



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS
of WINE

STUDENT GUIDE

& STUDY PROGRAMME REGULATIONS 2019-2020

The Institute of Masters of Wine

Promoting excellence, interaction and
learning across the global wine community.

Established 1955

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STUDENT GUIDE

& STUDY PROGRAMME REGULATIONS 2019—2020



CONTENTS

07	WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN
09	ABOUT THE IMW
15	THE MW STUDY PROGRAMME
25	STAGE ONE
39	STAGE TWO
53	INTRODUCTION TO THE REVISED 2019-2020 MW STUDY PROGRAMME SYLLABUS
57	2019-2020 MW STUDY PROGRAMME SYLLABUS
71	STAGE THREE
79	SETTING AND MARKING OF THE EXAMINATION
91	RESOURCES
94	2019-2020 FEES



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

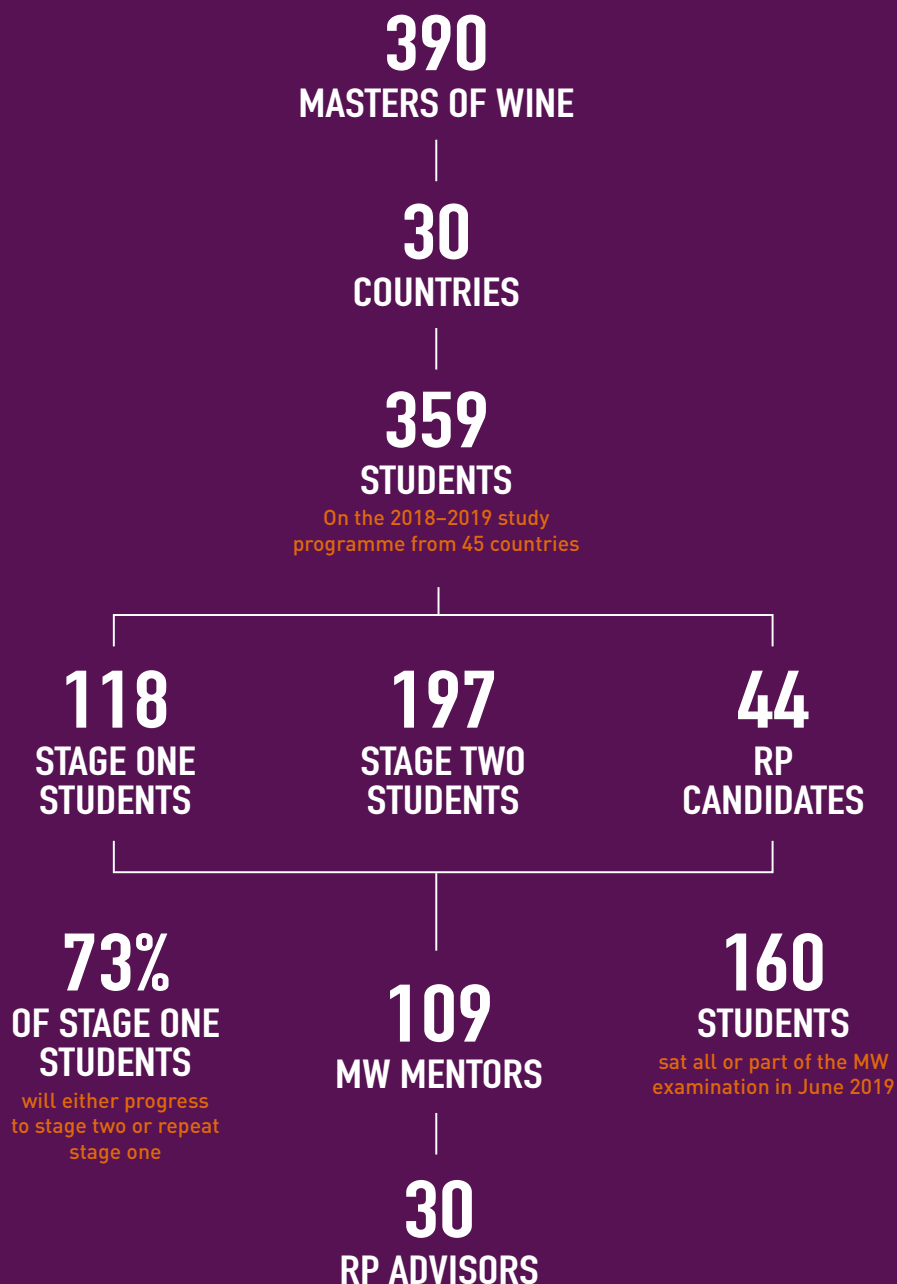
It is my pleasure, as the chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, to welcome you to the MW study programme. We are a vibrant professional membership organisation, and we are delighted you have become part of our community.

Our mission is to promote excellence, interaction and learning across the global wine trade, and by being accepted onto the programme, you have already demonstrated your knowledge and professional experience within the world of wine. We hope your experience on the MW study programme will not only deepen your knowledge and understanding of wine, but also be relevant and fulfilling. We also hope it helps you develop relationships with fellow candidates, Masters of Wine and other key leaders within the industry.

In this guide, you will find information about each stage in preparing for the MW examinations.

There will be challenges ahead — to be successful requires dedication and self-motivation — but there will be MWs and the executive team to guide you along the way. I look forward to meeting you as you progress and wish you every success in becoming a Master of Wine.

Adrian Garforth MW
IMW Chairman



ABOUT THE IMW

The IMW is a professional body with an unsurpassed international reputation.

Our members, the Masters of Wine (MWs), hold the most respected title in the world of wine. MWs have proved their understanding of all aspects of wine by passing the MW examination, recognised worldwide for its rigour and high standards.

In addition to passing the examination, MWs are required to sign the code of conduct before they are entitled to use the initials MW. The code of conduct requires MWs to act with honesty and integrity, and use every opportunity to share their understanding of wine with others.

We actively seek members throughout the world. Over 450 people have fulfilled the entry requirements and become MWs since the examination was first set in 1953.

There are 390 Masters of Wine today, working in 30 countries. The membership encompasses winemakers, buyers, journalists, shippers, business owners, consultants, academics, and wine educators.

VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is one of knowledge and integrity. Through our members and activities, the IMW promotes excellence, interaction and learning across all sectors of the global wine community.

IMW STRATEGIC GOALS 2016–2021

Membership:

Retain active and engaged members of the IMW, and enable our members to contribute positively to the world of wine.

Candidates:

Build membership of the IMW by attracting high calibre potential members and supporting them to become Masters of Wine.

Reputation:

Build and protect the reputation and image of the IMW worldwide, and ensure that we have a highly-regarded membership body.

Wine industry:

Engage with the wine industry and its development worldwide in a way that demonstrates our relevance.

Infrastructure and resources:

Establish processes and ensure the IMW has a framework to enable it to achieve its strategic goals.

KEY VALUES

Whether a member of the IMW, a student on the study programme or IMW staff, our key values state that we:

- act at all times with integrity, judgement, independence and informed courage of conviction
- are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all our professional activities
- seek to communicate effectively with all stakeholders
- are dedicated to opening the opportunity of the IMW to others
- act with respect to each other and to those we come into contact with
- are committed to and exercise responsibility for our own professional development.

GOVERNANCE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

The IMW is owned and governed by its members. Members elect a board of directors, which is known as the Council. Each Council member holds office for three years and can serve a maximum of two terms. The membership additionally elects the chairman, vice-chairman and the treasurer, who are referred to as the honorary officers. The Council of the IMW has overall responsibility for the strategic and financial governance and direction of the IMW.

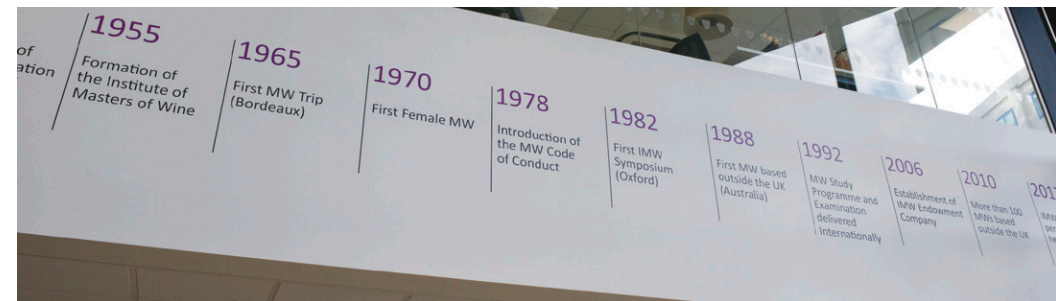
The Education and Examination Board (EEB) oversees the IMW's study programme and the MW examination. The remit of the EEB is that of strategy and policy.

The Admissions and Education and Examination Committees are responsible for the execution of EEB policy through the organisation and delivery of the MW study programme and examination.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The IMW's headquarters are in London, UK with regional staff in California, USA and in Adelaide, Australia. The executive team is responsible for the administration and smooth operation of the IMW, including the study programme and the examination process.

For more information on the IMW or to get in touch with the team, visit: www.mastersofwine.org



STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS 2018

98%

OF STAGE ONE
STUDENTS

94%

OF STAGE TWO
STUDENTS

WOULD RECOMMEND
THE MW STUDY PROGRAMME
TO AN ELIGIBLE FRIEND
OR COLLEAGUE

'THE SEMINAR HELPED ME BETTER
PREPARE FOR THE PRACTICAL
COMPONENT OF THE STAGE ONE
ASSESSMENT/MW EXAM'

98%

OF STAGE ONE
STUDENTS STRONGLY
AGREED OR AGREED

92%

OF STAGE TWO
STUDENTS STRONGLY
AGREED OR AGREED

'OVERALL, I WAS SATISFIED WITH
MY EXPERIENCE ON THE STUDY
PROGRAMME THIS YEAR'

97%

OF STAGE ONE
STUDENTS STRONGLY
AGREED OR AGREED

89%

OF STAGE TWO
STUDENTS STRONGLY
AGREED OR AGREED

THE MW STUDY PROGRAMME

The MW study programme is a self-directed means of study. You will not be led through the syllabus by a timetable of lectures. **It is your responsibility alone to prepare for the examination.**

You will however have plenty of opportunities to meet your fellow students at residential study timetable seminars and course days, as well as MWs and industry leaders. You will be assigned an MW as your mentor who will help you progress and prepare you for the examination. We encourage the formation of study groups amongst students so you can support and learn from each other.

