12-14 University Avenue Pyla, 7080 Larnaka Cyprus

P. O. Box 42440 6534 Larnaka Cyprus T +357 24 69 40 00 F +357 24 81 21 20 E info@uclancyprus.ac.cy W www.uclancyprus.ac.cy



Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, Chair of the Coucil, Prof Mary Koutselini Nicosia, Cyprus

19 June 2017

Dear Professor Koutselini,

# Subject: LLM International Business Law - External Evaluation Report

Thank you for facilitating the external evaluation process and for promptly furnishing us with the relevant report providing invaluable feedback and constructive criticism regarding our proposed programme of study, the LLM in International Business Law. Please find our reply and comments below following the structure of the Report for your convenience.

## 1.ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ ΔΙΔΑΚΤΙΚΟΥ ΕΡΓΟΥ – ΔΙΑΘΕΣΙΜΟΙ ΠΟΡΟΙ

[Η επιτροπή] [θ]εωρεί όμως πως υπάρχει εξάρτηση υπέρ το δέον από τις υπηρεσίες διδακτικού προσωπικού που βρίσκεται στα πολύ αρχικά στάδια της καριέρας του χωρίς εκτεταμένη διδακτική εμπειρία'

While the academic members of staff of the School of Law are predominantly at the early stages of their career, they all have substantive and specialised teaching experience, including as teaching assistants in UK universities, and have had good evaluation and comments in the electronic feedback questionnaires anonymously filled in by past and current LLM students. Staff also have undertaken the PGCert in Teaching and Learning and the majority of the staff have already received the PGCert and are fellows of the Higher Education Academy (HEA).

Έπίσης η επιτροπή θεωρεί πως οι ώρες διδασκαλίας θα πρέπει να αυξηθούν κατ' ελάχιστον κατά 2 σε κάθε εξαμηνιαίο μάθημα.'

The teaching hours per module are the same as our generic LLM and are already higher than at UCLan UK on the same programmes. As of October 2017 however, the School will be running more induction workshops for LLM students, incorporated into the first few weeks of teaching, thereby effectively raising the number of teaching hours per module by at least two hours per module and per semester.

## 2.ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΙΤΛΟΙ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

(ιι) Δομή και Περιεχόμενο του Προγράμματος Σπουδών

Ή επιτροπή θεωρεί πως θα πρέπει να αυξηθεί ο αριθμός των υποχρεωτικών μαθημάτων'

The number of compulsory modules on the present LLM is already at 4 modules (two per semester) plus the LLM dissertation, which represents a total of 70 ECTS out of 90 ECTS to be awarded the LLM. Students have to select two optional modules for a total of 20 ECTS, which we believe is satisfactory.

### (ιν) Διαχείριση του Προγράμματος Σπουδών

Ή επιτροπή θεωρεί πως το UCLAN-Cyprus θα πρέπει να δοθεί μεγαλύτερη της υπάρχουσης αυτονομία στον σχεδιασμό και έγκριση νέων μαθημάτων'

UCLan Cyprus is a legally registered private university of the Republic of Cyprus and as such, is a separate legal entity from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan UK), with its own separate operating license as a private university in Cyprus. The University Charter of UCLan Cyprus lodged with the Ministry of Education and Culture in Cyprus, Section 10, confirms that UCLan Cyprus has its own degree awarding powers due to its legal status as a registered Cypriot University.

Thus, UCLan Cyprus abides by all the requirements in terms of operation, degree awarding and quality assurance, as may be laid down in Cypriot law and regulations. At the same time, we are also closely affiliated to UCLan UK, that acts as a parent university. All programmes which run at UCLan Cyprus offer double award degrees Our programmes are jointly run, academically and administratively. We operate with the same academic regulations as UCLan UK and our awards are quality assured in the UK under the same procedures while UCLan Cyprus is also subject to quality assurance procedures in Cyprus.

In view of the above, any decision taken in Cyprus regarding curriculum or course development must be taken in cooperation with counterparts in the UK. It should be stressed however that this is a process which has worked very smoothly between the Schools of Law of UCLan Cyprus and UK in the past five years, giving rise to differences between curricula whenever there was a need for contextualisation of our LLMs (including the present one), within the framework of quality assurance procedures.

