Music as a profession

Studying at the Hamburg Conservatory

With its unique structure the Hamburg Conservatory can claim a very special position within the wide scope of education in Germany. Music school and academy are housed under one roof, means that creative force is engendered to the benefit of both teachers and students. The result is a practical and up-to-date musical education in all its functional, methodical and pedagogical aspects.

The academy’s profile comprises concerts, projects, workshops and intensive, individually suited programmes of studies. Courses are provided at the same academic level as those given at state-run music academies. The selected circle of about 250 students is coming from all parts of Germany, many European countries and from overseas. The studies are not limited to a particular age group and are therefore offer opportunities also for those planning a career change. Anyone who passes the entrance examination and is subsequently assigned a place will be entitled to study at the Hamburg Conservatory.

On the following pages you will find the current information on

1. Artistic foundation course
2. Diploma in Music Education
3. Postgraduate courses concluding with a concert performance
4. Artistic Mastery

In case you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.
1. **Artistic Foundation Course (German abbreviation: KG)**

The Artistic Foundation Course is a first qualification in instrumental subjects or voice. Postgraduate courses can follow. Entrance examinations take place in August. Under special circumstances studies can be started in the summer semester (the entrance examination is then held at the beginning of March).

The **entrance examination** consists of the following parts:

- **Major subject instrumental or voice:**
  - Performance of three challenging compositions dating from different epochs

- **Piano (obligatory subsidiary subject, except where the major subject is keyboard instruments or guitar):**
  - Performance of two simple pieces, scales on three octaves, arpeggios.

- **Music theory (written examination):**
  - Good knowledge of general elements of music

- **Ear training (written examination):**
  - Listening to intervals, chords with inversions, melody and rhythm dictation

Following the examinations a discussion on objectives, motivation and professional chances of the chosen course of study will take place.

In addition to intensive tuition in the instrumental main subject or voice the following subjects are obligatory: ear training, solfeggio (for voice as major subject), music theory, analysis and the participation in seminars, courses in chamber music, orchestra and choir projects.

The prescribed period of study is at least three years. Students from abroad who lack knowledge of the German language may be required to undertake an intensive language course before starting their studies. The Hamburg Conservatory also offers a course “German Musical Vocabulary” giving students the opportunity to learn the subject-specific terms.

**Tuition fees**

- One-off registration fee for entrance examination: 50.00 €
- One-off administration fee at the beginning of the studies: 150.00 €
- Artistic Foundation Course, orchestral instruments/recorder and rhythmics: 300.00 € per month
- Artistic Foundation Course, keyboard and plucked instruments: 300.00 € per month
2. Diploma in Music Education (German abbreviation: DME)

This is a course of training for teachers who wish to work free-lance or at music schools. Courses take place in all instrumental subjects, voice and rhythmics / elementary music pedagogy (EMP). These courses are offered in cooperation with the Hamburg College of Music and Theatre (Hochschule für Musik und Theater). In addition to the major subject, its methodology is a further main subject; piano is an obligatory subsidiary subject (except where the major subject is a keyboard or plucked instrument, or rhythmics).

Prerequisite: German “Abitur” or an equivalent school-leaving certificate. In exceptional cases a lower qualification may be acceptable.

The entrance examination consists of the following parts:

- Major subject: instrumental or voice:
  Performance of three challenging works dating from different epochs,
  Playing a simple piece at sight
  There are special examination conditions for the main subject rhythmics, for information please ask at the academy’s office.
- Subsidiary subject piano:
  Performance of two simple pieces, scales on three octaves, arpeggios. Piano is an obligatory subsidiary subject, except where the major subject is a keyboard instruments, guitar or rhythmics.
- Music theory (written examination): good knowledge of general music
- Ear training (written examination): listening to intervals, chords with inversions, melody and rhythmics dictation
- Pedagogy: The applicant will be expected to summarise his/her individual motivation for choosing this course of study and during an interview show an awareness of methodical and didactical thinking.

The entrance examination takes place in August.

