



Yves Rey  
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Brussels, 17 June 2020

**Subject: Outcome of the quality enhancement review of the two HES-SO programmes (Music and Performing Arts Faculty)**

Dear Mr. Rey,

In September 2019, the Haute École Spécialisée de Suisse Occidentale (HES-SO) requested a programme quality enhancement review with MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement in order to engage in a quality enhancement process that is musician and music educator centred. The procedure covered 2 programmes, Bachelor of Arts en Musique (BAM) delivered by the Haute École de Musique, Genève-Neuchâtel (HEM GE); and the Haute École de Musique, Vaud-Valais-Fribourg (HEMU), and the Bachelor Arts en Musique et Mouvement (BAMM) delivered by the Haute École de Musique, Genève-Neuchâtel (HEM GE). On behalf of the Board of MusiQuE, I have pleasure in writing to you concerning the outcomes of the review procedure.

**Stages of the procedure and Review Team composition**

The review procedure followed a three-stage process:

1. Programme teams of the BAM and BAMM prepared a *Self-evaluation Report (SER BAM, SER BAMM)* and supporting documents, based on the *Guide explicatif des critères d'évaluation des filières d'études HES-SO adapté à l'évaluation des programmes du domaine Musique et Arts de la Scène réalisée par MusiQuE*. All the documentation was provided in French.
2. An international Review Team composed by MusiQuE studied the *SERs* and carried out a site-visit at HEM and HEMU on 16-18 December 2019. The site-visit comprised of meetings with representatives of HEM and HEMU management teams, teaching and support staff, students, alumni, employers and external stakeholders; and visits to classes and performances. The Review Team used the *Guide explicatif adapté* mentioned above as the basis of its investigations and conducted the site-visit in French and English.
3. The Review Team produced the review Report that follows, in English, structured along the *Guide explicatif adapté* mentioned above. Please note that this Report outlines the review team's findings for both the BAM and the BAMM.

The international Review Team that conducted the visit was composed of:

- Elisabeth Gutjahr (Chair of the Review Team) - Mozarteum University, Salzburg, Austria
- Christopher Caine (Secretary) - Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London, United Kingdom
- Susanne van Els (peer) - Expert/consultant in higher music education, the Netherlands
- Iñaki Sandoval (peer) - University of Tartu Vijandi Culture Academy, Estonia
- Baptiste Grandgirard (student peer) - Pole Alienor, Poitiers, France

## **Outcome of the procedure and consideration of the Report by the Board**

The Board scrutinised the Report produced by the Review Team, during its meeting in April 2020 to ensure its compliance and consistency with the MusiQuE procedures. Following this scrutiny, and, following further adjustments to the Report requested by the Board, the Report has been sent to the institution for check in the factual accuracy. The Review Team worked on further adjustments of the Report based on the factual comments by the institution and submitted the final Report to the Board of MusiQuE for final endorsement. I can confirm that the MusiQuE Board is satisfied that the review procedure has been undertaken in line with the MusiQuE rules and regulations as described in the MusiQuE's Internal Regulations and Guidelines for Institutions.

In the case of a Quality Enhancement Review, the result of the review procedure is the final Report itself. The main aims of the MusiQuE Quality Enhancement Reviews are to provide an opportunity for institutions to engage with quality enhancement issues outside the constraining framework of a formal review; to stimulate the process of internal reflection on quality issues and, where relevant, to assist institutional leaders in implementing quality-related reforms; and to bring fresh ideas and wider perspectives into institutions, encouraging the principle of 'many correct answers' to questions concerning the pursuit of quality in higher music education.

The attached Report can, therefore, serve as an advisory and informative document for institutions; it is not a substitute for existing national legal requirements for external quality assurance. Nevertheless, we hope very much that the observations and recommendations included in the Report will be of assistance to your institution in its quality enhancement activities, confirming the strengths of your current achievements by their recognition of good practice and guiding your future endeavors through their suggestions for further development.

## **MusiQuE Follow-up Processes**

In order to assist the visited institutions in the post-site-visit process and to enable MusiQuE to assess its impact, a peer-reviewed follow-up process is provided to institutions and programmes in the framework of the MusiQuE Review procedures. You will, therefore, find attached the *Template for MusiQuE Follow up Procedures*, which lists in its first column the issues pointed out by the Review Team as elements to be further developed. We would like to recommend that your institution makes use of this opportunity of a follow-up process provided by MusiQuE and fills in the second column of the template by 30 June 2021, with short reports of the actions undertaken for each element of improvement and each recommendation. One or more members of the Review Team which visited your institution in December 2019 will then be asked to study the template filled in by the institution, as well as the evidence provided, and to fill in the third column of the *Follow-up Template* with comments and, if appropriate, further recommendations.

## **Publication of the Report and usage of the MusiQuE logo for reviewed institutions**

Please note, that the Report will be published in full version on the MusiQuE website under the section [Completed reviews](#) and on the [Database of External Quality Assurance Results](#) (DEQAR). In addition, the present letter entitles you to publish on your website the attached MusiQuE logo together with the text: "The Bachelor of Arts en Musique (BAM) and the Bachelor Arts en Musique et Mouvement (BAMM) have been reviewed by MusiQuE-Music Quality Enhancement in December 2019." As the periodicity of MusiQuE review procedures is six years, the logo and text above may be published until 30 June 2026.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work in relation to the formulation of the self-evaluation reports and the excellent organisation of the site-visit. Please accept my congratulations on the outcomes of the review procedure on behalf of the entire MusiQuE Board.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Martin Prchal, Chair

