



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Vilniaus dailės akademijos (Vilniaus fakulteto)  
**STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS „TEKSTILĖ“** (*valstybinis kodas - 621W10004*)  
**VERTINIMO IŠVADOS**

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**EVALUATION REPORT**  
**OF "TEXTILE"** (*state code - 621W10004*)  
**STUDY PROGRAMME**  
at Vilnius Art Academy (Vilnius Faculty)

**Review' team:**

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2. **Prof. Radu Andrei Pulbere** , *academic,*
3. **Prof. Lylian Meister**, *academic,*
4. **Mr Jeffrey Dennis**, *academic,*
5. **Prof. Jelka Geršak**, *academic,*
6. **Assoc. Prof. Dr Rimantas Plungė**, *academic,*
7. **Ms Aneta Bačiasnkaitė**, *students' representative.*

**Evaluation coordinator -**

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Išvados parengtos anglų kalba  
Report language – English

## DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<b>Tekstilė</b>
Valstybinis kodas	621W10004
Studijų sritis	Menai
Studijų kryptis	Dailė
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	Antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinės, 2 metai
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120 ECTS
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Dailės magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	2002 birželio 14 d., Įsak. Nr. 1093, naujas kodas 2010 07 01

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## INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<b>Textile</b>
State code	621W10004
Study area	Art
Study field	Fine Arts
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	Second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (2 years)
Volume of the study programme in credits	120 ECTS
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Fine Arts
Date of registration of the study programme	2002 June 14. Order No. 1093, new code 2010 07 01

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### ***1.1. Background of the evaluation process***

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: 1) *self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter – HEI)*; 2) *visit of the review team at the higher education institution*; 3) *production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication*; 4) *follow-up activities*.

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good” (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme is **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as "unsatisfactory" (1 point).

### ***1.2. General***

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. Along with the self-evaluation report and annexes, the following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit:

No.	Name of the document
1.	• Strategic Plan
2.	• Diploma Supplement
3.	• Student Handbook
4.	• Organizational Charter
5.	• Minutes of the Study Programme Committee
6.	• Licence and Master Thesis

### ***1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/ Additional information***

Vilnius Academy of Arts (hereinafter – Academy, VAA) is a state institution of higher education of arts organising university first-cycle, master's, special vocational, integrated, third-cycle, doctoral studies, performing research and developing high-level professional artistic activities. The Academy was established by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania and is an autonomous institution carrying out independent academic, administrative, economic and financial management activities based on the principle of self-government, academic freedom, and defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Higher Education and the Statute of the Academy.

The Academy consists of the following structural departments: the Council of VAA, the Rector's Office, the Senate of the Academy (Senate), Faculty of Postgraduate Studies (FPS), Vilnius, Kaunas, Telšiai, Klaipėda Faculties, science and arts departments, administrative units, internship and recreational bases, cultural and sports centres, Open School of Arts, Design and Architecture (OSADA) of VAA, Design Innovation Centre, etc.

Vilnius Faculty is an integral structural part of Vilnius Academy of Arts, thus it uses the Academy's facilities and methodological resources on equal terms with other structural departments. The Vilnius Faculty implements university study programmes in arts: bachelor's and master's.

Previous International accreditation carried out in 2008 and 2011 awarded the Textile MA Programme with 6 years accreditation. The requirements and recommendations of previous visit were taken into account and improvements are visible.

SER claimed that MA Textile study programme also corresponds to the priorities of the State, which define that culture and creativity are the most important resources of Lithuania.

The visit to the Academy and Faculty involved meetings with the following groups:

1. Senior Management
2. SER preparatory team
3. Teaching team
4. Students
5. Graduates group.
6. Employers group

Site visits to the physical resources were conducted during the course of the day and the works and final works of the students were seen.

All the people involved in the accreditation process were very co-operative and engaged fully in the process. The Review Team were provided with a professional and hospitable welcome. The Review Team tried to encourage an open discussion with all concerned, the level of involvement by those they encountered during the visit greatly enhanced the efficiency of the work that was carried out.

The structure, contents and general competency of the Self Evaluation Report was much improved both in respect to the requirements for producing such documents and compared previous ones 2008 and 2011.

#### **1.4. The Review Team**

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No. V-41 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on 27/April/2017.

1. **Robert Baker (team leader)**, Limerick School of Art & Design, Head of Fine Art Ireland. (until 2009) Chair of the Board, EQ-Arts Quality Enhancement Agency, Amsterdam
2. **Prof. Radu Andrei Pulbere**, PhD. Professor in University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, Coordinator of the Master specialization in Textile Design UAD Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
3. **Prof. Lylian Meister**, Freelance artist and designer, Board member of Tori, Jaam MTÜ (Non-profit organization), Estonia.
4. **Jeffrey Dennis**, Senior Lecturer (0.5) Fine Art Programme, Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London, United Kingdom.
5. **Prof. Jelka Geršak**, Professor at University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Textile Materials and Design, Slovenia.
6. **Prof. Rimantas Plungė** The Head of Contemporary Art Department Faculty of Arts at Vytautas Magnus university, Lithuania.
7. **Aneta Bačianskaitė**, student of the Šiauliai University study programme *Applied art and business, Lithuania*.

## II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

### 2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme aims and learning outcomes are defined and publicly accessible through the Academy's website [http://vda.lt/en/study\\_programs/undergraduate-ma/textile](http://vda.lt/en/study_programs/undergraduate-ma/textile), social networks and through the materials published by the Academy, providing information to those who intend to study according to the study programme Textile MA. During the site visit the importance and content of the Textile MA programme was well defined by Senior Administration, the team responsible for the Self Evaluation Report (SER), the teaching staff, the students as well as stakeholders, employers and graduates during the site visit in April 2017. Everybody gave emphasis to the strength of its professional contemporary artist training character in Lithuania and in general. Still continuous thought is needed to define and re-define the purpose and unique qualities of the programme and to continuously consider the role of the programme as the definition 'Textile' MA is the programme's biggest marketing tool. Programme aims and the aspirations of the programme (which are also evidenced in the graduate achievements) are confidently set out in the introduction to the wallet of postcards of student work 'Textile Thinking'. This provides a much clearer and more concise definition than the SER where some of the same mission statement is repeated but slightly buried in detailed explanations.

