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Akkreditierungsagentur
im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales
Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences



Assessment Report

**for the Application of Cyprus International University (CIU),
Faculty of Pharmacy,
for the Accreditation of the Bachelor Study Programs
“Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” (Bachelor of Pharmacy)
and “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)” (Bachelor of Pharmacy)**

AHPGS Akkreditierung gGmbH
Sedanstr. 22
79098 Freiburg
Telefon: +49 (0) 761/208533-0
E-Mail: ahpgs@ahpgs.de

On-site visit Expert group	May 17 and 18, 2022 Mrs. Nora Josefine Paulke. Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany Prof. Dr. Gerhard Scriba, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany Prof. Dr. Regine Süss, Albert-Ludwigs-University, Frei- burg, Germany Prof. Dr. Jana Wolf, Aalen University, Germany Prof. Dr. Ulrike Holzgrabe Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg, Germany
Decision	June 30, 2022

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master's programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains, such as law or economics. By implementing accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for fulfilling the quality assurance, too.

Since 2004 the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS also joined the ENQA and became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in 2009. Since 2012, the AHPGS has been a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). Starting from 2009, the AHPGS has been listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria:

1. Program aims and learning outcomes
2. Curriculum design
3. Personnel
4. Facilities and learning resources
5. Study process and student assessment
6. Program and quality management

The external assessment procedure is carried out in four steps:

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the self-evaluation report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfill the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. As a result, the AHPGS produces a summary (see Sections 2-5), which is to be approved by the University and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the accreditation commission of AHPGS. This is done to verify the compliance of the study program with agreed upon accreditation. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out an external on-site visit at the University. During this visit discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers and students. This provides the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the on-site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies and methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as of the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the on-site visit, the expert group issues the expert report. This report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the report is made available to the University so that it can issue a response opinion.

The expert report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the accreditation commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The accreditation commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the summary comprised by the AHPGS, the expert report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents represent the basis for the commission's decision regarding the recommendation for accreditation of the study program. Consequently, this decision – together with all other documentation – is forwarded to the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS for it to reach a decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Overview

2.1 Procedure-related documents

The Cyprus International University (CIU), also referred to hereinafter “the University”, delegated the task of accrediting the following Bachelor study programs to AHPGS: “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” and “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)”.

The self-evaluation report for accreditation of the above-mentioned study programs (hereinafter the Self-evaluation report or SER) of Cyprus International University was submitted to the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) in electronic format on August, 31, 2021. The contract between Cyprus International University and the AHPGS was signed on April 30, 2021.

On December 17, 2021, the AHPGS forwarded the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter OQ) pertaining to the Application for accreditation for the study programs to the University. On December 22, 2021, the University submitted the answers to the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter AOO) to the AHPGS in electronic format.

The present document presents the summary of the AHPGS for the Bachelor study programs “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” (hereinafter M.Pharm) and “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)” (hereinafter Pharm.D). They are both located at the Faculty of Pharmacy, which started accepting students in fall semester 2011/2012.

The application documentation submitted by CIU follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Along with the application request towards accreditation of the Bachelor study programs “M.Pharm” and “Pharm.D”, the following additional documents can be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the University are numbered in the following order for easier referencing)

Documents for the study programs “M.Pharm” and “Pharm.D”.

Annex 01	Study plan M.Pharm
Annex 02	Study plan Pharm.D
Annex 03	Module Descriptions M.Pharm
Annex 04	Module Descriptions Pharm.D

Annex 05	Interdisciplinary Courses
Annex 06	Overview Elective Courses
Annex 07	Area Elective Courses
Annex 08	Examination Regulations
Annex 09	Internships
Annex 10	Sample Internship File
Annex 11	Graduation Project Directives
Annex 12	Thesis and Project Report Writing Guidelines
Annex 13	Agreement Dual Degree University of Rome
Annex 14	European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA)
Annex 15	List of Seminars
Annex 16	Teddy Bear Campaign
Annex 17	Blood Drive Campaign
Annex 18	Public Health Campaign
Annex 19	Student Engagement Transcript
Annex 20	Student Admission Regulations
Annex 21	Diploma and Exams Accepted
Annex 22	Rules and Regulations for Disabled and Chronic Diseased Students
Annex 23	Annual Questionnaire for Academic Staff Activities
Annex 24	Dean's Evaluation Form
Annex 25	Questionnaire for Students
Annex 26	Admitted Students 2017-2020
Annex 27	Evaluation Tools Section on 'SIS' System
Annex 28	Regulations on Student Advisory Services
Annex 29	Faculty Teaching Matrix

Annex 30	Staff Employment Regulations
Annex 31	Continuing Education for Teaching Staff
Annex 32	Library Regulations
Annex 33	Organization of CIU

The application, the open questions (OQ) and the answer to the open questions (AOQ) as well as the additional documents build the basis for the present summary. The layout bears no significance, as it solely reflects the agreed standard within the University.

2.2 Study program

2.2.1 Structural data

University	Cyprus International University
Faculty/Department	Faculty of Pharmacy
Cooperation partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YÖK (Turkish Higher Education Council) and YÖDAK (Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council) (Annex 34) - Kolan British Hospital (Annex 35) - Ministry of Health- Governmental Hospitals (Annex 36) - Cyprus Turkish Pharmacists' Association (Annex 37)
Title of the study program	"Pharmacy (M.Pharm)" "Pharmacy (Pharm.D)"
Degree awarded	Bachelor of M.Pharm Bachelor of Pharm.D
Form of studies	Full-time, on-campus
Organizational structure	5 to 6 days a week from Monday to Saturday
Language of Studies	English
Period of education	Ten semesters (M.Pharm) Twelve semesters (Pharm.D)

Credit Points according to the internal system of calculation (CIU) as well as European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	M.Pharm: 210 Credits (CIU) / 300 CP (ECTS) Pharm.D: 228 Credits (CIU) / 360 CP (ECTS)
Hours/CIU Credit	1 CIU credit is equal to 1 lecture hour or two laboratory hours
Workload	<p>M.Pharm</p> <p>Total: 8.431 hours</p> <p>Contact hours: 3.495 hours</p> <p>Individual work: 4.936 hours</p> <p>Practice: 1534 hours (Laboratory work + Internship)</p> <p>Pharm.D</p> <p>Total: 10.311 hours</p> <p>Contact hours: 4.935 hours</p> <p>Individual work: 5.376 hours</p> <p>Practice: 2236 hours (Laboratory work + Internship)</p>
Number of modules	M.Pharm: 68 Pharm.D: 75
Launch date of the study program	M.Pharm: Fall semester 2011/2012 Pharm.D: Fall semester 2016/2017
Time of admission	Fall and Spring semester
Number of available places on the program	Approximately 200 for both programs per year (may be increased up to 100 % by the Rectorate according to the decision of the University Senate)
Number of currently enrolled students	M.Pharm: 577 Pharm.D: 285
Tuition fees (TL: Turkish Lira; TRNC: Turkish Republic of North Cyprus)	<p>For Foreign Students per Year</p> <p>7.843,50 € (without scholarship)</p> <p>5.971,35 € (with 25% scholarship)</p> <p>4.099,20 € (with 50% scholarship)</p> <p>2.227,00 € (with 75% scholarship)</p> <p>359,90 € (with 100% scholarship)</p> <p>For Republic of Turkey Students per Year</p> <p>75.121,20 TL (without scholarship)</p> <p>57.128,40 TL (with 25% scholarship)</p> <p>39.135,60 TL (with 50% scholarship)</p>