As an MW student, you will also benefit from:

- participation in the residential study programme seminars which offer a variety of lectures, workshops and tasting sessions
- participation in course days, consisting of tastings and theory workshops
- discounted tickets for IMW events. These are invaluable sources of information and often provide unparalleled opportunity to taste across vintages, styles or regions

- assessment in the form of the assignment marking schemes. These include theory, practical and research paper assignments, which are centrally set, marked and evaluated by MWs
- access to Vine student portal and the student area of the IMW's website, which contains important resources and information
- the chance to attend study visits and trips, offered by IMW supporters and industry bodies
- the chance to apply for scholarships offered by supporters and other bodies, which can include support with fees, conference attendance, additional study opportunities, visits and trips.

THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As MWs adhere to a code of conduct, students of the IMW must also uphold the following standards and behaviours:

General:

MW students must recognise the importance of maintaining and enhancing the reputation of wine, the wine trade and related occupations in general, and the IMW in particular. It is a basic requirement that students will ensure (so far as lies in their power) that they and any organisation that they are part of will observe all relevant laws and regulations in both letter and spirit.

Sales and promotion:

MW students engaged in sales, promotion, advertising and writing about wine professionally should be careful always to describe the subject truthfully and with good sense, neither claiming virtues or prospects that do not exist or cannot be

justified nor unreasonably exaggerating merit. Individual and group endorsements of advertised products by members of the IMW and MW students must be viewed in the same light.

Purchasing:

MW students involved in purchasing should at all times buy sound quality wine. They should not condone the marketing of any quality of wine that might damage public respect for, or interest in, wine.

Winemaking:

MW students involved in production of grapes or making of wine should not knowingly engage in any practice or technique (whether or not such practice or technique shall infringe regulations relating to the production of wine) that may bring the IMW into disrepute.

General commercial probity:

MW students involved in commerce are expected to maintain the highest standards of dealing, including (and without limitation) in relation to dealings through limited liability companies, and not knowingly engage in any enterprise or commercial practice which would be regarded as unacceptable by the majority of members of the IMW, whether or not such practice may comply with local laws where it is carried out.

Personal:

MW students are expected to be sensitive to the social and behavioural problems associated with the immoderate consumption of wine. They must ensure that they do not engage in inappropriate behaviour which would reflect badly on the IMW.

The IMW:

MW students are required to preserve the good name of the IMW at all times and refrain from any public statements detrimental to the IMW, a member or members of the IMW.

Responsibility for others:

MW students must in principle accept that they will be regarded by the IMW as answerable for the commercial conduct of any person acting on their instructions.

Confidentiality:

MW students respect that certain aspects of IMW business may involve confidential information and agree to keep such information confidential.

The title of Master of Wine and its abbreviated form MW is strictly reserved for the use of the members of the IMW. The IMW takes the protection of the title extremely seriously. There is no such thing as a part-qualified MW. Students on the study programme may only describe themselves as:

- An MW student
- A student on the IMW study programme
- A student of the IMW.

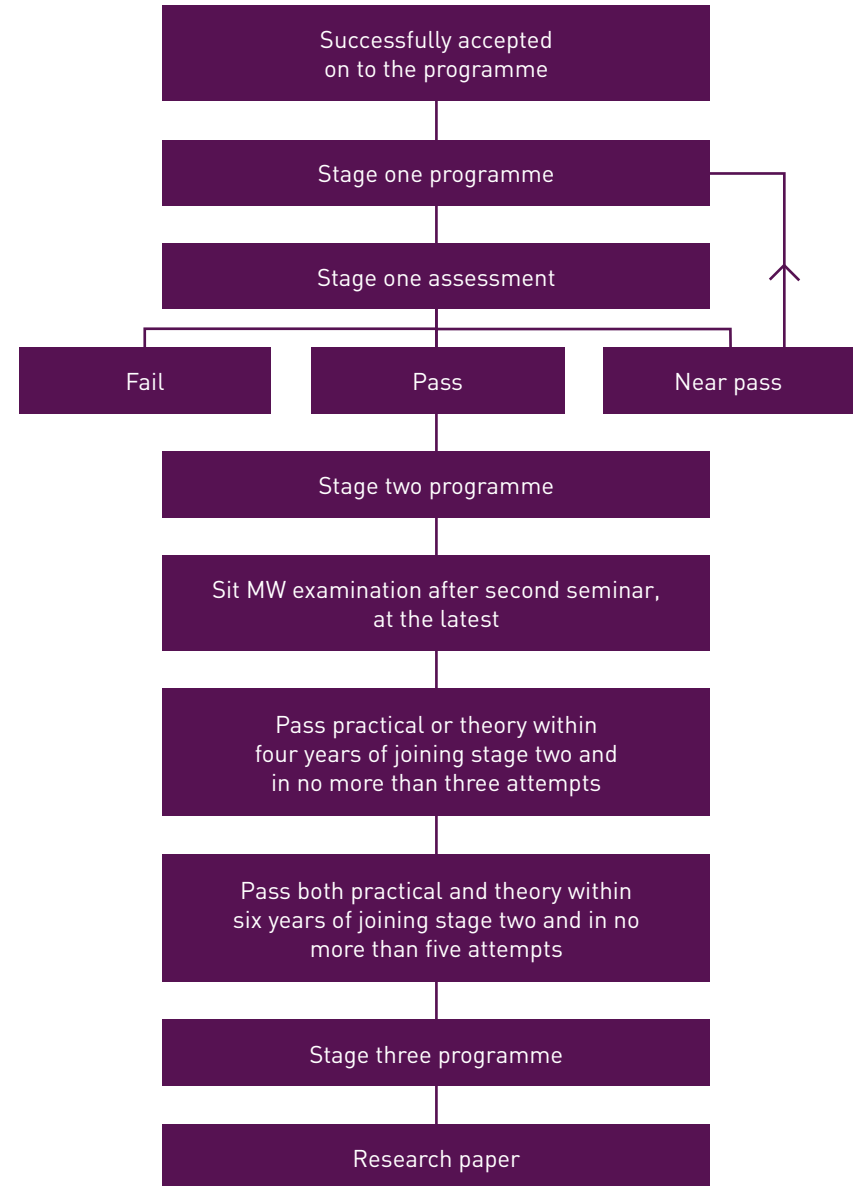
STUDY PROGRAMME LENGTH AND PROGRESSION

You become a Master of Wine by passing the stage one assessment (S1A) and the three parts of the MW examination:

1. Theory element of the MW examination
2. Practical element of the MW examination
3. Research paper (RP).

The number of attempts at the MW examination is limited by the rules of the IMW as follows:

1. In order to progress from stage one, you must achieve a pass in the S1A in no more than two attempts. You must sit the S1A at the end of each year in stage one.
2. You must achieve a pass in both sections (theory and practical) of the MW examination in a maximum of five attempts, within six years of joining stage two.
3. In addition, you must achieve a pass in one section (theory or practical) of the MW examination within four years of joining stage two and in no more than three attempts.
4. You must sit the MW examination after attending two stage two seminars. This means if you feel you are not ready to sit the MW examination after your first stage two seminar, you can attend the seminar one more time before sitting the MW examination.
5. Once you pass the theory and practical parts of the MW examination, you will progress to stage three of the study programme: the RP.
6. You must progress to stage three and receive approval for a research paper proposal (RPP) within two years of passing the stage two MW examination. You can submit your RP within the first year of stage three. You must submit your RP within a maximum of five years of joining stage three.
7. You must pay the stage one or stage two study programme fees in each year that you are actively registered in each stage.

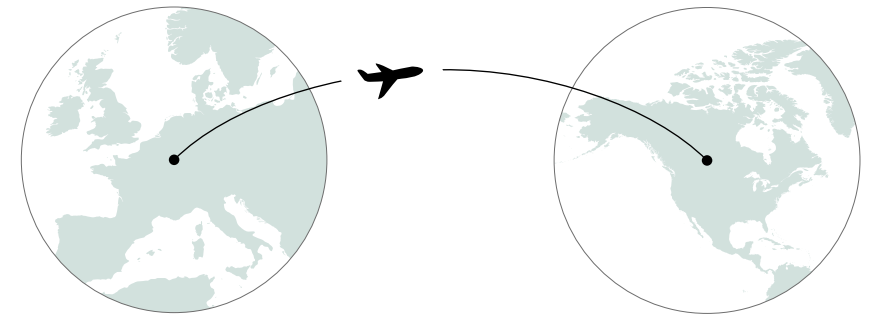


STUDY PROGRAMME CENTRES



You can join the MW study programme from anywhere in the world. For seminars, course days and the MW examination, we have centres in Australasia, Europe and North America. Parts of the Australasian programmes are delivered in Adelaide and Sydney (Australia) and Hong Kong. Parts of the European programmes are delivered in Rust (Austria), Bordeaux (France), Cookham (UK), Deidesheim (Germany) and London (UK). Parts of the North American programmes are delivered in San Francisco, Napa Valley, Washington State and New York City (USA). You are free to choose any centre.

TRANSFER BETWEEN CENTRES



It is possible to change between study centres from one year to another. You can sit the stage one assessment and the MW examination in any of the centres regardless of which seminar you attended.

You can also combine seminars and course days across study centres. For example, you can opt to attend a seminar in Europe, but attend the course days in New York City.



