

Doc. 300.3.3

Date:

Feedback Report from Experts

(Departmental)

- **Higher Education Institution:**
European University Cyprus
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **School/Faculty:** School of Humanities, Social and Education Sciences
- **Department:** Arts
- **Programme(s) of study under evaluation**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

Programme 1

In Greek:

«ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ, 240 ECTS/4 έτη, (Πτυχίο)»

In English:

«Music, 240 ECTS/4 Years, (Bachelor of Music)»

Programme 2

In Greek:

«ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ, 90 ECTS/1.5 έτος, (Μεταπτυχιακό)»

- Μουσική Παιδαγωγική
- Εκτέλεση
- Σύνθεση

In English:

«Music, 90 ECTS/1.5 Years, (Master of Music)»

- Music Education
- Performance
- Composition

Programme 3

In Greek:

«ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ, 180 ECTS/3 έτη, (Διδακτορικό)»

In English:

«Music, 180 ECTS/3 years, (Doctor of Philosophy)»

- **Department's Status:** Currently Operating

The present document has been prepared within the framework of the authority and competencies of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, according to the provisions of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws of 2015 to 2019” [N. 136 (I)/2015 to N. 35(I)/2019].

A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- *The Higher Education Institution (HEI) based on the External Evaluation Committee's (EEC's) evaluation report (Doc.300.3.1) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the department in each assessment area.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area, the HEI must respond on, without changing the format of the report:*
 - *the findings, strengths, areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the deficiencies noted under the quality indicators (criteria)*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The HEI's response must follow below the EEC's comments, which must be copied from the external evaluation report (Doc. 300.3.1).*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on a separate document.*

1. Department's academic profile and orientation

Sub-areas

- 1.1 Mission and strategic planning
- 1.2 Connecting with society
- 1.3 Development processes

General comments by the EEC:

- The absence of a specialist in research-led performance mitigates against the strategic development in that field.
- Additionally, write:
 - Expected number of Cypriot and international students
 - Countries of origin of international students and number from each country

The assessors were not provided with these.

Response by EUC:

- In full agreement with the Committee's observation, as indicated also in the Programmatic Evaluation Document, and in confirming our own understanding as to the fact that the absence of a specialist in research-led performance mitigates against the strategic development of the Department in the Performance path in the Ph.D., the Department of Arts, has decided not to proceed to accept applications for a Ph.D. in Performance. At the same time, the Department followed the respective suggestion of EEC to review the research-led scientific collaborators leading the Master's degree in Performance, and advertised a number of scientific collaborators' vacancies. The advertisement aims to attract performers who focus on research-led performance, and who will work closely with the full-time faculty to ensure the coherence of the performance concentration. The advertisement was announced with the indication that it aims to attract Instrumental Instructors of all instruments and that the required qualifications include: a) a Doctorate degree (i.e. PhD holder in the relevant field of Performance or equivalent qualifications), and b) Evidence on creative/practice-based research (please find more details in the link of the announcement of the vacancy on the EUC Website here <https://euc.ac.cy/en/department-of-arts-scientific-collaborator-2/>).
- As far as the expected number of Cypriot and international students requested by the EEC, the expectations per year of study are as follows:
 - For the B.Mus: up to 20 students, most of them Cypriots.
 - For the M.Mus: up to 20 students, most of them Cypriots, Greek, other European countries and Middle East.
 - For the Ph.D.: up to 5 students, most of them Cypriots, but also from Greece, other European countries and Middle East.
- In addition, we resubmit here (please see Appendix 1) the table with the countries of origin of international students in our Department and the number of students from each country. The table was included (as Table 4), among the table attachments initially submitted along the document 200.3 (Application for Departmental Evaluation). It is now updated with the

F2019 and S2020 entrances. For the academic year F2019-S2020, the intake of music students was 14, with 1 student from Egypt and the rest from Cyprus.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by the EEC:

- **The mission statement on the website does not match the mission statement provided to the assessors.**
- **The absence of a specialist in research-led performance mitigates against the strategic development in that field.**

