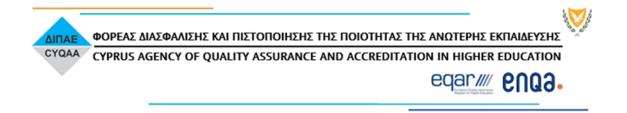


REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

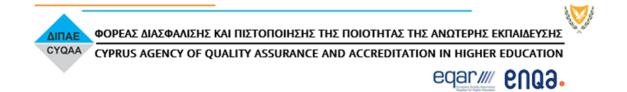


The present document has been prepared within the framework of the authority and competencies of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, according to the provisions of the "Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws" of 2015 to 2021 [L.136(I)/2015 – L.132(I)/2021].



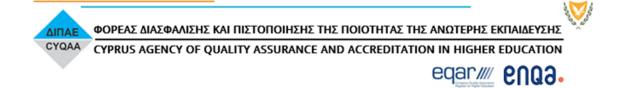
A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- 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 <u>without any interference</u> 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)*

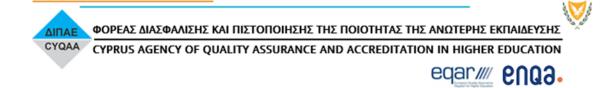
Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
1.3 and 1.4. We learned that some faculty members attend workshops to learn better website design skills, so that they can better update the departmental and programme pages. These duties should really revert to professional staff.	We agree. However, this is related to the university-wide question of sufficient administrative support. Unless more administrative staff is hired, the situation will continue as it is, with the programme's coordinators overseeing the webpage's update, with the help of the university's IT officers.	Choose level of compliance:



2. Student - centred learning, teaching and assessment

(ESG 1.3)

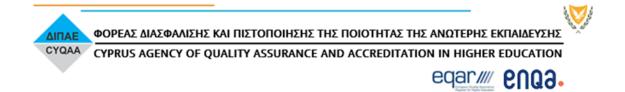
Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Our student member reiterates that career prospects of the students must be taken into account in the further development of the MA programme. Good progress has already been made in finding internship opportunities for the students during their studies with both government and private organisations. Even if unpaid, this pathway will help the students gain valuable experience and knowledge of the market. Ideally this can be accomplished without adding to the length of the MA programme.	We agree. We will continue to work in this direction by consolidating collaborations with local institutions, NGOs as well as governmental departments for securing placements for our students, especially during the summer months. At the same time, the courses are designed towards cultivating transferable skills that will strengthen our graduates' employability prospects.	Choose level of compliance:



3. Teaching staff

(ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
In conjunction with the upper administration, the faculty need to start thinking of a holistic plan that takes future retirements into account.	We agree. This is a major challenge, given that new faculty positions for the programme may not be forthcoming. While visiting professorships and hiring adjunct instructors might offer short-term solutions, other options, such as inter-university collaborations, could be explored.	Choose level of compliance:



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
The university needs to allocate some of the resources of the Public Relations and Marketing staff and of the alumni office to help advertise this uniquely valuable MA programme. Currently, that burden falls onto the faculty members, who already deliver the most of what they have to offer. The faculty promotes the programme by visiting high schools and organising open- house days, but there are important ways in which university offices can join in these efforts.	We agree and we are certainly aiming to work with the University services to promote the MA programme especially abroad.	Choose level of compliance:

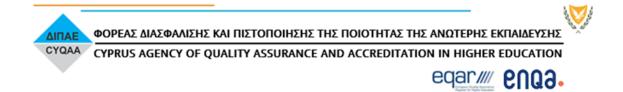
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CYQAA CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and For Official Use ONLY Actions Taken by the Institution recommendations by EEC 5.4 Student support UCY works towards improving Choose level of compliance: Housing and public transportation student housing and public need improvement - Partially transport, but such improvements compliant can only be fully achieved through governmental support. As much as the secretarial staff We agree. The administrative staff Choose level of compliance: works hard to support the students' carries a heavy workload, as they needs, it is clear that with more are responsible for the support of staff members they could do more the students of ALL programmes of in this very important area that study in each department, in strengthens students' well-being addition to other administrative and helps to prevent any student duties. Hiring additional attrition. The secretarial staff also administrative staff would help expressed that they feel alleviate the burden, but this occasionally overwhelmed by the depends on the University's central many ill-supported electronic, administration, its priorities and its accounting, and other platforms resources. that the University requires them to use. The lack of adequate housing and We agree. the lack of appropriate public transportation. These areas, too, are crucial student support resources and need to be championed at the level of the upper administration and the city of Nicosia, ideally as soon as possible. The departments need to be We agree. The housing of the two relocated and reunited with the rest departments is a long-standing of the university as soon as possible. problem. It is hoped that in 2026 that the departments (administrative and teaching staff) will move to a single building, not far from the main campus. Still, the prospect of being relocated with the rest of the university remains distant.



6. Additional for doctoral programmes

(ALL ESG)

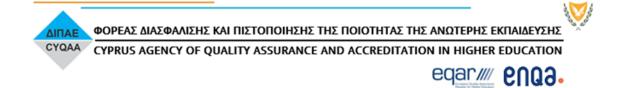
Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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7. Eligibility (Joint programme)

(ALL ESG)

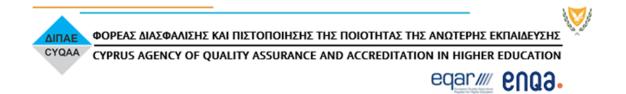
Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The contents and qualities of this	We thank the ECC for the positive	Choose level of compliance:
MA programme reach far beyond	feedback	
Byzantine Studies. It respects		
Cyprus' position at the very		
crossroads of Western and Eastern		
cultures and histories.		
Students graduate with deep		Choose level of compliance:
knowledge and excellent		
transferable skills that serve them		
well in the job market.		
The faculty is more than impressive,		Choose level of compliance:
as is the commitment of the		
secretarial staff. They also deeply		
care about the professionalization		
of their students, beyond teaching		
and mentoring. Their commitment		
to grant-capture and to the		
Erasmus-Mundus programme and		
other forms of cross-border		
collaborations is exemplary.		
The tight connection between the		Choose level of compliance:
BA, MA, and PhD programmes is		
another strong asset.		
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose level of compliance:

C.



D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

Name	Position	Signature
Stavroula Constantinou	Professor of Byzantine Philology – Programme coordinator (BMGS)	
Maria Parani	Associate Professor – Programme coordinator (HISARC)	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	

Date: 13/12/2024

