

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 20/10/2022

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Cyprus
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

In Greek:

Διδακτορικό Πρόγραμμα Κλασικών Σπουδών (6 – 16
εξάμηνα, 240 ECTS)

In English:

Doctoral Programme in Classics (6 – 16 semesters,
240 ECTS)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** Greek
- **Programme's status:** Currently operating
- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English: Concentrations



The present document has been prepared within the framework of the authority and competencies of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, according to the provisions of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws” of 2015 to 2021 [[L.136\(I\)/2015](#) – [L.132\(I\)/2021](#)].

A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- *The Higher Education Institution (HEI) based on the External Evaluation Committee's (EEC's) evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area. The answers' documentation should be brief and accurate and supported by the relevant documentation. Referral to annexes should be made only when necessary.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area and by using the 2nd column of each table, the HEI must respond on the following:*
 - *the areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The institution should respond to the EEC comments, in the designated area next each comment. The comments of the EEC should be copied from the EEC report **without any interference** in the content.*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on separate document(s). Each document should be in *.pdf format and named as annex1, annex2, etc.*

1. Study programme and study programme’s design and development
 (ESG 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<p>The system seems to be working well. During the discussion, the panel suggested that, following international trends, a move could be made towards such good practice as co-supervision. This is not officially recognised in the programme’s description, but co-operation seems to be working all the same, as is to be expected in a relatively small environment. A stronger emphasis on internationalisation and on English as a working language for the discipline would be welcome.</p>	<p>a. There is indeed a culture of informal cooperation in the Department. The question of <i>formalized</i> co-supervision concerns university-wide policy and cannot be decided by the Department alone; our new representative at the Board of the School of Postgraduate Studies will at its next meeting present this recommendation for discussion. b. Internationalisation and use of English: A long-term project; see the measures adumbrated in our Response (doc. 300.3.2) to the “External Evaluation Report (Departmental)”, point 1.3.1.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
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2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment

(ESG 1.3)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
Perhaps, more could be made in terms of inter-departmental cooperation. The application heralds the “unity of classical studies”, but in the ensuing description the emphasis is firmly on language and philology only. There might be ways to make the programme more interdisciplinary.	Should formalized co-supervision of PhDs become possible (see above, point 1a), there will certainly be room for co-operation with colleagues from other Departments.	Choose an item.
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3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
Co-supervision and external supervision should be encouraged.	See our comment above, point 1.a.	Choose an item.
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4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

(ESG 1.4)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
In the interest of the programme's internationalization, it is advisable to enlarge the pool of PhD candidates to include students of different backgrounds.	See above, point 1.b.	Choose an item.
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5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

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It may be useful, not least to attract international students, to spell out specific resources designed to promote an active participation on the part of PhD students, such as funding to organize workshops.	Our Committee for Quality Assurance in cooperation with the Committee for Postgraduate Studies is currently overhauling the description of the programme on our webpage; this point shall be attended to forthwith.	Choose an item.
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6. Additional for doctoral programmes

(ALL ESG)

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<p>More explicit guidelines. Based on the application and the website, the programme falls short of the sort of detailed policies that are typical of, e.g., the British system. In light of the flexibility of PhD experiences, this is not necessarily a drawback, but clearer guidelines would at least help recruit more international students. Exchange programmes are clearly a desideratum.</p>	<p>See above, point 5.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

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B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<p>As will be clear from the previous sections, the conclusions are extremely positive. The panel's recommendations are not meant to detract from what is clearly a healthy reality, which we expect to become even better in the future. The collaboration of regular professors with highly qualified visiting staff (through regularly advertised calls that entail attractive job opportunities) is a way in which the programmes flourish while at the same time encouraging its members to implement the policies that govern the distribution of sabbatical leaves. Moreover, this increases the opportunities to attract promising researchers who can develop an interest in applying for regular positions and is in line with the Department's Commitment to "monitor and review the Study Programmes so that they meet the needs of the labour market, society, contemporary theoretical backgrounds," thus providing students with a background that will enable them to adjust to demanding academic programmes at international institutions.</p> <p>Both with respect to the programmes' international ambitions and as a matter of concern in itself, the panel notes that more effort should be made to incorporate in courses questions concerning gender and race. In order to make the ties between more</p>	<p>a. Questions concerning race and gender: As appeared in the discussion with the EEC, the issue primarily concerns our MA programme; see our comment in our response to that part of the report.</p> <p>b. [Interaction between Classics and Philosophy: Does not currently concern our Doctoral Programme.]</p> <p>c. Policies on sexual harassment / discrimination: Again, a matter of university-wide policy; we undertake to forward the EEC's concerns to the Senate.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

<p>visible, both Classics and Philosophy can develop courses that will strengthen the connection between the fields. In a somewhat similar vein, The panel would welcome the implementation of clearly defined and advertised procedures in case the students face problems of sexual harassment or any discrimination on the basis of sex or race. Commitment to the values of diversity and gender equality could find a more clear expression both in formal procedures and statutes and (in an implicit yet significant way) in the content of the course work (either through the development of courses that encourage the students to develop the relevant values, or through the effort to include within existing courses, where appropriate, appropriate topics)</p>		
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C.

D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Demokritos Kaltsas	Coordinator of Postgraduate Studies	
Georgios Xenis	Head of the Department	

Date: 20th October 2022

