

Doc. 300.3.2

Date: 01.03.2022

Higher Education Institution's Response (Departmental)

- Higher Education Institution:
Neapolis University Pafos
- Town: Pafos
- School/Faculty: School of Architecture, Engineering,
Land & Environmental Sciences
- Department: Department of Architecture, Land &
Environmental Sciences
- Programme(s) of study under evaluation
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

Programme 1

In Greek:

In English:

Programme 2

In Greek:

Programme Name

In English:

Programme Name

Programme 3

In Greek:

Programme Name

In English:

Programme Name

- Department's Status: New



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 2019” [N. 136 (I)/2015 to N. 35(I)/2019].

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.300.3.1) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the department in each assessment area.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area, the HEI must respond on, without changing the format of the report:*
 - *the findings, strengths, areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the deficiencies noted under the quality indicators (criteria)*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The HEI's response must follow below the EEC's comments, which must be copied from the external evaluation report (Doc. 300.3.1).*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on a separate document.*

1. Department's academic profile and orientation

Sub-areas

- 1.1 Mission and strategic planning
- 1.2 Connecting with society
- 1.3 Development processes

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

1.1	Mission and strategies could be more clearly expressed
1.2	Very elaborated documents but they don't highlight the specificity of the department
1.3	The relationship with heritage, historical and contemporary assets of the territory are little considered
1.4	Social responsibility and engagement don't seem considered enough
1.5	The possibility of attracting students from other cities and countries seem not strongly pursued

1.1 We would like to thank the Committee for advising us in more clearly expressing our mission and strategies. We totally agree that a clearly defined mission and strategy, is crucial and can ensure the sustainability of the Department.

The mission of the Department is to develop highly specialized professionals in respected sectors of the economy not only in Cyprus but also globally, by providing the contemporary knowledge and skills sought by companies and organizations. It also aims to bridge the academic knowledge with professional practice both from creative, as well as, environmentally oriented disciplines.

Strategically, the Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences is firmly committed to the planning of all its activities to enable the educational, research and other objectives that determine its academic profile, to be as effective as possible. These goals include, among others:

- The offer of quality and divertive curricula that meet the needs and requirements of the market, thus creating the conditions for a good professional career for graduates.
- Provision of interdisciplinary education and expertise.
- The development of its research activities, through the development of research programs and / or participation in research programs.
- Academic and research collaborations with other institutions, from Cyprus and abroad.
- Collaborations with local society, municipalities etc.

1.2 We would like to thank the Committee for advising us in clearly highlighting the specificity of the Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences. Our response is the following:

This Department has a unique characteristic, especially in Cyprus, since it is constituted by programmes that belong both to creative as well as environmental disciplines. To this effect it contains the Programmes of Architecture, Digital Video Production (DVP) and Environmental

Impact Assessment and Sustainability Management (EIASM). Thus, its uniqueness lays in its emphasis both on creative thinking and environmental awareness.

Moreover, by the tautochronous presence and operation of different disciplines, the Department is specifically identified by a multifocal structure at four levels (Figure 1). At the level of the School, the level of the Department, the level of the Programme and the level of the Courses (modules).

In particular, at the level of the school we refer to the three different Departments (Architecture, Engineering, Real Estate). At the level of the Department we refer to the different programmes (i.e Architecture, Digital Video Production, Environmental Impact Assessment). At the level of the programme we refer to the different directions of the modules that compose the programmes.

