

**Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in  
Higher Education**

**Republic of Cyprus**

**External Evaluation Report  
Program of Study**

**Institution: Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine (Nicosia)**

**Program of Study: Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience”  
(PhD Neuro)**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

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 2016” [N. 136 (I)/2015].

**The document is duly completed by the External Evaluation Committee for each program of study. The ANNEX (Doc. Number 300.1) constitutes an integral part of the external evaluation report for the external evaluation accreditation of a program of study.**

**EXTERNAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY / INSTITUTION</b>
Angelo Poletti	Professor of Experimental Biology	Università degli studi di Milano, Milano, Italy
Nicoletta Kessarlis	Professor of Neuroscience	University College of London, London, UK
David Murphy	Professor of Experimental Medicine	University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
Sofia Economidou	Student	University of Cyprus

## **INTRODUCTION:**

### I. The External Evaluation procedure

- Short description of the documents that have been studied, of the on site visit meetings, and of the on site visit to the infrastructures.

### II. The Internal Evaluation procedure

- Comments concerning the quality and the completeness of the application submitted by the institution of higher education (Doc. Number 200.1), as well as concerning the overall acceptance of and participation in the quality assurance procedures, by the institution in general and by the program of study under evaluation in particular.

## **FINDINGS:**

### **1. EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING WORK – AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

#### **- Organization of Teaching Work**

The EEC has determined that the programme is extremely well organised, to the benefit of both students and staff.

There are excellent and effective mechanisms for student admission. The programme actively seeks to recruit International Students. As yet the PhD programme only has two students, both of whom are Cypriot. It is to be hoped that in future years, foreign students will enroll on the programme. A major constraint in this regard is the limited budget for international advertising. This is something that could be addressed.

In terms of student numbers, and staff-student ratio, emphasis is on quality and student satisfaction. The excellent staff-student ratio favours communication, both formal and informal, and effective bi-directional feedback. There is effective and timely provision of information.

The programme is supported by adequate and modern facilities fully available to students.

#### **- Teaching**

Our impression, supported by student feedback, is that the quality of the teaching is excellent and world class.

The programme has put in place an excellent Preparatory Course for students without a biological/medical sciences background. This is most effective and much appreciated by all of the students.

We recommend that students should be allowed to record lectures for personal use, and subject to strict rules regarding distribution.

#### **- Teaching personnel**

The cohort of teaching staff is excellent, with an appropriate number of full time teachers. The staff are highly qualified, having been trained at prestigious Universities in Europe and the North America, and as such are able to provide a world class education.

The programme coordinator exudes enthusiasm and ability. It is also clear that he has the confidence of the students.

The involvement of international Visiting Professors is limited, and could be expanded upon. We also encourage the involvement of specialist teaching staff from other institutions in Cyprus, eventually to cover areas not included in the core curriculum.

## 2. PROGRAM OF STUDY AND HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

### - Purpose and Objectives and learning outcomes of the Program of Study

This is an excellent programme of study, provided within the context of a transparent framework. The learning process is designed to effectively deliver on the objectives and desired learning outcomes. This is reflected in the student feedback, and the success of the first cohort of students.

### - Structure and Content of the Program of studies

The programme is state-of-the-art in the field of neuroscience. The elective courses provide the student with flexibility. However, some students would like additional options, and psychology was specifically mentioned. Maybe this could be considered as an additional elective, perhaps provided in collaboration with another institution in Cyprus.

The programme provides an excellent series of transferable skills lectures. The EEC suggests that the programme might wish to increase the provision of instruction in statistics.

### - Quality Assurance of the Program of studies

A committee has been established that ensures the quality of the programme in liaison with course organisers and other committees.

### - Management of the Program of Study

The management structure is effective, and the academic staff in charge are appropriately scientifically qualified.

All information related to the programme is readily available.

