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School of Therapeutic Sciences

Music Therapy (Master of Arts)

2 years (full-time)
120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

Program of Study Information

Music is the shorthand of emotion
Leo N. Tolstoi (1828 – 1910) Russian author

Music Therapy

Music Therapy is the evidence-based therapeutic use of music for promoting emotional, cognitive, social and physical integration and recovery. As an arts therapy approach it has the potential to contribute to activation, stabilization and recovery in the context of prevention, acute intervention, and rehabilitation. In both research and clinical practice, there is an increasing interest in music therapy approaches as an important addition to standard care.

The professional context of music therapists is not limited to traditional areas of practice such as psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, or special education. Music therapy is also applied in classical medicine and to an increasing degree in preventive care.

In recent decades music therapy has been established in the following fields:

- Psychiatry
- Psychosomatics and psychotherapy
- Neurology (early and general rehabilitation)
- Geriatrics
- Palliative and hospice care
- Pediatrics
- Intensive medicine centers (for example neonatology, oncology, pain) and sub-acute care facilities
- Psychosocial institutions for children and families with special needs, disabilities and early intervention
- Institutions of prevention and education (e.g., music schools, youth centers, kindergartens)

The School of Therapeutic Sciences

The School of Therapeutic Sciences offers degrees in traditional therapies (physiotherapy, occupational therapy) and arts therapies (music therapy, dance movement therapy).

Degrees in the School of Therapeutic Sciences were first accredited by the AHPGS (Accreditation Agency for Degree Programs in Health and Social Sciences) and the German Accreditation council and approved by the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Science and Arts in 2005.

Our philosophy: combine teaching, practice, and research under one umbrella

- **Teaching** – Music therapy, music, and psychology/medical subjects are aligned with a variety of topics and are combined with opportunities for the students to develop their therapeutic personality (e.g., music therapy experiential and self-experience groups)
- **Practice** – The music therapy outpatient center on campus and clinical placements (in cooperation with national and international partner facilities) offer training opportunities closely linked to everyday practice
- **Research/Science** – Our in-house psychophysiological laboratory and the collaborative research projects with national and international partners provide the opportunity for students to become familiar with and contribute to scientific work and research under the supervision of our scientists.

The interdisciplinary team of lecturers offers the ideal environment for studying in a field where music therapy, medicine, psychology, and music overlap.

International Network

We have a close-knit international network and cultivate the exchange of ideas and personnel with several teaching and research facilities working nationally and internationally in education, practice and research including:

- The Heidelberg University Hospitals (child and adolescent psychiatry, neonatology, pain and palliative care)
- IMC University; Krems, Austria
- Ohio State University, USA
- Temple University, Philadelphia, USA
- Colorado State University, Fort Collins, USA
- The University of Cadiz, Spain
- The University of Bergen, Norway
- The University of Louisville, USA
- Georgia College & State University, USA

Perspectives

Clinical Practice

The applied master's program qualifies the student for clinical practice, working with children and adults in the following core fields:

- Psychiatry
- Psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy
- Pediatrics, children and youth psychiatry and psychotherapy
- Neurology (early rehabilitation, rehabilitation, and psychosocial post-care)
- Pain, psycho-oncology, palliative care
- Trans- and interdisciplinary, evidence-based practice

This foundation allows students to transfer skills to other areas of practice.

Research

Research projects are conducted regularly at the School of Therapeutic Sciences. They are organized, carried out and published in close cooperation with universities, research centers and clinical partners. There is a particular interest in research evaluating music therapy treatment in the music therapy clinic within the School.

Students can collaborate on these projects, provided they have the necessary skills and interest, and can thereby qualify for a career in research. Together with our partners it is possible to offer cooperative doctoral studies.