	21.142,80 TL (with 75% scholarship) 3.150,00 TL (with 100% scholarship)
	For TRNC Students per Year 58.212,00 TL (without scholarship) 44.446,50 TL (with 25% scholarship) 30.681,00 TL (with 50% scholarship) 16.915,50 TL (with 75% scholarship) 3.150,00 TL (with 100% scholarship)

Chart 1: Structural data of the study program

2.2.2 Qualification objectives and employment opportunities

According to the University, M.Pharm and Pharm.D students follow the same educational program until the end of 5th year (10th semester). While M.Pharm students graduate at the end of year 5, Pharm.D students continue their education for 1 more year, focusing on internships at industrial settings, hospital and community pharmacies and also the theses.

As the University states, the objectives of both "Pharmacy" programs is to "train specialists who understand how the structure of substances used to manufacture drugs can influence the chemical or metabolic stability of a human body; to understand and know the mechanism of action of medicinal substances, their therapeutic and toxic effects, so that their recommendation and use may be done rationally. The Faculty of Pharmacy, where both programs are located, provides a list of output-oriented skill categories regarding knowledge and social skills. The M.Pharm program as well as the Pharm.D program also envisages to introduce ethics, legal requirements and aspects that must comply with exercising pharmacy profession and to perform activities related to the field of pharmaceutical sciences.

The graduates of both programs are expected to gain expertise on the methods for preparing drugs, taken into account their physiochemical, biological and microbiological characteristics. The students are taught to recognize and work with cosmetics, medical devices, dietary supplements and develop skills for their recommendation. Furthermore, the students learn to evaluate and systematize scientific data concerning drugs in order to provide accurate and adequate information.

Additionally, students of the Cyprus International University are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, community service, as well as cultural and personal improvement activities where they can raise funds to be donated

to several charities or other organizations. The students involved in social and public service activities are then provided with a “Student Engagement Transcript” at their graduation (Annex 19).

According to the “Vision 2023 of Human Resources in Health” prepared by the Turkish Ministry of Health, the number of pharmacists was predicted to increase by almost 33% in 2023 (compared to 2008). Therefore, students at the Faculty of Pharmacy are informed about all areas of pharmaceutical sciences and practice and encouraged to consider careers in academia, pharmaceutical industry, regulatory authorities, radiopharmacy, veterinary pharmacy and several other fields (see SER 1.4.2).

The following possible employment fields are listed by CIU: Hospitals, own private pharmacies, pharmaceutical/cosmetic industries, official authorities and similar institutions. According to the University, the graduates of both pharmacy programs are also able to work in clinical research, patent, active material and formulation development, new product stability and pharmaceutical technology fields.

They can perform quality control, -assurance and management of novel products, prepare dosage forms like suspension, tablet, capsule, clinical or basic research coordination, drug legislation, drug marketing and international research facilities due to their ability to carry out their profession in English. They can also work as consultants in forensic science branches, health ministries, drug stores, drug analysis/synthesis facilities or alternatively, they can continue with scientific studies to pursue their career as academicians (SER 1.4.1).

2.2.3 Modularization and exam system

The M.Pharm program comprises 68 modules, out of which 60 are obligatory, 6 are area electives and 2 are university (free) electives. The Pharm.D program comprises 75 modules out of which 67 are obligatory, 6 are area electives and 2 are university (free) electives. All modules have to be completed within one semester. There are between 29 and 31 Credits to be achieved each semester.

The list of modules offered in the M.Pharm program can be found in Annex 2:

Class	Semester	Course Code	Course Name	Credit	ECTS		
1 st year	1	ENGL141	READING AND WRITING SKILLS-I	3	4		
		ITEC110	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS	3	4		
		MATH107	BASIC MATHEMATICS	3	3		
		CHEM110	GENERAL CHEMISTRY	4	6		
		PHYS107	PHYSICS	3	3		
		BIOL120	MEDICAL BIOLOGY	3	4		
		PHAR105	INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACY	2	2		
		PSYC107	BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	2	2		
		TURK101/ TREG113	TURKISH LANGUAGE-I/ TURKISH I:WRITING COMMUNICATION	2	3		
	2	ENGL142	READING AND WRITING SKILLS-II	3	4		
		CHEM102	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY I	4	6		
		CHEM104	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	3	6		
		STAT110	BIOSTATISTICS	2	3		
		ANAT110	ANATOMY -PHYSIOLOGY-I	4	6		
		TURK102/TREG114	TURKISH LANGUAGE-II/TURKISH II:ORAL COMMUNICATION	2	3		
		PHAR116	PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	2	2		
		HSTG118	HISTOLOGY	1	2		
		2 nd year		CHEM201	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY II	4	6
PHAR205	PHARMACEUTICAL MICROBIOLOGY			4	5		
PHAR207	PHARMACY PRACTICE			2	3		
ANAT120	ANATOMY- PHYSIOLOGY-II			2	5		
HIST101/ TARH101	HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION-I/ ATATÜRK PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REFORMS-I			2	2		
CHEM213	BIOCHEMISTRY			3	4		
HELS211	PUBLIC HEALTH			2	2		
PHARXX1	AREA ELECTIVE			2	2		
1	PHAR202			PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY-I	4	6	
	PHAR206		PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY-I	4	5		
	PHAR208		IMMUNOLOGY	2	4		
	PHAR210		PHARMACOLOGY-I	4	6		
	PHAR212		PHARMACEUTICAL BOTANY	4	4		
	HIST102/TARH102		HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION-II/ATATÜRK PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF TURKISH REFORMS-II	2	2		
	PATH216		PATHOLOGY	2	3		
	3 rd year		1	PHAR301	PHARMACOGNOSY-I	4	5
				PHAR303	PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY-II	3	5
PHAR305				PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY-II	4	6	
PHAR307		PHARMACOLOGY-II		2	4		
BCHM309		CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY		3	5		
PHAR200		INTERNSHIP-I		0	3		
PHARXX2		AREA ELECTIVE		2	2		
2		PHAR302		PHARMACOGNOSY-II	3	5	
		PHAR304		PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY-III	3	5	
		PHAR306	PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY-III	4	6		
		PHAR308	PHARMACEUTICAL TOXICOLOGY-I	2	4		
		PHAR310	PHARMACOLOGY-III	2	4		
		FAID300	FIRST AID	2	2		
		UNIEXX1	UNIVERSITY ELECTIVE	3	4		
		4 th year	1	PHARXX3	AREA ELECTIVE	2	2
				PHAR401	PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY	2	4
PHAR403				PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY-IV	4	6	
PHAR405				PHARMACEUTICAL TOXICOLOGY-II	3	6	
ECON407	PHARMACOECONOMICS			2	3		
PHAR409	CLINICAL PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL CARE-I			3	6		
PHAR300	INTERNSHIP-II			0	3		
2	PHAR408			CLINICAL PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL CARE-II	4	6	
	PHARXX4			AREA ELECTIVE	2	2	
	PHAR402		BIOPHARMACEUTICS PHARMACOKINETICS	2	4		
	PHAR406		PHARMACY LEGISLATIONS	2	3		
	PHAR410		COSMETIC SCIENCE	3	5		
	PHAR412		PHYTOTHERAPY	2	3		
	PHAR414		DEONTOLOGY AND ETHICS	2	3		
	UNIEXX2		UNIVERSITY ELECTIVE	3	4		
	5 th year		1	PHAR501	GRADUATION PROJECT-I	6	10
PHAR507				COMMUNITY AND HOSPITAL PHARMACY SERVICES	4	4	
PHAR400				INTERNSHIP-III	7	12	
2		PHARXX5	AREA ELECTIVE	2	2		
		PHARXX6	AREA ELECTIVE	2	4		
		PHAR502	GRADUATION PROJECT-II	6	12		
PHAR504	INTERNSHIP-VI	12	14				
				CP: SUM	201	300	

