



Practical Guide

MA in Music Composition

Creative Practice

Fall Semester 2024

Here's how it works

Composition today can involve many different approaches and settings, from staged performance to sound installation or even curatorial practice, to name but a few. Students in the MA Music Composition (with a specialization in Creative Practice or Contemporary Jazz) at HKB can decide for themselves what composition means to them. What unites us in this MA is the belief that young students and artists will want to hone their skills to become authors in music and that they are free to choose their own means and artistic tools.

The concept of our MA in Music Composition provides a highly individual teaching approach, while at the same time offering possibilities for collective work and creative exchange.

The MA Composition / Creative Practice (MA CCP) lasts for four semesters, and there are six groups of modules. Please see the document *Modulplan MA Music Composition - Creative Practice* in [Campusapp](#) for more detailed information on the modular structure of the Master with all the relevant ECTS credits.

Registration for all the modules should be done on the IS-A platform (<https://is-a.bfh.ch>) in the 17th/18th and 43rd/44th calendar weeks (Wednesday to Wednesday).

I. Individual courses

Every semester a student has a choice of two professors who will coach him or her personally. One professor will be available for 50 minutes a week (for 15 weeks), the other for 30 minutes a week (also for 15 weeks). Appointments with the professors are made on an individual basis.

The following teachers/ artists/ professors can currently be chosen:

Franziska Baumann, Angela Bürger, Teresa Carrasco, Xavier Dayer, Leo Dick, Cathy van Eck, Peter Kraut, Gilbert Nouno, Simon Steen-Andersen

Other professors, e.g. professors from the Master in Contemporary Arts Practice (MA CAP) or Theory, may be chosen if authorized by the head of the degree program. After the second semester, the student must pass an intermediate exam organized by the student's main professor and the head of the degree program. Students present the work they have realized during the first year.

II. Skills

The Skills are proposed on a semester basis and are grouped into four categories: Théâtre musical, Composition, Sound Arts, and Curating & Music in Context. Each student must choose 4 Skills from any of the categories each semester (i.e. it is possible for students to choose all the Skills during their studies from only one category).

The only mandatory Skill for everyone is Colloquium in Composition. The idea here is to create a platform for exchange among students and also to invite outside guests. The colloquium is organized together with the Contemporary Jazz specialization. For the complete list of Skills please consult the document *List of Skills HS24* available [here](#).

III. Intensive Week – Collective Creative Practice

Every semester ends with public presentations as a culmination of a week of intense work. This is a mandatory module for all MA CCP students. In the autumn semester, the presentations take place in the third and/or fourth week of January. Spring semester presentations take place in June.

IV. Research

During the course of your four semesters, it is mandatory to sign up for one week of scholarly research. This module is always organized in the 16th and 46th calendar weeks (April/ November). During this week there aren't any other courses. Students can choose from various so-called Toolboxes. More information can be found in the separate brochure "Y-Verzeichnis HS2024" in the chapter *Forschung*. The brochure can be downloaded [here](#). This document is updated each semester.

V. Optional modules

If this is a student's first Master programme, optional modules worth 20 or 30 ECTS must be chosen. In the module plan on page 4 you will find the details for the Minor Open Space, which allows more individual lessons and skills from the Master in Music Composition / Creative Practice offerings.

It is however also possible to choose another Minor from the list of approximately 20 different Minors in the document *Module Plan Minor Music since HS24* available [here](#).

If a Minor other than the Open Space is chosen, special attention must be paid to possible schedule collisions between the chosen Minor and the classes for the Major. Priority is always given to the modules for the Major.

If the chosen Minor is worth 20 ECTS (thus not 30), then the additional 10 ECTS need to be obtained by choosing some of the courses from the brochure *Broschüre Wahl- und Wahlpflichtmodule HS24* available [here](#).

This document is updated each semester.

VI. Thesis

The thesis is the final project and completes the studies. The main event is a concert/ performance/ installation/ event at the end of the student's second year of studies. It is the most important moment for a student and allows the teaching staff to evaluate his or her artistic work and provide feedback. The students have to submit a written document and discuss its topic with the jury. Students are allowed to spend 30 minutes each week with a personal mentor to help them write the text during the last semester. It is very much recommended that they take advantage of this opportunity.

We sincerely hope that you will find interesting classes, inspiring teachers, and exciting projects during your time at HKB. We look forward to guiding you on your personal path.

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