



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universiteto
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS ARCHITEKTŪRA (621K11001)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF ARCHITECTURE (621K11001)
STUDY PROGRAMME

at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

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Vilnius
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DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Architektūra</i>
Valstybinis kodas	621K11001
Studijų sritis	Menai
Studijų kryptis	Architektūra
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (2)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Architektūros magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	2002-06-14

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>Architecture</i>
State code	621K11001
Study area	Art studies
Study field	Architecture
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	second
Study mode (length in years)	Full time (2)
Volume of the study programme in credits	120
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Architecture
Date of registration of the study programme	14-06-2002

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. *Background of the evaluation process*

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: 1) *self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter - HEI)*; 2) *visit of the review team at the higher education institution*; 3) *production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication*; 4) *follow-up activities*.

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good” (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme is **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as "unsatisfactory" (1 point).

1.2. *General*

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. Along with the self-evaluation report and annexes, the following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit:

No.	Name of the document
1	Supplemented descriptions of study subjects
2	The evidence of the performed student surveys on taught subjects, submitted.

1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/ Additional information

The start of the present-day Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (hereinafter –VGTU) goes back to 1956, when Vilnius Evening Division of the Evening Faculty of Kaunas Polytechnic Institute (hereinafter – KPI) was established. 1968 the Department of Urban Construction at KPI Vilnius Branch was established. 1969 KPI Vilnius Branch was restructured into Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute (hereinafter – VISI). 1971 the Faculty of Architecture at VISI started its activities. 1990 Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute became Vilnius Technical University (VTU). There were faculties of Architecture, Construction, Engineering Communications, Mechanics and Electronics. 1996 the Lithuanian Government adopted a resolution on awarding Vilnius Technical University the name of an ancient Grand Duke Gediminas and naming it Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

Study programmes which are the subject of the evaluation - Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture - have been established in 1994, and accredited by SKVC decision in 2007, following the Report of the international Review team led by prof. Spyros Amourgis.

Since 2012, both cycles of Architecture study programme (Reference year 2008/2009) have been notified for recognition of professional qualifications in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC.

The average annual enrolment (2009-2013) on the four different specializations of second cycle Architecture study programme is:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Renovation of Buildings: | 8 |
| 2. Architecture of Buildings: | 20 |
| 3. Architecture of Urban Complexes: | 15 |
| 4. Urban Planning: | 8 |

The average number of Architecture study programme graduates in 2009-2013 is 71%.

1.4. The Review Team

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No 1-55 of 19 March 2007 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, as amended on 11 November 2011. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on 11-12th November, 2014.

- I. Prof. Andreas Wenger (team leader),**
University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, Academy of Art and Design, Head of the Institute for Interior Design and Scenography, Switzerland
- **Prof. dr. Balint Bachmann,**
Dean, Faculty of Engineering and IT - University Pécs, Pollack Mihály, Hungary
 - **Prof. dr. Mart Kalm,**
Estonian Academy of Arts, Vice-Rector for Research, Estonia
 - **Ass. Prof. dr. Marko Savic,**
Provost for QA & Development, ALHOSN University, UAE
 - **Ms. Ramunė Staševičiūtė,**
Architect-Project Manager and Owner of company PILIS. Associate Professor at Klaipėda University, Lithuania
 - **Mr. Gintautas Rimeikis,**
student of Lithuanian University of Education, Lithuania

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

Self-evaluation report (hereinafter – SER) properly addresses programme aims although without justification relying on social needs or labour market analysis. Full list of programme aims and outcomes is publicly accessible at the VGTU web-site: <http://www.vgtu.lt/virsutinis-meniu/studies/-study-programmes-full-range-/masters-degree-study-programmes/74214?pid=76674#Results>.

The name of the study programme, its learning outcomes, content and the qualification offered are mutually compatible and consistent with the type of studies. Programme aims and outcomes (SER, pp.7 - 8) are aligned with the LTQF / Level 7 descriptors.

Remarks about programme learning outcomes are the following:

The study programme outcomes are grouped in five categories, addressing the “Descriptor of Study Cycles” (Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, 2011). However, there are some comments, which have to be considered (in the specialisations of “Renovation of Buildings”, “Architecture of Urban Complexes” and “Urban Planning”):

1. There is no clear implication about that “newest ... knowledge” will be used (“knowledge and its application”)

2. There is no clear implication of expected implementation of the “innovation development” (“special abilities”)
3. The expectation of graduate to “do intellectual, artistic and creative work in an autonomous manner” is not clearly stressed (“special abilities”).

Programme learning outcomes properly address adequate of the 11 points listed in UIA-UNESCO Chapter and Directive 2005/36/EC, in accordance with the specialisation.

Annex 1 of the self-evaluation report presents the “Interface between study programme aims, learning results and study subjects”. The matrix tends to address – link study subjects (courses) directly with the programme outcomes without specifying particular course outcomes harmonized with the programme ones.

