



INFORMATION ON DOCTORAL PROGRAMS AT THE LISZT ACADEMY OF MUSIC, BUDAPEST 2019

The Doctoral School of the Liszt Academy of Music offers full-time and part-time DLA and PhD programs in music and musicology. The DLA (*Doctor of Liberal Arts*) programs are aimed at composers and performers who wish to develop their artistic skills while receiving complex theoretical training. The PhD (*Doctor of Philosophy*) program is unique in Hungary as it is the only accredited doctoral program in musicology in the country.

Full-time doctoral programs

The full-time doctoral programs entail four years of training in theory and practice, followed by a doctoral procedure of one year. In the course of their studies, the doctoral students are required to obtain 240 credits in total and pass two major exams (a complex exam at the end of the second year and a preliminary dissertation debate at the end of the fourth year) that focus on their progress in dissertation work and (in the case of DLA students) musical performance. The submission of the doctoral student's masterpiece and/or the final written dissertation is due no later than three years after the complex exam. After the written dissertation has been approved by two official reviewers, it is defended in a public debate. In addition, the DLA candidates also give a concert as part of the defence procedure.

Part-time doctoral programs

Apart from the full-time programs, the Doctoral School also offers the possibility of part-time training. This option is reserved for artists or musicologists aged 35 or over who already have significant professional/academic output. At the beginning of their two-year tutorial training, part-time students are required to pass their complex exam, and in the course of their studies they are required to obtain 120 credits in total. Upon completion of their two-year study, part-time students also have a preliminary dissertation debate. Likewise, the submission of the students' masterpiece and/or final written dissertation is due no later than three years after the complex exam, and the same requirements and rules apply to the defence procedure in the part-time programs as in the full-time programs.

In the part-time doctoral programs, the length of study may be considerably shortened (by up to three semesters) with an individual application for credit transfer and/or credit acknowledgement on the basis of previously established artistic merits. This means that part-time applicants may choose to attend the Liszt Academy as registered students for only one semester and obtain their degree within about two years after their complex exam.



Language of instruction

The language of instruction in the doctoral programs is Hungarian (with the exception of one or two seminar courses or guest lectures per semester). The high standard of artistic and scholarly training is guaranteed by renowned professors from Hungary and abroad.

International students may also apply to the full-time programs if they have a good intermediate (CEF level B2) command of Hungarian. No language exam is required for the application; however, the Hungarian proficiency of the applicants is tested at the entrance exam. International applicants over 35 with an established academic/artistic career are encouraged to apply to the part-time program, where one-to-one communication with instructors and supervisors may take place in English or German.

The doctoral dissertation may be submitted in a language other than Hungarian (primarily English or German), and the doctoral exams themselves may also be conducted in English or German.

Application process

Documents to be submitted to the four-year programs:

1. application form (downloadable from our website);
2. a CV and a list of publications/recordings, major concerts and other artistic/academic achievements;
3. for PhD applicants only: a five-page-long dissertation proposal (plus preliminary bibliography);
4. for DLA applicants only: a proposed program for the entrance exam audition, compiled according to program-specific regulations;
5. a copy of the applicant's master's degree in a relevant field (please note that degrees obtained outside Hungary must be officially authorized at the Rector's Office in a preliminary procedure);
6. a copy of a CEF level B2 second language exam certificate or the equivalent in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian or Spanish;
7. proof of payment of the application fee (13,000 HUF, approx. 40 EUR).



Documents to be submitted to the two-year programs:

1. application form (downloadable from our website);
2. a CV and a list of publications/recordings, major concerts and other artistic/academic achievements;
3. a five-page-long dissertation proposal (plus preliminary bibliography);
4. for DLA applicants only: a set of music recordings (audio or video, of about one hour in length) that best represents the artist's work up to the point of application;
5. a copy of the applicant's master's degree in a relevant field (please note that degrees obtained outside Hungary must be officially authorized at the Rector's Office in a preliminary procedure);
6. a copy of a CEF level B2 second language exam certificate or the equivalent in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian or Spanish;
7. proof of payment of the application fee (13,000 HUF, approx. 40 EUR).

In the full-time programs the deadline for the submission of application packages is **15 April** each year for the next academic year. Part-time applicants may submit their application any time, there is no deadline.

Entrance exams for full-time applicants

Entrance exams for the full-time programs are held in late May – early June each year. The entrance exam for DLA applicants is comprised of the following parts:

1. written test (where a short essay or excerpt in musicology must be read and summarized in writing by heart);
2. music recognition;
3. audition;
4. interview.

The particular DLA programs may also ask the candidates to complete additional exam components. Please check the detailed entrance requirements on our website or contact us for further information.

The entrance exam for full-time PhD applicants consists of an academic interview with the PhD Doctoral Committee.



