Motivation letter assignment Master of Music

Academy of Music, Arnhem

1. Motivation and fit with the programme

The Master of Music in Arnhem is for musicians, composers and performers who want to take their artistic practice beyond their instrument, genre or discipline. Originally developed from elements in the Jazz & Pop and Music Theatre master's programmes, it has evolved into a place for artistic autonomy, interdisciplinary experimentation and boundary-pushing artistry.

You will work in an interdisciplinary community on the ArtEZ university campus in Arnhem, where music, theatre, dance, writing, design and visual art come together. Here, you will have the freedom to deepen or reinvent your artistic practice. You will choose your own specialisation, work on projects that matter to you, and explore how your work relates to audiences, context and society.

This master's programme will not give you ready-made answers. Instead, it will offer you space, artistic guidance and a stimulating environment in which to develop your own artistic signature.

- What motivates you to apply for this Master's programme?
- How do you relate to the vision and learning environment described above?
- What attracts you to working within an interdisciplinary community, and how do you see yourself contributing to it?
- Why do you believe this programme is the right next step in your artistic and professional development?

2. Artistic and professional profile

We would like to understand who you are as an artist and professional practitioner.

- How would you describe yourself as a musician, performer, composer, maker or interdisciplinary artist?
- What is your artistic specialisation and what are your main artistic interests?
- What distinguishes your practice from that of others?
- What role(s) do you typically take on within artistic projects (for example (theatre) performer, composer, producer, researcher, curator, director, facilitator or maker)?

3. Artistic practice and creative vision

We are interested in the work you currently make and the work you aspire to develop.

- What kind of artistic work do you create, or hope to create, in the future?
- Which themes, questions, audiences or social issues are important within your work?

- How would you describe your artistic language, style or aesthetic approach?
- What role does music and musicality play within your practice?

For applicants from a non-musical background: please reflect specifically on the role of music and musicality within your artistic practice.

4. Artistic research

Research is an important element within this Master's programme.

- What does artistic research mean to you?
- What experience, if any, do you already have with artistic research, practice-based research or research-driven creative processes?
- Which artistic, social, cultural, or professional questions would you like to investigate during the Master's programme?
- Can you describe one or more research themes, experiments, or projects that you would like to develop during your studies?

5. Learning goals and development

This programme is designed to support individual artistic growth and experimentation.

- What aspects of your artistic practice would you most like to strengthen, deepen, or challenge?
- Which skills, knowledge, or experiences do you hope to gain during the programme?
- How would you like to develop both musically and artistically during your studies?

6. Inspiration and influences

Artistic development is often shaped by a range of influences.

- Which artists, thinkers, companies, artworks, movements or experiences inspire your work?
- How have these influences shaped your artistic practice and ambitions?

7. Future ambitions

We would like to understand how you envision your future as an artist.

- What would you like to achieve during and after completing this Master's programme?
- Where do you see yourself professionally and artistically in five to ten years' time?
- How do you expect this Master's programme to contribute to your future practice and career?