As the PharmD. and M.Pharm students follow the same educational until the end of the 5th year, the following overview of the Pharm.D program only shows the study program-specific final year:

6 th year	1	PHAR601	COMMUNITY PHARMACY PRACTICE	4	8
		PHAR603	HOSPITAL PHARMACY PRACTICE	4	8
		PHAR605	INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY PRACTICE	4	8
		PHAR607	THESIS PROJECT	3	6
	2	PHAR602	COMMUNITY PHARMACY CLERKSHIP	4	10
		PHAR604	HOSPITAL PHARMACY CLERKSHIP	4	10
		PHAR606	INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY CLERKSHIP	4	10
				CP: SUM	228 360

The module description/catalogue covers the following aspects: Course code, course title, course description, credits, ECTS credits, prerequisites, course category, teaching language and keywords.

Some courses, mainly in the first and second year, are offered in collaboration with other study programs (see Annex 5). These courses can be divided in two groups:

- 1) Basic science courses such as General Chemistry, Basic Mathematics, Physics etc. which provide background information for better understanding of the program-specific courses stated above
- 2) University compulsory courses such as Introduction to Computers, Turkish, English, History etc. which are attended by students from various other programs

English and Turkish language courses are opened each semester to all university students. Faculty of Pharmacy students can join one of the English groups to strengthen their language skills together with students from other departments. "Communication in Turkish I and II" are designed for Turkish students, while "Turkish I and II" are designed for foreign students. Since Communication in Turkish is an obligatory course, Turkish students with a good command of the Turkish language are required to take "Atatürk Principles" and "History of Turkish Reforms I and II". "History of Civilization I and II" are designed for foreign students.

Both, the "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" curriculum consists of six Area Elective and two University Elective courses (Annex 6 and Annex 7).

The “M.Pharm” program consists of five years (ten semesters) where each year has particular specifications geared towards building the student for the upcoming educational year and eventually ensuring their proper training as a pharmacist. Several prerequisite courses are included in the curriculum to provide background knowledge for the future courses.

The first year comprises courses focused on Basic Sciences. Courses like Medical Biology, Chemistry, Physics and English are supposed to prepare the students for the upcoming years where they will be delving into the details of Pharmacy education. Year 2-4 are dominated by courses with applications and laboratory practicals where students are exposed to exercise on specific patient cases (Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Care courses) and drug preparation practical (Pharmaceutical Technology). The skills gained during these years prepare the students for the actual profession of Pharmacy (SER 1.3.4). In the final year (semester 9 and 10) the students gain real life experience on their profession: Students spend most of their time carrying out their internships at community and hospital pharmacies while at the same time working on their Graduation Project to finalize their studies.

“Pharm.D” students carry out an additional year of internships where they can also focus their internships on industrial experiences, if wanted. In this year, the students work on a research project with an assigned advisor, who helps them to write a report on their studies.

Both, M.Pharm and Pharm.D program use various forms of instructions including lectures, seminars, exercises, workshops, project works, study groups, presentations, field trips as well as wet and dry laboratory works. Both programs are taught with the use of electronic and media teaching aids, such as power-point presentations, videos and interactive hands-on computer sessions (SER 1.2.4).

The following internships are included in both programs:

Program	Semester	Code	Name	CR	ECTS	Duration (work day)	Period
M.Pharm. / Pharm.D.	5	PHAR200	Internship I (Community)	0	3	30	Summer
M.Pharm. / Pharm.D.	7	PHAR300	Internship II (Community / Hospital)	0	3	30	Summer
M.Pharm. / Pharm.D.	9	PHAR400	Internship III (Community / Hospital / Industry)	7	12	60	In-term
M.Pharm. / Pharm.D.	10	PHAR504	Internship IV (Community / Hospital / Industry)	12	14	60	In-term
Pharm.D.	11	PHAR601	Community Pharmacy Practice	4	10	20	In-term
Pharm.D.	11	PHAR603	Hospital Pharmacy Practice	4	10	20	In-term
Pharm.D.	11	PHAR605	Industrial Pharmacy Practice	4	10	20	In-term
Pharm.D.	12	PHAR602	Community Pharmacy Clerkship	4	0	20	In-term
Pharm.D.	12	PHAR604	Hospital Pharmacy Clerkship	4	0	20	In-term
Pharm.D.	12	PHAR606	Industrial Pharmacy Clerkship	4	0	20	In-term

The coordination of the internships is organized by the Pharmacy Internship Committee, which consists of at least three academicians. The coordinator carries out the internship applications, internship follow-ups and evaluation of the students in the routine meetings during the semester.

