

July 2, 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 Philosophy (One-Year), MA in Philosophy (Two-Year), PhD in Philosophy. 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 the recommendation made in the Report. The administration of CEU PU will review its policies in line with the recommendation made in the Report to increase student participation in the quality assurance process. 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 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 Department of Philosophy Response to AQ Austria Expert Panel**

The CEU PU Department of Philosophy would like to express its gratitude to the AQ Austria coordinators and expert panel for their thorough work and their cooperation during the accreditation process. Please find below the response of the Department to the recommendation made in the report, and a list of mistakes noted by the Department.

### **Recommendation**

*“To improve the CEU PU’s quality management system, the experts recommend a stronger student representation and participation in the Senate Curriculum and Academic Quality Assurance (SeCur). As outlined in CEU PU’s Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy, the committee undertakes to “assure quality of curriculum providing a meta-level review and guidance to departmental curriculum committees”. Since all committee’s decisions are directly relevant for students at the CEU PU, a strong student’s involvement is thoroughly indispensable. By reviewing curriculum maps of degree programs, proposals for university wide courses and selecting courses for the following year, students in particular should have the opportunity to share their suggestions for improvement as well as objections concerning degree programmes, evaluation criteria and academic structure.” – p. 7*

We appreciate the recommendation and agree that student participation in the quality assurance process is of utmost importance. CEU PU will review its Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance Policy and explore ways to increase student representation.

### **Factual Errors and Mistakes**

- 1) Section 4.1, p. 23.  
Erroneous mention of "the doctoral programme" in reference to the 1-year MA program.
- 2) Section 4.2, p. 27.  
"[M]ay choose philosophy courses per term from a minimum of 20..." should be "may choose elective philosophy courses from a minimum of 20..." as the choice is not per term.
- 3) Section 5.1, p. 37.  
Erroneous mention of "the doctoral programme" in reference to the 2-year MA program
- 4) Section 5.2, p. 38.  
"[M]ain objective, to give students who have not studied philosophy at undergraduate level but have an independent degree in some comparable subject an intensive education in philosophy" Should be "main objective, to give students who may or may not have studied philosophy at undergraduate level (but have at least an independent degree in some comparable subject) an intensive education in philosophy." (NB this wording better matches the similar text under section 5.2 #2 below).
- 5) Section 5.2, p. 38.  
The weekly colloquium counts for 8 ECTS credits (4 credits per year) in the two-year MA program.
- 6) Section 5.2, p. 38.

After "[b]eyond that, students may choose elective modules in philosophy based on their interests and theses topics (20 ECTS credits in the first year and 36 ECTS credits in the second)," please insert "Students may optionally choose up to 8 ECTS credits per year of non-philosophy electives from courses offered by other CEU PU departments." (NB this is similar to the one-year program's non-philosophy course options, as clarified in the written CEU PU responses to the preliminary questions of the experts).

7) Section 5.8, p.48.

The summary "*Degree programme and degree programme management*" section is identical to that of the 1-year MA program, and thus is not entirely accurate on:

- a. the two-year program's main objective (which is described in the comment on item 4 above) and
- b. the two-year program's curriculum structure. In particular the text leaves out the primary distinguishing feature of the 2-year program curriculum which is: eight first-year mandatory courses in core areas of philosophy, including Logic.