

# FAQs about the Dr. artium programme at KUG

## 1. How does the Dr. artium programme differ from a Dr.phil/PhD or a purely artistic doctorate?

While the Dr.phil programme is a purely academic course of study (and therefore employs and examines only academic methods and findings), and an artistic doctorate in countries such as England ("practice-based PhD") represents a professional artistic qualification (artistic results with a condensed textual component that does not make significant academic demands), the Dr. artium programme at the Doctoral School of Artistic Research (KWDS) has a double artistic-academic requirement. The research method combines two modes of systematic and (self-)critical thinking on a topic: (1) explorative or experimental reflection through artistic practice and (2) academic reflection.

The doctoral thesis is made up of two parts: an artistic part in the form of 4 public presentations spread out over the duration of the programme, and a written dissertation of around 100 pages (in German or English). These two parts will be developed on the basis of a combined, artistic-academic practice and are closely interwoven.

## 2. Do I have the right Master's degree?

The entry requirement for the Dr. artium programme is a Master's degree or Diploma in the field of music or performing arts. This must provide you with the necessary subject knowledge to work on your research topic.

N.B.: A German translation of foreign degree certificates may be required; please see [here](#) whether you will be required to submit a certified translation.

## 3. What is required for the exposé?

You may structure the exposé as you wish and it can be adjusted to suit the individual research topic. We recommend a length of around 7-12 pages. We also recommend you submit supporting materials in digital form such as links to recordings, scores or your Master's thesis.

While thinking through and formulating your exposé, keep in mind the important aspects of artistic-academic research: address points such as your idea and research interest, awareness of problems, experimentation and series of experiments, argumentation, reflection through the medium of art, reflection through the medium of language, evidence, replicability, intersubjectivity, change of perspective, re-search v. me-search, (critical) questioning as part of the research process, critique, self-critique, analysis, synthesis, experience and interpretation/hermeneutics.

The key criteria with regard to content are:

- **Formulation of the research idea** with particular focus on how artistic and academic approaches are interwoven when addressing the research question, including reflection on your own understanding of artistic research

- **Overview of the current state of research** taking into account the most important publications relevant to the research topic
- **Details on the planned approach and methodology**, with particular focus on how the chosen method will meet the needs of the artistic-academic research question
- **Your personal qualifications**, which will enable you to successfully carry out the research project (e.g. previous artistic or academic projects, related prior knowledge, etc.)

## 1. How do I find a suitable internal supervisor?

You need two supervisors on the teaching staff of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (KUG) or the Zurich University of the Arts: one who will supervise the artistic side of the project, and one who will supervise the academic side. Suitable supervisors must hold a [professorship](#) or the [university teaching qualification](#) (Habilitation) in the relevant subject area (these links will take you to lists of possible supervisors at the KUG).

Enquiries regarding the Zurich University of the Arts should be made to Prof Jörn-Peter Hiekel for music and Dr Yvonne Schmidt for performing arts.

You must send your exposé to your preferred supervisors in good time (recommended deadline: Early February) and request written confirmation of their willingness to be your supervisor. Applications that do not have the required two supervision confirmations will not be considered!

Following internal consideration, the KWDS will approach external supervisors. You may make suggestions for possible external supervisors in your exposé, but please do not contact them yourself.

## 2. Do I need to provide evidence of my language skills?

It is assumed that applicants are proficient in English or German to level C1 as set out in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. It is not necessary to provide written evidence with your application. However, the Admissions Board may ask you to submit evidence of language skills after consideration of your exposé and the oral admission exam.

## 3. What is the time-frame for the application process and when can I start the programme?

We recommend that you send your exposé to potential supervisors no later than **Early February**. After receiving confirmation of supervision, the necessary documents (see application form) must reach the KWDS by the end of **February**.

Following a positive assessment of your exposé by the internal admissions board and external supervisors, you will be invited to give an oral presentation followed by a discussion of your project. This usually takes place in **June** of the same year. If the admissions board finds in your favour, you may begin the Dr. artium programme at the start of the winter semester (**October**).

## 4. How much time will I be required to spend in Graz?

While not absolutely necessary, it is highly practical and desirable to relocate to Graz. In any case, you should plan sufficient periods of attendance in Graz (and/or Zurich, where applicable) not only to attend seminars etc. but also to allow time for intensive discussion with your supervisors and peers. Compulsory courses are scheduled in blocks. Per semester the time requirement is, on average, 4 semester hours/week (equal

to four 2-day blocks). The month of May has the greatest time requirement and is set aside for intensive study (see: MaiResidenz). You are also required to participate in the annual research festival ARTikulationen (annually in early October). Where justified, the programme of study may also be followed part time.

## 5. What are the costs of studying at the KUG?

An overview of the sums involved (course fees, union fees) can be found [here](#).

## 6. Are there any grants available?

For many doctoral students, the Dr. artium programme involves expenses in connection with their research, e.g. for external commissions, ensemble performances, audio or film recording for documentation purposes, and not least travel to presentations. These costs must be financed by the doctoral student themselves. Many doctoral students successfully apply to the City of Graz, the State of Styria or the State of Austria for grants to cover these costs. In addition, the KWDS offers a range of grants and financial support: KWDS Grants (currently EUR 8,000), grants for a MaiResidenz (call for applications opens in the winter semester), travel grants (see question 10) and smaller grants on a case-by-case basis.

Applications for a KWDS Grant can be made to the Director of the KWDS immediately on acceptance to the programme or at the latest in the September before starting; the Director of the KWDS will make recommendations to the Vice-Rector of Research regarding the distribution of grants on the basis of available funds.

The principles governing selection are:

- excellence of the project in terms of topic and personal qualifications
- social aspects (e.g. limited employment, no links to third-party funded projects, no teaching post, no other grants)

## 7. Will the cost of travel to compulsory conferences be subsidised?

Doctoral students may apply for a subsidy towards travel costs or similar expenses. A maximum of EUR 1,000 will be awarded to each student over the entire duration of the programme.

The following guidelines for subsidies apply:

- Before any travel is undertaken, a list of the anticipated costs (travel to and from the conference, hotel, conference fees etc.) must be submitted to the KWDS, which will be presented to the Director for approval;
- Should a subsidy be granted, all receipts and tickets relating to travel costs must be presented upon return
- After the conference, a programme of the conference (in cases of active participation, this must list your presentation) and a short personal report must be submitted to the office of the KWDS.

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For general enquiries about studying at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (KUG), please see the [Welcome Center](#) and/or the information in the [handbook Studieren](#) an der Kunstuniversität Graz.