

CURRICULUM

ADVANCED POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OPERA

Soloist class/Young artist programme

Approved October 2019, revised February 2024, July 2024, Summer 2025

Please note that the original Danish text is the governing text for all purposes and in case of discrepancy, the Danish wording will be applicable.

GENERAL RULES	3
AUTHORITY	3
ECTS.....	3
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT AND ENTRY EXAMINATION	3
INTERNATIONAL FEE-PAYING STUDENTS	3
TITLE AWARDED	3
EXAMINATION GUIDELINES.....	3
PURPOSE AND COMPETENCY PROFILE OF THE PROGRAMME	4
STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME	5
SCHEMA (ECTS AND TEACHING)	5
Participation in Orchestra and Ensemble Projects and Unscheduled Activities.....	6
1. MUSICAL AND VOCAL SUBJECTS.....	7
SINGING.....	7
VOCAL COACHING.....	8
CHARACTER STUDIES	9
2. DRAMA SUBJECTS	11
DRAMA AND/OR PHYSICAL TRAINING.....	11
INTERNSHIP.....	12
FINAL GRADUATION PROJECT.....	13
3. ALTERNATIVE SUBJECTS	15
CAREER COACHING	15

GENERAL RULES

AUTHORITY

The curriculum for the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Opera is laid down under the authority of Executive Order no. 122 of 24/01/2025 concerning the Danish Academies of Music and the Royal Opera Academy in the area of the Danish Ministry of Culture and Executive Order no. 333 of 06.05.1997, Executive Order on management of the Royal Opera Academy.

ECTS

The Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Music is a full-time course of study corresponding to 120 ECTS credits. 60 points in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) corresponds to one year of full-time studies. The programme is organised as a full-time study programme within a two-year timeframe.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT AND ENTRY EXAMINATION

The entrance requirement for the programme is a completed Master's programme from an academy of music, or equivalent qualifications, and a passed entrance examination. The decision on whether to admit an applicant is taken by the Academy/Royal Opera Academy on the basis of a concrete assessment of the applicant's abilities and skills, undertaken by the Academy/Royal Opera Academy and one or more external moderators appointed by the Danish Ministry of Culture. The requirements of the music profession are also taken into consideration, as well as the need to attain an appropriate balance of instruments and voices.

Applicants who have concluded a Master's or soloist programme at the Academy or the Opera Academy can only be admitted to a new Master's or soloist programme if a study place is vacant. The same applies to applicants who have been enrolled twice previously in a Master's or soloist programme without having taken the final examination.

INTERNATIONAL FEE-PAYING STUDENTS

Prior to the commencement of studies, a legally binding agreement must be entered into between the Royal Danish Academy of Music and the student. (Contract determining the Conditions set for the Provision of Education for International Students at the Royal Danish Academy of Music.)

TITLE AWARDED

Graduates of the programme are entitled to use the Danish title *solist med opera som speciale*. The title in English is Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Opera.

EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

Reference is also made to the applicable examination guidelines in force at any given time, which can be found on the intranet.

PURPOSE AND COMPETENCY PROFILE OF THE PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Opera is to qualify the student for employment in Danish and international ensembles, opera companies and opera houses.

Knowledge

- In-depth knowledge and understanding of artistic practice on the basis of internationally-recognised artistic practice and artistic research, and the ability to independently handle challenges and issues of an artistic nature.
- Thorough understanding of studied works, on the basis of extensive repertoire knowledge, which supports and develops the student's artistic profile.
- Specialised knowledge of methods and tools to solve artistic, dramatic and vocal technical challenges.
- Specialised knowledge of the opera industry and of artistic practice at the highest professional level, together with the ability to independently undertake own career planning.

Skills

- Mastery, at the highest professional level, of vocal-technical, dramatic, rehearsal-related and artistic skills associated with employment as a performing opera singer.
- The ability to convey an independent artistic expression at the highest professional level.
- Skills to present oneself to employers, the media and the public.