**The objectives of the Textile MA programme comply with the requirements of the higher education of the European Union and the Republic of Lithuania.** The learning outcomes of the programme are compliant with the requirements prescribed for the second – Master – study cycle. The defined objectives of the study programme are directly related and brought into line with the content of the principal parts as defined by the study programme, and the requirements for MA studies. The learning outcomes also correspond to the European and national qualifications frameworks (7 qualification level). The 2-year Textile MA study programme has been developed having regard to the objectives of the Bologna Declaration. The development and improvement of the Textile MA programme takes into account the present situation of Lithuania's exhibition sector but corresponds as well to the international textile scene (ArcInTex). Programme objectives are formulated to emphasise "textile thinking" as a concept of textile that is a wide field of culture, art, craft and design. The study programme Textile MA is in line with the state's priorities where it is specified that culture and creativity are the most important resources of Lithuania. Communication with society and cooperation with the social partners are an important part of Textile MA studies. The shift towards the re-invention of tradition through contemporary textile art is well appreciated and is to be further encouraged. The graduates successfully participate in local and international projects, competitions, work in enterprises and as freelance artists. Graduates participate in

competitions/contests, win educational and individual grants from the Lithuanian Council for Culture<sup>1</sup> and/or successfully join activities in other cultural areas such as theatrical artists, organisers of cultural events and executives. The graduates organise private art businesses, engage in individual creative practice, work as teachers in higher education institutions and other education establishments, as officers or experts in museums and art galleries, and researchers of contemporary artistic textile developments. Demand for fine artists is reflected in the programme for developing creative society approved by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (Resolution No XI-977 of 30 June 2010 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on Approval of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development). The aims of the study programme are closely linked to the demand for experts in this field in the EU and Lithuanian markets.<sup>2</sup>

**Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes correspond to the mission, operational objectives and strategy of the higher education school.**<sup>3</sup>The study programme Textile BA is related to the mission and the development strategy of VAA provided for in the documents of academy (The Statute, the Studies Regulation and others). Studies are organized following the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania currently in effect (Law on Higher Education and Research, The Description of Study Cycles, The Description of the Structure of Lithuania's Qualifications Framework etc.). The ECTS national conception: harmonization of credits and creation and implementation of methods of study programme is based on learning outcomes (AIMS <http://www.ects.cr.vu.lt>). Most of programme Textile MA documentation, regulation and development strategy is coming centrally from the university. It was evident that there are initiatives started by Textile Department and this must be very gratifying for the programme team to know that many of the things initiated in the department are now spread across the academy and embedded in the academy as a whole. This clearly shows there is also the chance for department to think about their own way of development and that good practice of a smaller unit can be introduced and implemented generally in the academy.

**Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes are linked on academic and/or professional requirements.** The Master's students acquire the skills and the abilities during lectures, practice sessions, creative seminars, individual consultations, individual creative and research artistic work, by mastering the latest and/or alternative technology for textiles, experimenting, analysing the professional literature, participating in exhibitions, competitions, pursuing the profession, etc. The VAA's Textile MA programme fosters a coherent development of

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<sup>1</sup> In 2016, individual grant for the artist in the field of fine arts was awarded to graduate J. Škulienė; in 2017 - to D. Gudačiauskaitė in the field of design.

<sup>2</sup> SER page 8

<sup>3</sup> SER page 9<sup>3</sup> Resolution No. XI-977 of 30 June 2010 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania On the Approval of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development and Resolution No. XI-2015 of 15 May 2012 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania On the Approval of the National Progress Strategy Lithuania 2030.

cultural and technological skills, critical thinking, awareness and autonomy of students in choosing artistic textile contexts for their self-expression. Programme follows the principle that contemporary textile art is a meeting point for applied and visual arts. The relationship between traditional and contemporary practices is of great benefit and a sensible approach.

**Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes correspond to the type and cycle of studies and the level of qualifications.** Textile MA programme is organised in accordance with the national legislation, Descriptor of Study Cycles, and the Descriptor of the Study Field of Art.<sup>4</sup> Textile MA programme is designed for the training of professional textile artists during the first-cycle university studies. The general descriptors from the national standards, Dublin Descriptors and Tuning Documents<sup>5</sup> could be more closely related to the specialisation with confidence and clarity to enhance the depth of understanding of the aims and purposes of the programme and its content both as an educational, management and marketing tool.

There is good compatibility between the title of the programme, the learning outcomes, content and the qualification that is offered. The aim of Textile MA study programme is to train multidisciplinary contemporary textile artists. Therefore, the title ‘Textile Art MA’ could be considered, but as the programme emphasis is on the wide field of textile culture its name “Textile MA” is also relevant.

## ***2.2. Curriculum design***

It was evident during the site visit and based on the experience of the Accreditation Team that the Textile Masters Programme followed the standard and best practice of similar art & design MA programmes in Europe.<sup>6</sup> The Textile Master’s degree programme studies are carried out on the basis of individual study plans. Each student can choose and define for himself/herself the topic of the studies. The contents of mandatory subjects of the study field structure the research of the topic, creative development and implementation, and initiate participation of the students in artistic activities engaging them in various projects, help the students to merge into a wider local and international cultural context. The students are encouraged to be active participants of, and contributors to, their own study process, programme and personal development, while the programme and participants of the study process (the institution, lecturers of the department) are their allies.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Descriptor of the Study Field of Art APPROVED by Order No V-927 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 27 August 2015

<sup>5</sup> [eacea.ec.europa.eu/LLP/project\\_reports/documents/](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/LLP/project_reports/documents/)

<sup>6</sup> IBID 5

<sup>7</sup> SER page 16

**The programme structure is in line with the legislative requirements.** Master's studies in the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies of the VAA are being implemented since 1995. Studies in the faculty are organised in accordance with the applicable legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania (Law on Higher Education and Research, Law Amending the Law on Higher Education and Research No. XI-242 (No. XII-2534, 29 June 2016)<sup>8</sup>, Description of the General Requirements for Master's Study Programmes, and the Consolidated Version valid since 09.07.2015<sup>9</sup>, Study Level Description<sup>10</sup>, *Description of Lithuanian Qualifications Framework* and its Version valid since 31.08.2011<sup>11</sup>, etc.), VAA documents (the Statute, the Study Regulations<sup>12</sup>, etc.), and the Description of the Fine Arts Study Field, and the Description of the Second-Cycle (Master) Thesis laying down possible forms of art research and its volume within the scope of the final paper work workloads scope in the Studies According to the Accreditation Teams' best knowledge and understanding provided by SKCV and the SER, the programme structure complies with national legal acts and regulations. The compliance with the Bologna process and the establishment to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is commended.