The descriptions of study subjects (Annex A) were submitted during the visit, in incomplete form; templates provided are over-administered, not understandable both to teaching staff and evaluation team. The course learning outcomes have not been fully developed and adequately presented in “Part A” (only submitted). However, during the visit, the experts’ review team (hereinafter – ERT) has been provided with (only) one example of “Part 3” of the study subject descriptors – the matrix linking programme outcomes, course outcomes, teaching methods and assessment methods which has been properly designed and fully comprehensive.

2.2. Curriculum design

As per national legislation BA programmes in architecture last eight, and MA programmes in architecture in Lithuania last four semesters. Following the “Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013, amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System (‘the IMI Regulation’)”, a total of at least five years of full-time study at a university or a comparable teaching institution, leading to successful completion of a university-level examination is claimed. The “Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013” provides two options to pursue the profession training programs:

- (a) a total of at least five years of full-time study at a university or a comparable teaching institution, leading to successful completion of a university-level examination; or
- (b) not less than four years of full-time study at a university or a comparable teaching institution leading to successful completion of a university-level examination, accompanied by a certificate attesting to the completion of two years of professional traineeship in accordance with paragraph 4.

By Faculty note, the second option is basically consistent with the current structure of the Architecture studies in VGTU, but is not given and it is not clear the manner in which the Faculty provides a certificate attesting to the completion of two years of professional traineeship in accordance with paragraph 4.

For the BA and MA programmes in Lithuania an expected change would have to affect the curriculum structure of one or both programmes in a near future.

The curriculum design meets the legal requirements for Master's studies programmes according to Lithuanian national regulations in semesters and in the volume of the programme: study programme lasts 2 years (120 credits). The second cycle Architecture studies consist of study field modules (69 credits), university's defined and freely chosen modules (12 credits) and final degree project (39 credits). The volume of credits for each of the semesters is 30. The numbers of subjects studied and accountable for one semester are 5. The volume of the Final Degree Project is 30 ECTS (requirement: no less than 30). According to the requirements of VGTU, four specialisations were involved in the study programme: The Architecture of buildings, the Architecture of urban complexes, Urban planning, Renovation of buildings.

Study subjects and modules are not repetitive: each module has a clearly different theme and the themes are not repetitive. Themes of the obligatory modules are relevant and they are covering important areas for each specialisation. Link of each module with the learning outcomes has been considered and clearly reflected in the module descriptions. The order of the modules within the study plan is appropriate and clear. The content and methods of the subjects and modules are appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

The study subjects and modules are spread evenly:

1. 1-3 semesters are taught compulsory subjects of the study field-15 credits per semester (some subjects are different and depend on the chosen specialization), elective subjects of study field-6 credits per semester (some subjects are different and depend on the chosen specialization). The University established general compulsory-6 credits per semester and 3 credits per semester are dedicated to the final thesis. Student has opportunity to study subjects established by the University and selected by the student (optional) and others, as „Objects of Contemporary culturology and Mass media“. The content of the subjects and modules are consistent with the type and level of the studies.
2. In the 4th semester no in-class courses are planned because the final work (Project) is performed (30 credits).

3. The number of students' and teachers' contact hours, excluding consultations on final works, accounts for 20% of the total study time. Such a great number of contact hours, compared to 10% established by minimum requirements is characteristic to art field studies.

The plan of the study programme by specializations is logical and the scope of the programme is sufficient to ensure learning outcomes and to achieve programme aims.

The main evaluation criteria of the final work (project) encourage students to choose a topic which reflects the latest achievements in science field of Architecture, Urban planning, and Renovation. In another hand, drawing boards (8-10 units, each 70x100cm), which summarise material of the analytical part, provide the project's graphic solutions and two models, which shows the solutions in the space forcing students to demonstrate the high professional skill.

2.3. Teaching staff

The faculty is well equipped with teaching staff meeting the legal requirements.

From the presented CVs' and during the meetings on the site visit it became clear that the teaching staff is not well integrated to the international community of architects. There are no foreign teachers but recently they have started to invite guest professors from abroad to give short workshops. Among teachers there are the first ones with international experience, i.e. the returned Lithuanian architects. Students the ERT met would like to have much more guest professors coming from abroad.

The studios are supervised by leading local architects. Among teaching architects the ERT identified an attitude undervaluing the role of theory in the creation of contemporary architecture. This fact does not facilitate achieving the necessary learning outcomes.

According to the information collected during the meetings with staff and students it revealed that only some teachers apply contemporary learning devices like Moodle.

The architects teaching in the studios belong to quite the same generation. The well-known and strongly professional teachers belong to the leading Lithuanian architects. The ERT would encourage the responsible to employ more and younger architects from emerging offices.