#### 3.ΕΡΕΥΝΗΤΙΚΌ ΕΡΓΌ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΕΊΑ ΜΕ ΤΗ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑ

### -Συνέργεια Έρευνας Διδασκαλίας

Ή επιτροπή θεωρεί πως υπάρχουν ευρήματα τέτοια συνέργειας ιδίως όσον αφορά την επικεφαλής του προγράμματος αλλά η πλευρά αυτή του προγράμματος χρήζει σημαντικής ενίσχυσης. Η επιτροπή εξέφρασε ανησυχία για το φόρτο διδασκαλίας των νεών ιδίως μελών της σχολής. Για τον σκοπό αυτό η επιτροπή συνομίλησε με τη rector του UCLAN-Cyprus η οποία υποσχέθηκε στην επιτροπή πως στο διδακτικό προσωπικό της σχολής θα δοθεί πλάνο εργασίας που θα περιλαμβάνει 40% διδασκαλία, 40% έρευνα, 20% διοικητική υποστήριξη.

Through the various support mechanisms available at university and at the School of Law including the mentoring scheme, the appraisal system based on the workload model and personal development plans for each academic outlining their short to medium-term research and development plans, the above target of 40% teaching – 40% research – 20% administrative duties will be reached next year, with all full-time colleagues at the School, irrespective of their rank, teaching less than 200 hours per year or less than 9 hours a week, ranging from 6 hours a week for course leaders to 6 to 8 hours a week for Assistant Professors and Lecturers respectively.

### 4.ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΔΙΟΙΚΉΣΗΣ, ΦΟΙΤΗΤΙΚΉΣ ΜΕΡΙΜΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΥΠΟΣΤΗΡΙΞΉΣ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΔΑΚΤΙΚΟΎ ΕΡΓΟΥ

## -Υποδομές/Υποστήριξη

Ή επιτροπή θεωρεί πως η βιβλιοθήκη της σχολής χρήζει σημαντικής ενίσχυσης. Παρά ταύτα οι κτιριακές υποδομές και οι εγκαταστάσεις ηλεκτρονικής υποστήριξης είναι εφάμιλλες εάν όχι ανώτερες των διεθνών προτύπων.'

There is an annual investment in electronic and hard copy materials as well as securing access to relevant electronic databases which is substantial. Indicatively, the School's investment in Library materials is between 20,000 and 30,000 euros every year. This is without counting all the e-materials we benefit from via access to the UCLan UK digital library. Our Library currently holds hundreds of thousands of electronic resources and 2000 hard copy books in total. During the academic year 2017-2018, even more emphasis will be given to purchasing multiple copies of textbooks and enriching the hard copy collection with specialised law books of relevance to the present LLM.

### -Οικονομικοί Πόροι

'Οι κτιριακές, διοικητικές και ηλεκτρονικές υποδομές πλην βιβλιοθήκης είναι εντυπωσιακές. Η επικεφαλής της σχολής διαβεβαίωσε την επιτροπή πως μέρος των εσόδων του νέου προγράμματος θα κατευθυνθεί προς ενίσχυση του προγράμματος και πρόσληψη νέου διδακτικού προσωπικού.'

Academic vacancies for the upcoming academic year have already been advertised and interviews will take place in the week commencing 12 June 2017. It is anticipated that two new colleagues will join us from September 2017 onwards, one of whom will be employed primarily for the present LLM, with specialisation in international commercial litigation and arbitration. Of course, as the years go by our intention is that the School of Law here at UCLan Cyprus grows in numbers both in relation to academic staff and students. We expect to have two new openings for September 2018, one of which will be in an area relevant to the present LLM.

## ΣΥΜΠΕΡΑΣΜΑΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΣΗΓΗΣΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ

Ή επιτροπή θεωρεί όμως πως η προσπάθεια του αξιολογηθέντος ιδρύματος είναι προς την σωστή κατεύθυνση ιδίως όσον αφορά το αξιολογηθέν πρόγραμμα σπουδών. Η επιτροπή έχει την άποψη πως βασικές παράμετροι υποστήριξης του προγράμματος όπως ο αριθμός ακαδημαϊκού προσωπικού πλήρους απασχόλησης και η διάθεση επιστημονικών βιβλίων και βασικών εγχειριδίων χρειάζονται σημαντική βελτίωση.

Επίσης η επιτροπή διαπίστωσε την πολύ σημαντική συμβολή της επικεφαλής της σχολής στην εκπλήρωση των στρατηγικών στόχων του προγράμματος.'

In light of our comments above, these are matters we intend on acting upon in the very near future.

#### ΚΡΙΤΗΡΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΔΕΙΚΤΕΣ ΠΟΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ

#### 1. ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ ΔΙΔΑΚΤΙΚΟΥ ΕΡΓΟΥ – ΔΙΑΘΕΣΙΜΟΙ ΠΟΡΟΙ

### 1.1. ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ ΔΙΔΑΚΤΙΚΟΥ ΕΡΓΟΥ

1.1.4	Παρέχονται στους φοιτητές/τριες προγράμματος σπουδών, επαρκείς σύγχρονοι μαθησιακοί περιλαμβανομένων:	του και πόροι			
1.1.4.2	2 της βιβλιοθήκης				

### (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

Ή βιβλιοθήκη χρειάζεται πολύ σημαντική ενίσχυση ακόμη και σε επίπεδο βασικών εγχειριδίων τα οποία θα πρέπει να προμηθευθεί κατ' ελάχιστον τρία ανά μάθημα, δηλ. 2 για μεσοπρόθεσμο δανεισμό και 1 για βραχυπρόθεσμο δανεισμό'

There are already at least three main hard copy books for each module in the Library which were prioritised for purchase from each Module Leader during the summer months of 2016 and every year the number of books (both electronic and hard copy) per module will be increasing. At this point it may be worth noting that the University was only founded in 2012 yet it has acquired an enviable selection of books and electronic resources suitable for postgraduate study.

Expensive hard copy books (over 300 euros) are 'Reference Only', ie. students are only allowed to use them in the Library premises. This is not an uncommon practice in many University Libraries in the UK. Other books are then available as either 'Short Loans' or 'Regular Loans'. Books available as Short Loans can be borrowed for one week and the student has the right to renew the loan four times (weeks). Books available as Regular Loans can be borrowed for four weeks and the student has the right to renew the loan four times (weeks). Renewal of loans can be done in person at the Library or electronically.

#### 1.3 ΔΙΔΑΚΤΙΚΌ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΚΌ

Ύπάρχει εξάρτηση μεγαλύτερη του αναμενομένου από εξειδικευμένο προσωπικό που βρίσκεται είτε στα πρώτα στάδια της καριέρας του είτε σε φάση εκπόνησης της διδακτορικής του διατριβής.'

Please see our first comment above.

#### 2. ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΙΤΛΟΙ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

Ή όλη διαδικασία εμφανίζεται γενικώς σε συμμόρφωση με τα διδακτικά/παιδαγωγικά πρότυπα των Βρετανικών νομικών σχολών. Το διδακτικό προσωπικό χρειάζεται ενίσχυση με πιο έμπειρα μέλη.'

Reinforcing the School with experienced academics is within our immediate goals.

## 2.2. ΔΟΜΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

Ό αριθμός των φοιτητών είναι ικανοποιητικός αλλά τα μέλη της επιτροπής έχουν της γνώμη πως ο αριθμός των υποχρεωτικών μαθημάτων οφείλει να αυξηθεί σημαντικώς και γενικώς να υπάρξει μεγαλύτερη συνεκτικότητα στο πρόγραμμα σπουδών.'

Please see our previous comments.

### 2.3 ΔΙΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΗ ΠΟΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

2.3.2	Διασφαλίζεται η συμμετοχή στις διαδικασίες του συστήματος διασφάλισης ποιότητας του προγράμματος σπουδών							
	2.3.2.1 των μελών του ακαδημαϊκού προσωπικού							

# (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

The University has constituted an Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee (ASQAC) mostly comprised of academics akin to UCLan UK. The School of Law is represented by an academic who has the obligation to consult with his/her colleagues if there are any quality assurance matters that they wish to raise but also the opportunity to actively participate in discussions and policy making. ASQAC reports to UCLan UK to ensure the same high level of quality assurance on all programmes for both campuses. Moreover, the University has also constituted a Teaching and Learning Enhancement Committee (TLEC), which reports to the Student Experience Committee (SEC). There is also the Research and Innovation Committee (RIC). These committees are comprised of academic and administration staff to ensure quality in research and teaching and an excellent all-round UCLan Cyprus student experience. At a School level, the Head often consults the academics for such matters, which may, and are often discussed at the School of Law staff meetings where quality assurance decisions may be made. If appropriate, these decisions may be notified to colleagues in other Schools in the form of good practices.

2.3.2.3	των φοιτητών/τριών

## (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

The University has a Student Council who are elected in order to afford the students with a voice on all relevant matters including all quality assurance matters. For the School of Law in particular there is a postgraduate Student-Staff Liaison Committee meeting every Semester to which the LLM student representative is a member of and has the obligation and opportunity to formally participate in quality assurance. It is also worth noting that the different University Committees either have a student representative as a member or often invite students to their different meetings to ensure quality assurance and overall satisfaction on behalf of students.

