



Doc. 300.1.2

# Higher Education Institution's Response

Date: 12/7/2022

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

**In Greek:**

“Ορθοδοντική (3 Έτη/180 ECTS, Μεταπτυχιακό)”

**In English:**

“Orthodontics (3 Years/180 ECTS, Master of Science)”

- **Language(s) of instruction:** English
- **Programme's status:** New
- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

**The Department of Dentistry, School of Medicine of the European University Cyprus (EUC) wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) for the evaluation of the Master of Science in Orthodontics programme of study.**

**It is with great pleasure that the Department of Dentistry noted the positive feedback of the EEC and the insightful recommendations provided the opportunity to further improve the quality of the programme.**

**In the following pages, detailed responses to all areas of improvement and recommendations for improvement suggested by the EEC are included and all relevant information explaining the actions undertaken to ensure that the new programme is of very high quality are provided.**

**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 <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<p><b>Greater involvement of external stakeholders in curriculum design would be helpful. For example, the use of external examiners, would offer annual opportunity for development rather than the five-year review, or a mid-term review with external academics could be considered.</b></p>	<p>Upon the induction of the programme at EUC an application will be submitted for provisional membership to the Network of Erasmus Based European Orthodontic Postgraduate Programmes [NEBEOP]. The Network is a group of orthodontic postgraduate training programmes, which deliver a structured curriculum in orthodontics and which strive to fulfil the guidelines for postgraduate education in orthodontics in Europe  <a href="http://www.nebeop.org/content/default.asp#Top">[http://www.nebeop.org/content/default.asp#Top]</a>.</p> <p>This membership will enable the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme at EUC to implement NEBEOP guidelines that promote optimal postgraduate training in orthodontics, to establish educational collaborations between other orthodontic programmes in Europe (common courses, exchange of teachers, e-learning, etc.), and to serve as a knowledge platform in postgraduate training in orthodontics.</p> <p>After two years of function of the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme an application for full membership will be submitted to NEBEOP. During the entire process (from application for provisional membership {start of programme} to the application for full membership {after two years of function}) two programme directors (professors) of full members of NEBEOP will be visiting at the end of each academic year the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme to serve as sponsors (guarantors) to the application as well as external assessors. A site visit by two more programme directors (professors) for approving the application for full membership will complete the process of external assessment during the first three years of the MSc in Orthodontics programme.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

## 2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment (ESG 1.3)

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<p><b>Quality assurance needs to be observed and monitored during the implementation of the programme.</b></p>	<p>The small size of each class (cohort) will allow a direct, frequent, efficient and easy, face-to-face, communication between students and teachers. This will take place in all didactic, lab, clinical, and research activities of the programme.</p> <p>Student-centered learning is the special characteristic of this programme that aims to provide clinical training for preparing the graduate to practice orthodontics as a dental specialist.</p> <p>Assessment will be both formative and summative. The methods of assessment used will be dictated by the purpose of the assessment.</p> <p>For the courses that have mainly theoretical character final exams will produce 60% of the final mark and lab work / oral presentations / assignments 30%.</p> <p>With regard to the clinical work, on a daily basis, students, in the various settings, will be closely and directly guided and supervised by the faculty through direct observation.</p> <p>Students will compile a Personal Development Portfolio that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Logbook and Reflective Learning Portfolio (ongoing)</li> <li>• Workplace-based Assessments (ongoing)</li> <li>• 360° appraisal (end of semester)</li> </ul> <p>For the clinical courses final exams will produce 30% of the final mark and clinical assessment 60%.</p> <p>In addition, the Programme Director will meet formally with each student individually, once per semester, to discuss all aspects of his/her clinical performance.</p> <p>The Master thesis courses corresponding to the different stages of research work will produce 90% of the final mark.</p> <p>For all the above-mentioned courses attendance / participation will contribute with 10% to the final mark.</p> <p>Each course's coordinator will draw out a blueprint of course objectives and the examination instruments to be used to test these objectives. Multiple methods are</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>



	<p>usually required to achieve blueprint objectives. The different examination instruments allow a balance of strengths and weaknesses of each method. As much as possible, questions should assess higher-order thinking and not just a simple recall of information. For skills / performance-based assessments, properly constructed checklists and/or rating scales will be used. Tasks should be as clinically authentic as possible.</p>	
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### 3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

