



Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 26/07/2022

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
Intercollege

- **Town:** Nicosia

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

In Greek:

Ναυτική Επιστήμη (4 Έτη/240 ECTS, Πτυχίο)

In English:

Nautical Science (4 Years/240 ECTS, BSc)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** 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.*

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	For official use Only
<p>The information provided to prospective students should be enriched in order to become more attractive to them.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The College fully adopts the EEC's suggestion by providing additional information in regard to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extracurricular activities of the program (i.e participation to the Cyprus Marine Club, Maritime Events, etc.) • Professional certifications that students acquire during their 4 years of study. • Field trips and familiarization course on board vessels. <p>However, we feel compelled to state that the College's existing policy and practice is to provide the aforementioned information to all prospective students.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>The committee reckons that the existing number of students is much lower than the intended number for 2021-2022 according to their feasibility study (document 07.14.106.018_200_1_application_Programme_study_en.pdf). Covid has obviously played an important role, but this should be rectified with a proper marketing plan to get back in track with the feasibility study. The current number of student enrolled are 47 in total but with only 9 in the first year, showing a decreasing number of admissions. This might jeopardise both the economic and academic elements of the programme</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The administration of the College is promoting the program abroad as well, in order to attract more EU and International students. 2. In addition, the program will continue to provide scholarships based on previous high school academic excellence and/or socio-economic criteria in order to attract local and international prospective students. 3. Furthermore, the administration of the program will continue to promote the secured and remunerated 12-month onboard practical placement. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Even though the structure of the programme seems appropriate for the number of students enrolling now, the programme evaluation committee should have a strategic plan of required procedures and changes to be implemented in case the numbers increase. The role of the Associate Director is key for the success of the programme. This is both a strength but also a potential weakness for the present programme in case the numbers increase.</p>	<p>The College's Programme Evaluation Committee (PEC) has taken into account the EEC's recommendation regarding the low number of students and adopts the following actions in the case the student number increases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hire additional Full-Time faculty in order to provide additional prestige to the program and share the workload. 2. Hire additional Full-Time administrative staff to support the Associate Director of the program. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>The existing number of dropouts seems high although the Evaluation Committee understands</p>	<p>Specific initiatives have taken place in order to reduce the attrition rate observed.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

<p>that this is attributed to students not desiring a career at sea. Therefore, the programme management committee should take initiatives to reduce the attrition rate identifying and addressing the reasons for it. A suggestion would be to create an alternative, more academic path including more academic courses</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An important initiative is the implementation of the “Onboard Familiarization Course” where the students have the opportunity to spend 2 days onboard a vessel in order to become familiar with the vessel environment, processes and equipment. 2. Even though the program is structured with a mandatory 12-month onboard practical training, the College’s Program Management/Evaluation Committee adopted the EEC’s proposal and revised the Program’s path structure in order to provide the option for students to select courses that lead either to offshore or onshore career. <p>ANNEX IV</p>	
<p>The mission statement as it is reflected in the presentation made on 9/5/2022 (BSc in Nautical Science Presentation v7.pptx) is mainly focused on the professional/cadet programme whereas for an academic programme their focus should expand.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC’s recommendation by suggesting an amended Program path which includes elective courses for offshore or onshore career. ANNEX IV</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>The advisory committee is mainly made up from shipping management persons. This should be expanded with in the inclusion of academics, persons from other maritime business sectors (e.g. brokers, insurance, financing etc.) and professional institutions (e.g. IMAREST).</p>	<p>The members of the advisory committee vary in terms of their field of work/expertise. Even though the majority of the committee comprises of ship owners, further members are attending the committee, such as: the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute which is an independent, international, Scientific & Business Centre of Excellence for Marine and Maritime Research, Technological Development and Innovation.</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>Basic Safety Training is completed prior to seagoing. These modules are not included in the degree structure. However, they are required for professional certification. The STCW OOW qualification is directly connected to this degree and should therefore be included in the programme description. They should be allocated credits. Courses include Elementary First Aid, Basic Fire Fighting, Personal Survival Techniques, and Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities.</p> <p>Each course is presently assessed to determine competency. All of these courses could be contained in a single 'Basic Safety and Security' module of 5 ECTS. A small written project at the end of the module could be used to ascertain the final overall mark. These courses are completed by all students and are effective learning effort. It is recommended that this effort is captured and rewarded.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation, by the creation of a new course "MANS 106-Basic Safety and Security". This course incorporates the Basic Safety Training and the Security Awareness for seafarers without Designated Security Duties and it is assigned a load of 5 ECTS. The students will be evaluated in class and in practice.</p> <p>The new course syllabus for the above is presented in ANNEX III</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Year 1, Semester A. Course Code MANS-113, 'Communications' involves the learning of morse code and International Code Flags. This content is not used extensively at sea presently and the allocation of 3 ECTS seems excessive. It is recommended to merge this content with GMDSS, MANS-311 and reduce the credit allocation to 1 or 2 ECTS.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation as follows: MANS 113 – Communications is merged with MANS 331 – GMDSS.</p> <p>The revised course syllabus for the aforementioned course is presented in ANNEX II</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Year 1, Semester B. Course Code MANS-103, 'Mathematics' should include basic statistics. This will be useful for the final year project and research.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation and the amended course outline is presented in ANNEX I</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Year 2, Semester C. Chartering Insurance, MANS-491 should be separated into two different modules. This is a high work-load module and places a challenge to both lecturer and students currently to cover all material. Each new module could be allocated 3 ECTS. Re-name 'Insurance' as 'Marine Insurance' and 'Chartering' as 'Ship Chartering'.</p> <p>Module MANS-391, 'Computer' should be re-named and improved. It could be named 'Information Technology'.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation as follows: MANS 491 will be separated into two courses as follows: MANS 214 – Ship Chartering with 3 ECTS MANS 216 – Marine Insurance with 3 ECTS</p> <p>Revised courses syllabi are presented in ANNEX II</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