**Subjects of study (modules) are taught in a consistent manner, subjects or topics are not repeated.** The length of the programme is two years of full-time studies, 120 ECTS credits. The study programme is based on the correlation of the study subjects and is made up of separate but interrelated subjects. The number of subjects studied over a semester does not exceed five. The scope of every subject is at least three credits. Studies of every subject within the programme end with a differential evaluation of knowledge and skills based on a 10-point grading scale by way of examinations or presentation of creative projects at an exhibition, as well as presentation of the final project, discussion of the projects and general discussions.<sup>13</sup>

Part of the programme	Credits indicated in the study plan (ECTS)	Credits corresponding to the requirements of the legislation (ECTS)
Part I. Mandatory subjects of the study field	63	> 60
Part II. Optional theoretical subjects and subjects of the study field	18	< 30
Part III. Preparation of the final thesis and project	39	> 30
The number of credits that are being studied and examined for over a single semester	30	> 30

<sup>8</sup> Approved by Resolution No. XI-242 of 30 April 2009 of the Seimas.

<sup>9</sup> Approved by Order No. V-826 of 3 June 2010 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 67-3375).

<sup>10</sup> Approved by Order No. V-2212 of 21 November 2011 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 143-6721).

<sup>11</sup> Approved by Resolution No. 353 of 4 May 2010 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 56-2761).

<sup>12</sup> Approved by Resolution No. S-1 of 16 January 2013 of the Senate. Internet link: <http://www.vda.lt/index.php/pageid/586>

<sup>13</sup> SER page 14

Scope of the programme in credits, total:	120	120
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The total amount of the subjects during a semester is not more than 30 ECTS. Studies of each subject are assessed using a 10-point grading scale. Lectures, exercises in class and self-study hours take on average 8 hours a day and 40 hours per week. The ratio of contact and independent work hours in the Textile MA programme structure complies with the principles of the Studies.

In the Republic of Lithuania, the content of university studies of the study field of fine art is defined in accordance with: Order No. V-2212 of 21 November 2011 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania *on the Approval of the Descriptor of Study Cycles*; Descriptor of the Study Field of Art; Integrated Development Strategy of VAA for 2012–2020; Statute of VAA (approved by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, 23 June 2011, No. XI-1536); Study Regulations of VAA (2013-01-16).

**The content of the subjects as well the modules is consistent with the type and level of the university studies on MA (second cycle) level.** The mandatory study field subjects – the Final Work of Research Paper (1, 2, 3, 4) and the Final Work of Art Project (1,2,3), Creative Workshops and the Final Master Thesis comprise the most important part of the research- and practice-based Master’s studies and is carried out throughout the period of the studies.<sup>14</sup>

**The content of subjects (modules) and study methods enable to achieve the intended learning outcomes.** The content and methods of the subjects are appropriate for the achievement of the learning outcomes and are formed on the basis of the aims of the programme and learning outcomes. The subjects in the programme are arranged consistently and are logically interrelated. Sequence and arrangement of the study subjects in I - IV semesters are based on the order of complexity of the aims of the subjects and the learning outcomes.

**The scope of the programme is sufficient to achieve the learning outcomes.** The design and breadth of study opportunity that the programme provides creates a student-centred learning<sup>15</sup> and achieves the standard of artistic and personal development appropriate to the level and type of the programme development.

**The content of the programme corresponds to the latest academic, artistic or technological achievements.** The content of studies is reviewed and updated annually on the basis of pedagogical and creative experience of the teachers, comments of the social partners and data of the students’ surveys. As always in areas of rapid international development, there remains a need to devote constant attention to the subjects that impart knowledge of the latest technologies and materials. As well business, marketing, self-marketing and management skills are essential. Selling

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<sup>14</sup> SER page 16

<sup>15</sup> ESG page 25 (European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area 2015)

what you make, presentation skills, self-management skills all need to be integrated into the programme not only as an additional subject. The creative development of programme content will be a continuous requirement. Research should be done about the possibility of developing an incubation centre to develop intellectual property, product knowledge and innovation to add more value to the work of the students, researchers and professors. This may also provide a source of financial income for the department.

### ***2.3. Teaching staff***

**The study programme is provided by the staff meeting legal requirements.** The teaching staff implementing the study Programme is compiled according to Description of General Requirements for The Degree-awarding Second-cycle and Integrated Study Programmes approved by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, the Description of Qualification Requirements for the Positions of Teaching Scientists and Artists and the Procedure of Organising the Certification and Competitions to Hold the Positions as well as the Procedure of Awarding Pedagogical Titles at VAA. The academic staff is hired through open competition.

**The qualifications of the teaching staff are adequate to ensure learning outcomes.** The teaching staff has significant experience in creative and organisational work. Out of 26 teachers of all study courses, 58 % of teachers are degree holding scientists and 42% of them are established artists, of which 18 % hold doctoral degrees. Research areas and/or artistic activities of the teachers are 100 % aligned with the subjects they deliver. 38.3 % of study field subjects are delivered by professors. All artists teaching mandatory subjects have adequate professional experience (more than 3 years of employment).<sup>16 17</sup>

The Accreditation Team perceived the individual creative experience, sociability, and tolerance towards different opinions of the Teaching Staff that they met during the Site Visit. Competence and practical professional activities are assessed during the certification procedures. During the site visit teaching staff for the Textile MA programme came across as very devoted and committed towards teaching and learning, bringing their own good contemporary textile art and design practice into the programme. There is a clear understanding of the structure of the department which works like a community in a collective as well as in a diverse but complimentary mode. In order to keep up with contemporary trends and technologies there are workshops of international visiting artists every year. Students valued highly the personal approach between students and teachers, friendly and supportive atmosphere in textile department.