Τα μέλη της επιτροπής έχουν την άποψη πως θα πρέπει να υπάρχει πολύ μεγαλύτερος βαθμός αυτονομίας από το UCLAN UK όσον αφορά την εισαγωγή και πιστοποίηση μαθημάτων στο πρόγραμμα σπουδών.

Please see our previous comments.

### 2.4 ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

2.4.3 Διασφαλίζεται ότι η διαδικασία διαχείρισης και ανάπτυξης των προγραμμάτων σπουδών είναι ακαδημαϊκή διαδικασία η οποία λειτουργεί χωρίς οποιεσδήποτε μη ακαδημαϊκές παρεμβάσεις.

## (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

Managing and developing courses is exclusively the task of academics with the invaluable support of administrative staff initially at School level and then within the parameters of the Course Planning Committee and University Review Panel.

#### 2.5 ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΔΙΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

Ή επιτροπή συνιστά περαιτέρω διευκόλυνση της διαδικασίας ανταλλαγής φοιτητών.

The University employs an Erasmus+ Officer tasked with managing and encouraging students to participate in exchange programmes. Unfortunately, there has not been much interest from students of the School of Law and we are therefore constantly working on different ways of further educating the students on the importance of exchange programmes for their education and future careers.

## 3. ΕΡΕΥΝΗΤΙΚΌ ΕΡΓΌ ΚΑΙ Η ΣΥΝΕΡΓΕΊΑ ΜΕ ΤΗ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑ

### 3.1 ΣΥΝΕΡΓΕΙΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑΣ

3.1.5 Η εξωτερική, μη κρατική, χρηματοδότηση των ερευνητικών δραστηριοτήτων του ακαδημαϊκού προσωπικού συγκρίνεται θετικά με τη χρηματοδότηση των άλλων ιδρυμάτων στην Κύπρο και στο εξωτερικό.

### (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

The School of Law is proud to have acquired as of 2014 a Jean Monnet Module currently running to the benefit of LLM students. The Jean Monnet Module at the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus aims at the development of a specialised focus within the framework of the LLM. The focus of the Jean Monnet Module is specific and unique; it is based primarily upon research-informed teaching on the law and governance of finance and economic policy in the EU, in the global and multidimensional context of the financial and sovereign debt crisis in the EU and beyond. The Jean Monnet Module gives the opportunity to students, professionals and/or the wider public to take part in expert seminars, workshops, guest lectures, roundtable discussions and a conference on the topic, as well as to contribute actively to an open access online platform, created and supported by the

Jean Monnet Module. Students are invited to write papers in this area throughout the duration of the project, leading to the publication of the best contributions on the online open access platform. The Jean Monnet Module also leads to the publication of texts, cases, materials and commentaries on the various instruments of EU financial and economic governance available on the University's digital environment. Please visit <a href="http://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/en/research/jean-monnet-module/">http://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/en/research/jean-monnet-module/</a>.

UCLan Cyprus is also very proud to have supported two teams of law students and academics from the School of Law to participate in a first-time event at the Central Bank of Cyprus. The Central Bank of Cyprus Student Competition took place on 17th and 18th February 2017, at the premises of the Central Bank of Cyprus, and brought together law students and academics from all universities in Cyprus, as well as legal practitioners and members of staff of the Central Bank of Cyprus. The aim was to facilitate a dialogue and exchange ideas on current legal issues arising for credit institutions in Cyprus and the EU, through paper presentations together with plenary sessions. A number of experts from the different departments and units of the Central Bank of Cyprus attended the presentations and actively participated to the discussions, making the event a fruitful exercise for all. Two teams from the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus participated in the Competition, including LLM students. The first team composed of Anastasia Butrim, Katerina Chrysostomou, Katerina Kalaitzaki, Yuliia Kharkivska and Luka Vidanovic, presented a paper entitled 'The Effectiveness of the Law of Credit Institutions in Cyprus'. The second team composed of Elias Al-Debyani, Stefanos Kelelis, Constantinos Alexandrou, Eleni Neoptolemou and Niki Vontitsianou, presented a paper entitled 'Bilateral Investment Treaties and Investment Arbitration: their connection with the Cyprus banking system and the impact of EU Law'. Both teams were commended by the organisers of the Competition for their very good work. The presentations were coordinated by the academics Dr. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou, Associate Professor, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and Jean Monnet Module Leader and Academic Coordinator, Dr. Lida Pitsillidou, Lecturer, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus, and Ms Despina Christofi, Research Scholar, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus.