The assessment procedures are transparent. The mid-term examination and tutorials are appreciated by the students. Both help the students consolidate their knowledge and to achieve the learning objectives.

Lab work for the PhD starts after the taught component and last for three years. The allocation of credits is appropriate.

The final thesis examination procedure is in line with international standards.

### - International Dimension of the Program of Study

The Institute is well recognised internationally as a respected centre of research. Before the implementation of this programme, PhD students registered at other European Universities were able to successfully complete their PhD degree working full-time at the bench at the CING. This is a measure of the esteem with which the

CING is held internationally, and the of the quality of the research and supervision at CING.

The academic staff have extensive networks of international collaborators. These have resulted in joint publications in good journals. Maybe these networks could be better exploited to provide input into the programme, for example, by inviting more visiting lecturers.

International exchange schemes are in place. This is an area that could be further developed.

This is an excellent world class programme which is as good if not better than most international competitors. The link with clinical practice is unique.

- **Connection with the labor market and the society**

No PhD students have graduated as yet, but based on the quality of both students and the programme, their prospects for employment are excellent in academia and in the private sector.

### **3. RESEARCH WORK AND SYNERGIES WITH TEACHING**

- **Research Teaching Synergies**

This is a research focused programme of the highest quality. By global research standards, the Institute is excellent. The Institute is able to attract highly competitive international funding. The Institute has a superb record of publishing research results in high impact peer reviewed international journals.

### **4. ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, STUDENT WELFARE AND SUPPORT OF TEACHING WORK**

- **Administrative Mechanisms**

The Administrative staff work effectively to assist students with such issues as immigration and housing. Provision has been made for counseling services. An optional “buddy system” is offered to new students.

Extra curricula facilities for students are limited by the nature of the Institute, but efforts are being made to access those of neighboring institutions (eg. University of Nicosia).

- **Infrastructures / Support**

The infrastructure at all levels is excellent and state-of-the-art.

The students were happy that all information was provided in a timely manner. A smart phone app and an internet platform (“Extranet”) are utilised. Some lecturers utilise the interactive “Socrative” teaching tool.

#### - **Financial Resources**

As far as the EEC can tell, the programme is financially sound.

The fees charged are low by international standards. In addition, scholarships are available, and discounts are offered to international students.

### **5. DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

**Not applicable**

### **6. DOCTORAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

The Institute ensures that the student is rapidly integrated into his/her host laboratory. The student is matched with the host laboratory on the basis of his/her primary research interest, but is able to switch with good reason.

The number of students is small and highly selective. There are only 2 so far in Neuroscience, and total of 32 current students in all of the programmes of the Institute. This ensures excellent supervision.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>**

- The present situation of the program, good practices, weaknesses that have been detected during the external evaluation procedure by the external evaluation committee, suggestions for improvement.

The EEC congratulates the Institute on this impressive, excellent programme.

We only have minor suggestions for improvement as detailed in the annex.

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<sup>1</sup> It is highlighted, at this point, that the External Evaluation Committee is expected to justify its findings and its suggestions on the basis of the Document num.: 300.1. The External Evaluation Committee is not expected to submit a suggestion for the approval or the rejection of the program of study under evaluation. This decision falls under the competencies of the Council of the Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation of higher education.



**Doc. Number: 300.1**

## **Quality Standards and Indicators**

### **External Evaluation of a Program of Study**

Institution: Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine (Nicosia)
Program of Study: Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience” (PHD Neuro)
Duration of the Program of Study: 4 year FT=240 ECTS (Up to 6 years)
Evaluation Date: February 8th-10th, 2017

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 2016”.

The document describes the quality standards and indicators, which will be applied for the external evaluation of programs of study of institutions of higher education, by the External Evaluation Committee.