The University has set up strict requirements for research (artistic) and other professional activities for its academic staff. For elected staff architects a three months lasting internship at an architecture's office is foreseen in every five years period to recover from teaching. Unfortunately, this privilege does not comprise the staff of theoretical subjects. There is no financial support for artistic activities for the teachers but the work organisation in the University provides them with opportunities to participate in public architecture competitions. As incentive it is possible to apply for support for conference participation and/or for study trips.

Several members of the teaching staff are active writers and researchers. As the faculty of architecture publishes the Journal of Architecture and Urbanism under the Taylor and Francis Group a very favourable platform for scholarly publishing is offered on the University.

VGTU presents the CVs' of their teaching staff in proper way but in case of architecture the ISI Web of Science and other peer-reviewed publications should be privileged. The CVs' structure is not open to the whole scope of teaching architects very important activities which are mainly oriented to local readers. To discover architects' activities the ERT had to do extra work on Internet and in libraries or even in local bookshops. The real contribution of the teaching staff to the professional field is much more substantial than shown in the CVs' presented by the VGTU.

2.4. Facilities and learning resources

The evaluation of the facilities is based on the findings during the site visit, on the data of the current SER and the final report of the former accreditation from 2007.

Financial resources of VGTU and other Lithuanian HEIs compared to the budgets of Western European universities are poor. Standard price of first cycle (BA) full-time studies is 7638,00 Lt (2.300 €) and of second study cycle (MA) – 11054,00Lt (3.300€) according the data of the SER. General cuts in state financing of higher education has been reported.

The architecture study programmes of the first and second cycle are carried out in the same premises, and BA and MA students use the same equipment and services. VGTU's Architecture Complex is in the Old Town of Vilnius. The total area devoted to the Architecture programmes makes up to 3,770 m² including 1,423 m² auditorium and 840 m² of the classroom areas. The Faculty of Architecture has 5 departments. The Department of Architecture is located in the premises of - 210m²; Department of Building Structures – 98m²; Department of Art – 167m²; Department of Fundamentals and Theory of Architecture – 144m²; Department of Urban Design – 122m².

19 auditoria with 552 working places are used for lectures, practical classes and seminars. There are 2 auditoriums with 90 seats each, a computer classroom with 23 working places, 4 studios for art classes (one studio with 30 and three studios with 15 working places). The spatial structure of the historic building determines the Architecture Complex's interior. It contains spacious halls and corridors on the upper floors. Presently they are used also as exhibition halls. With a didactic purpose, best academic works of students are exhibited there – architectural designs, models, art works and temporary installations. This year the area of the Faculty of Architecture was extended by 250m² additional ancillary premises obtained after the

reconstruction of the cellar of the Complex. In the nearest future, 2 additional cellars are planned to adjust for specialized modelling works (shaping machines, model painting).

The facilities provided by the Faculty are adequate for the Architecture study programme needs, both in terms of classrooms and laboratories, as well as computers. There are 2 auditoriums for design works and 10 multifunctional auditoriums (25 working places in ten, and 12 working places in 2 auditoriums). Eleven auditoriums are equipped with stationary monitors and multimedia projectors with audio speakers. Multifunctional auditoriums, design work auditoriums and art class studios have exhibition systems of academic projects and art works – with mobile partitions and sliding wall elements. Students may work in the model workshop equipped with polystyrene cutters, drilling, polishing and cutting machines and racks for keeping models for 32 working places. The university has plans to provide more equipment for painting, computerized fast prototyping, cutting, engraving and 3D printing equipment. There is an access to wireless Internet within the faculty space. The technical and aesthetic state of the classes is suitable. The teaching and learning equipment available for the MA programme is up to date. Students reported about the appropriate dormitories, even if not many of them live there. On their site visit the ERT found that there is a lack of space for students' independent work that makes group work inefficient or even impossible. The spaces used by the students for model making are not accessible on weekends and at night. This underlines the necessity to improve the facilities further on.

The SER of VGTU declares that Master students who often are already employed and have a professional qualification, the postgraduate study can free their personality to realise one's creative ambitions. Unfortunately the SER of VGTU doesn't give sufficient information about the content of the subjects, since the description of it is missing in Annex 6. "Due to limited information dissemination the descriptions of study subject (modular cards) are only in paper version of the SER".

The Faculty of Architecture provides competitions, workshops and other events on national and international level for students' practical development towards the profession. Possibilities for foreign experience are well promoted by VGTU, students are aware of the Erasmus+ programmes and are keen to participate. About 40 students per year attend Erasmus programmes.