3.1.6 Η εσωτερική, χρηματοδότηση των ερευνητικών δραστηριοτήτων του ακαδημαϊκού προσωπικού συγκρίνεται θετικά με τη χρηματοδότηση των άλλων ιδρυμάτων στην Κύπρο και στο εξωτερικό.

# (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

Each academic in the School of Law has an allocated staff development budget per academic year he/she is encouraged to spend on research activities abroad or in Cyprus. There is daily email dissemination/circulation of research activities amongst members of staff in the School of Law and a number of team research projects or funding bids utilising the expertise of different staff members.

Ή επιτροπή έχει την άποψη πως οι ερευνητικές προσπάθειες του ακαδημαικού προσωπικού θα πρέπει να ενθαρρυνθούν περαιτέρω'

This is our primary aim on the basis of our mandate to be a research-driven institution in which our academics can flourish, conduct, expand and disseminate their research. Towards this goal the University leads a mentorship scheme where early career academics are paired with a more experienced academic who mentors them in relation to their research activities and prospects. Similarly, the University's Research and

Innovation Committee (RIC) ensures each academic is given opportunities through which can develop and show-case their research profile and potential. The latest event called 'Innovate' took place on 18th May 2017.

### 4. ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΔΙΟΙΚΉΣΗΣ, ΦΟΙΤΗΤΙΚΉΣ ΜΕΡΙΜΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΥΠΟΣΤΗΡΙΞΉΣ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΔΑΚΤΙΚΟΎ ΕΡΓΟΥ

#### 4.2 ΥΠΟΔΟΜΕΣ/ΥΠΟΣΤΗΡΙΞΗ

- 4.2.1 Υπάρχουν κατάλληλα βιβλία και έγκριτα περιοδικά που υποστηρίζουν το πρόγραμμα.
- (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

Please see our comments above in relation to Library matters.

- 4.2.5 Το διδακτικό υλικό (βιβλία, εγχειρίδια, επιστημονικά περιοδικά, βάσεις δεδομένων) είναι επαρκές και εύκολα προσβάσιμο από τους φοιτητές/τριες.
- (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

Please see our comments above in relation to Library matters.

- 4.2.6 Το διδακτικό υλικό (βιβλία, εγχειρίδια, επιστημονικά περιοδικά, βάσεις δεδομένων) ενημερώνεται με τις πιο πρόσφατες εκδόσεις, σε τακτά χρονικά διαστήματα.
- (2) Ισχύει σε μη ικανοποιητικό Βαθμό

Please see our comments above in relation to Library matters.

Ή βιβλιοθήκη χρήζει πολύ σημαντικής βελτίωσης από πλευράς αριθμού εγχειρίδιων και άλλων επιστημονικών βιβλίων για να βρεθεί κοντά στο μέσο όρο συναφών εκπαιδευτικών ιδρυμάτων.'

Please see our comments above in relation to Library matters.

### ΚΑΤΑΛΗΚΤΙΚΑ ΣΧΟΛΙΑ – ΕΙΣΗΓΗΣΕΙΣ

Ή επιτροπή έχει την άποψη πως βασικές παράμετροι υποστήριξης του προγράμματος όπως ο αριθμός ακαδημαικού προσωπικού πλήρους απασχόλησης και η διάθεση επιστημονικών βιβλίων και βασικών εγχειριδίων χρειάζονται σημαντική βελτίωση.

Θεωρεί όμως πως η προσπάθεια του αξιολογηθέντος ιδρύματος είναι προς την σωστή κατεύθυνση.

Επίσης η επιτροπή διαπίστωσε την πολύ σημαντική συμβολή της επικεφαλής της σχολής στην εκπλήρωση των στρατηγικών στόχων της σχολής μια ιδιαιτέρως δυναμική παρουσία της οποία η συμβολή οφείλει να υπογραμμισθεί.'

We are very grateful for the overall comments of the visiting team which we find very encouraging. The LLM in International Business Law is a course that is bound to attract a lot of interest from professionals, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, in Cyprus and in the wider region. We feel that we are fully equipped to deliver the course and we look forward to growing the School together with the course as its impact unfolds.

Please note that the Acting Head mentioned in the above comment has since then been appointed, after undergoing a competitive external process, as Head of the School of Law at Professor level, thereby ensuring continuity at the School and actively working together with all academics of the School towards the School's bright future in terms of teaching, research, development and student support and environment.

If you have any further questions and/or require any clarifications in relation to our reply please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou and Dr. Nevi Agapiou, LLM and Deputy LLM course leader respectively