Competencies

- Competency to undertake artistic activity with professional discipline at the highest professional level in complex and unpredictable work situations.
- Competency to take independent responsibility for one's own professional development and to expand one's own artistic perspective and identity.
- Competency to convey one's own artistic practice at the highest professional level.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

SCHEMA (ECTS AND TEACHING)

ADVANCED POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OPERA

Subject complex	Subject	1st year	2nd year
Musical/vocal subjects	Musical/vocal subjects <i>(Including voice, vocal coaching and character studies)</i>	20 ECTS	20 ECTS
Drama subjects	Drama subjects <i>(Including drama and/or physical training and internship)</i>	20 ECTS	20 ECTS
	Submissions and final project	15 ECTS	15 ECTS
Alternative subjects	Alternative subjects <i>(Including career coaching)</i>	5 ECTS	5 ECTS
	TOTAL	60 ECTS	60 ECTS

The marking ————— indicates that the ECTS credits are triggered by certificate.

The marking ————— indicates that the ECTS credits are triggered by examination.

The marking ■■■■■ indicates the duration of the teaching.

The marking - - - - - indicates that there is a partial examination. The ECTS credits are released after the final examination.

Participation in Orchestra and Ensemble Projects and Unscheduled Activities

Requirements for Participation in Unscheduled Teaching and Projects

All students at the Royal Danish Academy of Music (RDAM) are required to participate in relevant orchestral and ensemble activities, as well as other professionally relevant projects organised by the Academy.

To support the students' broader academic and artistic development, the Academy places emphasis on student participation in teaching and projects that form part of RDAM's overall educational mission.

Accordingly, students are obliged to:

- Take part in RDAM's orchestral schools, orchestra projects, and other collaborative projects.
- Participate in RDAM choir, chamber choir, chamber opera, etc.
- Contribute to the PULSAR Festival and RDAM's in-house new music projects, including participation in the sinfonietta and various chamber ensembles.
- Participate in the institution's chamber music teaching, group classes, and chamber concerts organised by the relevant teacher.

The head of the subject area determines which projects each student is required to participate in.

Students enrolled in soloist programmes are additionally required to be available as soloists in relevant projects, such as those involving orchestras or other ensembles. This may also include leading sectional rehearsals, when necessary, either at the request of the conductor, the head of the subject area, or on their own initiative.

Students who have completed their coursework and have postponed their last examination are required to participate in the above-mentioned projects to a limited extent.

Based on the nature of the project and the student's academic profile, the head of the subject area decides which projects the student must participate in.

Failure to participate may result in sanctions. For further details, please refer to the relevant rules and regulations at www.dkdm.dk/intra

1. MUSICAL AND VOCAL SUBJECTS

(1st-4th semester)

SINGING

(1st-4th semester)

Learning content

Work is done on the further development of vocal and artistic skills, including ongoing work on the development of audition repertoire and character studies.

Teaching and learning methods

Individual teaching

Examination regulations

After 4th semester

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Be able to realise his or her own vocal artistic ideas and work independently with relevant issues at the highest professional level
- Be able to realise relevant opera parts at the highest professional level, and demonstrate a personal vocal and artistic identity
- Have rehearsed repertoire for use at auditions
- Have rehearsed 2-3 medium-sized opera parts in the original language

Examination form and duration

Integrated into the final graduation project and possible participation in performances of the Royal Theatre's repertoire.

Moderation and assessment

Assessment incorporated in the final graduation project.

Permitted examination aids

Not relevant.

Special provisions

See final graduation project after the fourth semester.

VOCAL COACHING

(1st-4th semester)

Learning content

Current repertoire is rehearsed in the original language, with the focus on musical, stylistic and linguistic/diction-related aspects of performance, as well as an understanding of the musical context.

Teaching and learning methods

Individual teaching.

