

Development plan for doctoral studies at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre for 2013–2015

This development plan is based on the development plan of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre for the period of 2010–2015, management agreement No. 3.4-4/82 between the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, dated 28 January 2013, and the “Quality Agreement of Estonian Universities”.

I General Objectives and Development Aims

1. EAMT continues the development of doctoral studies with the following objectives:
 - to provide a new generation of teaching and research staff
 - to train top professionals capable of independent research, development or creative work in the fields of music and theatre
 - to provide a suitable environment for talented professionals in music and theatre for their self-development and for carrying out their creative and research projects
2. To improve the quality and productivity of doctoral studies at EAMT, it is necessary to increase the number of graduating students as well as the participation of doctoral students in international research and creative cooperation. EAMT aims to reduce the number of admitted doctoral students by approximately 30%, maintaining 3 defences of doctoral projects each year at the expense of increased efficiency. In terms of internationalisation, our aim is to have all doctoral students spend at least 3 months each academic year studying abroad or participating in a major international cooperation project.
3. EAMT will continue to develop existing doctoral programmes on the basis of international trends in doctoral studies in creative fields, collaboration with other universities in Estonia and feedback given by doctoral students. The “Musicology” curriculum makes it possible to accept candidates with a Master’s degree in pedagogy, on the condition that the presented topic of research focuses on music and relates to the general research directions at EAMT.

II Raising graduation rates

4. Under the management of the joint heads of the Doctoral Council, EAMT will continue organising preparatory courses (introductory seminars) for candidates of doctoral studies, in order to improve the quality of doctoral projects (including creative projects).
5. The Doctoral Council admits up to 5 doctoral students each year with right creative and scientific prerequisites, whose doctoral projects (including creative projects) are sufficiently worked out and realistic. Candidates with the right prerequisites whose projects have not been sufficiently worked out, are invited to re-apply the following year. One of the criteria in assessing foreign doctoral students is their ability to participate in conventional courses and lectures in Estonia.
6. The progress review procedure will be supplemented by a requirement that doctoral students present a detailed draft of their doctoral thesis or creative-scientific doctoral project at the end of the first academic year, as well as a work plan for the following years. The draft and work plan will be approved by the decision of the Doctoral Council and their subsequent fulfilment will be assessed at subsequent progress reviews. Significant modifications to the research topic or the content of the creative project shall also be confirmed by the decision of the Doctoral Council.

7. The progress review procedure will be supplemented by a requirement that doctoral students present an excerpt from their doctoral thesis in the approximate volume of one research article at the end of the second academic year, which will be discussed at the doctoral seminar in the presence of the supervisor and presented to the Progress Review Committee. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a negative outcome from the review.
8. In the spring semester of each academic year, the Doctoral Council will organise a public conference, where third-year doctoral students in the curriculum of “Musicology and Dramatic Art” must deliver a presentation on their topic of research, giving an overview of the progress of the work. Each presentation is followed by a discussion. Participation at the conference is mandatory for all doctoral students in the curriculum and is vital for the successful completion of the subject DOK060 “Doctoral Seminars” and passing the progress review.
9. Doctoral students in the “Musicology” curriculum will have to make a mandatory presentation at a specialist international scientific conference by the end of the third year, at the latest.
10. EAMT specifies the conditions and procedures for conducting or graduating from doctoral studies as an external student by linking the right of conducting external studies with the obligation to submit regular reports (similar to the progress review procedure of matriculated doctoral students).
11. EAMT shall pay a doctoral grant or scholarship to all full-time doctoral students matriculated since 2013 and support research and creative projects from its budget for research.

III Cooperation in Estonia and international cooperation

12. EAMT will continue to participate in the Graduate School of Culture Studies and Arts and is making efforts for the continuation of such cooperation after the completion of this project.
13. EAMT participates in ventures initiated by the Council of Rectors for the development of doctoral studies in Estonia and follows the provisions of the Quality Agreement in its activities.
14. In collaboration with the Estonian Academy of Arts, the subject “Research Methods in Artistic Disciplines” will be developed and included as mandatory in the curriculum of “Musicology and Dramatic Art”. Professor Kristel Pappel will manage the development of the subject on the EAMT side and organise cooperation with the Estonian Academy of Arts.
15. EAMT negotiates with Tallinn University to make their courses in academic writing and scientific language accessible to the doctoral students at EAMT. The respective subjects (for Estonian as well as foreign doctoral students) will be included as mandatory in the curriculum of doctoral studies at the EAMT.
16. EAMT is actively involved in the activities of doctoral platforms established by the international organisations AEC and ELIA and sends its representatives to their conferences and seminars.
17. EAMT supports the training of its doctoral students abroad and their participation in international projects. The existence of the student’s international activity is assessed at the progress review.

IV Improving the quality of supervision

18. At the admission of doctoral students the Doctoral Council will make sure that all doctoral students will have competent supervision. If necessary, EAMT will invite a professor from another

university or a top specialist from outside EAMT as a co-supervisor.

19. At the admission of doctoral students, the EAMT pays more attention than before to the relevance of the candidate's research project to existing and planned research directions and topics at EAMT, so that the doctoral student would be able to join a research group. Such broad research topics are also formed in the field of creative research, keeping in mind the needs of the doctoral students in the curriculum of "Musicology and Dramatic Art".

20. EAMT mediates information to its teaching and research staff on supervisory trainings and seminars organised by other Estonian universities, the Council of Rectors, AEC and ELIA, and supports the participation of its staff in these events.

21. In 2014, EAMT in collaboration with the University of Arts Helsinki shall organise a joint doctoral seminar with exchange on best practices in the supervision of doctoral students in musicology and dramatic art as one of its objectives.

22. EAMT motivates successful supervisors of doctoral projects with incentive compensation and takes into account the effectiveness of supervision in the selection and review of their teaching and research staff.

23. In organising supervision and doctoral studies in general, EAMT takes into account feedback received from doctoral students. The next feedback survey and the analysis of its results will be carried out during the spring semester of 2014.

V Implementation of the development plan

24. The implementation of this development plan is managed by the joint heads of the Doctoral Council, who shall report to the EAMT Council on the execution and the development of doctoral studies once every academic year (in the autumn semester of 2014 and autumn semester of 2015). The Council may make amendments to this development plan, if necessary.