STAGE ONE

OVERVIEW

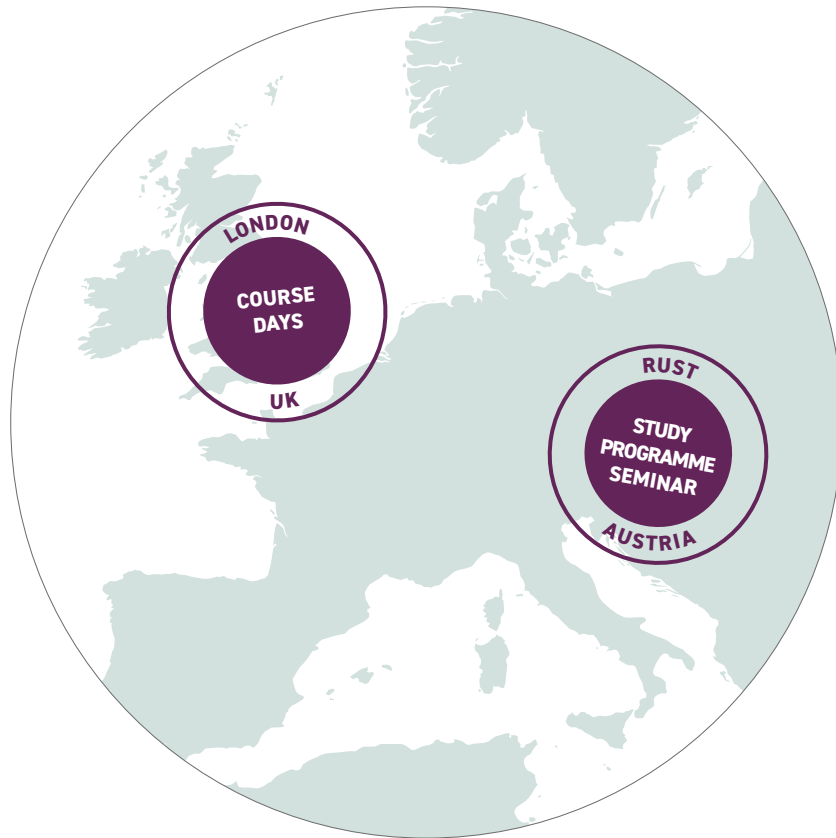
Stage one is the foundation year and most likely to be your first serious interaction with the IMW and MWs. You will meet the MWs in both professional and social settings, as well as your fellow students, and may form friendships that will last for decades.

Stage one of the study programme involves a compulsory residential seminar and four optional non-residential course days. You will be allocated an MW mentor (see page 27) who will help to guide you through your stage one journey. You are expected to produce six pieces of work for assessment during the year. The culmination of stage one is the stage one assessment (S1A). This is an exam that takes place in early June in three centres across the world. Progression to stage two is dependent on the results achieved in the S1A. All students must sit the S1A at the end of each year they are in stage one.

STAGE ONE LOCATIONS

Europe

On the European programme the seminar is held in Rust, Austria and the course days are held in London, UK.



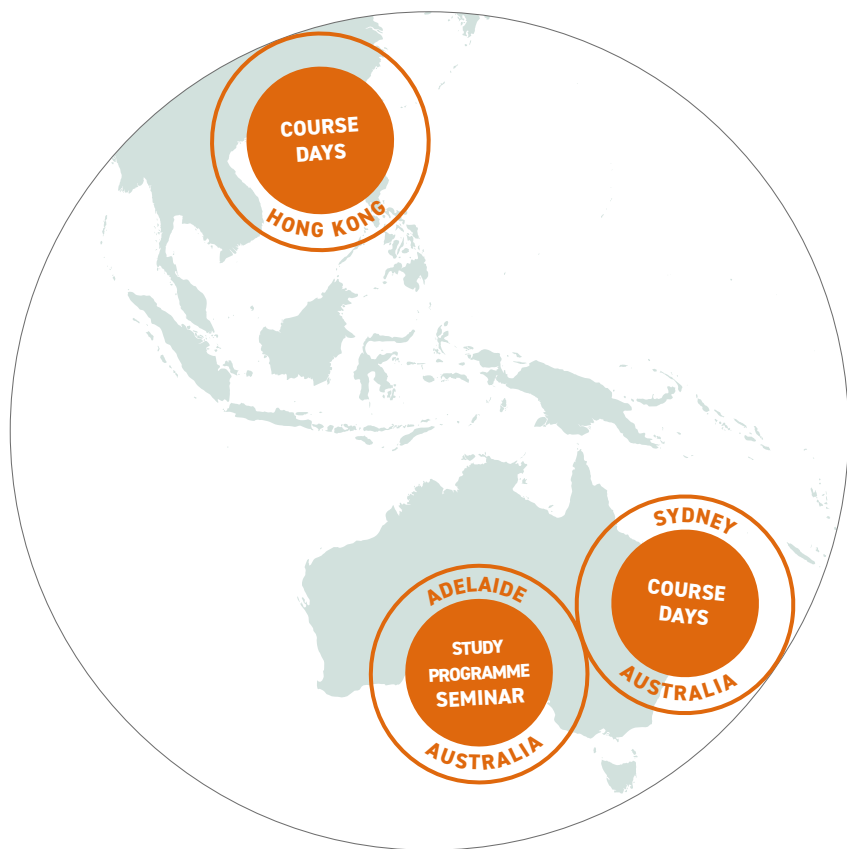
North America

On the North American programme the seminar is held in Woodinville, Washington State and the course days are held in Napa and New York City, USA.



Australasia

On the Australasian programme the seminar is held in Adelaide, Australia. The course days are offered in Sydney and Hong Kong.



MENTORS

The IMW provides you with an MW mentor. The mentor role is principally that of a non-judgemental adviser who can be a source of support, insight and guidance. Masters of Wine choose to mentor voluntarily and free of charge. They share their experience and insight in order to help you with the MW examination. Mentors are not expected to mark essays, tasting papers or provide extra tuition.

Whilst we try to allocate mentors within close geographical proximity to students, it is not always possible.

A mentor will normally stay the same from one academic year to the next. In rare cases, there may be an incompatibility between a student and their MW mentor. In this instance, you are encouraged to take action early on, by contacting the executive team and asking to be allocated a new MW mentor. Requests for a change of mentor will not impact you in any way.

THE STUDY PROGRAMME SEMINAR

The stage one seminar is a core element of the MW study programme. Attendance is a pre-requisite for progression to the stage two programme. The seminars include a variety of classes covering both theory and practical sessions.

The primary aim of the stage one seminar is to introduce you to the MW syllabus to ensure you understand the breadth and depth required. In particular, MW tutors aim to highlight:

- the level of knowledge required
- the extent of analysis and synthesis necessary
- the skills required for successfully conveying your knowledge, understanding and experience
- study strategies, techniques and methods that have proved useful to others.

A stage one seminar typically includes a variety of tasting sessions. Some aim to introduce you to the MW style of tasting and the requirements of the examination. Other tasting sessions may focus on a variety, region, production method, or style. The seminars will normally include at least one mock examination, so that you can get first-hand experience of a 12-wine blind tasting paper. You will also receive detailed feedback.

Great emphasis is given to writing skills in the theory paper, concentrating on question analysis, essay planning, and writing effective introductions and conclusions. Other theory sessions tend to showcase a variety of topics so you can gain an understanding of the depth required, the multidisciplinary nature of the theory papers and the global outlook of the MW examination.

The stage one seminars normally include hands-on and practical sessions for example winery or vineyard visits, or marketing workshops. These sessions may vary from year to year and their purpose is to show the application of MW skills through action. The seminars often include lectures from renowned industry leaders.

The seminars will also include a session on the requirements and processes of the research paper (RP) including the principles of topic identification and research question formulation. The session aims to introduce you to the RP requirements and develop your analytical skills to question and challenge theories and assumptions.

Whilst the lectures, workshops, tasting and theory tutorials aim to cover as wide a range of topics as possible, please be aware that they do not cover all the topics or materials needed for the S1A. As is the nature of the self-directed study programme, you will need to use resources and guidance to support your preparation for the S1A.

PREPARATION FOR THE SEMINAR

You are strongly recommended to arrive at the seminar fully prepared. In particular, you should have:

- read the syllabus and this guide
- checked the past examination papers and examiners' reports
- watched feedback videos produced by the IMW
- drafted a study plan
- been in contact with your mentor
- submitted your first assignments
- attended a course day.

COURSE DAYS

Attending course days is optional. They aim to provide continuity throughout the academic year. They help you maintain momentum and gain inspiration. Course days are also opportunities for networking with other students in order to set up tasting and study groups.

Stage one course days will normally include a tasting in the morning and theory work in the afternoon. Two course days are scheduled before the seminar, to help you get the most out of your time at the seminar. Two further days take place in the lead up to the S1A.





ASSIGNMENTS

At stage one, you have the option to complete up to six assignments: three theory and three practical assignments. The essays are known as theory assignment marking scheme (TAMS), and the tastings are called practical assignment marking scheme (PAMS).

These assignments are centrally set and administered by the executive team. The assignments need to be submitted by certain deadlines and the results are normally given within four weeks. These dates, as well as the procedures, are explained in detail in the assignments guide published on the IMW's website.

Detailed feedback is provided for every student. Participation in the assignment marking scheme is optional, and this service is included in the tuition fee. In addition, the number and quality of submissions you make may be used during the review of the S1A as an indicator of readiness for progression to stage two.

The IMW has a zero tolerance policy concerning plagiarism. Assignments must be entirely your own work completed under timed examination conditions. No form of copying or plagiarism will be accepted. Assignments which do not conform to these requirements will receive a mark of zero and a note will be held on your record.

All assignments are assessed by plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism may result in the cancellation of a student's registration on the study programme. Assignments must be submitted by the stipulated deadlines. No more than two assignments can be submitted at one time, and only one submission can be made on the last submission date.

STUDY GROUPS

As the MW study programme is self-guided, your individual determination, motivation and perseverance are vital. It is up to you to form or join study and tasting groups in order to share your own knowledge and learn from others. There is a great diversity in the student body of professional backgrounds, areas of expertise and experience as well as geographic spread from different markets. With the help of the internet, study groups can be virtual as well as in person.

THE STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT (S1A)

At the end of stage one, you need to sit and pass an assessment under exam conditions if you wish to proceed to stage two. The S1A involves a 12-wine blind tasting paper and two theory essays. All the theory questions come from past examination papers (theory papers one-four) and the practical part will include a variety of wines.

The assessments are held in London, San Francisco and Adelaide.