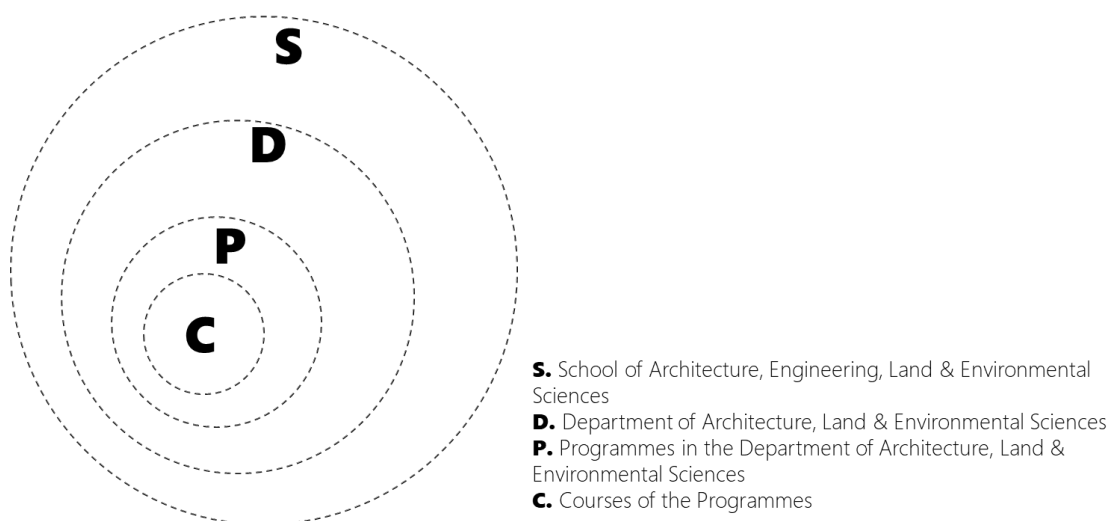


Figure 1: Multifocal Structure of the Department

In particular, at the level of the courses the multifocal approach is particularly reflected in the multiplicity and diversity of modules and teaching methods with which the students are faced. In particular, in the programme of Architecture, these consist of different stimuli, from different topics such as cinema, theatre, sculpture, music, photography, set design, literature, social sciences, philosophy, and mathematics. Indicative modules: (ARCHSR101 Space-Communication-Architecture), (ARCHSV306 Photography-Cinema-Set Design), (ARCHSR301 Object and Space), but also at the other end (REAL100 Principles of Real Estate and REAL302 Real Estate Development).

Beyond education, highly active participation and initiatives are left to, and actually practiced, by the students in all aspects of University life, processes, activities and events.

1.3 Done. This relationship is currently highly reinforced in the programme of Architecture by:

- Having dedicated modules, both theoretical and practical, that deal with these issues. In particular, in the Program of Architecture there exists in the 5th Semester a Studio Module (ARCHAS306) of 9 hours/week (10 ECTS) on the “Restoration and Reuse of historic buildings”, supported by ARCHTH302 (5 ECTS) which is a Theory Course on the issues of “Theory of Conservation and Restoration”. Furthermore, at the 8th Semester exists the Theory Course ARCHTH401 on “Architecture and Place”.

- Incorporating in a considerable number of student projects, issues and problems directly related to these assets. This is represented in the recent publication of student projects https://issuu.com/nup_architecture/docs/theses_11_01_redux
- A characteristic example is also a final design thesis by one of our graduates that had as subject the “Staging of Hamlet at the archaeological site of the Tombs of the Kings” in Pafos.
- Pafos and the island of Cyprus are small territories, although with long past history, economic, social, cultural, at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, until today. This indeed is well understood by the Department, and is taken seriously into account both in formulating its Programmes, as well as in searching for an identity and a place in contemporary global situations.

1.4 Done.Please, see indicatively:

- **Collaboration with Municipalities, Local Organisations, Cultural Parties & Community**

- 2021: Collaboration with a Social Centre for Children’s Care in Paphos in order to advise them as to how they can fully utilise their premises, and their empty plot. Design proposals by students.
- 2019: Students’ participation in the ECO ART exhibition organised with the Municipality of Geroskipou
- 2019: Art Competition for Secondary school students «People & Space» for the provision of Scholarships for Studying Architecture
- 2018-Today: Design and implementation of info points by students in various communities of Paphos (i.e Neo Chorio, Chloraka, Kathikas, Innia, Pegeia)
- 2017: Real life projects from students in the context of Pafos 2017.

