

Executive summary

Report

Programme accreditation

Bachelor of Music Programme (B.M.)

College of Music, Mahidol University (Salaya, Thailand)

Site-visit: 22-24 November 2018

Introduction

Following the institutional quality enhancement review of the College of Music, Mahidol University (CoM) carried out by MusiQuE in June 2017, the institution requested a quality enhancement programme review of its Bachelor of Music.

The review followed a four-stage process:

1. Self-evaluation Report

The College of Music, Mahidol University elaborated a Self-evaluation Report (SER) addressing the MusiQuE programme review standards for their Bachelor of Music (BM).

2. Site visit preparation

Prior to the site visit, the Review Team (RT) received the SER and each member of the team reviewed it alongside the MusiQuE standards, highlighting the programme strengths, points of further development and questions to be raised during the different meetings of the visit. These individual comments were collated by the MusiQuE office to serve as a basis for the site visit.

3. Site visit

The RT visited the CoM from the 22nd to the 24th of November 2018. During the visit the RT had several meetings with different internal and external stakeholders, visited the

facilities, observed lessons and rehearsals, reviewed academic documentation and attended a TPO concert.

- **Meeting 1: *College of Music Administration Team***
Eight members of the College of Music Administration Team.
- **Meeting 2: *Bachelor of Music students***
Ten students of the Bachelor of Music Programme: five from 4th year, three from 3rd, one from 2nd and one from 1st. All BM majors were represented.
- **Meeting 3: *Bachelor of Music Programme Committee***
Six members of the BM programme committee, including chairs of different departments.
- **Meeting 4: *Artistic and academic staff/teachers members of the BM faculty***
Eight teachers from different departments and subjects, including Brass, Jazz, General and Music Education, Music Technology, Musicology and Musical Theatre.
- **Session 5: *Class observations***
Each member of the RT observed a few classes, ensemble rehearsals and individual lessons: Musical Theatre, Stage Acting, Music Business, Jazz ensembles, Choir, Pop and Jazz Big Bands, Thai Music, Popular drum set (1:1), Cello (1:1), etc.
- **Meeting 6: *Meeting with representatives of the profession and former students***
Nine people representing graduates of the CoM currently working in different music related jobs (mainly performers and educators) and companies or organisations that have links with the CoM.
- **Meeting 7: *Meeting with members of the relevant board/academic council***
Nine people representing the Administration Team of the Mahidol University, the TPO Board and the CoM Board of Directors.
- **Session 8: *Academic documentation review – 1***
Session with two members of the BM Programme Committee to review relevant academic documentation and systems: Curriculum Map and Learning Outcomes, Student files, COMMAS, etc.
- **Session 9: *Academic documentation review - 2***
Review of additional documentation that had been requested: student numbers per each BM major, number of applicants and students admitted in the BM and dropouts, and videos of final recitals and ensemble performances.
- **Facilities tour**
Guided tour of the College of Music facilities

4. *Review Report*

The Review Team analysed all the information, qualitative and quantitative data gathered during the site visit, together with the Self-Evaluation Report, to produce a Review Report than was approved by the MusiQuE Board.



The Review Team consisted of:

- Jeffrey Sharkey (Chair)
Principal of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow.
- Mist Thorkelsdottir (Review team member)
Expert/consultant in higher music education. Head of International Programs, University of Southern California.
- Jan-Gerd Krüger (Review team member)
Manager Jazz Department/International Relations Officer, Prince Claus Conservatoire, Groningen, The Netherlands.
- Wiebke Rademacher (Review team member as student)
PhD student in Musicology at the University of Cologne, Germany.
- Joan-Albert Serra (Review team member and Secretary)
Associate Director of Research and Innovation, ESART Campus Barcelona (Spain) / Bath Spa University UK; Music and Arts Consultant, Manager and Educator.



Summary of the compliance with the Standards and recommendations

The review team concludes that the Bachelor of Music programme complies with the *Standards for Programme Review* as follows:

1. Programme's goals and context	
Standard 1. The programme goals are clearly stated and reflect the institutional mission.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Encouragement to continue and deepen the dialogue and collaboration with the University.	
2. Educational processes	
Standard 2.1. The goals of the programme are achieved through the content and structure of the curriculum and its methods of delivery.	Fully compliant
Suggestions for enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Incorporate interdisciplinary work, project work (e.g. Jazz Festival) and outreach activities into the curriculum. · Change the name of the Entertainment Department to Popular Music in line with international norms. · Encourage more teachers to engage in cross-departmental and cross-subject academic links with their students. 	
Standard 2.2. The programme offers a range of opportunities for students to gain an international perspective.	Fully compliant
Suggestions for enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A more strategic approach to masterclasses: less on the receiving end and more aligned with the teaching and learning processes. · In line with the ambition to grow the number of international students, more documentation in English should be available, including a Diploma Supplement. · Students with strong English skills to be able to test out of English lessons and use the time for electives. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Widen benchmarking horizons, including China, Seoul, etc. · Promote more student placements and interchanges with other international institutions of the region. 	
Standard 2.3. Assessment methods are clearly defined and demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Consider developing student capacity for constructive feedback and peer-to-peer assessment.	
3. Student profiles	
Standard 3.1. There are clear criteria for student admission, based on an assessment of their artistic/academic suitability for the programme.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Use the data that is been collected about applications and admissions in the different majors to plan future recruitment strategies.	
Standard 3.2. The programme has mechanisms to formally monitor and review the progression, achievement and subsequent employability of its students.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Systematise Alumni surveys after they graduate (e.g. after 3, 5 and 10 years) to inform the development of the curriculum. Obtain both quantitative and qualitative data. It will become even more important as the CoM increases its number of international students.	
4. Teaching staff	
Standard 4.1. Members of the teaching staff are qualified for their role and are active as artists/pedagogues/ researchers.	Fully compliant
Suggestions for enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Warmly encourage mentoring for research purposes. · To continue to deliver the BM effectively, Mahidol must continuously develop its faculty to help retain them. It will be helpful to achieve a better understanding of 	

<p>artistic research (practice-based research) and to better support faculty applicants in the promotion process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Widening benchmarking horizons in Asia [see 2.2] can also help to get a clearer perspective on artistic research. · Increase funds for teaching staff development by joining 2 or 3 years of funding, offering more international opportunities. · Improve professional development opportunities for part-time tutors. 	
Standard 4.2. There are sufficient qualified teaching staff to effectively deliver the programme.	Fully compliant
5. Facilities, resources and support	
Standard 5.1. The institution has appropriate resources to support student learning and delivery of the programme.	Fully compliant
<p>Suggestions for enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Create more dedicated and soundproofed rehearsal rooms for ensembles, which will also support student projects (bands, small orchestras...) · Due to the success of the musical theatre, more large rooms with mirrors will be required. · Recommend using more resources to provide performance opportunities to students in downtown Bangkok. · Continue the plans to offer on-line courses. · Present more concerts of student ensembles (small, mixed, etc.) that are easier to take to Bangkok and further afield. 	
Standard 5.2. The institution's financial resources enable successful delivery of the study programmes.	Fully compliant
<p>Suggestion for enhancement</p> <p>New funding and more scholarships are needed to increase the support for students from less privileged backgrounds and make the BM accessible to a wider range of students.</p>	

Standard 5.3. The programme has sufficient qualified support staff.	Fully compliant
6. Communication, organisation and decision-making	
Standard 6.1. Effective mechanisms are in place for internal communication within the programme.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Develop a more consistent approach to the communication with part-time tutors.	
Standard 6.2 The programme is supported by an appropriate organisational structure and decision-making processes.	Substantially compliant
Suggestions for enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Consider inviting student representatives and/or the president of the student council to appropriate curricular and managerial meetings. · The programme is substantially compliant with standard 6.2 and would reach full compliance with more systematic and active involvement of students in key committees. 	
7. Internal quality culture	
Standard 7. The programme has in place effective quality assurance and enhancement procedures.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Use the MusiQuE process to substitute for some of the procedures (quite labour intensive) that are not so well suited for artistic programmes.	
8. Public interaction	
Standard 8.1. The programme engages within wider cultural, artistic and educational contexts.	Fully compliant
Suggestion for enhancement Continue developing the curriculum to empower entrepreneurial graduates to spread the CoM's mission in Thailand.	

Standard 8.2. The programme actively promotes links with various sectors of the music and other artistic professions.	Fully compliant
Suggestions for enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The CoM is in a very good position to have a stronger impact on the creative economy by strengthening its links, partnerships and collaborations with the music and creative industries in Thailand and SE Asia. · Expand internships and similar programmes to all disciplines and Develop initiatives to support the professional development and lifelong learning of the CoM's graduates. 	
Standard 8.3 Information provided to the public about the programme is clear, consistent and accurate.	Fully compliant
Suggestions for enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Student performances in Bangkok (as recommended in standard 5.1) will increase the visibility and engagement of the CoM and its students with wider audiences. · Translate more material to English, including academic info and research articles. 	

Conclusion

After a careful review of the documentation provided and the site visit, the RT has found clear evidences that the Bachelor of Music programme of the College of Music, Mahidol University, fully complies with MusiQuE's quality standards.

The strong points of the programme described in section 10 of the present review, demonstrate that the CoM has been able to review the programme and respond to the needs of its students and Thai society.

Building upon what the CoM has already achieved, there is great potential for developing the quality of the programme, its international position, the level of its applicants, its impact on the creative industries and its role as a key cultural agent in Thailand. The suggested areas for further development that the RT highlights should be considered by the management of the CoM and the Mahidol University as recommendations that will help in achieving this.