Accreditation Report

Master's Programme

"The Future of Heritage: History, Culture, Literature"

offered by

Ukrainian Catholic University/Ukraine

University of Nottingham/United Kingdom

23nd Meeting of the ZEvA Commission on the 11th of March 2025

Agenda Item Nr. 04.04

Study Programme	Degree	Programme Duration	Type of Programme
The Future of Heritage: History, Culture, Literature	Master	1 year 10 months (4 semesters)	Full-time

Date of online site visit: 7th of November 2024

Responsible Staff:

Ukrainian Catholic University

- **Dr. Bohdan Chuma**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Foreign Languages
- **Solomiia Rozlutska**, Manager for International Cooperation, UCU International Relations Office

University of Nottingham

- **Professor Christopher Woodard,** Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Experience, Faculty of Arts
- **Anney Yimeng An**, Head of Partnership Relations and Projects, External Relations

Expert Panel:

- **Prof. Dr. Alexander Wöll (Academic Expert)**

  Professor of Culture and Literature of Central and Eastern Europe
  University of Potsdam, Germany

- **Prof. Dr. Schamma Schahadat**

  Professor of Slavonic Literature and Culture
  University of Tübingen, Germany

- **Oleksandr Bondarenko (professional expert)**

  Director of Translation Agency "Translatel Lmt."
  Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine

- **Ms. Tamara Fedyk (student expert)**

  MA in Ukrainian language and literature
  Ph.D. student in Philology
  Borys Grinchenko Metropolitan University Kyiv

ZEvA Project Coordinator:

Dr. Barbara Haferkorn, Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency Hanover (ZEvA)

Hanover, 27th of March 2025

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I. Findings of the Expert Panel and Decision of the Accreditation Commission

1. Decision of the ZEvA Accreditation Commission (Date)

The ZEvA Commission follows the experts' report and recommendations and acknowledges the university's response to the accreditation report from 20.02.2025.

The ZEvA Commission decides to accredit the Master's programme "The Future of Heritage: History, Culture, Literature" without conditions for a period of six years.

This decision is based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), the Framework of Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area and the recommendations of the ECTS Users' Guide as referred to in the ZEvA Manual for the External Assessment of Study Programmes.

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2.   Key Findings and Final Vote of the Expert Panel

2.1   Executive Summary: Key Findings

The experts were impressed by the highly innovative and interdisciplinary programme, the close collaboration and the international network of both universities, opening up possibilities for future expansion of the consortium. A strong connection between students, lecturers and partners from both universities was evident during the online talks. Highly qualified and dedicated teaching staff provide amazing support in a state-of-the-art learning environment to extraordinary students.

The universities manage to establish student-centred learning, giving students the opportunity to follow their interests and truly develop their own learning trajectories while bringing their experiences and perspectives to the classroom. Teaching is at a high theoretical level, yet very practical.

The flexibility of entry to the programme and the (for a humanities course) relatively high number of applicants enables the universities to recruit a well-selected, experienced group of students with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and interests, making for a diverse and interesting group of participants and fruitful discussions.

Uniquely interdisciplinary, the programme offers an entangled view of heritage and promotes Ukrainian Studies. Even though the programme has only been running for 2 years, the partners are already taking steps to further improve and develop the programme

2.2   Final Vote of the Expert Panel

2.2.1   Recommendations for Enhancement:

To ensure that future international applicants and other interested parties are provided with the same in-depth information about the study programme, the English version of the website should be further elaborated modelled on the Ukrainian version. In particular, the module descriptions should be made accessible online.

With respect to PLO 002 the experts recommend changing "interpret and translate texts of different styles and genres" to "interpret texts of different styles and genres".

2.2.2   Conditions:

None.

2.2.3   Recommendation to the ZEvA Commission:

The expert group recommends the accreditation of the Master's programme "The Future of Heritage: History, Culture, Literature" for the duration of six years without conditions.

II.   Evaluation Report of the Expert Panel

1.   Introduction: Purpose and General Context of the Accreditation Procedure

In December 2023, ZEvA was commissioned with the international accreditation of six Master's programmes that had been developed and launched within the framework of the EU Twinning initiative, an institution-to-institution partnership framework to support Ukrainian higher education, both through short-term aid and long-term activities that help sustain and rebuild Ukrainian universities, the economy and society.

The initiative is coordinated by Cormack Consultancy Group with the support of University UK, the President's Fund of Ukraine for Education, Science, and Sports and different private and state organisations.