The Studies

Quality education

We offer:

- Small study groups
- Competence model: competencies as required by employers and practice are the foundation of the curricular structure
- Five-week units aligned with one applied subject
- Transparent study organization with evaluation and clearly defined, competence-oriented exam settings specifically tailored to content
- Active learning methods, including case studies, seminars, group work, presentations, role-play, etc.
- Education partnership: academic/professional, organizational and personal support by mentors
- Specially-equipped facilities, including computer labs and practice rooms, allow media support for music notation, therapy analysis, etc.
- State-of-the-art musical equipment
- International study flair with student exchange with selected universities and clinics
- Opportunity for an individual focus within the study program
- Close collaboration between the music therapy outpatient center and programs of study
- Quality assurance through regular, confidential evaluation and open exchange between lecturers and students
- Insight into research projects within and beyond the School of Therapeutic Sciences
- Guest lecturers in the context of academic colloquia, teaching exchange or research partnerships

Curriculum

The applied master course of music therapy at the SRH University Heidelberg was developed within the framework of the European alignment and recognition of university degrees (Bologna Process) in 2005, adjusted and finally accredited in 2010. It offers graduates of artistic or psychosocial study programs a qualified education in music therapy.

In contrast to other master courses in Germany, this program is designed as a 2-year full-time program and generally begins in the winter semester on the 1st of October. The program is governed by the official program handbook. The study program contains 120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points, and concludes with a state-approved degree. The language of the program is English.

The applied master's program is anchored in the evidence-based practice model within medical and health science-related contexts. Students receive a comprehensive therapy education, including psychodynamic / depth psychology models, cognitive-behavioral approaches and systemic, humanistic and genuine arts-therapies approaches. Fundamental musical and clinical competencies are taught on the basis of manualized therapy concepts and practiced in small groups. The development of students' therapeutic personality is encouraged and supported by music therapy self-experience and therapy supervision.

The applied master's degree in music therapy contains the following modules:

- Module 1: Introduction to therapy sciences
- Module 2: Introduction to music therapy
- Module 3: Psychology Foundations
- Module 4: Fundamental instrumental skills
- Module 5: Clinical psychology I (psychotherapy approaches)
- Module 6: Clinical psychology II (psychiatry, psychosomatics & psychotherapy)
- Module 7: Neurology & quantitative research methods
- Module 8: Basic musical competencies
- Module 9: Clinical internship
- Module 10: Evidence-based clinical practice (pain)
- Module 11: Diagnostics & clinical practice with children
- Module 12: Arts therapies and specific applications
- Module 13: Advanced instrumental skills
- Module 14: Advanced internship (clinical or research)
- Module 15: Professionalization, law & ethics
- Module 16: Master's thesis

Clinical Training

Clinical training (300 hours under guidance and therapy supervision) provides an intense and exclusively practical experience beyond the classroom, accompanied closely by external mentors. These mentors are academically educated music therapists working in Germany and abroad.

Between the first and second year and in the middle of the second year, students are in their internships. The clinical internship may also be completed within one block from July to September at the end of the first year. The organization is handled by the students in consultation with the School. Every placement requires prior approval of the School.

Music instruction

During the two years on campus, all students receive mandatory lessons in percussion. Additionally, there will be supporting lessons for the elective instrument (guitar and/or piano) and voice.

Self-experience / Supervision

The master's course includes approximately 108 hours of group self-experience and approx. 40 hours of group supervision.

Information Days

Our university offers regular Information Days from January to September, where potential students can learn about studying at the SRH (**Master of Arts in Music Therapy**) in Heidelberg.

The information days are organized by lecturers and provide information on:

- Application and admission procedures
- Study content and structure
- The opportunities for financial counselling

The dates for this year are as follows:

Saturday, 18.01.20
Saturday, 08.02.20
Saturday, 14.03.20
Saturday, 16.05.20
Saturday, 20.06.20
Saturday, 18.07.20
Saturday, 19.09.20

Our lecturers will be there to answer individual questions. Furthermore, you can meet current students or arrange a date to visit particular lessons for an inside perspective into the studies. For more information and registration, please contact our secretary:

Helke Hubrich
+49 6221 6799-600
therapiewissenschaften@hochschule-heidelberg.de

Application and admission process

Application

Please apply via our online system <http://www.hochschule-heidelberg.de>

- Applications are accepted throughout the year
- Please scan transcripts, graduation certificates, and curriculum vitae. They will be uploaded in the process of online application.
- Documents in a foreign language require an attachment of an approved translation into German or English.

