

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 20th October 2022

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Cyprus
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

In Greek:

Προπτυχιακό πρόγραμμα Φιλοσοφίας (4 έτη, 240 ECTS)

In English:

Undergraduate programme in Philosophy (4 years, 240 ECTS)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** Greek
- **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>Given the cohabitation of the two Programmes (Philosophy and Classics) under a single Department, and the fact that the respective curricula are based on a combination of the two fields, enrichment of the programme with courses that contribute to the cohesion of each programme is recommended. To achieve this goal, the Department should aim to cultivate excellence in ancient philosophy. The broad range of philosophical topics that are dealt with in the framework of the undergraduate program could be structured under well defined sub-fields of philosophy (e.g. epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, history of philosophy); the list of ancient philosophy courses should be enriched and include survey but also more specialised topics [defined as such in the titles]. A distribution requirement (which would gradually lead to a distribution in the academic specialisation of the members of staff) should also be introduced.</p>	<p>Excellence in Ancient Philosophy is achieved, given the circumstances under which the philosophy group functions. In fact, by January 2023, 2 out of 5 of our teaching staff, i.e. 40%, will be researchers in the History of Philosophy and competent in Ancient Greek Philosophy. The courses they will offer will be related to Ancient Philosophy, either directly or indirectly. Thus, a significant part of the academic program would satisfy the recommendation. However, the philosophy group is very small and the prospects of further strengthening it at the University of Cyprus are minimal. Therefore, making steps to fully meet the recommendation of the committee is a matter that should concern the University of Cyprus as an institution and not a matter that the philosophy group can implement out of its own volition. From our part, we will try our best to convince the University of Cyprus that to fully meet the recommendation it is necessary that the philosophy group is strengthened.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
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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
Although every effort is made to train the students in the use of the major data bases and electronic resources that are used in the field of Classical Studies, there is certainly more room for the development of digital competencies.	Students are informed for the major electronic resources in the field of Philosophy (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy etc.) by the instructor of the compulsory course PHIL101 “Introduction to Philosophy”. The syllabus of this course contains all the relevant information regarding these sources (links, etc.) while the instructor guide students to use the material in an efficient and fruitful way and help them to develop the skill of focusing on reliable means and avoiding redundant and often unreliable on-line information.	Choose an item.
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3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

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<p>Recruitment of new staff members (as well as of visiting professors) could enhance the development of ‘bridges’ between Philosophy and Classics. That would entail an effort and agreement between the members of the two programmes so that the descriptions of the areas in which new positions are advertised take into consideration the need to remedy the problems in the cohesion of the Philosophy BA (and its suitability to the professional orientation of graduates who do not wish to focus on research) that were described above.</p>	<p>This is a suggestion we also wish it could materialize. However, this would require a decision by the University of Cyprus to expand the philosophy group significantly and not something that the philosophy group can decide on its own.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</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
<p>Progression policies are perhaps taken for granted, but they should be set out more clearly for potential foreign applicants. As we write, moreover, the Department's webpage re the "framework for the composition of the examining committees", where one could expect to find the relevant info, is not accessible.</p>	<p>We thank the Committee for the comment. This is something which we will gladly address.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
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5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

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6. Additional for doctoral programmes (ALL ESG)

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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

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B. Conclusions and final remarks

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C.

D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Demetris Portides	Coordinator of the programme of Philosophy	
Georgios Xenis	Head of the Department	

Date: 20th October 2022

