

Examination - Bachelor's Degree

Our philosophy for entry into a professional education in music

Dear applicants,

we are extremely pleased that you are interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree at the JAM MUSIC LAB Private University for Jazz and Popular Music Vienna, and with your subsequent registration for the entrance examination.

The prerequisite for a Bachelor's degree program at JAM MUSIC LAB Private University is an entrance examination. A Matura (or a comparable school-leaving examination from abroad) is not required for Bachelor studies. Foreign-language applicants must prove sufficient command of the German language after the first year of study at the latest.

As part of the entrance examination, you are given a platform through which you can present the extent of your musical abilities and your qualifications in various musical genres. As part of the audition we find it very important to take the opportunity to get to know the applicants as best as possible. As an institute for jazz and popular music, we are particularly interested in recognising your individual and stylistic strengths, that will in turn enable you to follow a professional career in music, be it as a performer, teacher, composer or producer.

We invite you to present us pieces and styles of music that convey what it is that drives your enthusiasm for music. A sense of diversity and variety is very much welcome and we are always open to inspiration through music from different backgrounds, cultures and genres.

By means of a personal conversation we would like to learn more about your motivation in pursuing a professional career in the field of music. Tell us about your previous musical experiences and other relevant activities and your future goals. We therefore recommend that applicants send us a motivation letter and a CV as part of the application process.

The audition and personal presentation is then followed by a written aptitude test, which deals with the basic principles of musical theory. This test serves as a means of determining your ability in central theoretical subjects such as aural training and general music theory.

For applicants who do not have their current residence in Austria, we offer the possibility to send us a video consisting of 2-3 performance pieces (or meaningful material from previous musical works audio/video recordings, scores, etc.), in order to receive a tentative quality feedback in the context of an intended entrance exam at JAM MUSIC LAB Private University in Vienna. Non-Austrian applicants for media music, as well as for composition, theory and arrangement may transfer material of their previous musical works in lieu of a video of performance pieces.

Steps of the Admission Procedure

Step 1

You can register electronically at www.jammusiclab.com

Please send us the required data, as detailed below as PDF files to: office@jammusiclab.com

- Copy of a passport or ID card: absolutely necessary
- Meaningful material from previous musical works (audio/video recordings, scores, etc.): absolutely necessary when applying for the Bachelor's degree in media music, composition, theory and arrangement
- Certificates for previous school degrees and/or studies: absolutely necessary when applying in the field of Bachelor of Arts in Music Education
- CV and motivation letter

Step 2 – Application Fee

An entrance examination fee of €50 is required, which is to be transferred to the following account: JAM MUSIC LAB GmbH, IBAN: AT19 1500 0002 0129 8049, BIC: OBKLAT2LXXX.

After successful transfer of the fee, you will receive a date for the entrance examination.

Step 3 – The Entrance Examination

The entrance examination is carried out in 3 parts:

- I. Musical Presentation (Audition)
- II. Personal Interview
- III. Aptitude Test for Music Theory

Information regarding the different examination parts as well as sample examples for possible performance pieces or sample assignments in the aptitude test for musical theory can be found below in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Musical Presentation - Audition

The musical presentation section gives you the opportunity to showcase and demonstrate your musical talent and the skills you have already acquired.

As a prospective student for all main subjects in the field of Vocal or Instrumental Studies, you are required to present:

- a performance piece of free choice
- one performance piece, which should adhere to what is outlined in the repertoire list (see appendix 2)
- one performance based on a blues form, free choice of style and harmonisation

As a prospective student for the main subjects Media Music, Composition, Theory and Arrangement you are required to present:

- Presentation of meaningful material from previous musical works (audio/video recordings, scores, etc.). Audio and visual presentation media equipment is available on the premises. The submission and presentation of written scores is also possible, as is a musical performance presentation given by the study applicant.

Personal Interview

In a personal interview, we would like to learn more about your motivation to pursue a professional career as a performer, music teacher, composer or music producer. Depending on the desired course of studies, we would ask that your focus remains relevant to the specific field.

By way of the personal interview we also very much look forward to the opportunity of getting to know you as much as possible; tell us about your previous musical engagements, qualifications and activities, but also beyond.

Aptitude Test for Music Theory and Aural Training

The aptitude test for music theory serves as a guide to classify your ability in navigating the central theoretical subjects. In the case of deficits in music theory ability, you will be able to apply for binding enhancement courses, whereas with advanced skills you will be able to dispense of basic courses. Sample examples of aural training for all Bachelor students: Recognition of diatonic intervals, diatonic triads and tetrachords as well as of elementary rhythmic structures

Sample exercises of music theory for all Bachelor students: Notation of diatonic intervals, diatonic triads and tetrachords as well as scales (e.g. major scales and church modes). Completion of an easy task dealing with voice leading: reoccurring notes should remain stationary, altering notes should move by small intervals. The following examples serve as templates for the Music Theory and Aural Training tests.

Theory Test

1. Identify the exact pitches, including the correct octaves




C4 (middle C) F#4 Ab5 F4 A1 A4 A3

2. Identify the following intervals



major third major seventh minor seventh



minor sixth tritone
(or augmented fourth/
diminished fifth) minor second

3. Notate the following major scales



F major D major

4. Notate the following natural minor scales (aeolian)




A minor D minor

5. Identify the following scale



G major

6. Notate the missing notes in ascending sequence



major third tritone minor seventh perfect fifth minor second major sixth

Aural Training Test Examples

1) Listening Excerpts:

- Which instruments are playing? **Piano, Bass, Drums**
- In which order are the solos? **Piano, Drums**
- What is the form of the piece? **A B**
- Is the key of the piece in major or minor? **Minor**
- With which popular music style is the piece associated? **Latin Jazz**

2) Notation Dictation (6 notes ionian)



3) Intervals, played individually:

- perfect fourth major second major seventh minor third major sixth
g-c d-e a-g sharp c-e flat b flat-g

4) Intervals, played together:

- perfect fifth major third minor second minor sixth minor seventh
c-g a flat-c f-f sharp e-c a-g

5) Chord Progressions:

- A° D augmented Gm F E°

6) Rhythmical Dictation:



7) Intonation - each example is played once -
Does the second tone sound higher, lower or the same?

- Example 1: o higher lower o same
Example 2: o higher o lower same
Example 3: o higher lower o same
Example 4: higher o lower o same

Repertoire List

In addition to your free-choice performance piece and a blues, you are also required to choose one performance piece of varying musical styles, with the repertoire list used as a guide.

If required, a rhythm section can be provided by JAM MUSIC LAB for the purpose of the performance.

If you want to perform other pieces which are beyond the difficulty levels and stylistic requirements of the given repertoire list, you can do so, however, JAM MUSIC LAB will not be able to provide a rhythm section in such cases. You can also choose your own band consisting of maximum 4 persons, or you can utilise a backing track. When selecting the pieces, please make sure to present a variety of styles, including at least one piece with a more complex chord sequence.

- So What
- Polkadots and Moonbeams
- Goodbye Pork Pie Hat
- Softly, as in a morning sunrise
- All the things you are
- There will never be another you
- Walk Tall
- Besame Mucho
- Bluesette
- I got rhythm
- Georgia on my mind
- Cantaloup island
- St. Thomas
- I Got Rhythm
- Little Wing
- Superstition
- Come Together
- Blackbird
- Man in the mirror
- Sometimes it snows in april