



Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 07.06.2024

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Cyprus
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)
In Greek:
Διδακτορικό στις Γαλλικές Σπουδές
In English:
PhD in French Studies
- **Language(s) of instruction:** French
- **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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move from a University-level Graduate School to doctoral schools based in each Faculty to enable more tailored skills courses and training • PhD thesis supervision should be formally recognised and accounted for within the workload allocations of academic staff in Department • The fact that the University has halted the Evagoras and Praxandros scholarship programmes has negatively affected the possibility of students to remain on the PhD programme. The EEC therefore makes a strong request to the University to reintroduce these funding programmes 	<p>Although recommended actions are beyond the decision-making sphere of the Department, it will underline these needs to the University decision-makers through the internal processes of the University.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final approval of the thesis after the defence and any corrections should devolve from the University Senate to individual Faculties 	<p>According to the UCY regulations PhD. Candidates must submit the final thesis endorsing and implementing any corrections indicated at the defense. Final thesis is approved by the Departments' Council, the Graduate School Council and the Senate. Please refer</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>

	to the link Guidelines for Doctoral programmes (p.13-14)	Choose level of compliance:
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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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EEC recommends that the University devolves to Faculties the requirements for PhD length 	<p>At the University of Cyprus, PhD theses generally have specific length and formatting requirements. According to the guidelines, the minimum number of words for a PhD dissertation is 10,000 words, unless otherwise specified by each Department through its departmental postgraduate students' rules. The length of the dissertation relates to the requirements and particularities of the topic. Scientific competence is more important than the length for the thesis evaluation. (See Annex 1 - See section of the Regulations of Postgraduate Studies https://www.ucy.ac.cy/graduateschool/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/2023/10/Guidelines-for-Doctoral-Thesis-FINAL-Oct-2023.pdf).</p> <p>For the PhD in French Studies, the language of the thesis is French. Its length is preferably between 80,000 and 100,000 words, which can however be discussed between the doctoral student and his or her Research Supervisor. Compliance with basic scientific requirements must ensure the good quality of the thesis (see attached the Regulations of the doctoral program in French and European studies – Annex 2).</p>	Choose level of compliance:
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3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted above the EEC strongly recommends that at least one of the current professorial members of staff is replaced directly at professorial level so that appropriate leadership of the Department remains in place 	<p>Although recommended actions are beyond the decision-making sphere of the Department, it will underline these needs to the University decision-makers through the internal of processes of the University.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
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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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department could state more explicitly its requirement for a Masters-level qualification 	<p>Candidates for the PhD Programme (Doctorate level, according to the European Framework 6-7-8, or in French L-M-D) must, at the date of publication of the places available by the Department, hold a Master's degree in French studies, in Didactics of French as a Foreign Language or in Humanities or Social Sciences. Students who have not yet obtained their Master's degree but who will complete their studies by 31 July of the year that they wish to enter the PhD programme are eligible.</p> <p>Possession of a Master's degree or equivalent level partially or totally exempts the student from this requirement. Students can also take up to two additional undergraduate courses (in addition to the 60 ECTS of a Master's degree) from any Department of the University of Cyprus on the recommendation of the Academic Advisor. (See Annex 3)</p> <p>https://www.ucy.ac.cy/frml/ph-d-in-french-studies/?lang=en</p> <p>Moreover, candidates must have achieved an average of 7/10 or equivalent in their Master's degree and/or have a proven track record of research and/or teaching experience. This issue has been approved at the departmental meeting of the Department of French and European studies (29th of May).</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
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5. Learning resources and student support
 (ESG 1.6)

N/A

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No recommendations applied	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose level of compliance:
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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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EEC strongly recommends that the specification of entry requirements for PhD programmes is devolved to Faculties 	The specification of entry requirements for PhD programmes is devolved to our department (See Annex 3 and our website) https://www.ucy.ac.cy/frml/phd-in-french-studies/?lang=en	Choose level of compliance:
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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
<p>The EEC commends in the highest terms the work of the Department of French & European Studies at the University of Cyprus. Meetings with staff and students made very clear the strong sense of collegiality, vision and ethos that defines the Department's strategy.</p> <p>The EEC was struck by the Department's ambition and desire to innovate, pioneering work in several important areas for the University, including e-Learning and the introduction of the annual doctoral students conference. Moreover, the Department has cultivated an excellent research culture and environment which includes Masters and PhD students. It is proving to be a centre of excellence within the institution in terms of the support it provides to students at all levels and the way it fosters interdisciplinary collaboration within the institution.</p> <p>The EEC also notes the Department's success in persuading the Cypriot Ministry of Education to introduce French as a compulsory second language at primary and secondary levels. This initiative should help sustain recruitment of students into the Department's BA programmes into the future as well as strengthening employment opportunities for its graduates. The EEC would like to thank the staff and students of the</p>	<p>We thank the EEC for the site visit and the fruitful discussions</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>



Department for their warm welcome and the quality of the discussions over the two days of its site visit.		
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C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
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