. Larger ensembles may be accepted, by agreement of the home institution and both host institutions, and approval from the Programme Board.

Degrees awarded

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

Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris	Diplôme de 2e cycle supérieur de musique de chambre
Fondazione Scuola di Musica di Fiesole Onlus	Diploma accademico di secondo livello in Chamber Music *
Koninklijk Conservatorium, Den Haag	Master Muziek specialisatie Kamermuziek
Lietuvos muzikos ir teatro akademija, Vilnius	Master of Arts
Norges musikkhøgskole, Oslo	Master of Music in Performance
Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester	Master of Music in Performance
Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien	Master of Arts

* The degree will be awarded by Conservatorio Statale di Musica Giuseppe Verdi Torino, in accordance with an agreement between Fondazione Scuola di Musica di Fiesole Onlus and Conservatorio Statale di Musica Giuseppe Verdi Torino.

A documented supplement to the diploma (ECMAster Certificate), will be provided for all graduates of the programme. The document shall be signed by the home institution and will provide the following information:

- Names and logos of all partners
- Short programme description
- Information on which institutions the ensemble have visited
- Name of the ensemble that has completed the programme

Learning outcomes

Students graduating from the ECMaster programme demonstrate:

- Ability to realise and convey their artistic intentions as chamber musicians with a clear profile.
- A high level of technical ability on their principal instrument
- Advanced level of performance and ensemble skills.
- Autonomy when meeting demanding artistic challenges and by initiating, implementing and directing a variety of projects.
- Ability to contribute to innovation and advancement in the field of chamber music as well as understanding the demands of music life and the music industry.
- Ability to apply new knowledge to expand their academic, artistic and creative perspectives.
- Ability to develop new knowledge through independent artistic research activity.
- Ability to reflect upon, discuss and present issues concerning music as an art form and its functions in a societal context.
- Insight and critical assessment of ethical norms and issues of a musical and professional nature.
- Ability to show social responsibility in sharing the values of (chamber) music with a wider public in artistic, educational and social settings.
- Skills in dealing with social aspects encountered within the work of a chamber music ensemble.
- Exhibit knowledge of improvisational patterns and processes, and the ability to apply these in a chamber music setting.
- Utilise specific technologies to enable the creation, dissemination and/ or performance of music appropriate to chamber music.
- Ability to play a leading role in a collaborative activity in a multi-disciplinary setting.
- Ability to identify and utilise a wide range of repertoire to inform their practice and development as a chamber music ensemble.

Organisation

The study programme consists of teacher-led instruction, artistic and/or academic supervision and independent study in connection with this instruction. The individual programme descriptions will specify the organisation of the programme further.

Each ensemble is appointed a principal artistic supervisor from the home institution and artistic supervisors from each host institution. The responsibility of the principal artistic supervisor is to have regular contact with the students, to have a full overview of the ensemble's progression and to act as a contact person for the other institutions' artistic supervisors. Each institution may also have additional administrative and academic supervisors/ contact persons which handles other aspects of the programme.

ECTS credits are used as the unit of measure to express workload and scope of the courses in the study programme. The complete Master's degree programme consists of 120 credits. One year of full-time study is equal to 60 credits. One credit corresponds to 27-30 hours of work including instruction and self-study work.

The students pursue the programme in a given order, spending semester one at their home institution, semesters two and three on study periods at two of the partner institutions, and the final semester back at their home institution.

Assessment

All subject areas are to be assessed at the end of each semester, in accordance with institutional rules and requirements concerning assessment. The individual course descriptions indicate which assessment and grading system will be used.

Eligibility requirements and admission

a) Eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible to apply for the programme, applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree in music performance or equivalent qualifications pursuant to requirements at the home institution. Applicants must be member of an established ensemble, and all ensemble members must apply at the same time and to the same institution. Equal opportunity regulations of each institution apply.

b) Joint admission criteria

In all areas listed below, applicants must demonstrate skills and experience at a level sufficient to commence the programme, individually and as an ensemble.

Applicants must

- have advanced instrumental and musical skills,
- have the relevant skills and experience in chamber music,
- have the ability to reflect upon and make independent artistic choices.

c) Application procedure

Applications are to be submitted to the institution the ensemble wishes to be considered their home institution.

It is strongly recommended to do live auditions, but live auditions via online systems may be allowed.

The application must include:

1. A curriculum vitae containing the applicant's relevant artistic activities.
2. A description of the ensemble's activities
3. Documentation of a bachelor's degree or equivalent (to be completed before the commencement of the master study).
4. A master project proposal according to the requirements of the home institution.

Institutions might require further documentation.

d) Audition

The audition includes:

1. A prepared ensemble program of 60 minutes of at least three contrasting works or movements in different styles relevant for the ensemble type.
2. An interview

Quality Assurance

The institutions in the Consortium each have systems for educational quality assurance and development that applies to all aspects of the education provided. Every two years the programme is also evaluated as a whole. Students play a vital role in these efforts by, among other things, participating in student evaluations of courses and programmes.

Joint intensive modules (ECMA sessions)

The ensembles are committed to attend a minimum of 6 ECMA sessions within the two years, normally one session in semesters 1 and 4, and two sessions in semesters 2 and 3. In semesters 2 and 3, one of the sessions will be at the host institution. In semester 1 or 4, the ensemble will participate in the session at their home institution. Ensembles are encouraged to visit each partner country. Each institution must put up funds for travel and accommodation for normally three (and maximum four, if necessary) ECMA sessions for their home ensembles over the two years. Intensive modules are organized by ECMA. Ensembles may also attend ECMA sessions at institutions/ venues that are not partners in the joint master programme. Participation in such ECMA sessions, and participation in more than 6 sessions, is subject to approval by ECMA and the hosting organisation/ institution.

Course Structure

The overall structure of the programme is described below. Each partner institution will adopt its own programme structure and relevant course offerings within this overall structure. The number of ECTS credits in each subject area may differ from institution to institution. Semesters 1 and 4 are flexible for the home institutions to decide, but semesters 2 and 3 will be subject to mutual agreement between home and host institutions with regards to study content.

Subject area	ECTS	ECTS per semester			
		1.	2.	3.	4.
Chamber Music/ Performance		15-25	15-25	15-25	0-15
Electives / institution specific subjects		5-15	5-15	5-15	0-15
Master project		0-7,5	0-7,5	0-7,5	7,5-30
Sum	120	30	30	30	30

In the Master project, ensembles will acquire advanced knowledge of a self-selected thematic area or repertoire. The Master project is to be an independent project that reflects artistic maturity in musical performance for the ensemble and each of its members. The project should have a limited topic with a defined artistic issue. The repertoire should normally be of 120 minutes where minimum 60 minutes should be performed in public before the final artistic presentation.

Dependent on institutional and/or national regulations, the master project may also include a written part, closely connected to the artistic output.

The Master project is mainly comprised of the ensemble's work with developing and implementing their own artistic project, researching, rehearsing and interpreting the repertoire for the Master project and developing, preparing and implementing public presentations of the output of the project.