

Le offerte della
Postformazione 11/12



Master in Advanced Studies (MAS)
in
Research Methods in the Arts

THE MAS IN RESEARCH METHODS IN THE ARTS

The MAS in Research Methods in the Arts is an internationally distinctive programme. Drawing on the expertise and facilities of the *Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana – Scuola Universitaria di Musica* and the *Scuola Teatro Dimitri*, students will develop a robust understanding of artistic enquiry, while gaining the critical and analytical skills necessary to conduct independent research. The programme challenges students to examine the arts (and *their* art) through the critical lens of in-depth and systematic investigation, and to engage with key facets of research design, methodology, and data analysis and interpretation.

The MAS will be aimed primarily at performing artists and teachers within the performing arts, although candidates from other artistic and scientific disciplines will be considered for entry. It will provide rigorous training in areas that span the content of programmes elsewhere, from quantitative to qualitative methodologies, conceptual to empirical enquiry, historical to contemporary practice. In particular, students will take the following core modules:

- Research aims, design and methods (10 credits)
- Research reporting and presentation (10 credits)
- Trends in research in the arts (10 credits)
- Research project and dissertation (30 credits)

Postgraduate awards

Students will enter their studies by applying for the MAS programme, enrolling in the above core modules to obtain credits. Students who do not achieve the full 60 credits to complete the degree are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) or Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Research Methods in the Arts, subject to satisfactory completion of the requisite number of credits.

Award			Module	ECTS credits
PGCert	PGDip	MAS	Research aims, design and methods	10
10 credits			Research reporting and presentation	10
	30 credits		Trends in research in the arts	10
		60 credits	Research project and dissertation	30

Credits awarded are directly compatible with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

STUDENT PROFILE

Target student group

Students accepted onto the programme must manifest the potential, both in terms of accomplishment and determination, to achieve academic success. The programme is based on the assumption that applicants will be graduates or nearing the end of their first degree. It is not regarded as essential that the first degree be in the performing arts. Degrees, professional qualifications or experience in related subjects – such as the visual arts, education, history, psychology and sociology – will be considered. Prior academic track record will be the strongest criterion for acceptance onto the programme, and students will be expected to have a distinguished and well-balanced undergraduate profile, in addition to an explicit ability as self-sufficient, independent reflective learners.

Careers for students

The programme will benefit anyone who is motivated to gain a rigorous understanding of how art is created, taught and perceived, including artists and educators aiming to progress their current careers through continued professional development and those working at the interstices of practice and research. Equally, the programme serves as an ideal base for those wishing to pursue doctoral-level research (PhD) and teaching within the arts, or in any area in which knowledge of research methods and techniques would be an advantage.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Duration of study

The MAS has been designed as a one-year full-time or two-year part-time programme of study. Other timescales may be considered in order to accommodate students' professional commitments.

Full-time: One year, 60 credits

Modules are built up into patterns of study which normally occupy the 12-month period from September to September and contain 60 credits. Below is the template for full-time study over one year.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Research aims, design and methods (10)		
Trends in research in the arts (10)		
	Research reporting and presentation (10)	
	Research project and dissertation (30)	

Part-time: Two years, 60 credits

A part-time option allows the possibility of combining study with other activities. Although this configuration reduces the overall level of weekly commitment and lowers the annual fee, the individual modules taken are delivered identically as they are to full-time students and, pro rata, are charged at the same level. With this in mind, the following template for part-time study over two years has been designed.

Year 1 Autumn term	Spring	Summer	Year 2 Autumn term	Spring	Summer
Research aims, design, and methods (10)			Trends in research in the arts (10)		
	Research reporting and presentation (10)		Research project and dissertation (30)		

Both part-time and full-time students will take modules totalling 60 credits.

AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Aims

- to offer students the opportunity to develop a robust understanding of research in the arts, within real-world educational and professional contexts
- to provide students with the critical and analytical skills necessary to conduct high quality practical work and independent research in the arts
- to equip students with the necessary skills for doctoral research and/or teaching in the arts or any area in which knowledge of research methods and techniques would be an advantage
- to acknowledge and reflect current trends in research in the arts, and to demonstrate facility across both theory and practice

Learning outcomes

The MAS programme has been designed to generate the following learning outcomes:

Practical skills

Artistic development

- Capacity to integrate and demonstrate original artistic insight in performing/composing/teaching
- Capacity to extend artistic understanding and communicate it
- Realization of artistic autonomy

Research skills

- Capacity to frame research proposals rigorously and lucidly
- Capacity to identify and contextualize dynamic issues in one's field (new features/trends)
- Capacity to realise the goals of one's project through the use of appropriate methods
- Capacity to identify and utilize relevant literature
- Capacity for critical analysis and evaluation of one's outcomes
- Capacity to document, analyse and summarise one's project final outcomes
- Capacity to use project funding and evaluation systems
- Capacity to disseminate research findings

Theoretical skills

General

- Develop awareness/respect of standards of excellence
- Capacity to distinguish between valuable and irrelevant inquiry
- Knowledge and understanding of national and international contexts of one's project dissemination
- Awareness of intellectual property (personal and that of others)
- Awareness of ethical considerations of research
- Awareness of economic potential of one's findings
- Awareness of relevant methods and techniques of inquiry

Generic outcomes

Independence

- Capacity to pursue one's own questions and ideas
- Capacity to comprehend transferability of one's own skills
- Capacity to sustain and deepen one's inquiry through one's career

Critical awareness

- Capacity to question the legitimacy of commonplace ideas, conventions, fashions
- Capacity to see one's own shortcomings and potential, and to develop them
- Capacity to recognize and challenge standards in one's research community
- Understanding and responsibility towards one's critics

Communication skills

- Capacity to establish and sustain cooperative relationships with colleagues in one's institution and outside
- Capacity to write, present, perform clearly for different audiences
- Capacity to improve the public's understanding and artistic insights of one's field
- Capacity to assess the effect of one's behaviour on other team members

These outcomes are derived from *Higher Music Education: Characteristics, Learning Outcomes and Competences*, AEC (2007), pp. 19-20.

ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

Each module will have its own associated elements of assessment. These may take the form of an essay, a spoken presentation, a written or viva-voce (oral) examination, or a single extended assignment. Students can submit their works either in English or Italian, as both languages will be considered.

Academic work will usually be double-marked, employing the following marking methods:

- for written assignments, completion of both a cover sheet and comments on scripts by two markers. In the rare event of a wide disparity between markers, the work is referred to the external examiner.
- assessment of spoken presentations by two markers.

A student's result in each module will be weighted according to the credit volume of the module and the results combined to arrive at an overall mark.

One external examiner for the MAS programme will be canvassed annually for feedback concerning parity and performance standards. The examiner will moderate the work of the examining panels, rather than participating directly in the examining process.

Module descriptions

RESEARCH AIMS, DESIGN AND METHODS

Credits	Delivery
10	Four 2-hour seminars, plus individual tutorial support

Module overview

This module provides an introduction to methodological approaches appropriate to conducting independent research in the arts. Seminars and tutorials introduce intellectual and methodological perspectives within the field, with emphasis on the processes of generating research questions, designing research studies, and collecting, analysing and interpreting research data. Focus is given to both quantitative and qualitative enquiry, providing grounding in the knowledge claims and assumptions of different research approaches. Methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation are introduced and critiqued, both practically and theoretically, with attention given to the ethical considerations of conducting research in the arts.

Module content

- attendance and contribution at seminars
- individual tutorial support for the written examination
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of assessment

- written examination on research design and methods, 100%

RESEARCH REPORTING AND PRESENTATION

Credits	Delivery
10	Four 2-hour seminars, plus individual tutorial support

Module overview

This module considers methods of effective research dissemination and communication. Seminars and tutorials examine the skills required to make a convincing written and oral case for research, both before and after it has been undertaken, for audiences of different types and specialisms, including prospective funders, stakeholders, policymakers and other researchers within related scholarly and artistic communities. Students also gain practical experience of locating and engaging appropriate dissemination outlets, such as peer-reviewed journals, conferences and the media.

Module content

- attendance and contribution at seminars
- individual tutorial support for the written assignment and presentation
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of assessment

- a project proposal of 1500-2000 words, on a topic approved by the module leader outlining the relevant literature, research questions, methods suitable for the research, and ethical considerations, 40%
- a 20-minute spoken presentation, on the extended and refined project proposal, 60%

TRENDS IN RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

Credits	Delivery
10	Expert speaker series consisting of four 90-min. seminars, plus four 1-hour journal discussion sessions

Module overview

This module introduces current trends and developments in research in the arts. Working with external experts, staff and peers, the module supports students in developing a critical awareness of pertinent literature, research and practice. An expert speaker series – drawing on eminent international scholars – introduces key topics and research methodologies, presenting real-life examples of their application to artistic practice. Complementing this, a journal discussion group encourages a breadth of reading within the field, encouraging students to synthesise, critique and discuss research methodologies and findings at an advanced level.