Teaching materials, such as textbooks, reference books and periodicals are adequate and are supplemented by on-line databases. The Specialized Architecture Reading Hall (a unit of VGTU library founded in 2003) offers 67 working places for its readers. It has 5 computers with Internet access. In total the reading hall has 11,450 units of publications, 6,300 out of this number are books, 5,150 professional and scientific magazines (El CROQUIS, Detail, L'architecture

d'aujourd'hui, A+U, Domus). 14 periodicals in the reading hall get continuously renewed with latest issues. VGTU Library offers the following electronic resources: databases of electronic magazines EBSCO Publishing (172); Emerald (32); Cambridge Journals Online (12); Oxford Journals Online (4); SAGE (43); Science Direct (217); Springer LINK (87); databases of electronic books E-brary (570); e-books on EBS Cohost (721); Springer LINK e-books (62); ebooks on Science Direct (32); databases of directories like Grove Art Online (Dictionary of visual and applied arts and architecture). The architecture collection of VGTU electronic book platform offers 27 electronic books. The VGTU storage media *dSPACE* contains 16 scientific electronic resources. VGTU acquires publications recommended by the teachers for architectural studies from centralized funds. The foundations of the reading hall are annually renewed with 150 new copies per average.

Students use the Reading Hall at the Faculty building because the main Library of the University is too far for every day use. The architecture students most frequently use the Reading Hall of Architecture instead of VGTU central library because it provides a greater amount of sources related with discipline of architecture than in the stocks of the Central library of VGTU.

Concerning about the use of common university premises become traditional among students (lecture rooms are opened only at the time of scheduled lessons, there is no possibility to work for longer in the evening, to leave drawings and models in lecture rooms, the reading room is open only until 17:30). The Architecture Reading Hall now operates until 21:00. Such working arrangements came into effect on December 1, 2014. In students' opinion, these circumstances does not provide adequate atmosphere for art studies. The level of security and also the conditions of studies would improve if an electronic access-control system was installed.

This underlines the necessity to improve the facilities further on.

2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment

Students' admission to the second cycle Architecture study programme meets all rules and procedures approved by VGTU Senate and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. All admission rules can be found on the Internet. Admission competitive points are counted by marks in BA diploma supplements.

VGTU organizes admission to four different MA Architecture study fields (specialisations): the Architecture of buildings, Architecture of urban complexes, Urban planning and the Renovation of buildings. Requirements for the last mentioned specialisation is different than for the other VGTU's architecture MA fields, extra marks of diploma supplement are counting.

During the analysed period admission to the Urban planning and Architecture of urban

complexes are organized every second year. This type of admission ensures that labour market is not getting overcrowded and specialists are preparing students to the market needs.

According to the SER, the tendency of admitted students in Renovation of buildings is almost the same: 2009-2010 9 students were admitted per year and 2011-2013 8 students. During the analysed period the average competitive points were different: in the years 2009 and 2011, the score was the same with 9, 7 but in the year 2010 the average competition point was a bit higher with 9, 84. During the following two years the average of competitive points was higher than 10 (in 2012 10, 89 and 2013 10, 27). The specialisation is relatively low priced, since 2011 the Faculty had not admitted any non-state-financed students. This shows that very motivated and the best students have chosen this specialisation.

Competition to the specialisation of the Architecture of buildings is high what shows that this architecture field among students is marketable: in the year 2009 23 students were approved and during the period 2010-2011 17 students were accepted per year. The highest amount of students admitted was in 2012 with 30 students, but in 2013 the lowest amount of students was approved with just 14 students. During the analysed period the average of competitive score was more than 10. According to the given data in the SER, it seems that competition requirements for Architecture of buildings are higher than for Renovation of buildings.

During the years 2009-2013 the admission to the Architecture of urban complex was organized three times: in the years 2009 21 students were admitted, 2010 8 students and 2012 17 students were admitted. The average of competition mark was higher than 10 in the years 2009 (10, 27) and 2012 (10, 43). In 2010 the average of competitive point was just 9, 4.

Admission to Urban planning was also organised three times during the analysed period. In this specialisation no non-state-financed students were admitted, all of them got so called “study baskets”. During these admissions the average competitive mark was almost stable, in 2010 with 9, 58, in 2011 9, 98 and in 2013 9, 51. In the field of Archaeology the number of approved students is not very high; during all admissions less than 10 students were admitted: In 2010 6 students were approved, in 2011 9 and in 2013 8 students.

According to the given data and during the analysed period, the average competitive point in all four specialisations was about 10. Admission requirements are well founded and publicly available.

According to the SER the drop-out-rate is quite low. During the period 2013-2014 four students left their studies by their own request, all of them left the studies during the first course.

The students' assessment and study process is well explained for students. The assessment system of students' performance is clear, adequate and publicly available on VGTU's website

and inner regulations.

According to the SER and during the site visit, it was approved that many teaching methods, which help students to gain professional and general competences, are offered. Students can express their opinion about other student works during discussions. The students are encouraged to deepen their knowledge not only on national but also in the international field.