The aim of the assessment is to determine your understanding of the requirements and how well you are able to deliver them in an exam situation. The S1A allows the IMW to see if you are ready for stage two studies. Ultimately, markers of the S1A papers look for depth and breadth of knowledge, critical analysis in selecting the relevant points, understanding, a multidisciplinary and global approach and an ability to communicate clearly and convincingly.

Feedback will be provided in the form of brief individual comments and a more general report, individual grades are not provided for the S1A. Please note, under no circumstances will assessment scripts be returned to you.

You must write the practical paper in English. You can write the theory part of the assessment in any language. Candidates whose first language is not English may use a foreign language dictionary, but the IMW retains the right to check these while the assessment is in progress. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted. Essays not written in English will be translated by the IMW and marked in English.

If you are typing the theory or practical assessment you must use your own laptop after downloading the IMW's exam software. Please refer to the student pages of the IMW website for more information on computer requirements. If you choose to write by hand, legible handwriting is necessary. Examiners cannot mark a script they cannot read. Illegible handwriting will result in lower, or in some cases no marks.

PROGRESSION TO STAGE TWO

To progress to stage two, you must achieve a pass averaging 55 percent or more across the theory and practical elements of the S1A, with no element achieving less than 50 percent. You may take a maximum of one year off before progressing to stage two.

If you achieve an average of between 45 percent and 54 percent across the S1A with no element achieving less than 40 percent you will be invited to repeat stage one in its entirety, including attending the stage one seminar in either North America or Australia. You may take a maximum of one year off, before repeating stage one. You may sit the S1A a maximum of two times.

If you achieve an average of less than 45 percent across the S1A or less than 40 percent in one component, you will not have met the required standard to progress and will leave the study programme. You may apply to re-join the study programme after a break of at least two years.



STAGE TWO

OVERVIEW

Stage two is a crucial time in the MW study programme, as you work towards taking the first two parts of the MW examination.

Stage two involves a seminar and course days. You are expected to produce at least three pieces of work for assessment during the year.

The culmination of stage two is the MW examination (theory and practical), which takes place in early June. Progression to the research paper, which is the third part of the MW examination, depends on you passing both the theory and practical parts of the examination.

If you are not successful in completing the MW examination within the specified required timeframe, your registration on the study programme will end. In this instance, you will be required to take a minimum of two years out before applying to re-join the programme. Consideration will be given to which stage of the study programme you should re-join but no credit will be given to previously awarded marks.

THE SEMINAR

Attendance at the seminar is a pre-requisite of sitting the MW examination in a given academic year.

The residential seminar is the major building block of stage two. It offers intensive preparation for the MW examination. It is imperative that you come prepared for tastings, essay planning and in depth theory sessions.

In stage two, MW tutors assume that you know how to write an essay and how to approach a tasting. They will offer skills development sessions at a more advanced level than stage one.

There will be mock exams during the seminar. MW tutors will be honest with their feedback, whilst remaining objective and referring to the requirements as set out in the syllabus.

The stage two seminar will also include a workshop on research design and methodology. This is intended to assist you with the research paper, the third part of the MW examination.

COURSE DAYS

Course days are optional. They are tutored by a Master of Wine and are held in small groups in order to encourage a high level of interaction and engagement. The programme of course days intends to cover all the theory papers during the year although the focus will be on the practical side of the programme. The tastings are not always necessarily 12 wine papers: they may be shorter in order to allow for more effective skills development. The wines are selected according to the same principles as the exam, i.e. they are typical of what they are supposed to show whether it is quality, origin, or style.

LOCATION

Seminars

The European programme offers the stage two seminar in two locations; Bordeaux, France and Cookham, UK. There is no difference in the levels of either seminar.

The North American and Australasian programmes also offer the stage two seminar.

The practical only seminar, for those who have already achieved a pass in the theory half of the exam, are run in Cookham, Napa and Adelaide. The theory only seminar, for those who have already achieved a pass in the practical half of the exam, will take place in Deidesheim, Germany.

Course days

The stage two programme also includes a number of course days. In Europe, there are two on consecutive days in the autumn and another two in the spring. Most course days take place at the IMW's headquarters in London, although there is one in Dusseldorf.

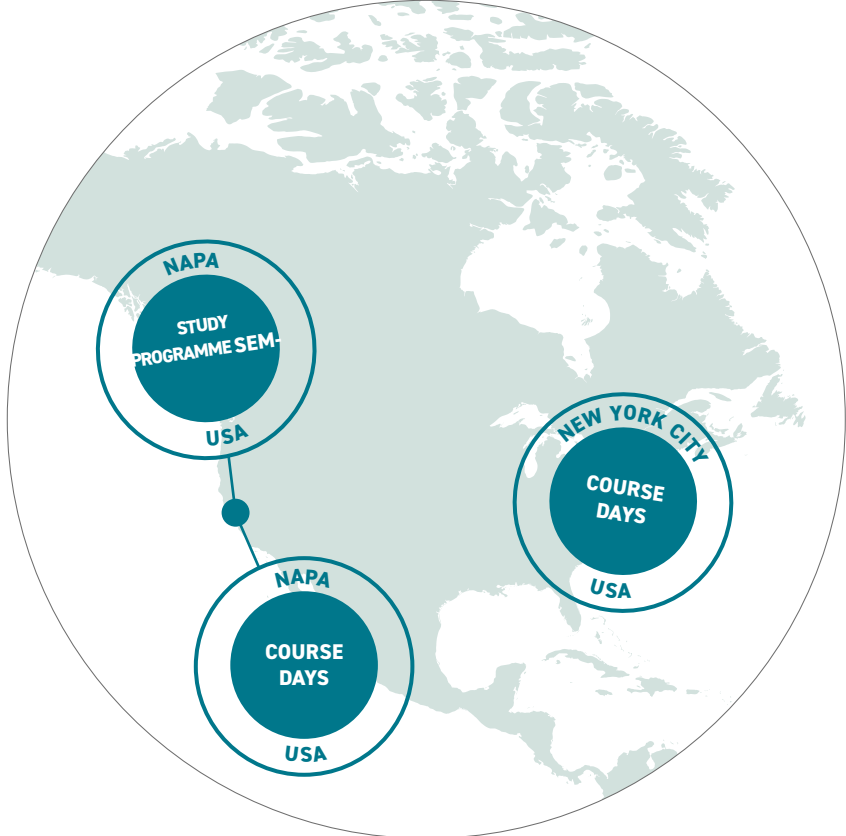
In North America, there are also four course days, two in the fall and two in the spring. You can choose to attend the course days in Napa or New York City.

In Australasia, there are four course days. These are held in October/November and shortly before the exams. The course days are offered in Sydney and Hong Kong.

Europe



North America



Australasia



MENTORS

In stage two, you will continue to work with your mentor from stage one unless there is a request for change. You are encouraged to foster a good working relationship with your mentor. The relationship must be driven by you. Mentors are there to advise, support and assist you when you need and ask for help.

ASSIGNMENTS

You can submit papers in the theory (TAMS), practical (PAMS) and research paper assignment marking scheme (RAMS) so you can practice and gain feedback. You must submit at least three theory assignments and one RP assignment if you wish to sit the examination in a given year.

The IMW has a zero tolerance policy concerning plagiarism. The assignments must be entirely your own work. No form of copying or plagiarism will be accepted. It is expected that assignments will be written under timed examination conditions, without using or sourcing from external sources (e.g. the internet). Assignments which do not conform to these requirements will receive a mark of zero, will not count towards the number of assignments that have to be submitted and a note will be held on your record. Assignments are assessed by plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism may result in the cancellation of a student's registration on the study programme. Assignments must be submitted by the stipulated deadlines.

THEORY ASSIGNMENT MARKING SCHEME (TAMS)

The TAMS offers the option of submitting six theory essays during the academic year. In early October, the IMW publishes a set of ten essay questions which come from each of the five theory exam papers. You can choose which questions to answer and can submit the completed essays in any order by the submission deadlines.

If you wish to sit the theory component of the closed book examination, you must submit **three** TAMS in that given academic year. No more than **two** TAMS can be submitted at one time so you must utilise at least **two** deadlines. No more than **one** TAMS can be submitted on the final deadline.

The essays are marked by MWs who provide written feedback. Feedback is normally returned to you within four weeks of the submission deadline date.

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT MARKING SCHEME (PAMS)

The PAMS offers a total of three practical assignments. The wines will be assumed to be typical and therefore this exercise assists with improving writing skills and how you argue a case. The submitted papers are marked by a panel of MWs. You will normally receive written feedback four weeks after the submission deadline.

RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT MARKING SCHEME (RAMS)

The RP assignment is a research proposal of no more than 900 words, submitted to a central marking panel for review. If you wish to sit the closed book examination, you must have submitted a RAMS.

The RAMS offers you the chance to gain feedback on a prospective RP proposal. The exercise is designed to get you thinking about topics, as well as thinking about the work that will be required to complete the potential RP in stage three.

There are three submission dates throughout the year and the same proposal can be re-submitted **once**, so you can make revisions based on the feedback of the marker. You can submit a total of three different proposals for review in an academic year.

In stage three once you have passed the theory and practical examinations, you can continue to develop this proposal and submit it for approval, or you are free to start again with a new topic.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE EXAM

To sit the MW examination, you need to satisfy the following criteria.

Firstly, you must attend the seminar in the same academic year in which you wish to sit the examination. Secondly, you must complete a minimum of **three** TAMS essays and **one** RAMS proposal in the year in which the examination is being sat. There is no minimum level of achievement on these assignments, completion is the only requirement.

THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MW EXAMINATION

The purpose of the MW examination is to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your professional, international and general understanding of the wine industry as defined in the following terms:

1. The wine industry includes 'the production of wine, commercialisation of wine (to include storage, distribution, sales and marketing, investment and management) and education concerning wine (to include dissemination of information about wine).'
2. Wine is defined as 'the alcoholic beverage obtained from the fermentation of freshly gathered grapes.'

The objectives of the MW examination are to ensure that you can demonstrate your competence in:

3. Sensory evaluation and understanding of the world's wines.
4. Gathering, understanding, interpreting and communicating knowledge of and insights about the world's wines and the wine industry.