Each of the six Master's programmes is jointly offered by one Ukrainian university and one partner institution in the United Kingdom. All programmes are fully taught in English and award a double degree, whereas the exact roles and responsibilities of the partners vary with each programme. At present, all programmes are primarily directed at Ukrainian students, but are, on principle, designed to be open to both international and domestic applicants.

As the programmes belong to a wide spectrum of different academic disciplines, they were assessed in six separate procedures across the year 2024. Each assessment procedure was organized as a peer review, involving an expert panel composed of two university professors in the discipline, one professional from outside academia and one student.

The quality assessment was based on the criteria laid out in the "ZEvA Manual for the External Assessment of Study Programmes". This framework is in turn fundamentally based on the "European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG)" (ENQA 2015), the "Framework for Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area" (2005) and the "ECTS Users' Guide" (European Communities, 2015).

For the purpose of the assessment, the universities were asked to submit a written self-report in English for each study programme. Each self-report contained detailed information on the higher education institutions and the programme and included an appendix of key documents, as e.g. the course syllabi, curricula, CVs of the teaching faculty and relevant regulatory documents (cooperation agreements, regulations for student assessment, graduation and recognition, quality assurance policies etc.). The main responsibility for the reports lies with the programme coordinators in Ukraine.

Due to the travel restrictions imposed by the ongoing war in Ukraine, the experts conducted online talks with representatives of both universities instead of on-site visits. In addition, they were provided with concrete impressions of the premises and infrastructure on campus by means of picture and/or video material.

This assessment report refers to the Master's programme "**The Future of Heritage: History, Culture, Literature**" which is jointly offered by the **Ukrainian Catholic University** (hereinafter: UCU) in Ukraine

and the **University of Nottingham** (hereinafter: UoN) in the United Kingdom. The report reflects the outcomes of the experts' assessment of the written self-report and their impressions gained during the online talks with the students, the faculty and staff of both universities and the Twinning project coordinator.

The assessment report serves as a key document for the ZEvA Accreditation Commission to decide on the accreditation of the study programme with the ZEvA quality label. As ZEvA is a registered agency in Ukraine, the accreditation decision can be recognized as equivalent to Ukrainian national accreditation. In the United Kingdom, no external accreditation decision is required at programme level.

2. Outline of the Study Programme

The study programme enrolled its first (all Ukrainian) cohort of 25 students in 2023. In 2024 22 students were enrolled. The new study programme replaces a long running Master's programme in History at UCU. According to the self-report the study programme is meant to *"be a response to two main challenges: the qualitative renewal of the bachelor' programmes of the Faculty of Humanities and the circumstances of a full-scale war and (post)war reconstruction of Ukraine"* (self-report, p. 28).

The full-time study programme comprises 120 ECTS and offers an optional double degree with UoN. Graduates are to receive a Master's degree from UCU and a Master of Arts from UoN. Students who do not meet the requirements of UoN in terms of English language skills or tuition fees can opt out of the double degree and only receive a degree from UCU.

According to the programme profile, *"the main focus of the programme is a comprehensive and in-depth study of the cross-cutting issues of contemporary humanities, such as heritage, memory, identity, borderlands, decolonisation, trauma, and others, which are the determining basis for understanding and creating modern Ukraine. The educational programme includes three levels of training:*

1) theoretical training – study of general and professional disciplines, which will allow students to comprehend the cross-cutting issues of modern humanities as a whole, master the latest theories and methods of interdisciplinary scientific research, acquire the ability to think analytically, critically, logically and creatively, plan their scientific work independently and/or in teams;

2) level of research training – deepening and consolidation of students' research competences necessary for the implementation of interdisciplinary semester and qualification research and/or projects;

3) level of practical and professional training – acquisition of basic practical skills and abilities for professional activity within the framework of elective disciplines, work, practices and institutional internships.

After successful completion of the study, the graduate will have the necessary qualifications of a new humanitarian, able to use the acquired knowledge to offer a new quality of work in the state and public sectors, cultural and public diplomacy, scientific, educational and cultural institutions, institutions of public humanities, museums and galleries, publishing houses and festivals, institutions for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, non-governmental national and international projects, mass media (public and intellectual activity).

Upon successful completion of the programme, the graduate will be eligible to continue their studies at the third (doctoral) level of higher education, as well as to obtain additional qualifications in the adult education system." .

The study programme is presently taught in Ukrainian and English. Since all students currently enrolled are Ukrainian nationals, obligatory modules are taught in Ukrainian, elective modules are taught in English. UoN contributes additional online modules. A switch to teaching English is ensured as soon as the first international students are enrolled.