- **Exhibitions Participation- Engagement with the Community**

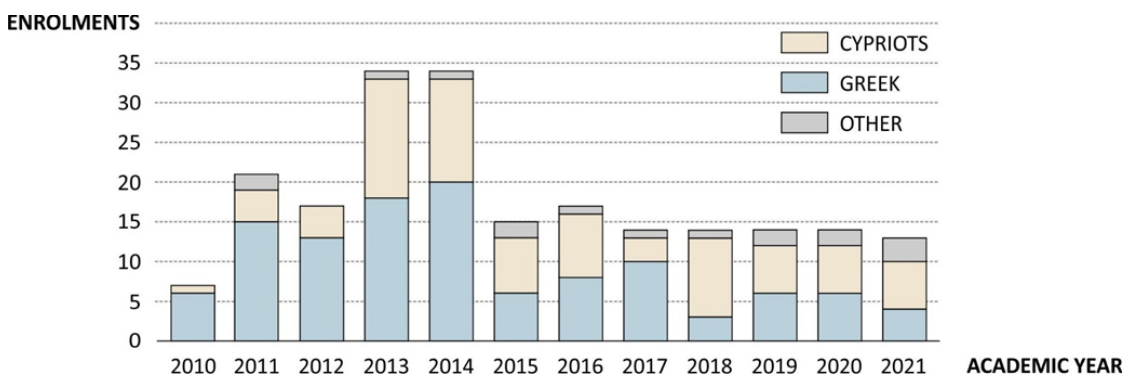
- Bauhaus, exhibition for the 100 years Anniversary Exhibitions of Students’ Work
- Photographic Exhibition: Pafos as a Construction Site
- Digital Exhibitions for Diploma Thesis
- Shadow Puppetry and Animation: two relative forms of art
- Eco-Art 2019: Public Nature – Private Culture Exhibition
- Bauhaus, students’ works exhibition for the 100 years Anniversary
- MA in Digital Video Production: Cinema Showcase
- Exhibition “Producing Lines
- Exhibition “Space and the Architecture of Compassion
- Cyprus International Festival CYIFF

- **Events’ Organisation- Dissemination of Knowledge to the Community**

- The 50’s and 60’s and space

- Small Cities and Mega-Events: Culture and Heritage in the Case of Pafos 2017 European Capital of Culture
- Architecture prospects: Fotis Colakides, Tall Buildings
- Open Day: MA in Digital Video Production
- Presentation of the work of the Architecture Office Association, Bellastock by Simon Jacquemin
- Presentation of the work of Architect Stelios Kois
- Le Corbusier and 50 years after his death
- Minimalism: theory or style?»

1.4 . Done. During the last 4 years the majority of students come from Greece and other countries, since the program is accredited both in Greek and English. Please, see indicatively:



Apart from that, in order to attract more students from other countries of origins the following actions have been executed:

- 2022-2023: Cooperation with Tel Aviv University for student and faculty exchange
- 2010- Today: Part of the Erasmus Programme (both for students & faculty exchange)
- 2021 Guest Lecture by University's Faculty to other Universities abroad (i.e *Ngee Ann Polytechnic*, Singapore, Lulea University of Technology, Wizo Art Academy etc)

We also plan to create more strategic synergies with other universities, one per year.

2. Quality Assurance

Sub-areas

- 2.1 System and quality assurance strategy
- 2.2 Quality assurance for the programmes of study

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

2.1	Improving the quality of spaces, indoor and outdoor, creating the appropriate atmosphere and comfort
-----	--

2.1 Done, Additional University's spaces have been added to develop and promote Department's activities and learning initiatives as well (please, see Annexes 5 and 6 accordingly).



3. Administration

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

3.1	Already mentioned in previous sections, internalization and collaborations should be strongly supported and reinforced
-----	--

3.1 Done. Please see our relative response on point 1.5 above.

4. Learning and Teaching

Sub-areas

4.1 Planning the programmes of study

4.2 Organisation of teaching

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

4.1	Teaching and learning should be further enhanced by invited academics and international collaborations
-----	--

4.1 Done. Please see the catalog of the programmed collaborations for the current semester below:

- 2 visits in March 2022: **Giovanni Barone**, Researcher Assistant at University of Naples "Federico II"
- April 2022 : **Agatino Rizzo**, Chaired Professor and Head of Architecture from the Lulea University of Technology
- April 2022: **Mohammad Tammo**, Lecturer in Architecture and Architecture Technology from the School of Architecture and Built Environment of the University of Wolverhampton
- May 2022: **Marcela Araguez**, Assistant Professor from the Department of Architecture from IE University in Madrid-Segovia
- May 2022: **Olie White**, Lecturer in Architecture from the School of Architecture and Built Environment of the University of Wolverhampton

Please see a short bio of the invited academics in the Annex 9.