Module content

- attendance and contribution at expert speaker series and journal discussion sessions
- individual tutorial support for the viva-voce examination
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of assessment

- a 30-minute viva-voce examination, exploring understanding of topics covered by the expert speakers and articles from the journal discussion sessions, 100%

RESEARCH PROJECT AND DISSERTATION

Credits	Delivery
30	Two 2-hour seminars, plus individual tutorial support

Module overview

This module builds on students' knowledge and understanding of research in the arts to develop and demonstrate the critical, analytical and scientific skills necessary to conduct an independent research project. Seminars provide an overview of how to formulate and address specific research questions, as well as the steps involved in tackling the theoretical, practical and ethical challenges that they pose. In addition, individual tutorials help students develop the necessary means to carry out their projects and to communicate and defend the rationale and results of their research in written and spoken form.

Module content

- attendance and contribution at seminars
- individual tutorial support for the written assignment
- independent research to support these activities

Methods of assessment

- a dissertation of 7500-10000 words, on a topic informed by the Research Reporting and Presentation module, 100%
- a viva-voce examination on the project, if called



Who's who on the MAS in Research in the Arts

Hubert Eiholzer	Vice-Director and Head of Research Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana/SUM
Ruth Hungerbühler	Head of Research Scuola Teatro Dimitri
Massimo Zicari	Deputy Head of Research Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana/SUM
Aaron Williamon	Visiting Professor Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana/SUM Head of the Centre for Performance Science Royal College of Music, London

Tuition fees (in Swiss Francs):

Full-time (Two semesters)	
Matriculation fee	250.-
Semester fee (2x)	4'000.-
Administrative semester fee (2x)	250.-
Examination fee	250.-
Total	9'000.-

Part-time (four semesters)	
Matriculation fee	250.-
Semester fee (4x)	2'000.-
Administrative semester fee (4x)	250.-
Examination fee	250.-
Total	9'500.-

Applications

Applications, enclosing all the relevant documentation, are to be submitted by August 31st. Admissions are granted according to the number of available places.

Final degree

Master of Advanced Studies SUPSI in Research Methods in the Arts.*

All Post-graduate degrees are recognized by the Swiss Confederation and are protected by law. (Federal Department of Economic Affairs No. 414.712).

* www.supsi.ch

Student book

Successful applicants will matriculate and receive a personal "Libretto Universitario": this personal academic record will be used to keep track of the seminars attended together with the ECTS allotted. At the conclusion of each seminar or module, it is the student's responsibility to ask for the professor's signature.

Regulations and guidelines

The MAS program defers to the current "Regolamento degli studi" of the CSI.

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Continuous Education Application Form

MAS in Research Methods in the Arts

Personal data

Last name

First name

Date of birth

Place of birth

Nationality

Gender M F

Marital status

Home address

Street

Town

Tel

E-mail

Post code

Country

Handy phone number

Current address (if other than home address)

Street

Town

Post code

Country

Previous studies (College and undergraduate programme)

Please indicate school/institution and title/degree achieved

1) School

Town

From/Until

Degree

Country

2) School

Town

From/Until

Degree

Country

3) School

Town

From/Until

Degree

Country

Previous Art/Music Education

Please indicate school/institution and title/degree achieved

1) School

Town Country

From/Until

Degree

2) School

Town Country

From/Until

Degree

3) School

Town Country

From/Until

Degree

Please attach:

- ✓ curriculum vitae
- ✓ 4 passport photos
- ✓ photocopy of university degrees

Successful candidates must provide the secretary office with the originals of all previous degrees. Eventually, these documents will be returned.

Students intending to withdraw from the MAS programme for a given semester must notify the Secretary office of their intention by means of a written request to be mailed by registered letter. Withdrawal is effective from the following semester. Students cannot withdraw for the 1st semester.

By signing the present form, I acknowledge the admission and qualification conditions of the CSI as well as the school regulations. I undertake to pay the school fees as they are due.

Place, Date and Signature