Academic support for students is ensured. There are all opportunities to contact lectors all the time needed and even to meet them for consulting outside the lectures. Almost all important information can be found on the Internet and in VGTU's inner information system. The students could feel free to ask questions to Faculty administration and students representatives about recent news and important information.

Students are satisfied that their study process is adjusted for working students. During the meeting with students the ERT learned that there is a lack of information about projects and research activities.

The University has given all opportunities to participate in student mobility programmes and study abroad. The Faculty has agreements with 23 foreign universities, out of which students can choose their studies abroad. According to the given data, just 2 students of Architecture study programme participated in study exchange programmes per year, 4 students participated in internships during the analysed period.

According to the SER, the University provides opportunities for students to get scholarships: 10% of the best students can receive scholarships for their studies. Every two year students can get scholarship established by social partners. Students also have the opportunity to get memorial scholarships. During the meeting with students and graduates the ERT was informed that there is lack information about scholarships and the requirements to get support.

All MA final works (from all specialisations) are related with the study programme. The results of the final works from the last two years show that the majority of students were interested in their study field, the average of the last two years results is 8,72.

2.6. Programme management

Responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated: Senate and Rector of VGTU, Dean's Office, Council of the Faculty of Architecture.

The specific profile of the MA study course specialisations –Architecture of Buildings, Architecture of Urban Complexes, Urban Planning and the Renovation of Buildings– is hard to identify in the self-evaluation report provided by the SKVC. The study programme should

develop very specific educational concepts and study contents and develop very discrete educational profiles to attract talented students and outstanding teaching staff.

In the study programme and at the faculty level a formal representatives of students (the students' self-government) in organizational and with respect to questions of the study plan content seem to be poorly developed. Students representation in the University organization (Senate and Rector of VGTU, Faculty and Council of the Faculty of Architecture) should be formalized in the university's enactments and programme management structure.

According to the SER automated students' inquiry system on the University's information system is in operation since 2007 and since 2012 a automated students' inquiry system on the quality, relevance, and conditions of studies was launched. Following the study programme management descriptions quality management efforts are in operation, especially for internal formal and informal issues, never the less qualified international standards seem not to be established yet. The ERT observed that the present performed surveys and their results are neither supported by the teaching staff nor would students recognize any outcomes and/or applicable results of the surveys.

The mentioned most efficient forms of inquiries by informal means by the students' participation in various contests in Lithuania and abroad are not part of the objective of quality management international standards. Beyond quality maintenance aspect participation in national and international contests are most valuable.

Master students in architecture estimating their studies as "very good" and "good" (50%) and "satisfactorily" (50%) is very favourable.

Authoritative representatives of institutions participate in activities of the commissions for defending of final works. Neither in the SER nor on the site visit quality evaluation processes of social partners were mentioned.

Many cooperation activities with the country's city and district municipalities and other governmental or business institutions mentioned to be maintained. Neither in the SER nor on the site visit quality evaluation processes of cooperation activities were mentioned.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the thorough evaluation of the programme outcomes, the study programme is required to fully submit the descriptions of study subjects and ensure that the course outcomes are properly designed, assessable and aligned with programme outcomes.

2. The ERT recommends stressing “newest ... knowledge” learning outcomes on MA level documentation. In counterpart the descriptions of the specializations (project based learning) should be adapted.
3. The ERT recommends to reformulate the descriptions of the studios in the different courses and semesters and to focus on problem orientation and learning outcomes.
4. The ERT recommends enlarging the space dedicated for students’ independent and group work. The experts group recommends offering access to space for students’ independent and group work 24 hours per day and 365 days per year.
5. The ERT recommends a re-equipment of the model-building workshop with modern adequate technical facilities and to provide large scale printing infrastructure.
6. The ERT recommends strengthening international components in the study programme by teachers and students’ mobility programmes and by inviting teachers from abroad.
7. The ERT recommends to clearly strengthen theoretical components in the MA curriculum design and to link them to students practical work tasks.
8. Quality procedures should be improved ensuring that feedback from all stakeholders (students, faculty, management, social partners) would affect future programme changes.
9. Dean and Vice-Deans will have to make sure, that results of the surveys are provided to students and teaching staff in an adequate way. The general acceptance of the instruments of quality management should gain acceptance by teaching staff and students.

IV. EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE (GOOD PRACTICE)*

The specializations of the MA programmes of VGTU: Renovation of Buildings, Architecture of Buildings, Architecture of Urban Complexes and Urban Planning enable young professionals to contribute in the field of their interest. Especially the teaching staff with national and international design experience can foster students` ability to compete worldwide.

It is important for the development of the Architecture programmes both on BA and MA level to attract young professionals with design practice or research activity to substitute staff members near their pension.

** if there are any to be shared as a good practice*

V. SUMMARY

Following the “Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013, amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System (‘the IMI Regulation’)”, a total of at least five years of full-time study at a university or a comparable teaching institution, leading to successful completion of a university-level examination is claimed. For the BA and MA programmes in Lithuania a change of the overall duration of architecture programmes has to be expected in the years to come.

