

Curriculum of the PhD in the Arts programme at the GMPU

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N.B.: This is an English translation of the original German document. In case of discrepancy or ambiguity, the German document takes precedence.

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1. Basic information

Programme name	PhD in the Arts
Standard period of study	6 semesters
ECTS credits	180
Academic degree	PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)
Research focus	1. Musical Performance 2. Composition 3. Sound and Intermedia
Organisational structure	Full-time
Language	English and German
Location/place of implementation	Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria
Date of commencement	upon receipt of a positive decision by AQ Austria

2. Qualification profile/study objective

The PhD in the Arts programme at the Gustav Mahler Private University for Music enables doctoral candidates to conduct independent and critical artistic research at the highest academic level.

The focus of artistic research is on the doctoral candidate's own artistic practice. In this context, artistic creation functions methodologically as a vehicle through which new knowledge and insights can be gained.

These new insights are documented in a combination of artistic research formats (e.g., video, photo, audio recording, scores, sketches) and a written thesis.

3. Admission requirements

The requirements for admission to the doctoral program are:

- a. An active, richly developed, and ongoing artistic practice at a high level with regard to the intended doctoral programme and the intended topic of the dissertation (to be demonstrated by a meaningful artistic portfolio including a CV, possibly including evidence of publications or other research activities or art projects related to the proposed dissertation project).

For information on the creation of the artistic portfolio, see the current version of the "Guidelines for the Exposé of the Dissertation Proposal and the Artistic Portfolio."

- b. Completion of a relevant diploma, master's degree, or equivalent at a recognised post-secondary educational institution (demonstrated by submitting the diploma and transcript of records).
- c. Submission of the diploma thesis or master's thesis.
- d. The conditional supervision agreement of the primary and secondary supervisors and an exposé of the project, stating the dissertation topic.

For information on the regulations governing supervision at GMPU, see Article 3, Paragraph 2 of the doctoral regulations (Promotionsordnung) for the PhD in the Arts programme. For information on the creation of the exposé of the dissertation proposal, see the current version of the "Guidelines for the Exposé of the Dissertation Proposal and the Artistic Portfolio."

- e. A letter of motivation.
- f. Proof of language proficiency:
For a doctorate in German: C1 level (CEFR) in German and B2 level (CEFR) in English;
For a doctorate in English: C1 level (CEFR) in English and B1 level (CEFR) in German;

If one of these languages is your first language, you are not required to provide proof of proficiency.

*For further information on the **admission procedure**, see Article 2 of the doctoral regulations (Promotionsordnung) for the PhD in the Arts programme.*

4. Duration and scope

The standard period of studies of the doctoral programme lasts three years and comprises 180 ECTS credits. The maximum duration of study is six years, although the programme coordinator, in agreement with the two supervisors, may approve an extension of this period in exceptional cases. The *privatissimum* (see detailed definition in section 8) usually ends after three years. All regulations regarding leaves of absence and extensions of the duration of study are specified in the study and examination regulations.

5. Temporary Studies Abroad

Doctoral candidates at GMPU are eligible for the Erasmus+ exchange programs administered by the International Office. In addition to Erasmus scholarships for study and internship stays lasting 2 to 12 months, there is also the option of funded short stays of 5 to 30 days. This makes it possible to spend a semester abroad at a university that is part of the Erasmus network. An Erasmus+ scholarship can be obtained for a stay at a partner university.

6. Study structure/ECTS credit allocation

The following requirements must be met to successfully complete the program:

- a. Research Proposal and presentation (10 ECTS);
- b. Artistic Dissertation Project and documentation, including supervision (150 ECTS);
- c. Courses and study-related achievements in accordance with the curriculum (12 ECTS);
- d. Rigorosum (8 ECTS).

The **Research Proposal** should outline the topic(s), research questions, methodological approaches, time and work plans of the dissertation project. The research proposal must be submitted to the supervisors within the first two semesters. It must be presented and discussed in a public presentation before it is assessed.

The **Dissertation Project** must be conducted and written in German or English in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice (GMPU document “Richtlinie zu den Prinzipien guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis”). The research findings are documented through a combination of at least two specific formats of artistic research (video, photo, audio recording, scores, sketches, etc.), one of which must be a written paper. Other persons may also participate in the implementation if necessary. In this case, authorship must be presented transparently. The written part of the dissertation comprises 25,000 to 35,000 words. Images, musical examples, and bibliographies, etc., must be included as appendices. The dissertation must be submitted to the program director.

