

# Entrance Examination for Master of Music Program in China

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## Abstract

Music major is one of the important art subjects in colleges and universities. There are currently 138 colleges and universities in the country recruiting master's degree students in music major. With the increase in the number of colleges and universities enrolling students for music master's degree in my country, in order to improve their learning efficiency, professional skills and examination success rate, more and more candidates will enter music postgraduate entrance training institutions or specifically ask relevant professional teachers for tutoring and study, and strengthen their theoretical knowledge and professional skill. However, most candidates will choose a music postgraduate entrance examination training institution that suits them, and systematically receive professional theoretical learning and professional skills training from the training institution. This article presented the Entrance Examination for Master of Music Program in China.

**Keywords:** Entrance Examination; Master of Music Program; China

## Introduction

Postgraduate education shoulders the important mission of cultivating high-level talents and innovation and creation. It is an important cornerstone of national development and social progress, and the basic layout for coping with global talent competition. Since the reform and opening up, especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, my country's postgraduate education has developed rapidly and has become a major country in postgraduate education in the world. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The demand for high-level innovative talents in all walks of life is more urgent, and the status and role of postgraduate education have become more prominent. Postgraduate entrance examination training is to improve candidates' chances and admission rate of entering postgraduate studies in colleges and universities. As an important part of aesthetic education, music education is an integral part of promoting the all-round development of young people. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized: "We must strive to build an education system that comprehensively cultivates moral, intellectual, physical, artistic and labor skills, and form a high-level talent training system." Further improve music education and improve students' musical literacy and aesthetics with beautiful melodies and moving notes. View. Help students establish core socialist values and promote the healthy growth of young people into socialist builders and successors with comprehensive development of morality, intelligence, physical and aesthetic development (Sui, 2022).

## **Entrance Examination for Master of Music Program in China**

### **Main enrollment institutions for Master of Music**

Colleges and universities and scientific research institutions are units that recruit and train master's degree students, aiming to cultivate students who love the motherland, support the leadership of the Communist Party of China, support the socialist system, abide by laws and regulations, have good moral character, have a sense of social responsibility to serve the country and the people, and master High-level academic professionals with solid basic theories and systematic professional knowledge of this discipline, innovative spirit, innovative ability and the ability to engage in scientific research, teaching, management and other work, as well as strong ability to solve practical problems and the ability to undertake professional and technical tasks Or management work, high-level application-oriented professionals with good professional qualities. As of 2023, there are a total of 138 music master's colleges in the country , including 11 music conservatories, 7 art colleges, 6 national universities, and 40 normal universities . Referring to the 2023 Ruanke China University Major Ranking Data, for majors such as music performance, musicology, composition and composition technology theory , music education, popular music , music therapy, etc., the master's degree in music is evaluated from the perspective of school conditions, discipline support, professional student sources, and professional conditions. Measurement and comparison of the teaching strength of recruiting colleges. Those with stronger comprehensive teaching capabilities are the Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music and Shanghai Conservatory of Music. According to the comparison of the teaching quality of music majors, the institutions with stronger music performance majors are the Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Wuhan Conservatory of Music and Xinghai Conservatory of Music. Universities with strong musicology majors are Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, Xinghai Conservatory of Music, Tianjin Conservatory of Music, Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, as well as Northeast Normal University, Hunan Normal University, Ningbo University, Fujian Normal University, East China Normal University , Capital Normal University and other comprehensive universities. Universities with strong majors in composition and composition technology theory are the Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Wuhan Conservatory of Music, etc. Universities with strong music education majors are China Conservatory of Music and Xinghai Conservatory of Music. Universities with strong pop music majors are Nanjing University of the Arts and Guangxi University of the Arts. Universities with strong music therapy majors are Wuhan Conservatory of Music and Sichuan Conservatory of Music (Wang, 2017).