To start an internship, an "Application Letter" must be submitted and approved/signed by the advisor the supervising pharmacists and the Internship Coordinator. Supervising pharmacists with at least five years of professional experience must be registered to the relevant professional association and give one-to-one guidance. The students must prepare a detailed report of the internship, with each page approved by the pharmacists. The completed "Internship Report" and "Logbook" must be provided to the Faculty secretary in the first month of the next course registration. The internships can be carried out outside of North Cyprus upon recommendation of the Pharmacy Internship Committee, followed by the approval of the Faculty of Pharmacy Board of Directors. As the

University states, in this case, “Work Accident and Occupational Diseases Insurance” is under the student’s personal responsibility.

Students who have completed their internships take written and oral examinations during the final exams on previously pronounced dates. Students are required to achieve at least 70 out of 100 points. Grades of 30-70 out of 100 are required to take an additional oral examination. If students fail, they have the chance to repeat the examinations in the next examination period. A sample of the internship file is shown in Annex 10. The internships are conducted between 08:00 and 19:30 (Monday to Friday, half a day on Saturday).

Since 2013, the CIU Pharmacy Student Union (CIUPSA) is a member of the European Pharmaceutical Students Association (EPSA) within the framework of international cooperation. It is the only student union with the right to vote in Cyprus (Annex 14). The University supports all expenses required for EPSA membership. CIUPSA is also an active participant of TWINNET projects. TWINNET is an EPSA project which aims at agreements between two Pharmacy faculties of Higher Education Institutions in Europe to exchange students at certain time intervals. So far, there has been a TWINNET project with the University of Vienna, Austria in 2015/2016 as well as an online TWINNET project with Serbia in 2020/2021. In addition to that, renowned international guest speakers are regularly invited to hold seminars and conferences (see Annex 15). Students are also supported by the University to participate in national and international congresses. Since 2014, students represented the Faculty of Pharmacy by participating in the Turkish Pharmacists Association Youth Commission (TEBGK) congresses every year.

In the 9th and 10th semester, theoretical and practical Graduation Project courses have to be taken by each student for 10 hours per week (regulated by the CIU Educational Directives). The aim of the Graduation Project course is to provide the students with the ability to reach the necessary resources on a certain topic, to collect and interpret the data, prepare the obtained material under a topic as a written report and be able to present the results in front of a jury committee.

Each instructor of the “M.Pharm” and “Pharm.D” program is responsible for providing at least 5 graduation project topic suggestions to the Dean’s office. Each student chooses 3 topics they prefer. Students’ preference sheets are investigated by the “Graduation Project Decision Committee” considering the overall CGPA (cumulated grade point average) of each student. In this way, the

instructor to supervise each student is also determined. Instructors who supervise the projects are responsible for providing the course on the pre-determined topic. The students have no right of objection against the decision made by the "Graduation Project Decision Committee". However, together with their advisor, they can work on a topic that better fits their research interests (1.2.7).

Students who are unable to carry out the project or to register for the course in both the 9th and 10th semester are required to take and complete the graduation project in the following two semesters. Students who are unsuccessful in the Graduation Project course or miss their exams, are required to take and pass the exam in another exam term determined by the exam committee. To prepare the Graduation Project, students need to adhere to the conditions provided by the "Graduation Project Directives" (Annex 11). The Project Report must be prepared according to the "CIU Guidelines for Dissertations, Theses, and Project Reports" (Annex 12).

The examination system is designed as follows (SER 1.2.3): Attendance to all theoretical courses is required to be at least 70%, while required attendance for practical courses is at least 80% throughout each academic semester. Exams take place in accordance with the University's "Regulations on the Principles of Examination and Evaluation of the Associate and Undergraduate Degree Programs" (Annex 8). Exams in both "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" program are carried out as one mid-term and one final exam in each course. However, instructors may give additional quizzes, assignments or other forms of assessments, including oral presentations.

Make-ups for mid-term exams are scheduled a week after mid-term exams. For those students who miss the final exam or fail the module, re-sit exams are held at the end of each semester after the final exam.

The grade system is designed as follows (see Annex 8):

<u>End of Semester</u> <u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Coefficient</u>	<u>Other Grades</u>	
A	4.00	I	Incomplete
A-	3.70	W	Withdrawal
B+	3.30	S	Satisfactory
B	3.00	U	Unsatisfactory
B-	2.70	P	In Progress
C+	2.30	E	Exempted
C	2.00	T	Transfer
C-	1.70	NA	Not Attended
D+	1.30		

D	1.00
D-	0.70
F	0.00

A student who receives one of the grades A, B +, B, B-, C +, C, C-, D +, D or S is considered successful.

A student who receives any of the grades D-, F, NA, W, or U is considered unsuccessful.

The recognition of credits transferred from other universities (domestic and abroad) is regulated according to Annex 8.

2.2.4 Admission requirements

The Admission regulations for students at the Cyprus International University are given in Annex 20. Students are required to be graduated from a high school or an equivalent secondary school to be admitted to CIU programs.

Students from the Turkish Republic (TR) are admitted to CIU by one of the following methods within the framework of predetermined quotas:

- 1) To be placed in the Associate Degree or undergraduate programs of CIU through exams organized by the Turkish Higher Education Council Student Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM).
- 2) To be placed in a program with CIU special talent exam, based on the score of the ÖSYM exam.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) nationals are placed according to the results of the exam, organized within the framework of quotas (Annex 38). Students from countries other than TRNC or TR can be accepted based on their success in different exams, considering the framework of their quotas (Annex 38). Accepted exams in other countries are given in Annex 21a and 21b.

Approximately 200 students as a total for M.Pharm and Pharm.D programs are enrolled per year (Annex 38).

In the 2021-2022 Spring Semester, there are 638 M.Pharm and 415 Pharm.D students registered (1053 students).

2.3 Study conditions and quality assurance

2.3.1 Human resources

According to the University, the workload in the two study programs “M.Pharm” and “Pharm.D” is managed by the total of 43 teaching staff involved: 18 full-time tenured instructors (3 professors, 6 assistant professors, 1 doctor, 8 assistants/lab technicians) and 6 part-time adjunct instructors (2 adjunct professors, 2 assistant professors and 2 doctors). Furthermore, there are 19 instructors from other departments involved in the study programs providing service courses.

The full teaching load of all regular academic staff members is as follows:

In 1 week Per Semester (not including administrative work and office hours)	
Academic Staff	Teaching Load (hour/week)
Professor	12
Associate Professor	14
Assistant Professor	15
Doctor	16
Office hours (for each course) of academic staff to reply students' questions	2

According to the University, the current number of students in the M.Pharm program is 638 while there are 415 students in the Pharm.D program. Considering the total of 43 faculty staff involved in the programs, the student-to-faculty ratio is 1:15 in the M.Pharm program and 1:10 in the Pharm.D program.

