

Report on the outcome

of the accreditation procedure for:

- PhD in Philosophy
- MA in Philosophy (one-year)
- MA in Philosophy (two-year)

to be offered in Vienna by the Central European University
Private University

1 Subject of the application

The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria) conducted an accreditation procedure for the accreditation of PhD in Philosophy, MA in Philosophy (one-year), MA in Philosophy (two-year) to be offered in Vienna by the Central European University Private University (CEU PU) in accordance with § 24 Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG) BGBl. I Nr. 74/2011 as amended in conjunction with § 2 Private Universities Act (PUG) BGBl. I Nr. 74/2011 as amended and § 17 and § 18 Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities 2019 (PU-AkkVO) as amended. In accordance with § 21 HS-QSG, AQ Austria publishes the following report on the outcome of the accreditation procedure:

2 Procedural steps

The accreditation procedure comprised the following procedural steps:

Procedural step	date
Accreditation application of the programmes received	19/12/2019
Request for modification of the application materials	04/03/2020
Amended application for the programmes received	18/03/2020

Complete and formally correct applications confirmed	20/03/2020
Decision on expert panel taken by the Board of AQ Austria	03/04/2020
Information on expert panel submitted to CEU PU	03/04/2020
1 st preparatory virtual conference with expert panel	30/04/2020
Additional application materials received before site visit	18/05/2020
Questions of expert panel (written form) to CEU PU	20/05/2020
Answers to questions by CEU PU	25/05/2020 & 27/05/2020
2 nd preparatory virtual conference with expert panel	27/05/2020
Virtual site visit	29/05/2020
Additional application materials received during site visit	29/05/2020
Additional application materials received after site visit	03/06/2020
Expert panel's report finalised	19/06/2020
Expert report submitted to CEU PU for comment	19/06/2020
Statement of costs submitted to applicant institution	22/06/2020
CEU PU statement on statement of costs received	22/06/2020
CEU PU's comment on the expert report received	03/07/2020
Expert panel's response to CEU PU's comment and modified/final expert report received	13/07/2020
Modified/final expert report submitted to applicant institution	13/07/2020

3 Accreditation decision

On July 23rd 2020 the Board of AQ Austria decided to grant accreditation to the above mentioned degree programmes to be offered in Vienna by Central European University Private University, according to § 24 section 4 Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG) in conjunction with § 2 Private Universities Act (PUG) in conjunction with § 9 section 1 Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities 2019 (PU-AkkVO), due to fulfilment of the criteria according to § 17 and § 18 PU-AkkVO.

The Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research approved the decision on July 24th 2020.

4 Annexes

- Comment on the expert report by Central European University Private University from 03/07/2020
- Modified/final expert report from 13/07/2020

July 2, 2020

The Board of AQ Austria
AQ Austria
Franz-Klein-Gasse 5
1190 Vienna

Dear Madam President, dear Members of the Board,

I hereby confirm that we have received and fully accept the Expert Panel Review Report regarding the following programs: MA in Philosophy (One-Year), MA in Philosophy (Two-Year), PhD in Philosophy. We are pleased to learn that the Report confirms the academic excellence of the programs and that they fulfill all the criteria for accreditation.

We fully accept the recommendation made in the Report. The administration of CEU PU will review its policies in line with the recommendation made in the Report to increase student participation in the quality assurance process. Please refer to the Department's detailed reply in the appendix of this letter.

We would like to thank the Expert Panel members for their expertise and insights, as well as for the productive and collegial discussions during the site visit. We are grateful to the Expert Panel members for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm with which they approached the task.

We await the decision of the Board with anticipation and looking forward to the opportunity of starting our programs in Vienna in the coming academic year.

Sincerely,



President and Rector
Central European University Private University

CEU PU Department of Philosophy Response to AQ Austria Expert Panel

The CEU PU Department of Philosophy would like to express its gratitude to the AQ Austria coordinators and expert panel for their thorough work and their cooperation during the accreditation process. Please find below the response of the Department to the recommendation made in the report, and a list of mistakes noted by the Department.

Recommendation

“To improve the CEU PU’s quality management system, the experts recommend a stronger student representation and participation in the Senate Curriculum and Academic Quality Assurance (SeCur). As outlined in CEU PU’s Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy, the committee undertakes to “assure quality of curriculum providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees”. Since all committee’s decisions are directly relevant for students at the CEU PU, a strong student’s involvement is thoroughly indispensable. By reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs, proposals for university wide courses and selecting courses for the following year, students in particular should have the opportunity to share their suggestions for improvement as well as objections concerning degree programmes, evaluation criteria and academic structure.” – p. 7

We appreciate the recommendation and agree that student participation in the quality assurance process is of utmost importance. CEU PU will review its Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy and explore ways to increase student representation.

Factual Errors and Mistakes

- 1) Section 4.1, p. 23.
Erroneous mention of "the doctoral programme" in reference to the 1-year MA program.
- 2) Section 4.2, p. 27.
"[M]ay choose philosophy courses per term from a minimum of 20..." should be "may choose elective philosophy courses from a minimum of 20..." as the choice is not per term.
- 3) Section 5.1, p. 37.
Erroneous mention of "the doctoral programme" in reference to the 2-year MA program
- 4) Section 5.2, p. 38.
"[M]ain objective, to give students who have not studied philosophy at undergraduate level but have an independent degree in some comparable subject an intensive education in philosophy" Should be "main objective, to give students who may or may not have studied philosophy at undergraduate level (but have at least an independent degree in some comparable subject) an intensive education in philosophy." (NB this wording better matches the similar text under section 5.2 #2 below).
- 5) Section 5.2, p. 38.
The weekly colloquium counts for 8 ECTS credits (4 credits per year) in the two-year MA program.
- 6) Section 5.2, p. 38.

After "[b]eyond that, students may choose elective modules in philosophy based on their interests and theses topics (20 ECTS credits in the first year and 36 ECTS credits in the second)," please insert "Students may optionally choose up to 8 ECTS credits per year of non-philosophy electives from courses offered by other CEU PU departments." (NB this is similar to the one-year program's non-philosophy course options, as clarified in the written CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts).

7) Section 5.8, p.48.

The summary "*Degree programme and degree programme management*" section is identical to that of the 1-year MA program, and thus is not entirely accurate on:

- a. the two-year program's main objective (which is described in the comment on item 4 above) and
- b. the two-year program's curriculum structure. In particular the text leaves out the primary distinguishing feature of the 2-year program curriculum which is: eight first-year mandatory courses in core areas of philosophy, including Logic.

Expert report on the accreditation procedure
for the degree programmes:
“PhD in Philosophy”
“MA in Philosophy One-Year”
“MA in Philosophy Two-Year”
conducted in Vienna by the Central European
University Private University

pursuant to § 7 of the Accreditation Regulation for Private Universities 2019 (PU-AkkVO)

Vienna, 19.06.2020

correction: modified expert report per 13.07.2020

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1 Basic principles for the procedure

The Austrian higher education system

To date, the Austrian higher education system comprises:

- 22 public universities, including the Danube University Krems, an university for postgraduate education;
- 16 private universities, run by nationally accredited private entities;
- 21 universities of applied sciences, run by state-subsidised entities organised under private law or by nationally accredited public entities;
- the university colleges of teacher education, run by nationally accredited public or private entities;
- the philosophical-theological higher education institutions, run by the Catholic Church;
- the Institute of Science and Technology – Austria, which focusses its tasks on the advancement and appreciation of new fields of research and a post-graduate training in the form of PhD and postdoc programmes.

In the winter semester of 2018/2019, 293,644 students were enrolled at public universities (incl. the Danube University Krems). Furthermore, 53,401 students were enrolled at universities of applied sciences and 14,446 students at private universities.¹

External quality assurance

Pursuant to the Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG), public universities shall perform an audit procedure for the certification of their internal quality management system every seven years. There are no legal or financial consequences linked to the decision on certification.

Private universities require institutional accreditation conducted by AQ Austria every six years. After twelve years of uninterrupted accreditation, the accreditation may also be awarded for twelve years. Interim degree programmes and certificate university programmes for further education leading to a degree programme also require accreditation.

Following the six-year period of institutional initial accreditation, universities of applied sciences must be re-accredited. After that, they pass on to the audit system. However, the accreditation is linked to a positive decision on certification in the audit procedure. Before degree programmes may be offered, they must be accredited once.

Accreditation of private universities and their degree programmes

In order to be active as a higher education institution in Austria, private universities require institutional accreditation which must be renewed on a regular basis. In addition to institutional accreditation, newly established degree programmes must be accredited once before they may be offered by the private university. The Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria) is responsible for carrying out accreditation procedures.

¹As at May 2019, data source: Statistics Austria/unidata. Contrary to the data of the public universities, the student numbers of the universities of applied sciences do not include non-degree seeking students. 278,039 degree students were enrolled at the public universities in the winter semester 2018/19.

The accreditation procedures are carried out in accordance with AQ Austria's Accreditation Regulation for Private Universities 2019 (PU-AkkVO). Furthermore, the agency has based its procedures on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.²

The AQ Austria appoints experts for reviewing accreditation applications. On the basis of the application documents and a site visit at the applicant institution, the experts draw up a joint written expert report. The Board of the AQ Austria then makes a decision on accreditation which is based on the expert report and takes into consideration the higher education institution's comment on the expert report. If the statutory prerequisites for accreditation are met and the required qualitative requirements are fulfilled, the degree programmes shall be accredited by official notification.

Before its entry into force, the official notification of the Board shall be subject to approval by the competent Federal Minister. After the procedure has been completed, a report on the outcome of the accreditation procedure as well as the expert report shall be published on the websites of AQ Austria and the applicant institution. Personal data and those parts of the report that disclose funding sources as well as business and operational secrets shall be exempt from publication.

The Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG) and the Private Universities Act (PUG) form the legal basis for the accreditation of degree programmes at private universities.

2 Short information on the accreditation procedure

Information on the applicant institution	
Applicant institution	Central European University Private University
Legal nature	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
Initial accreditation	16.06.2019
Last extension of accreditation	n.a.
Site/s	Vienna
Number of students	1800

The Central European University Private University submitted the application for accreditation on 19.12.2019. In its decision on 03.04.2020, the Board of AQ Austria appointed the following experts for the review of the accreditation application:

Name	Institution	Role assumed in the expert panel
Prof. Dr. Thomas Spitzley	Universität Duisburg-Essen	Chairing expert with scientific qualification
Prof. Dr. Francis Cheneval	Universität Zürich	Expert with scientific qualification

²https://www.aq.ac.at/de/akkreditierung/dokumente-akkreditierung/ESG_endorsedMay2015.pdf

Prof.Dr. Béatrice Lienemann	Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	Expert with scientific qualification
Prof. Dr. Judith Simon	Universität Hamburg	Expert with relevant professional experience
Michaela Bstieler MA	Universität Innsbruck	Student expert

On 29.05.2019 the experts and representatives of the AQ Austria conducted a virtual site visit at the facilities of the site at which the degree programmes PhD in Philosophy, MA in Philosophy One-Year and MA in Philosophy Two-Year of the Central European University Private University shall be offered.

3 Doctoral degree programme PhD in Philosophy: review and assessment based on the assessment criteria stipulated in the PU-AkkVO

Information on the accreditation application	
Name of the degree programme	PhD in Philosophy
Type of the degree programme	Doctoral programme
ECTS credits	240
Normal period of studies	12 terms (4 academic years)
Number of study places	5 regular ; 2 additional for joint History & Philosophy scheme
Academic degree	Doctor of Philosophy, short PhD
Organisational form	full-time
Language/s used	English
Site at which the degree programme is offered	Vienna
Tuition fees	None

3.1 Assessment criterion § 18 (1) 1 to 2: Development and quality assurance of the doctoral programme

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

1. The degree programme was developed using a predefined procedure for the development and establishment of degree programmes and involving the relevant stakeholder groups.

Findings and Evaluations:

In its application, the CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policy on establishing degree programmes. Establishing a new degree programme happens in four steps. 1) The idea for and initiative on establishing a new degree programme can come from any academic unit of the university. 2) It has to be discussed with and in principle approved by the Rector and the Provost. 3) Then the proposal is to be presented to the Academic Forum. 4) Finally, the proposal has to be approved by the Senate before the programme can eventually be submitted for accreditation.

The information, which a proposal for establishing a new programme must include, is specified in detail in the *CEU PU's Policy on Degree Programs*. It ranges from the proposed title, degree award and the total number of credits over the programme aims, learning outcomes, proposed structure of the programme with mandatory and elective study modules (including awarded ECTS credits) to programme targets like, e.g., anticipated student enrolment, annual graduation rate target, and target job placement rate. In addition, it must be stated which faculty will be involved in delivering the programme, whether additional faculty is needed, and which existing or additional resources are required.

