

**RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS
INCLUDED IN THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT
OF MASTER IN THEOLOGY**

Overall Neapolis Comment

We are glad for the constructive comments of the EEC. We are grateful for the positive reaction of the EEC towards the program by stating that “*the program is a positive attempt to offer high quality theological education in the form of distance learning in Greek language*”. We are also happy to know that the average marking of the program is 3/57, which reflects the satisfactory level of the program quality. In the meantime, Neapolis University Pafos has fully complied with the suggestions and has proceeded with all necessary changes and adjustments, where needed considering that this is a quality contribution to further enhance the aims and objectives of the program.

Comment 1

1.1.1 More specific about the required degrees for admission.

Answer

The program is addressed to graduates (240 ECTS accomplished) of the Departments of Theology, Philosophy, Philology, Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, History, Greek and European Culture, as well as other similar faculties and departments.

Comment 2

1.1.4.2. Theological resources should be enriched

Answer

It has been accomplished, the theological resources ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY contain:

ProQuest Central as part of the CALC agreement provides access to Religion Database collection which includes:

- 380 Journals in total
- 250 Full Text Journals (see attached excel)
- 150 Full Text Journals with current and continuously added full text articles

- The content majority is academic and especially selected to support the Academic Programs in Theology
- Includes Journals that reflect universal religions and the new trends. For example: Journal of Global Buddhism, Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, and Hebrew Studies.
- Covers topics of formal theological studies and commentary on issues of general interest from specific religions point of view.
- Includes over 30 titles published from Religious Publishing Institutions and other not related publishers.
- This Database is an excellent source of religious news and information, details and philosophies for doctrines and academic references for Religions history and continuous archaeology. (ANNEX1: REVISED LIBRARY MATERIAL)

Comment 3

1.1.4.5/1.1.9. No focus on mentoring and lack of personnel/ not enough personnel

Answer

Mentoring procedures are part of the policy and the guidelines of the University as well as part of the DL Study Guide of the University. Namely it is stated that:

1. Teaching staff identifies “office hours” for students twice per week
2. Electronic communication and support is available 24/7.
3. Teaching staff makes all information, including telephone numbers known to the students before the semester begins.
4. Teaching staff provides all necessary feedback as part of the evaluation of the students assignments, self-evaluation activities, etc.

Nonetheless to state that in Chapter 5 (Distance Learning Program) of the evaluation Neapolis has received 3X3, 10X4, 3X5.

Existing full time academic staff in the conventional MA in Theological Studies program is 4 and the work load of each one of the personnel does not exceed 6 teaching hours per semester. In the application an adequate number of associated teaching staff is already included, namely, 13. Proactively, Neapolis has already announced in its site related openings for the program and the courses, having already received 23 applications. Appraisal and consideration of those applications will be realized after the accreditation of the program, always considering the availability of the already proposed associated teaching personnel. Nonetheless to state that in points

1.3.4, 1.3.5 and 1.3.6., 1.3.8. the quality of the proposed personnel has been marked from 4-5. More precisely 1.3.8. which is marked “4” is “the ratio of the number of students to the total number of teaching personnel is adequate for the support and safeguarding of the program’s quality”.

Comment 4

1.1.7/12 The bylaws are not online.

Answer

The bylaws could not be on line since this is a new program and cannot be treated otherwise. Full transparency is secured for DL students since all by laws are announced to students together with the offer letter, thus students are fully aware of the regulations governing the program.

Comment 5

1.2.1/4 "We suggest adopting the standards of online education, having two assignments per semester. 70% is too much for the final exam according to international standards. Assignment forms need development that is, providing multiple ways and not only writing essays (but also such as posters, video clips)."

Answer

It has been accomplished. The following changes have been realized:

1. In the syllabi and in the Study Guides as well, two assignments are now incorporated, instead of one that existed and the gravity quota has changed (60% final exam - 40% two assignments) instead of the prior (70% final exam - 30% the assignment).
2. The assignments have been modified to incorporate significant elements of critical analysis, connection to modern reality, connection to student experience, and they can also take the form of videos, posters, etc. (ANNEX 2: REVISED CURICULLA, ANNEX 3: REVISED STUDY GUIDE)

Comment 6

1.2.5 We suggest that the video-conference becomes compulsory for all participants.

Answer

It has been accomplished through adding this obligation by pointing out to the study guides: **"The presence of students at all these meetings contributes to a fuller understanding of the subject while at the same time it strengthens their relationships and helps to achieve the emotional goals of learning while acquiring a metacognitive character as students learn to cooperate and develop online collaboration and communication skills and finally they "learn how to learn. In this sense, their presence in these meetings is considered necessary and crucial.** (See revised Curriculum, ANNEX 2, p3)

Comment 7

1.2.7 Bibliography should be updated, more international and covering new trends in discipline.

Answer

It has been accomplished through updating the existing literature with more contemporary and international references, (ANNEXES 4 TO 12: REVISED STUDY GUIDES for each separate course)

Comment 8

1.3.1/1.3.7/1.3.11 The system is vulnerable with only one full- time member occupied in the institution/Most of the courses are offered by part time personnel/the Committee is not certain about the efficiency of the coordination due to the high workload of the personnel elsewhere.

