

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 06 May 2022

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Nicosia

- **Town:** Nicosia

- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

In Greek:

Πτυχίο Μουσικής (4 έτη, 240 ECTS, πτυχίο)

In English:

Bachelor of Music (4 years, 240 ECTS, Bachelors of Art)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** English

- **Programme's status:** Currently Operating

- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English:



The present document has been prepared within the framework of the authority and competencies of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, according to the provisions of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws” of 2015 to 2021 [L.136(I)/2015 – L.132(I)/2021].

A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- ***The Higher Education Institution (HEI) based on the External Evaluation Committee's (EEC's) evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area.***
- *In particular, under each assessment area, the HEI must respond on, without changing the format of the report:*
 - *the findings, strengths, areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The HEI's response must follow below the EEC's comments, which must be copied from the external evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4).*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on a separate document.*

We, the faculty members of the Music Program of the University of Nicosia, would like to express our genuine appreciation for the approach and constructive criticism of the EEC during its visit to the University of Nicosia. Moreover, we thank the Committee for the detailed report that has allowed us to reflect on our strength and weaknesses in order to fine-tune our practices for the benefit of every stakeholder in the Department of Music & Dance, our alumni, and the local society in general.

We would particularly like to express our gratitude to the EEC for their positive comments regarding the structure and content of the programme and the flexibility afforded to the students during their studies. Additionally, we would like to thank the EEC for acknowledgment of the effectiveness of the student-centered learning, the deep mutual respect and great communication between the faculty and the students, and the faculty commitment to innovative pedagogical strategies. Lastly, we appreciate the positive remarks regarding the infrastructure of the programme, including the facilities and human support resources.

The committee offers positive feedback for articles "2" (Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment) and "4" (Student admission, progression, recognition and certification), requiring no action on the part of the Department of Music & Dance.

Articles "6" ('Additional for doctoral programmes') and "7" (Eligibility – Joint programme) are not relevant to the evaluation of the BMus of the University of Nicosia, and the EEC did not address them.

In articles "1" (Study programme and study programme's design and development), "3" (Teaching staff), and "5" (Learning resources and student support) the EEC addresses areas that need improvement and cites specific recommendations.

We have considered the Committee's report and comments thoroughly and have acted upon it. Below you may find a detailed outline of our responses to all the raised points.

1. Study programme and study programme's design and development (ESG 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9)

The EEC has identified a number of strengths in the programme, including flexibility in students' learning paths, continuous consultation with the students regarding the curriculum design, and well-structured and easily accessible structure of the programme.

Findings by the EEC

1.1 There is a Policy for Quality Assurance that is clearly outline in the University of Nicosia Internal Regulations in existence but not published on the website (p.8).

Action/Response: The University has now published the Policy for Quality Assurance on its website. Please see the link [Department of Music and Dance | Internal Evaluation Committee – University of Nicosia \(unic.ac.cy\)](http://unic.ac.cy/Department%20of%20Music%20and%20Dance%20|%20Internal%20Evaluation%20Committee%20-%20University%20of%20Nicosia)

1. The department does not have own administrative staff

Please note that this is addressed in section 3. Teaching Staff

Areas of Improvement and Recommendations

1.4 Information Management

The EEC has noted that the alumni connection should become a more formalized mechanism. Data analysis would improve programme's work and profile

Action/ Response:

Following the EEC visit, we have devised a communication system to help us stay in touch with and monitor the career development of our alumni. The official alumni office of the University Student Affairs provides the Department and Music Program with alumni contact information. This has led us to create a list to communicate with alumni following all the necessary GDPR laws. We are currently in the process of collecting employment information from the alumni that we will publish on our website. The Music Program continues to hold informal relationships with graduates that includes employment and career advice, mentoring, artistic collaboration, and artistic encouragement.

2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment (ESG 1.3)

Findings by the EEC

All the comments are positive in regards to the effectiveness of the student-centered learning as supported by students testimonials of current students and graduates. The EEC has observed that students have opportunities for practical training in music performance and music education. They have confirmed that the students assessments are of European Higher Education standards. We deeply appreciate the EEC's acknowledgement of the mutual respect between students and faculty

Areas of Improvement and Recommendations

None is mentioned.

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Findings by the EEC

All the comments are positive including the ratio between full-time and part-time faculty and the research activities of the faculty.

Areas of Improvement and Recommendations

3.1 Teaching staff recruitment and development

The panel suggest to increase the number of masterclasses and visiting professors in the programme.

Action/Response:

The Music Program faculty has already acted upon this suggestion. We have contacted academics and professionals with proposals for masterclasses that would benefit our students. As of today, we have arranged four masterclasses/lectures:

- Masterclass entitled *Musicians in the Studio* by Andreas Rodostenous (Electric Bass, Sound Engineer), which concentrates on preparing musicians for the recording studio experience. Period: Fall 2022
- Masterclass entitled *Your Wellness in College*, presented by Dr. Paola Savvidou, Lecturer in Music at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and manager of the Wellness Initiative Program. Period: Fall 2022
- Masterclass entitled *Well-being and Healing for Performers*, presented by Naomi West who runs her Leadership and Performance Coaching studio at Harley str., London, UK. Mrs. West holds an MFA from the Case Western Reserve University & Cleveland Institute of Art, USA. May 4-6, 2022
- Lecture-workshop entitled *Narratological Methodologies in Music Analysis. Perspectives in Sonata Form From Schubert to Brahms*, presented by Antonio Grande, Professor of Music Theory & Analysis at the Conservatorio di Musica di Como. Professor Grande's visit is organized through the Erasmus+ plan – the University of Nicosia and the Conservatorio di Musica di Como are Erasmus partners. He will lecture for 9 hours during the period of 3 days in October 2022.

The number of part-time staff should not be enlarged. The ratio of part-time staff should be carefully maintained.

Action/Response:

The suggestions of the EEC are duly noted. The Department of Music & Dance has no plans to raise the number of part-time instructors in the undergraduate Music Program.

3.3 Synergies of teaching and research

Research needs to be developed for further offers (Master, PhD).

Action/Response:

Acting upon a decision of the Music Program faculty, the Departmental Council of the Department of Music & Dance has approved a new master program titled **Music Technology and Composition**. This is a program supported strongly by the University Rector and the University Council. It will be an exclusively online degree that focuses on and integrates the areas of music technology and composition. We have already drafted the program's curriculum and contacted area specialists to offer their feedback and assist in the process.

By reduction of administrative burden on teaching staff an increase of research output can be achieved in order to meet academic rigor and research excellence.

Action/Response:

- a) The Music and Dance Programs each have their own secretaries who assist with every aspect of their day-to-day operations. Mrs. Annita Constantinou is the administrative assistant of the Music Program. Ms. Juna Boulos is the administrative assistant for the Dance Program.
- b) The Reception secretaries of the Research & Technology Building that hosts the Music Program also fulfill duties pertaining to the latter's operation.
- c) The Admissions Office has a central team of administrators for the University in general, and administrators allocated to each of its departments. The Admissions administrator that supports the Music Program is Mrs. Debbie Ftanou (who also receives administrative support/assistance from her sector secretaries). She has been doing this for more than five years, a fact that grants her considerable knowledge of the Music Program's uniqueness.
- d) Student registration, which is a major aspect of academic life, is actually done almost exclusively by the Academic Advising department (Christos Theocleous' team) at the Central building. (The Music Faculty offers guidance to the students about which courses they can take; but the actual registration – punching in course codes, checking availability of sections, suggesting alternatives, etc. – takes place at the Academic Advising unit.) It comprises eight Academic Advising administrators operating in a multi-office section/space. This amounts to considerable help, as it removes time-consuming duties from the Music Program's academic and administrative staff and offers a straightforward registering experience to the students.

The academic staff should be encouraged to participate in the Erasmus programme (we need to increase our Erasmus bilateral agreements)

Action/Response:

The University of Nicosia has already agreements under the ERASMUS+ scheme with fourteen institutions in 10 European Union countries. Students of the UNIC Music Program have used the particular scheme to spend a semester at partner universities/academies in Croatia, France, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom. The faculty of the Music Program has taken up on this opportunity and have given lectures/workshops or received training at institutions in Italy and France.

We really deem the proper expansion of Erasmus agreements (addressed by the EEC) an important development in our efforts to evolve. The benefits of the participation of students and academic staff in the opportunities offered by the Erasmus+ scheme have been rather significant.

In regards to new Erasmus Agreements, we have come to a conclusion and mutual agreement on how to proceed with the exchange mobilities in the next Programme Period 2021-2027 with the University of Aveiro and with TU Dublin University. However, since the Universities face some issues with the Erasmus Without Paper platform, the finalization of the agreement is still pending. It has been agreed that mobilities can be undertaken from the next semester onwards as both Institutions have agreed with UNIC to use the



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CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION



e-mail confirmation, until the Platform will be working properly. As of today, we have received a positive response from the University of Coibra.



4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

(ESG 1.4)

Findings by the EEC

All the comments are positive by the EEC regarding student admission criteria, which are accessible to all stakeholders.

Areas of Improvement and Recommendations

None is mentioned.

5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Findings by the EEC

The EEC finds the building facilities for music studies satisfactory. All of the comments regarding student support are positive.

Areas of Improvement and Recommendations

5.4 The assessors found certain weaknesses in the provision of online databases regarding music, especially RILM and RISM.

Action/Response: Requests for subscriptions for RILM and RISM will be included in the department's budget to the council for the academic year 2022 - 2023

5.4 Students' mobility should be enlarged by increasing the number of bilateral agreements in the framework of the Erasmus programme. The students should be encouraged to participate in the Erasmus programme.

Action/Response:

Please see our response to item **3.3 Areas of Improvement and Recommendations** in section 3 (**Teaching staff**) which addresses the particular point.

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6. Additional for doctoral programmes (ALL ESG)

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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

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D. Conclusions and final remarks

The Faculty of the Music Programme would like to thank the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) for their careful, professional, and thorough examination and evaluation of the BMus during the hybrid evaluation. We would like to express our appreciation for the positive and encouraging feedback and collegial support that has provided an opportunity for us to reflect on the structure of the programme, the curriculum, teaching and learning, student support and progression, and admission criteria.

We greatly appreciate the positive comments of the EEC regarding the design of the programme, the caliber and commitment of the academic staff in terms of quality assurance, teaching and research, and continued efforts to develop and improve teaching methodologies. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude for the positive remarks regarding the infrastructure of the programme and a well-developed and maintained student support system. We would like to thank the EEC for their recognition of the carefully cultivated and maintained faculty students relationships.

We have carefully reviewed the EEC report and have carefully considered recommendations of the EEC and have provided responses and actions in order to incorporate these into the programme as outlined above. We thank the committee for their positive evaluation and constructive suggestions, which will allow us to continue to improve the BMus.

E. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

Name	Position	Signature
Prof. Elena Papanastasiou	Dean of School of Education	
Dr. Dara Milovanovic	Head of Department of Music and Dance	
Prof. Natassa Economidou-Stavrou	Associate Head of Department of Music and Dance	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	

Date: April 23, 2022