The Academic Forum is mainly comprised of department heads, programme and PhD directors, directors of research centres and administrative units. It has no junior faculty or administrative staff as a member, but one student representative. However, since, apart from the Rector and the Provost, the Senate consists of elected senior and junior faculty representatives, elected administrative staff representatives, as well as student representatives, all relevant stakeholder groups are involved in the development and establishment of degree programmes.

It is worth mentioning that the degree programme has been successfully running in Budapest for more than a decade, and that during this time it has been evaluated and re-evaluated a couple of times. Thus, the doctoral programme, which is at issue here, is not one which has to be newly built up, but a well-established one.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Recommendation:

To improve the CEU PU's quality management system, the experts recommend a stronger student representation and participation in the Senate Curriculum and Academic Quality Assurance (SeCur). As outlined in *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy*, the committee undertakes to "assure quality of curriculum providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees". Since all committee's decisions are directly relevant for students at the CEU PU, a strong student's involvement is thoroughly indispensable. By reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs, proposals for university wide courses and selecting courses for the following year, students in particular should have the opportunity to share their suggestions for improvement as well as objections concerning degree programmes, evaluation criteria and academic structure.

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

2. Following its accreditation, the degree programme is incorporated into the private university's quality management system. The quality assurance measures also comprise adequate structures and procedures to ensure that the rules of good scientific practice are adhered to.

Findings and Evaluations:

In its application, the CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policy on operating and modifying degree programmes as well as on its institutional assessment and quality assurance policy. The CEU PU's quality management system is grounded and transparent. It is based on precise principles, including continuous improvement processes and assessment cycles. At the same time, the organization and mechanism described in the *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy* is clear, transparent and involves all relevant stakeholders. Substantial changes in the programme's content like, e.g., changes in the programme's focus or design, adding or eliminating a specialization, changes of the programme's title or, among other things, its award or mode of delivery require the approval of the Senate.

For each CEU PU teaching programme there is an annual review process, which should reflect on the quality and outcomes of the programme. These annual reviews are submitted to the Academic Secretary by the respective academic units. Unit heads are advised to coordinate the annual reviews with student representatives in the process, and the student's feedback plays an important role in the assessment. The reviews will be assessed by the Senate Curriculum and Quality Assurance Committee (SeCur), whose main task is, according to the CEU PU's website, to assure "quality of curriculum by providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees, such as developing university-wide criteria

for syllabi evaluation; reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs; reviewing proposals for university-wide courses and selecting courses for next academic year based on pre-agreed selection criteria." The SeCur as well as the Senate may make recommendations for changes and adjustments, out of which the Department prepares an Action plan which will then be followed up. This process, in turn, is assessed in the context of the periodic review of the respective Academic Department, which in general happens every five years.

As stated in the *CEU PU's Doctoral Regulations*, every "Doctoral Student commits to observe the *CEU PU's Code of Ethics*, the *CEU PU's Doctoral Regulations*, the doctoral regulations of their Doctoral Program and the generally accepted practices of academic honesty and good practices in research." The CEU PU's Code of Ethics applies to all areas of CEU PU's operations and programmes, and to the conduct of all its employees, students and guests. Among other things, it very carefully lists various types of academic dishonesty, e.g. different acts of forgery or fabrication, of cheating, and of plagiarism. In addition, the CEU PU's official document "Ethical Research Policy" makes clear that "[e]ach member of the CEU PU community [...] should adhere to the Ethical Research Guidelines [...] which lay out the main principles of ethical research in the social sciences, humanities and other relevant areas". In these guidelines it is, among other things, explained what the CEU PU understands by good scientific practice. The implementation of the Ethical Research Guidelines is overseen by an Ethical Research Committee, which advises the Rector and the Provost.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3.2 Assessment criterion § 18 (2) 1 to 6: Research environment

Research environment

1. The private university has developed a research concept which incorporates the doctoral degree programme and a development plan which comprises enhancement measures for the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

The department has developed a research concept which emphasizes a pluralistic and historical orientation within a largely analytic tradition (see also below). The concept also displays various measures to involve PhD students into research activities through internally and externally funded research grants and cooperation projects. Of particular relevance are two projects funded by the CEU PU Humanities Initiative, namely "The Epistemology of the In/Human" as well as "Understanding Humanity" (in cooperation with the CEU PU's History Department), which offer interdisciplinary PhD scholarship. Apart from this interdisciplinary collaboration, internal collaboration and exchange is also encouraged through the graduate seminar and the departmental colloquium. Internal grants are available to enhance the research skills and to organise conferences. Moreover, the graduate students can receive various fellowships and travel grants to do research abroad or attend conferences or summer schools. Finally, write-up grants are available to support students in the final stages of their theses.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research environment

2. The private university has defined a research focus for the degree programme which covers the broadness of the respective discipline as regards content and methods. The focus of the research performance

corresponds to the university's approach as well as to the respective subject culture and guarantees international visibility.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Department of Philosophy describes itself as largely oriented toward the 'analytic' tradition of philosophy while at the same time being pluralistic and historically-oriented within this tradition. The scientific staff is indeed predominantly rooted within the analytic philosophy, there is, however, a breadth of different and complementing expertise. The department is particularly strong in making insights from the history of philosophy fruitful for contemporary debates. Despite the strong analytic focus, there is considerable pluralism within as well as beyond the analytic tradition. On the one hand, there are members of the faculty which are conducting research and teaching on the so-called continental tradition (in particular phenomenology and hermeneutics). On the other hand, many faculty members address the impact of political, social and scientific developments on philosophical questions particularly within philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, political philosophy and metaphysics. The faculty has published numerous books with renowned publishing houses as well as articles in leading journals within the field. In sum, the performance of the faculty is in accordance with the university's mission to promote excellent research, to study and support open societies and to provide knowledge as a public good.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research environment

3. The private university has employed professors qualified in primary occupation in the discipline relevant for the degree programme who cover the broad range of the discipline's content and methods. Primary occupation here means working at least 50% of one's total working hours in salaried employment at the private university.

Findings and Evaluations:

The members of the faculty are firmly rooted within philosophy and cover a broad range of philosophical topics both historically and systematically within research and teaching. While analytic and the continental traditions of philosophy are both taught, the majority of the faculty members is research-wise oriented towards the analytic tradition within philosophy, only two members [...] have a research focus on hermeneutics and/or phenomenology. The analytic framework, however, is conceived broadly and covers a wide range of different specialisations. The department stresses that within the analytic framework, their research is pluralistic and historically oriented. A number of members has published extensively on the history of philosophy [...]. Moreover, the department is committed to philosophical research that addresses contemporary challenges and is challenged by actual social, political and scientific developments, in particular in regards to philosophy of science [...] and political philosophy [...], but also within philosophy of mind [...] and metaphysics [...]. The CEU PU stresses that their teaching is research-based and the members of the faculty indeed teach numerous courses in their field of expertise while at the same time covering the breadth of philosophy.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research environment

4. The private university maintains institutionally anchored co-operation projects in research and development or the development and appreciation of the arts which are relevant for the degree programme and adequate for the respective subject culture.

Findings and Evaluations:

There are various interdisciplinary projects within the CEU PU such as the "The Epistemology of the In/Human" and "Understanding Humanity", the latter a joint program with the history department offering two PhD positions. Moreover, there are collaborations with the CEU PU departments of Cognitive Science, History, Gender Studies, and Medieval Studies. The faculty has also acquired a number of grants, in particular from the Hungarian Scientific Research, but also from the European Commission (Marie Curie, FP6) as well as other foundations, such as the John Templeton Foundation. The department is a founding member of PLM, a network devoted to philosophy of mind and language. Through its members, the department has strong international ties and regularly invites international guest to the departmental colloquium series. Within Austria, they have also established close cooperation with the University of Vienna and plan to establish a joint research and teaching programme in the history and philosophy of science with the Vienna Circle Institute. Moreover, the department aims to strengthen its ties with the University of Graz in regards to the history of early modern philosophy. Due to the mandatory attendance of the departmental colloquium, students will also get to know researchers from various countries, which combined with the international network of the faculty and the generous availability of travel grants will further support mobility of students and staff. Of particular interest for PhD students are the annual philosophy courses as part of the CEU PU Summer University (<http://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/>), where students can present and discuss their work with renowned international faculty as well as the international graduate conferences. PhD students can also expand their teaching skills within the biannual student conference organized jointly with the University of Bayreuth.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research environment

5. The private university promotes research and development activities by providing for appropriate organisational or structural framework conditions.

Findings and Evaluations:

The students are encouraged to participate in research activities through internally and externally funded research grants and cooperation projects (e.g. the CEU PU funded interdisciplinary projects "The Epistemology of the In/Human" and "Understanding Humanity"). Moreover, the department offers regular graduate seminars and the exchange with researchers from other universities in particular through the departmental colloquium. Generous internal grants are available to enhance the research skills, to attend or organise conferences or summer schools, for extensive research stays abroad as well as for the final stages of finishing the theses (write-up grants). The PhD fellowships are also fully funded.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research environment

6. *The private university's research infrastructure as well as its facilities and equipment are adequate on a quantitative and a qualitative basis for operating the degree programme. In the case that the private university draws on external resources, their authorisation to use them has been contractually secured.*

Findings and Evaluations:

The private university is generously funded through the Open Society Foundation (OSF) and has received additional funding to cover the costs resulting from the move to Vienna, incl. the higher living costs of faculty, staff and students. The submitted material includes a financial plan, information about the grant commitment, endowment, the state of assets as well as a signed grant letter by the OSF. The CEU PU has leased a building in Vienna (Quellenstr. 51-55, 110 Vienna) from 01.08.2019 till 30.08.2025. The campus has a size of ca. 12,000 m², comprising: 200 seating capacity auditorium; 37 classrooms; consultation and seminar rooms, a media lab; 250 seats in student co-working and hub areas with Wi-Fi-coverage and two computer labs. A large (1.300 m²) and well-equipped library and reading hall offers 150 workstation positions with IT/AV connections as well as 50 desks equipped with computers. The technical equipment appears beyond state-of-the-art. Regarding office space, 15 touch-down offices for visiting staff and researchers as well as single, shared and open space office areas for faculty and administrative staff. Moreover, additional space of 8.000 m² will be available from September 2020 onwards.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3.3 Assessment criterion § 18 (3) 1 to 3: Supervision and counselling services

Supervision and counselling services

1. *The private university shall conclude agreements with the doctoral students which govern the respective rights and duties of the private university, the doctoral students and their supervisors.*

Findings and Evaluations:

The doctoral supervision agreement comports with the rights and duties of the private university, the doctoral students and their supervisors. The specific requirements of the student, the supervisor and the associate supervisor are explicitly presented in *CEU PU's Doctoral Regulations*. According to *CEU PU's PhD in Philosophy Draft Regulations*, the Doctoral Committee assigns supervisors to candidates, based on their research topic and faculty availability, but with the consideration of the student's request of who should serve as the supervisor. Moreover, candidates may request a change in their principal supervisors or associate supervisor. During the first two years, students meet 20 hours with their supervisor each year. In the third and fourth year, students earn 4 ECTS credits for meetings with their supervisor in each year. In sum, supervision is offered very generously to the students of the PhD programme.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Supervision and counselling services

2. *The private university shall enable the doctoral students to engage in an intensive dialogue with scientists or artists, respectively, by collaborating with higher education institutions and, if applicable, partners outside*

the higher education area in Austria and abroad and promote the participation of doctoral students in national and international symposia.