Answer

Based on the Guidelines of the CYQAA and the related announcement of 25/10/2018 DL programs follow the Open Universities' rules of operation, Neapolis University fully complying.

As we have already replied to points 1.1.4.5. and 1.1.9. “Existing full time academic staff in the conventional MA in Theological Studies program is 4 and the work load of each one of the personnel does not exceed 6 teaching hours per semester. In the application an adequate number of associated teaching staff is already included, namely, 13. Proactively, Neapolis has already announced in its site related openings for the program and the courses, having already received 23 applications. Staff availability and overall workload has been one of the criteria to be appraised. Appraisal and consideration of those applications will be realized after the accreditation of the program, always considering the availability of the already proposed associated teaching personnel. Nonetheless to state that in points 1.3.4, 1.3.5 and 1.3.6., 1.3.8. the quality of the proposed personnel has been marked from 4-5. More precisely 1.3.8. which is marked “4” is “the ratio of the number of students to the total number of teaching personnel is adequate for the support and safeguarding of the program’s quality”.

Additionally:

- In point 1.3.9. “the academic personnel’s teaching load does not limit the conduct of research, writing and contribution to the society” it is marked with a “3”.
- In 1.3.11 “the program’s coordinator has the qualifications and experience to efficiently coordinate the program of study” it is marked with “4”.
- In Chapter 5 (Distance Learning Program) of the evaluation Neapolis has received 3X3, 10X4, 3X5.

Comment 9

2.1.1/2 The phrasing is not specific enough, they do not follow the Bloom taxonomy (differentiation between objectives and learning outcomes).

Answer

It has been accomplished.

1. The learning outcomes have been reviewed based on Bloom’s Taxonomy, following the general categories (knowledge, understanding, implementation,

analysis, evaluation and synthesis) and related verbs, with more emphasis on critical thinking, analysis, assessment and synthesis.

2. In all nine courses the general purpose the objectives and the learning outcomes were reviewed. This change was also reflected in the Study Guides (Greek and English), (See Revised Curriculum, Study Guide: ANNEXES 2-3)

Comment 10

2.1.4/5/6/7. Objectives and learning outcomes need to be properly formulated. Learning outcomes are too demanding. They mainly refer to knowledge skills without considering the process of comprehension, and application. The Committee encourages the application of critical thinking in this study program.

Answer

Although in the External Evaluation Report this has been marked as “N/A” we have proceeded fully satisfying the comments. More precisely:

1. The learning outcomes have been changed in the direction of enriching students with critical and analytical thinking and not only knowledge.
2. The cognitive goals and learning outcomes were linked with assignments and exercises per unit that, beyond knowledge, they promote critical and analytical thinking.
3. Techniques that enhance critical and creative thinking, such as: six thinking hats, the scamper method, Frayer Model, Know - Want to know - Learned, Cubing, Brainstorming, Artful Thinking, Debate, Swot Analysis, Tows Analysis, Gamification, Artful Thinking were added.
4. We also ensured that these learning outcomes are realistic and real for the 18-month duration of the program. They also encourage the application of critical thinking in this study program, (see revised Curriculum, Study Guide ANNEXES 2/3)

Comment 11

2.2.6/7/8 The Committee unanimously recommends that this study program shall be called Master of Arts in Theology. The content of the program does not fulfil

the international standards for an MTh. Ancient languages are not a prerequisite and the study track is short.

Pafos is a historically biblical site and therefore the University is expected to have a special interest in this topic. We suggest that two modules from the pastoral or practical fields be merged and a new module on historical biblical exegesis be introduced. There is no clarity in the distinction of the ecclesial and academic orientation in the modules. The Committee has concerns about the ability of stakeholders to take critical distance from their own tradition.

Answer

1. We agree to rename the program in “Master of Arts in Theology”.
2. Two courses have merged: "Issues of pastoral practice and ecclesiastical administration" (DTHEO781) and "Pastoral Theology and Canon Law" (DTHEO760) and created the course: "**Canon Law - Pastoral Theology and Practice**" (DTHEO762), (see revised curriculum, course study guide ANNEXES 2/9)
3. A new course was created: "**Bible: Explanation and Interpretation Topics**". (DTHEO763), (See revised curriculum and course study guide ANNEXES 2/7)

Comment 12

2.3.2.3 Students should be more involved in the process of quality assurance.

Answer

Students’ involvement in the quality assurance process is duly analyzed into the University’s Internal Quality Assurance System, and currently implemented. (See ANNEX 17: POLICY NUP PROCEDURE 01.410).