The teaching matrix is given in Annex 29. The teaching staff is selected according to the “CIU Academic Staff Employment Regulations” (Annex 30). Regarding the didactic development, there are several continuous education courses or seminars are held at CIU either for the whole University staff or on an on-demand base. Some examples of several courses and seminars held for the teaching staff are given in Annex 31.

2.3.2 Facilities

The CIU Faculty of Pharmacy is located in Haspolat region of Nicosia. The Science and Technology Building (ST Building), where the “M.Pharm” and “Pharm.D” program is hosted, is around 16.500 sqm. It contains the following rooms:

Capacity (students)	Classroom	Computer Lab	Other Labs	Workshop	Studio	Total area (m ²)
0-25	1	-	2	-	-	146.4
26-50	5	5	8	-	-	1776.4
51-75	10	-	-	-	-	1016.6
76-100	7	-	-	-	-	900.6
101-150	2	-	-	-	-	464.5
Total				-	-	4304.5

On top of that, there are offices, a kitchen and a meeting room (SER 2.3.1). The CIU library facilities are accessible for both the public and University members according to the “CIU Library Regulations” (Annex 32). The library is open between 08:00 and 24:00 during working days and between 08:00 and 20:00 during the weekends.

Requests for books/periodicals/data bases are collected from each department by the Dean’s office at the end of the year and sent to the Rectorate for approval. Following approval, the library staff executes the purchase of the decided items. There are print copies of 292 books and 132 e-books related to

pharmacy education. 5 data bases, namely BMJ Online Journals, Springer-Nature Journals All, SpringerNature-Academic Journals, MEDLINE and Ovid Total Access Collection exist in the CIU Library which is located as an independent building on the campus.

CIU is a private university and operates under “New Island Education Ltd”. All expenditures of the University and specifically Faculty of Pharmacy are performed by the Accounting Directorate under the control of the Rector and the Board of Trustees. CIU's sources of income include tuition fees, income from dormitories, indoor/outdoor cafes/patisseries and donations. CIU provides academic scholarships for students as an incentive for success where most students benefit from 50%, 75% or 100% scholarships or discounted tuition fees. All international students are granted a 50% tuition fee scholarship. CIU provides increasing support in terms of meeting the needs of both students, research laboratories, academic staff, and the equipment and consumable expenses. Within the scope of the academic incentive progress of the University, scientific research projects of the academic staff, their participation in congresses / meetings are supported, and publications made from scientific research are rewarded (SER 2.3.4).

2.3.3 Quality assurance

In order to ensure quality of studies, CIU has adopted “Regulations for Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement” (Annex 8). The aim of those regulations is to state basic principles for evaluation and improvement of the quality of educational and research activities, as well as the administrative services at CIU. Those regulations also specify principles for approval and recognition of the quality level for an independent external assessment. Instructors of the Faculty of Pharmacy annually fill out a questionnaire regarding research and teaching activities, as well as public service work (Annex 23). Survey results are then shared with the faculty dean for evaluation. In addition to the surveys filled out by the instructors, the dean provides an evaluation report for each faculty member (Annex 24). Collective data are assessed by the dean and shared with the rectorate.

At the end of each semester, students also fill out an evaluation form (Annex 25) which is available in the online student portal. CIU claims that the quality assurance and assessment system of the pharmacy program is realized by in-

volving all instructors and students collectively. Evaluation process of the teaching staff considers the individual level of expertise, potential in scientific research, teaching skills and abilities, professional prestige achieved and international recognition. Additionally, students are integrated with the internal quality assurance process due to the 'open-door policy' of the University, meaning that they can refer to any faculty or administration member directly to express their comments and complaints.

Regarding the evaluation of the practical relevance of both study programs, the University lists the following measurements: a) feedback from faculty members, students, graduates and other stakeholders, b) students' exam successes and c) other indicators are taken into consideration. The roles of these indicators in the realization of the mission, goals and objectives of the Faculty are examined and used to improve the pharmacy vocational education program. Evaluation results of the training program are shared with the Faculty management, academic staff, students and other stakeholders (such as The Turkish Pharmacists Association and Pharmacist Chambers, the Pharmaceutical Industry, the Ministry of Health and related institutions, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and related institutions). Meetings are held at the beginning of each semester to discuss ways to avoid the deficiencies identified based on the feedback received from the questionnaires and the feedback obtained from the students. In addition, students' feedbacks are conveyed to the Vice-Rector in charge of student affairs and necessary improvement studies are carried out. In addition to the surveys, the Dean's Office continues to work on improvements based on collective petitions and requests from students (SER 1.6.4).

The Student Development and Counselling Center was established not only to provide students with contemporary knowledge and skills, but also to assist them with their potential in psychological, educational and social development areas and to provide counselling services on their way to success throughout their education. There are Student Affairs and Social Activities Coordination Offices, Psychological Counselling and Guidance Center under the body of the Directorate of the Student Development and Counselling Center (SER 1.6.8).

The distribution of the percentage of students admitted in academic years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, and distribution of percentage of graduates between 2016 and 2021 are presented in Annex 26.

Students with disabilities apply to the Dean's office with their request letters and doctor/hospital reports detailing their disabilities. Students detail in their request letters assistance they need to be provided in order to obtain equal education conditions as their classmates. Currently, the CIU Faculty of Pharmacy has 1 student with visual disability. At the beginning of each semester, lecturers are informed about this student's condition and are reminded/requested to print big-font-sized exam questions before the midterm and final exams. In the face-to-face education period, this student is seated in accordance with his lighting needs and also exempted from filling the optics papers. His exam papers are evaluated manually by the instructors to provide the best assistance (SER 1.6.7).

2.4 Information about the University

The Cyprus International University (CIU) is located in North Cyprus and was founded in 1997. The University offers over 100 study programs to students from over 100 countries. As the University states, is affiliated with the Levent Group of companies, and has close links with companion enterprises in construction, international trade, manufacturing, energy, banking, dairy farming, poultry farming, and agriculture, and various other sectors. This enables the University to offer an outstanding hands-on learning experience spanning classroom, campus, and a wide variety of work environments (SER 3.1.1). The Faculty of Pharmacy was implemented in the academic year 2011/2012 with M.Pharm program. Currently, there are 1053 students. According to the University, the Faculty aims to gain students who are scientifically and socially responsible, have critical thinking, equitable, ethical, democratic and secular, and are equipped to provide pharmacy services with an internationally accepted academic environment in education and research. The Faculty takes an active role in all stages of the pharmaceutical processes, from the research and development of pharmaceutical raw materials and products to dispensing and their monitoring in the body considering the international academic knowledge. The Faculty also educates pharmacists who have the competence to serve social health and ethical values with patient-oriented thinking.