Findings and Evaluations:

Intensive dialogue with scientists is guaranteed. The university provides travel grants for PhD students, contributing to the cost of travelling abroad and attending academic conferences. Furthermore, there are several opportunities for students, such as Summer or Winter School, Global Teaching Fellowships or Write-Up-Grants that help students to enhance their dissertation and foster academic networks and international contacts. As the document *Research Environment at PHIL* specifies, the Department of Philosophy uses internally- and externally-funded research grants and cooperative projects to involve PhD students actively in research activities. Therefore, the promotion of the student's participation in a national and international context is provided.

he experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Supervision and counselling services

3. The private university shall provide the doctoral students with adequate counselling services which are tailored to the specific degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

The counselling services are adequate and tailored to the degree programme. As defined in *CEU PU'S PhD in Philosophy Draft Regulations*, regular meetings to ensure sufficient progress with the dissertation work and regular reports on a monthly basis are given. The responsibilities of the principal supervisor and the associate supervisor are clearly defined in the document *CEU PU's Doctoral Regulations* and comport with the Institutional Policy. The student's needs for a successful completion of their dissertation and preparation for an academic career are provided for. The faculty offers excellent career counselling services to PhD students according to oral information received during the virtual site visit. Adequate medical and psychological counselling services are offered at the university level.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3.4 Assessment criterion § 18 (4) 1 to 8: Degree programme and degree programme management

Degree programme and degree programme management

1. The profile and the intended learning outcomes of the degree programme have been clearly defined. They include scientific as well as artistic competences, personal skills, and social competences and are in accordance with level 8 of the National Qualification Framework

Findings and Evaluations:

The PhD programme has a clear general profile and is strongly oriented toward specified learning outcomes: it is research and academia oriented and prepares students to make scientific contributions to high-level debates in academic philosophy. Essentially, it prepares students for an academic career in philosophy. There is also a clearly visible thematic and

interdisciplinary profile in the track in political philosophy that is offered together with the Political Science Department. Additional interdisciplinary research involves the cognitive sciences, physical and life sciences, mathematics, gender studies, history and religious studies. The Political Theory Track and the History and Philosophy Scheme give the PhD programme two specific focus areas. Only the political philosophy track is further specified in the Program Proposal PhD in Philosophy. The other focus areas are less structured and the small department offers tailor-made focus to each student. Given CEU PU's broader societal mission, the PhD programme also values the training of analytical skills for non-academic careers. The envisioned learning outcomes, distinguished in understandings (knowledge), skills, and competencies are mentioned in the Program Proposal PhD in Philosophy. Via the grant scheme it becomes clear, that students are encouraged and in fact receive substantive financial help to attend international conferences, summer and winter schools, where presentation and debating skills are acquired. Teaching skills are also highly valued in the programme. They are promoted via the teaching assistant requirements in the curriculum and the Global Teaching Fellowships. During their teaching assignments, the doctoral students can count on the mentoring and support of the Center for Teaching and Learning. The Center collaborates with faculty fomenting contemporary, research-based approaches to enhance teaching and mentoring.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

2. The name of the degree programme and the academic degree correspond to the degree programme's profile.

Findings and Evaluations:

The name of the degree programme and the degree given in fact do correspond to the profile. Many of the core areas of philosophy are covered by the programme and the programme offers the possibility to write a dissertation in philosophy in most if not all core areas of philosophy.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

3. The minimum duration of studies stipulated in the curriculum is three years. The contents and structure of the curriculum ensure that the intended learning outcomes are achieved, while combining research (research and development and/or advancement and appreciation of the arts) and teaching.

Findings and Evaluations:

The programme fulfils the minimum duration requirement: The duration of the programme is four years with 60 ECTS credits to be earned per academic year. The curriculum structure adequately ensures the acquisition of research skills via individually supervised research and two annual paper requirements in the second and third year in addition to the dissertation. The students receive a guaranteed 20 hours per year individual research supervision in the first two years with their main supervisor. Meetings with the supervisor are mandatory in the third and fourth year and give students 4 ECTS credits per academic year. Over the four years the students thus receive generous individual supervision in order to improve their research skills and analytical competencies. The teaching assistant requirement for one 4 ECTS credit course in the second year promotes students teaching skills. Broader understanding of philosophy is promoted via mandatory presence at the weekly visiting speaker colloquium during the first

three years of the curriculum (20 meetings per year). In addition, the department give students an opportunity to participate in an intense academic life. It offers workshops, conferences and summer schools.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

4. The workload related to the individual modules ensures that the intended learning outcomes, especially writing the doctoral thesis, can be achieved within the stipulated duration of studies. The ECTS is applied correctly; in any case to the curricular parts (courses) of the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

With 240 ECTS credits to be earned over 4 years this is certainly a very demanding PhD programme, in which students are offered a very diversified portfolio of modules that give them knowledge, skills and competencies. The 60 ECTS credits per academic year and the division into the different modules ensure the learning outcomes. The intensive supervision and the two research papers prepare the students very well for the writing of the doctoral thesis. This demanding programme prepares the students very well for the intensive workload of the academic career and gives them the skills and instruments to face the challenges of academic publishing and teaching.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

5. Regulations for doctoral programmes have been established. The examination methods are suitable to assess whether and to what extent the intended learning outcomes have been achieved.

Findings and Evaluations:

Examination rules have been adopted and presented in the *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy*. Four different forms of examinations are used at the University: Closed-book examinations require students to prepare their answers in a supervised classroom, and they are not allowed to consult external materials. Open-book examinations, however, allow students to use any materials of their choice. In take-home examinations, students are permitted to prepare their answers at home. Finally, in restricted examinations, students may not keep or circulate exam questions after being tested. Moreover, what the students have learned in each course can be assessed and graded by means of graded coursework. The different types of examinations allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course materials by not only analysing or explaining philosophical arguments in a logical and systematic way, but also by interpreting complex texts and discussing them critically and independently throughout a course. Therefore, the description of different examination methods matches the programme's target learning outcomes and is suitable to achieving the specific skills and personal qualities or competences explained in the program proposal.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

6. A "Diploma Supplement" that complies with the requirements laid down in Annex 1 to § 6 of the University and Higher Education Statistics and Education Documentation Decree (Universitäts- und Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung, UHSBV), original version: F. L. G. II no. 216/2019, will be issued.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Diploma Supplement follows the model in Annex 1 to § 6 of the University and Higher Education Statistics and Education Documentation Decree (Universitäts- und Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung, UHSBV), original version: F. L. G. II no. 216/2019.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

7. The admission requirements have been clearly defined. In terms of the qualification level, they correspond at least to the provisions provided by the Universities Act (UG).

Findings and Evaluations:

The admission requirements have been clearly communicated. In accordance with internationally recognized standards such as UG 2002 (§ 63), admission to university requires a master degree or equivalent in philosophy or a related field as well as a background in the history of philosophy and in logic. Furthermore, applicants must be proficient in English and must submit standardized English language test scores.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

8. The admission procedure has been clearly defined and ensures a fair and transparent selection of the applicants according to the admission requirements and the required competences.

Findings and Evaluations:

The admission procedure has been clearly communicated. As outlined in *CEU PU's Admissions Policy*, admission to university is based on a number of criteria, such as the student's point average, class rank, master thesis quality, the quality of the statement of purpose and test scores. The evaluation of each student's application is the responsibility of a Doctoral Committee, which also includes a student representative elected by the doctoral students of the programme each academic year. The student representative is not involved in the evaluation of the academic performance of his potential future co-students. Overall, fair and transparent eligibility according to the admission requirements and the required competences is guaranteed.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

9. The recognition procedures for higher education competences in terms of crediting towards examinations or parts of a degree programme have been clearly and transparently defined. When recognising or crediting

higher education competences, the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) shall be considered.

Findings and Evaluations:

In accordance with the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, recognition of foreign qualifications will be, as outlined in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy*, granted by the CEU PU, if the qualification for which recognition is requested meets the relevant Austrian qualification. A transfer of up to 30 ECTS credits can be requested. In addition, the application procedure has been specified clearly and transparently in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy* as well.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3.5 Assessment criterion § 18 (5) 1 to 5: Staff

Staff

1. The private university has sufficient scientific and/or artistic staff as well as sufficient non-academic staff for operating the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

According to the proposal for the Doctoral Programme Accreditation, the CEU PU expects 10 full-time faculty members (1 University Professor, 5 Professors, and 4 Associate Professors) to provide 140 ECTS credits. Since the typical full-time teaching load for faculty members is 24 ECTS credits (University Professors 16 ECTS credits), this amounts to approximately 6 FTE. In addition, 4 part-time faculty members (1 University Professor, 1 Associate Professor, and 2 Visiting Professors) may teach courses with a volume of 32 ECTS credits (1,5 FTE). Compared to public Universities in Austria and, e.g., Germany, the CEU PU is thereby much more than adequately equipped for operating the degree programme. This holds true even though all scientific staff also teach in the One-Year and Two-Year Master Programme. In the virtual meeting with members of the Department of Philosophy's academic staff the expert panel was told that there were plans to hire two additional permanent faculty members and thereby to strengthen the area of practical philosophy, especially ethics. The expert panel recommends that this plan be implemented as it considers ethics to be an area in which the Department of Philosophy could make very good use of additional competent faculty.

As far as non-academic staff is concerned, it can be seen from Annex 1.2.10 that in the Department of Philosophy 1,5 FTE are employed. The experts take this equipment to be sufficient, although not as generous as with respect to academic staff. From Annex 1.2.10 it can also be seen that the CEU PU employs quite an extensive number of non-academic staff a) responsible for, e.g., student affairs, enrolment management, career services, and alumni relations, and b) working in various academic support units, e.g., in the Center for Academic Writing, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Library.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

2. The scientific staff or the artistic staff, respectively, is qualified according to the requirements of the activities provided for in the degree programme. The scientific and/or artistic staff envisaged for the supervision of thesis projects is authorised to teach (venia docendi) or has an equivalent qualification for the scientific or artistic subject, respectively. It is involved in the research and development or the advancement and appreciation of the arts of the respective subject and performs research and development activities which are in accordance with the university's approach and the respective subject culture. The majority of the scientific and/or artistic staff assigned to the supervision of theses has experience in this field.

Findings and Evaluations:

The faculty involved in the doctoral programme consists of 1 University Professor, 5 Professors, and 4 Associate Professors. Their CVs make it undoubtedly clear that they are highly qualified for participating in this programme, not only by their education in philosophy but also by their experience in supervising doctoral students. The faculty members can spend between 30% and 50% of their workload on research and have impressive research and publication records.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

3. The benchmark for an adequate tutoring ratio for the supervision of doctoral theses is eight doctoral students per supervisor (full-time equivalent).

Findings and Evaluations:

As pointed out in § 18 (5) 1, the CEU PU expects 10 faculty members (6 FTE) to teach in the doctoral programme. As far as the anticipated number of students is concerned, the CEU PU states in its proposal for the doctoral programme to expect 5 per year for the regular programme and 2 for the new History and Philosophy joint scheme, and therefore, taking the programme's duration of four years into account, all in all 28 per year. Considered in isolation, this would amount to a student/staff ratio of 4/1 yet this would be a distorted picture, since the same staff is also responsible for the students in the One-Year and Two-Year Master Programmes. Taking all three programmes into account, though, the student/staff ratio would amount to approximately 7/1, and this is a very satisfactory ratio, especially compared to public universities in Austria and neighbouring countries.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

4. The prioritisation of the teaching, research, and administrative activities of the scientific and/or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university ensures that there is sufficient time for research and development or the advancement and appreciation of the arts as well as the supervision of doctoral students.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Academic Staff Handbook states that the faculty's workload "is normally divided according to the following approximate percentages: teaching (including supervision) 30-50%; research (including research management) 30-50%; other administration 20-40%". In an individual job description, other percentages may be fixed, though. However, this prioritisation is perfectly comparable with the typical distribution of workload at public universities in Austria.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

5. The private university provides for personnel development measures aimed at the supervision of doctoral students

Findings and Evaluations:

There are two kinds of personnel development measures. First, for at least one year after beginning work at the CEU PU, a new hire will have a mentor who is assigned by the unit head. The mentor's task is stated in the Academic Staff Handbook (p.8). It is "to help the introduction of the new faculty member to CEU PU: to get acquainted with teaching practices, organizational structure, involvement in the community, usual expectations, and so on". Secondly, the CEU PU has a Center for Teaching and Learning, which supports faculty in their endeavours to enhance their teaching and mentoring abilities. In particular, the Center offers, among other things, Collaborative Faculty Discussion Groups on Excellence in Teaching, faculty consultations on, e.g., class discussion strategies or assessing student works, and Teaching Development Grants for individual faculty members.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3.6 Assessment criterion § 18 (6): Funding

Funding

The degree programme's funding is secured. Provisions have also been made to fund expiring degree programmes.

Findings and Evaluations:

As the Review report of the Expert Panel to the accreditation of Central European University Private University (CEU PU) from 18. June 2019 describes in great detail and makes absolutely clear, the funding of the institution CEU PU as a whole is fully secured at least until 2024/25. So this needs not to be repeated here at length. Suffice it to say that according to the CEU PU financial projections summary which is part of the application documents (Annex 1.4.1) the recurring revenues come from three sources: 1) CEU Endowment Fund [...], 2) Open Society Foundation (OSF) Grant [...], 3) fundraising, tuition, and other revenues [...] In each year, the total recurring expenses are less than the total revenues.

The financial situation of the Department of Philosophy is identically described in the three Programme Proposals and has been slightly updated in response to a question of the expert panel. In the Programme Proposals it says: "The funding of the programs offered by the Department of Philosophy is provided from the combination of the tuition revenue generated by the Department and from the central budget of CEU PU, funded by the CEU Endowment Fund." By way of example, it is transparently illustrated that the planned expenditures (Gross Salary of Faculty and Administrative Staff, Employee Benefits, Payroll Charges, Non-personnel, Cash Stipends and Accommodation for Students) for the academic year 2020/21 are completely covered by the Revenues, which come from Tuition fees and CEU Endowment funding. On the basis of this illustration and on the basis of the CEU PU's funding (see above), there is no reason for doubting that under regular circumstances as well as in the case the degree programme expires the Department of Philosophy will be financially adequately equipped. Moreover, in response to a question of the expert panel the CEU PU has confirmed "that the budget will

remain approximately the same during the accreditation period" and that there "are no significant increases or decreases planned."