Entrance exams for part-time applicants

In the case of part-time applications, the relevant program director and the colleagues they ask to participate first review the application material and accept or decline it for further process. If the application material is accepted, the candidate is asked for an interview with the DLA or PhD Doctoral Committee.

If the Doctoral Committee accepts the candidate on the basis of the interview and the application material, they may start preparing for the complex doctoral exam, which must take place within one year from the date of the interview. After a successful complex exam, the candidate enrolls in the doctoral program as a doctoral student in the first upcoming semester (either in September or in February of the actual academic year). From that point on, the goal is to obtain 120 study credits for required tutorials and with individual credit acceptance requests within four semesters.

Doctoral studies and exams

The following charts show the doctoral courses and exams to be completed during the studies (before the doctoral defence).

DLA four-year programs

Name of subject	S1	S2	S3	S4	Subtotal in Year 1 and 2	S5	S6	S7	S8	Subtotal in Year 3 and 4	TOTAL
Writing and Research Skills	4	4	4	4	16	-				-	16
Program-specific DLA Seminar	4	4	4	4	16	12	12	12	12	48	64
Individual Artistic Activity	8	8	8	8	32	8	8	8	8	32	64
Dissertation Tutorial	-	4	4	4	12	10	10	10	10	40	52
Required-optional Course in Music/Musicology	20				20	-				-	20
Required-optional Course in the Humanities	12				12	-				-	12
Required-optional Non-Hungarian Course / International Activity	6				6	-				-	6
Electives	6				6	-				-	6
Complex exam	-			0	0	-				-	0
Preliminary dissertation defence	-				-	-			0	0	0
					120					120	240



PhD four-year program

Name of subject	S1	S2	S3	S4	Subtotal in Year 1 and 2	S5	S6	S7	S8	Subtotal in Year 3 and 4	TOTAL
PhD Seminar	8	8	8	8	32	8	8	8	8	32	64
Dissertation Tutorial	-	4	4	4	12	10	10	10	10	40	52
Required-optional Course in Music/Musicology	20				20	-				-	20
Required-optional Course in the Humanities	12				12	-				-	12
Required-optional Non-Hungarian Course / International Activity	6				12	-				-	12
Electives	16				16	-				-	16
Conference Presentation / Publication	4				4	32				32	36
Research and Teaching Assistantship	12				12	16				16	28
Complex exam	-			0	0	-				-	0
Preliminary dissertation defence	-				-	-			0	0	0
					120					120	240

DLA two-year programs

Name of subject	S1	S2	S3	S4	TOTAL
Program-specific DLA Seminar	12	12	12	12	48
Individual Artistic Activity	8	8	8	8	32
Dissertation Tutorial	10	10	10	10	40
Complex exam	0	-			0
Preliminary dissertation defence	-			0	0
					120

PhD two-year program

Name of subject	S1	S2	S3	S4	TOTAL
PhD Seminar	8	8	8	8	32
Dissertation Tutorial	10	10	10	10	40
Conference Presentation / Publication	32				32
Research and Teaching Assistantship	16				16
Complex exam	0	-			-
Preliminary dissertation defence	-			0	0
					120



The **complex exam** is made up of two parts: 1) a lecture recital part (a 30-min concert + a 15-min presentation on the program of the concert), and 2) a dissertation part (a 20-min lecture on the dissertation proposal and a chapter or subchapter previously submitted for the exam).

The **preliminary defence** entails the submission and discussion of a dissertation chapter in front of a committee of three professors.

If all the credits are obtained and the preliminary doctoral defence is successful, the candidate has officially completed their studies as an enrolled student (ABD status), and has one year to submit their doctoral dissertation. After submission, the date of the doctoral defence is set.

DLA doctoral candidates, who must also give a concert as part of their doctoral defence, may choose to submit a short dissertation of about 80 pages and give a full-length (90 min) doctoral concert, or submit a long dissertation (of about 150 pages) and give a short concert of about 45 minutes.

Contact and further information

If you have any further questions or need more information, please contact us or consult our website (in Hungarian).

Doctoral office

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Website: <https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola>

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More information on application processes: <https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola-felveteli>,
<https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola-egyeni-felkeszules>

Degree authorization for applicants with international MA degrees: <https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola-felveteli/kulfoldi-felsofoku-vegzettseg-elismertetese-a-doktori-programokra-torteno-jelentkezéshez-110333>

Doctoral studies: <https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola/tanulmányi-tájékoztató-109148>

Doctoral exams: <https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola/a-komplex-vizsga-110978> (complex exam),
<https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola/a-muhelyvita-110977> (preliminary dissertation defence)

Defence procedure: <https://lfze.hu/doktori-iskola-fokozatszerzes>