

Vademecum Master Project 2022-2023

15 credits

Mater in Dance, Royal Conservatoire Antwerp

Purpose and Completion

The Master project is an individual research project that the student will realize throughout the whole MA Dance programme at the Royal Conservatoire. The student enters with a provisory proposition and research question(s) as their Master proposal and they will develop their research throughout the 2 years programme with the support of: the bridging and preparatory programme, the Master modules, individual feedback sessions with the supervisors and collective feedback with teachers and peers.

The Master project will be further supported by three weeks of courses guided by a teacher-artist (Master project: sharing and feedback) spread over their 2-year trajectory. In addition, a Master's pre-showings happen at the beginning of the second year where students from first and second year come together to present where they are in their project to the Master team (artistic coordinator, co-curator, 2 invited teachers).

Although a support network is provided, autonomy is an essential aspect of the programme. In the Master project, a large investment in self-study hours is expected where the student will collect, embody, apply and intertwine all knowledge gathered in the programme. The programme has provided tools to support and develop the student's Master project. The concepts, methods and practices shared in the previous courses are implemented into the outcomes proposed by the student. The outcomes of the Master project will be presented at the end of the second year through 3 different formats at a Master Jury.

These outcomes will be evaluated by a panel of internal and external jury members. Through these three components, the student demonstrates embodied knowledge, critical reflection, independent thought and originality in their accomplishment of competencies and learning objectives.

Description of the outcomes

The Master project compiles the student's embodied artistic research and will be presented in three different formats:

1. A performative event (Project Assignment): where the student presents their embodied artistic research in dialogue with their research questions and research paper (this form has a weight of 60% of the final grade).
2. A research paper (Research Assignment): where the student elaborates their research and the theoretical framework that supports the artistic practice and is contextualised and critically reflected upon (this form has a weight of 30% of the final grade).
3. An oral presentation (Reflection assignment): where the student presents their research project and have a dialogue with the jury (this form has a weight of 10% of the final grade).

1. Performative event (Project Assignment):

Dates: 09/06/23 and 10/06/23 at Gele Zaal and Muziek studio (*check the learning platform in the course Master Project for updates*).

The performative event can be presented in any format, such as a performance, an installation, a video, an exhibition, a workshop, or it can also combine more than one format. Students can also choose different audience settings such as participatory performance, immersive propositions, among others.

The Master team in collaboration with DE SINGEL will offer a studio for the final performances, but the student can also work with surrounding spaces in or outside the building, such as the swimming pool, the garden, or others.

In the performative event, the student demonstrates their integrated competencies and their abilities to translate their embodied archive of knowledge and their research into a tangible and shareable output through an embodied artistic research.

The performative event must have a maximum duration of 30 minutes. The performative event must happen at the Performance evening organized by the Ma team. More information about dates and studio is to be found on the learning platform in the course Master Project.

2. Research paper (Research Assignment):

Deadline to submit: 01/06/23 (*check the learning platform in the course Master Project for updates*).

The research paper is where the student will elaborate on their embodied artistic research and intertwine it with the theoretical framework that supports the artistic practice. The artistic embodied practice is contextualised and critically reflected upon. Although the artistic practice is a subjective element to be evaluated and for this reason allows the outcome to vary in shape, presentation or layout, it is fundamental that the student follows the rules of academic writing provided by the document “Style guide” (please check the document for more information on the topics below). The research paper must contain the basic skills of academic writing such as correct referencing, correct bibliography, among others. **The limits of words are minimum 10.000 and maximum 15.000 words** and should include the following aspects:

1. Title of project
2. Foreword (optional)
3. Abstract (max. 500 words)
4. Table of content
5. Introduction – a brief outline of the research question and of the artistic work: Why is it important to the student and their audience? What aspects does the student concentrate on with their work? And what does the research design look like? (max. 1000 words)
6. Body - This section is open for the student to elaborate on the main question and thesis outlined in the introduction. What are the arguments leading up to a conclusion? What are the key concepts, theories, artistic references that frame the research? How was the embodied artistic research carried throughout the 2 years? It can also contain description of the Practice-led research, images of the process, scores, every element that was essential for the student’s embodied artistic research to exist. Please embed your research in a larger network of references to relevant literature or artistic practices/research.
7. Conclusion (max. 1000 words)
8. Bibliography¹
9. Appendix (optional) – here, materials that are not essential for the Master project but are peripheral to the main subject and can support the research, such as interviews, workshop participants etc. In case you want to add a list of abbreviations, a lexicon, or list of figures or tables in the research paper, please add to this session.

The research paper should be uploaded in 2 formats PDF and WORD on Digitap by the set deadline **(01/06/2023) in the course Master project**. After the deadline, the research paper cannot be uploaded on Digitap, it will not be accepted and the student will consequently score 0/20 for this component.

