

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 19/07/2024

Higher Education Institution's Response

• Higher Education Institution:
Intercollege

• **Town:** Nicosia

• **Programme of study
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)**

In Greek:

Διεύθυνση Επισιτιστικών Τεχνών (4 Έτη, 240 ECTS, Πτυχίο)

In English:

Culinary Arts Management (4 Years, 240 ECTS, Bachelor)

• **Language(s) of instruction: Greek & English**

• **Programme's status:** Currently Operating

• **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 2nd 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.*

Introduction

We would like to thank the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) for their thorough and professional evaluation of the Culinary Arts Management (4 Years, 240 ECTS, Bachelor) program. We appreciate the time and effort dedicated to this comprehensive review and the collegial approach taken during the evaluation. We are grateful for the committee's recognition of the strengths and positive aspects of our program. The EEC highlighted the dedication of our faculty, the practical orientation of the curriculum, and the strong industry connections that provide valuable opportunities for our students. Additionally, the committee acknowledged our commitment to fostering a research culture, the quality of our facilities, and the comprehensive support services available to our students.

The feedback has been invaluable in identifying areas for improvement, and we are committed to addressing these recommendations to further enhance the quality of the program. The insights provided by the committee will significantly contribute to the continuous improvement and success of the program.

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 by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	Σχολιασμός Λειτουργού
<p>More members of staff could engage with research activities, it is only two members that are currently working on. Incentives should be provided such as paid time to be allocated or incentives upon publications</p>	<p>We appreciate the committee's emphasis on the importance of a research culture and the synergies between teaching and research within our Culinary Arts Management program.</p> <p>In response to this, in academic year 2023-2024, Intercollege introduced a new policy to enhance our research and publications profile, while also continuing to build on the solid foundation of existing practices that have long supported scholarly activity among our faculty.</p> <p>Intercollege Research and Publication Policy: We have introduced a new policy designed to incentivize research and publication among our faculty. With this policy, faculty members receive monetary rewards for eligible publications, which also contribute to their evaluation for promotion. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to deepen the research engagement of our academic staff and to visibly align with our commitment to academic excellence - Attachment 1.</p> <p>Existing Research & Professional Development Support: Alongside the new policy, we have a well-established system that supports faculty research, including:</p>	<p>Compliance</p> <p>Το ίδρυμα έχει απαντήσει προσκομίζοντας το Research and Publication Awards_see appendix 1</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Time Allocation: Faculty members can apply for research time release, ensuring they have dedicated periods to pursue scholarly work, which allows for a balance between their teaching duties and research ambitions. 2. Performance Evaluations: Research activity has always been a key metric in our faculty promotion and ranking process, emphasizing the value we place on contributing new knowledge and pedagogical approaches. <p>We believe that the combination of these new and existing measures establishes a strong and supportive environment for our faculty to engage in research and publication work. We will of course continue to explore additional incentives and support mechanisms, such as expanding research grants, fostering industry collaborations, and increasing opportunities for international research exposure.</p> <p>Our goal is to not only maintain but also to continuously improve the support for our faculty's research endeavours, ensuring sustained academic excellence and innovation.</p>	
Resit exams could be scheduled outside the Internship period	We thank the committee for their feedback. Due to the low	Choose level of compliance: compliance

	<p>number of students retaking exams, there is direct communication between the administration, students, and examiners to ensure that students are well-prepared to take their exams. For example, if a student requests a postponement in order to better prepare, there is flexibility in scheduling the re-sit examination, and such requests as accommodated.</p>	
<p>The courses are also displayed has been delivered in each semester. It would be interesting to see a mini summary of each course. Currently the course title and semester allocation is presented in Greek.</p>	<p>We thank the committee for their feedback. Intercollege has recently launched a newly designed website, which is an ongoing project and new information is constantly being added. Eventually, all information will be available in both Greek and English.</p> <p>For the brief summary, currently in the semester breakdown, when users click on a course code, it acts as a link that directs them to the course syllabus, where they can find all related information about the specific course including a brief summary. This along with all the other information will be soon available in both languages.</p>	

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

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<p>The college could enhance the quality of the syllabi by adding where available more recent bibliography</p>	<p>We would like to thank the EEC committee for their feedback. As per Intercollege Internal Regulations, all courses undergo a yearly evaluation and update process. In addition, and based on the feedback received during the accreditation visit, a number of courses have been updated in terms of bibliography.</p> <p>A complete list of the additional bibliographical resources is available as Attachment 2</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance: compliance_ see appendix 2</p>
<p>In order to apply further fairness and consistency the college may add marking criteria in the assignment briefs.</p>	<p>We thank the committee for their feedback regarding the assessment criteria. We would like to inform the committee that, according to the ECTS guidelines, the assessment methods for each course are listed in the ECTS syllabi, which are publicly available on our website. These criteria include the various assessment methods used for each course, such as final examinations, classroom participation, and other relevant assessment methods.</p> <p>At the beginning of every semester, students are provided with a detailed course outline which is essentially an enhanced version of the course syllabus, personalized and customized by the faculty member teaching the course. It includes additional information such as contact details, office hours, and a detailed breakdown of the</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance: compliance_ see appendix 3</p>

	<p>grading scale and assessment methods, including the specific percentages allocated to each component.</p> <p>Furthermore, students receive an assignment brief for every assignment, with detailed instructions, content and expected outcomes. Following the committee's feedback, the assignment briefs will be enhanced with a more detailed breakdown of the marking criteria (Attachment 3)</p>	
<p>The team may also consider adding some of the instructions and/or expectations from practicals in the course outline and include reflective summaries to enhance the food science as the theoretical background</p>	<p>We would like to thank the EEC committee for their feedback. The college agrees and the course outlines of practical courses will be enhanced with further instructions for practicals and reflective summaries.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance: compliance</p>

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<p>Encourage staff to pursue PhD opportunities and develop further research.</p>	<p>We thank the committee for emphasizing the importance of encouraging staff to pursue PhD opportunities and further develop their research capabilities.</p> <p>The college is committed to fostering an environment that actively supports the academic and professional growth of our faculty and actively encourages faculty members to pursue PhD studies. Specifically, faculty members with two or more years of employment at Intercollege are eligible for up to 100% subsidy for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies, including PhD, at the University of Nicosia.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance: compliance</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
Once validation is granted all materials on the website should be in English.	Following the committee’s recommendation, once the validation of the programme is complete and approved then the website and all channels associated with the programme will be available in both Greek and English languages. Having the website and other channels bilingual will enhance accessibility, inclusivity, and communication for a diverse and global audience, improving engagement and competitive advantage.	Choose level of compliance: must to monitored

5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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6. Additional for doctoral programmes

(ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

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B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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C.



D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Kyriacos Patsalides	Director of Academic Affairs	
Nicholas Orphanides	Programme Coordinator	

Date: 19/07/2024