3 Expert report

3.1 Preliminary remarks

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (hereinafter AHPGS) was commissioned by Cyprus International University (hereinafter the University) to accredit the study program “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” (Bachelor of Pharmacy) and “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)” (Bachelor of Pharmacy).

The on-site visit evaluation of the study program “M.Pharm” as well as the study program “Pharm.D” offered at Cyprus International University, was carried out on May 17 and May 18 2022 at the University in Nicosia, North Cyprus.

The documents of the University, the feedback from the experts to the documents and the results of the discussions with the representatives of the University during the on-site visit serve as bases for the statements made in the expert report.

The following experts were appointed by the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS for the evaluation of the study program:

Nora Josefine Paulke

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany

Student of human medicine;

Since 2020 Doctor of Medicine program embedded in the International Research Training Group 1816 (IRTG)

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Scriba

Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and former managing director at the Institute of Pharmacy;

Advisor on Quality Assurance of Pharmaceuticals of World Health Organizations

Prof. Dr. Regine Süß

Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg, Germany

Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences;

Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmacy, Quality Control of Production of Pharmaceuticals, Nanoparticulate Drug Delivery, Gene Therapy, Tumor Targeting, Intracellular Trafficking, Cellular Assays

Prof. Dr. Jana Wolf**Aalen University, Germany**

Professor at Aalen University, Department of Healthcare Management

Healthcare Economics fellow position with focus on pharmaceuticals (valuation, cost effectiveness studies)

Current focus on leadership, strategy, change management – and equal employment officer of the university as well as lead on internationalization project

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Holzgrabe¹***Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg, Germany***

Chairperson of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry and Vice-president of the University of Würzburg

Institute of Pharmacy & Food Chemistry, Würzburg

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis

The task of the experts in the accreditation procedures is to evaluate the education concept of a specific study program as well as to estimate the possibility of its successful implementation. This concerns, in particular, qualification objectives of the study program, its conceptual integration into the system of education, the concept of the study program, feasibility of the content and scope of studies, the examination system, study-relevant collaborations, personnel, material and space resources, transparency and documentation, application of the results of quality assurance for further development of the study program (it is especially important to present the analyses and evaluation results of student workload, academic accomplishments and employment of graduates, which are to be documented and taken into account within the framework of continuous development of the study program), as well as the provision of gender equality and equal opportunities.

The on-site visit of the experts is carried out in accordance with the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). After the announcement of the accreditation decision, the expert report will be published as a part of the Final Report.

¹ The expert shown in italics did not participate in the on-site visit of the University. Instead, they took part in the written evaluation.

3.2 Basic information about the study program

The main objective of the **M.Pharm** and the **Pharm.D** study program offered at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cyprus International University (CIU) is to raise students who are scientifically and socially responsible and equipped to provide pharmacy services with an internationally accepted academic environment. The **M.Pharm** study program requires the obtainment of 210 Credits according to the internal system of calculation of CIU which is equal to 300 credit points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The **Pharm.D** study program requires the obtainment of 228 Credit according to the internal system of calculation of CIU which is equal to 360 credit points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

One Credit is equal to one contact hour of lectures or two hours of laboratory work per week. The total workload of the **M.Pharm** program consists of 8.431 hours, of which 3.495 hours are contact hours, 1.534 hours are training/internship hours and 4.936 are hours of independent study. It is a full-time study program with a regular duration of 5 years / 10 semesters. The program curriculum consists of 68 modules/courses, of which 60 are obligatory, 6 are area electives and 2 are university (free) electives.

The total workload of the **Pharm.D** program consists of 10.311 hours, of which 4.935 hours are contact hours, 2.236 hours are training/internship hours and 5.376 hours of independent study. It is a full-time study program with a regular duration of 6 years / 12 semesters. The program curriculum consists of 75 modules/courses, of which 67 are obligatory, 6 are area electives and 2 are university (free) electives.

Admission requirements of the program include the graduation from a high school or an equivalent secondary school. Students are informed about the amount of the tuition fees in advance. The University has determined tuition fees for native and international students. Upon completion of the study programs, students are awarded with the academic title "Bachelor of Pharmacy". There are 20 study places annually available for both study programs. Admission takes place every fall semester. The first batch of "**M.Pharm**" students was admitted to the program in the academic year 2011/2012, and for the "**Pharm.D**" program in 2016/2017.

3.3 Expert Report

The on-site visit was carried out on May 17 and 18, 2022 according to the previously agreed schedule. Representatives from the head office of AHPGS accompanied the expert group.

The expert group met on May 16, 2022 for preliminary talks prior to the on-site visit. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation as well as questions that had been raised. Furthermore, they prepared the plan of the on-site visit at the University.

In the course of the on-site visit, experts conducted discussions with the University management, representatives of the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Dean, Vice-Dean and Course Coordinator, the Chair, Vice Chair and the teaching staff of the programs "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" as well as with students currently studying in the programs. Furthermore, they inspected the learning premises. Moreover, experts had the opportunity to see the equipment and the capacity of the laboratories.

The expert report is structured in compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below. The documents submitted by the University, the experts' feedback to the documents, the observations made during the on-site visit, the results of discussions with the representatives of the University, Faculty of Pharmacy and the students serve as the basis for the statements made in the expert report.

3.3.1 Program aims and their implementation

The University itself has set the mission to foster an institutional culture of quality student-centered education through all stakeholders' involvement in quality assurance and the enhancement of educational, governance, research and student support services and activities.

The Bachelor programs "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" pursue specific qualification objectives. In the experts' opinion, the University provides optimal capacities of human and technical resources. In accordance with the mission of the University both programs have been implemented in order to

- Train specialists who understand how the structure of substances used to manufacture drugs can influence the chemical or metabolic stability of a human body,
- understand and know the mechanism of action of medicinal substances and their therapeutic and toxic effects so that their recommendation and use may be done rationally
- introduce ethics, legal requirements and aspects that must comply exercising pharmacy profession and to perform activities related to the field of pharmaceutical sciences.

M.Pharm and Pharm.D students follow the same educational program until the end of 5th year (10th semester). While M.Pharm students graduate at the end of year 5, Pharm.D students continue their education for 1 more year, focusing on internships at industrial settings, hospital and community pharmacies and also the theses. The experts inquired about the need for two such identical study programs. The university explained that it has responded to the needs of its very international student body. While in some countries the M.Pharm is sufficient, in others the Pharm.D program is necessary to be able to practice. The students confirmed this. The experts note positively that the university takes care of the connectivity of the students despite the high internationality.