### **Main enrollment majors and employment destinations for Master of Music**

The music master's degree enrollment major is under the category of "Art" (13) , with two first-level disciplines of "Music and Dance" (1302) and "Art" ( 1351) , as well as Music and Dance ( 130200 ) , There are five secondary disciplines : Musicology ( 1302L1 ) , Musicology ( 1302Z1 ) , Sound Science and Art ( 1302Z1 ) , and Music (135101 Professional Degree) . The main major directions for postgraduate entrance examinations in music are: musicology, music and dance, music education, music art management, composition technology and composition technology theory, music performance, music therapy, music psychology, recording art, music subject education, vision Singing ear training and its education, Western music history and education, music aesthetics and criticism, music

anthropology, world music, music psychology, music education theory research, composition theory, Chinese music research, Western music research, music drama research, etc. . After graduating with a master's degree in music, you can engage in related work in various types of music research fields such as music education, music therapy, music theory, composition, performance, music industry, music technology, music culture, etc. to show your professional talents. Among them, students with a master's degree in musicology can work as music theory researchers, cultural and sports bureaus, various government departments TV stations, radio editors, music commentators, media company music agents, music planners, music supervisors, music producers, music project management, Music magazine editor, primary and secondary school music teacher, preschool teacher, cultural palace, children's palace teacher, higher education teacher, full-time music teacher, etc. The music education major cultivates and creates specialized talents with good musical literacy and teaching abilities that meet the needs of the construction of a socialist market economy and educational reform and development. Through the study of this major, you can adapt to the development requirements of teachers' professionalism, systematically master the basic theories and methods of music education, have the ability to use the learned knowledge to analyze, solve practical problems and conduct teaching research, and be able to engage in new aspects of music education in primary and secondary schools. Education and teaching work after curriculum reform . Students with a master's degree in music education can serve as music teachers in schools, community arts organizations, or private education institutions, teaching music theory, performance techniques, vocal music, and composition. Master's students majoring in music performance can work as singers in media companies, singers in song and dance theaters, choirs, local cultural and sports bureaus, cultural entertainment media companies, philharmonic orchestras, symphony orchestras, local orchestras, personal studios, etc. Master's students majoring in music engineering and music production can engage in music design and production of popular music creation, radio and television, film, animation, animation, games, electronic equipment, personal studios, teaching work, etc. Music therapy is a field that combines music and psychology. Graduates of this major can work in music therapy in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and other places. Music can be used to help patients relieve stress, restore memory, and even improve speech and motor function. Music theory is a field that combines mathematics and music, and students can pursue music theory research in universities or research institutions after graduation. They can study aspects of musical structure, pattern, rhythm, and harmony and apply these theories to composition, performance, and teaching. Graduates of the Master of Music Composition Technology Theory can use their composition skills to engage in music creation in fields including film, television, advertising, and games. They can create musical works that fit specific themes and brand images according to the needs of their clients. May serve as a performer in a large symphony orchestra, chamber music group, or university orchestra. They can showcase their musical talents through playing and collaborate with musicians from different cultural backgrounds. You can work in the music industry as a record producer, music manager, or music publisher. They can interact with all areas of the music industry and promote and promote emerging musicians. Careers are available in music technology areas such as music software and hardware development, audio engineering, and music production. They can drive change in the music industry through innovation and technology. You can engage in music culture research in music museums or other cultural venues to explore the

development of music in different cultural and historical environments. You can serve as a planner or executive at music festivals or other music cultural events to promote new ideas and concepts in the field of music research (Wang, 2009).

### **Registration and examination for Master of Music**

According to the "2024 National Master's Degree Enrollment Management Regulations" issued by the Ministry of Education in September 2023, the national master's degree enrollment is based on the principles of on-demand enrollment, comprehensive measurement, merit-based admission, and preferring shortage over excess. The enrollment targets are mainly fresh undergraduate graduates with nationally recognized academic qualifications, undergraduate graduates, and candidates with academic abilities equivalent to undergraduate graduates. Registration includes two stages: online registration and online confirmation. All candidates taking the master's degree admissions examination must register online. The state determines the annual enrollment plan based on economic and social development needs. The enrollment unit determines the number of students enrolled in each discipline (category) and major (field) based on the enrollment plan issued by the state, social needs and school running conditions. The online pre-registration time for the National Master's Degree Admissions Examination is September every year, and the online registration time is October every year. Those who sign up to participate in the National Postgraduate Admissions Examination must be citizens of the People's Republic of China who support the leadership of the Communist Party of China, have good moral character, abide by laws and regulations, and whose physical health meets the physical examination requirements stipulated by the country and the admissions unit. The academic level of the candidates must meet the following One of the four conditions: (1) Fresh undergraduate graduates with nationally recognized academic qualifications (including fresh undergraduate graduates from general colleges and universities, adult colleges, and adult higher education held by general colleges and universities) and self-study examinations and online education can graduate undergraduates at that time. Candidates must obtain a nationally recognized undergraduate diploma or an "Overseas (Overseas) Academic Degree Certification" issued by the Ministry of Education's Study Abroad Service Center before enrolling in the year of admission. (2) Persons with a nationally recognized undergraduate degree. (3) Those who have graduated from a nationally recognized higher vocational college for 2 years (from graduation to the day of admission in the year of admission) or more than 2 years, as well as undergraduate graduates with nationally recognized academic qualifications, meet the requirements of the admissions unit according to this unit If the training objectives have specific academic requirements for candidates, they should apply according to their undergraduate degree equivalent status. (4) Persons who have obtained a master's degree, a doctoral degree or a degree. Applications for in-service postgraduate students must obtain the consent of the training unit before registration. Those who sign up for the individual examination are required to have worked continuously for more than 4 years after obtaining a nationally recognized undergraduate degree, have excellent business, have published research papers (technical reports) or have become the backbone of the business, and must be approved by the candidate's unit and two people with senior majors. Recommended by experts with technical professional titles, in-service personnel who return to the original unit for employment; or those who have worked for more than 2 years after obtaining a master's degree or doctorate degree and have excellent business, with the consent of the candidate's unit and the

