

Ensemble Playing

Academic Certificate Program at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna

1. Course Objectives

The course leading to a certificate in ensemble playing from the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna provides high-level, custom-tailored further training for existing ensembles of a wide variety of genres.

During the course, the participants develop their artistic competences in the field of ensemble playing and acquire additional qualifications that are necessary for the artistic and professional development of an ensemble.

The purpose of the course is the elaboration of an ensemble project with which the ensemble can position itself, also internationally, and the honing of the ensemble's specific profile.

Participation in the academic certificate course **presupposes an already existing ensemble**, whose collective wish is to develop and carry out a project during the year and document it appropriately on media in order to sell it, ultimately, to event organizers.

The participants' goals as well as the specific subject matter to be included in their course of study will be discussed with the head of the course and customized so as to enable individually focused instruction and individual learning achievement.

The course objectives are:

- Further development of artistic, social and digital competences in connection with ensemble playing, rehearsing, documentation and organizational activities
- Expansion and intensification of stylistic and repertoire knowledge (repertoire work)
- Preparation for concerts and participation in competitions
- Development of stage presence
- Honing and strengthening of the participants' individual artistic personalities as well as the ensemble profile
- Examination of the issues involved in present-day program planning
- Development of entrepreneurial skills and management competences
- Elaboration of an artistic project incl. (multimedia) portfolio, in order to better market the ensemble

The academic certificate course is available to **all conceivable ensemble formations** of various styles and genres (historical, classic, contemporary, crossover, jazz, etc.). For each formation, a suitable member of the MUK teaching staff has to be found for the Principal Study (*zentrales künstlerisches Fach – ZkF*) ensemble coaching; for this reason, participation in the academic certificate course is only possible if sufficient resources are available and exclusively conditional on consultation with the head of the course.

Apart from the Principal Study ensemble coaching, each member of the ensemble may independently attend courses included in the curriculum, which ensures that an ensemble project can be prepared in its entirety when the functions and responsibilities are distributed among the ensemble members.

2. Program structure

Duration: 2 semesters / 40 ECTS credits

The course encompasses two semesters and includes the following modules:

- **Module 1:** Principal Study (ZkF) ensemble coaching
- **Module 2:** Practical Professional Competences, compulsory mixed module comprising courses from the fields of Entrepreneurial Skills / Music, Digitalization, and Electronics / General Artistic Practice / Artistic Research, Interpretation, Theory and Analysis
- **Module 3:** Ensemble production
- **Module 4:** Examinations (portfolio and recital)
- **Module 5:** Compulsory elective module

Modules 1, 3 and 4 are to be completed as an ensemble. Modules 2 and 5 may be completed individually.

1. Module 1 – Principal Study (zentrales künstlerisches Fach – ZkF):

The *Principal Study (ZkF) ensemble coaching* comprises one academic hour (50 minutes / week) of group artistic tuition.

The course participants are expected to be optimally prepared in practical, theoretical and organizational terms. The instruction includes, in particular, in-depth study of the historical and sociological background of the compositions being prepared, as well as detailed, practical coaching for their performance, and musical and interpretational support in order to bring the ensemble to a level of excellence required internationally for competitions, concerts, festivals, etc. The ensemble coaching also serves to hone the profile of the ensemble and includes advice regarding artistic and programmatic decisions. Thus, the ensemble members are advised and supported at several levels, which is also important for the career of an ensemble and its public perception.

2. Module 2 – Practical Professional Competences:

The compulsory mixed module is to be completed individually by each member of the ensemble and is intended to help deepen and expand their competences in various areas that are of high practical relevance for an ensemble wishing to become professionally established. The module includes courses dealing with the marketing and profiling of an ensemble as well as with its management (Entrepreneurial Skills), as well as with the documentation of projects as audio and video productions and with digitalization and electronics in the field of music (Music, Digitalization and Electronics). Artistic skills in connection with performance, questions relating to musicality, the creation of one's own arrangements, questions about artistic research and interpretation, as well as theoretical and academic competences required for developing texts and programs are also amply dealt with (courses from the fields of Artistic Ensemble Practice (KEP), General Artistic Practice / Artistic Research, Interpretation, Theory and Analysis, and courses from the field of "In-Depth Theory" (*Vertiefende Theorie*))

3. Module 3 – Ensemble Production:

During the academic certificate course, an ensemble production is required to be performed in public. Proof of this ensemble production is to be submitted in the form of contracts, announcements by event organizers, program booklets, etc. and will be given credits by the Director of Studies. This module is to be completed by the ensemble jointly.