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<sup>16</sup> SER page 19

<sup>17</sup> Teaching Staff CV's

**The number of the teaching staff is adequate to ensure learning outcomes.** According to the SER<sup>18</sup> the Master's programme has available 26 permanent lecturers of the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies of VAA. Six of them are Textile MA programme tutors. Three staff members are professors, five are associate professors, three are consultants. Two staff members supervise the theoretical component of the final MA thesis both associate professors. In addition visiting lecturers are hired (in recent years, there were 25 visiting lecturers). This corresponds to the general requirements for study programmes<sup>19</sup>, according to which at least half of the scope of the study field subjects must be taught by established artists or scientists.

**Teaching staff turnover is able to ensure an adequate provision of the programme.** The turnover of the teaching staff is related to the knowledge and experience required for the enhancement of the study programme, and recognises the level of structured posts required at MA level and generational considerations. Since the previous Accreditation (2011), a professor has retired and associate professor departed in 2016. As a result of changes in the content of the programme a doctoral holder was invited to join the teaching staff and was conferred the title of associate professor. Three other teachers to whom the title of associate professors was conferred joined the MA programme teaching staff. One teacher was approved for professor's title and doctoral titles were awarded to two teachers.<sup>20</sup>

There is good age diversity among the teachers of the programme ranging from young, actively creating VAA PhD students with professional artistic experience to teachers with 40 years teaching and artistic experience.

Specialised optional courses or lectures are also given by visiting lecturers from Lithuania and abroad who are either independent artists or social partners. In addition to realise the updated learning outcomes, cooperation with residents of the Nida Art Colony of VAA was initiated, creative workshops with foreign specialists are organised at the Colony. Theoretical Seminars and Critical Meetings have been held since 2013 where students' works are presented and discussed with peers from other MA specialisations and visiting staff. For example, between 2013 and 2016 the following artists and curators have been invited to provide specialised expertise:- Ian Damerell (NO), Helena Reckitt (UK), Maria Arusoo (EE), Mikkel Bogh (DK), Rune Søchting (DK), Anders Kold (DK), Jacob Fabricius (DK), Thomas Locher (DK), Günter Selichar (AT), Claire Bishop (UK), Svajonė ir Paulius Stanikai (LT, FR), Per Aage Brandt (FR), Jørgen Michaelsen (DK), Brandon LaBelle (NO), Jan Bäcklund (DK), Dr. Mikkel Bogh (DK), Dr. Jacob Wamberg, (DK),

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<sup>18</sup> SER page 19

<sup>19</sup> The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania *On the General Requirements for the Study Programmes* (No. ISAK-1551).

<sup>20</sup> IBID 19

Anders Kold (LOUSIANA curator), Heli Rekula (FI), Mike Bode (FI), Dag Erik Elgen (NO), Sanne Kofod Olsen (DK).<sup>21</sup>

*The higher education school shall ensure (offer) conditions for professional (subject-matter, pedagogical, personal) upgrading of staff necessary to implement the programme.* The teachers provided the information<sup>22</sup> that the scope of professional development first of all depends on the teacher's personal motivation. The most common ways of professional development are: exhibitions, conferences, professional traineeship, courses and training organised by VAA (including licenses of Lynda.com and activities of the Lecturers' Club within the Educational Art Centre established in 2016). This provides opportunities for teaching staff to expand their knowledge and improve their competences. A strong feature of this programme and department over many years has been their participation in, and active use of ERASMUS international mobility grants. Between 2012 and 2016 seven staff members, some individuals several times, have travelled to various European universities and established strong links and collaborative enterprises and projects.

The Universities visited are-<sup>23</sup>

Universities, Country
Art Academy of Latvia (LV)
Aalto University (FI), Chalmers Gothenburg (SE), TUE Eindhoven (NL), Nottingham Trent University (UK)
University of Art & Design BTK (DE), Royal College of Art (UK), University of Borås, (SE)
University of Borås, (SE)
Estonian Academy of Arts (EE)
Strzeminski Academy of Art Lodz (PL)
Ausstellungsraum.at. (AT)
International education fairs in Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Muscat (OM), International Saint Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design (RU)
University of Borås, (SE)
Royal College of Art (UK)
University of Zagreb, University of Rijeka, Academy of Applied Arts (CR)
Estonian Academy of Arts (EE)
Esba TALM (FR)
Strzeminski Academy of Art Lodz (PL)

**The teaching staff are actively involved in research and practise related to the study programme and there is evidence of strong participation in various local and international**

<sup>21</sup> IBID 18

<sup>22</sup> Notes, Meeting with Teachers 27 April 2017: 12h.30-13h.30

<sup>23</sup> SER page 21, Table 5

**exhibitions and other events.** The staff of the Textile MA study programme are very active and their strength of activity has produced have significant results.

#### ***2.4. Facilities and learning resources***

**The premises for studies are adequate both in their size and quality.** Facilities and generally physical resources including studios, laboratories, workshops and the library were found to be of a very good standard. The facilities of Textile programme correspond to the needs of students. The premises are equipped with good lighting, heating and ventilation systems, wireless Internet connections. There are separate classrooms for each year group. Each student has his/her individual workstation. Students can use a shared Art and Design Laboratory with priority access to the Textile Lab section and a classroom for visual expression of the Textile Department, and two multifunctional classrooms for theoretical classes. Workshops across the Academy departments and equipment are open to all disciplines and available for all students and this is to be commended. The students can work in laboratories after they have completed a course on workplace safety requirements and having become acquainted with laboratory equipment. Through cooperation with various exhibition galleries, schools of higher education and other social partners, Textile Department of VAA has the opportunity to exhibit its works of art in various spaces and exhibition halls. The engagement of Textile MA students across all the academies facilities and labs is very good practice and the open attitude to the use of media and materials by textile students is enlightened. Students may use all premises of the Textile Department on a flexible hours basis having informed staff of their intention to do so.