**DIRECTIONS:** Note what is applicable for each quality standard/indicator.

1. Applicable to a minimum degree
2. Applicable to a non satisfactory degree
3. Applicable to a satisfactory degree
4. Applicable to a very satisfactory degree
5. It applies and it constitutes a good practice

**It is pointed out that, in the case of standards and indicators that cannot be applied due to the status of the institution and/or of the program of study, N/A (= Not Applicable) should be noted and a detailed explanation should be provided on the institution’s corresponding policy regarding the specific quality standard or indicator.**

### Members of the External Evaluation Committee

NAME	TITLE	UNIVERSITY / INSTITUTION
Angelo Poletti	Professor of Experimental Biology	Università degli studi di Milano, Milano, Italy
Nicoletta Kessarlis	Professor of Neuroscience	University College of London, London, UK
David Murphy	Professor of Experimental Medicine	University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
Sofia Economidou	Student	University of Cyprus

**Date and Time of the On-Site Visit: ...February 8th, 2017 0900-1700.....**

**Duration of the On-Site Visit: .....8 hours.....**

1. EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING WORK – AVAILABLE RESOURCES							
1.1	Organization of teaching work	1	2	3	4	5	
1.1.1	The student admission requirements to the program of study, are based on specific regulations which are adhered to in a consistent manner.					X	
1.1.2	The number of students in each class allows for constructive teaching and communication, and it compares positively to the current international standards and/or practices.					X	
1.1.3	The organization of the educational process safeguards the quality implementation of the program's purpose and objectives and the achievement of the learning outcomes. Particularly, the following are taken into consideration:						
	1.1.3.1	The implementation of a specific academic calendar and its timely publication.				X	
	1.1.3.2	The disclosure of the program's curricula to the students, and their implementation by the teaching personnel					X
	1.1.3.3	The course web-pages, updated with the relevant supplementary material					X
	1.1.3.4	The procedures for the fulfillment of undergraduate and postgraduate assignments / practical training					X
	1.1.3.5	The procedures for the conduct and the format of the examinations and for student assessment					X
	1.1.3.6	The effective provision of information to the students and the enhancement of their participation in the procedures for the improvement of the educational process.					X
1.1.4	Adequate and modern learning resources, are available to the students, including the following:						
	1.1.4.1	facilities					X
	1.1.4.2	library					X
	1.1.4.3	infrastructure					X

	1.1.4.4	student welfare					X	
	1.1.4.5	academic mentoring						X
1.1.5	A policy for regular and effective communication, between the teaching personnel and the students, is applied.							X
1.1.6	The teaching personnel, for each course, provide timely and effective feedback to the students.							X
1.1.7	Statutory mechanisms, for the support of students and the communication with the teaching personnel, are effective.							X
1.1.8	Control mechanisms for student performance are effective.							X
1.1.9	Support mechanisms for students with problematic academic performance are effective.							X
1.1.10	Academic mentoring processes are transparent and effective for undergraduate and postgraduate programs and are taken into consideration for the calculation of academic work load.							X
1.1.11	The program of study applies an effective policy for the prevention and detection of plagiarism.							X
1.1.12	The program of study provides satisfactory mechanisms for complaint management and for dispute resolution.							X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**The programme fully satisfies these requirements. It is admirable that, in terms of student numbers, emphasis is on quality and student satisfaction.**

**Extra curricula facilities for students are limited by the nature of the Institute, but efforts are being made to access those of neighboring institutions (eg. University of Nicosia).**

**The excellent staff-student ratio favours communication, both formal and informal, and effective bi-directional feedback.**

Note, additionally:

α) the expected number of Cypriot and International Students in the program of

study.

**The programme actively seeks to recruit International Students. As yet the PhD programme only has two students, both of whom are Cypriot. It is to be hoped that in future years, foreign students will enroll on the programme. A major constraint in this regard is the limited budget for international advertising. This is something that could be addressed.**

β) the countries of origin of the majority of students.

**As yet Cypriot, but this will change.**

γ) the maximum planned number of students per class-section.