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<p><b>We understand there is no plan yet for peer learning and support across the curriculum. We would recommend to take that into consideration. This would also be an opportunity for undergraduate students to learn from senior orthodontic residents. The recruitment of more orthodontic academic teaching staff will be essential to enable delivery of this new programme.</b></p>	<p>During the 4 semesters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years, postgraduate students of the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme will supervise for 2 hours/week the clinical training of the 5<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate dental students at the EUC Dental Clinic. As it was mentioned in the SWOT Analysis included in the application, by supervising undergraduate students' educational activities the postgraduate students will be exposed to teaching and will get valuable didactic experience thus enriching their overall knowledge.</p> <p>As presented in the application, 23 full-time and part-time academic staff members will be involved in teaching the various courses at the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme. For the first year of the programme, this group includes 4 orthodontic academic staff (1 full-time and 3 part-time). With regards to the orthodontics, 2 openings for full-time faculty (1 professor / associate professor and 1 at any rank) and 1 opening for part-time faculty have been posted and applications have been received. At present interviews, assessment and HR communications have been made for the first academic post. The process for the second academic post and the third part-time post will start in the beginning of September 2022. In addition to the existing minimum requirements for hiring full-time or part-time faculty, all academic orthodontic staff will possess the title of orthodontic specialist recognized in the Republic of Cyprus.</p> <p>Cyprus has a good number of orthodontic specialists working in the private sector with excellent academic and professional qualifications, who have been trained in universities of Europe, North America and Israel. This group will provide the necessary number of scientific collaborators (part-time faculty) to be involved in selected didactic activities, but mainly in the clinical supervision of the students, when the program starts. It is anticipated that 8 scientific collaborators, specialists in orthodontics, will be hired, before the start of Year 1 Semester 2 (when the postgraduate students will start treating patients at the EUC Dental Clinic according to the programme's curriculum).</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>



#### 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
<p><b>The team of administrators across the university should match the requirements of introducing a new programme with the addition of further resource. We presume that a transcript is available in request by student on graduation although we were not provided with evidence of such.</b></p> <p><b>The number of students to be admitted to this new programme should be determined according to the infrastructure, in particular the number of dental chairs, academic and support staff in post. Typically, similar programmes in Europe admit between 5 to 10 students per year of a 3 year programme. Orthodontic treatment requires sufficient prevision of clinical experience. Typically this requires 50 new patients per student with the appropriate case mix. The availability of this patient supply will be essential for the success of the new programme.</b></p>	<p>EUC has a record of serious commitment in providing additional administrative support to all new programmes. At present the Department of Dentistry has 5 administrative staff and 5 lab assistants / x-rays assistants. With regards to the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme, when it starts, is planned to be supported with additional staff (1 secretarial support, 1 dental lab technician and 4 dental nurses / assistants).</p> <p>All students of the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme will receive on graduation from the Office of the Registrar (a) the M.Sc. degree, (b) a transcript regarding their studies (Courses, CR/ECTS attended, CR/ECTS earned, Hours, Grade, Grade points, semesters's GPA, and Cumulative GPA), and (c) a copy of their logbook presenting detailed information regarding their clinical training (number of patients, types of malocclusions and corresponding orthodontic treatment modalities).</p> <p>Based on the existing facilities and the additional under-construction infrastructure (3 new floors of 900 square meters each dedicated to Dentistry), the planned intake should be between 6-10 postgraduate students per year of this 3-year M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme.</p> <p>As mentioned by the EEC orthodontic treatment requires sufficient prevision of clinical experience. For this reason, during each academic year, trainees are required to be present full-time for forty-two (42) weeks [twenty-one weeks (21) weeks per academic semester] with scheduled and precisely planned didactic, lab and clinical activities. This longer than usual duration of each academic semester is necessary for the extended and comprehensive clinical training of the trainees having in mind that the average duration of an orthodontic therapy exceeds the two years. The longitudinal nature of orthodontic treatment provision means that a prolonged summer break interruption in attending patients may have deleterious consequences on their treatment and oral health. However, even during the Christmas holidays, the Easter holidays, and the summer break, trainees will be responsible with the management of their patients' emergency clinical visits (on rotation basis) as well as with non-staff / student contact activities such as elaboration of patients</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>



