



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency

UBT College
BA Modern Music, Digital Production and Management

ACCREDITATION OF THE NEW STUDY PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

27th June 2019, Zagreb



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 20th May 2019

Expert Team (ET) members:

- A Prof. Dr. Danica Železnik
- **B red.prof.art. Marina Novak**
- C Prof. Dr. Magdalena Platis

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- A Avni Gashi, Acting Director of KAA
- B Shkelzen Gerxhaliu, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring
- C Arianit Krasniqi, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Accreditation

Sources of information for the Report:

- A SELF-EVALUATION REPORT UBT (CHAPTER 4.19)
- B *Faculty of Modern Music, Digital Production and Management* SELF-EVALUATION REPORT
- C Information obtained during the site visit;
- D Meetings conducted with the management of the institution, teaching and administrative staff, students, graduates, external stakeholders and employers of graduates;

Criteria used for institutional and program evaluations

- A KAA Accreditation Manual



1.2. Site visit schedule

19th May

19.45 Meeting at the Reception of the Hotel

20.00 Working dinner

20th May

08.30 Meeting at the reception of the hotel

09.00 – 09.30 Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated (no slide presentation is allowed, the meeting is intended as a free discussion)

09.30 – 11.00 Meeting with the head of the study programme

11.00 – 11.40 Meeting with quality assurance representatives

11.40 – 12.50 Lunch break

13.00 – 13.45 Meeting with involved teaching and administrative staff

13.50 – 14.20 Meeting with external stakeholders

14.20 – 14.40 Visiting tour of the facilities and infrastructure (used for the implementation of the programme)

14.40 – 14.55 Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program



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1.3. A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation

UBT College was built on the experience of the Institute of Enterprise Engineering and Management (IEME). The College was licensed to operate as a private bearer of higher education by the Ministry of Education, Science and technology no. 808/02-1, date. 18.10.2004. The philosophy of the institution has been to offer competitive programs in education that would base teaching on labour market demands and international practices. UBT is demand-driven though it has also offered programs in mechatronics and robotics where it feels that can contribute to Kosovo's long-term economic and social development. UBT student orientation is balanced between three broad areas: (1) ICT, mathematics and natural science, (2) Engineering, manufacturing and construction and (3) social science.

In delivering the mission statement for the benefit of students and all other stakeholders, the institution has identified several strategic objectives:

- (i) *achieving academic excellence* - the institution aspires excellent quality standards and consistent active learning approaches which offer authentic experiences and an inspiring, values-based learning environment to a diversity,
- (ii) *developing research, innovation and social responsibility* - offer innovative ways for learners, spin-in and spin-out companies as well as external clients to engage with enterprise supports and applied research, thus creating new knowledge and new employment,
- (iii) *creating a positive working and learning environment*- the institution aims to offer a high-quality and supportive working and learning environment for all types of students (full-time, part-time, priority groups) and staff,
- (iv) *maintaining and increasing internationalization and regional partnerships* - formation of the new local and international higher education alliances and continued excellent performance against international and regional efficiency and effectiveness benchmarks and
- (v) *partnering with the community* - will continue to forge strong links with industry and wider society, which will be supported through mainstream funding, alternative income streams and volunteering arrangements in order to provide service to industry and the community at institutional, staff and student level.

The new study program ***BA- Modern Music, Digital Production and Management*** would be carried out at the newly formed Faculty of Modern Music, Digital Production and Management (MMDPM). The proposal states:



Name of the institution	<i>UBT College</i>
Faculty/Department	<i>Faculty of Modern Music, Digital Production and Management (MMDPM)</i>
Main Campus or Branch	<i>Main Campus</i>
The program applies to Branch	<i>No</i>
Name of the study program	<i>BA- Modern Music, Digital Production and Management</i>
Person responsible	<i>Liburn Jupolli, Bujar Hoxha, Tomor Kuçi, Leutrina Pireva</i>
Accreditation/Reaccreditation	<i>Accreditation</i>
NQF Qualification Level	<i>NQF Level Six</i>
Academic degree conferred	<i>BA of Arts with Major</i>
ECTS	<i>180</i>
Program profile (specialization)	<i>Arts and Humanities</i>
Erasmus Code	03.2 Music and Musicology
Type of study	<i>Full-time</i>
Number of students	<i>Up to 30 students for each major</i>
Minimum duration of study	<i>3 years</i>
Number of students	<i>150</i>

