

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 17/5/2023

## Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**  
University of Cyprus
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **Programme of study**  
Name: Master in Ancient History (4 semesters, 120, ECTS)

**In Greek:**

Αρχαία Ιστορία

**In English:**

Ancient History

- **Language(s) of instruction:** Greek
- **Programme's status:** Currently operating
- **Concentrations (if any):**

**In Greek:** -

**In 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, 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
a) The EEC can confirm that there is coherence in the Master's Programme and no overlaps between courses. It is recommended that during the coming 5-year run of the Programme, the Department institutes a procedure to ensure that these results are maintained in light of changes and different circumstances. The EEC would also recommend that social history and the history of gender are incorporated in a more systematic way into the teaching of the current courses offered by the Programme.	<p>The program will add courses related to social history and history of gender starting from Spring 2024 such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity.</li> <li>2. Women writers in Classical Greece and Rome.</li> <li>3. Women's role in Greek and Roman foundation stories.</li> <li>4. Women's role in Civic and Private religion.</li> </ol> <p>The program created a questionnaire (<b>Annex 1.1</b>) as a check list for ensuring that the quality of the program continues in light of changes and different circumstances.</p>	Choose level of compliance:
b) The EEC thinks that future changes of the design of the Programme and the courses offered should include a more active involvement of students, other stakeholders and external experts.	The program made a questionnaire to enable the gathering of new ideas from students, other stakeholders and external experts ( <b>Annex 1.2.</b> )	Choose level of compliance:
c) Although the website is comprehensive, and clearly set out in both languages, Greek and English, the evidence provided is not always sufficient. The website of the Programme should be regularly updated.	The website will be enriched with the various conferences, lectures, educational excursions being organized by the program. As well as photos from the above mentioned events. A platform will be established to showcase a wide range of research tools and supportive materials for students.	Choose level of compliance:
d) The Programme should take action to ensure the collection, monitoring and analysis of information on the profile of the student population, student	The program will distribute a questionnaire in order to gather information about the feelings and problems of students during their study, as well as after their graduation. ( <b>Annex 1.3.</b> )	Choose level of compliance:

progression, success and drop-out rates, students' satisfaction with their programmes, and the career paths of graduates. The Programme should annually process this information and take it into account in the context of changes and new circumstances.		
e) The Programme can explore the possibility that the teaching of certain courses in English might increase its attractiveness to international students, given the advantages offered by the strategic position of the University of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean.	The program will suggest to the Department to offer one course for YUFE and Erasmus students in English.	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
a) Past and current students have indicated that they would like to have more course options available in each semester. This clearly depends on the filling of the vacant post of the second permanent member of staff.	The program will inform the Department's next meeting about the need for filling the vacant post of the second permanent member so as to be able to offer more courses.	Choose level of compliance:
b) The criteria governing the award of marks and assessment of work are set by the University; it would be of assistance to teaching staff and students on this programme (and others) if the Postgraduate Rules were revised to make clearer some areas, for example, the relation of particular marks to particular characteristics of the submitted work (marking descriptors), and the grounds on which appeal against a grade can be made.	The program will request, at an upcoming meeting with the rest of the teaching staff of the History and Archaeology Department, a review of the grading system by presenting the views of the EEC.	Choose level of compliance:
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### 3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

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a) The committee emphatically recommends that the sustainability of the graduate programme in ancient history requires the swift replacement of the second permanent position in ancient history vacated by the departure of Dr Kantirea. Notwithstanding the heroic efforts of the permanent staff member (professor Mavrogiannis) and the adjunct and visiting teaching staff (Dr Ioannou, Dr Papadopoulos), the quality and diversity of teaching cannot be maintained in the long- term without the filling in of the vacant post. We expect that the University and the Department will take all necessary steps to resolve this issue	The program will discuss the need of replacement of the second permanent academic position in the Department's meeting in May.	Choose level of compliance:
b) The committee would like to recommend to the Department the implementation of an 'away day', an annual meeting between members of the Department, in which each staff member would present aspects of their research and teaching, followed by discussion. On this basis, the teaching staff in the Programme would be able to exchange ideas on teaching strategies and pedagogical methods and find ways of implementing the best available solutions.	The program's teaching staff frequently convenes to discuss and share opinions on research and teaching requirements. In the upcoming Department meeting in May, the program will propose that this discussion takes place annually during the departmental gathering. The aim is to present the challenges, opportunities, and pedagogical methods to a wider audience of university professors.	Choose level of compliance:
c) The Department needs to take steps to further facilitate	The program will make more use of the blackboard. Blackboard is the	Choose level of compliance:



the training of all members of staff to use available digital resources and technologies in teaching (Powerpoint, e-class, etc).	system established by the university to help the teaching staff to make available to the students each course additional and relevant information i.e. relevant research outputs, relevant ongoing research, relevant areas for further research.	
d) Although we have been informed that student evaluation of teaching is obligatory and implemented online, we have not been provided with any evidence of results. We recommend that in the future the Department provides clear evidence that student evaluation of teaching is monitored and that there are clear procedures through which the issues raised are taken into account and the solutions are implemented.	The program courses are being evaluated by the student if the class has a minimum number of five students. The results cannot be used because of the Data Protection Regulation. Each professor is informed confidentially about the results, and the Chairperson is being informed for the results of all courses.	Choose level of compliance:
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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
Annex 6 of the Department's submission to the Agency proves that students are provided with a Degree Certificate, but we have not been able to find evidence that students are provided with a transcript, which lists the courses taken, and the marks obtained in each course. We recommend that the Department takes steps to ensure that students receive such a transcript.	All university graduates receive transcripts which list the courses taken and the marks obtained in each course.	Choose level of compliance:
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## 5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
a) The committee strongly recommends the appointment of a second administrator on a permanent or long-term basis. This will make a substantial contribution to the administrative support of the Programme.	The program will inform the Department during the coming meeting in May.	Choose level of compliance:
b) The Department and the MA programme in Ancient History should make a consistent effort to achieve gender balance among students in the programme.	The presentation of thematic units that mainly focus on social history and highlight the progress and evolution of women in ancient Greek and Roman societies is one of the ideas that the program intends to implement in its efforts to attract primarily female students to the postgraduate program, as they are currently underrepresented.	Choose level of compliance:
c) E-class (an electronic website and repository hosting teaching and research materials relevant to the course taught) should be introduced among the teaching practices of the Programme.	The idea of creating an e-learning platform will be implemented in the near future with the completion of the teaching staff.	Choose level of compliance:
d) We recommend that all teaching is brought to the Aglantzia Campus, so that the teaching takes place on the same site as the Library.	The teaching staff will carefully consider the proposal and make the necessary changes to the program.	Choose level of compliance:
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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

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The members of the EEC observe that the relatively high fees charged for admission to the MA programme in Ancient History might place it in a disadvantageous position in relation to similar MA programmes which charge lower fees or do not charge fees at all. We recognise that fees are set centrally by the University, rather than the Programme itself, so that any independent action by the Programme in this respect is not possible. However, we believe that this issue is worth raising within the current evaluation process so that any appropriate actions might be taken in collaboration with the University authorities.	The program informed the Faculty of Graduate Studies for the EEC to examine if it is possible to reduce the tuition fees of the students of Ancient History in order to make it more easier during economic crisis to keep and even increase the number of new students.	Choose level of compliance:
Finally, the members of the the EEC were very pleased to take part in the evaluation	The program agrees fully with the report of the EEC and will steadily	Choose level of compliance:



process, and are grateful for the collaboration of the members of the department and the students. We are happy to note the successful operation of the MA programme in Ancient History, through the hard work of the Programme's Co-ordinator and the other staffs members and administrator. The qualitative characteristics of the programme are fully in line with other MA programmes worldwide. The programme is undoubtedly viable, but its long term-sustainability and potential growth require further support from the University, and implementation of the changes recommended in this report.	continue the efforts for the long-term sustainability and growth.	
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### C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
<b>Maria Parani</b>	Chairperson of the Department of History and Archaeology	
<b>Theodoros Mavrogiannis</b>	Program Coordinator	
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Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	

**Date:** Click to enter date





**Annex 1.1-For the teaching staff**

1. Evaluate the results of the mid-term and final exams.
2. Examine if the course managed to accomplish all the tasks as they are presented in the syllabus.
3. Compare the programs content with the content of similar programs of other universities.

**Annex 1.2 – For students, other stakeholders and external experts.**

1. Is the program responding to your expectations?
2. Is the teaching methodology meet your needs?
3. Is the assessment based on the content of the courses?

**Annex 1.3**

1. In the end of each semester evaluate the methodology of each professor
2. How do you evaluate the assessment methods of the program?
3. Give your own propositions for ameliorating the program.
4. During your studies have you received adequate feedback from your professors?
5. Are you satisfied with the library material for your research?
6. Are you satisfied with the conferences, lectures organized by the program?