**The teaching and learning equipment (laboratory and computer equipment, consumables) are adequate both in size and quality.** All premises used for the Textile MA programme are adequate in both size and quality and arranged in a convenient manner. Computer classes are organised in the classroom sufficiently equipped for the purpose. Lectures are also held in specialised classrooms open to all Academy students. VAA has an interdisciplinary Art and Design Laboratory that is well equipped. For specialised practical assignments there is a Textile Lab with rooms for dyeing, weaving, sewing and knitting, fully equipped with machinery. During the site visit the Accreditation Team were informed that there are continuous improvements in the agenda. Some of the equipment available in the classrooms of the Textile Department is updated every year as needed within the limits of available financial resources. Students acknowledged that every year there is some new machinery and technology arriving. The Textile Department provides materials for the study process, but other materials necessary for creative projects and assignments are purchased by the students.

**The higher education institution has adequate arrangements for students' practice.** To meet the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, traineeships (practice) and creative workshops are organised not only in the regular premises of the VAA: classrooms, laboratories and studios etc. To expand the opportunities student practice, the following infrastructure of VAA plays an important role: creative workshop/practice bases in Mizarai Village (Druskininkai district) and Nida Art Colony reconstructed in 2011-2015 (construction covering 2570 m<sup>2</sup>, E.A. Jonušo str. 3, Nida). This contemporary art and education centre provides international art residency programmes all year round (5 studies) and has a reading room supplied with the latest international contemporary art periodicals and a thematic collection of books (<http://www.nidacolony.lt/lt/mediateka>). There are newly equipped digital audio-visual laboratories, wood and metal workshops (100 m<sup>2</sup>) equipped with a graphic machine, laser engraving machine, etc. The Nida Art Colony has a universal black/white project space covering 190 m<sup>2</sup>, conference hall for 80 people, two areas for seminars equipped with conference facilities (70 m<sup>2</sup> each), several large kitchens (dining rooms) for visitors. Also, one more workshop/practice base was opened in 2014 in the picturesque village of Pilis, Jurbarkas region (in Panemunė Castle).<sup>24</sup>

The Textile department of VAA organises practice also in various textile undertakings and plants using their industrial potential: digital jacquard technique at AB Audėjas (using EAT Designscope Jacquard software and PIKANOS jacquard loom), pigment dyeing of fabrics at AB Linas (using the screen printing technique), etc.

**Teaching materials are adequate and accessible.** The teachers and students of Textile Department often use the library of methodology room 302, which has a collection of more than 900 publications for the studies. The publications of the methodological library have been accumulated by the entire staff of the department. Publications are acquired using the department's funds, received from other Lithuanian and foreign schools of higher education, social partners, private individuals and organisations (through charity).

The VAA central library consists of 81 257 pieces of publications: as of 16 December 2016, information database compiled by the library (e-catalogue) contained 60,457 bibliographic entries and 61,942 publications. The Tamošaitis collection has an inventory of 3,390 publications. A database of electronic theses and dissertations of academic institutions (eLABa ETD) contains 639 bibliographic entries of VAA.

Students have access to the e-catalogues of the library and free Internet (<http://www.library.lt/> and [https://aleph.library.lt/F?func=find-b-0&local\\_base=vda01](https://aleph.library.lt/F?func=find-b-0&local_base=vda01)). These catalogues are part of the Lithuanian academic e-library (eLABa) information system which also contains publications from the libraries of other Lithuanian higher education institutions.

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<sup>24</sup> SER page 23

The VAA library subscribes to 19 academic e-databases: EBSCO Publishing (package of 12 dbases), Emerald Management eJournals Collection, LITLEX, Springer LINK E-Books, Taylor & Francis, e-books of VGTU publishing house Technika, and Naxos Music Library. At the beginning of 2017, licence agreements will be signed for a five-year period to access the following dbases: Grove Art Online, JSTOR, Princeton Index of Christian Art, Berg Fashion Library.

The VAA library provides opportunities to students and community members to securely link to databases using the *EzProxy* tool. Students are also encouraged to use the opportunity provided by the National Martynas Mažvydas Library to all registered users to access more than 60 licensed databases subscribed by this library. The library offers interlibrary subscription and international interlibrary subscription network services to ensure studies or scientific/artistic research processes for the users. Materials from the methodological library of the Textile Department are important in ensuring the quality of studies. It contains descriptions of practical work of previous students, methodological materials prepared by the teaching staff, the most successful practical work of the students (course papers, final theses/projects and exhibition works). A major part of the methodological library is stored in digital media in the premises of the staff of Textile Department. These methodological materials are necessary for the study process and analysis of the quality of students and they can be used by both teachers and students.

### ***2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment***

Admission competitions to enter MA studies of VAA are prepared annually, and take into account the general regulations of admission of students to the schools of higher education approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. The numbers of students to be admitted as well as the quantity of finances are defined by the Government<sup>25</sup>.

The Textile MA study programme offered by VAA does not overlap with other programmes in VAA or programmes offered by other higher schools. Applicants who completed university first-cycle study programmes in the same or similar (as prescribed by the Admission Commission of the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies) study field are admitted to the Textiles MA studies; otherwise, additional studies are recommended. Admissions are managed by the special commission of the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies approved by the Rector. It is composed of 1–2 lecturers from each department of VAA involved in MA studies in the relevant field of study. The most motivated applicants with the most comprehensive portfolios are admitted to the studies by joint a decision of the commission.

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<sup>25</sup> Descriptor of the General Admission to First-cycle and Integrated Studies of Lithuanian Schools of Higher Education of 16 May 2016.

An interview of the applicant with the admission commission is one of the main criteria. It is a dialogue of professionals, during which the arguments of the applicant and their ability to formulate answers demonstrating the level and applicability of the acquired knowledge become clear. It is interesting and commendable to note that students from study fields other than textiles apply and are successful in gaining MA degrees, if required, by the addition of bridging studies. During the period 2011-2012, an average of three students has been admitted to the MA study programme every year and an average of three students have defended their final theses/projects every year.

