

# Higher Education Institution's Response

(Departmental)

Date: 13/10/2025

- **Higher Education Institution:**  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
Cyprus Branch
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **School/Faculty:** School of Philosophy
- **Department:** Classical Studies
- **Programme(s) of study under evaluation**  
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

## Programme 1

**In Greek:**

**Αρχαιολογία, Ιστορία, και Φιλολογία της Αρχαίας  
Ελλάδας, 4 έτη, 240 Πιστωτικές Μονάδες, Πρώτο  
Πτυχίο**

**In English:**

**Archaeology, History, and Literature of Ancient Greece  
(4 years, 240 ECTS, Bachelor)**

- **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 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.300.3.1) 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:***

The Department will need to work effectively to recruit new academic staff. The leadership is aware of the challenges, and it is clear that initial steps have already been made in this process.

#### **Department's response:**

*We acknowledge the EEC's observation regarding recruitment. A phased hiring plan will be in place (advertisements, international search committees, and targeted secondments), with clear timelines and selection criteria to appoint local permanent staff within the first four years. The Department will publish an annual recruitment schedule and progress report to the School and MODIP to ensure transparency and timely appointments.*

## 2. Quality Assurance

### Sub-areas

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

It will be important to monitor delivery in these areas for the Cyprus programme as it grows and develops greater autonomy.

#### **Department's response:**

*We accept the recommendation to monitor QA delivery closely. NKUA-Cyprus will implement quarterly QA monitoring during the transition to autonomy, with KPIs drawn from NKUA's MODIP framework (student performance, staff recruitment, library holdings, and stakeholder engagement). Findings will be reported to the Departmental Council and MODIP and corrective actions scheduled where indicators deviate from targets.*

## 3. Administration

We encourage the Department to set up a formal staff-student liaison committee with representatives from each student cohort, to provide a clear and formalized channel for students to communicate concerns about and suggestions for improving their learning experience and the programme.

#### **Department's response:**

*The Department will establish a permanent staff-student liaison committee before the first intake, with elected student representatives from each cohort, a published remit, regular meeting schedule (min.*

termly) and publicly available minutes. This committee will supplement course evaluations and serve as the first line for raising and tracking student suggestions and concerns.

#### 4. Learning and Teaching

##### Sub-areas

4.1 Planning the programmes of study

4.2 Organisation of teaching

Discussion with students suggested some inconsistency on part of individual teachers in timely provision of details of assessment deadlines and activities. Discussion with Athens students suggested that in general feedback on essays and projects was good and much appreciated, but for tests and exams it was often not much more than a grade, and fuller elaboration of reasons for the grade would be helpful.

*To address inconsistencies in assessment communication and feedback, the Department will require all course convenors to publish assessment calendars and marking criteria at term start and to provide substantive feedback on tests and examinations within four weeks. We will supply standardised feedback templates to guide staff in giving actionable comments rather than grades alone. Compliance will be reviewed via the staff–student committee and course evaluations.*

#### 5. Teaching Staff

*We warmly thank the External Evaluation Committee for its constructive report and collegial discussions. The Department greatly appreciates the Committee’s recognition of the academic team’s expertise, international standing, and active research profile, as well as its positive assessment of the measures taken to ensure continuity and quality between the Athens and Cyprus branches. We also acknowledge the Committee’s thoughtful recommendations, which will help guide the Department’s development in the coming years. With clear recruitment plans and strong institutional support from NKUA, we are confident that the Cyprus Department will uphold the same academic standards and distinctive character that define the Athens programme.*

#### 6. Research

Research activity was not part of the EEC’s remit.

**Department’s response:**

N/A

#### 7. \*Resources

**Areas of improvement and recommendations:**

There are no problems as such, just the inevitable risks of setting up a new department, but these have all been planned for and suitable contingencies are in place.

**Department's response:**

*We thank the EEC for its constructive feedback. We fully agree that monitoring of resource deployment is necessary so that we provide effectively for the branch and retain current working conditions, as well as, student provision in the parent institution. The current rollout plan is fully costed and we are committed to continuing with this good practice.*

**B. Conclusions and final remarks**

*The Department sincerely thanks the External Evaluation Committee for its generous and encouraging final remarks. We are gratified by the Committee's recognition of the Department's academic quality, the commitment of its leadership and staff, and the care with which the new Cyprus programme has been conceived and planned. We fully share the Committee's view that the presence of the Department in Nicosia will create meaningful opportunities for collaboration with the local community and external partners, enriching both teaching and research.*

*We also appreciate the Committee's confidence in our preparedness to address the challenges inherent in establishing a new academic unit. With the strong institutional backing of NKUA and the constructive support of the Cypriot authorities, we are well placed to ensure the programme's successful implementation and long-term sustainability.*

*Finally, we wish to express our gratitude for the professionalism, collegial spirit, and open dialogue that characterised the Committee's visit and review process. The Department values the EEC's insights and looks forward to maintaining this productive relationship as the Cyprus branch becomes fully operational.*

### C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Position</i></b>
<b>Dimitris Plantzos</b>	Head, Department of Classical Studies, NKUA Cyprus
<b>FullName</b>	Position
<b>FullName</b>	Position
<b>FullName</b>	Position
<b>FullName</b>	Position
<b>FullName</b>	Position

Date: 13 October 2025