**The taught classes of the programme are the same as other MSc and PhD programmes, and the total number of students appropriately small.**

1.2	Teaching	1	2	3	4	5
1.2.1	The methodology utilized in each course is suitable for achieving the course's purpose and objectives and those of the individual modules.					X
1.2.2	The methodology of each course is suitable for adults.					X
1.2.3	Continuous-formative assessment and feedback are provided to the students regularly.					X
1.2.4	The assessment system and criteria regarding student course performance, are clear, adequate, and known to the students.					X
1.2.5	Educational activities which encourage students' active participation in the learning process, are implemented.					X
1.2.6	Teaching incorporates the use of modern educational technologies that are consistent with international standards, including a platform for the electronic support of learning.					X
1.2.7	Teaching materials (books, manuals, journals, databases, and teaching notes) meet the requirements set by the methodology of the program's individual courses, and are updated regularly.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**Excellent procedures are in place. The programme has put in place an excellent Preparatory Course for students without a biological/medical sciences background. This is most effective and much appreciated by all of the students.**

**Following on from student feedback, the organisers may wish to consider re-weighting the Journal Club component of the assessments.**

**We recommend that students should be allowed to record lectures for personal use, and subject to strict rules regarding distribution.**

1.3	Teaching Personnel	1	2	3	4	5
1.3.1	The number of full-time academic personnel, occupied exclusively at the institution, and their fields of expertise, adequately support the program of study.					X
1.3.2	The members of teaching personnel for each course have the relevant formal and fundamental qualifications for teaching the course, as described by the legislation, including the following:					
1.3.2.1	Subject specialization, preferably with a doctorate, in the discipline.					X
1.3.2.2	Publications within the discipline.					X
1.3.3	The specializations of Visiting Professors adequately support the program of study.				X	
1.3.4	Special Teaching Personnel and Special Scientists have the necessary qualifications, adequate work experience and specialization to teach a limited number of courses in the program of study.					X
1.3.5	In every program of study the Special Teaching Personnel does not exceed 30% of the Teaching Research Personnel.					X
1.3.6	The teaching personnel of each private institution of tertiary education, to a percentage of at least 70%, has recognized academic qualification, by one level higher than that of the					X

	program of study in which he/she teaches.					
1.3.7	In the program of study, the ratio of the number of courses taught by full-time personnel, occupied exclusively at the institution, to the number of courses taught by part-time personnel, ensures the quality of the program of study.					X
1.3.8	The ratio of the number of students to the total number of teaching personnel is adequate for the support and safeguarding of the program's quality.					X
1.3.9	The academic personnel's teaching load does not limit the conduct of research, writing, and contribution to the society.					X
1.3.10	Future redundancies / retirements, expected recruitment and promotions of academic personnel safeguard the unimpeded implementation of the program of study within a five-year span.					X
1.3.11	The program's Coordinator has the qualifications and experience to efficiently coordinate the program of study.					X
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p><b>The cohort of teaching staff is excellent and world class.</b></p> <p><b>The involvement of Visiting Professors is limited, and could be expanded upon.</b></p>						

<b>2. PROGRAM OF STUDY AND HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS</b>						
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Purpose and Objectives and learning outcomes of the Program of Study</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1.1	The purpose and objectives of the program of study are formulated in terms of expected learning outcomes and are consistent with the mission and the strategy of the institution.					X
2.1.2	The purpose and objectives of the program and the learning outcomes are utilized as a guide for the design of the program of study.					X
2.1.3	The higher education qualification and the program of study, conform to the provisions of their corresponding Professional and Vocational Bodies for the purpose of registration to these bodies.					n/a
2.1.4	The program's content, the methods of assessment, the teaching materials and the equipment, lead to the achievement of the program's purpose and objectives and ensure the expected learning outcomes.					X
2.1.5	The expected learning outcomes of the program are known to the students and to the members of the academic and teaching personnel.					X
2.1.6	The learning process is properly designed to achieve the expected learning outcomes.					X
2.1.7	The higher education qualification awarded to the students, corresponds to the purpose and objectives and the learning outcomes of the program.					X
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p><b>This is an excellent programme of study, provided within the context of a transparent framework.</b></p>						
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Structure and Content of the Program of Study</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
2.2.1	The course curricula clearly define the expected learning outcomes, the content, the teaching and learning approaches and the method of assessing student					X