**The organisation and structure of the study process in Textile MA programme ensures an adequate provision of the programme and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.** The organisation and structure of the study process in Textile MA programme is of a high-quality employing modern educational practices. The methodologies employed include explaining study-related matters during individual and group consultations and the possibility for students to make presentations and have consultations in an international context. Studies are based on individual study plans, offer favourable schedule and the possibility to participate in international academic exchanges. The academy offers scholarships for good results and the possibility to apply for state-funded positions. A strength of the programme is its ability to offer students the possibility to participate in local and international projects, exhibitions, contests, conferences as well as projects that involve social partners, and participation in creative workshops with well-known foreign specialists. The programme provides the opportunity for students to use the considerable material and intellectual resources of VAA in order to achieve the intended learning outcomes. MA students are encouraged to develop entrepreneurial skills by cooperating with social partners ensuring better employment possibilities after graduation. The MA programme provides an inclusive learning environment where students can contribute to the improvement of the study programme and ask for and receive a large quantity, and high quality, feedback<sup>26</sup>.

**Students are encouraged to take part in scientific, artistic or applied science activities.** Information about the exhibitions, projects, competitions and creative workshops is available. The students have the possibility to take part in projects together with the social partners. There is the possibility for students to participate in Lithuanian and international exhibitions. VAA has a gallery Artifex where students can have their solo or group exhibitions. Some of students' projects have received international recognition through competitions and this is to be commended. The current students of the Textile MA programme are very enthusiastic and highly motivated.

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<sup>26</sup> On the initiative of the Textile programme, continuing exhibitions cycle Returns is held at Artifex gallery on an annual basis. The main objective is to invite Textile alumni to meet together and participate in the exhibition thus strengthening the community of Textile students, teachers and alumni. For example, a large number of alumni from Lithuania and foreign countries attended the meeting in 2013-2015 (13 from Lithuania, 2 from France and the USA, and 1 each from Ireland, the Netherlands and Turkey).

**Students are provided conditions to take part in mobility programmes.** It is noticeable that many students have participated or wish to participate in the Erasmus mobility scheme. There are 162 Erasmus+ bilateral agreements and other bilateral agreements with schools abroad. Exchanges with as many countries as possible are recommended by the department. Mobility is essential and it will open up new directions as well as potential for the development of the programme to acquire, even further, an international character and outlook.

**The higher education institution ensures proper academic and social support.** Information about the study programme is available online at ([www.vda.lt](http://www.vda.lt)) and on social networks (Textile Department VAA: [www.facebook.com/tekstile.vda/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/tekstile.vda/?fref=ts)). The information provided includes programme content. The evaluation process of subjects, optional subjects, schedules and schedule changes, consultation times with lecturers, as well as information about public lectures and seminars, creative workshops, exhibitions and competitions (in Lithuania and abroad), possibilities to study in foreign universities, etc. This information is also published on the notice-board, presented during regular meetings with students and during events organised in the Faculty.

Since 2016 a Programme for the Promotion of Mental Health in VAA has been established. If students require qualified psychological help, then they are advised to contact psychological support institutions in Vilnius city. In the case of general health problems, the students can contact the physician assigned to them at the primary health care centre. VAA has its own sports centre where students have the opportunity to participate in physical activities free of charge. The students of VAA receive discounts on museum, exhibition, transportation fees. Students who are not Vilnius residents may choose hostel accommodations located in the Old Town of Vilnius. Students are entitled to social and incentive scholarships as well as one-time social scholarship.

**The system of assessing student achievements is clear, public and appropriate to assess the learning outcomes.** A cumulative assessment system is used to assess students' knowledge and abilities in the mandatory subjects<sup>27</sup> of the programme, assessments are undertaken at interim stages (presentations/reports and artworks portfolios are prepared and presented) and during final reviews (art works are designed, created and presented, research papers are presented) in accordance with assessment criteria that correspond to the learning outcomes. The assessment criteria are based on the anticipated learning outcomes and employ the principles of impartiality, objectivity, reasonableness, constructiveness and clarity. Creative tasks completed over a semester are evaluated by a commission of the department's lecturers supervising the MA studies during a seminar organised for the purpose, invited guests and students attend the seminar.<sup>28</sup> The research

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<sup>27</sup> Except for Theoretical Work Methods which is coordinated by the Department of Art History and Theory.

<sup>28</sup> In 2015, the Description of Final MA Work, Research Paper and Art Project crediting procedure was developed and approved by the Textile Department laying down in every detail when, how and what the students have to submit for assessment in the course of each semester (in a seminar) and final review.

paper and reports are presented a week before the seminar to the commission. The final thesis is evaluated by the commission as well as artists, scientists and professional practitioners from other higher schools who are proposed by the Dean of the Faculty and approved by the Rector, and are knowledgeable about the evaluation criteria of the subjects of the specialty studies. The Assessment system is clearly outlined in the SER and is publicly available to students online as well as through printed publications of the Academy.

**Professional activities of the majority of programme graduates correspond to the expectations of programme operators and employers.** During the site-visit there was clear evidence of outstanding and very professional creative work by the students. Employers provided extensive support for the programme outcomes and the abilities and achievements of the graduates. Employers expressed great satisfaction with the professional textile artistic skills of the graduates, but recommended some improvement be provided in the graduates marketing, business and communication skills. The engagement with stakeholders, employers, graduates and social partners and the extended textile family<sup>29</sup> that has been created by Textile Department of VAA is very valuable and supportive and provides an extensive network for recent graduates to avail of. The Accreditation Team recommend that the programme establishes links with international companies in the immediate regions, companies both based nationally and further abroad to garner sponsorship, placement opportunities and further employment opportunities. Data from a survey of graduates conducted in 2016 (13 graduates out of 14 were interviewed representing 93 %) showed that very few graduates are completely out of employment (as few as 7 %). In contrast to BA graduates, where reskilling and shifting to neighbouring areas of employment is frequent, the majority of graduates of the Textile MA programme are employed in speciality-related areas (83 % of the respondents are successfully employed in accordance with their speciality).<sup>30</sup>

**The programme corresponds to the state economic, social and cultural and future development needs.** The design of the study programme follows the principle that contemporary textile art is a meeting point for applied and visual arts. The VAA Master's degree programme in Textiles emphasises the concept of sustainability which is developed throughout various fields and processes of artistic textile practise. The programme was developed and improved with regard to the current situation in Lithuanian textile artistic practices and the concept of 'textile thinking' formulated by the international ArcInTex network of researchers. By "textile thinking", textiles can be understood as a broad field of textile culture, art, craft and design. This concept is fostered within the framework of the MA programme primarily highlighting that "future textile" should reflect the needs of sustainable living and a cohesive society and follow the principles of ecological ethics.

