

Decision of fulfillment of the secondary condition  
of the Arts Study Programme Group  
of Estonian Academy of Arts

27.04.2020

To consider the secondary condition imposed on the assessment decision of the first and second levels of the Arts Study Programme Group of the Estonian Academy of Arts 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 29.09.2017, 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,<sup>1</sup> and to carry out the next quality assessment of the first and second levels of higher education of the Arts Study Programme Group of the Estonian Academy of Arts after seven (7) years, with the secondary condition that the Estonian Academy of Arts submits a report to the Council no later than 29.09.2019<sup>2</sup> on the rectification of the deficiency referred to in clause 11 of the assessment decision.
2. On 30.09.2019, the Estonian Academy of Arts sent the following documents to the Council: 1) *The progress report of the Estonian Academy of Arts on eliminating the secondary condition set in the assessment of the study programme group of Arts*, 2) *Action plan of the Faculty of Design*, 3) *Action plan of the Faculty of Fine Arts*, 4) *Action plan of the Faculty of Art and Culture*, 5) *Action plan of the Interior Architecture programmes.*

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

<sup>2</sup>The assessment report is available on the EKKA website.

3. EKKA involved the following members of the committee in the assessment of the fulfillment of the secondary condition:

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| Professor John Butler | CEO EQ-Arts, Amsterdam, Holland                |
| Maren Schmohl         | Vice Rector, Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany |

4. EKKA sent a preliminary report to the Estonian Academy of Arts on 19.11.2019, to which the institution of higher education submitted a response on the absence of comments on 27.11.2019. On 27.11.2019, 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 29.09.2017. The assessment was as follows:

| Deficiency underlying imposition of the secondary condition  | Assessment   |
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| <p>Pursuant to § 6 (1) of the Government of the Republic Regulation "Higher Education Standard" (HES), the study programme must take into account the needs of the labor market and the target group. The narrowly specialized study programmes of the Faculty of Design contradict the needs of the current labor market for designers with a broader education. The professional employment rate of students is low. The university management should initiate and support changes in the faculty more strongly.</p> | <p><b>The deficiency has been completely remedied.</b></p> <p><u>The assessment committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In the autumn of 2018, the management of EAA expressed its clear support for the reforms in the Faculty of Design and set a deadline: the new study programmes combining the previous separate study programmes had to be approved by the Council of EAA at the end of 2018. The project was a success, and the deadlines were met.</li> <li>2) The position of Academic Development Manager was created in July 2018, and it was renamed Quality Manager in June 2019. The Quality Manager actively participated in the working group of study programme development and changes in the structure of the faculty.</li> <li>3) Communication with employers and alumni has improved: each study programme committee of the Faculty of Design now includes representatives of alumni and employers, who are consulted when study programmes are updated.</li> <li>4) The volume of basic design subjects has been increased, and general subjects have been updated to expand specialization. The</li> </ol> |

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|  | <p>internship module has doubled, and students are offered more support to find suitable internships. Efforts have been made to improve the quality of cooperation with companies. Study programmes have become more comprehensive and can be more easily adapted to the changing needs of the labor market.</p> <p>5) The Faculty of Design conducts the university-wide elective module "Life after University".</p> <p>6) Moving to a new building, redesigning workshops and laboratories, and introducing new electives and optional subjects have given students the opportunity to learn about topics and technologies in other fields, thereby increasing their skills base to meet the needs of the world of work.</p> <p>7) Within the framework of all study programmes, the course "Design Theory 1-4" is offered as a new subject. During the course, students learn to place their work in a broader context, to conceptualize and justify their work in a more scientific way, which in turn raises their skills base in a professional context. A design research working group has been set up to organize joint seminars to develop research competencies.</p> <p><u>Recommendations for further development activities:</u></p> <p>1) The committee encourages the faculty to continue to address the issues not yet addressed in the study programmes and to assess the impact of the measures implemented.</p> |
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5. Given that the deficiency that led to the imposition of the secondary condition has been fully 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 Arts Study Programme Group of the Estonian Academy of Arts adopted on 29.09.2017 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, and 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 Procedures Act.

**Eve Eisenschmidt**  
**Chair of the Council**

**Hillar Bauman**  
**Secretary of the Council**