In the doctoral programme, there is no tuition fee for enrolled students. During the first three years of their studies, students even receive a stipend, and in their fourth year a considerable number of funding opportunities are open to them. They range from, e.g., research and travel funds, doctoral research grants, and conference travel grants, to global teaching fellowships and write-up grants. Taking into account that the CEU PU expects 10 students per year to enrol in the One-Year Master Programme and 15 students per year to enrol in the Two-Year Master Programme, the expected total revenue for tuition [...] has been calculated very conservatively.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3.7 Summary and final evaluation

Development and quality assurance of the doctoral programme:

CEU PU's quality management system is well-founded and transparent. CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policies on establishing, operating and modifying degree programmes, as well as on its institutional assessment and quality assurance policy. The Senate Curriculum and Quality Assurance Committee (SeCur) conducts an annual review process of each teaching programme, including all relevant stakeholder groups. To improve the CEU PU's quality management system a stronger student representation and participation in the SeCur is recommended. In conclusion, it bears noting that CEU PU emphasizes the importance of scientific best practices by implementing Ethical Research Guidelines overseen by an Ethical Research Committee, which advises the rector and the provost.

Research environment:

The research environment, including the research concept, research focus and development activities, covers a highly pluralistic and historical orientation within a largely analytic tradition. Despite the strong analytic focus, there are also faculty members who integrate the continental tradition by taking into account the impact of political, social and scientific developments on philosophical questions, particularly within the philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, political philosophy and metaphysics. Moreover, PhD students benefit from participating in various research activities through internally and externally funded research grants and gain knowledge by engaging in interdisciplinary projects and collaborations with departments in- and outside of CEU PU. In sum, the faculty performs in keeping with the university's mission to promote excellent research, to study and support open societies and to provide knowledge as a public good.

Supervision and counselling services:

The doctoral supervision agreement upholds the rights and duties of the private university, the doctoral students and their supervisors. Taking the students' requests into consideration, supervisors are assigned to candidates based on their technical and interpersonal compatibility. Furthermore, the faculty offers excellent career counselling services to PhD students, including regular and monthly meetings between supervisors and students to ensure sufficient progress and ongoing dialogue.

Degree programme and degree programme management:

The PhD programme's well defined profile is research and academia oriented and prepares students to make scientific contributions to high-level debates in academic philosophy. There is

also a special interdisciplinary track in political philosophy that is offered in collaboration with the Political Science Department. The intended learning outcomes are distinguished in understandings (knowledge), skills, and competencies, all of which have been clearly defined. The name of the degree programme and the degree given correspond to the profile.

The duration of the programme is four years. It fulfils more than the minimum duration requirement and leaves sufficient time for, among other things, writing the doctoral thesis. The curriculum structure adequately ensures the acquisition of the intended learning outcomes, including research skills. The CEU PU uses four examination methods, which, in combination, are suitable to assess the intended learning outcomes, i.e., the specific skills and personal qualities or competences.

The Diploma Supplement complies with the respective requirements. The admission requirements as well as the admission procedure have been clearly defined and communicated, and a fair and transparent eligibility is guaranteed. Finally, recognition of foreign qualifications will be granted by the CEU PU in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

Staff:

The CEU PU is much more than adequately equipped with highly qualified scientific staff for operating the degree programme, and with non-academic staff as well. The latter holds true for the Department of Philosophy as well as the CEU PU in general. The faculty members have impressive research and publication records and can spend a sufficient amount of their workload on research, teaching, and supervision. The tutoring ratio for the supervision of doctoral theses is very satisfactory, and there are adequate personnel development measures that are aimed at the supervision of doctoral students.

Funding:

Funding of the CEU PU in general and the Department of Philosophy in particular is fully secured at least until 2024/25. There is no reason for doubting that under regular circumstances as well as in the case the degree programme expires the Department of Philosophy will be financially adequately equipped. For enrolled students there is no tuition fee. During the first three years of their studies, they even receive a stipend, and in their fourth year a considerable number of funding opportunities are open to them.

The experts recommend the Board of the AQ Austria to accredit the doctoral programme "Philosophy".

The expert panel members have the following recommendation to CEU PU:

To improve the CEU PU's quality management system, the experts recommend a stronger student representation and participation in the Senate Curriculum and Academic Quality Assurance (SeCur). As outlined in *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy*, the committee undertakes to "assure quality of curriculum providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees". Since all committee's decisions are directly relevant for students at the CEU PU, a strong student's involvement is thoroughly indispensable. By reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs, proposals for university wide courses and selecting courses for the following year, students in particular should have the opportunity to share their suggestions for improvement as well as objections concerning degree programmes, evaluation criteria and academic structure.

4 Master degree programme 'Philosophy One-Year': review and assessment based on the assessment criteria stipulated in the PU-AkkVO

Information on the accreditation application	
Name of the degree programme	Philosophy
Type of the degree programme	Master programme
ECTS credits	60
Normal period of studies	3 terms / 1 academic year
Number of study places	10 per academic year
Academic degree	Master of Arts, short MA
Organisational form	full-time
Language/s used	English
Site at which the degree programme is offered	Vienna
Tuition fees	€ 12 000

4.1 Assessment criterion § 17 (1) 1 to 2: Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

1. The degree programme was developed using a predefined procedure for the development and establishment of degree programmes and involving the relevant stakeholder groups.

In its application, the CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policy on establishing degree programmes. Establishing a new degree programme happens in four steps. 1) The idea for and initiative on establishing a new degree programme can come from any academic unit of the university. 2) It has to be discussed with and in principle approved by the Rector and the Provost. 3) Then the proposal is to be presented to the Academic Forum. 4) Finally, the proposal has to be approved by the Senate before the programme can eventually be submitted for accreditation.

The information, which a proposal for establishing a new programme must include, is specified in detail in the *CEU PU Policy on Degree Programs*. It ranges from the proposed title, degree award and the total number of credits over the programme aims, learning outcomes, proposed structure of the programme with mandatory and elective study modules (including awarded ECTS credits) to programme targets like, e.g., anticipated student enrolment, annual graduation rate target, and target job placement rate. In addition, it must be stated which faculty will be involved in delivering the programme, whether additional faculty is needed, and which existing or additional resources are required.

The Academic Forum is mainly comprised of department heads, programme and PhD directors, directors of research centres and administrative units. It has no junior faculty or administrative staff as a member, but one student representative. However, since, apart from

the Rector and the Provost, the Senate consists of elected senior and junior faculty representatives, elected administrative staff representatives, as well as student representatives, all relevant stakeholder groups are involved in the development and establishment of degree programmes.

It is worth mentioning that the degree programme has been successfully running in Budapest for more than a decade, and that during this time it has been evaluated and re-evaluated a couple of times. Thus, the programme, which is at issue here, is not one which has to be newly built up, but a well established one.

The experts consider the criterion to be **fulfilled**.

Recommendation:

To improve the CEU PU's quality management system, the experts recommend a stronger student representation and participation in the Senate Curriculum and Academic Quality Assurance (SeCur). As outlined in *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy*, the committee undertakes to "assure quality of curriculum providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees". Since all committee's decisions are directly relevant for students at the CEU PU, a strong student's involvement is thoroughly indispensable. By reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs, proposals for university wide courses and selecting courses for the following year, students in particular should have the opportunity to share their suggestions for improvement as well as objections concerning degree programmes, evaluation criteria and academic structure.

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

2. Following its accreditation, the degree programme is incorporated into the private university's quality management system.

Findings and Evaluation:

In its application, the CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policy on operating and modifying degree programmes as well as on its institutional assessment and quality assurance policy. The CEU PU's quality management system is grounded and transparent. It is based on precise principles, including continuous improvement processes and assessment cycles. At the same time, the organization and mechanism described in the *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy* is clear, transparent and involves all relevant stakeholders. Substantial changes in the programme's content like, e.g., changes in the programme's focus or design, or adding or eliminating a specialisation, changes of the programme's title or, among other things, its award or mode of delivery require the approval of the Senate.

For each CEU PU teaching programme there is an annual review process, which should reflect on the quality and outcomes of the programme. These annual reviews are submitted to the Academic Secretary by the respective academic units. Unit heads are advised to coordinate the annual reviews with student representatives in the process, and the student's feedback plays an important role in the assessment. The reviews will be assessed by the Senate Curriculum and Quality Assurance Committee (SeCur), whose main task is, according to the CEU PU's homepage, to assure "quality of curriculum by providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees, such as developing university-wide criteria for syllabi evaluation; reviewing curriculum maps of degree programmes; reviewing proposals for university-wide courses and selecting courses for next academic year based on pre-agreed selection criteria." The SeCur as well as the Senate may make recommendations for changes

and adjustments, out of which the Department prepares an Action plan which will then be followed up. This process, in turn, is assessed in the context of the periodic review of the respective Academic Department, which in general happens every five years.

The experts consider the criterion to be **fulfilled**.

4.2 Assessment criterion § 17 (2) 1 to 11: Degree programme and degree programme management

Taking into account a heterogeneous student body, the following criteria shall apply. In the case of degree programmes with special profile elements, the descriptions shall furthermore address the characteristics defining the profile. Special profile elements are, for example, compulsory vocational practice, organisational forms which are offered alongside professional activity, distance-learning degree programmes, joint degree programmes or jointly offered degree programmes etc..

Degree programme and degree programme management

1. The degree programme is oriented towards the profile and the objectives of the private university and is clearly in line with the development plan.

Findings and Evaluations:

The MA (One Year) is clearly oriented towards its main objective to prepare students who have a sufficient background in philosophy in their undergraduate studies to pursue a doctorate in philosophy after completion of the programme. The programme provides the possibility to improve the understanding of a number of central areas in contemporary (analytic) philosophy and of major periods of the history of philosophy; furthermore, it focuses on training in academic writing and active participation in academic discussions. Thus, the programme delivers to students necessary thematic and practical skills to prepare a doctorate in a specified field of philosophy.

The experts consider the criterion to be **fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

2. The profile and the intended learning outcomes of the degree programme have been clearly defined. They include scientific as well as artistic, personal, and social competences, they meet the professional requirements and are in accordance with the respective level of the National Qualification Framework. As regards regulated professions, the private university shall describe, if and under which preconditions access to those professions can be ensured.

Findings and Evaluations:

The MA (One Year) programme has a clear general profile and has specified learning outcomes: It prepares students who have a sufficient background in philosophy in their undergraduate studies to pursue a doctorate in philosophy after completion of the programme. The programme has a broad thematic profile and offers a wide range of choices on courses. The programme is intended to give a grounding in central areas of philosophy, mainly from the analytic tradition (moral philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language) and the major periods of the history of philosophy (ancient philosophy, early modern philosophy). The MA (One-Year) programme also stresses training of analytical skills for non-

academic careers. The envisioned learning outcomes are distinguished in understandings (knowledge), skills, and competencies after graduation. In more detail, they include, first, understanding of a number of central areas in philosophy, of elementary logic, the competent use of conceptual thinking and abstraction; second, the ability to present philosophical knowledge in academic contexts, skills to produce independent research, the ability to analyse philosophical arguments and interpret and explain complex texts from a philosophy; third, the envisioned outcomes also include more general competencies relevant for different kinds of employment such as: the ability to reason logically and present arguments systematically, the ability to work independently on new projects and to critically evaluate their own work or the work of others. Given the commitment to academic excellence, the programme follows a research-based teaching objective. It aims to provide students with an individualized learning experience and encourages students to pursue their own academic objectives. Given the highly international and multi-cultural student body of the CEU PU, the courses pursue to advance critical thinking and oral communication skills, which are central for academic contexts, but also for other kinds of employment such as administrative and managerial positions.

The experts consider the criterion to be **fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

3. The name of the degree programme and the academic degree correspond to the degree programme's profile.

Findings and Evaluations:

The name of the degree programme and the degree given in fact do correspond to the profile. Many of the core areas of philosophy are covered by the programme and the programme offers the possibility to broaden the competencies in these areas and, thus, to prepare students to pursue a doctorate in philosophy in many of the major fields in philosophy.

The experts consider the criterion to be fulfilled.

Degree programme and degree programme management

4. The contents and structure of the curriculum ensure that the intended learning outcomes are achieved, while combining research (research and development and/or advancement and appreciation of the arts) and teaching.