The study programme is open for students from a wide spectrum of academic backgrounds. Even though the first cohort consists of Ukrainian students only, the partners expect to enrol students from other countries once the programme has obtained accreditation in Ukraine.

Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, teaching within the programme is currently conducted online for 3 out of 4 weeks, with one week on campus each month.

3.   The Partner Universities and their Framework of Collaboration

Profile of the Universities

The Ukrainian Catholic University is a private institution of higher education. The University was founded by the charitable organisation "St. Klimentia Foundation" in 2002 and is registered by the Executive Committee of the Lviv City Council. UCU is the successor of the Greek Catholic Theological Academy (founded in 1928 in Lviv) and the Ukrainian Catholic University (founded in Rome in 1963).

UCU offers bachelor's educational programmes in the following specialties: Theology, History and Archeology, Philology, Cultural Studies, Social Work, Law, Psychology, Sociology, Political Sciences, System Analysis, and Computer Science." (self-report, p. 5).

UCU offers Master's programmes in Law, Management, Journalism, Computer Science, Therapy and Rehabilitation, Theology, Humanities, Psychology, Public Management, and Administration. Currently, the University has three postgraduate programmes: Theology, History, and Computer Science.

As of October 2023, UCU has a total of 2,296 students enrolled in Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes.

All educational programmes are accredited by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NAQA) and receive a 5-year accreditation certificate. New educational programmes undergo initial accreditation in the last year of their implementation. Following the initial accreditation, programmes are re-evaluated every 5 years.

UCU is a member of several international networks of Catholic Universities as well as the international CIVICA, HEROES and AURORA alliances and a co-founder of the Alliance of Ukrainian Universities. In addition, Ukrainian Catholic University was the first Ukrainian university to join the UN Global Compact (since 2009), committing itself to align its strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, and to take actions that promote societal goals.

The new UCU strategy 2030 focuses on expanding the university's contribution and influence in response to the growing demands brought on by the war and the need for post-war recovery and modernization of Ukraine.

The University of Nottingham dates back to 1881 when Nottingham's first civic college was opened. In 1948 the college was awarded the Royal Charter and became the University of Nottingham. Today, UoN is one of the top 20 universities in the UK with 5 faculties (Arts, Engineering, Medicine and Health, Science and Social Sciences), 6 campuses, 2 of which are overseas (Semenyih, Malaysia and Ningbo, China) and a total of 47,000 students from over 150 countries (see https://www.nottingham.ac.uk).

History and Framework of the Cooperation

The two universities signed a memorandum of agreement on the double degree programme in October 2023 (amended in September 2024 with regard to the course title). The agreement outlines the programme and the roles and responsibilities of each partner institution (see below). It is non-

exclusive and other institutions may join in the future. Funding in the context of the Twinning initiative was granted to the programme upon application in 2023.

Before the programme was finally launched, it successfully underwent the internal standard procedures of both UCU and UoN for the validation and approval of study programmes. According to the information provided during the online-talks additional funding has since been granted for a further five years.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Partners

In the process of developing the double degree programme, formal and legal requirements on both sides were accounted for, especially the national educational standards applying to Master's programmes in Ukraine.

The majority of the curriculum is delivered by UCU. UoN provides one elective module per semester. Students are enrolled at both universities and the Master's thesis is supervised jointly.

The responsible faculty of both universities meet regularly to discuss issues related to the delivery of the programme. Each university is responsible for the management of the courses they deliver.

According to the self-report and the online talks, both partners share the responsibilities of the selection and sequential admission process of students (See 4.2 for further details).

4.   Assessment of the Study Programme

4.1   Intended Learning Outcomes

The official programme profile (Appendix 1 of the self-report) describes the contents, the didactic approach and the intended learning outcomes of the programme in detail.

According to the document, the **objective** of the programme is "*to prepare a new humanitarian – a specialist formed in the spirit of Christian values, a competent researcher and expert capable of working with the problems of the past in the modern academic and public spaces, creating a new image of Ukraine and proposing a Ukrainian agenda for the world.*"

Furthermore, the programme aims to develop "*the ability to solve complex tasks and problems in the field of professional activity of a humanitarian (cultural studies, history, philology), which involves research and/or innovation and is characterized by uncertainty of conditions and requirements.*"

The **intended learning outcomes of the programme** (PLOs) are described as follows in the programme profile and in the Diploma Supplement:

"*PLO1. To understand the specifics and peculiarities of the implementation of humanitarian (cultural, historical, philological) ideas, images and meanings, as well as critically evaluate the possibilities of their interpretation for solving socially significant problems.*

PLO02. To expand the updated source base, analyse linguistic, textual and visual sources of information, verify information in accordance with professional tasks, interpret and translate texts of different styles and genres, apply digital tools and technologies. PLO03. To analyse cultural human rights and freedoms, forms and mechanisms of their identification, inculturation, cultural adaptation, taking into account regional specifics.