Examination regulations

After 4th semester

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Have acquired stylistic, linguistic and interpretational knowledge and skills, and the ability to apply these in independent methodical work in the rehearsal of relevant operatic literature, including audition repertoire and character studies, at the highest professional level.

Examination form and duration

Integrated into possible performance participation and the final graduation project.

Moderation and assessment

Assessment is incorporated into the final graduation project.

Permitted examination aids

Not relevant.

Special provisions

Integrated into the final graduation project and possible participation in performances of the Royal Theatre's repertoire.

CHARACTER STUDIES

(1st-3rd semester)

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Have rehearsed 2-3 medium-sized opera parts in the original language
- Be able to meet the vocal and artistic demands of the parts and demonstrate a personal interpretation of the role.
- Be able to demonstrate dramatic understanding of the whole of which the role is a part.

Learning content

Musical rehearsal of opera parts and a dramaturgical review of the relevant operas.

Teaching and learning methods

Individual teaching, and classes where relevant.

Examination regulations

After 3rd semester

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Have rehearsed 2-3 medium-sized opera parts in the original language
- Be able to meet the vocal demands of the parts and demonstrate a personal interpretation of the role.
- Be able to demonstrate dramatic understanding of the whole of which the role is a part.

Examination form and duration

Internal submission. Duration: 30 minutes, including assessment.

Moderation and assessment

The examination is assessed by the Opera Academy's principal and head of drama studies, as well as by the head of RDAM's voice department. The assessment awarded is pass/fail.

Permitted examination aids

Not relevant.

Special provisions

Prior to the examination, the student submits a repertoire list of the characters studied in the course. The repertoire list must be certified by the subject teacher.

From the repertoire list, the student and the moderator panel each select ten minutes of excerpts from the characters studied.

At the examination, the student performs the selected excerpts, with piano accompaniment. The excerpts are sung by heart and in the original language.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the repertoire list and the excerpts selected by the student are submitted on time to the administration at The Opera Academy.

For examinations where the submission of written work is a prerequisite for participation in the practical/oral examination, the 1st of the 3 permitted examination attempts will be regarded used if the written material is not submitted on time. The student will automatically be assigned a new submission deadline within the same examination period, prior to the practical/oral examination.

The Opera Academy will announce the deadline for submission of the repertoire list and for submission of the moderators' choice.

2. DRAMA SUBJECTS

(1st-4th semester)

DRAMA AND/OR PHYSICAL TRAINING

(1st-4th semester)

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Be able to work independently with acting techniques and scenic forms of work at the highest professional level.
- Be able to work independently with the physical aspects of the profession.
- Be capable of developing new solutions or artistic expressions in the encounter with complex challenges.

Learning content

In dialogue with the student, the Opera Academy organises individual courses relating to drama and/or physical training. Where relevant, these courses support the student's internship and character studies.

To the extent possible, the student may attend classes in the subject in the Master's Programme in Voice Specialising in Opera.

Teaching and learning methods

Classes and individual teaching

Examination regulations

After 4th semester

Examination form and duration

Integrated into the final graduation project after the fourth semester.

Moderation and assessment

See the final graduation project for moderation and assessment of this.

INTERNSHIP

(1st-4th semester)

Learning content

The internship is agreed between the student and the opera manager of the Royal Theatre, in dialogue with the management of the Opera Academy. The size and nature of the assignment will depend on the student's prerequisites and the current repertoire in the season in question.

Teaching and learning methods

The student participates in one or more performances and is summoned for rehearsals and performances through the production manager of the Opera.

Examination regulations

After 4th semester

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Be able to meet the artistic and practical requirements of working with opera production at the highest professional level.

Examination form and duration

Participation in performances.

Moderation and assessment

The internship is assessed by internal moderators, consisting of the opera manager of the Royal Theatre and the principal of the Opera Academy. The grade awarded for the internship is pass/fail.

Permitted examination aids

Not relevant.

