

Executive summary

Report

Institutional Accreditation

Karol Lipinski Academy of Music in Wroclaw (Wroclaw, Poland)

Site-visit: 17-19 March 2019

18-19 November 2019

Introduction

In the fall of 2018, the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music (KLAM) requested an institutional accreditation review with MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement, the first such Polish institution to do so. Long active in the Bologna process and quality assurance working groups within the AEC, the institution felt it could be particularly useful to engage this traditionally national process within an international perspective, one that could provide critical support and recommendations at a time of major educational transition in Poland.

This institutional accreditation review followed a five-stage process:

- KLAM prepared a *Self-Evaluation Report (SER)* and supporting documents, based on the MusiQuE Standards for Institutional Review;
- A five-person international review team composed by MusiQuE studied the *SER* and conducted a first site-visit at KLAM from 17-19 March 2019. The site visit included

meetings with representatives of the KLAM management team, teaching and support staff, students, alumni, employers and external stakeholders, as well as visits to facilities, classes and performances.

- Due to implementation on October 1, 2019 of the new Act 2.0 law, profoundly affecting all of Polish higher education, as well as a need for additional information, the review team produced an interim report outlining documents to be furnished for a 2nd site visit to be conducted following implementation of the new law. This additional step was designed to help the review team fully understand the new organizational structure and its ramifications for KLAM.
- Three members of the initial review team (the chair, the secretary and review team member Terrell Stone) conducted a second site-visit at KLAM on November 18-19, 2019. Paulina Gut, a Polish-speaking member of the MusiQuE staff, accompanied the review team members. Meetings were limited to senior institutional management, quality assurance staff, and a select group of teachers and department heads.
- The review (RT) produced the accreditation report that follows.

Members of the Review Team included:

- Astrid Elbek (Chair) - The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus/Aalborg, Denmark
- Susanne Van Els (Review team member) - Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama Cardiff, UK
- Terrell Stone (Review team member) - Conservatory A. Pedrollo, Vicenza, Italy
- Antoine Gillieron (Student) - Hochschule für Musik, Luzern, Switzerland
- Gretchen Amussen (Secretary) - Paris Conservatoire - retired / Independent Consultant
- Paulina Gut (Observer, 2nd site visit): MusiQuE staff member



Summary of the compliance with the Standards and recommendations

The review team concludes that the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music in Wroclaw complies with the *Standards for Institutional Accreditation* as follows:

1. Institutional mission, vision and context	
Standard 1. The institutional mission and vision are clearly stated.	Fully Compliant
The Review Team recommends the long-term strategy be prioritized to become a veritable road map, integrating a timeline within which specific goals can be achieved. This strategy needs to integrate the newly created doctoral school as well as music therapy.	
2. Educational processes	
Standard 2.1. The goals of the institution are achieved through the content and structure of the study programmes and their methods of delivery	Fully compliant
Standard 2.2. The institution offers a range of opportunities for students to gain an international perspective.	Fully compliant
Standard 2.3. The assessment methods are clearly defined and demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes.	Fully compliant
The Review Team recommends that the connection between assessment criteria and learning outcomes be clearly visible in English.	
3. Student profiles	
Standard 3.1. Clear admission criteria exist, which establish artistic/academic suitability of students	Fully compliant
Standard 3.2. The institution has mechanisms to formally monitor and review the progression, achievement and subsequent employability of its students.	Partially compliant



The Review Team recommends that formal surveys of alumni feed back into educational programmes in a systematic way. Further, it recommends the creation of an alumni observatory, integrating a clear institutional policy on data collection and monitoring of alumni.

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
---	------------------------

The Review Team recommends that an explicit strategy for continuing professional development be implemented.

Standard 4.2. There are sufficient qualified teaching staff to effectively deliver the programmes.	Fully compliant
---	------------------------

5. Facilities, resources and support

Standard 5.1. The institution has appropriate resources to support student learning and delivery of the programmes.	Fully compliant
--	------------------------

Standard 5.2. The institution's financial resources enable successful delivery of the study programmes.	Fully compliant
--	------------------------

The Review Team encourages KLAM to integrate long-term financial planning into its overall strategy.

Standard 5.3. The institution has sufficient qualified support staff.	Fully compliant
--	------------------------

The Review Team encourages KLAM to consider developing a specific policy dedicated to providing support staff with ongoing professional development.

6. Communication, organisation and decision-making

Standard 6.1. Effective mechanisms are in place for internal communication within the institution.	Fully compliant
---	------------------------

Standard 6.2. The institution has an appropriate organisational structure and clear decision-making processes.	Substantially compliant
The Review Team believes KLAM is moving forward in the implementation of the new Act 2.0 governance system but cannot fully evaluate its efficiency at this time.	
7. Internal quality culture	
Standard 7.1. The institution has a strong internal quality culture, supported by clear and effective quality assurance and enhancement procedures.	Partially compliant
The Review Team recommends that portions of internal quality assurance results be published and that a formal system be implemented to share these results with appropriate constituencies. The Review Team believes it is currently premature to fully evaluate the workings of new internal quality assurance and enhancement procedures post-Act 2.0.	
8. Public interaction	
Standard 8.1. The institution engages within wider cultural, artistic and educational contexts.	Fully compliant
Standard 8.2. The institution actively promotes links with various sectors of the music and other artistic professions.	Substantially compliant
The Review Team recommends that KLAM formalize agreements with its partners and that explicit procedures be implemented to allow for feedback from stakeholders.	
Standard 8.3. Information provided to the public about the institution is clear, consistent and accurate.	Fully compliant

Conclusion

KLAM is situated in a major European cultural city and can boast a significant, longstanding musical history. The Review Team encountered a vibrant and committed community of students, professors and staff, all of whom share a remarkable willingness to grow and to engage with each other and with their broader local, national and international communities. The Review Team was fortunate enough to visit KLAM twice within six months and so to witness the altogether exceptional efforts made to integrate the major changes fostered by the reform of Polish higher education through Act 2.0, and by the way in which all of the actors involved had taken responsibility for making this a positive transformation in administrative and governance structures and in the institution's capacity to work systematically across disciplines. The creation of a doctoral school in the fall of 2019 bears witness to this energy and will to move the institution forward; additionally, internal communication processes were modernized significantly, and the web site, which includes a comprehensive English language site, is one any European institution would be proud to call their own. KLAM's relatively intimate and informal nature is both one of its strengths and can at times impede the implementation of more formalized processes, which some see as unnecessary or even as a breach of trust. However, the transition KLAM is making, its clear desire to become more strategic and to modernize communication and administrative processes, and finally, its willingness to be the first Polish higher education institution in music to undergo a European accreditation procedure all bear witness to a profound willingness to become a model for the 21st century, one that is firmly rooted in the past and yet looks confidently to the future.

