

## FAQs

### How long has the school been in existence?

The school opened in 2000 with a general education programme. The vocational school has existed since 2003. The Wacken Metal Academy since 2020.

### What is the aim of the vocational training programme?

After completing the two-year training programme, graduates enter a diverse professional world. They play as live and studio musicians or for theatre and musical productions; work as composers and songwriters or as music teachers. Very good contacts in the music scene make pop careers possible.

### How do I apply?

You can apply online. The application documents consist of: School report, CV, current photo, meaningful demos (2 pieces of different styles).

### What experience should I have?

Very good knowledge of the main instrument, basic knowledge of the secondary instrument and basic knowledge of functional harmony.

### Do I have to have a university entrance qualification to be accepted at the HAMBURG SCHOOL OF MUSIC/WACKEN METAL ACADEMY?

No, if your musical performance is convincing, a secondary school leaving certificate is sufficient.

### When is the application deadline?

31st of May each year

### When does the vocational training programme start?

The academic year begins on the 1st October and ends on the 30th September of the following year.

### How long does the vocational training programme last?

2 years. If a preparatory year is added and a pedagogical or artistic year is added, the vocational training programme is extended to a total of 4 years.

### Is there any preparation for the vocational training programme?

Yes, the preparatory year.

### How much does the vocational training programme cost?

The tuition fees are 640 euros per month.

### Is the HAMBURG SCHOOL OF MUSIC/WACKEN METAL ACADEMY state-recognised?

Yes, the HAMBURG SCHOOL OF MUSIC/WACKEN METAL ACADEMY is a vocational school, state-recognised as a supplementary school according to §12 of the HmbSfTG.

### Is the course BAföG-recognised?

Yes.

### What qualification will I receive after my training?

Professional qualification as a "Professional musician in the field of popular music OR in the field of metal".

### How many lessons are there?

Min. 20 hours of compulsory attendance per week.

### What are the main subjects?

Vocals, drums, percussion, guitar, bass, piano, music production, violin, saxophone

**What other subjects are there?**

Band training, harmony and ear training, rhythm & groove, read & sing, songwriting, studio training and music production, rock/pop/metal repertoire, pedagogy, arranging, music history classical / jazz / pop, rock, metal, open counselling, stage performance, music & business.

**What are the minor subjects?**

The minor subject piano is compulsory. Students with piano as their main subject have a free choice of minor subjects.

**Is there additional training in the pedagogical field?**

Yes, after completing the two-year vocational training programme, it is possible to complete a third year of study, the so-called pedagogical year, with a focus on pedagogy, didactics and teaching methodology.

**Can non-graduates of the HAMBURG SCHOOL OF MUSIC/WACKEN METAL ACADEMY also take part in the pedagogical year?**

No.

**What do I have to do for the practical part of the exam?**

Three pieces must be prepared for the practical examination: Autumn leaves as a swing version and two pieces from the rock/pop genre (one of which should preferably be an original composition). For the practical exam at the WACKEN METAL ACADEMY, three pieces from the rock/metal genre must be prepared. For HSM/WMA: These can be performed with backing band, own band or solo with playback. During the audition, emphasis is placed on personal expression, stylistic confidence, spontaneity, flexibility and musicality.

**Can I take part in the entrance exam more than once?**

Yes, you can take the exam twice.

**Do I have to be able to play more than one instrument when I apply?**

No, but piano as a minor subject is compulsory during the programme (except for pianists).

**What literature will prepare me for the programme?**

We recommend Jazz-Harmonielehre by Frank Sikora.

**Is there a semester ticket?**

No, but a monthly or annual student ticket can be purchased.

**If my previous knowledge is not sufficient - how can I prepare?**

If you have gaps in music theory and/or your main subject, you can apply to take part in the preparatory year. Applicants from Hamburg can also take lessons at our general music school to prepare for the entrance examination. The fifteen-week theory crash course, which begins in January, explicitly prepares students for the requirements of the theory entrance examination.

**What happens to the graduates of the HAMBURG SCHOOL OF MUSIC?**

They are on tour, play as live and studio musicians, for theatre and musical productions such as "Wicked", "The Lion King" and "Mamma Mia!", they work as composers (including film and advertising) and songwriters or work as music teachers.

**What qualifications do the teachers have?**

The team of teachers consists of renowned musicians as well as qualified music teachers in the field of pedagogy.

**Can I also learn music with you outside of vocational training?**

A general music school with an extensive range of lessons is attached to the vocational school.

**Can I study music intensively for a year without any professional ambitions?**

Yes: this is exactly what the orientation year is for.

**Can I study music alongside my job?**

Yes: This is exactly what the HSM-Experience / WMA-Experience is designed for.

**Is it possible to attend courses as a guest student?**

It is not possible to attend as a guest student as part of the full-time programme. However, it is possible to take part in open workshops. See Social Media.