

Curriculum

Artistic Doctoral Program

at JAM MUSIC LAB Private University for Jazz und Popular Music Vienna (JMLU)

August 2025

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| Name of the program: Artistic Doctoral program Abbreviation: Dr.art. Workload/Duration: 180 ECTS / 3 years Language of instruction: German and English |
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§ 1 Preamble

- 1) The artistic doctoral program focuses on innovative artistic development work in the field of jazz and popular music. The program teaches and promotes the development of artistic and methodological skills and theoretical understanding at postgraduate level. The aim of the doctoral program is to train young artists to conduct independent artistic research, taking into account current artistic developments and the latest research in the field. Graduates are able to develop innovative projects based on new research questions, work on them in a methodologically sound manner and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the arts and society.
- 2) The research work is based on international standards and takes place in cooperation with several recognized post-secondary educational and research institutions in the arts and sciences in Germany and abroad.
- 3) Students at JMLU are supervised by a scientist with proven expertise in artistic and scientific jazz and popular music research, as well as by an artist and/or scientist, each from the professor status group. Additional supervisors shall be members of a cooperating educational institution with artistic or scientific teaching authority.

§ 2 Admission

- 1) The necessary admission requirements are:
 - a) Completion of a relevant diploma or master's degree or equivalent degree in jazz and/or popular music at a recognized post-secondary educational institution
 - b) Successful completion of the admission procedure
- 2) Applicants must submit the following documents:
 - a) A copy of the master's thesis or diploma or state examination thesis
 - b) Description of artistic career based on artistic work samples and additional materials demonstrating analytical and independent thinking and reflection
 - c) A written concept for the dissertation project (topic, context, research question, method, literature)
- 3) The admission procedure is conducted by the admissions examination committee, consisting of the rector, dean and at least two professors with relevant expertise, and involves determining the suitability of applicants on the basis of the documents submitted and the subsequent admission colloquium.
- 4) The admission colloquium consists of the presentation of the concept by the applicants and a subsequent discussion on the state of research, research questions and research methods.

§ 3 Structure and Organization

- 1) The program comprises 180 ECTS credits, which corresponds to a duration of 6 semesters (full-time).

2) The program is divided into four modules:

Module 1: Exposé and Presentation (12 ECTS)

Module 2: Overview course (VU), Artistic Research Laboratory (SE), Privatissima (PV) and supplementary courses from the range of electives or creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications (30 ECTS)

Module 3: Artistic dissertation (130 ECTS)

Module 4: Defensio (8 ECTS)

§ 4 Modules

1) Exposé and presentation

The exposé is developed by the end of the second semester and serves to plan the specific dissertation project. It includes the written formulation of hypotheses, objectives, research questions and planned methods, work and time schedule, and a reflection on the state of research and the relevant literature. The exposé is presented together with a demonstration of the artistic project work directly related to the planned research process. The exposé and its presentation serve to demonstrate artistic research skills, contextual understanding, adequate reflective ability, and the concretization of the research project. A significant change to the dissertation topic after successful completion of Module 1 at the request of the student requires a repeat of Module 1.

2) Overview course, Artistic Research Labs (SE), Privatissima and supplementary coursework from elective courses or creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications

Module 2 comprises compulsory courses (overview course, Artistic Research Laboratory and Privatissima) and supplementary coursework consisting of an individual selection from the range of elective courses or creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications.

- a) Overview course: Theory and practice of artistic research in jazz and popular music (total of 4 ECTS / 2 ECTS each in semesters 1-2)
- b) Artistic Research Laboratory (total of 18 ECTS / 3 ECTS in semesters 1-6) serve doctoral candidates for the experimental development of sub-areas of their dissertation projects and for the presentation and discussion of partial results.
- c) Privatissima deals with individual problems of the individual research projects in the form of consultation meetings between the doctoral candidate and the supervisory team (total 3 ECTS / 0.5 ECTS per semester)
- d) Supplementary coursework from elective courses or creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications (total of 5 ECTS / 1 ECTS each in semesters 2-6 or cumulatively)

3) Artistic dissertation

The artistic dissertation consists of the documentation of a completed artistic work or artistic process as well as a reflective written and/or multimedia presentation of the research and the resulting findings with publishable and archivable content. The artistic dissertation is assessed by an examination committee consisting of the rector, dean, supervisors and two external, independent expert opinions.

