



Attn : Stefaan De Ruyck
Royal Conservatoie Antwerp
Desguinlei 25
2018 Antwerpen
Belgium

Brussels, 16 July 2021

Subject: Outcome of the quality enhancement review of the Visual Arts Master and Bachelor Programmes

Dear Mr. De Ruyck,

In December 2019, the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp (RCA) requested a programme quality enhancement review with MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement in order to engage in a quality enhancement process that is art student and art educator centred. The procedure covered 3 programmes, Bachelor of Dance Programme, Bachelor of Visual Arts and Master Visual Arts programmes. On behalf of the Board of MusiQuE, I have pleasure in writing to you concerning the outcomes of the review procedure of the Visual Arts Master and Bachelor programmes.

Stages of the procedure and Review Team composition

The review procedure followed a three-stage process:

1. Programme team of the Visual Arts Bachelor and Master programmes prepared a *Self-evaluation Report (SER)* and supporting documents, based on, and structured according to the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* mapped against the *EQ-Arts Standards for Programme Review*.
2. An international Review Team composed by MusiQuE and EQ-Arts studied the *SERs* and carried out an online visit on 08-10 March 2021. The visit comprised of meetings with representatives of RCA's management team, teaching and support staff, students, alumni, employers and external stakeholders. The Review Team used the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* mapped against the *EQ-Arts Standards for Programme Review* as basis for its investigation.
3. The Review Team produced the Review Reports that follow, for both the English and the Dutch tracks of the programmes investigated. The Review Reports are produced in English, structured along the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* mapped against the *EQ-Arts Standards for Programme Review*.

The international Review Team that conducted the visit was composed of:

- Dr Sarah Bennett (Chair) – Associate Professor and former Head of the School of Art and Architecture, Kingston University, UK
- Karen Harsbo – Associate Professor, Royal Danish Art Academy in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Frank Koolen- Course Leader of BA Fine Art, Utrecht School of Arts (HKU), Netherlands
- Lena Paßlick - recent graduate of MA Photography, Master Institute of Visual Cultures AKV St. Joost, Netherlands
- Mark van Vorstenbos - Head of Textile & Fashion, Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, Netherlands
- Laura Witt (Secretary) - Deputy Registrar (Quality Assurance and Enhancement), Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, UK

Outcome of the procedure and consideration of the Report by the Board

The MusiQuE Board scrutinised the Report produced by the Review Team, during its meeting in June 2021 to ensure its compliance and consistency with the MusiQuE procedures. Following this scrutiny, and, following further adjustments to the Report requested by the Board, the Report has been sent to the institution for the check of its factual accuracy. The Review Team worked on further adjustments of the Report based on the factual comments by the institution and submitted the final Report to the Board of MusiQuE for final endorsement. I can confirm that the MusiQuE Board is satisfied that the review procedure has been undertaken in line with the MusiQuE rules and regulations as described in the MusiQuE's Internal Regulations and Guidelines for Institutions and that its outcomes are relevant to the MusiQuE-EQ-Arts Standards For Programme Review which constituted the basis of this exercise.

In the case of a Quality Enhancement Review, the result of the review procedure is the final Report itself. The main aims of the MusiQuE Quality Enhancement Reviews are to provide an opportunity for institutions to engage with quality enhancement issues outside the constraining framework of a formal review; to stimulate the process of internal reflection on quality issues and, where relevant, to assist institutional leaders in implementing quality-related reforms; and to bring fresh ideas and wider perspectives into institutions, encouraging the principle of 'many correct answers' to questions concerning the pursuit of quality in higher music education.

The attached Reports can, therefore, serve as an advisory and informative document for institutions; they are not a substitute for existing national legal requirements for external quality assurance. Nevertheless, we very much hope that the observations and recommendations included in the Report will be of assistance to your institution in its quality enhancement activities, confirming the strengths of your current achievements by their recognition of good practice and guiding your future endeavors through their suggestions for further development.

MusiQuE Follow-up Processes

In order to assist the visited institutions in the post-site visit process and to enable MusiQuE to assess its impact, a peer-reviewed follow-up process is provided to institutions and programmes in the framework of the MusiQuE Review procedures. You will, therefore, find attached the *Template for MusiQuE Follow up Procedures*, which lists in its first column the issues pointed out by the Review Team as elements to be further developed. We would like to recommend that your institution makes use of this opportunity of a follow-up process provided by MusiQuE and fills in the second column of the template by 31 July 2022, with short reports of the actions undertaken for each element of improvement and each recommendation. One or more members of the Review Team will then be asked to study the template filled in by the institution, as well as the evidence provided, and to fill in the third column of the *Follow-up Template* with comments and, if appropriate, further recommendations.

Publication of the Report and usage of the MusiQuE logo for reviewed institutions

Please note, that the Report will be published in full version on the MusiQuE website under the section [Completed reviews](#) and on the [Database of External Quality Assurance Results](#) (DEQAR). In addition, the present letter entitles you to publish on your website the attached MusiQuE logo together with the text: “The Bachelor of Dance programme has been reviewed by MusiQuE-Music Quality Enhancement in March 2021.” As the periodicity of MusiQuE review procedures is six years, the logo and text above may be published until 31 July 2027.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work in relation to the formulation of the self-evaluation report. Please accept my congratulations on the outcomes of the review procedure on behalf of the entire MusiQuE Board.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Gordon Munro, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.