Due to the change of Article 46 (training of architects) in the “Directive 2013/55/EU”, requiring a total of at least five years of full-time study, the ERT puts the Lithuanian custom into question that students while following their MA studies work in architectural offices.

A specific profile of the MA study course in Architecture at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University is hard to identify following the self-evaluation report provided by the SKVC. A mission statement describing the specific educational concept, the programme aims and the discrete educational profiles to attract talented Lithuanian and foreign students should be developed and published on VGTU`s website.

The self-evaluation report briefly addresses programme aims; however the needed analysis documents were missing before the site visit. The necessary documents were provided to the ERT at their site visit on November 11-12th 2014. After examining the provided documents the ERT could discover that the learning outcomes of all four specialisations in general are in accordance to the affording.

In three of the four specialisations of MA in Architecture level the ERT found “newest ... knowledge” is not stressed. During the site visit on November 11-12th 2014 the experts could find, that “knowledge and its application” in this field is introduced in the studios project works.

In the descriptions of the studios (project based learning) the ERT had the impression that these courses are still more topic driven than problem and learning outcome oriented.

The curriculum design of study programme Architecture meets the legal requirements for Master’s studies programmes according to Lithuanian national regulations in semesters and in the volume of the programme. The content and methods of the subjects and modules are appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. The plan of the study programme by specializations is logical and the scope of the programme is sufficient to ensure learning outcomes and to achieve programme aims.

The ERT observed that the teaching staff is well equipped at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, especially in the courses dedicated to the studios. The well-known and strongly professional teachers belong to the leading Lithuanian architects.

On their site visit the ERT gained the impression that the teaching staff involved in the studios is not very open to theoretical components that could enhance architectural thinking and a concept driven design approach.

The study courses are sufficiently equipped in both technical and in spatial belongings. However, space for student’s independent work is too small and not accessible 24 hours per day and 365 days per year. Accessibility to the infrastructure of the study courses has to be improved. A modern equipment of the model building workshops is missing. Printing facilities and machines for efficient mock-up production are missing.

CAAD equipment and drawing facilities are in a good state but will have to be kept up-to-date following the technical development of the devices. Library and internet-access are in a good condition.

Students’ admission to the second cycle Architecture study programme meets all rules and procedures approved by VGTU Senate and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The students’ assessment and study process is well explained for students. The assessment system of students’ performance is clear, adequate and publicly available on VGTU’s website and inner regulations.

According to the SER and during the site visit, it was approved that many teaching methods, which help students to gain professional and general competences, are offered. Students can express their opinion about other student works during discussions. The students are encouraged to deepen their knowledge not only on national but also in the international field.

Only 2 students of Architecture study programme participated in study exchange programmes per year, 4 students participated in internships during the analysed period.

During the meeting with students and graduates the ERT was informed that there is lack information about scholarships and the requirements to get support.

Following the self-evaluation report MA students are missing in the programme committee. The representative of architecture student organisation is included in the study programme committee (SER pp 2,) Delegates of both architectural study programmes (MA and BA) should be represented in the programme committee.

In the self-evaluation report there was no evidence found, that a quality management system based on international standards was in operation. During the site visit on November 11th and 12th 2014 the ERT did find the proof that questionnaires regularly are provided to the students. Never the less the surveys and/or their results are presently neither supported by teaching staff nor can students recognize any outcomes and/or applicable results of the surveys.

The study course descriptions based on the University standards seem over administrated, credit calculations on a one-tenth scale are not adequate. Amendments (annex A “Part A” and “Part 3”) could be most useful for the communication of aims, outcomes and workload of each course. An example of the amendments was provided to the ERT during their site visit.

VI. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Architecture* (state code – 621K11001) at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University is given **positive** evaluation.

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	4
3.	Teaching staff	3
4.	Facilities and learning resources	3
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	3
6.	Programme management	3
	Total:	19

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

Grupės vadovas: Prof. Andreas Wenger
Team leader:

Grupės nariai: Prof. dr. Bachmann Bálint
Team members:

Prof. dr. Mart Kalm

Assoc. Prof. dr. Marco Savic

Ramunė Staševičiūtė

Gintautas Rimeikis

**VILNIAUS GEDIMINO TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS ARCHITEKTŪRA (VALSTYBINIS KODAS – 621K11001)
2015-01-27 EKSPERTINIO VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-22 IŠRAŠAS**

<...>

VI. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universiteto studijų programa *Architektūra* (valstybinis kodas – 621K11001) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	3
2.	Programos sandara	4
3.	Personalas	3
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	3
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	Iš viso:	19

* 1 - Nepatenkinamai (yra esminių trūkumų, kuriuos būtina pašalinti)

2 - Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

3 - Gerai (sistemiškai plėtojama sritis, turi savitų bruožų)

4 - Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

<...>

IV. IŠSKIRTINĖS KOKYBĖS PAVYZDŽIAI

VG TU magistrantūros studijų specializacijos *Pastatų renovacija, Pastatų architektūra, Miestų kompleksų architektūra ir urbanistika* suteikia jauniems specialistams galimybių padidinti savo interesų sritis. Ypač pažymėtina, kad nacionalinės ir tarptautinės dizaino

(projektavimo) patirties turintys dėstytojai gali skatinti studentų gebėjimą konkuruoti visame pasaulyje.