	<p>records, etc. During the entire M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme the total clinical training represents 58% of the curriculum corresponding to 1930 hours.</p> <p>Having in mind that NEBEOP guidelines suggest that each postgraduate orthodontic student should start at least 50 new patients, EUC gives great priority to their comprehensive clinical training to become qualified orthodontic specialists with key skills and clinical competencies. Orthodontic patients will be charged with reduced fees which will cover the operating costs and services of the EUC Dental Clinic and which will be significantly lower, approximately 20%-30%, of the fees charged at the private orthodontic clinics in the country. In this way all postgraduate students will be provided with an adequate number of patients and the appropriate case mix.</p>	
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## 5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<p><b>We noted that undergraduate dental students assisted each other on clinics, which seems to be acceptable both to staff and students. However, in very many European countries, the traditional model would be the students to be assisted by a dental nurse/assistant. We presume that local graduate dentists will work with such an assistant in general dental practice. In addition, many international graduates will definitely be working with a dental assistant. We assume that dental nurses/assistants will be available for the postgraduate orthodontic students, as this will enable clinical efficiency so that they may satisfy their clinical requirements. We recommend considering peer teaching and support across the curriculum. The introduction of a MSc in Orthodontics must be addressed by expanding the number of facilities and recruiting more patients. We understand that there is a plan for the building of an additional 32 dental units, which will increase the total availability of the dental school from 20 dental units to 52. We understand that these additional units are for the use of the BDS and the MSc students, so the balance will need consideration. Three-dimensional image techniques (particularly CBCT) should be provided.</b></p>	<p>There is complete agreement with the recommendations of the EEC regarding the use of dental nurses / assistants in the clinical training of the postgraduate orthodontic students. As mentioned above the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme, when it starts, will be supported with additional staff including 4 dental nurses / assistants.</p> <p>With regards to peer teaching it was mentioned above that during the 4 semesters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years, postgraduate students of the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme will supervise for 2 hours/week the clinical training of the 5<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate dental students at the EUC Dental Clinic. By supervising undergraduate students' educational activities, the postgraduate students will be exposed to teaching and will get valuable didactic experience thus enriching their overall knowledge.</p> <p>Based on the existing facilities and the additional under construction infrastructure (3 new floors of 900 square meters each dedicated to Dentistry), the 3-year MSc in Orthodontics programme will function in order to fulfil its aims namely the training dentists for becoming competent orthodontic specialists.</p> <p>As it was mentioned in the Annex 4: Infrastructure of the submitted application 200.1 (panoramic X-ray), the EUC Dental Clinic has in function a CBCT unit (Orthophos XG, Sirona, Dentsply Sirona Deutschland GmbH, Bensheim, Germany).</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

**6. Additional for doctoral programmes**  
 (ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	Choose an item.
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**7. Eligibility (Joint programme)**  
 (ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<b>N/A</b>	N/A	Choose an item.
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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><b>We were pleased to see the support from the senior leadership for this new MSc programme. The Medical School was established 10 years ago and has developed its education and curriculum, which is now firmly established. They have developed clinical training and research profile and community outreach. The Dental Department was established in 2017. The intention is to admit students for registration on the MSc programme starting in the next academic year as soon as the clinical facilities refurbishment is complete and staff are in post. admission of the first cohort of dental students was in September 2017 and these students are expected to graduate in July 2022 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree. We were pleased to understand that orthodontics is a recognized specialty in the Republic of Cyprus. It is therefore a very positive step to introduce a degree and training programme in this specialty. In conclusion we would like to congratulate Dentistry on its forward thinking and innovative strategic planning. We the EEC confirm that we fully support the introduction of an MSc in Orthodontics. We recognized that this is a significant step change in the development of the institution and we understand that there will be challenges, but we believe that the strength of leadership and planning that we have seen the evidences of will enable this programme to come into fruition.</b></p>	<p>The conclusions and final remarks of the EEC are highly appreciated. They encourage the Department of Dentistry, EUC to proceed with more enthusiasm and dynamics to its plan for the M.Sc. in Orthodontics programme.</p> <p>The M.Sc. in Orthodontics taught three-year postgraduate programme will provide the didactic and clinical training requirements at the level of specialist trainee and the appropriate preparation for becoming orthodontic specialist. It will be the first in the country for dentists to become orthodontic specialists.</p> <p>The programme includes all the features of the European Erasmus training guidelines (NEBEOP) fulfils the requirements of the European Commission Directives regarding the education of orthodontic specialists, the UK Specialist Advisory Committee in Orthodontics, and the World Federation of Orthodontists guidelines for postgraduate orthodontic education.</p> <p>The Department of Dentistry EUC is grateful to the EEC for its hard work, genuine interest and great efforts to study in depth the application for accreditation of the MSc in Orthodontics programme as well as for submitting its thorough and constructive comments and suggestions.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

### C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
<b>Professor Athanasios E. Athanasiou</b>	Programme's Coordinator and Executive Dean, Department of Dentistry	
<b>Professor George Palaghias</b>	Chairperson of the Department	

**Date:** 12/7/2022