	performance.					
2.2.2	The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is applied and there is true correspondence between credits and workload per course and per semester for the student either he / she studies in a specific program or he/she is registered and studies simultaneously in additional programs of studies according to the European practice in higher education institutions.					X
2.2.3	The program of study is structured in a consistent manner and in sequence, so that concepts operating as preconditions precede the teaching of other, more complex and cognitively more demanding, concepts.					X
2.2.4	The higher education qualification awarded, the learning outcomes and the content of the program are consistent.					X
2.2.5	The program, in addition to the courses focusing on the specific discipline, includes an adequate number of general education courses.					X
2.2.6	The content of courses and modules, and the corresponding educational activities are suitable for achieving the desired learning outcomes with regards to the knowledge, skills, and abilities which should be acquired by students.					X
2.2.7	The number and the content of the program's courses are sufficient for the achievement of learning outcomes.					X
2.2.8	The content of the program's courses reflects the latest achievements / developments in science, arts, research and technology.					X
2.2.9	Flexible options / adaptable to the personal needs or to the needs of students with special needs, are provided.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**The programme provides an excellent series of transferable skills lectures. That said, the programme might wish to increase the provision of instruction in statistics.**

Note the expected number of students who will be studying simultaneously at another academic institution, based on your experience so far, regarding students who study simultaneously in the programs of your institution.

<b>2.3</b>	<b>Quality Assurance of the Program of Study</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
2.3.1	The arrangements regarding the program's quality assurance define clear competencies and procedures.					X
2.3.2	Participation in the processes of the system of quality assurance of the program, is ensured for					
	2.3.2.1 the members of the academic personnel					X
	2.3.2.2 the members of the administrative personnel					X
	2.3.2.3 the students.					X
2.3.3	The guide and / or the regulations for quality assurance, provide detailed information and data for the support and management of the program of study.					X
2.3.4	The quality assurance process constitutes an academic process and it is not restricted by non-academic factors.					X
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p><b>We found the Quality Assurance process to be very well established.</b></p>						
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Management of the Program of Study</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
2.4.1	Effective management of the program of study with regard to its design, its approval, its monitoring and its review, is in place.					X
2.4.2	It is ensured that learning outcomes may be achieved within the specified timeframe.					X
2.4.3	It is ensured that the program's management and development process is an academic process which operates without any non-academic interventions.					X
2.4.4	The academic hierarchy of the institution, (Rector, Vice-Rectors, Deans, Chairs and Programs' Coordinators, academic personnel) have the sole responsibility for academic excellence and the development of the programs of study.					X

2.4.5	Information relating to the program of study are posted publicly and include:					
2.4.5.1	The provisions regarding unit credits					X
2.4.5.2	The expected learning outcomes					X
2.4.5.3	The methodology					X
2.4.5.4	Course descriptions					X
2.4.5.5	The program's structure					X
2.4.5.6	The admission requirements					X
2.4.5.7	The format and the procedures for student assessment					X
2.4.6	The award of the higher education qualification is accompanied by the Diploma Supplement which is in line with the European and international standards.					X
2.4.7	The effectiveness of the program's evaluation mechanism, by the students, is ensured.					X
2.4.8	The recognition and transfer of credit units from previous studies is regulated by procedures and regulations which ensure that the majority of credit units is awarded by the institution which awards the higher education qualification.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**The mid-term examination and tutorials are appreciated by the students. Both help the students consolidate their knowledge and to achieve the learning objectives.**

In the case of practical training, note:

- The number of credit units for courses and the number of credits for practical training
- In which semester does practical training takes place?
- Note if practical training is taking place in a country other than the homecountry of the institution which awards the higher education qualification

**Lab work starts after the taught component and last for three years. The**

<b>allocation of credits is appropriate.</b>						
<b>2.5</b>	<b>International Dimension of the Program of Study</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
2.5.1	The program's collaborations with other institutions are compared positively with corresponding collaborations of other departments / programs of study in Europe and internationally.					X
2.5.2	The program attracts Visiting professors of recognized academic standing.				X	
2.5.3	Students participate in exchange programs.				X	
2.5.4	The academic profile of the program of study is compatible with corresponding programs of study in Cyprus and internationally.					X
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p><b>The academic staff have extensive networks of international collaborators. These have resulted in joint publications in good journals. Maybe these networks could be better exploited to provide input into the programme, for example, by inviting more visiting lecturers.</b></p> <p><b>International exchange schemes are in place. This is an area that could be further developed.</b></p> <p>Also, comment on the degree the program compares positively with corresponding programs operating in Cyprus and abroad in higher education institutions of the same rank.</p> <p><b>This is an excellent world class programme which is as good if not better than most international competitors. The link with clinical practice is unique.</b></p>						
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Connection with the labor market and the society</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
2.6.1	The procedures applied, so that the program conforms to the scientific and professional activities of the graduates, are adequate and effective.					X
2.6.2	According to the feasibility study, indicators for the employability of graduates are satisfactory.					X

2.6.3	Benefits, for the society, deriving from the program are significant.					X
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p><b>No PhD students have graduated as yet, but based on the quality of both students and the programme, their prospects for employment are excellent in academia and in the private sector.</b></p>						

3. RESEARCH WORK AND SYNERGIES WITH TEACHING						
3.1	Research - Teaching Synergies	1	2	3	4	5
3.1.1	It is ensured that teaching and learning have been adequately enlightened by research.					X
3.1.2	New research results are embodied in the content of the program of study.					X
3.1.3	Adequate and sufficient facilities and equipment are provided to support the research component of the program of study, which are available and accessible to the personnel and the students.					X
3.1.4	The results of the academic personnel's research activity are published in international journals with the peer-reviewing system, in international conferences, conference minutes, publications etc.					X
3.1.5	External, non-governmental, funding for the academic personnel's research activities, is compared positively to the funding of other institutions in Cyprus and abroad.					X
3.1.6	Internal funding, of the academic personnel's research activities, is compared positively to the funding of other institutions in Cyprus and abroad.					X
3.1.7	The policy for, indirect or direct, internal funding of the academic personnel's research activity is satisfactory.					X
3.1.8	The participation of students, academic, teaching and administrative personnel of the program in research activities and projects is satisfactory.					X
3.1.9	Student training in the research process is sufficient.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**By global research standards, the Institute is excellent. The Institute is able to attract highly competitive international funding. The Institute has a superb record of publishing research results in high impact peer reviewed international journals.**

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, STUDENT WELFARE AND SUPPORT OF TEACHING WORK

4.1	Administrative Mechanisms	1	2	3	4	5
4.1.1	There is a Student Welfare Service that supports students with regards to academic and personal problems and difficulties.					X
4.1.2	Statutory administrative mechanisms for monitoring and supporting students are sufficient.					X
4.1.3	The efficiency of these mechanisms is assessed on the basis of specific criteria.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**The Administrative staff work effectively to assist students with such issues as immigration and housing. Provision has been made for counseling services. An optional “buddy system” is offered to new students.**

4.2	Infrastructure / Support	1	2	3	4	5
4.2.1	There are suitable books and reputable journals supporting the program.					X
4.2.2	There is a supportive internal communication platform.					X
4.2.3	The facilities are adequate in number and size.					X