The Undergraduate study program *Modern Music, Digital Production and Mana* consists of five study tracks/majors:

- I. **Modern Music-** Songwriting
- II. **Modern Music-** Vocal Performance
- III. **Modern Music-** Instrument Performance
- IV. **Audio Production**
- V. **Music Management**

The study program is based on modules:

Module I- Major Courses (Main courses of the specific fields)

Module II- General Professional Courses,

Module III- Professional Support Courses,

Module IV- Non Credit Courses.



2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.

The mission and the objectives of the Undergraduate program in Modern Music, Digital Production and Management in UBT are to prepare students/graduates to assume responsibility in the practice of the Modern Music Industry and in multi-disciplinary areas related to music and entertainment as a whole medium, and to provide them with comprehensive knowledge of the principles related to each field that comprises the complex nature of this industry.

The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the UBT College – providing market relevant, new and competitive study programs.

Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.

The NQF does not specify any standards with regards to professional musicians making it difficult to determine whether the learning outcomes match those of NQF.

With regards to the documentation of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area – learning outcomes for the proposed study program are only specified on a course level (subject level) but a general outline (study program outline) of the learning outcomes has not been specified.

Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.

The study program does have a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.

Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.



Formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues are stated in the study program proposal in accordance with general principles applicable to the performance of the activities at the faculty regulations and guidelines of the academic council and statute of UBT.

Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.

Teachers, associates, staff and studies will be obliged to comply with the provisions of the Code of Professional Ethics and Conduct at UBT.

Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.

The Faculty Council has established a Quality Assurance Sub-Committee to review the future development and implementation of quality assurance processes throughout the Faculty. The main objective of the sub-Committee will be to ensure that the policies, processes and procedures set down in the UBT Quality Manual are implemented.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. A define QA procedures specifically for Music related study programs*
- 2. B define study program level learning outcomes (as they are not specified within NQF) using Dublin Descriptors for 1st cycle awards in higher music education as guidelines*

2.2. Quality management

The newly formed faculty of Music plans to use QA rocedures outlined in the UBT Quality Manual.



Through conversation with the individual who is to be in charge of QA and is already involved in current quality control procedure at college level, a need to define separate quality indicators in the field of music has been recognized.

The self-evaluation report describes possible procedures and quality management standards as proscribed by the KAA.

There are proscribed college level QA procedures and these should be implemented for the new program as well.

Compliance level: fully compliant - There are proscribed college level QA procedures and these should be implemented for the new program as well.

ET recommendations:

- 1. A define quality indicators*
- 2. B define QA procedures specifically for Music related study programs*

2.3. Academic staff

The listed staff and their qualifications are good basis for the study programme. They are well equipped to teach the proposed modules. The number of staff is not adequate if the university plans to enrol more than 50 students per year as a great number of courses is intended to be taught as individual classes (the college plans 150 enrolments per year). The number of full time staff does not meet the Standard 3.4 guidelines (at 50% of staff should be employed full time).

It is perhaps unusual that all of the listed staff are lecturers (no teaching assistants, assistant professors, associate or full professors).

The self-evaluation report describes possible procedures and teaching staff standards as proscribed by the KAA. There are proscribed college level teaching staff procedures and these should be implemented for the new program as well.



Compliance level: Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *A reconsider the enrolment quota with regards to the number of teaching staff*

2.4. Educational process content

Although the learning outcomes are not specified on a study programme (the proscribed 7 learning outcomes for the study programme under evaluation) level they are outlined through individual course outcomes. Individual components of the study programme are comparable to similar study programs at other European higher education music institutions.

