Musicology (M.A.)

General advice regarding studies
Study and Career Counselling Service - Zentrale Studien- und Karriereberatung

Application procedures / Entry requirements
Admissions Office - Immatrikulationsamt

StudierendenServiceCenter
Campus Haarentor A12
26129 Oldenburg
0441-798-2728
studium@uni-oldenburg.de
www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/service-advice

Further Information

Musicology website
www.uni-oldenburg.de/musik/studium/master-of-arts-musikwissenschaften

Courses of Study
www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/degree-programmes

Funding
www.uni-oldenburg.de/studium/finanzierung

Your contact persons
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Music student association (Fachschaft Musik)
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Music is an inextricable part of daily life. It ranges from acoustic stimuli of all kinds to human creations with high intrinsic, aesthetic value. In close proximity to the human body, music can both serve to relax or increase tension. When employed in rituals or dance, it can transcend mundane limitations of daily life. It is employed in rituals and religious and social ceremonies. As a form of social communication, it functions as a system of tonal differences and symbolic order. In the course of bourgeoisification and industrialization, music has adopted specific commodity forms. Since that time, entirely new stakeholders have taken control of and dictate the music scene: critics, record companies, copyright associations, media, artistic directors, agencies, privately or publicly funded music institutions, education and politics – each with different objectives with regard to the dissemination of music products to diverse target audiences.

This Master’s degree programme teaches skills in four academic and methodological fields of Musicology: Cultural History of Music and Gender, Systematic Musicology, Music and Media and Music Forms around the World. The objective is to enable students to actively shape the current music scene and independently and critically reflect on the phenomenon that is music culture. For this purpose, methodological and theoretical, musical and practical, organizational, analytical and communicational skills are promoted. It is not so much the normative concept of music which forms the basis of musicological work, but rather the challenges of social and economic transformations of the present (mediatization, globalization, interculturalism, demographic change).

Music education at the University of Oldenburg is characterized by a broad, discursive concept of music. This includes traditions, value hierarchies, gender constructions, music processes, acoustics, psycho-physical fundamentals of hearing, broad social/cultural entrenchment, openness, economic relevance and music in media.

Programme structure and content

The four-semester Master’s programme has a total student workload of 120 ECTS credit points. You will complete six programme course units, including compulsory and elective course units. Each completed course unit is worth 15 ECTS. The Master’s thesis accounts for 30 ECTS.

Methods form the basis of all academic fields, but which musicological methods are suitable for which question? For this purpose, knowledge of methods is as important as the testing of methods. Reading and writing articles on the topic of music help students to understand, discuss and apply musicological methods.

Musical practice is a key element at the Institute of Music. You have the possibility in one of the course units to accompany music projects in a practice-oriented manner (press work, dramaturgy, etc.) or even to participate as a musician. In addition, the course unit is a great way to deepen your theoretical knowledge of music.

Overview of the sub-disciplines of musicology: Cultural History of Music, Systematic Musicology, Music and Media, Music Forms Around the World. In this course unit you can get to know all the sub-disciplines of musicology represented at the University of Oldenburg. Interdisciplinary work is just as important as the recognition that a musical phenomenon can be considered from very different perspectives and how to go about doing so.

In-depth examination: A specialization course unit is available for one of the musicological sub-disciplines, so that you can go into greater depth in a focus area of your choice. This allows you to build an individual academic profile in the fields of Cultural History of Music, Musicology Gender Research, Systematic Musicology, Music and Media or Music Forms Around the World.

Project seminars and research-oriented teaching add to the programme’s efficacy, allowing for collaborations with music institutions as well as offering insights into current research projects.

The academic course units are complemented by a course unit from another discipline from the School of Linguistics and Cultural Sciences and an individual course unit for specialization.

All of these course units are taken throughout the first, second and third semesters. In the second or third semester, you have the possibility of spending a study period abroad at a university with comparable programmes. In the fourth semester, the final course unit will be completed with a Master’s thesis and colloquium.

Potential career paths

With their focus on reflection on processes and relationships within and between musical cultures, Musicology Master’s graduates are prepared for various professional fields involving the research and design of musical life, such as music journalism/publicity, dramaturgy, publishing activities, media and opinion polling, music politics and administration, design/organization of musical events, music management and music-cultural education. It is essential to already start establishing contacts with institutions in the music scene during the programme. The Institute supports you through a large number of cooperative relationships with music-related institutions in the region and beyond. Following successful completion of the Master’s programme in Musicology, you have the option of enrolling in a PhD programme or performing independent research work at the Institute of Music.