

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNSHIPS IN THE NORWEGIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND THE OSLO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

1. General information

The internship programme is an elective course for students in the Master's in Performance Programme (Principal Main Instrument/Chamber Music), the Advanced Studies for Solo Instrumentalists or Chamber Music Ensembles Programme, and the In-Depth Performance Studies – Master's level at the Norwegian Academy of Music (NMH). The course involves orchestra practice in either the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra (DNK) or the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra (OFO). In some cases, the orchestra practice is shared between the two orchestras.

The course runs throughout the study period (2 years for the Master's in Performance and the Advanced Studies, and 1 year for students in the In-Depth programme), giving respectively 15 and 8 ECTS credits. An internship fund of NOK 60,000 is paid each academic year (conditions for payment under). Admission to the course is applied at the same time as applying for the study programme at NMH, and the applicants must audition for the orchestras.

2. Scope

The internship programme runs throughout the study period; 2 years for the Master's in Performance and the Advanced Studies, and 1 year for students in the In-Depth programme. Each academic year includes six practice periods. The duration of the periods shall be the average of about 4 to 6 days of orchestral practice, but can be longer or shorter when so defined by the individual orchestra's concert plan. For long projects (tours, etc.) one project can amount to several practice periods. Total fixed workload should not exceed 32 days during one academic year. In addition, students must count in the time necessary for their own preparation, and any training related to the practice.

3. Audition

The candidates are normally accepted through an audition. The auditions take place after the candidate has passed the audition for the Academy. The conditions for the auditions are given by the individual orchestra, but normally they consist of one round of playing compulsory repertoire, and one round of ensemble playing for admission to DNK.

Candidates who are approved after the auditions, and accept the assigned internships, are at the same time committed to follow these guidelines.

4. Determination of practice periods

The candidate is obliged to prioritize the practice periods in the orchestra where the practice is carried out. The candidate must therefore ensure to have sufficient time to allow the practice periods to be defined by the orchestras. Normally, the upcoming season's practice periods can be determined during the month of May.

When the practice periods are determined, the candidates have bound themselves to these. Changing practice periods can only occur in exceptional cases and upon written approval from the orchestra.

Absence from practice periods due to illness is regarded as a not completed practice period. The candidate must in such cases seek to find a new practice period in collaboration with the orchestra.

5. Preparation and tuition

Prior to starting the internship programme each candidate has a meeting with a representative from the orchestra. The candidate will also be in contact with a supervisor in the orchestra throughout the study period.

In connection with each practice period the candidates will normally be given one hour of tutoring either by the artistic director, section leader or another lecturer.

All candidates will also receive a pedagogical offer through the programme, consisting of guest lecturers, master classes, guest instructors and the like.

The candidate is committed to attend very well prepared to each practice period, and to relate to the supervisor/section leader for his or her section. After completing the practice period the candidates will receive an oral feedback from their supervisors about their contributions in the practice period.

6. Evaluation and Assessment

After the first year of orchestra practice the candidates in each orchestra are evaluated. Based on this evaluation, the candidates may lose their internship if their efforts are considered unsatisfactory. This will be discussed in advance with the Academy.

After completing the program, the orchestras give a final written assessment of the candidates to the Academy. Upon successful completion the course grants the candidates respectively 15 or 8 credits.

7. Payment of internship funds

Internship funds are tied to each practice period, and will be paid in proportion at the completion of each practice period. The candidate must hand in the report form to the coordinator at the Academy at the end of each practice period, signed by the candidate him-/herself and a representative from the orchestra. This in turn triggers the payment of internship funds, normally NOK 10 000 per practice period.

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