Response by EUC:

- Indeed, the University's website was not updated with the mission statement of the Department on the date of the EEC visit. However, you can now assess the mission statement available through the link below: <https://euc.ac.cy/en/academics/schools-departments/school-of-humanities-social-education-sciences/>
- As mentioned above, it is true that the absence of a specialist in research-led Performance hinders the offering of the Ph.D. to applicants who would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Performance. Thus, the Department will not proceed with opening positions for Ph.D. students in Performance. In addition, as indicated also in the Programmatic Evaluation Document, the Department followed the respective suggestion of EEC to review the research-led scientific collaborators leading the Master's degree in Performance, and advertised a number of scientific collaborators' vacancies. The advertisement aims to attract performers who focus on research-led performance, and who will work closely with the full-time faculty to ensure the coherence of the performance concentration. The advertisement was announced with the indication that it aims to attract Instrumental Instructors of all instruments and that the required qualifications include: a) a Doctorate degree (i.e. PhD holder in the relevant field of Performance or equivalent qualifications), and b) Evidence on creative/practice-based research (please find more details in the link of the announcement of the vacancy on the EUC Website here <https://euc.ac.cy/en/department-of-arts-scientific-collaborator-2/>).

EEC's final recommendations and comments

The assessors note that EUC has tried to follow the recommendations of the EEC by advertising a number of vacancies for scientific collaborators. However, the assessors could not get any idea about the content because the website failed (<https://euc.ac.cy/en/department-of-arts-scientific-collaborator-2/> --- no results found)

The assessors strongly support EUC's decision to terminate the performance option for Ph.D. applicants.

The assessors recommend that EUC should neither offer nor advertise nor run a PhD in Performance until a PhD in Performance programme is accredited.

2. Quality Assurance

Sub-areas

- 2.1 System and quality assurance strategy
- 2.2 Quality assurance for the programmes of study

Areas of improvement and recommendations by the EEC:

The assessors found certain weaknesses in the provision of online databases, especial JStor.

The Department needs a dedicated large ensemble room.

Response by EUC:

We fully agree with the Committee's findings regarding the provision of certain databases from the library's electronic catalogue. Therefore, the Department has secured-as suggested also in the Programmatic Evaluation document- the following, aiming at enriching the Department's library databases so that it facilitate research in the field of music:

1. The Library has taken care to include in the 2020-2021 budget the acquisition of both RILM and JSTOR.
2. The Library will further acquire RISM and MGG, on par with the interlibrary agreement among all Cypriot universities.

It is also pointed out that The EUC's Library already provides access to Cambridge Core (Cambridge University Press) including all 360 peer-reviewed journals and their digitised archives.

As far as the dedicated large ensemble room is concerned, following the Committee's suggestion, all band rehearsals will be permanently moved to the large auditorium (Cultural Centre), which the Committee had the opportunity to visit during their visit and which can host around 700 people and is suitable for large ensemble rehearsals.

EEC's final recommendations and comments

The assessors note with approval that EUC follows the recommendations of EEC to enrich the existing library resources (Naxos, GroveOnline, Cambridge Core) with the additional databases (RILM, Jstor for 2020-2021) and further with RISM and MGG to accompany Proquest.

The assessors note with approval that EUC offers the large auditorium (Cultural Centre) for all large ensemble rehearsals.

3. Administration

No specific comments by the EEC.

4. Learning and Teaching

Sub-areas

- 4.1 Planning the programmes of study
- 4.2 Organisation of teaching

Areas of improvement and recommendations by the EEC:

Numbers of students in spaces is suitable, except in the case of large ensemble studios.

Response by EUC:

We thank the Committee for this valuable suggestion. A constant strategy of the Department has been to maintain excellence in our infrastructure necessary to deliver our programmes' curriculum and ensure our educational mission. As the Committee confirms, during its visit, toured the premises of the Department, finding the spaces suitable, except of the large ensemble studio. Indeed, even though a small Department, our facilities are satisfactory. Therefore as pointed out in Section 2 of the report, as far as the dedicated large ensemble room is concerned, the band rehearsals will now on be permanently moved to the large auditorium (Cultural Centre), which can host around 700 people and is suitable for large ensemble rehearsals.