recommendation of two experts with senior professional and technical titles, return to the original employer Employees who are targeted for employment by the unit. The recommendation and acceptance methods for recommended and exempted students shall be formulated and announced by the recommending schools and accepting units in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Ministry of Education. All recommended and exempted students have the right to independently choose the admissions units and majors to apply for in accordance with the admissions policies. All recommended and exempted places in recommended schools (except for special plans with special policy requirements) can be recommended to other admissions units. All disciplines (categories) and majors (fields) that accept applications from fresh undergraduate graduates according to regulations can accept recommended students, but they cannot only accept recommended students. Candidates who are eligible for recommended exemption must log in to the "National Recommended Exemption Postgraduate Information Disclosure and Management Service System" (Website: <https://yz.chsi.com.cn/tm>) to fill in their application and participate in the re-examination within the time specified by the state (Jiang et al., 2020).

The master's degree admissions examination is conducted in two stages: preliminary examination and re-examination, from which candidates who meet the admission requirements for master's degree and meet the score line for the year are selected. Both the preliminary examination and the re-examination are important components of the postgraduate admissions examination, for example: the postgraduate admissions examination items of 11 music conservatories in China. The preliminary examination is organized by the state, and the re-examination is organized by the admissions unit itself. The initial examination methods are divided into national unified examination (including joint examination), individual examination and recommended exemption. The Education Examination Authority of the Ministry of Education is responsible for unified propositions for some or all of the national unified examination subjects, while other examination subjects are determined by the admissions units themselves. Individual examinations are conducted by admissions units with independent examination qualifications. Candidates must meet specific registration conditions. The examination subjects are set independently by the admissions unit, entrusted to other admissions units, or use nationally unified test questions. Recommendation exemption refers to the selection method in which, in accordance with relevant national policies, outstanding fresh undergraduate graduates of the school recommended by some institutions of higher learning and other candidates who meet relevant regulations will be directly assessed by the admissions unit for re-examination after their qualifications for exemption from the preliminary examination are confirmed. The initial examination for master's degree admissions is generally held in December each year. The initial examinations are all written examinations. Generally, there are four unit examination subjects, namely ideological and political theory (100 points), foreign language (100 points), business class one (150 points) and business class two (150 points). The examination time for each subject is generally 3 hours. Ideological and political theory and foreign languages are nationally unified subjects for the postgraduate entrance examination. Foreign languages include English (I), English (II), Russian, Japanese, and German. The content scope and score of the ideological and political theory assessment are usually 24 points for an introduction to the basic principles of Marxism, 30 points for an introduction to Mao Zedong Thought and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, 14 points for an outline of