Findings and Evaluations:

The curriculum structure adequately ensures the acquisition of research skills via an individualized learning experience and an academic environment that values peer-to-peer-learning. The students have a mandatory thesis writing seminar (4 ECTS credits). Broader understanding of philosophy is promoted via mandatory presence at the weekly visiting speaker colloquium (20 meetings per year). The weekly colloquium offers to the students an important opportunity to learn to listen critically to lectures in many areas of philosophy from visiting academics, to ask questions and participate in the discussion, and to think about philosophical questions outside of their specialization. Furthermore, the programme follows a research-based teaching objective: faculty members teach subjects related to their research interests and ongoing research projects to the extent possible. The programme is structured towards the promotion of understandings, abilities and skills. The understandings consist in general knowledge of central areas in contemporary philosophy and of specific areas

in the history of philosophy, in which the thesis is written. The abilities are spelled out clearly, they consist in the ability to present their knowledge in academic contexts, produce independent research, analyse philosophical arguments, interpret and explain texts, listen to lectures and ask pertinent questions. Specific philosophical skills are specified and promoted: local reasoning and presentation of arguments, ability to think independently and critically evaluate. Independent individual research is gradually phased in and becomes central when students prepare their theses toward the end of the programme. The curriculum is structured into philosophy electives (20-28 ECTS credits), non-philosophy electives from other departments of CEU PU (8 ECTS credits), academic writing (mandatory), participation in the faculty colloquium (mandatory), logic (mandatory), and the thesis (mandatory; 20 ECTS credits).

The experts consider the criterion to be **fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

5. The didactic conception of the degree programme's modules shall ensure that the intended learning outcomes can be achieved and promotes the students' active contribution in the learning process.

Findings and Evaluations:

In correspondence with its overall objective, the didactics of the programme focus on research-based teaching. The main idea is to incorporate the faculty member's research interests and ongoing research projects into the courses. The courses promote scientific writing and foster critical thinking via the requirement of sound preparation and peer-to-peer interactivity as well as student-instructor interactivity. It is adequate that independent individual research is gradually phased in and becomes central when students prepare their theses toward the end of the programme. The curriculum is structured into philosophy electives (20-28 ECTS credits), non-philosophy electives from other departments of CEU PU (8 ECTS credits), academic writing (mandatory), participation in the faculty colloquium (mandatory), logic (mandatory), and the thesis (mandatory; 20 ECTS credits). For each of these structural elements the learning outcomes are clearly set. They are in accordance with the nature of the modules and can be expected to be met. Research oriented teaching is assured via the mandatory participation in the Colloquium, scientific writing, as well as by the fact that the faculty offers the electives in their area of research specialization and philosophical methodology, such as thought experiments. The philosophy electives cover a very broad range of fields and various specific topics that allow to bring the students up to speed with the state of the art of research on specific questions. The non-philosophy electives, which students may choose up to 8 ECTS credits from an approved list from other CEU PU departments, allow students to enlarge their knowledge in other fields outside their specialization that might be important for their future employment.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

6. The workload related to the individual modules ensures that the intended learning outcomes can be achieved within the stipulated duration of studies, and in case of part-time degree programmes takes into account any professional activity. The ECTS is applied correctly.

Findings and Evaluations:

With 60 ECTS credits to be earned over 1 year, divided into three terms (Fall, Winter, Spring) this is certainly a demanding MA (One Year) programme, in which students are offered a very diversified portfolio of modules that give them knowledge, skills and competencies, and with only a few mandatory courses such as academic writing, a weekly colloquium and a logic course (4 ECTS credits each). Students may choose philosophy courses from a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 28 ECTS credits. Additionally, they may complete a total of 8 ECTS credits from non-philosophy electives. 20 ECTS credits are given for the thesis, spread across the three terms and cover a writing seminar (4 ECTS credits) and thesis writing plus defence (16 ECTS credits).

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

7. The private university has adopted examination rules. The examination methods are suitable to assess whether and to what extent the intended learning outcomes have been achieved.

Findings and Evaluations:

Examination rules have been adopted and presented in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy*. Four different forms of examinations are used at the University: Closed-book examinations require students to prepare their answers in a supervised classroom, and they are not allowed to consult external materials. Open-book examinations, however, allow students to use any materials of their choice. In take-home examinations, students are permitted to prepare their answers at home. Finally, in restricted examinations, students may not keep or circulate exam questions after being tested. Moreover, what the students have learned in each course can be assessed and graded by means of graded coursework. The different types of examinations allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course materials by not only analysing or explaining philosophical arguments in a logical and systematic way, but also by interpreting complex texts and discussing them critically and independently throughout a course. Therefore, the description of different examination methods matches the programme's target learning outcomes and is suitable to achieving the specific skills and personal qualities or competences explained in the program proposal.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

*8. A "Diploma Supplement" that complies with the requirements laid down in Annex 1 to § 6 of the University and Higher Education Statistics and Education Documentation Decree (Universitäts- und Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung, UHSBV), original version: F. L. G. II no. 216/2019, will be issued.*³

Findings and Evaluations:

The Diploma Supplement follows the model in Annex 1 to § 6 of the University and Higher Education Statistics and Education Documentation Decree (Universitäts- und

³ In der PU-Akkreditierungsverordnung 2019 wird noch auf die Anlage 2 das UniStEV 2004 verwiesen. Diese Verordnung wurde geändert und deshalb wurde der Text des Beurteilungskriteriums im Gutachten entsprechend angepasst.

Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung, UHSBV), original version: F. L. G. II no. 216/2019.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

9. The admission requirements have been clearly defined. In terms of the qualification level, they correspond at least to the provisions provided by the Universities Act (UG).

Findings and Evaluations:

The admission requirements have been clearly communicated. In accordance with internationally recognized standards, such as UG 2002, admission to university requires a first degree from a recognized institution. In case of the One-Year Master Programme, only students who have completed four years of undergraduate university studies are eligible to apply for this programme. Furthermore, applicants must be proficient in English and must submit standardized English language test scores. Admission of candidates holding a three-year Bachelor's degree into the One-Year master programmes is permitted in exceptional cases upon recommendation of the head of the department and with the endorsement by the Provost. Applicants who profit from these exemptions are asked to submit a statement declaring that they understand the implications of this exemption for their degree recognition in certain jurisdictions.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

10. The admission procedure has been clearly defined and ensures a fair and transparent selection of the applicants according to the admission requirements and the required competences.

Findings and Evaluations:

The admission procedure has been clearly communicated. As outlined in *CEU PU's Admissions Policy*, admission to university is based on an overall evaluation of the candidate, academic achievement, strength of recommendation, English language proficiency and general compatibility with the aims of the relevant programme. Fair and transparent eligibility according to the admission requirements and the required competences are therefore guaranteed.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

11. The recognition procedures for higher education competences and, if applicable, competences acquired outside higher education in terms of crediting towards examinations or parts of a degree programme have been clearly and transparently defined. When recognising or crediting higher education competences, the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) shall be considered.

Findings and Evaluations:

In accordance with the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, recognition of foreign qualifications will be, as outlined in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy*, granted by the CEU PU, if the qualification for which recognition is requested meets the relevant Austrian qualification. A transfer of up to 16 ECTS credits can be requested. Furthermore, the application procedure has been specified clearly and transparently in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy* as well.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4.3 Assessment criterion § 17 (3) 1 to 5: Staff

Staff

1. The private university shall provide for sufficient scientific and/or artistic staff as well as sufficient non-academic staff for operating the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

According to the proposal for the Master Programme, the CEU PU expects 11 full-time faculty members (1 University Professor, 5 Professors, 4 Associate Professors, and 1 Instructor) to provide 246 ECTS credits. Since the typical full-time teaching load for faculty members is 24 ECTS credits (University Professors 16 ECTS credits, Instructors 20 ECTS credits), this amounts to approximately 10 FTE. In addition, 4 part-time faculty members (1 University Professor, 1 Associate Professor, and 2 Visiting Professors) may teach courses with a volume of 24 ECTS credits (1 FTE). Compared to public Universities in Austria and, e.g., Germany, the CEU PU is thereby much more than adequately equipped for operating the degree programme. This holds true even though all scientific staff also teach in the Two-Years Master Programme and, additionally, most of it in the doctoral programme. In the virtual meeting with members of the Department of Philosophy's academic staff the expert panel was told that there were plans to hire two additional permanent faculty members and thereby to strengthen the area of practical philosophy, especially ethics. The expert panel recommends that this plan be implemented as it considers ethics to be an area in which the Department of Philosophy could make very good use of additional competent faculty.

As far as non-academic staff is concerned, it can be seen from Annex 1.2.10 that in the Department of Philosophy 1,5 FTE are employed. The experts take this equipment to be sufficient, although not as generous as with respect to academic staff. From Annex 1.2.10 it can also be seen that the CEU PU employs quite an extensive number of non-academic staff a) responsible for, e.g., student affairs, enrolment management, career services, and alumni relations, and b) working in various academic support units, e.g., in the Center for Academic Writing, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Library.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

2. The relation between scientific and/or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university and students shall be in accordance with the profiles of the respective degree programmes. Primary occupation here means working at least 50% of one's total working hours in salaried employment at the private university.

Findings and Evaluations:

As pointed out in § 17 (3) 1, the CEU PU expects 11 faculty members (10 FTE) to teach in the Master Programme. As far as the anticipated number of students is concerned, the CEU PU states in its proposal for the Master Programme to expect 10 per year. Considered in isolation, this would amount to a staff-student ratio of 1/1, yet this would be a distorted picture, since the same staff is also responsible for the students in the Two-Year Master Programme. In addition, at least some of the faculty is also responsible for the supervision of the students in the doctoral programme. Taking all three programmes into account, though, the student/staff ratio would amount to approximately 7/1, and this is a very satisfactory ratio, especially compared to public Universities in Austria and neighbouring countries.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

3. The subject-specific core competences of the degree programme are covered by professors in primary occupation at the private university

Findings and Evaluations:

As stated in the programme's learning outcome, graduates will have, among other things, an understanding of some central areas of contemporary philosophy, e.g. metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of mind or language. Alternatively, graduates will have some foundations in the history of ancient or modern philosophy. Additionally, all graduates will have an understanding of elementary logic. Judging from the declarations in their CVs (vid. areas of competence and of specialization), all these areas are very well covered by (Assistant) Professors.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

4. The scientific staff or the artistic staff, respectively, is qualified according to the requirements of the activities provided for in the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Academic Staff Handbook specifies in detail the CEU PU's recruitment policy and (re-) appointment procedures, as well as the periodic review procedures and guidelines for evaluating academic performance. Judging from the faculty's CVs, observing these policies, procedures, and guidelines has led to staff being very well qualified for teaching and research in the degree programme.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

5. The prioritisation of the teaching, research, and administrative activities of the scientific or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university ensures adequate participation in teaching in degree programmes and leaves sufficient time for research and development or the advancement and appreciation of the arts.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Academic Staff Handbook states that the faculty's workload "is normally divided according to the following approximate percentages: teaching (including supervision) 30-50%; research (including research management) 30-50%; other administration 20-40%". In an individual job description other percentages may be fixed, though. However, this prioritisation is perfectly comparable with the typical distribution of workload at public Universities in Austria.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4.4 Assessment criterion § 17 (4): Funding

Funding

The degree programme's funding is secured. Provisions have also been made to fund expiring degree programmes.

Findings and Evaluations:

As the Review report of the Expert Panel to the accreditation of Central European University Private University (CEU PU) from 18. June 2019 describes in great detail and makes absolutely clear, the funding of the institution CEU PU as a whole is fully secured at least until 2024/25. So this needs not to be repeated here at length, suffice it to say that according to the CEU PU financial projections summary which is part of the application documents (Annex 1.4.1) the recurring revenues come from three sources: 1) CEU Endowment Fund [...], 2) Open Society Foundation (OSF) Grant [...], 3) fundraising, tuition, and other revenues [...] In each year, the total recurring expenses are less than the total revenues.

The financial situation of the Department of Philosophy is identically described in the three Program Proposals and has been slightly updated in response to a question of the expert panel. In the Program Proposals it says: "The funding of the programs offered by the Department of Philosophy is provided from the combination of the tuition revenue generated by the Department and from the central budget of CEU PU, funded by the CEU Endowment Fund." Using the example of the academic year 2020/21, it is transparently illustrated that the planned expenditures (Gross Salary of Faculty and Administrative Staff, Employee Benefits, Payroll Charges, Non-personnel, Cash Stipends and Accommodation for Students) are completely covered by the Revenues, which come from Tuition fees and CEU Endowment funding. On the basis of this illustration and on the basis of the CEU PU's funding (see above), there is no reason for doubting that under regular circumstances as well as in the case the degree programme expires the Department of Philosophy will be financially adequately equipped. Moreover, in response to a question of the expert panel the CEU PU has confirmed "that the budget will remain approximately the same during the accreditation period" and that there "are no significant increases or decreases planned."

