

Doc. 300.1.4

Date: 28-06-21

# Follow-up Report

(for a CYQAA accredited  
Institution/Department/  
Programme of study)

- Higher Education Institution: **University of Cyprus**
- Town: **Nicosia**
- Type of Evaluation: **Programmatic**
- Accredited on CYQAA Council's Summit Number: **48th**
- Date of Accreditation: **11/12/2019**

**If applicable:**

- School/Faculty: **Medical School**
- Department: **Department/Sector**
- Programme of Study Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)  
**Programme Bachelor (6 Years, 360 ECTS)**  
**In Greek:**  
**Πτυχίο Ιατρικής**  
**In English:**  
**Doctor of Medicine (MD)**
- Programme's type: **Conventional**
- Language (s) of instruction: **Greek**



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 (CYQAA), 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 2019” [N. 136 (I)/2015 to N. 35(I)/2019] and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

## A. Internal Quality Assurance Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<b>Hadjigeorgiou Georgios</b>	Professor	University of Cyprus
<b>Farmakis Dimitrios</b>	Associate Professor	University of Cyprus
<b>Dietis Nikolas</b>	Assistant Professor	University of Cyprus
<b>Constantinidou Anastasia</b>	Assistant Professor	University of Cyprus
<b>Parperis Konstantinos</b>	Lecturer	University of Cyprus
<b>Kadoglou Nikolaos</b>	Lecturer	University of Cyprus
<b>Anagnostopoulou Pinelopi</b>	Lecturer	University of Cyprus

## B. Guidelines on content and structure of the Follow-up Report

- *CYQAA has a consistent follow-up process for considering the action taken by the institution toward the improvement and further development of the CYQAA externally evaluated and accredited institution / department / programme of study. The present Follow-up Report should recount, synoptically, institutional action taken toward the implementation of the remarks indicated in the CYQAA Final Report.*
- *The Follow-up report should provide evidence (via website links) and appendices at the end of the report on how the remarks of the Council of CYQAA have been adhered to.*
- *The remarks indicated in the CYQAA Final Report should be copied from the corresponding report and be followed by the institution's response.*
- *The institution may add any other institutional action taken towards the implementation of ESG aiming at the improvement of the institution / department / programme of study.*

## 1. Remarks on the CYQAA Final Report

The Agency requires the Medical School to report on the implementation of the developed and approved policies, identified in the following assessment areas 2, 3 and 5, which will be applied from the academic year 2020-2021.

The reports will be submitted to the CYQAA at the end of the Winter semester and at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year 2020-2021.

### **Assessment area 2: Educational programme**

*“The Studies Committee will convene in a regular meeting at the end of each academic year, beginning from June 2020, to re-evaluate the curriculum and consider programme modifications in response to opinions from the students, administration staff, medical community, patients and the society. The Studies Committee and its Subcommittees may also convene in additional meetings throughout the year depending on the needs that may arise.”.*

### **Assessment area 3: Assessment of Students**

*“The standardization method(s) of choice for OSCEs and oral exams will be discussed with the programme Committee, the student representatives and the School stakeholders, prior to a final discussion and decision by the School Council.*

*Due to the important role of standard setting in the quality of assessment, the School aims to implement a pilot application of standard setting in the OSCEs and oral exams of this year’s examination period, in May 2020. The product of these discussions and the final decision of the School Council will be reflected in the reviewed Student Handbook for the academic year 2020-2021.”.*

### **Assessment area 5: Academic Staff/Faculty**

*“The School will apply by the academic year 2020-2021, developed relevant strategies concerning the sub-areas 5.1: Recruitment and selection policy and 5.2: Staff activity and staff development, which are in compliance with the international policies.”.*

## 2. Institution's Response

In the 1<sup>st</sup> follow-up report (submitted on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021), we mentioned the actions taken by the School regarding the assessment areas 2,3, and 5 and other institutional actions taken towards the implementation of European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) aiming at the improvement of the School and its programme of study, from the date of accreditation (December 2019) until February 2021. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> follow-up report, we provide additional actions taken regarding the previous topics, from February 2021 until today.

With regards to the **Assessment Areas 2 and 3** and following what is mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> follow-up report, the School will proceed to incorporate the product of the discussions regarding the educational programme and the assessment of students, to the Student Handbook 2021-2022 which is currently being processed.

