

Study programme “Bible Art” of Latvian Christian Academy

SWOT analysis for study year 2008/2009:

Signs of strengths	Signs of weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to traditional Christian denominations in Latvia • Good contacts with Israel, Sinai monastery of St. Catherine (Egypt), Romania – good examples of sacred orientation in arts • Students original research on the field of sacred arts & theory • Small study groups • Involvement of Church leaders and graduates in annual evaluation of study results • Well motivated and professionally challenging academic staff/team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local sacred artists • Greater need for visits to monasteries and ancient-Orthodox church centers • No connection with artists who are masters in Church mosaics • Great need for teacher in calligraphy • More focus on denominational research • More intensive investment in the development of the master Programme in Sacred Art

SWOT analysis for study year 2009/2010:

Signs of strengths	Signs of weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good involvement of teachers / students research and international projects: corporative high level responsibility to reach quality goals • Exhibitions in EC project “Intercultural Dialogue: Sacred Elements of European National Art” were well received by audience • Carefully organized international / local teacher team on the unified platform for the development of sacred art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the students should be spiritually better motivated • More strongly stressed students’ independent work • Reduction of graphic in curricula didn’t give the real results • Time consuming qualification growth of young academic staff • Sociological questionnaires for the second semester were not done in time • Strong attention must be paid to young colleagues – to their academic growth (exhibitions, publications, etc.)

The latest SWOT analysis for 2010/2011 as follows:

Signs of strengths	Signs of weaknesses
<p>1. Study process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study programme requested by Churches of traditional denominations in Latvia and other countries; • Good cooperation with specialists from Latvian Academy of Arts offering mutual enrichment: LAA provides education for artists with secular orientation whereas LChrA – specialists in sacred art; • Well-established network of academic cooperation with those foreign specialists where traditions of ancient Christian art (both Eastern and Western) dominate; • Good contacts with Israel by participation in archaeological digs – good basis for further research, studies and inspiration; • Facilities at the Academy are created with focus on creation of works of sacred art; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited opportunities to involve local sacred artists, subsequently specialists must be produced by the Academy which is time consuming; • Students are subject to rather tense and loaded study process because the programme is interdisciplinary (theology + art subjects + courses in art history and theory); • Time consuming qualification growth of young academic staff ;

Signs of strengths	Signs of weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh new artists' workshops and equipment which serves to acquisition of the set aims; • Academic library is qualitative and corresponds to needs of the Study programme. <p>2. Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students involved in the programme carry out original research in the field of sacred art and theory which is furthered in Master and Doctoral studies; • Students are involved in preservation of traditional values in art, they strive for high level in drawing and painting – skills which are lost in many Western universities; • Exhibitions of sacred art organized by students are well received in Latvian churches and recognized by both clergy and other attendants; • Individual approach to every single student; • Small study groups; • Students may choose the form of studies which suits them best: full time studies or part time studies; • Involvement of students and graduates in annual evaluation and improvement of the Study programme. <p>2. Academic staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-motivated and professionally challenging; • Internationally well received scientific consultants who work in tandems with young pedagogues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven former education of students in art related topics; • Insufficient system of workshops in monasteries since they accept only those students who belong to the same denomination.
Prospects of development	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness of facilities for workshops and auditoriums and material provision on European level; • Students catch the need for education and studies of sacred art in the free market society; their positive motivation; • Carefully shaped and developed interuniversities network for exchange of students and lecturers; • Interdenominational, Church-oriented research work done by students should be promoted; • Involvement of academic staff and students of the Study programme in European projects for culture and youth involvement based on principles of Christian democracy; • Investments of material provision in the development of the Master programme in Theology in order to educate specialists of Humanitarian culture in research in the field of sacred art; • Investment in the development of the Master programme “Bible Art” (prepared for licensing) • Regular involvement of both students and academic staff in various international and art projects. • Well-tuned and compact academic staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient financial means of students reflecting growing inflation in Latvia; • Difficulties to involve specialists in sacred art in the implementation of the study process whose mission is to combine their academic qualification with prerequisites of sacramental thinking rooted in Ancient Church (both eastern and Western) praxis.