Module 4 – Examinations:

The academic certificate course concludes with an examination consisting of two parts: submission of a portfolio, and a recital. The portfolio should be a documentation of the activities of the ensemble in a contemporary format and should include, in addition to audio and video productions, an overview of the ensemble's repertoire, public performances, particular successes, etc. Ideally, the portfolio should serve to promote the public identity of the ensemble, its marketing, and the acquisition of public appearances (for example, through internet presence, a homepage, a video channel, printed matter, data carriers, publications, etc.). The preparation of the portfolio will be supervised by the Principal Study instructor. The recital should be 60-75 minutes in duration. The recital program will be decided upon by the ensemble in consultation with the Principal Study instructor and the form that it takes should be artistically excellent and in accordance with the respective profile of the ensemble.

This module is to be completed by the ensemble jointly.

4. Module 5 – Compulsory elective module:

The compulsory elective module serves to intensify and hone individual competences. In this module, each participant may choose from a variety of MUK courses, depending on availability.

3. Examinations

3.1. Entrance examination

Acceptance to the course is conditional on the fulfilment of all entrance requirements, including the successful conclusion of all parts of the entrance examination before the board of examiners, as well as on the availability of a place at the University (cf. *Satzung* [Statutes], *Anhang* [Appendix] 1, *Studien- und Prüfungsordnung* [Study and Examination Regulations]).

The entrance examination serves to assess the suitability of the ensemble, taking into consideration the members' practical prior knowledge and abilities in the field of ensemble playing as well as the probability of their achieving the objectives of the course, and taking into particular account the planned project of the ensemble.

The admission process is divided into three parts:

1. Submission of a short biography, motivation letter and notification of the audition program prepared and the preferred instructor:

- A short biography of the ensemble as well as short biographies of the individual ensemble members
- Motivation letter: Candidates should describe their personal expectations of the course as well as their objectives regarding the project they expect to elaborate.
- Notification of the program of works prepared for the audition (3 difference pieces – excerpts from the examination program will be selected on site by the board of examiners) and any wish for a specific instructor

2. Audition:

Audition before a board of examiners, in particular before the instructor whom the ensemble has specified as their p Principal Study ensemble coaching instructor; as an alternative to auditioning in person, a video may be submitted (similarly to the Certificate of Performance program);

3. Colloquium:

The colloquium serves to examine the **linguistic capacity and articulateness** of the candidates and the probability of their being able to participate in the course, taking into account the resources of the University and the specific instructor with whom they will be working in their Principal Study ensemble coaching.

The board will consider the individual and artistic potentials of the candidates and the probability of their being able to achieve their respective objectives. If the application is made by video, the colloquium must take place in any case – either on site or via Microsoft Teams.

Size of the Board of Examiners:

The Board of Examiners comprises a chairperson and at least two other members.

Further examination requirements, the examination content, and the size and composition of the board of examiners are defined by the competent bodies pursuant to the statutes of the University and published separately (e.g. on the Website of the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna).

3.2. Concert followed by presentation and discussion – Final board examination

At the final concert (duration: 60-75 minutes), the course participants demonstrate their ensemble playing abilities and their competence in programming, organizing and realizing a chamber music concert. The concert is followed by a presentation of the portfolio (duration: ca. 15-20 minutes) by the ensemble. A round of questions by the board of examiners (duration: ca. 10 minutes) concludes the final board examination.

Size of the Board of Examiners:

The Board of Examiners comprises a chairperson and at least two other members.

Further examination requirements, the examination content, and the size and composition of the board of examiners are defined by the competent bodies pursuant to the statutes of the University and published separately (e.g. on the Website or in the university management system MUKonline of the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna).

4. Professional and personal qualifications on completion of the program

Graduates of the course will have acquired extensive artistic, organizational, dramaturgic and digital capabilities that enable them to position their ensemble at the highest level internationally in the future. Moreover, they will have completed their portfolio, enhanced the ensemble's public identity, and created repertoire and concert programs for their own ensemble, and can thus approach concert organizers with a finished project.