The tuition fee for the full programme is 12.000 €. Depending on merits and financial needs, students are eligible for financial aid, which includes tuition waiver, stipend and/or housing. Taking into account that the CEU PU expects 10 students per year to enrol in the One-Year Master Programme and 15 students per year to enrol in the Two-Year Master Programme, the expected total revenue for tuition [...] has been calculated very conservatively.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4.5 Assessment criterion § 17 (5): Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Quantitatively and qualitatively adequate facilities and equipment are provided for the degree programme. In the case that the private university draws on external resources, their authorisation to use them has been contractually secured.

Findings and Evaluations:

At present, the CEU PU is leasing a temporary facility of approximately 21.000 m² in Quellenstr. 51-55, 1100 Vienna. About 60% (12.000 m²) of this location are ready to use since September 2019. They comprise, among other things, an Auditorium (200 seating capacity), 37 classrooms, consultation - and seminar rooms, 1.300 m² Library and Reading Hall, 50 computer equipped desks in the Library and 250 seats in student co-working and hub areas with Wi-Fi-coverage, 2 computer labs with a capacity of 20+ each, 15 touch-down offices, as well as single, shared and open space office areas for faculty and administrative staff. The remaining 40% will be ready for utilization by September 2020. As the Rector points out in a video message provided to the experts in addition to the application, this temporarily leased facility is secure until 2025. For the period after 2025, the CEU PU is in advanced negotiations with the city of Vienna, and the CEU PU expects to secure a permanent site in Vienna in the course of 2020.

In the CEU PU's Library in Vienna, faculty and students at present have immediate on-site access to 20.000 print volumes (more than 8.000 in Philosophy), and easy access to CEU PU's English language collection of over 150.000 print volumes, to an extensive collection of electronic books (approximately 30.000 in philosophy), to a very wide ranging collection of e-journals (over 55.000 electronic journals from all the major publishers), and a broad selection of electronic databases. Although parts of the CEU's original library in Budapest will be moved to Vienna, a considerable part will be maintained on the CEU's premises in Budapest. However, as was explained in the experts panel's virtual meeting with some of the students, books that are normally in the library in Budapest can be delivered to Vienna in two days.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4.6 Assessment criterion § 17 (6) 1 to 2: Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts

Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts

1. The scientific and/or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university assigned to the degree programme is involved in the private university's relevant research and development activities.

Findings and Evaluations:

The faculty of the Department of philosophy is very active in publishing papers in numerous reputable journals as well as books with prestigious publishing houses. Moreover, they have acquired a number of grants, in particular from the Hungarian Scientific Research, but also from the European Commission (Marie Curie, FP6) as well as other foundations, such as the John Templeton Foundation. The department is a founding member of PLM, a network devoted to philosophy of mind and language. There are various interdisciplinary projects, such as the *The*

Epistemology of the In/Human and Understanding Humanity. The research and publishing activities are on average high, partly very high.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts

2. The (planned) research performance of the scientific or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university assigned to the degree programme are in accordance with the university's approach and the respective subject culture.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Department of Philosophy describes itself as largely oriented toward the 'analytic' tradition of philosophy while at the same time being pluralistic and historically-oriented within this tradition. The scientific staff is indeed predominantly rooted within analytic philosophy, there is, however, a breadth of different and complementing expertise. The department is particularly strong in making insights from the history of philosophy fruitful for contemporary debates. Despite the strong analytic focus, there is considerable pluralism within as well as beyond the analytic tradition. On the one hand, there are members of the faculty, which are conducting research and teaching on the so-called continental tradition (in particular phenomenology and hermeneutics). On the other hand, many faculty members address the impact of political, social and scientific developments on philosophical questions within philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, political philosophy and metaphysics in particular. The faculty has published in high quantity and quality. In sum, the performance of the faculty is in accordance with the university's mission to promote excellent research, to study and support open societies and to provide knowledge as a public good.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4.7 Assessment criterion § 17 (7): Co-operation

Co-operation

The private university has envisaged co-operation projects with higher education partners and, if applicable, partners outside the higher education area in Austria and abroad which match the degree programme's profile and furthermore promote the mobility of students and staff.

Findings and Evaluations:

The department has strong international ties and regularly invites international guests to the departmental colloquium series. Nationally, they have also established close cooperation with the University of Vienna and plan to establish a joint research and teaching programme in the history and philosophy of science with the Vienna Circle Institute. Moreover, the department aims to strengthen its ties with the University of Graz in regards to the history of early modern philosophy. Of particular interest for students is also the biannual student conference organized jointly with the University of Bayreuth. Due to the mandatory attendance of the departmental colloquium, students will also get to know researcher from various countries, which combined with the international network of the faculty and the generous availability of travel grants will further support mobility of students and staff.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4.8 Summary and final evaluation

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme:

CEU PU's quality management system is well-founded and transparent. The CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policies on establishing, operating and modifying degree programmes as well as on its institutional assessment and quality assurance policy. The Senate Curriculum and Quality Assurance Committee (SeCur) conducts an annual review process of each teaching programme, including all relevant stakeholder groups. To improve the CEU PU's quality management system a stronger student representation and participation in the SeCur is recommended. In conclusion, the degree programme (one-year MA) was developed using a predefined procedure for the development and is also fully incorporated into the private university's quality management system.

Degree programme and degree programme management:

The one-year MA is clearly oriented towards its main objective to prepare students who have a sufficient background in philosophy in their undergraduate studies to pursue a doctorate in philosophy after completion of the programme. The programme provides the possibility to improve the understanding of a number of central areas in contemporary (analytic) philosophy and of major periods of the history of philosophy. The intended learning outcomes are distinguished in understandings (knowledge), skills, and competencies, all of which have been clearly defined. The name of the degree programme and the degree given correspond to the profile.

The curriculum is structured into philosophy electives, non-philosophy electives from other departments of CEU PU, academic writing, participation in the faculty colloquium, logic, and the thesis. In correspondence with its all overall objective, the didactics of the programme focus on research-based teaching in order to promote scientific writing and foster critical thinking via the requirement of sound preparation and peer-to-peer interactivity as well as student-instructor interactivity. The workload related to the individual modules as well as the adopted examination methods ensure that the intended learning outcomes can be achieved.

The Diploma Supplement complies with the respective requirements. The admission requirements as well as the admission procedure have been clearly defined and communicated, and a fair and transparent eligibility is guaranteed. Finally, recognition of foreign qualifications will be granted by the CEU PU in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

Staff:

The CEU PU is much more than adequately equipped with highly qualified scientific staff for operating the degree programme, and with non-academic staff as well. The latter holds true for the Department of Philosophy as well as the CEU PU in general. The faculty members have impressive research and publication records and can spend a sufficient amount of their workload on teaching, research, and administrative activities. All subject-specific core competences of the degree programme are very well covered by (Assistant) Professors.

Funding:

Funding of the CEU PU in general and the Department of Philosophy in particular is fully secured at least until 2024/25. There is no reason for doubting that under regular circumstances as well as in the case the degree programme expires the Department of Philosophy will be financially adequately equipped. The tuition fee for the full programme is 12.000 €, yet depending on

merits and financial needs, students are eligible for financial aid, which includes tuition waiver, stipend and/or housing.

Infrastructure:

The CEU PU is leasing a temporary facility in Vienna. At present, 60% of it are in use; the remaining 40% will be ready for utilization by September 2020. The facility is adequately sized. It comprises, among other things, an Auditorium, class-, consultation - and seminar rooms, a Library and Reading Hall, and 250 seats in student co-working and hub areas with Wi-Fi-coverage. For the period after 2025, the CEU PU expects to secure a permanent site in Vienna in the course of 2020. Although parts of the CEU's original, very well-equipped library in Budapest will be moved to Vienna, a considerable part will be maintained on the CEU's premises in Budapest. However, that will not pose serious practical difficulties.

Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts:

The research performance of the scientific staff is outstanding. The department of philosophy is actively publishing papers in numerous reputable journals as well as books with prestigious publishing houses. Moreover, they are cooperating in various highly interdisciplinary projects. In sum, the performance of the faculty is in full accordance with the university's mission to promote excellent research.

Co-operation:

The department shows strong international ties with different universities and institutions, which are of particular interest for students. Nationally, CEU PU has established close cooperations with the University of Vienna and they plan to establish a joint research and teaching programme with the Vienna Circle Institute. Moreover, biannual student conferences organized jointly with the University of Bayreuth give students the ability to get to know researchers from various countries and to strengthen their international profile and networks. The university has envisaged excellent co-operation projects, which match the degree programme's profile and promote the mobility of students and staff very well.

The experts **recommend the Board of the AQ Austria to accredit** the master programme "Master of Arts in Philosophy (One-Year)".

5 Master degree programme 'Philosophy Two-Year': review and assessment based on the assessment criteria stipulated in the PU-AkkVO

Information on the accreditation application	
Name of the degree programme	Philosophy
Type of the degree programme	Master programme
ECTS credits	120
Normal period of studies	6 terms / 2 academic year
Number of study places	15 per academic year
Academic degree	Master of Arts, short MA
Organisational form	full-time
Language/s used	English
Site at which the degree programme is offered	Vienna
Tuition fees	€ 12 000

5.1 Assessment criterion § 17 (1) 1 to 2: Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

1. The degree programme was developed using a predefined procedure for the development and establishment of degree programmes and involving the relevant stakeholder groups.

Findings and Evaluations:

In its application, the CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policy on establishing degree programmes. Establishing a new degree programme happens in four steps. 1) The idea for and initiative on establishing a new degree programme can come from any academic unit of the university. 2) It has to be discussed with and in principle approved by the Rector and the Provost. 3) Then the proposal is to be presented to the Academic Forum. 4) Finally, the proposal has to be approved by the Senate before the programme can eventually be submitted for accreditation.

The information, which a proposal for establishing a new programme must include, is specified in detail in the *CEU PU's Policy on Degree Programs*. It ranges from the proposed title, degree award and the total number of credits over the programme aims, learning outcomes, proposed structure of the programme with mandatory and elective study modules (including awarded ECTS credits) to programme targets like, e.g., anticipated student enrolment, annual graduation rate target, and target job placement rate. In addition, it must be stated which faculty will be involved in delivering the programme, whether additional faculty is needed, and which existing or additional resources are required.

The Academic Forum is mainly comprised of department heads, programme and PhD directors, directors of research centres and administrative units. It has no junior faculty or administrative

staff as a member, but one student representative. However, since, apart from the Rector and the Provost, the Senate consists of elected senior and junior faculty representatives, elected administrative staff representatives, as well as student representatives, all relevant stakeholder groups are involved in the development and establishment of degree programmes. It is worth mentioning that the degree programme has been successfully running in Budapest for more than a decade, and that during this time it has been evaluated and re-evaluated a couple of times. Thus, the programme, which is at issue here, is not one which has to be newly built up, but a well established one.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Recommendation:

To improve the CEU PU's quality management system, the experts recommend a stronger student representation and participation in the Senate Curriculum and Academic Quality Assurance (SeCur). As outlined in *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy*, the committee undertakes to "assure quality of curriculum providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees". Since all committee's decisions are directly relevant for students at the CEU PU, a strong student's involvement is thoroughly indispensable. By reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs, proposals for university wide courses and selecting courses for the following year, students in particular should have the opportunity to share their suggestions for improvement as well as objections concerning degree programmes, evaluation criteria and academic structure.

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme

2. Following its accreditation, the degree programme is incorporated into the private university's quality management system.

Findings and Evaluations:

In its application, the CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policy on operating and modifying degree programmes as well as on its institutional assessment and quality assurance policy. The CEU PU's quality management system is grounded and transparent. It is based on precise principles, including continuous improvement processes and assessment cycles. At the same time, the organization and mechanism described in the *CEU PU's Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy* is clear, transparent and involves all relevant stakeholders. Substantial changes in the programme's content like, e.g., changes in the programme's focus or design, or adding or eliminating a specialisation, changes of the programme's title or, among other things, its award or mode of delivery require the approval of the Senate.

For each CEU PU teaching programme there is an annual review process, which should reflect on the quality and outcomes of the programme. These annual reviews are submitted to the Academic Secretary by the respective academic units. Unit heads are advised to coordinate the annual reviews with student representatives in the process, and the student's feedback plays an important role in the assessment. The reviews will be assessed by the Senate Curriculum and Quality Assurance Committee (SeCur), whose main task is, according to the CEU PU's homepage, to assure "quality of curriculum by providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees, such as developing university-wide criteria for syllabi evaluation; reviewing curriculum maps of degree programmes; reviewing proposals for university-wide courses and selecting courses for next academic year based on pre-agreed selection criteria." The SeCur as well as the Senate may make recommendations for changes

and adjustments, out of which the Department prepares an Action plan which will then be followed up. This process, in turn, is assessed in the context of the periodic review of the respective Academic Department, which in general happens every five years.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.2 Assessment criterion § 17 (2) 1 to 11: Degree programme and degree programme management

Taking into account a heterogeneous student body, the following criteria shall apply. In the case of degree programmes with special profile elements, the descriptions shall furthermore address the characteristics defining the profile. Special profile elements are, for example, compulsory vocational practice, organisational forms which are offered alongside professional activity, distance-learning degree programmes, joint degree programmes or jointly offered degree programmes etc.

