



## **School of Law**

Programme:

**“LAW (LL.M.)”**

- **International Commercial Law**
- **Private Law**
- **Public Law**
- **Criminal Law (New proposed additional concentration)**

21 June 2018

The School of Law of the European University Cyprus wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the *External Evaluation Committee* for the evaluation of the new concentration **Criminal Law** to be included in the concentrations of the graduate programme “**LAW (LL.M.)**”.

The recommendations made were welcome and gave us the opportunity to improve our application, as indicated in the points below and in the attached supporting documents. We now feel confident that we have implemented all necessary improvements that were suggested by the Committee so that the new concentration will be of high quality and success.

Please find below our point-to-point responses to the *External Evaluation Committee (EEC) comments*. Of note, as some recommendations appear in more than one points in the *EEC Report*, our response (EUC Response) refers to the initial report, to avoid repetition.

**1. EEC Report:** (s. p. 7 under 1 –organization of teaching work / p. 8 paragraph 2 / p. 11 c / p. 18 2.1.1., 2.1.2., 2.1.4. , 2.1.5 / p. 19 2.2.1., 2.2.3. / p. 29 under b).

The Committee has pointed out that there is no adequate co-ordination as regards the contents of the various courses and avoidance of overlaps is recommended.

#### **EUC Response:**

The Syllabi have been reviewed and improved, and any overlapping of content has been eliminated. Indicatively, from the course LAW 681 Cyber Crime and Modern Techniques to Confront Crime, the topics Terrorism and Organized crime were removed, so that there is no overlap with the course LAW 682 Organized Crime – Terrorism – “Euro” – scams. From the course LAW 666 “Special Issues of Special Criminal Laws Legislation” the topic on issues of Economic Crime was removed from the content of the course, so that it does not overlap with the content of the course LAW 680 Economic Criminal Law and Economic Criminality etc. **(see Appendix II)**.

**2. EEC Report:** (s. p. 7 under 1. – purpose and objectives and learning outcomes of the program of study / p.14 under 1.1.3.2., 1.1.3.3. / p. 16 1.2.7 / p. 18 2.1.6. / p. 20 under 2.2.8. p. 29 under c)).

The Committee has pointed out that there should be a teaching plan for each course that involves a week by week written outline of bibliography and other materials to be handed out in advance to students of the course.

#### **EUC Response:**

The teaching personnel has prepared analytical course outlines for all proposed courses in the concentration of criminal law with analytical week by week outline as per the suggestion of the committee.

Each course outline contains week by week the following information: the topic of each week's lecture, a short description of what will be taught during the lecture and materials that the students should study for the particular topic.

The course outlines are available to the Committee (**see Appendix III**). In addition the practice at EUC is to provide students via Moodle with hand outs for each lecture of all courses. An example of hands outs for each of the thirteen lectures of the course LAW 640 Methodology of Research is attached (**see Appendix IV**).

**3. EEC Report:** (s. p. 7 paragraph 1/ p. 11 paragraph b) / p. 19 & 20, under 2.24., 2.2.6., 2.2.7.).

The Committee points out that the proposed core modules which are compulsory for all concentrations of our LLM program, (ie the existing and already approved concentrations of International Commercial Law, Public Law and Private Law) and the proposed concentration in Criminal Law are not appropriate in terms of content for the concentration under evaluation. In particular, regarding the core course on Special Issues of European Law dedicated to EU Law and Institutions the EEC feels that this should be expected to have been taught in the undergraduate program of the students. Also the courses Methodology of Law and Methodology of Research should be combined in one course with an emphasis on research in Criminal Law.

### **EUC Response**

Our application proposes the addition of a concentration to the already accredited by the competent authority "LAW (LLM)" program. Therefore, there are some technical limitations in terms of what could or could not be amended in order to meet the suggestions that were made by the evaluation committee. The existing and already approved "LAW (LLM)" Program provides three core courses and according to the current structure of the program a new concentration such as the one in criminal law should also have these three courses and should differentiate in the compulsory specialization courses and the elective courses as is the case for the other concentrations that have already been approved. So it has been a challenge for us to find a way that would both meet the need to apply the recommendations of the EEC but also to preserve the structure of the existing and already approved "LAW (LLM)" Program within the limits of our current application.

***To that end we have come up with two alternative proposals, Scenario a and Scenario b (attached Appendix I) as follows:***

***Scenario a:*** We have improved the syllabus of the course "Special Issues of European Law" so that its content is more specialized and can indeed be addressed to graduate law students (there is no reference any more to the institutions but rather to more specialized issues that are relevant to all concentrations). We have also dedicated four of the course's lectures exclusively to topics related to criminal law. We believe that it is important that all students have an efficient level of knowledge in European Law (of

course in a more specialized level than what they learn in their undergraduate studies) so that they can further specialize in the other subjects of the concentration they will chose and that the teaching personnel does not have to go back and explain to them issues of European Law before being able to proceed with the course of specialization in hand. Our experience has also shown that the students although they have theoretically studied European law at their Universities they often do not possess even the basic knowledge that one would expect from a law graduate. Regarding the two theoretical courses, we have also reviewed and improved their syllabi. Indicatively in the course Methodology of Law, we have inserted new modern topics such as the Economic Analysis of Law (**see attached Appendix II**)

The above proposed solution can be easily applied within the limits of our present application for the approval of the concentration in criminal law and is not intrusive to the already approved program for the amendment of which we have not applied.

