

Bachelor's in Composition B.Mus. (KOB)

Information on our online application, application documents, deadlines and fees can be found on the [Application](#) page.

This translation is a service of the HMTMH. The German original is the binding description of the entrance examination regulations.

The entrance examination is divided into two rounds:

1. pre-selection (evaluation of application materials, including scores/recordings),
2. in-person oral examination at the HMTMH.

After the first round of the entrance examination (pre-selection) you will be informed whether you:

- will be invited to the in-person oral examination
- or
- have not passed the entrance examination.

Requirements for the entrance examination

Round 1 (pre-selection)

Please upload a document (.docx or .pdf) via the APP online portal containing a list of links to scores, recordings, video, or other supporting material/documentation of **three** of your own original compositions. These materials should either be hosted on a shared drive (Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox, OneDrive, etc.) or available on an online streaming platform (YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud, etc.).

Where possible, the submitted materials should demonstrate your ability to compose for various resources (this could include, for example, works for different instruments or instrumental combinations, voices, electronics, stage or multimedia works, etc.). Where possible, notated works should be accompanied by recordings (audio or video). Works employing electronics should include a brief explanatory text with technical specifications (a brief description of the software employed, whether the material is fixed media or interactive, whether the source material is original or uses existing sample packs, etc.).

Applicants may also choose to submit **one** further supplemental example of their artistic practice, where relevant. This may be useful, for example, for applicants whose practice is multidisciplinary, or who would like to share samples of their activity as a performer, conductor, improviser, writer, dancer, video artist, etc.

Please do not upload scores/recordings directly to the APP online portal, nor send them via email. Likewise, please do not send links to services that require the download of application materials by the examination committee (for example, WeTransfer). Please ensure your online materials can be accessed by the entrance exam committee throughout the evaluation process. Please do not send a PDF that is a scan of a printed document - it must be possible to either click (URL/hyperlink) or copy/paste the text from the document.

Applications without the requested supporting materials will not be accepted.

Based on the evaluation of these application materials, successful applicants will be invited to the second round of the entrance examination.

Note on data protection:

The documents you send will only be viewed for the purpose of the application procedure and only by persons involved in the procedure.

Round 2 (in-person entrance examination)

During the in-person entrance examination you will demonstrate your artistic skills in composition and your knowledge of current practice in contemporary music. This is followed by an examination in music theory/ear training.

Note that for Bachelor's applicants the Music Theory/Ear Training requires in-person presence at the HMTMH, and as such online oral examinations are unfortunately not possible. The examination takes place on a specified day during the Exam Period.

Major examination

The major examination in Bachelor Composition consists of an Oral Examination (duration: 20–30 minutes).

The central focus of the Oral Examination will be a discussion of the original compositions (instrumental, electronic, multimedia) and optional supplementary materials submitted in the preliminary application phase, as discussed above. The examination committee will ask a series of questions about the submitted works designed to assess the applicant's knowledge and understanding of working methods, materials, and artistic intentions, as well as the applicant's ability to discuss the relationship of their own compositional work with larger trends and issues in recent/current music.

The Oral Examination will typically also include brief tasks/exercises designed to assess the applicant's artistic abilities, creative imagination, and potential for growth as a student. These might include, for example, brief audio examples (asking the candidate to hear and describe timbres, sound movements, types of sound, etc. and/or to imagine possible ways of developing or continuing those sounds in a composition) or score samples (demonstrating basic knowledge of the notation of contemporary music, compositional techniques, stylistic characteristics, instrumental techniques, etc.)

The Oral Examination in Composition can take place either in German or in English, though international applicants should be aware of the German language proficiency requirements for enrollment, as well as the requirements for international student visas. This information is available from the [International Office](#).

Music Theory / Ear Training

Written examination (written test) in music theory (composition/ear training) (approx. 1 hour):

Monophonic and two-part rhythmic-melodic dictation, chord recognition, recognizing and correcting rhythmic differences, tasks on a longer audio sample, short polyphonic dictation

Oral examination in practical music theory (approx. 15 min.)

Reproducing and naming rhythms, intervals, melodies and chords. Giving a description of a presented sheet music with basic concepts of the general music theory (key, time signature, harmonics, structure, stylistic, etc.)

Create a short composition (e.g. harmonisation of a figured bass line or after chord symbols) – written down or on the piano

You can find a sample exam at:

[Preparation / preliminary courses \(hmtm-hannover.de\)](https://www.hmtm-hannover.de/Preparation/preliminary_courses)

If you have any questions regarding the requirements of the entrance examination or the degree programme in general, please contact the programme spokesperson, Prof Dr Aaron Cassidy (aaron.cassidy@hmtm-hannover.de).

Assessment:

A point system of 1-15 points is applied (see the admission regulations on the programme's web page [Study programmes](#)). Achieving at least 7 points in the first round (pre-selection) entitles the candidate to take part in the 2nd round (in-person entrance examination).