PLO04. To popularise the profession of humanities, adhering to ethical principles.

PLO05. To organise and maintain communications with government authorities, research institutions, information and analytical services, and the media.

PLO06. To communicate fluently in the state and foreign (English) languages orally and in writing to discuss professional issues, present research results and projects.

PLO07. To evaluate and critically analyse historical achievements and the latest achievements of the humanities, various trends and schools, to carry out an examination of monuments of the past for the purpose of their protection and possible use.

PLO08. To make effective decisions on solving complex problems and practical problems of cultural development of society.

PLO09. To organise and manage the activities of cultural, educational and scientific institutions in relevant public initiatives, structural units of enterprises and institutions.

PLO10. To find the best ways of effective interaction in a professional team, organise successful

communication, have the skills to develop and make decisions on the management of public initiatives, institutions and institutions of culture, education, science or relevant structural units in unpredictable work and/or educational contexts.

PLO11. To have the skills to organise and manage the professional development of individuals and groups in the field of culture.

PLO12. To collect, analyse and evaluate empirical evidence, interpret it in accordance with current theoretical developments and optimal research approaches.

PLO13. To plan and carry out scientific, applied and interdisciplinary research in the humanities, generate and test hypotheses, collect evidence and argue conclusions.

PLO14. To present the results of their research and publish them in accordance with the principles of academic integrity and professional ethics."

The programme also allows graduates to continue their academic studies at doctoral level or to obtain additional qualifications in the adult education system.

General Competencies (GC) and Professional Competencies (PC) according to the Profile of the Programme are:

"GC01. Ability to think abstractly, analyse and synthesise.

GC02. Ability to communicate in the state and foreign (English) languages both orally and in writing.

GC03. Ability to communicate with representatives of other professional groups of different levels (experts from other fields of knowledge / types of economic activity).

GC04. Ability to work autonomously and in a team, including in an international context.

GC05. Ability to learn and master modern knowledge, adapt and act in a new situation.

GC06. Ability to generate new ideas (creativity).

GK 07. Ability to search, process and analyse information from various sources.

GC08. Ability to identify, pose, solve problems and make informed decisions.

GC09. Ability to conduct research at the appropriate level.

GC10. Ability to motivate people and move to a common goal.

GC11. Ability to evaluate and ensure the quality of performed work.

GC12. Appreciation and respect for diversity and multiculturalism.

PC01. Ability to identify the cultural needs of society and its individual groups, determine ways to meet them, ensure cultural rights and freedoms.

PC02. Ability to conduct historical research on a specific topic, including using the methodological tools of other humanities and social sciences.

PC03. Ability to comprehend literature as a polysystem, to understand the evolutionary path of development of national and world literature.

PC04. Ability to develop and implement scientific, applied and/or interdisciplinary projects, including with the involvement of members of the public

PC05. Ability to present and discuss the results of research and professional activities in the field of humanities, to use special terminology fluently.

PC06. Ability to identify specifics in approaches to solving problems of different scientific directions and schools, to critically comprehend historical and modern achievements of the humanities; to understand the relationship between texts and contexts.

PC07. Ability to conduct expert analysis in the subject area.

PC08. Ability to conduct research activities in specialised organisations, higher education institutions, scientific institutions.

PC09. Ability to organise work and manage professional institutions, as well as relevant structural units of enterprises and institutions, taking into account economic, legislative and ethical aspects.

PC10. Ability to work in an international context and implement joint projects in the humanities with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

PC11. Ability to use expressive, emotional and logical tools of language, modern digital tools and technologies for research and professional activities.

PC12. Understanding of the principles of academic integrity and norms of professional ethics, social and ethical mission of the humanities."

Experts' Appraisal

The experts find that the intended learning outcomes and competencies of the programme adequately reflect the Master's qualification level. The learning outcomes equally address academic research skills as well as specific knowledge and typical key competencies, as e.g. communication and team skills, and the future employability of graduates is taken into account. The objectives of the study programme are clearly laid out and published.

Only with respect to PLO 002 the experts recommend changing "interpret and translate texts of different styles and genres" to "interpret texts of different styles and genres". "Translation" might suggest translation between languages (which is the sole meaning of "перекладати" used in the Ukrainian version of the PLO) rather than in the broader sense intended by the programme. The experts are certain that adapting the wording will not make the programme less attractive, but that the learning outcomes will be more clearly defined and more precise."