Furthermore, according to the Quality Assurance Policy of European University Cyprus which was developed in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines and local legislation, the Programs of study, undergo an internal evaluation procedure (Self-Assessment Report) every three years. The Committee on Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) approves this process. The main objective of the internal evaluation procedure of a program of study is the production of the SAR (Self- Assessment Report). For the production of the SAR the cooperation of all the internal stakeholders is necessary, in order to obtain a spherical and objective view of the Programs of study. The Law (LLM) program is due for a SAR evaluation. The process will commence in the Fall of 2018 and within this review process, the structure of our LLM program will be reviewed as a whole. The findings of the SAR report and the suggestions of the evaluating committee will then be taken into consideration for further program improvements.

**Scenario b:** According to this scenario the course “Special Issues of European Law” can be replaced with a course in “European Criminal Law” as suggested by the EEC in page 8 paragraph 3 and page 11 under b) (**see attached Appendix I**). The course LAW 635 “Methodology of Law” could be eliminated. The course Criminology would be moved from the third to the first semester and an additional compulsory course would be added in the third semester (to replace Criminology which would be now taught in the first semester) namely “Applied Issues of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure”. We have prepared the syllabi for the two new courses, “European Criminal Law” and “Applied Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure” as well as the analytical course outlines which are available to the committee (**see attached Appendix II**).

**Note:** We can immediately adopt any of the two above Scenarios, according to the final recommendation/decision by EEC/FOREAS DIPAE

#### **4. EEC Report** (s. p. 8 paragraph 4 / p. 11 under b) / p. 20 paragraph 3 / p. 29 under b))

The Committee has made particular comments as to the content of the course LAW 683 “Special Issues of International Criminal Law” and in particular, that it was mostly transnational law rather than international law.

## **EUC Response**

The Syllabus has been amended so that it corresponds to other international criminal law courses around the world as suggested by the committee and any topic on transnational law has been deleted (**see attached Appendix II**)

## **5. EEC Report (p. 8)**

The level of study, based on the content and bibliography of the proposed modules does not suggest that these are at a postgraduate level and are not cutting edge in any sense.

## **EUC Response**

Course syllabi have been improved in order to provide advanced knowledge, understanding, and critical thinking; this is supported by the updated learning outcomes of the course syllabi and by advanced and updated bibliography. Also all teaching personnel provide students with articles from journals, court decisions and more current materials. In addition, many of the topics of particular lectures have been amended so more cutting edge topics can be presented (**see attached Appendix III**).

## **6. EEC Report (p. 8 under b)**

In the thesis regulation there is no specified number of meetings between the students and their supervisors.

## **EUC Response**

We have amended the relevant provision of the guide to the master thesis and it now specifies that four (4) meetings between the student and his/her supervisor should take place.

## **7. EEC Report (p. 9 – quality assurance of the program of studies / p. 11 a / p. 14 1.1.1.) / p. 29 under a))**

The Committee points out that there are inconsistencies regarding the admission's requirements. Also that the English requirement is problematic.

## **EUC Response**

We refer below to the admissions criteria of the already approved LLM Program, where it is clearly mentioned that a Law degree is an admission criterion for candidates to be admitted into the LAW (LLM) Program.

## **General Admissions criteria:**

1. Completed application form together with non-refundable fee of €52.
2. Official copy of a Bachelor's degree from a recognized university,

3. Official copy of academic transcript
4. Proof of English proficiency (if any)
5. Two recommendation letters
6. Official copy of High School Leaving Certificate and grade marksheet, in English
7. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
8. One passport-size photograph

Applicants whose native language is not Greek may be required to take the University's Placement Test (EPT). The University may grant exemption from the placement test if applicants are able to provide official certification of language proficiency.

In case applications for admissions exceed the available places offered by the program, the selection admission criteria are:

- Grade point average of the first degree
- Publications
- Work experience

#### **Special admission criteria:**

Recognized Law Degree from Cyprus or abroad

For the new concentration, which will be one of the concentrations of the already approved program, the same criteria will apply.

Regarding the English language requirements, we refer to the pp 25-26 of the University's Charter, annex 2 under paragraph 3.2. which provides that "...ii. *Proficiency in English. Applicants must submit proof of English proficiency. This must consist of at least one of the following: a) Proof that undergraduate instruction and coursework has been done in English b) The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination with a minimum score of 550 (paper-based total) or 213 (Computer based total). c) IELTS with a score of 6.5 or English GCSE (GCE) O' Level with "C" or above.*

*In cases that the above English language requirements cannot be met for practical reasons, a student shall take the English Placement Test of the University. The minimum level for the student to be admitted to a postgraduate program is ENG102-Advanced English".*

#### **8. EEC Report** (s. under 2.1.1., 2.1.2., 2.1.4.(p. 18) )

The Committee has pointed out that the correct translation of "Poiniko Dikaio" should be Criminal Law and not Penal Law as it stands in our current translated document.

## **EUC Response**

The translation of the Greek phrase "Poiniko Dikaio" which is the title of the new concentration has been corrected in the translated documents and now stands "**Criminal Law**" instead of the previous "Penal Law".

## **9. EEC Report (s. under 3.1.5.)**

EEC comments that the faculty of law has no external research funding

## **EUC Response**

The faculty participates in funded programs such as the digitalization of company law (Ass. Prof. A. Alexandropoulou available under: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/dg\\_just\\_digitalisation\\_of\\_company\\_law\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/dg_just_digitalisation_of_company_law_final_report.pdf)), the Study for the Fitness Check of EU consumer and marketing law (Lecturer Ch. Markou) etc. Both above mentioned examples were funded by the European Commission.

Regarding funding in criminal law it is expected that after the approval of the concentration in criminal law the law school will attract funding and researchers also in this field of law.

We thank the committee once again for the constructive feedback.



**Dr. Konstantinos Tsimaras**  
**Dean, School of Law**

Date: 21 June 2018

### **Encls:**

- Appendix I: Curricula
- Appendix II: Syllabi
- Appendix III: Course Outlines
- Appendix IV: Handouts
- Appendix V: Master Thesis Guide