<p>Increased content should include data protection and cyber-security. The use of EXCEL could be applied to designing stability spreadsheets, shipboard loading/discharging programs and graph construction.</p>	<p>In addition, the College renamed the module MANS 391 – Computers as MANS 391 - Information Technology and the course will be delivered with the participation of a guest instructor from a company specializing in maritime satellite communications and technologies.</p>	
<p>Year 3, Semester E. Module MANS-332, Human Resource Management (HRM). This module could be adjusted to include management principles before progressing specifically to HRM</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation as follows: The proposed addition is incorporated within module MANS 332 – Human Resource Management</p> <p>Revised course syllabus is presented in ANNEX I</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Year 3, Semester F. Module MANS-321, Ship Stresses could be re-named 'Ship Stability and Strength'.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation to rename MANS 321 - Ship Stresses to MANS 321 - Ship Stability and Strength. This is reflected in the revised Programme's path – ANNEX IV</p>	
<p>Module MANS-214, 'Radar' and module MANS-411, ARPA', could be combined into one module because they complement each other.</p> <p>Similarly, module MANS-412 'Simulation BMS and module MANS-115, 'Simulation BTM BRM' also complement each other could be combined. The ECTS could be retained.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation with the below combination of the modules:</p> <p>MANS 431 - Radar & ARPA - Watchkeeping with 6 ECTS</p> <p>MANS 433 – Simulation BTM - BRM - BMS with 6 ECTS</p> <p>Revised courses syllabi are presented in ANNEX II</p>	
<p>Module MANS-490, 'Bachelor Thesis' is a 10-credit module. This should involve a research statement, literature review, methodology implementation, analysis of results and logical conclusions using critical thinking within a framework of ethical research. The thesis should be project orientated and related to the shipping sector. It is recommended that students should submit a research proposal initially which would be assessed. Academic research methods should be covered either within this module or in Mathematics. This would involve at least, quantitative and qualitative methods such as survey design, observations, experiments. The</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation with the incorporation of elective courses that will provide the students with 2 concentrations: one leading to offshore career and the other one leading to onshore career. An elective course named "MANS 324 – Research Methodology" has been added to the 3rd year of Studies during the 6th semester, in order to provide students with the necessary skills for completing their Final Year Project Furthermore, the course MANS 490 – Bachelor Thesis has been renamed to MANS - 437 Final Year Project as an elective</p>	

<p>Proposal would include a specific research statement, a basic literature review (correctly referenced) and a research plan. A more modern textbook should be used such as 'How to write a dissertation' or such-like. Basic research methods could be included in assignment writing at all levels. This would include literature searches of peer reviewed journals and proper referencing. Initially, for example, in first year, only a small number of articles could be referenced. This may be increased as students' progress during the programme.</p>	<p>for the onshore career concentration with a load of 5 ECTS.</p> <p>In addition, concepts of statistics are incorporated in MANS 103 - Mathematics II as mentioned above.</p> <p>The course syllabus for MANS 324 - Research Methodology is presented in ANNEX III</p> <p>The course syllabus for MANS - 437 Final Year Project is presented in ANNEX I</p>	
<p>Develop a new module: Advanced Emergency Procedures. This will include Advanced Firefighting, Medical First Aid, Survival Craft and Fast Rescue Craft.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation with the incorporation of a new course:</p> <p>MANS 391 - Advanced Safety and Security which incorporates the Advanced Firefighting, Medical First Aid, Survival Craft and Fast Rescue Craft and it is allocated with 5 ECTS</p> <p>The new course syllabus for the above is presented in ANNEX III</p>	