Degree programme and degree programme management

1. The degree programme is oriented towards the profile and the objectives of the private university and is clearly in line with the development plan.

Findings and Evaluations:

The MA (Two Years) is clearly oriented towards its main objective, to give students who may or may not have studied philosophy at undergraduate level but have an independent degree in some comparable subject an intensive education in philosophy. In the first year, the students have to take eight mandatory courses in core fields of philosophy; in addition, the programme provides, in the first and second year, the possibility to choose a series of courses from a wide range of central areas in philosophy (mainly from analytic tradition, but also continental philosophy and major periods of history of philosophy). Furthermore, it focuses on training in academic writing and active participation in academic discussions. In the second year, students write a thesis while they still have the option to take a broad range of elective courses. Thus, the programme delivers students necessary thematic and practical skills to proceed to doctorate training in philosophy or related topics (e.g. political science) after graduation. Alternatively, due to their skill in thinking analytically and systematically, they are in a good position to pursue careers in law, media, politics, consultancy, education and business.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

2. The profile and the intended learning outcomes of the degree programme have been clearly defined. They include scientific as well as artistic, personal, and social competences, they meet the professional requirements and are in accordance with the respective level of the National Qualification Framework. As regards regulated professions, the private university shall describe, if and under which preconditions access to those professions can be ensured.

Findings and Evaluations:

The MA (Two Years) programme has a clear general profile and has specified learning outcomes: It offers students who may or may not have studied philosophy at undergraduate level (but

have an independent degree in some comparable subject) an intensive education in philosophy. The programme aims to enable students to proceed to doctoral training in philosophy or related topics (e.g. political science); it also places students in a very good position either to teach philosophy in final years of secondary school or to obtain administrative and managerial positions. The programme has a broad thematic profile and offers a wide range of choices on courses. It is intended to give a grounding in central areas of philosophy, mainly from analytic tradition (moral philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language) and the major periods of the history of philosophy (ancient philosophy, early modern philosophy). The envisioned learning outcomes are distinguished in understandings (knowledge), skills, and competencies after graduation. In more detail, they include, first, understanding of a number of seven core areas in philosophy, of elementary logic, the competent use of conceptual thinking and abstraction; second, the ability to present philosophical knowledge in academic contexts, skills to produce independent research, the ability to analyse philosophical arguments and to interpret and explain complex texts from philosophy; third, the envisioned outcomes also include more general competencies relevant for different kinds of employment such as: the ability to reason logically and present arguments systematically, the ability to work independently on new projects and to critically evaluate their own work or the work of others. Given the commitment to academic excellence, the programme follows a research-based teaching objective. It aims to provide students with an individualized learning experience and encourages students to pursue their own academic objectives. Given the highly international and cultural student body of the CEU PU, the interactive courses aim to advance critical thinking and oral communication skills. In the second year, individual research becomes even more important: students are supported variously in preparing their theses (e.g. writing seminar, individual one-on-one-consultations).

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

3. The name of the degree programme and the academic degree correspond to the degree programme's profile.

Findings and Evaluations:

The name of the degree programme and the degree given in fact do correspond to the profile. Many of the core areas of philosophy are covered by the programme and the programme offers the possibility to broaden the competencies in these areas and, thus, to prepare students to pursue a doctorate in philosophy in many of the major fields in philosophy.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

4. The contents and structure of the curriculum ensure that the intended learning outcomes are achieved, while combining research (research and development and/or advancement and appreciation of the arts) and teaching.

Findings and Evaluations:

The curriculum structure ensures that students have over two years the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge in a large range of central topics in philosophy. The structure also adequately ensures the acquisition of research skills via an individualized learning experience

and an academic environment that values peer-to-peer-learning. The students have a mandatory thesis writing seminar (4 ECTS credits) and they have one-on-one consultations with their supervisors. Broader understanding of philosophy is promoted via mandatory presence at the weekly visiting speaker colloquium (20 meetings per year). 16 ECTS credits in total for the thesis are spread across the three terms of the second year (2, 4, 10). Individual one-on-one consultation with the advisor will ensure the preparation of the thesis. The two elective modules ensure that students broaden their knowledge in some areas of philosophy outside the areas of the core module, to improve their skills in philosophical reasoning, analysing ideas and arguments, and to acquire the ability to present their thoughts and work to other peers and to discuss critical feedback.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

5. The didactic conception of the degree programme's modules shall ensure that the intended learning outcomes can be achieved and promotes the students' active contribution in the learning process.

Findings and Evaluations:

In correspondence with its overall objective, the didactics of the program focus on intensive education in philosophy and on research-based teaching. The main idea is to incorporate the faculty member's research interests and ongoing research projects into the courses. The courses promote scientific writing and foster critical thinking and oral communication skills via the requirement of sound preparation and peer-to-peer interactivity as well as student-instructor interactivity. It is adequate that independent individual research is gradually phased in and becomes more central in the second year when students prepare their theses.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

6. The workload related to the individual modules ensures that the intended learning outcomes can be achieved within the stipulated duration of studies, and in case of part-time degree programmes takes into account any professional activity. The ECTS is applied correctly.

Findings and Evaluations:

With 120 ECTS credits to be earned over 2 years, divided into six terms (Fall, Winter, Spring), this is certainly a demanding MA (Two Year) programme, in which students are offered a very diversified portfolio of modules that give them knowledge, skills and competencies. In the first two terms of the first year, students have to attend eight mandatory core philosophy courses (each 4, total: 32 ECTS credits) including Logic, two courses in the history of philosophy, one course in continental philosophy and three courses in topics of analytic philosophy; all mandatory courses end with an exam that students prepare in the spring term of the first year. In addition, the academic writing course and a weekly colloquium are mandatory (4 and 8 ECTS credits respectively). Beyond that, students may choose elective modules in philosophy based on their interests and these topics (20 ECTS credits in the first year and 36 ECTS credits in the second). Students may optionally choose up to 8 ECTS credits per year of non-philosophy electives from courses offered by other CEU PU departments. 20 ECTS credits are given for the

theses, spread across the three terms and covering a writing seminar (4 ECTS credits and thesis writing plus defence (16 ECTS credits).

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

7. The private university has adopted examination rules. The examination methods are suitable to assess whether and to what extent the intended learning outcomes have been achieved.

Findings and Evaluations:

Examination rules have been adopted and presented in the *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy*. Four different forms of examinations are used at the University: Closed-book examinations require students to prepare their answers in a supervised classroom, and they are not allowed to consult external materials. Open-book examinations, however, allow students to use any materials of their choice. In take-home examinations, students are permitted to prepare their answers at home. Finally, in restricted examinations, students may not keep or circulate exam questions after being tested. Moreover, what the students have learned in each course can be assessed and graded by means of graded coursework. The different types of examinations allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course materials by not only analysing or explaining philosophical arguments in a logical and systematic way, but also by interpreting complex texts and discussing them critically and independently throughout a course. Therefore, the description of different examination methods matches the programme's target learning outcomes and is suitable to achieving the specific skills and personal qualities or competences explained in the programme proposal.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

8. A "Diploma Supplement" that complies with the requirements laid down in Annex 1 to § 6 of the University and Higher Education Statistics and Education Documentation Decree (Universitäts- und Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung, UHSBV), original version: F. L. G. II no. 216/2019, will be issued. ⁴

Findings and Evaluations:

The Diploma Supplement follows the model in Annex 1 to § 6 of the University and Higher Education Statistics and Education Documentation Decree (Universitäts- und Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung, UHSBV), original version: F. L. G. II no. 216/2019.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

⁴ In der PU-Akkreditierungsverordnung 2019 wird noch auf die Anlage 2 das UniStEV 2004 verwiesen. Diese Verordnung wurde geändert und deshalb wurde der Text des Beurteilungskriteriums im Gutachten entsprechend angepasst.

9. The admission requirements have been clearly defined. In terms of the qualification level, they correspond at least to the provisions provided by the Universities Act (UG).

Findings and Evaluations:

The admission requirements have been clearly communicated. In accordance with internationally recognized standards such as UG 2002, admission to university requires a first degree from a recognized institution. Furthermore, applicants must be proficient in English and must submit standardized English language test scores.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

10. The admission procedure has been clearly defined and ensures a fair and transparent selection of the applicants according to the admission requirements and the required competences.

Findings and Evaluations:

The admission procedure has been clearly communicated. As outlined in *CEU PU's Admissions Policy*, admission to university is based on an overall evaluation of the candidate, academic achievement, strength of recommendation, English language proficiency and general compatibility with the aims of the relevant programme. Fair and transparent eligibility according to the admission requirements and the required competences is therefore guaranteed.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Degree programme and degree programme management

11. The recognition procedures for higher education competences and, if applicable, competences acquired outside higher education in terms of crediting towards examinations or parts of a degree programme have been clearly and transparently defined. When recognising or crediting higher education competences, the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) shall be considered.

Findings and Evaluations:

In accordance with the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, recognition of foreign qualifications will be, as outlined in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy*, granted by the CEU PU, if the qualification for which recognition is requested meets the relevant Austrian qualification. A transfer of up to 30 ECTS credits can be requested. Furthermore, the application procedure has been specified clearly and transparently in *CEU PU's Students Rights Policy* as well.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.3 Assessment criterion § 17 (3) 1 to 5: Staff

Staff

1. The private university shall provide for sufficient scientific and/or artistic staff as well as sufficient non-academic staff for operating the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

According to the proposal for the Master Programme, the CEU PU expects 11 full-time faculty members (1 University Professor, 5 Professors, 4 Associate Professors, and 1 Instructor) to provide 246 ECTS credits. Since the typical full-time teaching load for faculty members is 24 ECTS credits (University Professors 16 ECTS credits, Instructors 20 ECTS credits), this amounts to approximately 10 FTE. In addition, 4 part-time faculty members (1 University Professor, 1 Associate Professor, and 2 Visiting Professors) may teach courses with a volume of 24 ECTS credits (1 FTE). Compared to public Universities in Austria and, e.g., Germany, the CEU PU is thereby much more than adequately equipped for operating the degree programme. This holds true even though all scientific staff also teach in the One-Year Master Programme and, additionally, most of it in the doctoral programme. In the virtual meeting with members of the Department of Philosophy's academic staff the expert panel was told that there were plans to hire two additional permanent faculty members and thereby to strengthen the area of practical philosophy, especially ethics. The expert panel recommends that this plan be implemented as it considers ethics to be an area in which the Department of Philosophy could make very good use of additional competent faculty.

As far as non-academic staff is concerned, it can be seen from Annex 1.2.10 that in the Department of Philosophy 1,5 FTE are employed. The experts take this equipment to be sufficient, although not as generous as with respect to academic staff. From Annex 1.2.10 it can also be seen that the CEU PU employs quite an extensive number of non-academic staff a) responsible for, e.g., student affairs, enrolment management, career services, and alumni relations, and b) working in various academic support units, e.g., in the Center for Academic Writing, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Library.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

2. The relation between scientific and/or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university and students shall be in accordance with the profiles of the respective degree programmes. Primary occupation here means working at least 50% of one's total working hours in salaried employment at the private university.

Findings and Evaluations:

As pointed out in § 17 (3) 1, the CEU PU expects 11 faculty members (10 FTE) to teach in the Master Programme. As far as the anticipated number of students is concerned, the CEU PU states in its proposal for the Master Programme to expect 15 per year, and therefore 30 per year when the programme has fully started in two years' time. Considered in isolation, this would amount to a staff-student ratio of 3/1, yet this would be a distorted picture, since the same staff is also responsible for the students in the One-Year Master Programme. In addition, at least some of the faculty is also responsible for the supervision of the students in the doctoral programme. Taking all three programmes into account, though, the staff-student ratio would

amount to approximately 7/1, and this is a very satisfactory ratio, especially compared to public Universities in Austria and neighbouring countries.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

3. The subject-specific core competences of the degree programme are covered by professors in primary occupation at the private university

Findings and Evaluations:

As stated in the programme's learning outcome, graduates will have, among other things, an understanding of seven core areas of contemporary philosophy, viz. metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, philosophy of mind (or language), continental philosophy, the history of ancient philosophy, and the history of early modern philosophy. Additionally, all graduates will have an understanding of elementary logic. Judging from the declarations in their CVs (viz. areas of competence and of specialization), all these areas are very well covered by (Assistant) Professors.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

4. The scientific staff or the artistic staff, respectively, is qualified according to the requirements of the activities provided for in the degree programme.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Academic Staff Handbook specifies in detail the CEU PU's recruitment policy and (re-) appointment procedures, as well as the periodic review procedures and guidelines for evaluating academic performance. Judging from the faculty's CVs, observing these policies, procedures, and guidelines has led to staff being very well qualified for teaching and research in the degree programme.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Staff

5. The prioritisation of the teaching, research, and administrative activities of the scientific or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university ensures adequate participation in teaching in degree programmes and leaves sufficient time for research and development or the advancement and appreciation of the arts.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Academic Staff Handbook states that the faculty's workload "is normally divided according to the following approximate percentages: teaching (including supervision) 30-50%; research (including research management) 30-50%; other administration 20-40%". In an individual job description other percentages may be fixed, though. However, this prioritisation is perfectly comparable with the typical distribution of workload at public Universities in Austria.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.4 Assessment criterion § 17 (4): Funding

Funding

The degree programme's funding is secured. Provisions have also been made to fund expiring degree programmes.

