



Course objectives and process outline for the two-year graduate studies in Lute
Docente: Jadran Duncumb

Objectives

The course is aimed at students who have reached a level on their instruments that allows them to go into greater depth into specialised areas of the repertoire they want to focus on in their careers. At the end of the two years the student should have an excellent technical and musical basis and deep knowledge of performance practical sources in the fields they wish to pursue professionally. The lessons will focus on developing an efficient methodology for approaching new repertoire, learning it on the instrument and making informed interpretative choices. A graduate of the course should be equipped to delve into new areas of repertoire confidently, critically appraising their approach to the music, and knowing what to research if necessary and how to do it. In other words, they should be able to continue their lifelong musical development without the need for regular lessons.

Process

A postgraduate degree will by its nature have a less well-defined curriculum than the Bachelor. Students will already have an idea of which path they want to take. Even more so than in the undergraduate course, the professor's role is to be a guide, helping the student develop their own unique and independent musical personality, questioning and discussing the student's choices, providing new information and pointing to areas of research that may influence the student's interpretative choices. At the same time, to ensure an excellent technical and musical basis that make it possible for the student to employ as many musical parameters as possible, it is also the teacher's responsibility to try to help the student in areas they are weaker relevant to their field of study.

Over the two years the students will work in depth on repertoire both of their own choosing and music that the teacher believes will help them along their chosen path. Working in depth on repertoire will not only entail preparing specific pieces for performance, but also on finding both technical and musical problems and solutions within them that can be applied to repertoire the lutenist may meet in the future. At the same time, as in the undergraduate course, students will be encouraged to perform as often as possible, both within the school remit and outside. Students will from the first year discuss the repertoire they want to perform for their final Master recital, and this will influence repertoire decisions over the course of the two years - even if not all of it will be performed at the end. However, as master students often already have embarked on professional careers, repertoire relevant to these will be welcomed in lessons, even at short notice. The course needs to work with and boost students' professional careers rather than fight against it.

15 hours per annum are dedicated to *basso continuo*. Work here will focus on developing an effective, philological, and musical continuo style that suits the students chosen instrument, bringing its strengths in each scenario to the fore. Lessons will include a technical approach where a basso continuo line can be analysed and a realisation discussed, but students will also be encouraged to bring songs and chamber music with all the musicians present where the lessons will have a more practical approach to the continuo-realisation.