Comment 13

2.4.2 Learning outcomes need to be narrowed down because of the shortness of the given time frame.

Answer

It has been accomplished. Learning outcomes have been narrowed down. (see ANNEX 2: Revised Curriculum)

Comment 14

2.5.1/2. No international collaboration is mentioned for this program. The Committee suggests that internationally renowned scholars provide some online lectures.

Answer

It has been accomplished through adding to the Associated Teaching Staff two internationally renowned scholars providing online lectures, (see ANNEXES 13,14, letters of intention). This component has also been incorporated into the Study Guide of the program (See ANNEX 3).

Comment 15

3.1.1/3.1.2 Research should be more contemporary. In some fields, bibliography can be improved.

Answer

It has been accomplished. Bibliography has been updated. See the revised Study Guides, (See ANNEXES 4 TO 12)

Comment 16

4.2.1 It is strongly recommended that the University Library be enhanced with international and update theological bibliography.

Answer

It has been accomplished through ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global, which is also part of the CALC agreement access is provided to more than 275.257 results in dissertations related to theology and religion from which the 168.525 are in full text., thus, University library is fully enhanced with international and updated theological bibliography (see ANNEXES 15/16)

Comment 17

4.3.2 A better involvement of the faculty in the allocation of financial resources is expected.

Although it has been marked with a “3”, we hereby confirm that a full policy in relation to the budgeting procedures within the University as well as the active role of the academic staff and the academic units of the University in planning and executing the budget has already been submitted, as part of the Internal Self Evaluation process.

ANNEX 1

RELIGION DATABASE PROQUEST

ANNEX 2

Curriculum MA DL in Theology_EN

ANNEX 3

Οδηγός Σπουδών_MA DL in Theology_GR

ANNEX 4

ΔΤΕΗΟ711 ΒΙΒΛΙΚΗ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΑ

ANNEX 5

ΔΤΕΗΟ741 ΔΙΑΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΘΡΗΣΚΕΙΑΚΟΣ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΣ

ANNEX 6

ΔΤΕΗΟ730 ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ

ANNEX 7

ΔΤΕΗΟ763 ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΕΞΗΓΗΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΡΜΗΝΕΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ

ANNEX 8

**ΔΤΕΗΟ771 ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΛΑΤΡΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ
ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΗΣ ΤΕΧΝΗΣ**

ANNEX 9

**ΔΤΕΗΟ762 ΚΑΝΟΝΙΚΟ ΔΙΚΑΙΟ – ΠΟΙΜΑΝΤΙΚΗ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΑΙ
ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΗ**

ANNEX 10

**DTHEO701 ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΗΣ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΗΣ**

ANNEX 11

DTHEO750 ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗ ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΙΚΗ

ANNEX 12

DTHEO721 ΠΑΤΕΡΙΚΗ-ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΑ

ANNEX 13

COOPERATION PROF. ATHANASIOU Fribourg

ANNEX 14
COOPERATION PROF. NIKOLAKOPOULOS MUNICH

ANNEX 15

THEOLOGY DATABASE LIBRARY CONNECTIONS C

1. Cambridge University Press (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/what-we-publish/journals#>)
2. Emerald
(<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/action/doSearch?AllField=religion&content=articlesChapters&startPage=&KeywordStored=Religion>)
3. Oxford Art Online
(http://www.oxfordartonline.com/browse?t0=art_ArtHistory:45) includes 10.000 articles
4. Oxford University Press (https://academic.oup.com/journals/search-results?page=1&q=religion&allJournals=1&f_ArticleTypeDisplayName=Research+Article&fl_SiteID=5567) includes 53.000 articles
5. T.L. G. (<http://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/>)
6. Sage
(<https://journals.sagepub.com/action/showPublications?category=10.1177/social-sciences-and-humanities-religion>)
7. Springer (<https://link.springer.com/search?query=religion&facet-content-type=%22Article%22>) includes 90.000 articles
8. Taylor and Francis
(<https://www.tandfonline.com/topic/4267?target=topic&startPage=&ConceptID=4517>) includes 52.000 articles
9. Willey (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/topic/browse/000106>)
10. Jstor (<https://www.jstor.org/subject/religion>)
11. Ebsco
(<http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/resultsadvanced?vid=8&sid=de966139-980e-4e4b-a218-8ac648ebd67b%40sessionmgr4008&bquery=SU+religion&bdata=JmNsaTA9R>

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12. Proquest (<https://search.proquest.com/religion?accountid=165531>)

ANNEX16

UPDATE THEOLOGY TITLES