modern Chinese history, and 14 points for ideological and moral cultivation and legal foundation questions. 16 points, 16 points for questions on situation and policy and contemporary world economy and politics. The question types and scores of the English 1 test are usually 10 points for multiple-choice cloze questions, 40 points for reading comprehension questions A, 10 points for reading comprehension questions B (New question type), 10 points for translation questions, 20 points for large essays, and 10 points for short essays. point. English II test questions increase the score of translation questions and reduce the score of large essays. Specifically, cloze multiple-choice questions are worth 10 points, reading comprehension questions A are 40 points, reading comprehension questions B (i.e. new question types) are worth 10 points, and translation questions are worth 10 points. 15 points for a major essay and 10 points for a short essay. The basic knowledge of the Japanese test questions accounts for 20 points; the first part of the reading comprehension is four articles, each article has 5 questions, each question is 2 points, a total of 40 points, the second part is translation, Japanese to Chinese, choose 5 questions from an article A sentence, each question is worth 3 points, a total of 15 points; an essay is worth 25 points. The re-examination is an important part of the master's degree admissions examination. It is used to test the candidates' innovative ability, professionalism and comprehensive quality. It is a necessary part of the admission of master's degree students. Those who fail the re-examination will not be admitted. The time, location, content, method, results use method, organization and management of the re-examination shall be determined independently by the admissions unit in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Ministry of Education. The re-examination methods and procedures will be announced by the admissions unit. In principle, admissions units should strengthen the management of the re-examination process by prescribing multiple sets of test questions and arranging candidates to randomly select test questions. All re-examination work is generally completed before the end of April of the year of admission. Postgraduate admissions are based on the "national line" and "self-marking" scores of the year. The study methods for master's degree students are divided into full-time and part-time. The examination and admission are based on the unified requirements of the country and the same policies and standards are implemented. There are two types of employment options for master's degree students: targeted employment and non-directed employment. Master's students with targeted employment are employed according to targeted contracts; master's students with non-directed employment are employed according to a two-way choice between themselves and the employer (Chen, 2013).

### **Admission scores for Master of Music**

The postgraduate entrance examination areas are generally divided into two categories. The state determines the basic score requirements for candidates to participate in the re-examination according to the first and second categories: Category I (Area A): Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Hebei, Shanxi, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Anhui, Jiangxi, Chongqing, Sichuan and Shaanxi 21 provinces (cities). Category II (Area B): 10 provinces (regions) including Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Hainan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang. The score lines required for the postgraduate entrance examination in each type of area are different. Type one corresponds to the line in area A, and type two corresponds to the line in area B. Area A has higher requirements and area B has lower requirements. In 2023, the national score line for the music and dance postgraduate entrance examination is 362 points

in area A and 352 points in area B. Students who choose the music and dance major to take the postgraduate entrance examination need to understand the relevant situation of the national postgraduate entrance examination scores for music and dance in previous years, and do a good job Mental preparation. According to data related to the re-examination scores for master's degree students released by the China Conservatory of Music, in 2022, there are 29 majors for master's students at the China Conservatory of Music, and the lowest re-examination score is 278 points in the music acoustics direction. In 2023, the admission score for postgraduate students majoring in art and art at the China Conservatory of Music is 362 points, of which ideological and political theory and English requirements are no less than 40 points, and professional subjects are no less than 60 points. Compared with the admission score in 2022, the admission score has increased by 1 point. There is no change in the subject score requirements; the admission score for graduate students majoring in education is 350 points, of which ideological and political theory and English requirements are no less than 51 points, and professional subjects are no less than 77 points (Wang, 2015).

The special majors of Shanghai Conservatory of Music include musicology, composition and composition technology theory, music performance, recording art, etc. According to the preliminary test score requirements for master's admissions entering the re-examination approved by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music's master's re-examination work meeting in March 2022, the academic master's degree in art theory requires a minimum initial test score of 361 points, a cultural single subject score of not less than 40 points, and a professional foundation The score must be no less than 105 points. The academic master's degree in music and dance requires a minimum preliminary examination score of 361 points, a cultural single subject score of no less than 40 points, and a professional basic score of no less than 105 points. The professional master's degree in music requires a minimum preliminary examination score of 361 points, a cultural single subject score of no less than 40 points, and a professional basic score of no less than 105 points. There are also some academic majors that require a minimum initial test score of 382 points. In 2022, 14 full-time academic master's students majoring in drama and film and television at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music will participate in the re-examination, and 12 people are planned to be admitted, with an admission rate of approximately 86%. There are 29 academic master's students majoring in art theory who participated in the re-examination, and 19 are planned to be admitted, with the admission rate being about 66%. There are 247 academic master's students in music taking the re-examination, and 143 are planned to be admitted, with the admission rate being about 58%. There are 10 part-time postgraduate students majoring in music who will take the re-examination, 9 of whom are planned to be admitted, and 28 people who are admitted through transfer, and a total of 37 people are planned to be admitted. There are 2 part-time single-entry master's degree students in music taking the re-examination, and 2 are planned to be admitted. The Central Conservatory of Music has two national specialty majors, namely musicology and music performance. It is understood that the Central Conservatory of Music does not value individual undergraduate institutions, but as a top-ranked music institution, it is more difficult to apply for every year than all other music conservatories, and the number of students enrolled is limited. Each tutor only recruits 2-3 places, and some tutors even only Recruiting one person or enrolling students every other year greatly increases the difficulty of the exam due to fierce competition. According to relevant statistics from the Ministry of Education and the In-Service Postgraduate Admissions Information Network: the number of

