

Report on the Outcome of the Accreditation Procedure: Institutional Accreditation of the Central European University Private University

Upon the request of CEU GmbH of 21 January 2019, the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria) conducted a procedure for the institutional accreditation of CEU GmbH as an Austrian private university under the name "Central European University Private University" (CEU PU) at the Vienna location in accordance with § 24 Hochschul-Qualitätssicherungsgesetz (HS-QSG) BGBl I Nr. 74/2011 as amended in conjunction with § 2 Private Universities Act (PUG) BGBl. I No. 74/2011 as amended and § 14 Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities (PU-AkkVO) as amended. In accordance with § 21 HS-QSG, AQ Austria publishes the following report on the results of the procedure:

1 Accreditation decision

At its 55th meeting on 3 July 2019, the Board of AQ Austria decided to grant the application of CEU GmbH from 21 January 2019 for accreditation as "Central European University Private University" in Vienna. The Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research approved the decision. The decision is legally binding since 16 July 2019.

2 Short description of the accreditation application

Information on the applicant institution	
Applicant institution	CEU GmbH
Legal status	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
Name of the private University	Central European University Private University (CEU PU)
Site	Vienna
Degree programmes	Bachelor of Arts in "Culture, Politics and Society" (CPS) Bachelor of Arts in "Philosophy, Politics and Economics" (PPE) Master of Arts in "International Public Affairs" (IPA) Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts in "Public Policy" (Mundus MAPP) Master of Arts in "Women's and Gender Studies" (GEMMA) Master of Science in "Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management" (MESPOM)
Information on the degree programme	
Name of degree programme	"Culture, Politics and Society" (CPS)
Type of degree programme	Bachelor programme
ECTS	180
Regular study period	3 years
Maximum intake per year	30 per year per cohort
Academic degree	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Study format	Fulltime
Language	English
Location	Vienna
Name of degree programme	"Philosophy, Politics and Economics" (PPE)
Type of degree programme	Bachelor programme
ECTS	180
Regular study period	3 years
Maximum intake per year	20 per year per cohort
Academic degree	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Study format	Fulltime
Language	English
Location	Vienna
Name of degree programme	"International Public Affairs" (IPA)
Type of degree programme	Master programme

ECTS	120
Regular study period	2 years
Maximum intake per year	20 per year per cohort
Academic degree	Master of Arts (M.A.)
Study format	Fulltime
Language	English
Location	Vienna
Name of degree programme	"Public Policy" (Mundus MAPP)
Type of degree programme	Master programme
ECTS	120
Regular study period	2
Maximum intake per year	25
Academic degree	Master of Arts (M.A.)
Study format	Fulltime
Language	English
Location	Vienna
Name of degree programme	"Women's and Gender Studies" (GEMMA)
Type of degree programme	Joint Master programme
ECTS	120
Regular study period	2 years
Maximum intake per year	10 students for CEU PU per year per cohort
Academic degree	Master of Arts (M.A.)
Study format	Fulltime
Language	English
Location	Vienna
Name of degree programme	"Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management" (MESPOM)
Type of degree programme	Joint Master programme
ECTS	120
Regular study period	2 years
Maximum intake per year	35 per year per cohort
Academic degree	Master of Science (M.Sc.)
Study format	Fulltime
Language	English
Location	Vienna

3 Brief information on the procedure

On 21 January 2019, the CEU GmbH applied for institutional accreditation of CEU PU in Vienna.

By decision of 11 April 2019, the AQ Austria Board appointed the following experts for the assessment of the application:

Name	Institution	Role within the expert panel
Sybille Reichert	Member of the Science Council & Consulting for Higher Education	reviewer with professional practice management, experience in higher education, chair
Helga Nowotny	Chair of ERA Council Forum Austria	reviewer from academia, expertise in research
Georg Winckler	Former Rector of the University Vienna, EUA	reviewer from academia, management experience in higher education
Maarten Vink	Department of Political Science Maastricht University	Reviewer from academia
Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves	School of International Studies, Jagiellonian University in Krakow	Reviewer from academia
Christiane Gössinger	Sigmund Freud Private Universität	Student expert

In addition, the Board of AQ Austria has appointed (decision of 11 April 2019) the following experts contributing to this review process focusing on two of the Joint Master programmes:

Expert for evaluation of programme "MESPOM" (paper-based report)		
Marianne Penker	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)	Reviewer from academia in the field of environment and sustainable rural development.
Expert for evaluation of programme "GEMMA" (paper-based report)		
Chia Longman	Ghent University	Reviewer from academia in the field of gender and feminism

Between 5 and 7 June 2019, a site visit of the experts and the representatives of AQ Austria took place in the premises of CEU GmbH in Vienna. The review report was completed on 18 June 2019 and sent to the university. The applicant submitted its comment on the review report on 20 June 2019.