Admission Requirements

- A university degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, of at least six semesters' duration in one of the following disciplines: music/music studies, psychology, medicine, social pedagogy and similar degrees
- Please note: applicants will be required to show evidence of knowledge and skills in Western music theory
- Individual exceptions are possible, but require special approval
- Documented proof of good English skills (TOEFL /or similar)

For Applicants with non-German Graduation Certificates

In assessing foreign education certificates, SRH University Heidelberg follows the guidelines of the Central Office for Foreign Education. You will find country-specific information on foreign education certificates on the Central Office for Foreign Education website: <http://www.anabin.de/>

Language skills

Documented English skills (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS) are preferred.

Pre-Internship / Clinical placement

Candidates are advised to observe a music therapist at work in a clinical or therapeutic facility for about 4-6 weeks before applying, in order to assess their suitability for this line of work.

Assessment process

After we receive your completed application, we will invite you for an assessment. A successful assessment is a prerequisite for acceptance into the applied master's program in Music Therapy. Invitations for the assessment will be issued in written form.

For students in Germany, the assessment process takes half a day.

The dates for this year are as follows:

Thursday, 21.03.19
Friday, 17.05.19
Friday, 28.06.19
Monday, 22.07.19
Wednesday, 11.09.19

For students outside Germany, we offer an assessment via Skype; we will contact you concerning details.

a. Assessment Procedures

Welcome for applicants
Exam in Western music theory and aural skills
individual auditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● required instrument (Percussion) ● elective instrument (piano/guitar) ● individual instrument or voice
break
group examination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● music therapy group session
closing remarks

b. The assessment includes the following parts:

Written test: Western music theory and listening tasks

- Rhythmic dictation
- Harmonic dictation
- Melodic dictation
- Harmonization
- Transposition of a melody
- Cadences

Individual audition: mandatory instrument (percussion)

Recreating or improvising the following:

- Imitating improvisation (small drum)
- Variations in dialogue (drum set)
- Rhythmic improvisation (drum set)
- Sight-reading of a rhythmic sequence (Conga/Djembe)

Individual audition on elective instrument (piano/guitar) and primary instrument or voice*

Requirements:

- Artistic performance of a prepared piece of your choice on primary instrument or voice
- Accompanying oneself on instrument of choice (piano or guitar): sing a simple prepared song with chordal accompaniment.
- Spontaneous melodic improvisation on preferred instrument over an ostinato to be selected by auditioning faculty

*If the primary instrument is piano or guitar, it may serve as the instrument of choice for accompaniment. If the primary instrument is another instrument (e.g., cello) or voice, applicants must demonstrate basic skills on piano or guitar during the assessment

Individual Interview Topics

- Motivation for pursuing the study of music therapy
- Personal biographic topics

Music therapy group

Spontaneous responses to the following:

- Free group improvisation and group discussion
- Musical self-portrait (solo) and group reflection
- Musical interaction and group reflection

Note:

The course „Musiktherapie in Aktion“ at the Landesakademie Ochsenhausen, in cooperation with SRH Heidelberg, offers students insight and practical experience with the assessment tasks. For more information, visit: <http://www.landesakademie-ochsenhausen.de>

Cost and Financing

Tuition

The tuition fee is set at 690 EUR per month + one-time registration fee of 750 EUR or 1,000 EUR for applicants from countries with visa obligations. This is binding for the full length of the course. The cost of self-experience groups and supervision are included in this sum. Applicants from countries with visa obligation must pay fees in two installments: one before the study program starts and the other one after the first year.

Financial aid

Students of the SRH University Heidelberg can apply for scholarships, for example STIBET - a scholarship and support programme – is financed by funds from the German Foreign Office and serves for improved support and scholarships of international students. Eligible are all degree-seeking students enrolled in Bachelor or Master programmes.

You can find further information on various kinds of DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) funding for foreign students, graduates and postdocs as well as on funding offered by other selected organisations under <https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/>.

The International Office of the SRH University Heidelberg can offer support and advice to students applying for scholarships.

Accommodation

For help with accommodation during the assessment process, please contact:

- Jugendherberge Heidelberg International (Youth hostel)
Telefon 06221 – 41 20 66
Telefax 06221 – 40 25 59
www.jugendherberge.de
- Tourist Information
Telefon 06221 – 44444
Fax 06221 – 46 44444
www.heidelberg-marketing.de
- Gästezimmer-Zentrale
Telefon/Fax 06221 – 16 03 63
www.gaestezimmer-zentrale.de

Questions?

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