MW EXAMINATION AND PROGRESSION OPTIONS

Examination outcome	Progression option	Progression criteria
Full pass	Progress to stage three (RP)	To pass the practical component you need to average 65% or more across all three papers, with a minimum of 50% in any one paper.
Partial pass (pass in either theory or practical)	Move to theory or practical only seminar and re-sit failed component	To pass the theory component you need to average 65% or more across all five papers, with a minimum of 55% in any one paper.
Pass practical component, pass four theory papers	Single paper re-sit (SPR)	If you achieve over 65% in two theory papers and over 63% in two other theory papers and the fifth theory paper is over 40%, you will be eligible for a SPR. In the SPR, you will need to achieve a minimum of 65%. If you do not achieve at least 65% in the SPR, you will need to re-take the five theory papers.
Pass four theory papers, fail remaining theory paper and practical component	Move to practical only component plus SPR	
Fail practical and all theory components	Re-take the full programme (practical and theory)	

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MW EXAMINATION

The MW examination is conducted over four days, with the practical papers in the mornings and theory papers in the afternoons, except for theory paper four and five which take place on the morning and afternoon of the last day. Candidates will write all the papers under examination conditions, without the use of reference material.

You must write the practical papers in English. You can write the theory part of the examination in any language. Candidates whose first language is not English may use a foreign language dictionary, but the IMW retains the right to check these while the examination is in progress. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted. Essays not written in English will be translated by the IMW and marked in English.

If you are typing the theory or practical examination you must use your own laptop after downloading the IMW's exam software. If you choose to write by hand, you are advised that legible handwriting is required. Examiners cannot mark a script they cannot read. Illegible handwriting will result in lower, or in some cases no marks.

Please refer to the student area of the IMW website for more information on computer requirements.

STRUCTURE OF THE MW EXAMINATION

The MW closed book examination consists of the following two components:

1. **Theory:** five question papers on viticulture, vinification and pre-bottling procedures, the handling of wine, the business of wine, and contemporary issues.
2. **Practical:** three 12-wine blind tastings (each lasting two and a quarter hours) in which wines must be assessed for variety, origin, winemaking, quality and style. Practical papers must be written in English.

The theory and practical papers are examined in the three centres (see page 20).

Only after successfully passing the theory and practical components of the MW examination can you progress to stage three of the study programme, the RP.



INTRODUCTION TO THE REVISED 2019–2020 MW STUDY PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

During the 2018-19 academic year, the IMW's Education and Examination Board (EEB) initiated a review of the MW study programme syllabus.

The process included a wide-ranging consultation with input from members and more specifically the exam teams. The over-arching questions EEB sought input on were:

- Which elements of the current syllabus are most relevant to achieving 'mastery' in support of the IMW mission?
- Which elements should be added?
- Which elements should be deleted?

The revisions should be considered as an evolution and an update on the previous version; the structure and the way the syllabus is being examined has not changed. For the most part, the changes ensure the syllabus remains contemporary, but also that syllabus is clear (to both native and non-native English speakers), consistent, and complete across all sections.

The new syllabus is being introduced for the start of the 2019-20 academic year and the 2020 examinations will be based on this revised syllabus.

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

This new section has been added at the start of the syllabus, to provide clear outcomes of what is expected of someone on completion of the MW study programme. This is then broken down into the practical, theory and research paper and notes key outcomes for each of these parts of the exam.

At the end of this section, there is some information on the IMW's expectations for student conduct, including the possible sanctions for behaviours that are deemed unacceptable (e.g. cheating). The IMW stands for upholding the highest standards across all of its activities and it was therefore deemed important that this is included at an important point in the syllabus.

Important note: This new overview section is as important for you to review and understand as is the syllabus. Please review it with care.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

The practical syllabus has been expanded and now includes information on the attributes and qualities of wine that students must demonstrate an understanding of. Some examples have been added, not to draw attention to these specific regions or grape varieties, but to highlight, via illustrative example, the types of wines and questions that may be asked.

As per the previous syllabus, this section continues to highlight the availability of past questions and wines, an essential resource for preparing for the practical exams.

THEORY SYLLABUS

Each of the five theory papers has been updated to bring the topics into line with the current operating environment and practices.

An important update to highlight is the notion in any of theory papers one, two, three and four, examiners may now set holistic questions which draw on a student's knowledge and understanding from across all four papers. If a question requires an answer that draws on knowledge across more than one paper, this will be stated clearly in the examination paper.

A definition of what is meant by the term 'bottling' has been introduced, to clarify the scope of this term. For the purposes of this syllabus 'bottling' refers to the broad set of options for packing finished wine for safe delivery to the end consumer - bottles, bag in box, kegs, cans etc. - and is not limited to glass containers and their closures.

It is now explicit that critical analysis of the subjects covered in the syllabus is expected; this means not just demonstrating knowledge. Attention to this is drawn at the start of the syllabus: 'You must demonstrate critical analysis and originality of thought supported by relevant examples.'

In both the practical and theory syllabus, it is now explicitly mentioned that the correct spelling of wine terms is expected in a candidate's answers.

RESEARCH PAPER SYLLABUS

Much of the information contained in the research paper (RP) syllabus has been drawn from the RP handbook with the objective of ensuring the requirements and outcomes expected from a successful RP are made clear to students from the outset of their study programme journey. Expectations of the skills an RP candidate is required to demonstrate, and the requirements of a successful RP are noted as well as what the RP stage of the programme will bring to a candidate.

Preparation for this stage of the programme is included in aspects of the study programme in stages one and two,

highlighting the importance given to ensuring students are well-prepared for this last stage of the programme.

INTEGRITY AND ETHICAL VALUES

A final note has been added at the end of the syllabus to reinforce the IMW's expectation of high levels of integrity and ethical values — the study programme provides a means for students to demonstrate that they meet these expectations before being accepted into the IMW membership.

2019–2020 MW STUDY PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

THE MW EXAMINATION OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The MW examination is designed to assess key elements of mastery in the profession of wine. The purpose of the examination is to qualify new members of the IMW best suited to advancing its mission of promoting excellence, interaction and learning in the global wine industry.

On successful completion of the programme and its three-part examination, you will have a deep understanding of a broad range of wine-related subjects. In particular, you will be able to:

- demonstrate expertise in determining quality, identity, maturity and commercial potential in a wide range of wines
- communicate effectively an understanding of wine and the wine industry across a broad range of topics as well as in depth on a topic of your choice
- think critically in areas of the practice and theory of wine
- demonstrate agility and originality of thought.

THE MW EXAMINATION

Admission to membership of the IMW requires success in all parts of the MW examination — the theory examination at stage two, the practical examination at stage two and the research paper (RP) at stage three — as well as a commitment to abide by the IMW code of conduct. Only after successfully passing the theory and practical components of the MW

examination can you progress to stage three of the study programme, the research paper.

The practical examination: This closed-book written examination consists of three papers taken over the course of three consecutive days. To be successful in this part of the examination, you must be able to:

1. accurately assess key visual, olfactory, taste and physical aspects of a wide range of wines
2. use your judgment (in combination with general and technical wine knowledge) to draw logical conclusions about quality, origin, grape varieties, maturity, winemaking techniques employed, commercial potential and other relevant attributes of a wine
3. communicate your analysis in writing, in a concise and persuasive way, in a time-limited environment.

The theory examination: This closed-book written examination consists of five papers taken over the course of four consecutive days. To be successful in this part of the examination, you must:

1. demonstrate an in-depth applied understanding of a broad range of wine subjects
2. be able to communicate that understanding effectively in writing in a time-controlled environment
3. demonstrate critical analysis and originality of thought supported by relevant examples.

The research paper (RP): This is an open-book, research-based examination, consisting of a 6,000 to 10,000 word original piece of work involving in-depth study and original analysis in an area of your choice. Its purpose is to test your ability to contribute to the body of knowledge in the world of wine. To be successful

in this part of the examination, you must:

1. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the current state of knowledge in your chosen area
2. use research and information to provide original analysis and critical thinking around a clearly-defined set of key research questions
3. communicate your analyses and conclusions in an effective, credible and professional way.

Important note: Any irregularities — for example, cheating, plagiarism, enabling cheating, submitting work of others as one's own etc. – in any part of the examination, admissions or education process will be sanctioned, including the possibility of permanent removal of candidacy for membership of the IMW.

THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The purpose of the practical examination is to assess your organoleptic competencies and understanding of wine through tasting. You should be able to demonstrate wide knowledge of the world's wines using analysis, evaluation, and judgment in a time-constrained environment.

You will be expected to make objective, reasoned assessments of wines to identify key aspects such as quality, origin, grape variety, winemaking, maturity (i.e. how old is the wine and what is its potential for future ageing?), and commercial potential (i.e. where, how, and when do you see the wine being sold and to whom?). Arguments must always be based on the evidence in the glass.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT FOR PRACTICAL PAPERS

Three written examination papers of two hours and 15 minutes in duration. Each paper consists of 12 wines, served blind.

Wines from any wine-producing region in the world and any price point or quality level can be shown in the practical examination. You are expected to demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of wines from classic, fine wine regions and grape varieties (such as Bordeaux, Rioja, Nebbiolo, Chardonnay), as well as a clear awareness of lesser-known or up-and-coming examples (such as Swartland, Leyda Valley, Carricante, Godello). The number of marks per question will give a sense of the detail required.

Traditionally, paper one covers white wines, paper two covers red wines and paper three covers a wide range including rosé, sparkling, fortified and sweet wines. The list of wines included in past examination papers is available in the student area of the

website. However, the questions and formats of the practical examination can always change; any wine may be included in any paper.

Answers must be written in English and can be typed or handwritten. If you handwrite, your responses must be legible, otherwise examiners may award few or no marks for your answer. Proper spelling of wine terms is expected.

THE THEORY EXAMINATION

The theory examination is made up of five papers:

Paper one – Viticulture: examines your knowledge and understanding of viticulture up to the completion of the harvest and grape transportation to the winery reception area.

Paper two – Vinification and pre-bottling procedures: examines your knowledge and understanding of the vinification of still, sparkling and fortified wines from the arrival of grapes at a winery through all of the production steps that yield a wine that is ready for bottling¹.

Paper three – Handling of wine: examines your knowledge and understanding of bottling¹ processes, quality assurance, quality control, packaging options, transport and regulatory requirements.