4.2 Programme Concept and Curriculum

Student Admission: Process and Criteria

According to the self-report and the online talks, both partners share the responsibilities of the selection and admission process of students. At UCU a competitive selection process is initiated. Subsequently, UoN checks if the selected applicants meet the language requirements and are eligible for funding. Students who do not meet UoN's requirements can still enrol at UCU, finish their studies there and receive the UCU diploma. All others are enrolled at both partner institutions and aim for the double degree. As was reported during the online talks all students enrolled during the first year met the requirements of both universities.

Applicants to the programme must hold at least a Bachelor's degree or equivalent academic qualification. In addition, they need to prove that they have sufficient knowledge of English and have to hand in a motivation letter with their application which includes a proposal for their Master's thesis topic. The selection process also includes entrance examinations. *"To participate in the competitive selection for admission, each of the applicants must pass 2 exams. If the entrant has only a bachelor's diploma (specialization is not important), he or she has to pass a National Foreign Language Exam (together with tasks for general academic competence) and a Professional Entrance Exam at the University. This exam consists of an oral interview, which can be conducted offline or online, depending on the circumstances."* (see self-report p. 11). According to the websites[1] applicants (with a bachelor's or a master's degree) need to pass the University's entrance Exam. Study material for this exam is available on this website as well.

During the online talks the experts had the opportunity to interview some students of the first cohorts. The interviewees proved to be diverse in terms of their academic and professional background, age, personal circumstances and career goals, which seems to be in line with the relatively open admission policy and the curricular design of the programme.

Curriculum

The curriculum comprises a total of 120 ECTS and 3600 academic hours. (30 ECTS per semester). The volume of one ECTS credit is 30 hours.

According to the self-report, the curriculum is designed to integrate contents and learning outcomes from three specialities – "Cultural Studies", "History and Archeology" and "Philology" (as defined by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education).

The study components are divided into four groups:

- "General Training" containing mandatory courses as "Contemporary Social Philosophy"

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[1] https://ucu.edu.ua/p/humaniora-masters/en/news/dodatkovyy-vstup-terminy-ta-vazhlyvi-daty/

(semester 1, 6 ECTS), "Christian Anthropology" (semester 2, 6 ECTS), and "Anthropology of Borderlands" (semester 3, 6 ECTS).

- "Professional Training": including the mandatory courses "Heritage, Memory, Identity: A Concept Map" (semester 1, 9 ECTS), "Heritage, Memory, Identity: Interpretation" (semester 2, 9 ECTS), "Heritage, Memory, Identity: Communication"(semester 3, 9 ECTS), "Innovating in the Humanities" (semester 4, 3 ECTS), "Writing Seminar[2]" (semester 1 to 4, 12 ECTS), (together with elective courses (3 ECTS each) and project workshops (6 ECTS each))
- "Practices" with the obligatory "Institutional Internship" (10 ECTS).
- "Certification" (Final Exam (3 ECTS), Master's Thesis (15 ECTS))

Electives include 'blended' UoN classes with both international students onsite at UoN and UCU students online (in one module, additional UoN students from the China and Malaysia campuses are also online). UCU students have a choice of UoN modules, including 'World Literatures: Empires and Others', 'The Silk Road: Cultural Interactions and Perceptions', 'Place, Region, Empire', 'The Unmasterable Past: Problems in Contemporary History', 'American Magazine Culture', and 'Poetry. Best Words, Best Order'" (self-report p. 29f).

According to the self-report (p. 47), *"The general didactic approach of the Master's programme is determined by its goal, namely to train specialists who combine the competencies of an academic researcher and an expert capable of working with the issues of the past in the contemporary academic and public spaces. Accordingly, the study programme is built on the principles of interdisciplinarity and practicality, which are understood as essential elements for the formation of a modern humanitarian. These principles are implemented through the thematic and curricular guidelines that are mandatory for all courses:*

1) Courses and individual student research should address thematic fields common to all humanities (Heritage, Memory, Identity, Borderlands, Trauma and Decolonisation) and apply interdisciplinary methods and approaches.

2) All courses are focused on the study of specific practical examples (cases) and the implementation of team or individual projects by students within individual courses. This principle is deepened and reinforced by separate elective courses "Project Workshop" offered in all four semesters of the programme and "Institutional Internship" scheduled for the 4th semester.

