inholland
university of
applied sciences

Pop Music

Course guide 2026-2027

Semester	Fall (semester 1)
Inholland location(s)	Haarlem
Inholland faculty	Creative Business
Language of instruction	English
Cycle	Bachelor level
Number of ECTS	30

Subjects

There is a set of classes/project that everyone will follow:

- Skills and Year Band (16 EC)
    - Main instrument
    - Improv (with Year Band)
    - Studio session (with Year Band)
    - Patronaat session (with Year Band)
- Session Band (2 EC)
- Experiweek (1 EC)
- International Writers Camp (1 EC)
- Branding & Marketing (1 EC)

Then, depending on your main instrument:

- Vocal Ensemble (vocalists)
- Drum & Bass (drummers & bassists)
- Group Session Keys (keyboard players)

Furthermore, you can select 6 elective courses from the list below:

- Second Instrument (drums, bass, git, keys or vocals) (2 EC)
- Musical Style Knowledge (1 EC)
- Roots (music history/cultural context) (1 EC)
- Composition (3 EC)
- Songwriting (3 EC)
- Stage Performance (1 EC)
- Ableton (1 EC)
- Sightreading (1 EC)
- Audio Recording (2 EC)
- Digital Audio (2 EC)

Content subjects

This exchange package offers the international exchange student a great selection of (English spoken) classes from the 2nd and 3rd year of our Pop program. During weekly individual sessions, the focus will be on the main instrument: apart from drums, bass guitar, guitar, piano/keys and vocals, we also offer a pop education for brass (trumpet, trombone, and saxophone). There are also several ensemble classes per instrument.

Furthermore there will be several band projects with varying themes/assignments, studio sessions, and live performances inside and outside of school. Other classes include Improvisation, Songwriting, Digital Audio, Piano Workshop, and a strong emphasis on Entrepreneurship. We organize an International Writers Camp in fall and a national edition in spring.

Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes revolve around enhancement of the development and inspiration with regards to the professional profiles as described below:

Artist/Performer
You build your career through your own repertoire, written by you or a third party. Visibility in the live scene and (social) media attributes to your fame and reputation in order to reach the biggest possible audience. You operate as an independent entrepreneur and establish agreements with parties in the music industry that can offer you their specific services such as labels, publishers, managers and agents. You hire musicians and crew members to support you on stage or in the studio. You mainly generate your income through the three pillars for an artist/performer: live revenue, album sales and royalties.

Session Musician
You are a professional all-round musician who is deployable in many different ways, both in the studio as well as in a live music environment. You master a great diversity of genres, can switch rapidly between these, and you are fast at studying music and performing it according to the specific wishes of a client. You have a broad network of studios, labels, publishers, managers, artists and fellow session musicians. As an independent entrepreneur you generate your income for the most part through being hired by a variety of clients as well as through your related rights.

Songwriter/Composer
You are very skilled at writing music and lyrics. You are outwardly oriented and know what is going on in the market. You perform your own compositions but just as well might sell them to third parties through a publisher or by commission. You function as an independent entrepreneur, earning your money through assignments as well as royalties.

Mode of delivery, planned activities and teaching methods
Depends on class. For example:
- Individual sessions
- Band projects
- Lectures
- Workshops
- Studio sessions

Prerequisites and co-requisites
Student needs to be able to have adequate instrument skills and experience in order to function in 2nd and 3rd year band projects with matching musical theory and harmonic insight.
Regarding this, the applicant will send audio and video footage to Conservatorium Haarlem upon which the decision to admit or decline the applicant will be based.

Recommended or required reading and/or other learning recourses/tools
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Assessment methods and criteria
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Lecturer(s)
t.b.a.