Plėtojant architektūros bakalauro ir magistrantūros studijų programas reikėtų stengtis pritraukti projektavimo praktikos ar mokslinių tyrimų veiklos patirties turinčių jaunų specialistų, kurie pakeistų dėstytojus, greitai išeisiančius į pensiją.

V. SANTRAUKA

Pagal 2013 m. lapkričio 20 d. Europos Parlamento ir Tarybos direktyvą 2013/55/ES, kuria iš dalies keičiama Direktyva 2005/36/EB dėl profesinių kvalifikacijų pripažinimo, ir Reglamentą (ES) Nr. 1024/2012 dėl administracinio bendradarbiavimo per Vidaus rinkos informacijos sistemą (IMI reglamentas) bendrą studijų trukmę turi sudaryti penkerių metų studijos pagal nuolatinio mokymo programą universitete arba lygiavertėje mokymo institucijoje. Studijos užbaigiamos sėkmingai išlaikius universiteto lygio egzaminus. Tikimasi, kad per ateinančius metus architektūros bakalauro ir magistro studijų programų Lietuvoje bendra trukmė keisis.

Pakeitus Direktyvos 2013/55/ES 46 straipsnį (architektų rengimas), reikalaujama vykdyti penkerių metų studijas pagal nuolatinio mokymo programą, tačiau EG abejoja, ar studentai Lietuvoje baigę magistrantūros studijas, dirbs architektų biuruose.

Remiantis SKVC pateikta savianalizės suvestine, sunku nustatyti išskirtinį Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitete vykdomos magistrantūros studijų programos *Architektūra* profilį. Turėtų būti sukurta ir VGTU interneto svetainėje paskelbta misija, apibūdinanti konkrečią studijų koncepciją, šios programos tikslai ir išskirtinis programos profilis, kuris leistų pritraukti talentingų studentų iš Lietuvos ir užsienio.

Programos tikslai trumpai aptarti savianalizės suvestinėje. Tačiau prieš vizitą neatlikta būtina analizė. Reikiami dokumentai pateikti per EG vizitą 2014 m. lapkričio 11–12 d. Išnagrinėjusi pateiktus dokumentus, EG nustatė, kad visų keturių specializacijų studijų programos rezultatai apskritai atitinka tuos, kuriuos galima pasiekti.

EG nustatė, kad trijose architektūros magistrantūros studijų specializacijose iš keturių nėra akcentuotos „naujausios ... žinios“. Per vizitą 2014 m. lapkričio 11–12 d. ekspertai pastebėjo, kad žinios ir jų taikymas šioje (architektūros) kryptyje įgyvendinami per studijose atliekamus projektinius darbus.

Iš studijų aprašų (į projektą orientuotas mokymasis) EG susidarė įspūdis, kad šie kursai (dalykai) labiau orientuoti į temą, o ne į problemą ir studijų rezultatus.

Studijų programos *Architektūra* sandara atitinka Lietuvos teisės aktais magistrantūros studijų programoms nustatytus teisinius reikalavimus programą vykdyti semestrais ir nustatytą programos apimtį. Dalykų ir modulių turinys ir metodai yra tinkami numatomiems studijų rezultatams pasiekti. Studijų programos planas pagal specializacijas logiškas, programos apimtis pakankama studijų rezultatams ir programos tikslams pasiekti.

EG pastebėjo, kad Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universiteto akademinis personalas, ypač dalykų, kurie dėstomi studijose (dirbtuvėse), yra gerai aprūpintas. Garsūs ir labai profesionalūs dėstytojai priklauso geriausių Lietuvoje architektų ratui.

Per vizitą universitete EG susidarė įspūdį, kad studijų akademinis personalas nėra labai linkęs į teoriją, kuri galėtų padėti patobulinti architektūrinį mąstymą ir taikyti į koncepciją orientuoto dizaino (projektavimo) metodą.

Studijų programa pakankamai aprūpinta techninėmis priemonėmis ir patalpomis. Tačiau studentų savarankiško darbo patalpų per mažai ir jomis negalima naudotis 24 valandas per parą 365 dienas per metus. Reikia gerinti studijų programos infrastruktūros prieinamumą. Modelių kūrimo dirbtuvėse trūksta šiuolaikiškos įrangos. Trūksta spausdinimo įrenginių ir efektyvios natūralaus dydžio modelių gamybos įrangos.