3) The main element of the curriculum is a model of cross-cutting core courses that define the content and topics of Elective Courses and Project Workshops in each semester. These are such courses as "Heritage, Memory, Identity: Cognitive Map", "Heritage, Memory, Identity: Interpretation" and "Heritage, Memory, Identity: Communication", which are taught in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd semesters, respectively, with the involvement of three teachers representing the three specialities of the programme (Cultural Studies, History and Archeology, Philology). This approach is also preserved in the

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[2] „Writing Seminar Seminar for the master's thesis ("dissertation"), see self-report.

"Dissertation Writing Seminar" course, which is offered in all four semesters of the study programme and develops the research component of students'.

4) An important element of the curriculum is the additional normative courses: "Contemporary Social Philosophy" (1st semester), "Christian Anthropology" (2nd semester) and "Introduction to Borderlands Studies" (3rd semester), which reveal universal theoretical approaches, major challenges and problems of modern society and offer ways to solve them. They also consolidate the function of value education of students, form their active civic position and offer key directions for their personal development.

In the fourth semester of the educational programme, students will have an Institutional internship, which will take place in public or private institutions for the preservation, promotion and development of cultural heritage, and institutions of public humanities. Some of these organisations are already partners of the programme and cooperate with us to implement the programme. At the same time, in the same semester, students will attend the "Innovating in the Humanities" course, which will allow them to get acquainted with well-known practices of academic and public humanities in Ukraine and their products: research centres and groups, public and private institutions for the preservation, promotion and development of cultural heritage, creators and implementers of relevant initiatives, travel agencies, journalists, bloggers, and others.

UCU developed a hybrid learning model, enabling students to work and study. Most classes are taught in a mixed format (three weeks online and one week of the month on campus). Courses taught by UoN or other partner universities/ invited lecturers from abroad are provided exclusively online. Most in-class teaching is scheduled on Thursdays and Fridays and project workshops alternate between consultations with the lecturers and independent work of the students.

All parts of the curriculum, apart from the final thesis, are described in detail in module descriptions/course syllabi. Module descriptions contain basic information on the teaching contents and the skills imparted in each unit, on the methods of teaching and assessment applied and on how the module relates to the intended learning outcomes of the programme.

Student Mobility and Recognition

According to the self-report the study programme offers several opportunities for gaining international experience abroad. Students taking part in the double-degree-option with UoN take at least one online course from UoN per semester, with guaranteed credit transfer to UCU. The conversion of grades is conducted in accordance with the grading scale alignment system mutually agreed on by both institutions.

Other options are the participation in a summer school at the University of Warwick (UK) or the CENTRAL Leadership Programme with students from European universities (Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Germany) or a semester abroad at Bielefeld University (Germany) under the Erasmus+ programme.

Recognition and transfer of credits are stipulated in the "Regulations on Academic Mobility at the

Ukrainian Catholic University". These regulation state: *"8.1. Recognition of learning outcomes is carried out under ECTS, or using the system of evaluation of learning outcomes and/or acquired competencies adopted in the country of the partner institution, if it does not provide for the application of ECTS. Comparison of the amount of study load during the implementation of academic mobility programs should be based on a comparison of the competencies and/or learning outcomes achieved by the participant of the educational process at the partner institution and the learning outcomes planned by the UCU educational programme. The Department of International Academic Relations provides information on the comparison of foreign countries' assessment/learning systems according to ECTS."*

Due to the war situation under martial law physical mobility is presently only possible for the female students.

During the online talks, students reported about student-organised excursions to various regions of Ukraine to introduce regional culture and heritage to fellow students.

Experts' Appraisal

The experts were impressed by the highly innovative and uniquely interdisciplinary programme. The design of the curriculum is well in line with the profile reflected in the intended learning outcomes and provides a good balance between research and application/practice-oriented elements.

The flexibility of entry to the programme enables the universities to recruit a well-selected, experienced group of students with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and interests, making for a diverse and interesting group of participants and fruitful discussions.

The universities manage to establish student-centred learning, giving students the opportunity to follow their interests and truly develop their own leaning trajectories while bringing their experiences and perspectives to the classroom.

The experts commend the universities on the highly modern and student-centred teaching methods applied in the programme, including seminars, team work, co-teachings and flipped classroom. The chosen forms of teaching and student assessment are well-aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the programme and the goals of the individual modules. The programme shows a good balance of theory-based input and practical phases. The universities manage to establish student-centred learning, giving students the opportunity to follow their interests and truly develop their own leaning trajectories while bringing their own experiences and perspectives to the classroom. Teaching is at a high theoretical level, yet very practical.