Special provisions

The internship is agreed between the student and the opera manager of the Royal Theatre, in dialogue with the management of the Opera Academy. The size and nature of the assignment will depend on the student's prerequisites and the current repertoire in the season in question.

FINAL GRADUATION PROJECT

After 4th semester

Learning content

In dialogue with the student, the Opera Academy organises individual courses relating to drama and/or physical training. Where relevant, these courses support the student's internship and character studies.

To the extent possible, the student may attend classes in the subject in the Master's Programme in Voice Specialising in Opera.

Teaching and learning methods

Classes and individual teaching, where relevant.

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the study programme, it is expected that the student will:

- Master, at the highest professional level, the artistic methods, tools and expressions of opera singing, and be able to realise and express a personal artistic identity.

Examination regulations

After 4th semester

Examination form and duration

The examination is divided into two submissions:

1. Scenic project or participation in the Royal Theatre's repertoire, to the extent assessed to be appropriate by the management of the Opera Academy
2. Audition examination

Moderation and assessment

The scenic project and the audition examination are assessed by external moderation and internal moderation consisting of the opera manager of the Royal Theatre, the Opera Academy's principal or his or her deputy, and an internal subject moderator who is not the teacher of the student's principal study. The principal of the Opera Academy or his or her deputy acts as the examination director.

The assessment awarded for both submissions is Approved/Not approved, supplemented by a written statement on the student's technical standard.

Assessment criteria:

The assessment takes the form of an overall evaluation of the examinee's performance, with particular emphasis on:

- Independent and personal artistic expression
- Ability to communicate the works performed to an audience on artistic terms
- Ability to utilise technique as a means of conveying a personal artistic expression
- Loyalty of the interpretation towards the intentions of the composer and producer
- Overall impression of the submission
- Ability to communicate a text
- Integration of the musical and textual expression

Permitted examination aids

Not relevant.

Special provisions

In the scenic project, the student, in collaboration with his or her fellow students or students from the Master's programme of the Opera Academy, presents excerpts or complete works from the operatic literature chosen by the management of the Opera Academy in consultation with the responsible subject teachers. The repertoire must demonstrate fulfilment of the learning outcomes for the subject.

Participation in performances of the Royal Theatre's repertoire may substitute for the scenic project.

For the audition examination, the student prepares a repertoire list containing six arias, with a stylistic and linguistic variation that reflects the student's voice subjects. For the examination, the student chooses one aria, and the moderators subsequently choose two arias from the repertoire list. The arias are sung by heart and in the original language.

For examinations where the submission of written work is a prerequisite for participation in the practical/oral examination, the 1st of the 3 permitted examination attempts will be regarded used if the written material is not submitted on time. The student will automatically be assigned a new submission deadline within the same examination period, prior to the practical/oral examination.

3. ALTERNATIVE SUBJECTS

(2nd-4th semesters)

CAREER COACHING

2nd-4th semester

Learning content

Individual coaching sessions with the teachers of the Opera Academy and potentially classes/workshops.

The teaching is organized by the head of the Opera Academy.

To the extent permitted by the individual internships, the student attends classes in entrepreneurship in RDAM's soloist class (Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Music).

Examination regulations

After 4th semester

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of the subject, it is expected that the student will:

- Have prepared relevant presentation material
- Be able to handle the encounter with relevant employers
- Be able to handle the encounter with the media and the public
- Possess insight into various formats for audience development

Examination form and duration

The subject is a certification subject, which is passed by active participation in teachings and submission of assignments during the course.

Should the student fail to obtain a certificate of attendance, the first examination attempt out of three possible will be considered as used, and the student will be automatically enrolled for the re-examination in the forthcoming examination period

Moderation and assessment

If the certificate is not awarded, the student must submit a set written assignment of 5 standard pages. **One week** is allowed for the assignment. The test is assessed by the head of the Opera Academy. The grade awarded is pass/fail.

Permitted examination aids

Not relevant.