The Student Handbook changes include the following topics:

1. Modifications in the Elective Course offered in Phases I and II (Years 1, 2 and 3 – Courses: MED104 - Elective Course, MED 203 A - Elective Course I, MED 203 B - Elective Course II, MED 303 A - Elective Course I, MED 303 B – Elective Course II). Specifically, the Elective Course was substituted with the course 'Research Study' in which the students will be given the opportunity to choose among several research-oriented topics offered by the teaching staff of the School. A written work will be required to be submitted regarding the selected research topic, at a specified time. The School has submitted a formal request for this change to the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the University of Cyprus on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May (evidence: **Appendix 1.1 - Request to the Undergraduate Studies Committee**). Following the approval by the Committee, the School will implement the change and it will be reflected in the Student Handbook in due time.
2. Further clarifications will be included in the Student Handbook 2021-2022. Specifically, it will be clarified that a grade of 50% or more at each one of the exams (1. Written (Digital) Examination, 2. Spot Test, and 3. OSCEs) is a prerequisite for the success of Year 5 and Year 6 students at the exams. Before this change, the related paragraph mentioned for Year 5 students that 'For the promotion of the student in the 6th year of studies, his / her successful participation in the final exams is necessary' while, for Year 6 students that 'In order to obtain a degree from the Medical School, the successful participation of the student in the final examinations is necessary'.
3. In addition, more information will be added in some course descriptions of Phase III of the Programme of studies, regarding the clinical skills that are taught (e.g., this paragraph was added in Year 6 course descriptions: 'As part of the clinical practice in cardiology, students in small groups, attend sessions of simulation of emergency cardiology scenarios using HD models (Apollo, Vimedix / CAE). After the execution of each scenario, follows a debriefing session, with analysis and commentary of the simulation by the teachers.')

Regarding student assessment, the School also began implementing the decision of the participation of external examiners in the School exams and invited Dr. Kosta Lasithiotaki to participate as an external

examiner in the Surgery oral exams of Year 6 which took place on the 18th of May 2021 (evidence: **Appendix 1.2 - Correspondence with the external examiner Dr. Lasithiotaki**). The experience was very positive and is considered an important tool in enhancing of the quality of the student assessment.

### **Assessment area 5: Academic Staff/Faculty**

Regarding the assessment area **5.1: Recruitment and selection policy**, we mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> follow-up report that new faculty positions will be announced within 2021.

A number of new faculty positions (apx 10) at all four ranks (Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor) were approved by the School Council. Following the Senate's approval, they will be announced in the Cyprus Gazette and included in all relevant websites (evidence: **Appendix 2.1 - Sample of a Job Post**).

Concerning the 'Recognition of academic achievements/awards', of the Staff activity and staff development policy (**Assessment area 5.2**), the Medical School in collaboration with the University, established the 'Teaching Excellence Award'. The new policy (evidence: **Appendix 2.2 - Teaching Excellence Award-Policy**) was approved by the Senate (Meeting 23/2020, 9 September 2020) and provides for one award per Faculty/School every two years. According to the time frame, the 2nd Teaching Excellence Award was announced in March 2021 by the Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs (evidence: **Appendix 2.3 - Announcement regarding the Teaching Excellence Award**) and the awards will be provided in 2022, after the voting by the last-year-undergraduate and master students, as well as, by the Dean/Chair of each School/Department.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Teaching Excellence Award was awarded in June 2017 and it was at the time university-wide. The policy for the Teaching Excellence Award was approved by the Senate (meeting no. 04/2016) in continuation of the Senate's previous decision on the same subject (meeting no. 27/2015). The Award was announced by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs on 16/5/2016 (evidence: <https://ucy.ac.cy/ctl/en/activities/charter-of-quality-assurance-in-teaching/teaching-excellence-award>).

Following the decision of the Senate (Meeting 23/2020, 9 September 2020), the award will be given on a School basis (1 for each faculty/school) biennially.



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CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION





### **C. Other institutional action taken towards the implementation of ESG aiming at the improvement of the institution / department / programme of study.**

#### **University of Cyprus actions that positively affect the quality assurance of the Medical School.**

- The University of Cyprus (UCY), in the context of the continuous improvement of the quality of the education it offers and by recognizing the essential contribution of the final-year students in this effort, implements, for the first time, the decision of the Senate for the evaluation of the Curriculum by all final-year students. Specifically, in April 2021, all final-year students of the UCY, received an email from the office of Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs, to complete a questionnaire regarding their educational experience and the curriculum of the Department/School they attended (evidence: **Appendix C1.1 - Evaluation of Curriculum-announcement to all final-year students**).



**D. Signatures of the Internal Quality Assurance Committee**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
<b>Hadjigeorgiou Georgios</b>	
<b>Farmakis Dimitrios</b>	
<b>Dietis Nikolas</b>	
<b>Constantinidou Anastasia</b>	
<b>Parperis Konstantinos</b>	
<b>Kadoglou Nikolaos</b>	
<b>Anagnostopoulou Pinelopi</b>	

Date: 28-06-21

## Follow-up Report Appendices:

1. **Appendix 1.1** - Request to the Undergraduate Studies Committee
2. **Appendix 1.2** - Correspondence with the external examiner Dr. Lasithiotaki
3. **Appendix 2.1** - Sample of a Job Post
4. **Appendix 2.2** - Teaching Excellence Award-Policy
5. **Appendix 2.3** - Announcement regarding the Teaching Excellence Award
6. **Appendix C1.1** - Evaluation of Curriculum-announcement to all final-year-students