5. Professional fields

The professional field is independent performance practice with one's own ensemble in the freelance sector (member of a professional ensemble that is responsible for its own programs and projects).

6. Conferral of the graduation certificate

Following the successful completion of all courses specified in the curriculum and the positive assessment of the final examination, the University Board is obligated to present graduates with a certificate of completion from the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna without delay, or within one month of completion of all the requirements.

In order to aid students' international mobility, an English translation of the certificate will also be provided.

7. Curriculum

Certificate of Ensemble Playing								
			1. Sem.		2. Sem.		Total	
Courses		Type	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS
Module 1 - Compulsory module: Principal Study (zentrales künstlerisches Fach – ZkF)							2	30
Principal Study (ZkF) Ensemble coaching 01-02		EK	1	15	1	15	2	30
Module 2 - Compulsory module (mixed module): Practical Professional Competences							2	2
Entrepreneurial skills			1	1	1	1	2	2
Careers and career-related information for musicians	VO							
Stage technology – Design and application of sound and light	UE							
The artist as a brand	VK							
The artist as an entrepreneur	VK							
Music business 1-2	VU							
The music and art market over the course of time – current developments and future perspectives	VK							
Self-management / Legal bases 1-2	VO							
Topic-specific workshops and lectures (e.g. by MICA, "Tax Law for Musicians")	WS							
Event management	WS							
Music, Digitalization and Electronics								
Music technology 1, 2	VU							
Music video production	UE							
Live electronics	UE							
Improvisation with live electronics	UE							
Courses from the field of artistic ensemble practice (KEP)	UE							
General Artistic Practice								
Body work	PK							
Rhythm training	UE							
Arranging	VU							
Performance coaching	UE							
Master classes and workshops	UE							
Artistic Research, Interpretation, Theory and Analysis								
Attendance of courses from the field of In-Depth Theory (Vertiefende Theorie)	SE/UE/VO							
Courses from the field of Artistic Research	SE/VO/UE							
Courses from the field of Analysis and Theory	SE/VO/UE							
Courses from the field of Interpretation Research	SE/VO/UE							
Module 3 - Compulsory module: Ensemble Production							0	2
Ensemble production		EA		2			0	2
Module 4 - Compulsory module: Examinations							0	4
Portfolio						1	0	1
Recital						3	0	3
Module 5 - Compulsory elective module							1	2
Free elective courses			1	2			1	2
Total ECTS Credits			3	20	2	20	5	40

ZkF = Principal study (Zentrales künstlerisches Fach); SWS = Weekly academic hours per semester (Semesterwochenstunden); ECTS = European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System; KE = Individual artistic tuition (künstlerischer Einzelunterricht); KG = Group artistic tuition (künstlerischer Gruppenunterricht); EK = Individual / group artistic tuition (künstlerischer Einzelunterricht / künstlerischer Gruppenunterricht); SU = Seminar and tutorial (Seminar und Übung); VO = Lecture (Vorlesung); KO = Discussion with questions and answers (Konversatorium); VK = Lecture with Konversatorium, see KO; VU = Lecture with tutorial (Vorlesung mit Übung); HO = Sitting in on lectures (Hospitation); EA = Ensemble work (Ensemblearbeit); SE = Seminar; UE = Tutorial (Übung); PT = Project; PK = Internship (Praktikum); WS = Workshop; EX = Excursion;

8. Description of the Modules

Module 1: Principal Study (*zentrales künstlerisches Fach – ZkF*)

Name of the module	Module 1 – Principal Study (<i>zentrales künstlerisches Fach – ZkF</i>)
Content of the module	The Principal Study Ensemble Coaching comprises one academic hour of group artistic tuition. The course participants are expected to be optimally prepared in practical, theoretical and organizational terms. The instruction includes, in particular, in-depth study of the historical and sociological background of the compositions being prepared, as well as detailed, practical coaching for their performance and musical and interpretational support in order to bring the ensemble to a level of excellence required internationally for competitions, concerts, festivals, etc. The ensemble coaching also serves to hone the profile of the ensemble and includes advice regarding artistic and programmatic decisions. Thus, the ensemble members are advised and supported at several levels, which is also important for the career of an ensemble and its public perception.
Qualification goals of the module	Elaboration of a specific ensemble project in terms of artistic focuses: ensemble playing at the highest level, interpretation of the rehearsed works, profiling of the ensemble's orientation through artistic means.
Work load / Duration of module / Module components	See curriculum
Completion of the Module	Through completion of all required courses in the module
Detailed description of the required courses	See course description in MUKonline (online.muk.ac.at)

