



Doc. 300.1.2

07.14.318.017

Higher Education Institution's Response

Conventional-face-to-face programme of study

Date:

- Higher Education Institution:  
Frederick University
- Campus: Nicosia
- School: Business and Law
- Department / Sector: Law
- Programme(s) of study under evaluation  
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

Programme

**In Greek:**

Δημόσιο Δίκαιο (3 ακαδημαϊκά εξάμηνα, 90 ECTS, Μάστερ (LLM))

**In English:**

Public Law (3 academic semesters, 90 ECTS, Master (LLM))

**Language(s) of instruction:** English and Greek

- Specializations (if any): -

**In Greek:** -

**In English:** -

**Programme's Status:** Currently Operating



ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΗΣ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ  
CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION



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**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 2019” [N. 136 (I)/2015 to N. 35(I)/2019].**



#### 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.300.3.1) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the department in each assessment area.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area, the HEI must respond on, without changing the format of the report:*
  - *the findings, strengths, areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
  - *the deficiencies noted under the quality indicators (criteria)*
  - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The HEI's response must follow below the EEC's comments, which must be copied from the external evaluation report (Doc. 300.3.1).*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on a separate document.*



## 1. Study programme and study programme's design and development

### Areas of improvement and recommendations

- 1.a. The aforementioned problem becomes even more pertinent in the context of the LL.M in public law, where the number of students is expected to be much lower than in the LL.B programme. It would be worth reconsidering this 'duplication', especially for the LL.M programme, where the students may have a preference for one specific teacher.

#### Department's Response:

We accept and adopt the recommendations of the EEC. The Master Programme LL.M in Public Law will offered **only** in Nicosia Campus.



## 2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment

(ESG 1.3)

### Areas of improvement and recommendations

2.a. It is recommended that the library acquires access to the NOMOS database, that is deemed necessary for students studying Greek law.

#### Department's Response:

Frederick University gains access to academic electronic resources through its membership to the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Cyprus (CALC). The University has already requested from CALC to participate in the consortium subscription for NOMOS and Kluwer Law Journals which will be available to us in the coming academic year.

2.a. Furthermore, the EEC raised the issue of the non compulsory nature of the Master thesis. It was clarified during the online meeting that the rule regarding the distribution of the electives and the writing of the master thesis is 'flexible', in the sense that students may elect to follow the 'thesis' research methodology and preparation course, even if they do not opt to write a Master thesis. The EEC believes that this, in conjunction with the requirement to write research papers in other courses, suffices to give the students some background in research (methodology). It, however, recommends the department considering making the writing of the master thesis compulsory.

#### Department's Response:

We accept and adopt the recommendation of the EEC. The Master thesis (30 ECTS) has been made a compulsory course. Please refer to Annex 1 – Programme Structure.



### 3. Teaching staff

(ESG 1.5)

#### Areas of improvement and recommendations

3.a. We recommend greater transparency in the recruitment of staff, including non-permanent staff. More sabbaticals for teachers will help research and teaching..

#### Department's Response:

The University already has procedures in place for the evaluation of its academic staff. As per the Mission, the Regulation and Rules and of the University, the academic staff are evaluated based on four (4) pillars:

(1) Teaching, (2) Research, (3) Administrative Work, (4) Contribution to society.

These procedures are publicly available at the University's website ([Link](#)) and indicate specific criteria for the evaluation for each rank. These criteria include publications in peer reviewed journals, funded research projects, international recognitions, doctoral studies supervision, contribution in teaching and administrative work of the University, professional achievements and social contribution.

The University's Council has decided to further expand and specify the evaluation criteria and at the 150th Senate Meeting, after a first discussion the suggested framework of evaluation of each pillar was:

#### Teaching

- Student evaluation reports for the last 3 years
- Educational material that has been developed since the last evaluation
- Samples of two (2) detailed course descriptions
- Presentation of a sample course on the online learning platform
- Participation in training programmes
- Design and development of innovative courses

#### Research

- Total number of publications
- Number of scientific publications since the last evaluation



- Percentage of publications submitted, that appear in international databases (eg. Scopus, Web of Science)
- Number of Citations
- Scientific recognition
- Research Work Autonomy
- Research projects
- Funding
- Laboratories
- Doctoral Student Supervision
- Creating / leading a research team

#### **Administrative Work**

- Election to an academic position such as Head, Dean etc
- Participation in Senate / Council Committees
- Participation in Departmental Committees
- Committee Chair
- Program of Study Coordinator
- Participation in the planning and submission of a new programme of study
- Participation in the design and delivery of training programmes
- Participation in activities for the development of the University

#### **Social Contribution**

- Participation and planning of programmes and actions for the society
- Representation of the University in National Committees
- Representation of Cyprus in European and International Committees
- Organizing events, open to the public
- Commons Participation (ex. Non-scientific articles, media presence etc).