postgraduate applicants in 2000 was 392,000, and by 2010 it reached 1.406 million. Since 2016, the number of postgraduate applicants has increased significantly, reaching 1.77 million. The number of applicants for the postgraduate entrance examination in 2020 was 3.41 million, which increased to 4.74 million in 2023, an increase of 12 times compared with the number of applicants in 2000. It can be seen that the number of applicants for the postgraduate entrance examination nationwide continues to grow slowly. When the number of applicants increases significantly but the growth rate of enrollment is small, the ratio of master's student applications to admissions will increase, and the competition for the postgraduate entrance examination will become more intense. Combined with the master's degree enrollment plans of various universities, the enrollment ratio in 2023 will be expanded to 4:1, which means that only 20% of students will be admitted to the master's degree program, and the admission ratio of better schools will be even lower. . Let's look at the enrollment and enrollment situation of art master's degree students. Taking the three years from 2017 to 2019 as an example, the number of applicants nationwide in 2017 was 2.01 million, the total number of admissions was 714,000, and the number of art postgraduate entrance examinations was 2.41 million, accounting for 3.34% of the total number of recruits nationwide. In 2018, the number of applicants nationwide was 2.38 million, and the total number of admissions was 755,400. The number of admissions for the art postgraduate entrance examination was 26,100, accounting for 3.46 % of the total number of admissions nationwide. In 2019, the number of applicants nationwide was 2.9 million, and the total number of admissions was 803,800. The number of admissions for the art postgraduate entrance examination was 27,900, accounting for 3.47 % of the total number of admissions nationwide (Tang, & Cai, 2022).

## Conclusion

In addition to the surge in the number of recent college graduates, the number of postgraduate entrance examinations has also increased. There are two main reasons for the increase in the number of postgraduate entrance examinations: First, the number of college students is increasing and it is difficult to find employment. According to statistics, there are expected to be 10.76 million college graduates in 2022, and the number of graduates has exceeded 10 million for the first time. From the data on the employment destination of college graduates from 2021 to 2022, it is found that more and more fresh graduates choose to take the postgraduate entrance examination . Judging from the proportion of employment destinations of college graduates in the class of 2021-2022, the number of graduates in the class of 2022 who choose to take the postgraduate entrance examination is gradually increasing, accounting for 40.78%, an increase of 6.57% compared to the class of 2021. On the other hand, the proportion of those choosing corporate employment has increased. Declining, the proportion of enterprise employment of college graduates in 2022 was 34.21%, a decrease of 7.15 percentage points compared with the same period in 2021. In addition, the proportion of 2022 college graduates admitted to civil servants/public institutions accounted for 17.57%; entrepreneurship, further study abroad, and others accounted for 4.25%, 2.07%, and 1.12% respectively. Taken together, the employment rate of graduates in enterprises is on a downward trend, and they are more inclined to take various tracks such as postgraduate entrance examinations, public examinations, and editing examinations to improve themselves. Second, the talent demand for jobs in state-owned enterprises and institutions is increasingly

leaning toward graduate degrees. In the post-epidemic era, many companies have been hit by the epidemic. Layoffs and salary cuts are common. Some unemployed people fled from the company and devoted themselves to postgraduate entrance examinations. Others found that the room for improvement was limited after working for one or two years and took the initiative to resign to take postgraduate entrance examinations. Own. In addition, with the popularization of higher education, state-owned enterprises and institutions have increasingly higher academic requirements for employees. The thresholds set by enterprises and the competitive pressure of society have led to intensified employment competition, and improving academic qualifications has become a priority for more and more people need.

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