Paper four – The business of wine: examines your knowledge and understanding of current financial, commercial and marketing aspects of the international wine industry.

Paper five – Contemporary issues: examines your ability to demonstrate communication skills, personal insights, and understanding by writing authoritatively on subjects that are of relevance to today's global wine industry.

In all parts of the theory examination, you are expected to provide critical analysis of the subjects covered, including relevant examples, thereby demonstrating understanding rather than simply knowledge of the subject matter in question.

1 - For the purposes of this syllabus 'bottling' refers to the broad set of options for packing finished wine for safe delivery to the end consumer — bottles, bag in box, kegs, cans etc. — and is not limited to glass containers and their closures.

THEORY EXAMINATION PAPERS ONE, TWO & THREE: THE PRODUCTION OF WINE

The purpose of these papers is to assess your knowledge and understanding of wine production.

Your understanding of the processes of grape growing and winemaking should be complemented by knowledge of the underlying science as well as the practical issues faced by vineyard and winery professionals. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the implications for wine style, quality, and cost of the decisions taken at each stage of wine production, and have an awareness of areas of active research in topics relevant to wine production.

Answers should demonstrate your familiarity with a broad variety of the world's wine regions and wine styles. You should also have a solid, practical understanding of how broader concerns such as economics, regulation, consumer trends, management issues, quality assurance, quality control and the environment have a bearing on wine production.

You will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following in each paper:

THEORY PAPER ONE: VITICULTURE

- **The characteristics of the vine:** vine species; vine varieties; clones; the development of new vine varieties; vine propagation; rootstocks and grafting; the growth cycle of the vine; the life cycle of the vine.
- **The establishment, re-planting and acquisition of vineyards:** the qualitative, practical, regulatory and economic issues of planting or re-planting vineyards; issues concerning the acquisition of vineyards through leasing, purchase, inheritance, or other means.

- **Factors affecting grape growing:** climate; weather; soil; aspect; regulations; the effect of all these factors on wine style, quality, yield and cost; the concept of *terroir*.
- **Cultivation of the vine:** types and methods of pruning and training; underlying principles and practical applications of canopy management, irrigation, the application of fertilisers and other treatments, the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides, green harvesting; the implications for quality and yield of all of the above; conventional, sustainable, biodynamic, organic, and other alternative cultivation methods.
- **Maladies of the vine and their control:** vine pests; vine diseases; physiological disorders; prevention and control.
- **The structure and composition of grapes:** grape structure; chemical composition of grapes, e.g. sugars, acids, anthocyanins, tannins; fruit ripeness; analytical techniques to determine the above.
- **Harvesting of grapes:** timing of the harvest; picking options; grape transportation; quality and cost implications.

THEORY PAPER TWO: VINIFICATION AND PRE-BOTTLING PROCEDURES

- **Processing of grapes:** grape reception; grape handling strategies, e.g. sorting, de-stalking, crushing, pressing and skin contact; must treatments; temperature control.
- **Fermentation:** alcoholic fermentation; the role of yeasts, enzymes, temperature and fermentation vessels; strategies for the extraction of colour, aroma, flavour and tannin; carbonic maceration, whole bunch fermentation and thermovinification; theory and practice of malolactic conversion.

- **Maturation and blending:** maturation options for the winemaker; types of maturation vessels; inert storage; blending options; timing of preparation for bottling.
- **Stabilisation and clarification:** methods of stabilisation and clarification, e.g. fining, filtration, centrifugation; the use of processing agents and additives in winemaking and wine handling — their function, action and application; international regulations governing the use of additives and processing enhancements of any kind.
- **Production of sweet wines:** production techniques for sweet wines; grape selection; concentration methods; pressing; fermentation; stopping fermentation; maturation; finishing.
- **Production of sparkling wines:** production techniques for sparkling wines; grape selection and pressing; temperature control; selection and blending of base wines; the second fermentation; maturation; finishing.
- **Production of fortified wines:** production techniques for fortified wines; selection of base wines; timing of fortification; practice and significance of blending and maturation; finishing.

THEORY PAPER THREE: HANDLING OF WINE

- **Preparation of finished wines for bottling:** cold stabilisation, final filtration and other treatments of wine for bottling.
- **Packing and labelling:** methods of packaging; different types of packaging and closures; regulatory requirements.
- **Quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC):** composition of wine; chemical and physical analysis of wine, its purposes, uses and limitations; QA and QC systems and structures for wine and dry goods; practical issues of QA and QC; wine faults, their detection, prevention and treatment;

compliance with statutory regulations; effects of storage on wine before and after bottling; shipping and transport including bulk shipping and transport of wine for bottling away from area of origin; methods of bulk transport; quality assurance before and during bulk transport and checking procedures on receipt of bulk wine.

THEORY PAPER FOUR: THE BUSINESS OF WINE

This paper will assess your knowledge and understanding of financial, commercial and marketing aspects of the international wine industry.

You should demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge to a range of business situations including marketing and investment strategies, financial decision-making, supplier/customer relationships and strategies for identifying and meeting consumer demand. You will need a broad background knowledge of wine industry structures and trends from around the world and an understanding of how these relate to one another.

You will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following:

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARKETING WINE

- Marketing strategy as practised by growers, producers, exporters, importers, distributors, and retailers.
- Market research, applied to existing and potential wine purchasers, with clear understanding of the appropriate techniques of information gathering and analysis as well as an awareness of current global consumption trends in a broad range of individual countries and on a global basis.

- Product marketing applied to different sectors of the wine market; factors influencing market segmentation; theory and practical application of product positioning and branding in relation to the market and product range.
- Promotional and sales techniques relevant to the wine industry; understanding of the role of advertising and public relations; use of traditional and modern channels of communication, including social media.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL AWARENESS

- Financial and commercial structures affecting all sectors of the wine industry, e.g. *négociants*, agents, brand owners, brokers, grape growers and co-operatives, wineries, large multinational producers, marketing co-operatives, merchants, consultants, specialists, supermarkets, wine chains, direct-to-consumer mail order and online operators.
- Factors to be considered when appraising investment decisions in different industry sectors.
- Influences on business decisions including strategic planning, national and international regulation, taxation and currency fluctuations.
- A general understanding of cash flow, balance sheets, profit and loss accounts and how costing and pricing decisions are made in the wine industry.
- Pricing trends in major markets, e.g. producer, *en primeur*, wholesale, retail and auction.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES FACING WINE PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

- Broad knowledge of industry structures world-wide.
- Export shares and trends for significant wine-producing countries and regions.
- Supply and demand trends for wine, grapes, and other raw materials, locally and globally.

THEORY PAPER FIVE: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

This paper will assess your communication skills, individual insights and originality of thought on a wide range of subjects which may be considered relevant to the wine industry now and in the future.

To be successful you will need to demonstrate your:

- Ability to write persuasively, authoritatively, imaginatively and fluently, showing a breadth of understanding of contemporary wine issues, supported by a wide range of global examples.
- Knowledge and critical analysis of social, historical, cultural, health, ethical, educational, communication and media issues relevant to the wine industry.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT FOR THEORY PAPERS

Answers may be written in any language agreed with the IMW and can be typed or handwritten. If handwritten, responses must be legible, otherwise examiners may award few or no marks for an answer. Correct spelling of wine terms is expected.

The structure of each paper may vary from year to year (e.g. there may be a compulsory question, or the paper may be divided into parts). You will be required to answer questions from across the syllabus of each paper.

Paper	Duration	Format of the paper
Theory paper one	Three hours	Three answers required
Theory paper two	Three hours	Three answers required
Theory paper three	Two hours	Two answers required
Theory paper four	Three hours	Three answers required
Theory paper five	Three hours	Two answers required

Important note: In any of theory papers one, two, three and four, examiners may set holistic questions, drawing on a student's knowledge and understanding from across all four papers. If a question requires an answer that draws on knowledge across more than one paper, this will be stated clearly in the examination paper. In theory paper five it is expected that you will draw on knowledge and understanding gleaned from your study across the other four papers.



STAGE THREE

THE RESEARCH PAPER

The research paper (RP) is an independent written report of 6,000 to 10,000 words. You can choose a wine-related topic from any area of the sciences, arts, humanities, social sciences, or any other discipline. You are free to choose how to explore your topic, as long as this choice enables a rigorous interpretation of the subject and makes a contribution to the understanding of the world of wine.

The RP will enable you to:

- Demonstrate possession of the required set of analytical, research, interpretative and communication skills to deliver an in-depth study report appropriate to the field of study.
- Produce a report that could be commissioned by any relevant member of the global wine community.
- Acquire in-depth knowledge and understanding of a subject of your choice and thereby position yourself as an expert in the given area.

As an RP candidate, you will be expected to demonstrate your ability to:

- Identify and develop an original research objective in a wine-related subject of your choice, reviewing relevant literature and providing context for your research.
- Apply an appropriate research methodology to address the research objective(s) and present research findings in accordance with your research paper proposal (RPP).

- Analyse and evaluate those research findings critically and in an original way, answering the questions set out in your RPP.
- Give reasoned, evidence-based conclusions.
- Meet required standards of written presentation, in accordance with the RP guidelines.

You will be guided by the research paper assignment marking scheme (RAMS) conducted in stage two of the programme and the RPP approval process, which will lead to an acceptable subject, an agreed set of key research questions and an approved research methodology.

THE RESEARCH PAPER: METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The first part of the RP examination process is gaining acceptance of your RPP. The second part is assessment of your final RP against your RPP, to ensure that it credibly answers your key research questions and follows the stated methodology. The IMW reserves the right to use plagiarism/ghost writing detection software for any RP submitted for examination. The IMW also reserves the right to call a viva (oral examination) for any RP submitted for examination.

IMW MEMBERSHIP

Integrity and highest ethical standards are core values of the IMW. You are expected to abide by these values in every aspect of your MW studies. It is only by passing all parts of the IMW examination AND committing to abide by the code of conduct that you attain the right to membership of the IMW and use of the title Master of Wine, or its abbreviated form MW.