The prescribed duration of the courses is at least four years.

Only those applicants from overseas with excellent knowledge of the German language can be accepted on this course.

For DME the examination regulations of the Hamburg College of Music and Theatre apply. The current version is available at the academy’s office. Following a successful final examination a certificate will be issued showing the results of all parts of the examination as well as the final mark in the pre-examination. In addition, the students will receive the diploma from the Hamburg College of Music and Theatre certifying the diploma’s academic status.
**Tuition fees:**

One-off registration fee for entrance examination 50.00 €

One-off administration fee at the beginning of the studies 150.00 €

DME orchestral instruments/recorder 300.00 € per month

DME keyboard and plucked instruments 300.00 € per month

DME voice 350.00 € per month

DME rhythmics 350.00 € per month

For the DME there is a further charge of 15,00 € per month as an administration fee for the examinations at the Hamburg College of Music and Theatre.

Students taking the DME may be eligible for financial support in accordance with the German “Bundes-Ausbildungsförderungsgesetz (Bafög)” provided the individual requirements are satisfied.

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3. **Postgraduate Courses concluding with a concert performance**

This degree course is intended for students who have already completed or are engaged in music studies. The duration of the course is normally four semesters. The course enables students from Germany or abroad but also qualified music teachers and students from other specialisation to develop their own profile, to perfect their artistic competence and to demonstrate it in a public concert.

The degree course is divided in three options:

- solo training
- chamber music
- piano accompaniment and coaching

The **entrance examination** takes place in August. Under special circumstances studies can begin in the summer semester (entrance examination is then at the beginning of March).

The entrance examination consists of the following parts:

- Performance of three works dating from different epochs chosen to display technical ability and artistic interpretation on a high level. Depending on the chosen option the entrance examination will include a work of chamber music, the accompaniment of songs and arias or coaching work with a singer.
Further to the teaching in the major subject the course offers additional subjects indispensable to a broad musical education:

Subsidiary subject voice (obligatory with the course specialising in piano accompaniment) playing from score and at sight choir, orchestra and chamber music observing seminars in musicology and pedagogy German musical vocabulary for students from abroad

The final examination (with certificate) takes the form of a public concert of about 50 to 60 minutes duration. Depending on the performance during the concert, the board of examiners might recommend the more advanced course “Artistic Mastery”, for which a further year of preparation may be taken. Items studied for the examination programme can be used again for the concert and the colloquium.

Tuition fees:

One-off registration fee for entrance examination 50.00 €
One-off administration fee at the beginning of the studies 150.00 €
Postgraduate courses vocal 350.00 € per month
Postgraduate courses instrumental 300.00 € per month
Postgraduate courses conducting 350.00 € per month

4. Artistic Mastery

Studies at the Hamburg Conservatory in the instrumental / vocal major subjects can be concluded with the final examination of Artistic Mastery.

These postgraduate courses (normally spanning four semesters) are open only to applicants who have already successfully completed either the artistic foundation course, diploma in music teaching or their equivalent.

In the entrance examination the performance of more ambitious compositions dating from at least three different periods is expected.

When qualifying to enter the course “Artistic Mastery”, a high level of technical ability, an aptitude for stage-performance and an artistic personality must be clearly evident.

Final examination: Studies end with a public concert and a colloquium.
Musicality, technical expertise and artistic personality are assessed. Normally the studies are regarded as postgraduate courses. There must be evidence of the student’s having engaged in solo performances, public concerts or comparable events during the course of study.

**Certificate:** The student receives a diploma entitled “Künstlerische Reife” ("Artistic Mastery"), attesting high musical skills, performance practice and stage presence.

**Tuition fees:**

- One-off registration fee for entrance examination: 50.00 €
- One-off administration fee at the beginning of the studies: 150.00 €
- Artistic Mastery Vocal: 350.00 € per month
- Artistic Mastery Instrumental: 300.00 € per month

**Deadline for application:** July 15th
**Entrance examination:** August
**Beginning of studies:** October 1st

For further information please contact:

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