



LUND UNIVERSITY

Malmö Theatre Academy

Council for External Monitoring at the Malmö Theatre Academy – Aim, objective and framework

Background

The *Assignment, vision and objectives for the Malmö Theatre Academy 2016–2020* state that “The Malmö Theatre Academy is a leading education and research department within the theatre field. We offer especially promising and dedicated students and researchers the opportunity to study in a clearly profiled and international environment, which prepares them for a challenging and variable professional life”. Furthermore, the document states that our vision is that “By 2020, the Malmö Theatre Academy will have a world-class education and research environment, in which methodological practice provides a foundation for artistic innovation and knowledge formation.” The following objectives have been adopted to enable this vision:

1. The Malmö Theatre Academy is a well-integrated whole, where a unique combination of knowledge areas contributes to a strong profile and shared development of knowledge.
2. We lead the methodological development in dramatic writing, conceptual practices and acting in Sweden.
3. Through active national and international networks, our students and researchers are provided with the conditions for a sustainable and fulfilling career.
4. Our knowledge formation is also developed in active collaboration with stakeholders in other fields of knowledge and through a relevant and forward-looking analysis of society.
5. The Malmö Theatre Academy is an open and trend-setting place for discussions about what performing arts are, do and can become.

In order to achieve this by 2020, we need to actively monitor relevant trends and changes in the external world: in performing arts, but also in society at large. To assess, complement, challenge and enrich the academy’s knowledge formation and analysis of wider society, an independent council for external monitoring has been tied to the academy for the next few years, starting the autumn semester of 2016. Through this council, we also want to enhance our international credentials and European networks.

In the *Action plan for the Malmö Theatre Academy 2016*, under the fourth objective, we have adopted the following measure:

- Tie an independent council for external monitoring, consisting of 3–4 people, to the academy to complement and enhance our knowledge formation and analysis of wider society.

Aim, objective and framework of the Council for External Monitoring

The aim is to assess, challenge and enhance the academy's knowledge formation and analysis of wider society (with regard to both staff and students).

The objective is to fulfil the vision and objectives for 2016–2020 by strengthening and stimulating the academy's knowledge formation and analysis of wider society.

Framework

The perspectives and fields of knowledge we especially need to strengthen and complement over the next 2–3 years, in order to respond to future development trends, are:

- The conceptual field of theatre (including an expanded concept of theatre)
- Identity/representation as it manifests itself and affects the area of theatre/performing arts
- Expanding and developing our international credentials in both education and performing arts within dramatic writing, conceptual practices and acting

The proposal is for the Council for External Monitoring to consist of three people, at least one of whom is currently working outside of Sweden. The advisory management team of the academy is to propose council members, to serve for a period of two years. The composition is then determined by the department board. A council member can be re-elected to serve for additional terms; however, it is important to have a certain rotation of members on the council. The advisory management team is responsible for planning, documenting and following up the work of the council.

Council members who are otherwise employed full-time are expected to participate in the work without pay. Council members who freelance or are employed part-time are to receive a fee of SEK 3500 (including holiday pay) per full day of work. All council members are to receive reimbursement for travel and accommodation. This is an official assignment and the council members serve as a kind of ambassadors for Malmö Theatre Academy. In the budget for 2016, SEK 40 000 have been allocated for this purpose, based on the calculated 6-month effect.

The Council for External Monitoring is to be invited to the Academy once every semester, for approximately two days. During these two days, their expertise is to be used to hold conversations, discussions and workshops with staff, PhD candidates and students, but also (if possible) in a more public context. The sessions must therefore be scheduled and planned well in advance.

/Anna Lyrevik,
24 August 2016