RP ADVISORS

The RP process also involves a pool of MW advisors. You will be assigned an advisor who will be both a mentor and an examiner at various times, allowing for transparency of requirements and standards.

You will work closely with your advisor throughout the final stage of your MW studies. You will be able to communicate with your advisor directly, and with the panel chair via an RP coordinator. Your submitted RP will be considered by two examiners, who will report their conclusions to the panel.

SUPPORT AND TRAINING

Stage three will start with a meeting, usually via video conferencing in the autumn to brief you about expectations, requirements and deadlines. There will be a specific emphasis on the pertinent points of a successful research paper proposal (RPP).

The IMW endeavours to provide comprehensive support, but ultimately the third part of the MW examination remains self-study in style similar to the closed book parts of the exam.

Throughout your student journey, you will receive the following support in your pursuit of completing the RP successfully:

- comprehensive and clear information on the RP and relevant processes and procedures
- a dedicated presentation on the RP at the stage one seminar
- skills development workshops at the residential seminars in both stage one and stage two
- RP assignments (RAMS) in stage two
- an RP advisor in stage three of the study programme.

All RP sessions provided by the IMW do not aim to teach or train you in specific methods of research or use of analytical tools. The objective of the workshops is to help you develop your understanding of the principles, best practice and common pitfalls in conducting wine industry research.

CONSULTATION

You will work with your advisor and other MWs involved with the delivery of the RP.

You are also encouraged to consult industry and other experts if you need advice or guidance in a specific area. This could be about the topic, the way of accessing and processing information, methodology, analytical tools, writing or even proofreading the final paper.

You may view previous RPs by requesting via the IMW's website: www.mastersofwine.org/rp

CHOICE OF SUBJECT

The choice of subject is the first and most important stage on the journey towards writing a successful RP. Subjects that are too broad in their scope and require large amounts of data are likely to prove very challenging. Therefore, in selecting an RP subject you should assess your strengths, skills, and opportunities and find a subject which can make use of these advantages. You must also discuss your idea, methodology and timing with your advisor before completing a research paper proposal (RRP).

The following are a few guidelines to help you select an RP subject:

- The RP has been designed to be flexible and allows you to select subjects covering any aspect of the world of wine. Subjects covering the history, the philosophy and the

sociology of wine are just as acceptable as those requiring detailed data collection and analysis.

- You may have connections within a region, a sector or a company from which you can obtain data that outsiders might find hard to access. This is particularly true of production, financial and sales data which many companies and organisations are unwilling to provide to people they do not know or trust.
- The IMW has over 30 supporters: companies and organisations that provide help in various ways to the IMW. They range from major wine producers and producer organisations, barrel makers and yeast producers, to manufacturers of fine glassware. Most of them have expressed an interest in helping RP candidates and may be able to provide you with access to facilities, data and opportunities for fact gathering. Supporters may also have a need for some specialist research for themselves. If you wish to pursue this avenue of inquiry you should make contact with the IMW's executive team.
- Almost all MWs work in the world of wine. If you have identified an area for a subject and need to discuss your ideas with an MW working in that field, your advisor should be able to introduce you to an appropriate person.
- Beware of subjects that require the collection of data from large numbers of people, companies or organisations. Response rates are notoriously difficult to predict, whether solicited via email, web-based survey tools or questionnaires completed by hand. When they fall below the number required for the correct sample size for statistical reliability, getting the additional responses can prove difficult and time consuming.
- Surveys and questionnaires can be difficult to design if accurate, unbiased data is required.

- Subjects that require tastings to provide unbiased data can also be difficult to organise and arrange and, like surveys and questionnaires, do not always provide evidence of what an RP author thinks/hopes they will find.
- The analysis of data from surveys, questionnaires and tastings can often be difficult and very time consuming.
- You may make use of outside help in collecting and preparing data for your RP. This could include the analysis of wine samples, the arranging and hosting of tastings or the collection of data via surveys or questionnaires. This help can be paid or unpaid. Whenever external help of this nature is used, this must be indicated in the text at the appropriate point and full details of the help, including any financial arrangements, must be given in the appendices.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

You must keep in touch with your advisor about the progress of the RP and attempt to resolve any issues at an early stage. Advisors are your point of contact with the RP moderators.

While writing the proposal, you will be able to consider practical matters that may influence your choice of topic or identify points that will require diligent management during the research. For example:

- Access to resources (books, journals, statistical data, research reports, data-sets, libraries, archives, art galleries).
- Language skills.
- Expertise in using the requisite analytical tool(s): e.g. conducting questionnaires, conducting interviews, sampling a statistical population and processing the data, working with historical archives, operating mathematical-statistical

formulae, and designing, managing and controlling an experiment.

- Understanding of analytical tools (e.g. chemical analysis of ferments, correlations, etc.).
- Financial implications of the research.

RP EXAMINATION PROCESS

The first part of this examination process is having a proposal accepted. During October and November you will submit this for review and approval. The proposal is approved (or referred or rejected) by the RP moderators, but will only be sent to them with the explicit approval of your MW advisor. You will be able to re-submit a referred proposal, or a new proposal if requested. The moderators will also provide you with appropriate feedback via your MW advisor.

The research paper will be submitted to the RP advisor in May and, after consultation, to the examiners by the end of June. There is also a second opportunity to submit an RP in December.

RP candidates must have an approved RPP within two years of passing the closed book parts of the exam. RP candidates must receive a pass for their RP within five years of passing the closed book parts of the exam.



SETTING AND MARKING OF THE EXAMINATION

THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

The content, conduct and marking of the MW examination is led by members of the IMW's Examination Committee (ExamCom). Their work is overseen by the Education and Examination Board (EEB). ExamCom includes MWs from across the world.

ExamCom is made up of three panels, of which two (the practical and theory panels) work on the closed book parts of the MW examination. The third panel administers the RP.

CANDIDATE ANONYMITY

Candidates taking the MW examination are never identified by name. Those marking and moderating the papers can only identify papers by your candidate number.

RESULTS

You will receive the results from the examination in early September. If a component (i.e. theory or practical) does not achieve an overall pass, individual grades for each paper will be provided to help you understand where your points of weakness may be. Under no circumstances will examination scripts be returned to you. There is no additional feedback provided on examination papers.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The IMW is committed to a policy of equal access in all areas in which it operates. We will endeavour to make special considerations to minimise disadvantages to candidates with disabilities or difficulties. Any special considerations will not give candidates an advantage over those candidates for whom considerations are not being made.

Special considerations include, but are not limited to:

- special access arrangements at seminars and course days for students with disabilities and/or visual impairments
- changing standard examination assessment arrangements, where appropriate
- adapting assessment material, where appropriate.

It is your responsibility to inform the executive team of any special considerations required at the time of application to the programme, so that necessary arrangements can be made.

If you are diagnosed with a condition during the programme, the executive team must be informed more than **eight weeks** before any assessment activity, or, if later, immediately upon diagnosis, if you wish to benefit from a special consideration in that year.

If you wish to have temporary special considerations taken into account, you should inform the executive team immediately when the situation arises. No backdated requests for special consideration will be approved.

It should be noted that arrangements will not be made when a candidate's particular difficulty directly affects performance in the skills that are the focus of the assessment, nor will the assessment demands be altered.

Out of fairness to all candidates, any request for special considerations must be accompanied by documentary evidence from a medical or appropriate professional.

The implementation and management of this policy lies jointly with the executive director of the IMW and members of the IMW. Their decision is final.

THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

ExamCom's practical panel consists of a number of MW examiners and an MW paper chair. Each of the three practical papers is set by a panel of MW examiners. The examiners, plus the paper chair, select accompanying questions.

The question setting process starts in late November/early December. The practical panel tastes through potential examination wines checking for typicity and the quality level the panel seek to display.

The wines themselves are sourced, collated centrally and sent to the exam centres. In the MW examination, every candidate will therefore be tasting wines bought at the same time and in the same place.

Following the MW examination, the MW examiners who set a particular paper then separately mark the scripts relating to that paper. They then send their results to the paper and panel chairs for moderation.

The practical panel chair moderates any marking discrepancies between examiners. They also moderate the complete set of papers for any student who could be considered 'borderline' overall.

The practical panel chair's moderated results are then sent to the overall chief examiner, who checks and discusses the results, also involving the external examiner. Further moderation may then take place before the chief examiner finally passes the results to the EEB for approval.



THE THEORY EXAMINATION

ExamCom's theory panel consists of approximately 30 MWs. Each of the five theory papers is set by a paper chair and a team of examiners. The paper chairs then report to the overall theory panel chair and the chief examiner.

The paper chairs for each paper brainstorm with their MW teams to come up with topics and areas that they wish to examine. In December the paper chairs meet with the theory panel chair to discuss the ideas that have been put forward for individual papers and to formulate questions. They refine the final questions and ensure there is a good balance across the whole examination.

Once the wording for the questions has been agreed, they are checked by non-native speakers of English to ensure they are comprehensible, clear and easy to understand. They are then typeset, and comprehensively proofread before being printed.

Every answer is marked by two MW examiners. Each examiner marks up to three questions. They mark all scripts separately, and return their marks to the relevant paper chair for moderation.

The paper chair then moderates if there is any discrepancy between the two marks. They also moderate the complete set of papers for any student that could be considered 'borderline' for that paper.

The theory chair considers the overall results and moderates across all five papers. Any candidate who is 'borderline' overall will be reconsidered as necessary. They then meet with all the paper chairs and both the chief examiner and the external examiner. Final results are discussed and more moderation may be required. Once the chief examiner is confident that the

process is complete, they pass the results to the EEB for approval.

Once the EEB approves all the results, statistical data is collated for all papers and a report on the conduct of the examination from the external examiner is presented to the EEB.

Once the results are formally approved in this way, results are sent out to all candidates by email. This is the first time that you will be identified by name throughout the whole process.

THE RESEARCH PAPER

The first part of the examination process is gaining acceptance of a proposal. The proposal is approved, referred or rejected by the RP moderators. They also provide appropriate feedback to you via your MW advisor.

Like the other two parts of the MW examination, each RP is examined by two MW examiners, and occasionally by a non-MW expert in that field. If there is a discrepancy in the marking, it will be looked at by the RP moderators, and if necessary, the chief examiner and external examiner.