Despite the challenging situation students are offered options for mobility and the regulations for the recognition of credits are advanced from the experts' point of view. It is recommended however to include the recognition of non-formal and informal learning and the reversal of evidence according to the Lisbon Convention.

4.3 Teaching Faculty

As already explained above, the delivery of the programme is up to the teaching faculty of UCU, with continuous assistance and support from the UoN staff. All relevant learning materials for the modules are provided by UCU via their online platform.

The future standard language of teaching is English, although currently lecturers may also teach in Ukrainian as long as there are Ukrainian students only.

According to the self-report (p. 24) *"The Centre for Educational and Innovative Technologies is responsible for developing programmes and organising the professional development of academic staff at UCU. An obligatory part of the staff development programme is aimed at developing key competences:*

- Pedagogical and methodological,

- Technological and digital,

- Information and communication,

- Management and leadership competences.

The variable part of the programme provides for the development of other competences, which are optional for employees."

CVs of the faculty members involved in the Master's programme (both at UCU and at UoN) were submitted to the expert panel as part of the self-report. The self-report also describes the staff selection process and the research activities of the UCU faculty in detail.

Experts' Appraisal

The experts were impressed by the excellent and dedicated teaching staff. The teaching faculty is composed of highly experienced senior lecturers and scholars who possess all academic expertise required for the programme.

Further training for staff is well organised and up-to date and according to the online-talks it includes special training courses on the didactic approach for veterans.

The online talks have also confirmed that communication, exchange and support between the two universities work very well, to the mutual benefit of both faculty and students.

4.3 Infrastructure, Resources and Student Support

Financial Resources and Funding

The first intake was fully supported Twinning project funds. The new Twining grant support 2024 partially covered tuition fees charged by both partner universities. However, both partner universities

also offer extensive scholarship support. Once the funding runs out, the programme is expected to continue on a regular fee-paying basis.

Learning Infrastructure and Resources

All premises at the UCU campus are equipped with a single computer network with free Internet access. These include auditoriums, offices, a TV and radio studio and co-working spaces. Classrooms are equipped with desktop computers and projectors and by 2025, new classrooms will be created for blended learning.

In addition to 160.000 titles on-site, the UCU library offers students access to a number of scientific databases; EBSCO resources, the Oxford Online Products package and other online libraries and sources.

Student Support Services and Equal Opportunities Policies

According to the self-report UCU has a clear division of responsibilities between its structural units for educational, organisational, informational, counselling, and social support for students. Educational and informational support for students is provided primarily by the department, including information on the organisation and content of the study programmes. Students can always contact teachers or the head of the programme for information and advice.

UCU provides first aid, psychological support services and spiritual support. UCU's Student Career Department strives to provide opportunities for successful professional development for students. The Department of International Academic Relations opens up international opportunities for students' participation in academic mobility programmes, internships, competitions etc.

The Dean Office of Student Life has established a Support Service for Students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, and all units coordinate their efforts to provide support for such students.

According to the self-report UCU creates equal opportunities for all students, teachers and staff. *"This is manifested in free and unimpeded access to all classrooms, digital resources, the Internet, library collections, etc. All university buildings have positive conclusions on accessibility for people with reduced mobility. These issues are regulated by the "Regulation on the Educational Process" (2024 edition) and are detailed in special decisions, such as: "Regulations on the Organisation of Inclusive Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs", "Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons , "Policy on Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse", and others. To develop a comprehensive programme in this area, in 2023 was adopted the "Plan for the Development of Equality Policy and Inclusive Work Environment for 2023-2030"" (see self-report p.15).*

All of UCU's buildings are accessible to persons with disabilities and other groups with reduced mobility.

Experts' Appraisal

Based on the oral and written information provided, the experts regard the on-campus infrastructure and the electronic resources available to the students as well-suited for the purposes of the study programme. A member of the expert group has visited UCU on several occasions and reports well equipped modern buildings that meet the requirements of people with mobility issues.

Despite the challenging circumstances, UCU does everything in its power to enable in-class course delivery, including the provision of shelters on campus while offering a state-of-the-art online learning environment at the same time. UCU provides a wide range of services and support measures to all its students, including those with special needs. Dedicated staff provide amazing support in a state-of-the-art learning environment to extraordinary students.

The experts have gained the overall impression that the programme has a promising future even without external project funding. Both partners are clearly committed to maintaining the cooperation beyond the current funding period.

4.4 Methods of Teaching and Student Assessment

According to the self-report (p. 5) "the study programme is taught using active methods that encourage independent and innovative search for answers. The main learning format is interactive conversion seminars with the use of "Flipped classroom" elements, team and individual research."

Experts' Appraisal

Each university applies its own rules and regulations, including regulations for retaking exams and filing complaints. UCU and UoN have established regulations for the conversion of grades within the programme.

During the online talks the students pointed out that they were highly satisfied with the didactic approach of the programme and regarded the hybrid learning concept as very helpful.

4.5 Quality Assurance

Based on the ESG and the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education", UCU has developed an internal quality assurance system. The Academic Council establishes and approves the procedures for internal quality assurance of education and for the updating of educational programmes. Two main surveys are carried out during the academic year:

- Survey on Learning Experience (course evaluation at the end of each semester)

- Survey on the Quality of the Educational Programme and University Activities (each year before graduation).

In addition, various surveys on student support practices, living conditions and satisfaction with university services are conducted. All surveys are anonymous.

At the end of each semester, lecturers get personal reports with student feedback on their courses and programme directors and deans receive consolidated reports. Once a year a final report for the entire UCU community is published.

The responsible faculty of UCU and UoN meet online regularly to discuss issues related to the delivery of the programme. According to the Memorandum of Agreement between both universities the responsibilities of UoN and UCU key personnel include "undertaking periodic monitoring and review of the programme(s)" A programme Management Committee convenes at least twice a year for audition and monitoring purposes (see 3.4 Memorandum of Agreement). In Addition to regular online meetings, in July 2024 staff of both universities met in Poland for a workshop.

Experts' Appraisal

It has become apparent to the experts in the course of the assessment procedure that the two universities are already taking strong joint efforts to assure the quality of the Master's programme. There is regular and close communication between the partners about quality issues, and there are several instruments of quality assurance in place, as e.g. course evaluation and annual monitoring reports. The experts were impressed by the close cooperation of the partner universities and the strong connection between students, lecturers and partners of both universities. Students feel that their problems are addressed and their voices are heard.

Even though the programme has only been running for 2 years, the partners are already taking steps to further improve and develop the programme.

4.6   Transparency, Documentation and Public Information

Students can retrieve all information relevant to them on the websites and the virtual learning platforms of the two partner universities. This includes the module descriptions, assessment requirements, deadlines and all other general academic policies and regulations that apply.

A Diploma Supplement is issued upon graduation. A sample of this document was included in the self-report.

Information on the programme is available to the general public via the university websites. The English web pages provide basic information, whereas the Ukrainian pages provide more in-depth information.

Experts' Appraisal

The experts confirm that students, potential applicants and the general public have full access to all necessary information and documentation regarding the study programme.

To ensure that future international applicants and other interested parties are provided with the same in-depth information about the study programme, the English version of the website should be further elaborated modelled on the Ukrainian version. In particular, the module descriptions should be made accessible online.

Appendix

1. Statement of the University in Response to the Expert Report February 20th 2025

Український
Католицький
Університет

вул. Іл. Свеніцького, 17,
м. Львів, 79011
тел.: (38/032) 240-99-40
факс: (38/032) 240-99-50

Ukrainian
Catholic
University

Ilariona Svientsitskoho St., 17
Lviv, 79011, Ukraine
email: info@ucu.edu.ua
www.ucu.edu.ua

Lviv, 20th of February 2025

Statement of the University in Response to the Expert Report

The Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and the University of Nottingham (UoN) would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (ZEvA) for their effective organization and support throughout the international accreditation process for the double-degree Master's Programme *"The Future of Heritage: History, Culture, Literature."*

We also extend our appreciation to the Expert Panel for their objective and impartial evaluation of this study programme. The constructive recommendations and suggestions provided by the Expert Team during the online visit, as well as those documented in the Accreditation Report, have been carefully reviewed and will be implemented to further enhance the quality of education within our programme.

The experts' insights are invaluable and will be fully integrated into the ongoing development of the programme. We particularly appreciate the positive feedback, which reaffirms that we are on the right track in delivering high-quality education.

Following the successful accreditation, we are planning to open the programme to international students in the near future. To facilitate this, a comprehensive English version of the programme's website will be prepared. We are confident that our existing staff and resources will ensure the smooth implementation of these plans.

Once again, we express our sincere gratitude to the Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency and the Expert Team for their thorough analysis and high evaluation of the accredited study programme, as well as for their recognition of the overall educational quality at our university. Receiving assessments and recommendations from international experts is one of the core objectives of international accreditation, as it allows us to continuously improve our educational services in alignment with European standards and the recommendations for quality assurance in higher education (ESG).

With best regards

Senior Vice-Rector   Dr. Yaroslav Prytula

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