

Doc. 300.1.4

Date: 18.04.2024

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: 07.14.290.087
- Date of Accreditation: 22/02/2022

If applicable:

- School/Faculty: Pure Applied Sciences
- Department: Department of Computer Science
- Programme of Study Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

Programme Master

In Greek:

Τεχνητή Νοημοσύνη(3 ακαδημαϊκά εξάμηνα, 90-102 ECTS, Μάστερ)

In English:

Artificial Intelligence (3 academic semesters, 90-102 ECTS, Master)

- Programme's type: Conventional
- Language (s) of instruction: English



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 2021 [L.136(I)/2015 – L.132(I)/2021] and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

A. Internal Quality Assurance Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Tatiana-Eleni Synodinou	Chair	Professor Vice Rector for Academic Affairs
Elpida Keravnou-Papailiou	Vice Chair	Professor
		University
		University
		University
		University

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

According to the recommendations of the EEC and the decision of the Agency, the Institution should provide evidence and data confirm compliance with the following, no later than the end of the Fall semester 2023-2024:

1. Recruitment of a new academic staff in AI with emphasis on machine learning
2. Set up a mentoring system credited with ECTS (micro credentials) for the young researchers that will be recruited in the academic positions vacated by existing senior staff ways.
3. Provide opportunities to PhD students to acquire some teaching experience credited with ECTS (micro credentials).
4. Selection of visiting professors that are not limited to those speaking Greek
5. Recruitment of a staff member whose research area is on ethics of AI.

2. Institution's Response

Following the recommendations of the EEC and the decision of the Agency, we would like to inform you the following:

1. Recruitment of a new academic staff in AI with emphasis on machine learning: Unfortunately, the first announcement of the given academic position was not fruitful. The position has now been re-announced and twenty-three (23) applications were submitted by the closing deadline of February 5th, 2024. The recruitment process is currently underway and hopefully a new member of staff with the above specialization will join the Department of Computer Science within the next academic year.
2. Set up a monitoring system credited with ECTS (micro credentials) for the young researchers that will be recruited in the academic positions vacated by existing senior staff: The concept of a micro-credential has not yet been established by the national competent bodies and hence the University of Cyprus cannot officially deliver micro-credentials, or to certify such learning and award credits. However, the University's Center of Teaching and Learning (ΚΕΔΙΜΑ) has set into action a peer mentoring/ monitoring system (without the award of ECTS) whereby senior academics with extensive experience in teaching and a successful track record, as testified primarily through the anonymous student questionnaires, guide, and support the younger members of staff in developing their teaching skills.
3. Provide opportunities to PhD students to acquire some teaching experience credited with ECTS (micro credentials): The same comment applies here regarding the provision of a micro credential and the awarding of ECTS. The University's Graduate School oversees the acquisition of traversal skills by the postgraduate students and through a scholarship scheme for PhD students it provides the necessary incentive for the acquisition of some teaching experience since a student who receives such a scholarship is required to help in the teaching of at least one course. Regarding the MSc AI programme, a senior PhD student has produced the learning content for the Natural Language Processing (NLP) elective, and he has taught this course twice so far, under the guidance of his advisors. The given elective is highly sought by the MSc students and has received very positive evaluations. Incidentally, the learning content of the given elective as well as the learning contents for most of the other courses of the programme are uploaded on the website of the MAI4CAREU project (www.mai4car.eu) and are openly and freely available for any interested learner. Moreover, we are in the process of uploading some of this content on the EU Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (DSJP), in the form of Learning Paths. A learning path in Machine Learning is already live on the DSJP and other learning paths are in the pipeline, including an NLP learning path by the given PhD student. PhD students are also deployed in mentoring teams of postgraduate students not only from UCY's MSc AI programme but also from the other collaborating universities, in the context of the AI Camp. Overall, teaching experience opportunities are provided to interested PhD students doing their research in AI and who are at a relatively advanced stage of their PhDs.
4. Selection of visiting professors that are not limited to those speaking Greek: The AI Ethics material has been delivered so far by largely non-Greek speaking collaborating scientists from the University of Bologna, UMEA, and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.



5. Recruitment of a staff member whose research area in on ethics of AI: The fulfilment of this recommendation does not rest exclusively on the Department of Computer Science since new academic positions have to be approved by the House of Parliament and then internally allocated to the academic departments. The Department of Computer Science is strongly putting forward its case for new positions based on hard evidence regarding its operational capacity. When a new academic position is allocated to the Department, the Board of the Department will decide under which specialization to announce it, and there is a strong case for announcing it under an AI related specialization and the ethics of AI would be a prime candidate. For the time being the AI ethics material of the MSc programme will continue to be adequately delivered by a combination of internal expertise (e.g. we are already collaborating with colleagues from the Department of Law) and external expertise through visiting academics or special scientists.





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

According to the recommendations of the EEC, the Department of Computer Science has developed collaboration with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and therefore the program has become interdisciplinary since September 2024. CYQAA has been informed and approved the amendment.



D. Signatures of the Internal Quality Assurance Committee

Name	Signature
Professor Tatiana - Eleni Synodinou	
Professor Elpida Keravnou Papailiou	

Date: 18/4/2024