Module 2: Practical Professional Competences (mixed module)

Name of the module	Module 2 – Practical Professional Competences
Content of the module	The compulsory mixed module is to be completed individually by each member of the ensemble and is intended to help deepen and expand their competences in various areas that are of high practical relevance for an ensemble wishing to become professionally established. The module includes courses dealing with the marketing and profiling of an ensemble as well as with its management (Entrepreneurial Skills), as well as with the documentation of projects as audio and video productions and with digitalization and electronics in the field of music (Music, Digitalization and Electronics).

	Artistic skills in connection with performance, questions relating to musicality, the creation of one's own arrangements, questions about artistic research and interpretation, as well as theoretical and academic competences required for developing texts and programs are also amply dealt with (courses from the fields of Artistic Ensemble Practice [KEP], General Artistic Practice / Artistic Research, Interpretation, Theory and Analysis, and courses from the field of "In-Depth Theory" [" <i>Vertiefende Theorie</i> "]).
Qualification goals of the module	Elaboration of a specific ensemble project in terms of concerns apart from artistic work: Acquisition of competences in the areas of organization and artistic management, acquisition of competences needed for presenting the ensemble digitally (audio and video production), profiling of the ensemble's orientation through dramaturgic and research-related means with respect to programming, repertoire, etc.
Work load / Duration of module / Module components	See curriculum
Completion of the Module	Through completion of all required courses in the module
Detailed description of the required courses	See course description in MUKonline (online.muk.ac.at)

Module 3: Ensemble Production

Name of the module	Module 3 – Ensemble production
Content of the module	During the academic certificate course, an ensemble production is required to be performed in public. Proof of this ensemble production is to be submitted in the form of contracts, announcements by event organizers, program booklets, etc. and will be given credits by the Director of Studies. This module is to be completed by the ensemble jointly.
Qualification goals of the module	Acquisition of experience in performing in a concert presentation outside of the university, with all the additional professionally relevant experience this entails
Work load / Duration of module / Module components	See curriculum
Completion of the Module	Through completion of all the requirements of the module
Detailed description of the required courses	See course description in MUKonline (online.muk.ac.at)

Module 4: Examinations

Name of the module	Module 4 – Examinations
Content of the module	The academic certificate course concludes with an examination consisting of two parts: submission of a portfolio, and a recital. The portfolio should be a documentation of the activities of the ensemble in a contemporary format and should include, in addition to audio and video productions, an overview of the ensemble's repertoire, public performances, particular

	successes, etc. Ideally, the portfolio should serve to promote the public identity of the ensemble, its marketing, and the acquisition of public appearances (for example, through internet presence, a homepage, a video channel, printed matter, data carriers, publications, etc.). The preparation of the portfolio will be supervised by the Principal Study instructor. The recital should be 60-75 minutes in duration. The recital program will be decided upon by the ensemble in consultation with the Principal Study instructor and the form that it takes should be artistically excellent and in accordance with the respective profile of the ensemble. This module is to be completed by the ensemble jointly.
Qualification goals of the module	Completion of the course
Work load / Duration of module / Module components	See curriculum
Completion of the Module	Through completion of all requirements of the module
Detailed description of the required courses	See course description in MUKonline (online.muk.ac.at)

Module 5: Compulsory Elective Module

Name of the module	Module 5 – Compulsory elective module
Content of the module	In this module, which serves to intensify and hone individual competences, each participant may choose from a variety of MUK courses, depending on availability.
Qualification goals of the module	Mastering of additional areas of concentration that contribute to achieving the specified objective for the course.
Work load / Duration of module / Module components	See curriculum
Completion of the Module	The compulsory elective module enables the students to take courses and engage in activities in theoretical or artistic areas as a meaningful complement to the required courses and performances. At least 2 ECTS credits have to be acquired.
Detailed description of the required courses	See course description in MUKonline (online.muk.ac.at)