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
<p>The current ratio between full and part time teaching staff is 5 vs 8 which is considered adequate for the current state of affairs. However, as the programme grows in student numbers it is recommended that the full-time staff be increased in order to be fully dedicated to its teaching and research activities. Furthermore, the percentage of teaching staff holding PhD degrees should be increased. All staff should be more involved in research activities and engagement, and academic paper writing. This should be supported and encouraged by the Management</p>	<p>As mentioned in Section 1, the College has already identified this possibility and in the case the number of students is increased additional Full Time Faculty will be hired.</p> <p>In addition, the College’s Management fully endorses the comment of the EEC for increasing the numbers of PhD faculty, as well as the need for research involvement. The suggested revised path, will allow the hiring of additional PhD faculty that will enable further research activity. The College is committed to incorporate additional PhD holders once the suggested revised path is approved.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</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
<p>The Institution has to balance between the needs of students that would like to follow a career at sea with the ones that may want to proceed with employment on shore and/or continue their studies at an advanced level. Thus, it may be prudent to have a mixed approach and create two separate categories of students after their third year based on their individual interests. In such a case the curriculum needs to be enhanced with more courses (i.e environmental issues, port and terminals, supply chain management, liner operations) and some electives to cater better to the students needs. All learning outcomes must be addressed in assessments and examinations.</p>	<p>The College fully adopts the EEC's recommendation by recommending the following concentrations: offshore or onshore career.</p> <p>1. <u>Offshore Concentration</u> MANS 323 – Ship Steering Control Systems 4 ECTS <u>Semester 8 Elective Courses</u> MANS 435 – Shipbroaking & Chartering Practice 4 ECTS MANS 436 – Port & Terminal Management 4 ECTS</p> <p>2. <u>Onshore Concentration</u> <u>Semester 6 Elective Course</u> MANS 324 – Research Methodology 4 ECTS</p> <p><u>Semester 8 Elective Courses</u> MANS 490 – Bachelor Thesis 5 ECTS MANS 434 – Liner Operations 3 ECTS</p> <p>The suggested Programme's path is presented in ANNEX IV</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

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
The students should be more informed how to write a coursework using reliable data from academic journals and articles (not from websites)	The students are always advised by their lecturers to utilize the services provided by the Library of the organization. Within the Library, students are able to access electronic and hardcopy material that will help them to write a proper coursework. In addition, all students participate in a training course offered by the College on Report Writing Techniques .	Choose an item.
In the future, if the number of students increases, the University will need more classrooms and academic staff	As previously mentioned, the College is committed to hire additional Full-Time faculty, based on the student numbers, as well as allocate appropriate lecture rooms to accommodate the increasing needs of the Programme. In addition, the College annually reviews its facility structure and responds accordingly to the prevailing requirements.	Choose an item.
The curriculum should give the opportunity to the students, especially in the 3rd and 4th years, to think out of the box (more innovating)	The updated curriculum further enhances their academic knowledge along with their practical skills & experience and provides them with a broader spectrum of opportunities and activities to pursue, either reflecting an onshore or offshore career. In addition to the academic knowledge and practical skills gained, students attend relevant field trips and other activities that encourages even further their critical thinking. The participation of guest lecturers during their course of studies allow them to meet and discuss issues regarding recent technological innovations related with the shipping industry.	Choose an item.
Encourage extra curriculum activities (e.g. bond building)	The College takes into serious consideration the students' participation to extra curriculum activities and strongly encourages them to attend multiple maritime events, such as Conferences, Educational fairs and Clubs. Up until now, students participated to the Posidonia International Shipping Exhibition 2018 (held in Greece), the Maritime Cyprus 2019 conference, the Maravilhosas Brainstorming Series in December 2019 as well as at the Thalassa 2021 and 2022 organized by the Shipping Deputy Ministry. In addition, students participate to the annual Edufair in Nicosia organized by the Ministry of Education as well as to various events taking place in public and private schools of secondary education	Choose an item.



	<p>Furthermore, the College is a member of the Cyprus Marine Club (CMC) and motivates its students to register and become members of the club where they have the opportunity to participate in monthly seminars and presentations relating to the newest advancements and hot topics of the shipping industry.</p>	
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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
N/A	N/A	Choose an item.
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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
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Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose an item.

B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For official use Only
The program is well run and administered and it relates to an important need in the maritime sector which is of importance to the Cyprus economy.	We would like to thank the EEC for its positive comment.	Choose an item.
The current number of enrolled should be increased to make the program economically viable and more academically flexible.	Actions taken are presented in Section 1	Choose an item.
It is recommended that the courses and assessments are adjusted to maintain currency of the maritime at sea and ashore.	The proposed actions are presented in Section 4	Choose an item.
Most of the teaching staff have good experience and professional background, however they should be supported by management to obtain higher academic qualifications and to be engaged in research and development.	The College is committed in supporting all its faculty members to pursue further studies for self-development and research involvement. Currently, the majority of the full-time faculty is pursuing their Doctoral degree, with the full support of the Management, as this will lead in the further academic strengthening and enhancement of the Programme. Reflecting the research aspect, this is a part of a working framework, as the faculty is gradually being involved in EU funded research projects.	Choose an item.
The students who prefer to follow a career ashore should be given the opportunity to follow an alternative course path for obtaining their bachelor's degree	The proposed path is including the 2 concentrations presented in Section 4 .	Choose an item.
Extra curriculum activities for students are essential for student life and should be encouraged	The extracurricular activities are presented in Section 5	

C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Dr Andreas Chrysanthou	Programme Coordinator	
Kyriakos Patsalides	Programme Director	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
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Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	

Date: 26/07/2022