4) Defensio

Registration for the Defensio requires a positive assessment of all courses and projects from modules 1 to 3. The Defensio is the defence of the dissertation and the final examination before graduation. It is held publicly and in one examination session and is assessed by an examination committee consisting of the rector, dean, dissertation supervisors and an external expert.

The form of the defence is to be determined by the doctoral candidates in consultation with their supervisors, but must in any case include a summary of the artistic research project and the reflective documentation, demonstrate an appropriate response to the points of criticism raised by the expert reports and the examination committee, and provide an opportunity for discursive exchange with the examination committee.

§ 5 Examination regulations

Successful participation in the courses Artistic Research Laboratory 1-6 and Privatissima 1-6 must be assessed as 'successful participation' or 'unsuccessful participation'. Positive results in all other course examinations in modules 1-4 must be assessed as 'very good' (1), 'good' (2), 'satisfactory' (3) or 'sufficient' (4), and negative results with 'unsatisfactory' (5). The criteria for crediting conference participation/contributions and/or publications are to be determined separately.

§ 6 Awarding of the degree „Doctor artium“ (Dr.art.)

Once all requirements have been met and a positive overall assessment has been made, the rector shall award the academic degree 'Doctor artium' to the graduates. To support the international mobility of students, a diploma supplement shall be attached to the award certificate.

If, after a positive assessment of the dissertation, it is determined that the student has used foreign intellectual property without identifying it as such or has otherwise violated the rules of good artistic and scientific practice, the assessment of the dissertation shall be declared null and void by the Dean of Studies and any academic degree already conferred by the Rector shall be revoked.

Modules overview

| Course title | Course types | Hours per week | ECTS per Semester | | | | | | Total ECTS |
|---|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| Module 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Exposé | | | 4 | 4 | | | | | 8 |
| Presentation | | | | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| Module 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Artistic Research in Jazz and Popular Music: Theory and Practice | VU | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | 4 |
| Artistic Research Lab | SE | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | | 18 |
| Privatissimum | PV | 1 | 0,5 | 0,5 | 0,5 | 0,5 | 0,5 | 0,5 | 3 |
| Additional academic achievements from elective courses or creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Module 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Artistic Dissertation | | | | | 32,5 | 32,5 | 32,5 | 32,5 | 130 |
| Module 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Defensio | | | | | | | | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | 180 |

Course descriptions

Overview course - Artistic Research in Jazz and Popular Music: Theory and Practice (VU)

This course provides an overview of the field of artistic research, with a particular focus on issues and methods in the traditionally interdisciplinary field of jazz and popular music research. Students gain knowledge of the history and epistemological context of artistic research. They develop skills for positioning and contextualizing their own artistic research work in the field of tension between art and science, especially in the field of jazz and popular music research. Upon completion of the course, students gain an overview of the current state of research and methodological discussion in the subject area to which their dissertation belongs. They are able to critically evaluate relevant publications and write a dissertation independently.

Artistic Research Laboratory (SE)

The Artistic Research Laboratory is a cross-semester platform for the discussion and practical development of theoretical and methodological aspects of artistic research in jazz and popular music. Students are given the opportunity to carry out time-limited experimental research projects as sub-projects of their respective dissertation projects. The projects can take place with the involvement of JMLU staff infrastructure, if necessary; in this way, the intertwining of dissertation projects with the activities of Master's students is explicitly supported (dissertation students can, for example, put together ensembles for the purpose of artistic research with the participation of Master's students; Master's students receive ECTS credits for their participation in the MA Artistic Research Laboratory course). Each semester level is concluded with a public presentation, which takes place, if possible, as part of an annual symposium for artistic research in jazz and popular music.

Privatissimum (PV)

Privatissima serve as individual meetings between doctoral candidates and supervisors.

Elective courses

(see the currently valid course offerings at JMLU)

Creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications

Additional coursework from elective courses or creditable conference participation/contributions and/or publications are shown in the timetable (Module 2) as an average value of 1 ECTS per semester, but can be credited up to a maximum of 5 ECTS in accordance with the following ECTS assessment for individual achievements:

- Confirmed passive participation in a conference relevant to the dissertation project (1 ECTS)
- Confirmed active conference participation with presentation of a component of the dissertation (2 ECTS)
- Confirmed publication of a component of the dissertation in a recognized publication (with peer review 4 ECTS, without peer review 2 ECTS)
- Confirmed publication of own work (monograph, anthology) (5 ECTS)