Findings and Evaluations:

As the Review report of the Expert Panel to the accreditation of Central European University Private University (CEU PU) from 18. June 2019 describes in great detail and makes absolutely clear, the funding of the institution CEU PU as a whole is fully secured at least until 2024/25. So this needs not to be repeated here at length, Suffice it to say that according to the CEU PU financial projections summary which is part of the application documents (Annex 1.4.1) the recurring revenues come from three sources: 1) CEU Endowment Fund [...], 2) Open Society Foundation (OSF) Grant [...], 3) fundraising, tuition, and other revenues [...]. The total revenues vary between [...] € in 2020/21 and [...] € in 2024/25. In each year, the total recurring expenses are less than the total revenues.

The financial situation of the Department of Philosophy is identically described in the three Program Proposals and has been slightly updated in response to a question of the expert panel. In the Program Proposals it says: "The funding of the programmes offered by the Department of Philosophy is provided from the combination of the tuition revenue generated by the Department and from the central budget of CEU PU, funded by the CEU Endowment Fund." Using the example of the academic year 2020/21, it is transparently illustrated that the planned expenditures (Gross Salary of Faculty and Administrative Staff, Employee Benefits, Payroll Charges, Non-personnel, Cash Stipends and Accommodation for Students) are completely covered by the Revenues, which come from Tuition fees and CEU Endowment funding. On the basis of this illustration and on the basis of the CEU's funding (see above), there is no reason for doubting that under regular circumstances as well as in the case the degree programme expires the Department of Philosophy will be financially adequately equipped. Moreover, in response to a question of the expert panel the CEU PU has confirmed "that the budget will remain approximately the same during the accreditation period" and that there "are no significant increases or decreases planned."

The tuition fee for the programme is 12.000 € per academic year. Depending on merits and financial needs, students are eligible for financial aid, which includes tuition waiver, stipend and/or housing. Taking into account that the CEU PU expects 10 students per year to enrol in the One-Year Master Programme and 15 students per year to enrol in the Two-Year Master Programme, the expected total revenue for tuition of [...] € has been calculated very conservatively.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.5 Assessment criterion § 17 (5): Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Quantitatively and qualitatively adequate facilities and equipment are provided for the degree programme. In the case that the private university draws on external resources, their authorisation to use them has been contractually secured.

Findings and Evaluations:

At present, the CEU PU is leasing a temporary facility of approximately 21.000 m² in Quellenstr. 51-55, 1100 Vienna. About 60% (12.000 m²) of this location are ready to use since September 2019. They comprise, among other things, an Auditorium (200 seating capacity), 37 classrooms, consultation - and seminar rooms, 1.300 m² Library and Reading Hall, 50 computer equipped desks in the Library and 250 seats in student co-working and hub areas with Wi-Fi-coverage, 2 computer labs with a capacity of 20+ each, 15 touch-down offices, as well as single, shared and open space office areas for faculty and administrative staff. The remaining 40% will be ready for utilization by September 2020. As the Rector points out in a video message provided to the experts in addition to the application, this temporarily leased facility is secure until 2025. For the period after 2025 the CEU PU is in advanced negotiations with the city of Vienna, and the CEU PU expects to secure a permanent site in Vienna in the course of 2020. In the CEU PU's Library in Vienna faculty and students at present have immediate on-site access to 20.000 print volumes (more than 8.000 in Philosophy) , and easy access to CEU PU's English language collection of over 150.000 print volumes, to an extensive collection of electronic books (approximately 30.000 in philosophy), to a very wide ranging collection of e-journals (over 55.000 electronic journals from all the major publishers), and a broad selection of electronic databases. Although parts of the CEU PU's original library in Budapest will be moved to Vienna, a considerable part will be maintained on the CEU's premises in Budapest. However, as was explained in the experts panel's virtual meeting with some of the students, books that are normally in the library in Budapest can be delivered to Vienna in two days.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.6 Assessment criterion § 17 (6) 1 to 2: Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts

Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts

1. The scientific and/or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university assigned to the degree programme is involved in the private university's relevant research and development activities.

Findings and Evaluations:

The faculty of the CEU PU Department of Philosophy is very active in publishing papers in numerous reputable journals as well as books with prestigious publishing houses. Moreover, they have acquired a number of grants, in particular from the Hungarian Scientific Research, but also from the European Commission (Marie Curie, FP6) as well as other foundations, such as the John Templeton Foundation. The department is a founding member of PLM, a network devoted to philosophy of mind and language. There are various interdisciplinary projects, such as the The Epistemology of the In/Human and Understanding Humanity. The research and publishing activities are on average high, partly very high.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts

2. The (planned) research performance of the scientific or artistic staff in primary occupation at the private university assigned to the degree programme are in accordance with the university's approach and the respective subject culture.

Findings and Evaluations:

The Department of Philosophy describes itself as largely oriented toward the 'analytic' tradition of philosophy while at the same time being pluralistic and historically-oriented within this tradition. The scientific staff is indeed predominantly rooted within the analytic philosophy, there is however a breadth of different and complementing expertise. The department is particularly strong in making insights from the history of philosophy fruitful for contemporary debates. Despite the strong analytic focus, there is considerable pluralism within as well as beyond the analytic tradition. On the one hand, there are members of the faculty which are conducting research and teaching on the so-called continental tradition (in particular phenomenology and hermeneutics). On the other hand, many faculty members address the impact of political, social and scientific developments on philosophical questions within philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, political philosophy and metaphysics in particular. The faculty has published in high quantity and quality. In sum, the performance of the faculty is in accordance with the university's mission to promote excellent research, to study and support open societies and to provide knowledge as a public good.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.7 Assessment criterion § 17 (7): Co-operation

Co-operation

The private university has envisaged co-operation projects with higher education partners and, if applicable, partners outside the higher education area in Austria and abroad which match the degree programme's profile and furthermore promote the mobility of students and staff.

Findings and Evaluations:

The department has strong international ties and regularly invites international guests to the departmental colloquium series. Nationally, they have also established close cooperation with the University of Vienna and plan to establish a joint research and teaching programme in the history and philosophy of science with the Vienna Circle Institute. Moreover, the department aims to strengthen its ties with the University of Graz in regards to the history of early modern philosophy. Of particular interest for students is also the biannual student conference organized jointly with the University of Bayreuth. Due to the mandatory attendance of the departmental colloquium, students will also get to know researcher from various countries, which combined with the international network of the faculty and the generous availability of travel grants will further support mobility of students and staff.

The experts consider the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

5.8 Summary and final evaluation

Development and quality assurance of the degree programme:

CEU PU 's quality management system is well-founded and transparent. The CEU PU has provided detailed information concerning its policies on establishing, operating and modifying degree programmes as well as on its institutional assessment and quality assurance policy. The Senate Curriculum and Quality Assurance Committee (SeCur) conducts an annual review process of each teaching programme, including all relevant stakeholder groups. To improve the CEU PU's quality management system a stronger student representation and participation in the SeCur is recommended. In conclusion, the degree programme (Two-Year MA) was developed using a predefined procedure for the development and is also fully incorporated into the private university's quality management system.

Degree programme and degree programme management:

The Two-Year MA is clearly oriented towards its main objective, to give students who may or may not have studied philosophy at undergraduate level (but have at least an independent degree in some comparable subject) an intensive education in philosophy. The programme provides the possibility to improve the understanding of a number of central areas in contemporary (analytic) philosophy and of major periods of the history of philosophy. The intended learning outcomes are distinguished in understandings (knowledge), skills, and competencies, all of which have been clearly defined. The name of the degree programme and the degree given correspond to the profile.

The curriculum is structured into philosophy electives, non-philosophy electives from other departments of CEU PU, academic writing, participation in the faculty colloquium, logic, and the thesis. The curriculum's primary distinguishing feature is: eight first-year mandatory courses in core areas of philosophy, including Logic. In correspondence with its all overall objective, the didactics of the programme focus on research-based teaching in order to promote scientific writing and foster critical thinking via the requirement of sound preparation and peer-to-peer interactivity as well as student-instructor interactivity. The workload related to the individual modules as well as the adopted examination methods ensure that the intended learning outcomes can be achieved.

The Diploma Supplement complies with the respective requirements. The admission requirements as well as the admission procedure have been clearly defined and communicated, and a fair and transparent eligibility is guaranteed. Finally, recognition of foreign qualifications will be granted by the CEU PU in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

Staff:

The CEU PU is much more than adequately equipped with highly qualified scientific staff for operating the degree programme, and with non-academic staff as well. The latter holds true for the Department of Philosophy as well as the CEU PU in general. The faculty members have impressive research and publication records and can spend a sufficient amount of their workload on teaching, research, and administrative activities. All subject-specific core competences of the degree programme are very well covered by (Assistant) Professors.

Funding:

Funding of the CEU PU in general and the Department of Philosophy in particular is fully secured at least until 2024/25. There is no reason for doubting that under regular circumstances as well as in the case the degree programme expires the Department of Philosophy will be financially adequately equipped. The tuition fee for the full programme is 12.000 € per year, yet depending on merits and financial needs, students are eligible for financial aid, which includes tuition waiver, stipend and/or housing.

Infrastructure:

The CEU PU is leasing a temporary facility in Vienna. At present, 60% of it are in use; the remaining 40% will be ready for utilization by September 2020. The facility is adequately sized. It comprises, among other things, an Auditorium, class-, consultation - and seminar rooms, a Library and Reading Hall, and 250 seats in student co-working and hub areas with Wi-Fi-coverage. For the period after 2025, the CEU PU expects to secure a permanent site in Vienna in the course of 2020. Although parts of the CEU PU's original, very well-equipped library in Budapest will be moved to Vienna, a considerable part will be maintained on the CEU's premises in Budapest. However, that will not pose serious practical difficulties.

Research and development and/or the advancement and appreciation of the arts:

The research performance of the scientific staff is outstanding. The department of philosophy is actively participating in academic discourse by publishing papers in numerous reputable journals as well as books with prestigious publishing houses. Moreover, they are cooperating in various highly interdisciplinary projects. In sum, the performance of the faculty is in accordance with the university's mission to promote excellent research.

Co-operation:

The department has strong international ties with different universities and institutions, which are of particular interest for students. Nationally, CEU PU has established close cooperations with the University of Vienna and they plan to establish a joint research and teaching programme with the Vienna Circle Institute. Moreover, biannual student conferences organized jointly with the University of Bayreuth give students the ability to get to know researchers from various countries and to strengthen their international profile and networks. The university has envisaged excellent co-operation projects, which match the degree programme's profile and promote the mobility of students and staff very well.

The experts recommend the Board of the AQ Austria to accredit the master programme "MA in Philosophy (Two-Year).

6 Documents reviewed

- Application of the Central European University Private University from 19.12.2020 in the version of 18.03.2020 for the accreditation of the doctoral programme "PhD in Philosophy" and the master degree programmes 'Philosophy One-Year' and 'Philosophy Two-Years' to be offered in Vienna.
- Submission of further information prior to the site visit:
 - six registered video messages in which the President of the CEU PU, [...], and the Provost of CEU PU, [...] answer questions on general issues (reception date: 26.03.2020)
 - CVs of prof. [...] and [...]
 - CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts, Part 1 (25.05.2020)
 - CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts, Part 2 (27.05.2020)
 - Annex 1 to the CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts, Part 2: CEU PhDs with academic jobs (27.05.2020)
 - Annex 2 to the CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts, Part 2: CEU Library Fact Sheet Philosophy (27.05.2020)
 - Annex 3 to the CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts, Part 2: Updated Budget of CEU PU Department of Philosophy (27.05.2020)
 - CEU PU Strategic Development Plan 2019-2025
- Submission of further information following the site visit:
 - Employment Report – Doctoral Graduates from the CEU PU Department of Philosophy (29.05.2020)
 - CEU PU classroom usage map (03.06.2020)
 - German Version of the Diploma Supplement (05.06.2020)