Possible employment fields are hospitals, pharmacies, pharmaceutical/cosmetic industries, pharmaceutical technology fields etc. The experts confirm that the study programs focus on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.3.2 Structure of the study program

The Bachelor study program "M.Pharm" is a full-time study program with a regular duration of five years (ten semesters). The program curriculum consists of 68 modules, out of which 60 are obligatory, 6 are area electives and 2 are university (free) electives.

The Bachelor study program "Pharm.D" is a full-time study program with a regular duration of six years (twelve semesters). The program curriculum consists of 75 modules, out of which 67 are obligatory, 6 are area electives and 2 are university (free) electives.

The first year of the programs comprises courses focused on Basic Sciences. Courses like Medical Biology, Chemistry, Physics and English are supposed to prepare the students for the upcoming years where they will be delving into the details of Pharmacy education. Year 2-4 are essentially composed of courses with applications and laboratory courses where students are exposed to exercises on specific patient cases (Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Care courses) and drug preparation (Pharmaceutical Technology). The skills gained during these years prepare the students for the actual profession of Pharmacy. In the final year (semester 9 and 10) the students gain real life experience on their profession: Students spend most of their time carrying out their internships at community and hospital pharmacies while simultaneously working on their Graduation Project to finalize their studies. "Pharm.D" students carry out an additional year of internships where they can also focus their internships on industrial experiences, if they want to. In this year, the students work on a research project with an assigned advisor, who helps them to write a thesis on their studies.

The experts conclude that students acquire specialized and program-specific knowledge as well as interdisciplinary knowledge and professional, methodological and general competences. They recommend that the university address new subject areas and current developments in the next revision of the curriculum, such as radiopharmacology, as well as further strengthening the interdisciplinary classes and increase international exchange prospects.

Furthermore, the experts acknowledge the very detailed course files with their contents and aims, which allows a high level of transparency. In the experts'

opinion, the structure of the curriculum seems to support the organization of the workload.

The study program has a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations, repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students.

The University has collaborations with governmental, military and private hospitals. During the internships, students are provided with advanced and accurate knowledge and clinical skills to continuously broaden their horizons and improve their qualifications. To assure the quality of the internships, the Faculty of Pharmacy designates an internship coordinator who is in regular contact with the clinical instructor responsible for the students at the hospital. The experts appreciate that students are supervised by members of the Faculty of Pharmacy in collaboration with the clinical trainers of the hospitals. Moreover, the clinical instructor has to fill in an evaluation form every month to evaluate the internship students. During the on-site visit, the students confirm that the University offers support both in finding hospitals and also during the internship. Nevertheless, even there is a protocol between CIU and Cyprus Turkish Pharmacists Association, according to the students, communication between the local pharmacies and the CIU could be improved to make it easier to organize the internships.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of the criterion are fulfilled.

3.3.3 Admission and Feasibility

The admission policies and procedures along with the requirements are properly documented. Students are required to be graduated from a high school or an equivalent secondary school to be admitted to CIU programs. Students from the Turkish Republic (TR) are admitted to CIU by one of the following methods within the framework of predetermined quotas:

1) To be placed in the Associate Degree or undergraduate programs of CIU through exams organized by the Turkish Higher Education Council Student Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM). The quota for Turkish nationals is 40 each year, which can be increased by the decision of the University Board of Directors.

2) To be placed in a program with CIU special talent national central exam, based on the score of the ÖSYM central exam. Over 21 Turkish Republic of

Northern Cyprus (TRNC) nationals are placed according to the results of the exam, organized within the framework of quotas.

Students from countries other than TRNC or TR can be accepted based on their success in different exams, considering the framework of their quotas. Accepted exams in other countries are set by criteria approved by TRNC Council of Ministers and described by CIU.

All applicants have to prove their ability to speak English by participating in the English Language Proficiency Test. Applicants who fail the Language Test are required to visit the University's one year-long English Preparatory School. During the conversation with the students, they reported that the Preparatory School helped them to immerse themselves into the English-speaking study programs. The experts determine the admission procedure and requirements to be appropriate. They correspond to the standards of the study programs.

The experts draw attention to the relatively high number of exams that need to be passed during the "Pharmacy" program. In order to prepare students for the level of difficulty and volume of exams, the duration of the different examinations is defined and communicated to the students transparently at the beginning of each course. The experts confirm that the University takes measures to guarantee the feasibility of the study program despite the high workload. As a whole, the organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study program. During the on-site visit, the experts learned that the type of examination during the courses is not communicated to the students from all lecturers. The experts recommend that the type of examinations during the course should match the courses contents and furthermore is communicated in advance in order to enable the students to optimize the preparation. It would also be desirable to inform in advance about composition of the final grade with regard to the proportions of the respective tests, quizzes or laboratory work. Such information should be added to the module descriptions.

For the experts, it became obvious that the University follows an "open-door-policy". The students confirm the supportive and easy communication between staff and students and emphasize that the teaching staff adequately reacts to the students' questions. Furthermore, in the first week of each year, students and instructors alike undergo an orientation which familiarizes them with available support services. An academic advisor is responsible for a small number of

students from the beginning of each semester and students are supported with their registration process, selecting a study program, financial and personal issues and their performance during the semester.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of the criterion are fulfilled.

3.3.4 Examination system and transparency

The University uses a continuous assessment process to ensure the quality of education for its students. This is achieved by evaluating the performance of the students through a series of exams and tests that are scheduled during the academic semester. In the 9th and 10th semester, theoretical and practical Graduation Project courses have to be taken by each student for 10 hours per week (regulated by the CIU Educational Directives). The aim of the Graduation Project course is to provide the students with the ability to search for the appropriate information about a certain topic, to collect and interpret data, to prepare a written scientific report on the project and to be able to present the results in front of a jury committee.

Students' workload is assessed and regulated through the Grade Point Average (GPA). An examination can be repeated twice in case of failure.

The experts conclude that the examinations, although numerous, serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved or not. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge. The requirements to students' performance in examinations are regulated and published. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organization, is appropriate.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.3.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

The workload in the two study programs "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" is managed by the total of 43 teaching staff involved: 18 full-time tenured instructors (3 professors, 6 assistant professors, 1 doctor, 8 assistants/lab technicians) and 6 part-time adjunct instructors (2 adjunct professors, 2 assistant professors and 2 doctors). Furthermore, there are 19 instructors from other departments involved in the study programs providing service courses. Considering the total of 638 students in the "M.Pharm" and the 415 students in the "Pharm.D" program, the student-to-faculty ratio is 1:15 in the M.Pharm program and 1:10 in

the Pharm.D program. The experts take positive note of the good student-to-faculty-ratio.

