

July 17, 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 MA in History in the Public Sphere (HIPS), the MA in European Women's and Gender History (MATILDA), and the MA in Cultural Heritage Studies. We are pleased to learn that the Report confirms the academic excellence of the programs and that they fulfill the criteria for accreditation.

We are grateful for the feedback and comments, and will work with the Departments to maintain the high academic standards. We are also aware of the delay with the Consortium Agreement due to Covid19 and have been assured by the Department of History that it will be submitted as soon as possible. Please refer to the Departments' 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 site visit. 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 looking 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

## **CEU PU Departmental Responses to AQ Austria's Expert Panel Report**

See below the responses of the faculty of the three programs included in this cluster.

### **I. MA in History in the Public Sphere Program (HIPS)**

We would like to express our gratitude to the expert panel and AQ Austria for their cooperation throughout the accreditation process. We appreciate the thoughtful observations of the expert panel expressed during the site visit and in the expert report. As requested in the report, we will be submitting the Consortium Agreement as soon as possible.

### **II. MA in European Women's and Gender History (MATILDA) Program**

We would like to thank the experts for their careful, knowledgeable and insightful review of the program and the fruitful and informed discussion during the site visit. In the comments we noted three issues with regard to which we might give further information:

Section 2, Box 5: Diversification of the curriculum, student discussion: The Department of Gender Studies has recently installed a committee for exactly this purpose, with full student participation.

Section 2, Box 7: Form of examination and criteria of assessment to be specified in syllabi and made known to students upon registration for a given course at the latest: Full syllabi are provided for the students before the term begins, i.e. upon registration time and well before students have to take a final decision about registration. All syllabi indicate precisely the course requirements, including the form of the examination (if applicable – many courses don't include an exam) and the weight of the examination in the overall course grade. Only a few syllabi at this point include a description of the criteria for assessment; we are working towards including such description in all syllabi not only for the exam but also for paper-grading.

Last but not least we would mention one factual error in the Expert Review: The former cooperation partner was the University of **Nottingham** (rather than Leeds University) (p. 26).

### **III. MA in Cultural Heritage Studies: Academic Research, Policy, Management**

First and foremost, the faculty of the Cultural Heritage Studies Program would like to thank the committee for their collegial and supportive review of our cultural heritage program during their on-line site visit and in the written document. The comments of the reviewers, marked by a real exchange of views and ideas during the visit, were insightful and revealed genuine interest in the way our program operates.

The expert panel made one recommendation concerning enrichment of the program through the addition of some new elements (Point 7.3., on staff, part 4). In fact, the relevant elements

already exist, albeit currently in nascent form, in our program. Our OSUN Summer University course on Industrial Heritage has just ended and we intend to incorporate these teaching materials into the CHSP program for the next academic year. In addition, we have plans to introduce a new course on colonial aspects of African and Asian Heritage. This course will be particularly relevant given the high proportion of African and Asian students entering the program each year.