Proceeding to the **Rigorosum** (i.e. doctoral defense / viva voice) requires a positive assessment of performance (Research Proposal, courses, Artistic Dissertation Project and documentation). As part of

the rigorosum, the dissertation must be presented in a lecture and an artistic performance (total duration: approx. 1 hour). Following the presentation, the examination committee will ask questions about the work and the dissertation subject. Afterwards, a public audience will have the opportunity to ask the doctoral candidate questions, moderated by the programme coordinator.

For further information on the structure of the program, see Articles 4–8 in the doctoral regulations (Promotionsordnung) for the PhD in the Arts programme. For details on the allocation of ECTS credits, see the following table.

7. Tabular overview

PhD in the Arts

Contents	Σ ECTS	1 st year				2 nd year				3 rd year			
		1 st semester		2 nd semester		3 rd semester		4 th semester		5 th semester		6 th semester	
		SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS
Research Proposal and presentation	10				10								
Artistic Dissertation Project and documentation, including supervision	150												
Artistic Dissertation Project and documentation	120												120
Privatissimum I-VI (PV)	18	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3
Colloquium I-VI (KO)	12	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Courses and study-related achievements	12												
Concepts and Methods of Artistic Research I-II (VU)	2	2	1	2	1								
Seminar on Artistic Research I-II (S)	4					2	2	2	2				
Elective studies or study-related achievements*	6		1		1		1		1		1		1
Rigorosum	8												8
	=180												

*Elective studies or study-related achievements

(comprising at least two of the following categories in prior consultation with the programme coordinator):

- Passive conference participation: 1 ECTS
- Active conference participation: 3 ECTS
- Artistic presentation, e.g., in the form of a lecture performance: 3 ECTS
- Organisation of a symposium, including moderation of a panel: 4 ECTS
- Collaboration on the editing of a publication: max. 3 ECTS
- Collaboration on the preparation of a research grant application: 2 ECTS
- A quality-assured publication: max. 4 ECTS
- Participation in a laboratory provided by the research environment: max. 4 ECTS
- Participation in the elective course “Special Seminar PhD in the Arts”: 2 ECTS

8. Types of courses

Privatissimum (PV): Individual supervision of doctoral candidates by primary and secondary supervisors with the aim of developing the dissertation project.

Seminar(S): A course in which skills are taught through the active involvement of doctoral candidates (via discussions, written work, oral presentations, etc.) in theoretical, artistic-scientific, or practical work, and which promotes professional discourse and argumentation.

Lecture with exercise (VU): A course that provides a coherent presentation of artistic-scientific knowledge held in the form of a lecture by the course instructor. Applied skills are developed with the active participation of the doctoral candidates.

Workshop (WS): A course with practical content in which relevant components of an artistic practice are tested, optimised, and evaluated through active participation and collaboration of the doctoral candidates. The aim of the course is to enable independent work in an artistic field.

Colloquium (KO): This type of course refers to a meeting of doctoral candidates in which the status and content of dissertation projects are discussed, commented on, and placed in a scientific context.

9. Course descriptions

See appendix to the curriculum of the PhD in the Arts programme.

10. Study regulations

See the study and examination regulations (Studien- und Prüfungsordnung) for the PhD in the Arts programme.

11. Option of a collaborative doctoral program

The PhD in the Arts programme can also be completed collaboratively in a team (e.g., duo or ensemble), provided that the team's composition remains the same throughout the entire programme.

The team must be defined prior to admission, which is still contingent upon successful completion of the admission procedure for each individual (that is, the same guidelines apply as for individual applicants).

For valid reasons, team members may leave the programme during their studies upon written request to the GMPU. In order to continue their studies, the reduced team and an adaptation of the dissertation project must be approved the expert committee (consisting of supervisors, programme coordinator, and fourth person from the relevant field).

The team has joint primary and secondary supervision.

All artistic examinations are completed as a team, but each member is assessed individually.

After successfully completing the rigorosum, each doctoral candidate in the team will be issued an individual diploma. At the request of the doctoral candidate, the team composition will be noted on the diploma.

Otherwise, all provisions apply to each individual member of the team. In order to be able to clearly reflect the performance of the individual doctoral candidates, their work must be unambiguously identifiable. In the case of collaborative elements, the team must explain in writing how and to what extent the collaboration took place.