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<sup>29</sup> Graduates employed and/or employing more recent graduates, International contacts, employers and stakeholders, teaching staff, the student body.

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The majority of graduates from the MA study programme in Textile choose to be independent professional artists, use artistic textile as a means of expression and pursue a professional career in the area of textile art and textile design. They actively participate in exhibitions and the activities of art galleries representing Lithuania as contemporary textile artists on an international and national level. While combining individual creative activities with various projects, the graduates participate in competitions/contests, win educational and individual grants from the Lithuanian Council for Culture<sup>31</sup> and/or successfully join activities in other cultural areas as theatrical artists, organisers of cultural events and executives. The graduates organise private art businesses, engage in individual creative practice, work as teachers in higher education institutions and other education establishments, as officers or experts in museums and art galleries, and researchers of contemporary artistic developments.

**Fair learning environment is ensured.** Disabled students are participating in the BA programme at present and as the MA students essentially share the same facilities it is fair to assume that their inclusion in the MA programme would not be a problem. All premises used for the programme of Textile MA are adequate both in size and quality and arranged in a convenient manner. There is a good library and open access to the labs and workshops. There is Moodle open-source learning platform and course management system in use. The ad-hoc adoption of Moodle means that it is not being used to its full potential by students or staff. More systematic use may decrease the need for time-consuming email messages for communicating information to students.

**Students are provided opportunities to make complaints and lodge appeals in accordance with clear, public and transparent procedures.** This was evidenced during the meeting with students of the Textile MA programme<sup>32</sup>, that they all knew about the possibility to complain. The procedure for re-taking subjects and examinations is defined in the Study Regulations of VAA. Student representatives met by the Accreditation Team during the visit reported that they are provided with verbal feedback directly after evaluation and there are sometimes non-formal discussions about the criteria and results.

## ***2.6. Programme management***

**Responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated.** Administration and programme management were found to be well structured. There is a clear management plan and general regulations in the whole Academy, which has a strong vision for the future of the educational experience that it wishes to offer to its students. The establishment of a Faculty of Postgraduate Studies in 2011 is very welcome and provides a

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<sup>31</sup> In 2016, individual grant for the artist in the field of fine arts was awarded to graduate J. Škulienė; in 2017 - to D. Gudačiauskaitė in the field of design.

<sup>32</sup> 27 April 2017, 11h.15-12h.15

distinct framework and methodology to differentiate MA from BA studies within the department structure. The main purpose of the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies<sup>33</sup> is to make the role of artistic and scientific research more important in the study process and to train artists and scientists proficient in research. The faculty is trying to make sure that studies and research across the Institution (VAA) complement each other. The quality of studies and their contents are being improved by using analysis data and the qualification of researchers working in the faculty. The Postgraduate Faculty encourages an inter-disciplinary approach, joint working methods, studies and projects by students and lecturers of different specialties working together. The Textile MA programme has good leadership and which is well supported by VAA, graduates, social and professional partners. The Head and the Coordinator of the Textile Department fulfil the administration functions. The Rector appoints the Head of the Department on the recommendation of the Dean for a five-year term of office. The Head of the Department manages the Department's activities and is responsible for the results, coordinates the activities of the Study Programme Committee, manages the department's property, distributes pedagogical workload, reports to the Academy in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Senate and is a member of the Council of the Faculty. The meeting of the Department in which all its members who work as lecturers and who are engaged in scientific research work take part is the highest decision-making institution of the Department. Students elect chairpersons who manage decision-making within the groups, receive and forward information to the study programme committee, Students' Representative Council, administration, and organise various activities. Study Programme Committee functions very well and has an important role in the system of quality assurance of studies in VAA.

**Data and other information regarding programme implementation are collected and analysed periodically.** Study quality is ensured by using constant feedback from students, graduates, lecturers and employers. Surveys of students and graduates are mainly conducted in writing by the completion of questionnaires. Surveys of stakeholders and employers are conducted verbally. The programme lecturers also conduct individual surveys and discussions with the students upon completing the course in the subject being taught. The activities of the study programme committee are a key integral part of the quality assurance of MA Textiles studies at VAA. The committee plays a big part in developing and maintaining the study programme, evaluating and improving quality. It is comprised of teachers, students, graduates and social partners. The study programme committee includes 7 teachers, 1 student, 1 alumni and 1 stakeholder as members. Meetings are held at least twice a semester and all interested parties may attend the meetings. The committee's composition is determined and may be annually renewed by the head of

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<sup>33</sup> SER page 5

the study programme. In its activities, the committee is guided by the *Regulations of Study Programme Committees* approved by the Rector of VAA.

**The outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme.** The conclusions of international experts following external accreditations and other measures taken during study quality assessment processes have a direct impact on the process of updating and maintenance of the programme. Taking into account the recommendations from the previous accreditation, the formal quality assurance and enhancement process is continually improved. The process includes the involvement and opinions of representatives of all programme participants (teachers, students, internal academic community and general society).

Summarised results of the programme evaluations are presented at the meetings of the Dean of Faculty's Office or Council and are published on the website of VAA. External social stakeholders: employers, representatives of professional associations, parents, graduates, representatives of public authorities are invited to participate in the defences of students' final theses, affecting the improvement of the programme's quality through comments and suggestions. The study programme committee discusses learning outcomes, analyses feedback surveys and information on the program gathered in other forms, complaints of the students and teachers, and makes proposals for the elimination of weaknesses and renewal of the programme. The frequency of the Committee's meetings depends on the need to make changes to the programmes, but meetings are held at least twice a semester. The study programme committee presents a draft plan for the renewal of the programme at the Textile Department's meetings, and initiates joint decision-making regarding the amendment of the programme. The implementation of the plan is supervised by the Head of Department and the appointed member of the Committee. The achieved results are constantly verified and discussed at the Textile Department's meetings.

