

FAQ String Quartet Course 2024-2025

Who can apply for the String Quartet programme?

The programme is open to pre-established ensembles committed to pursuing a concert career.

What are the differences between the Annual Course (AC) and the Stauffer Performance Diploma (SPD)?

The main differences are:

- a) Duration: the SPD is a three-year course that allows you to plan your training and artistic path at Stauffer over a longer period, subject to passing midterm examinations; the duration can be shortened to two years, in agreement with the professors and the academic director.
- b) Attendance: the SPD is structured in 10 monthly sessions (instead of 8 of the AC), with priority access to supplementary activities such as masterclasses, artistic projects, international exchanges and concert opportunities. Attendance modes of each session are the same for both courses.
- c) Midterm, end-of-year and diploma examinations: the SPD requires midterm and end-of-year exams (passing which you are automatically enrolled in the following year), and a final diploma exam at the end of the entire course. In the AC, each year ends with the last session; groups interested in attending further ACs will have to submit their application and their admission will be decided by the professors after the entrance exams of the new groups have been completed.
- d) Destination: the AC is open also to pre-established string and piano trios, while the SPD is reserved exclusively for string quartets.

What do the SPD examinations consist of?

The midterm and end-of-year examinations will entail performances at the Sala Stradivari of the Stauffer Academy or at alternative venues; music programmes will be agreed with the professors. The diploma exam at the end of the course is based on an artistic project proposed by the graduating group, involving a public concert to be held in the presence of a commission of artists and music operators.

Are there separate admission exams for each course?

No, the admission exam is the same for both courses.

How many ensembles can be admitted to the SPD?

The SPD is reserved for a limited number of ensembles. Their number will be defined by the professors and the academic director on a yearly basis.

We are Stauffer students and have attended the annual course in the latest academic year. If we want to access the SPD, will our previous year(s) of attendance be recognized?

Sure; the professors and the academic director will consider individual cases and will define the overall duration of the SPD course, also based on the continuity of attendance in recent years.

Do we have to specify the course we wish to enroll in?

When submitting your application, you can express your preference for either course by sending an e-mail to accademia@stauffer.org.

If we are not admitted to the SPD, will we lose the opportunity to enroll in the annual course?

Absolutely not: if, on the basis of the ranking list of the admission exams, you cannot access the SPD course, admission to the AC may be considered.

What do the supplementary activities consist of?

Each year, in addition to sessions with the Quartetto di Cremona, the programme includes a series of supplementary activities:

- masterclasses with distinguished guest professors;
- ample opportunities for public performances, from session recitals organized monthly at the Academy's Sala Stradivari, to concerts organized by institutions with which the Academy collaborates;
- the opportunity to record your performances at the Academy;
- the opportunity of being selected for residencies abroad resulting from exchange projects between the Stauffer Academy and major international educational institutions.

Who can access the supplementary activities?

All the ensembles that attend the SPD and the AC.

What is the "Ad Hoc" Quartet formula?

This formula is aimed at pre-established ensembles who want to get to know the Stauffer programme or participate in a masterclass with the Quartetto di Cremona. The admitted ensembles will have the opportunity to attend up to a maximum of two sessions of the annual course. It will also be possible to register for this formula during the academic year, by submitting a video recording, subject to the professors' availability.

If you have any further doubts or questions, please let us know at accademia@stauffer.org.