While some of the course level learning outcomes are well stated, other courses have poorly, or too broadly stated learning outcomes (descriptive instead of proscriptive).

Some of the courses have inadequate grading methods (as stated in the syllabus tables).

Literature/references listed for some of the subjects are not academic level based.

There is no noticeable increase in difficulty level for some of the three year courses (visible through expected results and literature/references).

Compliance level: substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *A Learning outcomes should be more consistent throughout all the courses – use of Dublin Descriptors for 1st cycle awards in higher music education as guidelines is recommended*
2. *B Grading methods should be more consistent with regards to learning outcomes*
3. *C difficulty gradient for courses taking more than one semester should be better defined.*



4. *D course literature should be at an academic level (literature used in primary and secondary music education cannot be considered the only relevant course material)*

2.5. Students

There are proscribed college level student procedures and standards in accordance with KAA - these should be implemented for the new program as well.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

2.6. Research

The study programme outlines a plan for joint research activities within UBT through collaborations with other departments.

Plans for establishment of two institutes within the faculty point to possible advancements in research opportunities in musicology and music innovation to enhance current research within centre for Modern music digital production and management.

The field of Music research is, at present, inadequately defined which makes it difficult to clearly set goals and define what Music Research is. With that in mind, only two of the full time staff have research experience statements.

Compliance level: Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *A Important to note that research standards cannot be applied to the field of Music in the same way that they are applied to other research fields, certain allowances must be made and additional criterion must be developed to evaluate the research in this field*

2.7. Infrastructure and resources

Initial requirements with regards to premises, equipment and HR have been met and showcased during the Accreditation expert visit.



Intent to upgrade and enhance the premises, as needed, has been stated by a representative of future Faculty (acoustic isolation of classrooms, additional musical instruments and other equipment, acquisition of sheet music and music literature, additional classrooms, concert hall, practice rooms, ...).

The institution has a realistic annual budget and a three-year budget, as well as financial policies which address its financial sustainability.

Compliance level: Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. A Classroom space and the recording studio should be adapted better for music courses – acoustic isolation (adaptive inner acoustics as well as sound isolation from other classrooms), ergonomic chairs (there are specific standards of chairs specifically intended for musicians that ensures good posture and reduce risk of injuries), music stands, music instruments (for those instruments that cannot be easily transported by students/staff)/ recording equipment.*
- 2. B The college library should, in consultation with teaching staff acquire additional titles relevant to the study program*
- 3. C In the near future the Faculty/ College should provide students with practice rooms/spaces (adequately equipped – see A)*
- 4. D Cooperation with TV/Radio/Concert halls and other Professional ensembles should be ensured through contracts/agreements which would enable student practice in the field*

3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

It is the opinion of the Expert team that the proposed Study program BA Modern Music, Digital Production and Management offered by UBT College is feasible. The University staff has readily presented additional information and explanations of the self-evaluation report. The proposed study program and its five tracks are well suited to the current market needs. It would, perhaps, be advisable, to reconsider the number of enrolment places to preserve the quality of teaching and ensure that the learning outcomes are all met. The intent to continuously enhance the study conditions and environment has been stated by college representatives.



In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program *BA Modern Music, Digital Production and Management* offered by UBT College is substantially compliant with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and, therefore, recommends to accredit the study program for a duration of 3 years with a number of 50 students per year to be enrolled in the program. The number of enrolled students in module I, II. and III. (Modern Music: Songwriting, Vocal Performance, Instrument Performance) should not exceed ten students per year in each module.

4. APPENDICES *(if available)*

1. A Compliance calculation

Expert Team

Chair

(Signature) (Prof. Dr. Danica Železnik) (27th June 2019)

Member

(Signature) (Marina Novak) (27th June 2019)

Member

(Signature) (Prof. Dr. Magdalena Platis) (27th June 2019)