As with the other parts of the examination, those marking and moderating the RPs can only identify papers by the candidate number. Your identity will only be revealed when it is announced that you have become a Master of Wine.

ASSESSMENT AND MARKING BAND DESCRIPTIONS

The theory and practical papers

These are illustrative examples of what papers within a grade boundary might include. Each answer will be considered on its own merit. Answers may therefore encompass some or all of these elements.

Grade	Theory papers	Practical papers
High pass A 70% plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well written, with clear and convincing structure of argument. Provides an excellent answer to the question, drawing on a wide range of examples and relevant literatures from a multidisciplinary perspective. Reflects excellent knowledge and experience of the wine trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality structure of argument based on evidence in the glass. Identifies the most relevant criteria, and provides a concise summary of the evidence. Clearly answers the question. Very accurate assessment of the quality levels of the wines. Excellent identification of wines. Excellent knowledge of implications of grape characteristics and winemaking techniques.
Pass B 65% – 69%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfactorily written, with clear structure of argument. Provides a sound answer to the question, drawing on a range of examples and relevant literatures from a multidisciplinary perspective. Reflects appropriate knowledge and experience of the wine trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures argument based on evidence in the glass. Identifies the most important factors, and provides a reasonably concise summary of the evidence. Answers the question with specific relevance to samples. Accurate assessment of the quality levels of the wines. Generally good identification of wines. Good knowledge of implications of grape characteristics and winemaking techniques.

Grade	Theory papers	Practical papers
Just below threshold C+ 60% – 64%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately written, although the structure of the argument is poor. Not quite a full answer to the question with some omissions of key issues. Some examples and some mention of relevant literatures used although insufficiently multidisciplinary in approach. Limited knowledge and experience of the wine trade demonstrated in answers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies relevant factors, but lacks focus on the wines and questions being asked. Mostly accurate assessment of the quality levels of the wines. Some accuracy in identification of wines. Arguments not always based on evidence in the glass. Adequate knowledge of implications of grape characteristics and winemaking techniques. Errors in a number of places lead to the candidate's overall tasting skills and theoretical knowledge to be brought into question.
Below threshold C 55% – 59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately written, but with weak structure of argument. An incomplete answer to the question that omits key issues. Contains few examples or mentions of relevant literatures; insufficiently multidisciplinary in approach. Insufficient knowledge and experience of the wine trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies some relevant factors, but insufficiently focused on answering the question based on samples. Some accuracy in the assessment of the quality levels of the wines. Some accuracy in identification of wines. Arguments not always based on evidence in the glass. Some knowledge of implications of grape characteristics and winemaking techniques.
Inadequate D 45% – 54%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate written style or structure of argument. Very limited answer to the question, with few examples and negligible mention of relevant literatures; very little multidisciplinary approach. Reflects little knowledge or experience of the wine trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies few relevant factors, and does not provide a focused answer to the question. Limited ability to assess the quality level of the wines. Inadequate accuracy in identification of wines. Arguments insufficiently based on evidence in the glass. Little knowledge of implications of grape characteristics and winemaking techniques.
Very inadequate E Less than 35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very poor written style and very inadequate structure of argument. Does not answer the question. Fails to provide examples and does not mention relevant literatures. Lacks multidisciplinary approach. Reflects negligible knowledge or experience of the wine trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not identify relevant factors, with poor structure and many answers incomplete. Very limited ability to assess the quality of the wines. Poor recognition and analysis. Arguments not based on evidence in the glass. Little knowledge of implications of grape characteristics and winemaking techniques.

RP MARKING CRITERIA

Grade	Marking criteria
A Pass with Distinction The RP is accepted without requiring revisions and the candidate will be recommended for membership of the IMW subject to signing the code of conduct and paying the appropriate membership fee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuasive and masterful treatment of the subject. • Shows a high level of knowledge and understanding on the subject matter. • Has rigorously explored the subject matter as defined by the synopsis. • Demonstrates original research with a clear focus on analysis rather than just description. Shows some evidence of original thinking. • Provides an excellent account of the methodology and the sampling strategy used. • Provides a thorough and rigorous review of the relevant literature. • Argues convincingly and coherently, leading to sound conclusions. • High quality of grammar, spelling and presentation. • All sources cited accurately in the text and listed in the bibliography. • Is written within the required word limit.
B Pass The RP is accepted without requiring revisions and the candidate will be recommended for membership of the IMW subject to signing the code of conduct and paying the appropriate membership fee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original research used from a sufficient number of suitable sources to address most matters in the synopsis, and to enable relevant conclusions to be drawn. • Includes appropriate analysis, over and above mere description. • Clear discussion of methodology and sampling strategy used. • Includes a sound review of the relevant literature. • Coherently argued and clearly structured and expressed. • Good level of grammar, spelling and presentation. • Sources cited accurately in the text and listed in the bibliography. • Is written within the required word limit.

Grade	Marking criteria
C Refer The RP requires revisions to reach the required standard. It may be submitted on ONE further occasion only. Candidates whose RPs have been referred will be expected to submit a revised version of their RP according to the published RP timetable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient evidence of original research, but capable of reworking to a level that would pass. • Focuses excessively on description rather than analysis, but has potential to be reworked to reveal an appropriate level of analysis. • Insufficiently addresses the synopsis. • Methodology poorly articulated. • Narrow evidence base. • Contains some factual inaccuracies that can readily be corrected in a revision. • Incomplete or unclear arguments leading to unconvincing conclusions. • Inadequate presentation either in structure (e.g. new material introduced in conclusion), spelling, or grammar. • Insufficient referencing, lack of co-ordination between text citations and bibliography. • Exceeds permitted word count, or excessive amount of material included in appendices.
D Fail The RP is deemed unacceptable and ineligible for further submission. In the event that an RP is assessed as a fail, candidates will need to propose a new topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentally weak: contains major errors of fact or logic, or shows a lack of knowledge or understanding of key matters. • Very little original research, relying heavily on existing literature, or on hearsay, or discussion with a statistically insignificant number of respondents. • Has very little analysis. • Fails to address objectives of synopsis in a coherent way, or to draw relevant conclusions. • Inadequate account of methods and sampling strategy. • Very narrow evidence base. • Muddled structure and poor presentation; poor spelling and grammar. Very difficult to follow. • Major shortfalls in referencing, with high levels of inaccuracies or omissions. • Length exceeds permitted word count, or excessive amount of material included in appendices.



RESOURCES

IMW WEBSITE

The IMW's website is the first point of reference for all students. It has a dedicated students' area containing a range of resources, including:

- details for seminars, course days and student trips
- assignment marking schemes (AMS) details, such as questions and submission deadlines
- a recommended reading list
- subscriptions and other discounted offers
- an online resource library with presentations, papers and other information, including materials from past seminars and course days.

PAST PAPERS AND EXAMINERS' REPORTS

We publish past theory and practical examination papers and the accompanying examiners' reports on our website.

Examiners write an annual report to review the performance of candidates. These reports do not provide model answers, but they do highlight what made some essays outstanding and where others failed.

EXAMINATION FEEDBACK AND VIDEOS

As well as a written examiners' report, the panel chairs of the theory and practical papers are recorded discussing their reports. In the videos, they typically expand on their written reports, offering you further insights.

IMW EVENTS

We organise events all around the world. These include walk-around tastings, tutored seminars and thematic tastings. Many events are held in London, but there are other events in North America and Australasia, as well as at international trade fairs.

The flagship event is the annual Claret tasting which is held in London, Napa and Sydney.

All events are advertised on the IMW's website, and as an MW student you receive a discount.

FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition fees are set on an annual basis and they are payable at the beginning of the academic year. Some scholarships are offered by supporters and other wine companies.

Some organisations will offer the winner study trips to wine regions and others to industry events and conferences. A list of available scholarships is published on the IMW's website.



2019–2020 FEES

	Europe (£)		North America (£)	Australasia (£)
	Without tax (if EU tax number provided)	With tax (VAT at 20%)	Tax not applicable	With tax (GST at 10%)
Application fee	GBP 185	GBP 222		
Stage one fee/ stage two fee	GBP 3,860	GBP 4,632	GBP 3,300*	GBP 3,663*
Stage two theory only fee	GBP 2,420	GBP 2,904	N/A	N/A
Stage two practical only fee	GBP 3,860	GBP 4,632	GBP 3,300*	GBP 3,663*
Stage two exam entry fee (subject to confirmation)	GBP 1,685	GBP 2,022	GBP 1,685	GBP 1,853.50
Research paper fee	GBP 1,160**	GBP 1,392**		

The fees will cover the tuition of the given programme and, in certain cases, residential accommodation. Fees marked with * do not include accommodation.

**RP fees are subject to revision in March each year. Submissions made in June 2020 will be subject to a fee alteration.

Fees are inclusive of the following:

- Participation in the residential seminars, which offer a variety of lectures, workshops and tasting sessions.
- Participation in course days.
- Mentor support from a Master of Wine.
- Access to discounted tickets for IMW events.
- Assessments in the form of the assignment marking schemes.
- Access to the student area of the IMW's website, which contains important information and useful resources.

In addition to fees paid to the IMW, you will need to factor in the costs of travelling to seminars, course days and examinations as well as purchasing of wines for personal tastings/study.



PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS

- Austrian Wine Marketing Board
- AXA Millésimes
- Constellation Brands
- Madame Bollinger Foundation
- Waitrose & Partners

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

- Dourthe
- E. & J. Gallo Winery
- Istituto Grandi Marchi
- Jackson Family Wines
- Riedel
- Ste. Michelle Wine Estates
- Taransaud Tonnellerie
- Wine Institute

SUPPORTERS

- Le Conseil des Grands Crus Classés en 1855
- Estates & Wines
- Familia Torres
- González Byass
- Hatch Mansfield
- Lallemant
- MACH Flynt, Inc./DC Flynt MW Selections
- Maison Louis Latour
- Primum Familiae Vini
- Santa Rita Estates
- Silicon Valley Bank
- Südtirol/Alto Adige Wines
- Swiss Wine
- Symington Family Estates
- Trentodoc
- Villa Maria Group
- The Vintners' Company

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