

MA in Artistic Research

Accademia Teatro Dimitri (ATD),
Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana (CSI)

Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI)

MA in Artistic Research

Aims

The MA in Artistic Research is a response to the growing need to give students within the emerging field of artistic research the opportunities to develop a robust understanding of artistic enquiry, while gaining the critical and analytical skills necessary to conduct independent research. The MA programme challenges students to examine the arts (and their art) through the critical lens of in-depth and systematic investigation, and to engage with key facets of research design, methodology, and data analysis and interpretation. Drawing on the strengths of the Conservatorio and the Accademia Teatro, the MA programme will be aimed at performing artists and teachers within the performing arts as well as students from other artistic and scientific disciplines with a strong interest in the arts. It will provide rigorous training in different areas, from quantitative to qualitative methodologies, conceptual to empirical enquiry, historical to contemporary practice.

Employability

The MA aims to equip students with the necessary skills for research in the arts or any area in which knowledge of research methods and techniques would be an advantage. In this way, the MA aims to provide a bridge from the Bachelor course in the arts (or indeed any other related Bachelor courses) into a programme of research such that:

- the knowledge and skills acquired from previous study will be deepened through studying several subject areas in the arts and being aware of the current on-going research in these areas;
- students will learn to create an original, feasible research question strengthening their conceptual and practical skills;
- new knowledge will be gained in methodologies and tools used to gather data and analyse it, also serving as preparation for future work as a researcher or a potential PhD programme;
- problem solving skills will be developed in devising and conducting feasible research projects using appropriate tools and devising new ones where needed.
- students will also learn to work autonomously on the subject area of their research preparing them for work on larger research projects or on a PhD.

Study Programme

The MA has been designed as full-time programme of study lasting three semesters awarding 90 credits. The modules in the MA programme are as follows:

- Epistemology of research (20 credits)
- Quantitative and qualitative research methods (20 credits)
- Research reporting and presentation (10 credits)
- Research trends in the arts (10 credits)
- Research project and dissertation (30 credits)

Modules are built up into patterns of study which normally occupy the 18-month period from September to April and contain 90 credits. Each module will have its own associated elements of assessment. These may take the form of an essay, a spoken presentation, a written or viva-voce (oral) examination, or a single extended assignment. Below is the template for full-time study.

First Semester	Second Semester	Third Semester
	Epistemology of research (20)	
	Quantitative and qualitative research methods (20)	
	Research trends in the arts (10)	
	Research reporting and presentation (10)	
	Research project	and dissertation (30)

Admissions requirements and conditions

In order to gain admission to the MA, students must have:

- A Bachelor degree in performing or visual arts; or, where given artistic competences and interests, a Bachelor degree in an academic discipline (e.g. learning sciences, history, sociology, psychology, IT, philosophy).
- Sufficient knowledge of English is required.

Applications are to be submitted via the SUPSI website (<http://www.supsi.ch/home/bachelor-diploma-master/master/ricerca-artistica>) and should include:

- Application form;
- Copy of the relevant degrees;
- Letter of motivation (letter of interest)

Deadline for submission is 14 May 2017, courses begin in September 2017.

Graduation regulations

Graduation will be contingent on the overall mark each student achieves. In order for a student to accomplish graduation a “sufficient” in every module represents the minimal condition.

Students

Students accepted onto the programme must manifest the potential, both in terms of accomplishment and determination, to achieve academic success. The programme is based on the assumption that applicants will be graduates or nearing the end of their first degree. It is not regarded as essential that the first degree be in the performing arts, although given the profiles of the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana and the Accademia Teatro Dimitri this may be true in the majority of cases. Degrees, professional qualifications or experience in related subjects – such as the visual arts, education, history, psychology and sociology – will be considered. Prior academic track record will be the strongest criterion for acceptance onto the programme, and students will be expected to have a distinguished and well-balanced undergraduate profile, in addition to an explicit ability as self-sufficient, independent reflective learners.

Contact:

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