

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:**  
Γαλλικές και Ευρωπαϊκές Σπουδές  
**In English:**  
French and European Studies
- **Language(s) of instruction:** French, German, English, Spanish, Greek
- **Programme's status:** Currently Operating
- **Concentrations (if any):**  
**In Greek:** 1. Πτυχίο Γαλλικής Γλώσσας και Φιλολογίας, 2. Πτυχίο Σύγχρονων Γλωσσών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σπουδών: Συνδυασμός γλωσσών Γαλλικά-Αγγλικά, 3. Πτυχίο Σύγχρονων Γλωσσών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σπουδών: Συνδυασμός γλωσσών Γαλλικά-Γερμανικά, 4. Πτυχίο Σύγχρονων Γλωσσών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σπουδών: Συνδυασμός γλωσσών Γαλλικά- Ισπανικά  
**In English:** 1. Bachelor's degree in French Language and Literature, 2. Bachelor's degree in Modern Languages and European Studies Language combination: French – English, 3. Bachelor's degree in Modern Languages and European Studies Language combination: French – German, 4. Bachelor's degree in Modern Languages and European Studies Language combination: French-Spanish



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
Bibliographies in some courses in French Language and Literature could benefit from include more recent scholarship from the 2010s and 2020s	The issue was discussed at the Department's Council dated 29 May 2024 and bibliographies have been updated Please see Annex 1	Choose level of compliance:
Bibliographies across the French Language & Literature programme could include work by Anglophone scholarship in French & Francophone Studies so students can benefit from engaging different methodological, theoretical and critical approaches	The issue was discussed at the Department's Council dated 29 May 2024. It was decided to reexamine the issue at the begging of the next academic year and make final decision by the end of the Fall semester 2024	Choose level of compliance:
European Studies programme should ideally include work on power structures, role of bureaucracies and power politics within the European Union	The programme (See Annex 2) offers two compulsory courses from the Department of Social and Political Sciences – SPS 266 Political System of the European Union and SPS 251 The Political System of Cyprus (see Annex 3)	Choose level of compliance:
Skills development could be expanded, particularly in relation to negotiation skills	The issue was discussed at the Department's Council dated 29 May 2024. It was decided to encourage students to participate in negotiations seminars organized by The Career Center of the UCY	Choose level of compliance:
For both programmes the EEC recommends increased scope for independent research through longer essays and ideally a compulsory BA thesis in order to foster and cement skills of independent research and thinking and to ensure	BA thesis was compulsory for years when the Academic staff counted 11 members and had less Ph.D. to supervise. This policy proved difficult to pursue because of reduced staffing (retirement, etc.). BA thesis remains, however, open for	Choose level of compliance:

<p>students are in a position to progress to postgraduate programmes across Europe</p>	<p>students having an average mark over 7+180 ECTS. The Department will examine the possibility of re-introducing a compulsory BA thesis for all students after taking to account students' feedback. The meetings will begin in September and the final decision will be made by the end of the Fall Semester 2024.</p>	
<p>In order to accommodate a compulsory BA thesis in staff teaching workloads elements of the thesis course could include a dissertation seminar and peer review alongside a reduced number of one-to-one supervisions</p>	<p>This issue is related with University Policy about thesis supervision. The recommendation will be forward to the University decision making bodies for further actions.</p>	

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

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<p>The EEC recommends that the Department reviews the use and design of multiple choice quizzes as part of the assessment for its different courses, in particular the excessive use of True/False questions</p>	<p>The Department conduct both multiple choice quizzes especially in the first year but mostly open-ended questions (see Annex 4)</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<p>In the discussion with student representatives it was noted that the level of French proficiency amongst some students when entering the programme was under the expected level, and this can affect the motivation of the more and less advanced learners. The EEC invites the Department to reflect on how to deal with the different levels of proficiency amongst the cohort during the first year (students representatives further noted that the proficiency gap diminishes in subsequent years)</p>	<p>Being already aware that this discrepancy can impact the motivation of both more and less advanced learners, it has already taken various measures to address this issue, especially during the first year: Tutoring sessions, language workshops, and supplemental instructional materials have been provided for students with lower proficiency levels both before or on entering the program, either by our instructors or doctoral students. However, the issue was discussed at the Department's Council dated 29/5/2024 and it will try to go further and design and implement a tiered instructional approach for first-year courses from September 2024. This involves creating differentiated learning pathways within the same course framework, allowing students to progress at their own pace while still meeting the same overall learning objectives. To maintain the motivation of more advanced learners, it will try to offer enrichment activities, such as advanced conversation clubs,</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>

	reading groups, and opportunities for independent study projects that challenge their proficiency and keep them engaged	
As stated in Section 1 above the EEC encourages the Department to make greater use of term papers, essays and longer forms of discursive writing in summative assessment	The issue was discussed at the Department's Council dated 29/5/2024 and takes good note of the suggestions to make greater use of term papers, essays, and longer forms of discursive writing in its foundation courses, from September 2024, since this is already the norm in more advanced courses (see Annex 5).	Choose level of compliance:
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### 3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<p>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> <p>For the BA in French &amp; European Studies the EEC strongly recommends that the University of Cyprus invest in additional staffing to help develop the programme in a way that can make it the strongest programme in the region in this domain, in particular by supporting the areas indicated in Findings above</p>	<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.</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 <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recommendations to make</li> </ul>	N/A	Choose level of compliance:
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**5. Learning resources and student support**  
 (ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
No areas of improvement and recommendations	N/A	Choose level of compliance:
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**6. Additional for doctoral programmes**  
 (ALL ESG)

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

Areas of improvement and recommendations <b>by EEC</b>	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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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 <b>commends in the highest terms</b> the work of the Department of French &amp; 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.



## D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

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