4 Subject matter of the application

The application indicates the following profile for CEU PU:

"Central European University Private University (CEU PU) is designed as an English-speaking international university, where faculty, students and staff make up a diverse community and engage in critical inquiry, interdisciplinary teaching and learning, world-class research, and community engagement. A private university with a public consciousness, CEU PU is looking to

build on the research and teaching record of its faculty in the social sciences and humanities, public policy, law and management. It will promote knowledge as a public good. CEU PU represents a rare mix of nationalities and cultures, and thus creates an ideal environment for examining open society subjects as emerging democracies, transitional economies, media freedom, nationalism, human rights, and the rule of law. (...) Central European University Private University (CEU PU) aims to be an international re-search-intensive university, committed to academic excellence and offering a transformative education with a global impact. Based in Vienna, the University awards internationally recognized undergraduate and graduate degrees in the humanities, social sciences, public policy, law, management and emerging fields. We are a community committed to critical inquiry and devoted to the pursuit of knowledge as a public good. The academic and social dimensions of CEU's mission are closely intertwined. CEU PU seeks to produce research that transforms our understanding of the world and to produce scholars and professionals, citizens and public leaders who will serve the cause of knowledge-based economic and social development, justice, freedom and tolerance, the values upon which open societies depend."

The institutional application to be accredited as an Austrian private university encompassed two Bachelor programmes and four Master programmes. The two Bachelor and one Master programmes have been redesigned for the accreditation in Vienna (marked with *). Three Master programmes are already offered by the CEU in Budapest as Joint Master Programmes with European and non-European partner universities.

- *1. Bachelor of Arts in "Culture, Politics and Society" (CPS)
- *2. Bachelor of Arts in "Politics, Philosophy and Economics" (PPE)
- *3. Master of Arts in "International Public Affairs" (IPA)
- 4. Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts in "Public Policy" (Mundus MAPP)
- 5. Master of Arts in "Women's and Gender Studies" (GEMMA)
- 6. Master of Science in "Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management" (MESPOM)

5 Decision of the Board of AQ Austria

The Board of AQ Austria has decided to grant the application. For its decision, the Board of AQ Austria consulted and discussed the application documents, the subsequent submissions, the review report as well as the applicant's comment. The decisive factor for the Board's decision was the positive assessment in the review report and the fulfilment of all criteria in accordance with the Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities (PU-AkkVO). The statement on science policy formulated in the preamble of the review report reflects the opinion of the experts.

Summary of the assessments of the expert panel

The experts summarize their conclusions for their evaluation of all the assessment criteria in their report as follows:

"Upon review of all submitted documents and in-depth discussions with the applicant institution's representatives considering all open questions on all dimensions of institutional and programme objectives, development plans and measures, quality standards and procedures, regulations and guidelines, the panel is convinced that it has received more than sufficient information on all aspects pertaining to the accreditation criteria.

It should also be noted that among all interviewed CEU staff, from institutional leadership, department heads, heads of support services leaders to faculty and students, the readiness and ability to offer an in-depth insight into institutional processes was remarkable and the information provided detailed and well-reflected. The panel was able to witness a quality awareness and culture among institutional representatives that seemed to be deep-rooted and was reflected in transparent clear guidelines on institutional quality standards, processes, and responsibilities. Most remarkably, the panel was struck by the openness to continuous improvement and the widespread academic entrepreneurship with which the institutional leadership and faculty approached the move to Vienna, transforming the originally politically imposed regulatory constraint into an academic and institutional opportunity. The enthusiasm and intellectual investment into the design of new bachelor-level programs and the identification of new cooperation possibilities in research and teaching with Viennese universities reflected not only remarkable institutional resilience and agility but also a search for continuous improvement.

To conclude, the panel accreditation finds, on the basis of all written evidence and site visit discussions, that CEU PU meets all institutional accreditation criteria and that the 6 programs it submitted for accreditation meet all programme and institutional criteria fully. It therefore strongly recommends that the new CEU PU and the 2 Bachelor programs CPS and PPE as well as the 4 Master programs GEMMA, IPA, MAPP and MESPOM be accredited.

Moreover, the panel firmly believes that the new institution CEU PU will be a stimulating enrichment for the Austrian higher Education landscape, both in its academic research and educational offer as well as in its institutional good practices.”

Summary of the comment of the applicant institution

In its formal statement, the applicant institution thanks the experts for their understanding of the exceptional situation of their institution as well as for the review report and the included recommendations. The applicant declares that it will take into account all these recommendations in its further development. In doing so, it emphasises in particular the recommendations for the participation of the students and the study programme-related recommendations.

Annexes

- Review report of the expert panel, 18.06.2019
- Formal Statement of CEU GmbH, 20.06.2019