**The evaluation and improvement processes involve stakeholders.** The Textile Department is consistently developing a formal and business-like collaboration with programme stakeholders. External social stakeholders, employers, representatives of professional associations, parents, graduates, representatives of public authorities, teachers, students, are all involved at some time or other. The assessment of the external stakeholders has an impact on the study quality, on the changes in the study programme and on the programme management. The feedback from the stakeholders is received when inviting them to propose themes for the study programme that are relevant to the enterprises or organisations that they represent, and later when they express comments about the relevancy of the studies both orally and in writing about the final projects. Additionally, stakeholders are officially represented and are members of the Study Programme Committee.

**The internal quality assurance measures are effective and efficient.** The internal quality assurance system has been developed in accordance with the international and national quality requirements and agreements. The process of study programme administration and quality assurance is regulated by the Study Regulations of VAA, establishing the order of decision-making: the department – the study programme committee – the Methodological Commission of the Faculty – the Council of the Faculty – the group for studies of VAA – approval by the Rector's Office of VAA. In 2011 the Study Quality Division was established. In 2013 the Description of the Procedure of Internal Quality Assessment of the Study Programmes of VAA was approved. There is an Ethics Committee functioning within the Senate of the VAA and Code of Academic Ethics is approved by VAA in 2015. Since 2015 VAA has been a member of several international study quality networks of higher schools of arts, e.g., EDDA Norden.

**The information about the study programme is public, relevant and easily accessible.** Students confirm that they are well informed and information is sufficient to successfully complete their studies. Information about the study programme is available online at ([www.vda.lt](http://www.vda.lt)) and on social networks (Textile Department VAA: [www.facebook.com/tekstile.vda/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/tekstile.vda/?fref=ts)).

### ***2.7. Examples of excellence***

The work done over several years from at least 2011 onwards to place the Textile departments and both its programmes (BA & MA) within an international context. This has created opportunities for students to mix with many others from a variety of institutions. The most valuable result is the hosting of international artists to lead workshops and projects for the students which is very good practice.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Textile MA programme needs to develop knowledge and skills of business, marketing and management and entrepreneurship in its graduates.

There is a very strong need to recruit more students to the Textiles MA programme to create a more competitive and learning environment with more opportunity for peer discourse and reflection.

#### **IV. SUMMARY**

It was evident during the site visit and based on the experience of the Accreditation Team that the format of the Textile Masters Programme follows the standard and best practice of similar art & design MA programmes in Europe.<sup>34 35</sup> Although the distinct and unique features of this particular programme were initially not well defined in the Self Evaluation Report. These features only became apparent to the Accreditation Team during the site visit. Given the low numbers on the programme continuous thought is needed to define and re-define the purpose and unique qualities of the programme. Constant consideration of the role of the programme to analyse and develop the key selling points of the programme and its unique qualities is required.

There was an understanding by the senior management of the need to market the Textile MA programme and other MA programmes in the Academy more thoroughly in the Northern European region and in neighbouring countries as well as nationally to increase student applications.

The Textile department and its programme have developed greatly over the last six years and many worthwhile improvements have been made and embedded. During the site visit the importance of the character and distinctive features of the Textile MA programme was well articulated by Senior Administration, the team responsible for the Self Evaluation Report (SER), the teaching staff, the students as well as stakeholders, employers and graduates. All those encountered emphasised the strength and character of the programme's professional and artistic qualities.

The teaching and learning of business, marketing and management skills, entrepreneurship and presentation skills needs to be developed especially at MA level. This knowledge and these skills are essential and need to be integrated into the programme. Research could be done about developing an incubation centre to develop intellectual property, product knowledge and innovation to add more value to the work of the students, researchers and professors. This could eventually develop into an income source for the department and the students and researchers involved.

Students from the textile department and the MA programme were found to be very enthusiastic, energetic and highly motivated. They show interest in acquiring new knowledge, and they exhibited projects, which were interesting, experimental and visually articulated, both in the quality of their making but also in their conceptual quality. Some of the students' projects and creative work have received international recognition through competitions and this is to be commended. Students and graduates are very articulate about their support of the department and express great loyalty and a desire to contribute and give back to others some of the help and support they have received over the years of their studies.

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<sup>34</sup> this Report page 6

<sup>35</sup> IBID 5&6

Students and their work are very much supported by active teachers and the general creative atmosphere in Textile Department of VAA. Staff facilitate access to exhibitions, exchanges, foreign travel and conferences to support students' development. The engagement with stakeholders, employers, graduates and social partners and the extended textile family<sup>36</sup> that has been created is very valuable and supportive. The immense international activities which have always been a feature of the department continues to grow and is reaping great benefits and increased skills and awareness for the staff and students involved. The hosting of international artists by the textile department to lead workshops and projects for the students is a very beneficial and an example of good practice.

The development of the Study Programme Committee has been fully realised and it has become an indispensable tool to manage the programme more efficiently than previously. Facilities and general physical resources including studios, laboratories, workshops and the library were found to be of a very good standard. Continuous enhancement and improvements are always needed so that the Academy can match the development of new technologies and the evolution of industry.

Financial support is available for students to buy materials and the department seems to be able to purchase one new piece of equipment each year. The engagement of textile students across all the Academies facilities and labs is very good practice and the open attitude to the use of media and materials by textile students is enlightened. The relationship between traditional and contemporary practices is of great benefit and a sensible approach.

Enhancing links with international companies in the immediate regions, based nationally and further abroad to garner sponsorship, placement opportunities and employment opportunities is strongly recommended.

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<sup>36</sup> Graduates employed and/or employing more recent graduates, International contacts, employers and stakeholders, teaching staff, the student body.

## V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Textile* (state code – 612W10010) at Vilnius Art Academy is given **positive** evaluation.

*Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.*

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Teaching staff	4
4.	Facilities and learning resources	4
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	3
6.	Programme management	4
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>21</b>

\*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

Grupės vadovas: Team leader:	Robert Baker
Grupės nariai: Team members:	Radu Andrei Pulbere
	Lylian Meister
	Jeffrey Dennis
	Jelka Geršak
	Rimantas Plungė
	Aneta Bačianskaitė