EEC's final recommendations and comments

The assessors note with approval that EUC will offer the large auditorium (Cultural Centre) for all large ensemble rehearsals.

5. Teaching Staff

No specific comments by the EEC.

6. Research

Areas of improvement and recommendations by the EEC:

The absence of a B.Mus senior thesis and composition portfolio is a barrier to developing the students' research abilities.

Response by EUC:

We fully understand and agree with the Committee's suggestions that aim to improve our students' research abilities. Thus, the Department has revised the B.Mus. program's curriculum in order to include two new courses, namely the "MTC420: Composition Portfolio" and "MHI420: Undergraduate Thesis" which will match the Recital as well as the Music Practicum (please see Revised Curriculum in Appendix 2 and Revised Syllabi of the two new courses in Appendix 3). Thus the students will gain a more rounded experience to all different areas which are now enhanced with a research scope aiming at developing their overall research abilities (please also see the respective responses of the Department in the Programmatic Evaluation Document response).

EEC's final recommendations and comments

The assessors note with approval the inclusion of the new courses "MTC420" and "MHI 420" in the Bachelor programme in support of the students' research abilities.

7. Resources

No specific comments by the EEC.

B. Conclusions and final remarks

In a well-managed department with ambitious students and a coherent set of programmes, there should be opportunities for the greater involvement of upper-level students in research activity: senior thesis and composition portfolio and so on.

Response by EUC:

We would like to thank the EEC for the positive feedback and its constructive recommendations. Indeed, we are glad that the Committee noted the coherency of our programs, its well-management as well as acknowledged the ambitions of our students. In addition, as the Committee mentions in the report, we are proud that we have managed to achieve a happy and well-organised unit with good resources and facilities.

We would also like to thank the Committee for the fruitful and collegial discussions that took place through both days of its visit.

At the same time, we took into serious consideration of all Committee's recommendations and we trust that we have fully complied with their suggestions and recommendations. As far as the Committee's concern regarding our students' research activity, we have revised the program curriculum to include a Composition Portfolio and Senior Thesis, which complement the existing Internship and Recital courses, in order to improve our students' research training and research skills, and thus allow them to proceed, better equipped, to graduate studies. Similarly, we addressed all other recommendations of the Committee as described in the previous sections of the response report.

As a final note, we would like to say that our Faculty found the EEC's vivid, sincere and fruitful discussions as a constructive learning process. The review process proved a positive experience, with the sole intent of further improving and developing our programs to achieve higher quality standards. We have thoroughly reviewed the findings, strengths and areas of improvement indicated by the EEC and we have attempted to respond to these as succinctly as possible, indicating actions taken. By embracing the EEC's comments and suggestions, we are convinced that our Department will become even stronger and more ambitious, strengthening our students' skills and maintaining its vibrant environment. In this regard, we are grateful to the EEC for their candid discussions, and the insightful comments and suggestions throughout their reports.

EEC's final recommendations and remarks

The assessors thank the EUC for their constructive cooperation and recognise that EUC have made significant changes according to the recommendations of EEC in a very short time.

In accordance with the final recommendations in the previous sections the assessors are convinced that all changes now executed by EUC and in the near future will lead to a further improvement and development of their programmes of study in achieving higher quality standards.

The assessors agree to:

programme 1, Bachelor of Music

programme 2, Master of Music (Music Education, Performance, Composition)

programme 3, Doctor of Philosophy (Music Education, Composition)

The assessors strongly support the decision of EUC to curtail the performance option to Ph.D. applicants.

The assessors recommend that EUC should neither offer nor advertise nor run a PhD in Performance until a PhD in Performance programme is accredited.

C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>
FullName	Position

Date:

