

June 5, 2020

The Board of AQ Austria
AQ Austria
Franz-Klein-Gasse 5
1190 Vienna

Dear Madam President, dear Members of the Board,

I hereby confirm that we have received and fully accept the Expert Panel Review Report regarding the following programs: MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology (One-Year), MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology (Two-Year), PhD in Sociology and Social Anthropology. We are pleased to learn that the Report confirms the academic excellence of the programs and that they fulfill all the criteria for accreditation.

We fully accept all the recommendations made in the Report. The administration of CEU PU will work closely with the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology to address every recommendation made in the Report. For specific responses to the recommendations of the AQ Austria Expert Panel, please refer to the Department's detailed reply in the Appendix of this letter.

We would like to thank the Expert Panel members for their expertise and insights, as well as for the productive and collegial discussions during the online meetings. We are grateful to the Expert Panel members for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm with which they approached the task.

We await the decision of the Board with anticipation and look forward to the opportunity of starting our programs in Vienna in the coming academic year.

Sincerely,



Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University Private University

Annex

CEU PU Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology Response to AQ Austria Expert Panel Report

First of all, we would like to thank the accreditation team profoundly for their flexibility, consideration and expertise throughout the accreditation process. We appreciate the time and energy that they have invested in preparing and conducting the virtual site visit and writing a very insightful report on our programs.

Their recommendations are very helpful.

Recommendations of the Expert Panel

- 1. The panel recommends that greater efforts to be made to trace the career paths of graduates to document the impact of the education provided by CEU PU.*

This has improved even between the submission of the program proposals (December 2019) and the site visit (April 2020). In order to answer the questions we received from AQ Austria, we compiled a close to complete database on our former students. Following the method of crowd sourcing, this is uploaded as a Google doc to be updated by all professors, students and alumni.

- 2. The panel recommends that for future procedures, the tutoring ratio for the supervision of doctoral theses could be more evenly distributed among faculty members. This is considered particularly relevant in order to guarantee that the excellent tutoring ratio at CEU PU is maintained in the future.*

The recommendation is well-taken. With the selection of supervisors for the first-year group, the ratio has already improved since the site visit: some of the students chose supervisors from among the colleagues with fewer supervisees.

Factual Errors in the Report

There are a few typos and minor mistakes in the text:

4.2.2. p. 10.

We have both “Horizon 2020 and Science4Refugees Horizon 2020” grants, rather than just a “Science4Refugees Horizon 2020” grant.

4.2.4. p. 11.

The full name of IWM is correctly: "Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen"

4.2.5. p. 13.

The title is correctly “Pro-Rector”, rather than “Co-Rector”.

4.2.5. p. 13.

The text “whether from within the Department or from another university” should correctly state “whether from within the Department or from another department/university”.

4.4.1. p. 16.

The name of the third research theme in the list should be “urban studies” instead of “global and urban studies”.

4.4.8. p. 19.

While having an Admissions Committee may be standard procedure at other CEU PU departments, the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology does not have a separate committee. We do the selection and evaluation collectively, as is stated in the Program Proposal of the PhD program (18, p. 6):

“The evaluation of PhD applications involves several stages: a review of each application by two members of the department; initial ranking based on combined scores; personal interviews with the highest ranking applicants (on phone, Skype or in person); final ranking of candidates based on overall score; collective decision on the merit list based on a meeting involving all faculty members.”

4.5.4. p. 21.

5.3.2. p. 32.

5.3.5. p. 34.

6.3.2. p. 50.

6.3.5. p. 51.

There is a consistent reference to the regular faculty teaching load as being 12 ECTS credits, which is a misunderstanding. The standard teaching load of faculty at CEU PU is 12 faculty credits, with one faculty credit being equal to 600 minutes of in-class teaching, which corresponds to one 2-ECTS course. This framework is based on CEU’s status as a US-accredited university.

6.2.4. p. 46.

The report states that “[the students] must complete two additional mandatory classes (worth 8 ECTS credits). Please note that the courses are worth 8 ECTS credits *each*, rather than combined.

6.2.7. p. 47.

The length of the thesis was misstated in the Program Proposal, as it is in fact not identical in the 1-year and 2-year MA programs. Correctly, it is “15,000-17,000 words” (theses can be slightly longer in the 2-year MA program).