Regarding the employment process, the qualification and experience of the teaching staff is closely evaluated prior to the appointment decision. The experts are convinced that the instructors involved in the study program reveal a high level of competency in the relevant field.

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the programs and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Students evaluate the performance of all teaching and other staff periodically. In order to make quality developments more transparent for the students, the experts recommend that the evaluation results should be systematically fed back to the students.

Overall, the teaching and academic staff of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Cyprus International University shows a very high level of commitment and potential for the execution as well as further development of the study program they are responsible for. The experts find the amount of human resources allocated to the program to be sufficient to carry out its functions. The teaching staff within the Bachelor study programs "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" is in possession of academic and technical credentials and experience adequate to their tasks. The University informs its employees about opportunities for personal and professional development transparently, and actively encourages their participation in workshops, training courses and conferences intended to further their ability, which was confirmed during the talks with the staff on-site.

The experts visited the premises of the Faculty of Pharmacy. The skills labs are equipped with all relevant technology devices. From the experts' point of view, the quality of the laboratories and clinical areas used to train students in the Bachelor programs are sufficient.

As the University states, a "Health Science Cluster Building" should be implemented until 2028 on the campus, in order to combine and locate all "health-related" study programs in one location to strengthen the interdisciplinary work. The experts evaluate this as a great opportunity and favor the strengthening of interdisciplinary collaboration. The students also see the potential for great added value for themselves.

From the expert's point of view, the requirements of the criterion are fulfilled.

3.3.6 Quality assurance

From the experts' point of view, the University has a well-structured system of quality assurance spread across all of its units. In order to ensure quality of studies, CIU has adopted "Regulations for Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement". Furthermore, a Quality Committee has been established, which consists of one administrative and four academic members. The University states that the quality assurance system in the "M.Pharm" and "Pharm.D" program is realized by involving all instructors and students collectively. The evaluation of the teaching staff considers the individual level of expertise, potential in scientific research, teaching skills and abilities, professional prestige achieved and international recognition. The students are also part of the internal quality assurance process due to the "open-door policy" of the University, meaning that they can refer to any faculty or administration member directly to express their comments and complaints, which is confirmed by the students. The Student Development and Counselling Center was established not only to provide students with contemporary knowledge and skills, but also to assist them with their potential in psychological, educational and social development areas and to provide counselling services on their way to success throughout their education. There are Student Affairs and Social Activities Coordination Offices under the body of the directorate of the student development and counselling center and an independent Psychological Counselling and Guidance Center which realizes its activities by the guidance of the director of the center where the vice rector is in charge.

The result of the internal quality assurance management is applied for the continuous development of the study programs. In doing so, the University takes into close consideration the quality evaluation results as well as the analysis of students' workload, their academic accomplishment and feedback from graduates.

The experts take good note of the comments on the quality assurance system. However, it became clear from the discussion with the students that the evaluation results are not discussed with them on a regular basis. In order to make quality developments more transparent for the students, the experts recommend that the evaluation results should be systematically fed back to the students.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.3.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

The University demonstrates its commitment to the provision of equal opportunities for all students and shows openness for diversity and social developments.

Therefore, a “Woman and Gender Studies Research Center” is implemented, which aims to conduct and support research on gender studies and issues.

Students under special conditions are supported through the “Student Development and Counselling Center”. As the University states, there is currently one student with visual disability at the Faculty of Pharmacy. At the beginning of each semester, lecturers are informed about this student’s condition and are requested to print large-font-sized exam questions for the midterm and final exams. During the lectures, the student is seated in accordance with his/her lightning. The exam papers are evaluated manually by the instructors to provide the best assistance. The experts take positive note of that.

Overall, the experts conclude that the University’s actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner. Interest in the program is generally very balanced in terms of gender, so no special measures to promote women are necessary here.

From the experts’ point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.4 Summary

Based on the information from written documents and the results of the on-site visit, the experts came to the conclusion that the study programs “M.Pharm” and “Pharm.D” offered at the Cyprus International University fulfill the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS makes a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

The experts were able to see for themselves that internationality is actually lived out at the university. The students in particular very much appreciate the international atmosphere and would like to have even more exchange opportunities. From the experts’ point of view, the students are very well integrated and supported, not at least because of the well-structured advisory system. The staff

also seems to be happy and very dedicated for teaching and supporting the students.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- The experts recommend that the type of examinations during the course is communicated in advance in order to enable the students to optimize the preparation. It would also be desirable to inform in advance about composition of the final grade with regard to the proportions of the respective tests, quizzes or laboratory work. Such information should be added to the module descriptions.
- The evaluation results should be systematically fed back to the students.
- New subject areas and current developments should be addressed when revising the curriculum, such as radiopharmacology.
- Interdisciplinary classes should be strengthened and international exchange prospects increased.
- The communication between the local pharmacies and the CIU could be improved to make it easier to organize the internships.

4 Decision of the Accreditation Commission

Decision of the Accreditation Commission of June 30, 2022

Bachelor Study Program “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)”

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the application, as well as the expert review and the on-site visit covered in the expert report.

The on-site visit of Cyprus International University took place on May 17th and 18th, 2022, according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation decision is based on the “Accreditation Criteria for International Program Accreditation” which have been developed in close accordance with the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group.

The regulated study period in the program “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” is five years / ten semesters. The study program consists of 68 courses, of which 60 are obligatory, 6 area electives and 2 university (free) electives. The language of instruction is English. The bachelor study program “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” is completed with awarding of the academic degree “Bachelor of Pharmacy”. Admission takes place every fall semester. The first batch of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2011/2012.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The study program “Pharmacy (M.Pharm)” is accredited for the duration of five years, until September 30th, 2027.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the expert report.

Bachelor Study Program “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)”

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the application, as well as the expert review and the on-site visit covered in the expert report.

The on-site visit of Cyprus International University took place on May 17th and 18th, 2022, according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation decision is based on the “Accreditation Criteria for International Program Accreditation” which have been developed in close accordance with the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group.

The regulated study period in the program “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)” is six years / twelve semesters. The study program consists of 75 courses, of which 67 are obligatory, 6 area electives and 2 university (free) electives. The language of instruction is English. The bachelor study program “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)” is completed with awarding of the academic degree “Bachelor of Pharmacy”. Admission takes place every fall semester. The first batch of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2016/2017.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The study program “Pharmacy (Pharm.D)” is accredited for the duration of five years, until September 30th, 2027.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the expert report.