5. Teaching Staff

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

5.1	The engineering and design part should be reinforced by permanent staff and mainly by visiting academics and collaboration with international schools of architecture
-----	---

5.1 Done. The engineering and design part have very recently been reinforced by permanent staff and visiting academics both in Engineering Department and the Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences. Please see below:

- New academic staff for teaching Building Technology has been recruited at the level of Assistant Professor (Dr. Konstantinos Vassiliades <https://www.nup.ac.cy/faculty/constantinos-vassiliades/>).
- Two new faculty members have been recruited (Dr. Chrystala Psathiti and Dr. Christina Pieri <https://www.nup.ac.cy/faculty/christina-pieri/>). Please see attached Annex 10.
- Also, various actions had been made in order to organise activities with various academics from abroad. See point 4.1.

6. Research

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

6.1	Research is limited to design research in collaboration schemes and proposals in architectural competitions. Theoretical research on methodology and theory of design should be reinforced and further enhanced especially since most of staff have doctorate degrees.
-----	--

6.1 Done. We would like to point out Modules of the Architecture Program, which focus towards pure theoretical research on Methodology and Theory of Design as attached list of incorporated courses;

- ARCHTH406: Research Methods in Architecture,
- ARCHTH401: Architecture and Place,
- ARCHDis: Research Dissertation,
- ARCHSR406: Aspects of Spatial Language,
- ARCHSR508: Design Methodology,
- ARCHTH503: Theory of Architecture).

7. Resources

Areas of improvement and recommendations:

7.1	More resources should be allocated for the amelioration of building facilities and the upgrading of design studios with dedicated library and fully equipped conventional materials workshops as well as contemporary technologies of model making.
-----	---

7.1 Done. Please see our relevant response in point 2.1 above.

Furthermore, the following equipment has already been purchased for setting up fully equipped conventional materials workshops, as well as, contemporary technologies of model making (see Annex 2).

Namely:

- 3D Printing Studio (2X3D printers) (invoice 8/5.918.23€)
- Laser Cutter for mdf/wood (invoice AEN280222/23.218,09€)
- 2D and 3D hot wire cutting and vacuum forming machinery (order code 6663/478,00€)

B. Conclusions and final remarks

The External Evaluation Committee wishes to thank the University and the Department for the documentation provided in advance of our visit. We also wish to thank all the staff and students we spoke to during our visit for the open engagement throughout all our meetings.

Overall, the EEC was satisfied that the Department mostly meets the quality assurance standards required. Although the department is small with enriched teaching staff and few students, they manage to have a strong bond between them that gives the opportunity for students to learn more.

Additional facilities and equipment we recommend will improve the students' knowledge and techniques but also and cooperation opportunities with other students from the department.

These suggestions will lead to improve the programme of study and the outcome quality of the students Learning.

The documentation supporting the Department has been well prepared and indicates a clear knowledge and consideration of the main aims and needs.

The weakest parts, for the EEC, are the faculty, which could be more robust with the insertion of expert visiting or permanent researchers, and that could be more international.

The publishing activity seems too limited and doesn't reflect a constant engagement in research. This activity could be also of great support in attracting students from abroad, in supporting the teaching activity, in developing the teaching staff careers and international relationship

NUP comment:

We strongly believe that this final comment is in full contradiction with the EEC relevant comments in Chapter 5, whereby it's stated:

«The staff/student ratio of 1:7 and all staff is permanent. The educational background of all members is high, international, and versatile related to their studies for first and higher degrees. Choices on staff ensure complementarity in carrying out the programme of studies.

The staff/studio is excellent for a school of architecture. Staff is of international education background and complementary. The size of the school allows for good synergies between staff members and between staff and students»

Conclusively, we would like to thank the EEC for their invaluable comments and work provided both during the discussions held throughout the visit as well as within their evaluation report. We truly believe that their comments have helped us to strengthen and improve the profile of the Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences. Lastly, we wish to express that we are particularly pleased with the positive assessment in general and the valuable recommendations.



C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Prof. Pantelis Sklias	Rector	

Date: 01.03.2022

