

Decision of fulfillment of the secondary condition of the Performing Arts Study Programme Group of Tallinn University

27.04.2020

The Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education decided to consider the secondary condition imposed on the quality assessment decision of first and second levels of higher education of the Performing Arts Study Programme Group of Tallinn University to be met.

Based on § 53 (3) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and § 10 (4) of the Universities Act and bearing in mind clauses 41.1 and 42 of the document "Quality Assessment of the Study Programme Group at the First and Second Levels of Higher Education" established on the basis of the authorization contained in clause 3.7.3 and clause 3.7.1 of the Statutes of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (hereinafter the Council) states the following:

1. § 53 (1) 2) of the APA provides that *an additional duty related to the principal regulation of the administrative act* and § 53 (2) 2) and 3) provide that *a secondary condition may be imposed on an administrative act: if the administrative act cannot be issued without the secondary condition or if the issue of the administrative act must be resolved on the basis of the administrative right of discretion*. On 02.02.2018, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (hereinafter the Council) adopted a decision to approve the assessment report,¹ and to carry out the next quality assessment of the first and second levels of higher education of the Performing Arts Study Programme Group of Tallinn University after seven years, with the secondary condition that Tallinn University submits a report to the Council no later than 02.02.2020² on the rectification of the deficiency referred to in clause 11 of the assessment decision.
2. On 03.02.2020, Tallinn University sent the following document to the Council: *Report on fulfilling the recommendations made as secondary conditions*.
3. EKKA involved the following members of the committee in the assessment of the fulfillment of the secondary condition:

¹ The assessment report is an integral part of the decision and is available on the EKKA website.

²The assessment report is available on the EKKA website.

Anthony Dean	Professor, University of Winchester, UK
Paula Tuovinen	Director, Arts Promotion Centre, Finland

4. EKKA sent a preliminary report to Tallinn University on 31.03.2020, to which the University submitted a reply on 8.04.2020. On 9.04.2020, the assessment committee submitted a report to EKKA on the elimination of the deficiency described in clause 11 of the decision of the Council of 02.02.2018. The assessment was as follows:

Deficiency underlying imposition of the secondary condition	Assessment
<p>Pursuant to § 6 (5) of the Government of the Republic Regulation "Higher Education Standard" (HES), <i>the name and structure of the curriculum must be consistent and the teaching methods and conduct of studies, including the volume of independent work and practice, must support the achievement of curriculum objectives</i>. The curricula do not place enough emphasis on stage choreography, creative and improvisational work, and contemporary dance. In this sense, the name of the curricula (Choreography) is somewhat misleading and should be better aligned with their content. Curriculum coherence should also be improved. In the case of the master's program, it is desirable to define what constitutes the dance technical core of the curriculum and to remove from the curriculum courses that do not help to build students' skills logically and are not relevant enough in today's context.</p>	<p>The deficiency has been substantially remedied.</p> <p><u>The assessment committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Instead of changing the old study programmes, the university decided to develop new study programmes, which made it possible to constructively take into account the recommendations made in the previous assessment. The study programmes are now more coherent and focus more on contemporary choreography and creative practices. A greater focus on contemporary dance is made possible, among other things, by a four-year bachelor's program. 2) The agreement with the Viljandi Culture Academy of the University of Tartu on the profiling of dance study programmes has been useful. 3) More opportunities have been created for students to cooperate with professional choreographers and participate in joint projects. <p><u>Recommendations for further development activities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In the international context, the name of the study programme does not correspond exactly to its content, as the study programme includes multidisciplinary dance studies and the basics of the dance teacher's profession. The assessment committee understands

	<p>the University's wish to maintain the traditional name of the study programme, but it may still be desirable to review the name of the study programme in the future.</p> <p>2) Although the study programme contains more modern choreography, it is not reflected in the learning outcomes of the new study programme. Learning outcomes should be reviewed and reworded to make the nature and objectives of the study programme clear to potential and current students.</p>
<p>Pursuant to § 6 (7) 4) of HES, <i>the necessary premises must be provided for teaching, the furnishings and equipment of which are sufficient and modern to achieve the objectives of the curricula and the condition of which complies with the health and safety requirements provided by legislation.</i> From the point of view of the health of students and teachers, it is essential to install specially covered floors and proper technical infrastructure (lighting, sound, and IT technology) in the dance premises.</p>	<p>The deficiency has been completely remedied.</p> <p><u>The assessment committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <p>1) The University has invested in new dance studios, which are also properly equipped.</p>
<p>§ 6 (7) 1) of the HES prescribes that there <i>must be full-time lecturers for teaching, the number of which is sufficient to achieve the objectives and learning outcomes of the curriculum due to their tasks, the volume of teaching and research performed and the number of supervised students.</i> The resource of teachers is not always sufficiently ensured - for example, contemporary/composition dance is regularly taught by only two teachers, which may not be sufficient for the specific training of students. It is necessary to involve visiting lecturers with new ideas and</p>	<p>The deficiency has been substantially remedied.</p> <p><u>The assessment committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <p>1) More practitioners (visiting lecturers) are involved in the implementation of the study programmes, which makes it possible to provide education on more modern choreography.</p> <p>2) The University has established new partnerships with the world of work, which allows students to develop different approaches to choreography.</p> <p>3) Cooperation with the Viljandi Academy of Culture of the University of Tartu has been beneficial, enabling students to</p>

<p>competencies in teaching for longer periods, allocating the necessary financial resources. The number of teachers teaching different dance genres could be better balanced.</p>	<p>expand the scope of their choreographic thinking.</p> <p><u>Recommendations for further development activities:</u></p> <p>1) It must be ensured that the staff of existing full-time lecturers is maintained and, if possible, expanded.</p>
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5. Considering that, in the opinion of the assessment committee, the deficiencies underlying the imposition of the secondary condition have been substantially remedied, the Council

DECIDED:

To consider that the secondary condition set for the quality assessment decision of the first and second study levels of the Performing Arts Study Programme Group of Tallinn University adopted on 02.02.2018 has been fulfilled and to maintain the decision to carry out the next quality assessment after seven years.

The decision was adopted by eleven votes in favor, none opposed.

6. A person who finds that the decision of the assessment council has violated his or her rights or restricted his or her freedoms may file a challenge pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act. The challenge shall be submitted to the Assessment Council of EKKA within thirty(30) days after the person who filed the challenge became aware of or should have become aware of the contested act.

The Assessment Council shall send the challenge to the challenge committee of the Assessment Council of EKKA, which shall submit a written, impartial opinion to the Assessment Council on the reasoning of the challenge within five (5) days of receipt of the challenge. The Assessment Council shall resolve the challenge within ten (10) days of receipt, taking into account the reasoned position of the appeal committee. If the challenge needs to be further investigated, the Assessment Council may extend the term for reviewing the challenge by up to thirty (30) days.

Challenging of a decision of the Assessment Council of EKKA is possible within thirty (30) days as of its service by submitting an appeal to the Tallinn Courthouse of the Tallinn Administrative Court pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Eve Eisenschmidt
Chair of the Council

Hillar Bauman
Secretary of the Council