Non-permanent academic staff is selected by public calls at the University's website ([Link](#)). For all non permanent staff who are PhD Holders, apply the same evaluation criteria as with the permanent staff. For non permanent staff who are not PhD Holders, evaluation is made based on their professional expertise and teaching capabilities. All candidates who meet the selection criteria are ranked and a staff registry, for each course, is created.

Additionally, the University offers the opportunity for all academic staff to apply for a sabbatical leave as per the Research and Teaching Staff Rule. (Please refer to Annex 2). The Senate has approved all applications for sabbatical leave so far, as we believe that this opportunity indeed offers a great opportunity for academics to further enhance their research collaborations and expertise. The Department of Law has yet to apply for any sabbatical



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leaves, as they academic personell felt the need to properly helpt the development of the Department and support it, during the evaluations of the new programmes of study.





#### 4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

(ESG 1.4)

##### Areas of improvement and recommendations

4.a. Regarding admission, the departmental requirements do not specify whether a minimum grade in the Bachelor degree is required.

##### Department's Response:

For admission to the LLM programme "LLM in Public Law", a minimum of 6.5/10 Bachelor grade is required (Grade Very Good, or equivalent to the qualification awarded institute).

Moreover, all LLM candidates pass through an interview process which serves as additional criterion for their evaluation. The candidates are ranked based on overall academic merits and the programme committee may accept or reject applications based on the evaluation findings.



## 5. Learning resources and student support

(ESG 1.6)

### Areas of improvement and recommendations

5.a. While the library is generally well-resourced, the EEC recommended that it further acquires access to the NOMOS database, which will be particularly interesting for students specialising in Greek law, and the Kluwer law database for those that work on EU and international law.

#### Department's Response:

Frederick University gains access to academic electronic resources through its membership to the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Cyprus (CALC). The University has already requested from CALC to participate in the consortium subscription for NOMOS and Kluwer Law Journals which will be available to us in the coming academic year.

5.b. The EEC is unsure whether the 'division' of the LL.M between Limassol and Nicosia should be maintained given both the number of the students and the teaching staff.

#### Department's Response

We accept and adopt the recommendations of the EEC. The Master Programme, LL.M in Public Law will be offered **only** in Nicosia Campus.

5.c. The EEC further recommended the development of a Department-centred alumni network.

#### Department's Response

The creation of the alumni community is an effort of the past two years, as per the Rector's initiative for the creation of Alumni Associations in every Department. Due to Covid-19, the effort was held back but the Departments are continuing the development starting next academic year.

Records are hold for all of alumni in the department's programmes, and an alumni meeting is be planned as early as next academic semester.



**6. Additional for doctoral programmes**

*(ALL ESG)*

**Areas of improvement and recommendations**

6.a. none

**Department's Response:**



## 7. Conclusions and final remarks

7.a. Overall, the EEC was **impressed** with the quality of the existing and planned programmes. The EEC believes that both the LL.M in public law and the Ph.D programmes are relevant programmes that will attract students from Cyprus and Greece. The Ph.D programme, the University aims to launch, is in line with the University's vision to develop its research branch. As provided in the report, the EEC appreciated very much the design of all programmes, the teaching staff and their teaching methods, the University's resources and the processes for continuous quality control. The few remarks for improvements it made throughout the report should be perceived as mere suggestions as to how to potentially improve some minor issues pertaining to the students' entry requirements, the intensity of the Ph.D programme and the transparency in the recruitment process..

### **Department's Response:**

The Department of Law wishes to express its gratitude to the members of the External Evaluation Committee for their thorough and insightful evaluation of the Department and its programmes as well as their fruitful comments and constructive discussion. The accreditation process provided the opportunity to the Department and the Program Coordinators to obtain the objective views of external and independent peers, as well as examine aspects of the program from a different perspective. The Department has already considered the issues raised, as well as the recommendations of the EEC and has already acted upon, in terms of implementing the Committee's recommendations as shown in sections 1 to 6.

The Department also wishes to thank the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, as well as the members of staff of the Agency that facilitated the organisation and implementation of the External Evaluation Committee's visit.



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## B. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
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Prof. George Demosthenous Rector