CAAD įranga ir piešimo priemonės – geros būklės, tačiau jas būtina nuolat atnaujinti, siekiant neatsilikti nuo techninės pažangos. Biblioteka ir interneto prieiga yra geros būklės

Studentų priėmimo į antrosios pakopos architektūros studijų programą reikalavimai atitinka VGTU Senato ir Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės patvirtintas taisykles ir tvarką. Studentų pasiekimų vertinimo sistema ir studijų eiga studentams išaiškinta gerai. Studentų pasiekimų vertinimo sistema yra aiški, tinkama ir viešai prieinama VGTU interneto svetainėje ir vidaus taisyklėse.

Remiantis savianalizės suvestine ir per vizitą gauta informacija, nustatyta, kad siūloma daug mokymo metodų, kurie padeda studentams įgyti profesinių ir bendrųjų kompetencijų. Studentai gali pareikšti savo nuomonę apie kitų studentų darbą diskusijose. Jie skatinami gilinti žinias ne tik nacionaliniu, bet ir tarptautiniu lygiu.

Studijų mainų programose per metus dalyvavo tik du studijų programos *Architektūra* studentai. Vertinamu laikotarpiu 4 studentai dalyvavo specialiose praktikose (stažuotėse).

Susitikimuose su studentais ir absolventais EG sužinojo, kad trūksta informacijos apie stipendijas ir reikalavimus paramai gauti.

Remiantis savianalizės suvestine, magistrantūros studijų programos komitete nėra studentų. Į studijų programos komitetą (SS, 2 p.) įtrauktas architektūros studentų organizacijos atstovas,

tačiau jame turėtų būti abiejų architektūros studijų programų (bakaluro ir magistrantūros) atstovai.

Iš savianalizės suvestinės nenustatyta, kad veiktų tarptautiniais standartais pagrįsta kokybės valdymo sistema. 2014 m. lapkričio 11 ir 12 d. lankydamosi universitete EG sužinojo, kad studentams reguliariai pateikiami apklausų klausimynai. Tačiau dėstytojais šiuo metu apklausų ir (arba) jų rezultatų nepalaiko, o studentai apklausų rezultatų ir (arba) jų taikymo galimybių nepripažįsta.

Pagal universiteto standartus parengti programos dalykų aprašai yra pernelyg kontroliuojami, kreditų skaičiavimas pagal skalę nuo vieno iki dešimties nėra pakankamas. Siekiant informuoti apie kiekvieno kurso (dalyko) tikslus, rezultatus ir darbo krūvį, vertėtų padaryti A ir 3 dalių pakeitimų. Per vizitą EG pateiktas pakeitimų pavyzdys.

<...>

III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Kad būtų galima išsamiai įvertinti studijų programos rezultatus, turi būti pateikti visi studijų programos dalykų aprašai, taip pat būtina užtikrinti, kad dalykų rezultatai būtų sukurti tinkamai, įvertinami ir suderinti su visos programos rezultatais.
2. EG rekomenduoja magistrantūros studijų dokumentuose akcentuoti „naujausių ... žinių“ studijų rezultatus. Kartu turi būti priderinti specializacijų aprašai (projektams pagrįstas mokymasis).
3. EG rekomenduoja performuluoti skirtingų kursų ir semestrų studijų aprašus ir dėmesį sutelkti į problemą ir į studijų rezultatus.
4. EG rekomenduoja padidinti patalpų, skirtų studentų savarankiškam darbui ir darbui grupėse, skaičių. Ekspertų grupė rekomenduoja užtikrinti galimybę naudotis studentų savarankiško ir grupinio darbo patalpomis 24 valandas per parą 365 dienas per metus.
5. EG rekomenduoja naujai įrengti modelių kūrimo dirbtuves ir aprūpinti jas šiuolaikiška tinkama technine įranga ir didelio mastelio spausdinimo infrastruktūra.
6. EG rekomenduoja stiprinti studijų programos tarptautinę veiklą, skatinant dėstytojus ir studentus dalyvauti judumo programose, ir pasikviesti dėstytojų iš užsienio.
7. EG rekomenduoja aiškiai stiprinti magistrantūros studijų programos teorinę dalį ir ją susieti su studentų praktinio darbo užduotimis.

8. Reikia tobulinti kokybės procedūras, siekiant užtikrinti, kad iš visų dalininkų (studentų, dėstytojų, vadovybės, socialinių partnerių) gautas grįžtamasis ryšys turėtų poveikį būsimiems programos pakeitimams.
9. Dekanas ir prodekanai turi užtikrinti, kad studentams ir dėstytojams būtų tinkamai pateikiami apklausų rezultatai. Dėstytojai ir studentai turi iš esmės pritarti kokybės valdymo priemonėms.

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