¹ When citing another reference, be aware of plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of including phrasings, ideas and arguments from other sources without referring to these sources. Plagiarism is against the law. It is self-evident that plagiarism is unacceptable. To avoid plagiarism make sure that: citations always appear between quotation marks; the source is mentioned correctly and clearly after the citation or the paraphrased text and in the bibliography at the end; citations are not too long; you have consulted sufficiently varied sources. For more information on citations, check the *style guide* document.

In addition, one printed version is requested to be delivered to the artistic coordinator the following day after the deadline. The printed version will integrate the library of the Master in Dance RCA. The printed version DOES NOT REPLACE THE DIGITAL VERSION: it remains mandatory to upload the written component on Digitap.

3. Oral presentation (Reflection assignment):

Dates: 12/06/23 at RCA

Students will discuss their master's project with an internal and external panel of experts. During this oral presentation, they will engage in dialogue about the performative event and the research paper, and there will be an opportunity both to answer questions and to reflect.

Students have 15 minutes to present, and jury members have 15 minutes to ask questions and dialogue with the student.

Learning objectives:

Through the Master Project in Dance, the following learning objectives and competences are aimed at. The students...

1. Develops and articulates bodily craftsmanship through acquired tools and techniques.
2. Organizes a sustainable artistic practice to expand the embodied practice.
3. Reflects and investigates on questions and experiential knowledge in order to deepen their artistic practice.
4. Shares the embodied craftsmanship within the artistic field.
5. Builds, through dialogue and transmission, a sustainable practice in an artistic environment.
6. Is able to research the artistic field to feed their own practice and position themselves accordingly.
7. Engages craftsmanship and embodied knowledge in other settings.
8. Constructs, through translation to and interaction with society, a developing practice.
9. Invests, through resonating within the socio-political and economic climate, in the reciprocal relationship between their own artistic practice and society.

Evaluation

Evaluation is attributed partly to process and predominantly to product, but the project can be either practice-based or practice-led in its final form. The process should incorporate the first investigations informed by the original research question and assess every aspect of its development through the two-year programme. The Master's Project should demonstrate an understanding and use of research methods, cognitive skills in data collection and dissemination and logistical management of own practice that all relate to embodied artistic practice.

Project Assignment 60% (performative event)

Research Assignment 30% (research paper)

Reflection assignment during the examination series 10% (Oral presentation)

Note:

For project assignment (Performative event) and Reflection assignment during oral examination series (Oral presentation) no second examination opportunity is possible. For the Research assignment (research paper) a second exam period is possible. The grade for project assignment and the reflection

assignment during the exam season of the first examination period is transferred to the second examination period.

In the master project, the student demonstrates that they have acquired all the relevant learning objectives. The master project is assessed with the following weights:

Performative event 60%
Research paper 30%
Oral presentation 10%

The student must present all three outcomes in order to pass this subject.

Assessors

The assessment of the Master project Dance is done by a diverse panel combining external jury members (assembled from the working field); internal jury members (composed by the course responsible and supervisor); and the artistic coordinator of the Master in Dance (Renata Lamenza Epifanio). In case of a combined Educational Master project, an additional jury will join. In case of a combined Educational Master project, an additional jury will join. For more information on the combined EMA Master project, please read the *Vademecum Masterproef Kunsteducatief project & Dans gecombineerd*.

Study organization

Total study hours: 450 hours
Teaching hours in class: 90 hours
Individual study hours outside of contract: 360 hours

Supervisors and artistic advisors

The MA Dance offers the possibilities for individual supervisors especially to support each student's individual trajectory during the intermediate periods. A list of internal supervisors is given to the students in the beginning of the academic year and the student chooses them in dialogue with the coordinator. The programme promotes independent learning and personal responsibility, but the supervisors programme supports the student in discussing interests, questions and ambitions, related to their Master project and any issues associated with the embodied artistic research.

First year Master students have the right to 3 hours with supervisor Anne-lise Brévers to be organized individually and independently. Second year Master students have the right to 6 hours to use throughout the year with a supervisor chosen in conversation with the artistic coordinator. You will be given a deadline to choose and contact your supervisor. If this deadline is not respected, you will lose the right for the supervising hours. Since supervisors are constantly artists, teachers or researchers, they have a busy agenda therefore we strongly advise early contact with your supervisors in order to set up all the meetings in the beginning of the year. We ask the student to respect the amount of hours given and agreed upon with your mentor in order to avoid unpaid overtime to not reinforce precarious conditions of work in the field.

If wanted, students can in addition choose external artistic advisors for extra feedback in their master's project. This is of the responsibility of the student, therefore the RCA and the master's programme have no responsibility over this artistic advice.

The hours provided for the supervisors are:

- Year 1: 3 hours
- Year 2: 6 hours

Production

Students that are taking the Master project course are responsible for the production of their own Master project. We provide studios, equipment, production team and technicians for the final event. If students desire to collaborate with external artists for their Master project it is possible but take into account that these additional costs are the responsibility of the student. The Master team can support by assisting the communication between departments and can recommend residency spaces and professionals, but the Master team is not responsible for the realization and production of the student's Master project.