4.2.4	The equipment used in teaching and learning (laboratory and electronic equipment, consumables etc) are quantitatively and qualitatively adequate.					X
4.2.5	Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) are adequate and accessible to students.					X
4.2.6	Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) are updated regularly with the most recent publications.					X
4.2.7	The teaching personnel are provided with training opportunities in teaching method, in adult education, and in new technologies on the basis of a structured learning framework.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**The students were happy that all information was provided in a timely manner. A smart phone app and an internet platform (“Extranet”) are utilised. Some lecturers utilise the interactive “Socrative” teaching tool.**

4.3	Financial Resources	1	2	3	4	5
4.3.1	The management and allocation of the financial resources of the program of study, allow for the development of the program and of the academic / teaching personnel.					X
4.3.2	The allocation of financial resources as regards to academic matters, is the responsibility of the relevant academic departments.					X
4.3.3	The remuneration of academic and other personnel is analogous to the remuneration of academic and other personnel of the respective institutions in Cyprus.					n/a
4.3.4	Student tuition and fees are consistent to the tuition and fees of other respective institutions.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**We cannot comment of the remuneration packages of staff.**

**The fees charged are low by international standards. In addition, scholarships**

**are available, and discounts are offered to international students.**

**The following criterion applies additionally for distance learning programs of study.**

<b>5.</b>	<b>DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	Feedback processes for teaching personnel with regards to the evaluation of their teaching work, by the students, are satisfactory.					n/a
5.2	The process and the conditions for the recruitment of academic / teaching personnel, ensure that candidates have the necessary skills and experience for long distance education.					n/a
5.3	Through established procedures, appropriate training, guidance and support, are provided to teaching personnel, to enable it to efficiently support the educational process.					n/a
5.4	Student performance monitoring mechanisms are satisfactory.					n/a
5.5	Adequate mentoring by the teaching personnel, is provided to students, through established procedures.					n/a
5.6	The unimpeded long distance communication between the teaching personnel and the students, is ensured to a satisfactory degree.					n/a
5.7	Assessment consistency, its equivalent application to all students, and the compliance with predefined procedures, are ensured.					n/a
5.8	Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) comply with the requirements provided by the long distance education methodology and are updated					n/a

	regularly.					
5.9	The program of study has the appropriate and adequate infrastructure for the support of learning.					n/a
5.10	The supporting infrastructures are easily accessible.					n/a
5.11	Students are informed and trained with regards to the available educational infrastructure.					n/a
5.12	The procedures for systematic control and improvement of the supportive services are regular and effective.					n/a
5.13	Infrastructure for distance education is comparable to university infrastructure in the European Union and internationally.					n/a
5.14	Electronic library services are provided according to international practice in order to support the needs of the students and of the teaching personnel.					n/a
5.15	The students and the teaching personnel have access to the necessary electronic sources of information, relevant to the program, the level, and the method of teaching.					n/a
5.16	The percentage of teaching personnel who holds a doctorate, in a program of study which is offered long distance, is not less than 75%.					n/a

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

If the following apply, note “√” in the appropriate space next to each statement. In case the following statements do not apply, note what is applicable:

The maximum number of students per class-section, should not exceed 30 students.	
The conduct of written examinations with the physical presence of the students, under the supervision of the institution or under the supervision of reliable agencies which operate in the countries of the students, is compulsory.	n/a
The number of long distance classes taught by the academic personnel does not exceed the number of courses taught by the teaching personnel in conventional programs of study.	n/a

**The following criterion applies additionally for doctoral programs of study.**

6.	DOCTORAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY	1	2	3	4	5
6.1	The provision of quality doctoral studies is ensured through Doctoral Studies Regulations.					X
6.2	The structure and the content of a doctoral program of study are satisfactory and they ensure the quality provision of doctoral studies.					X
6.3	The number of academic personnel, which is going to support the doctoral program of study, is adequate.					X
6.4	The doctoral studies' supervisors have the necessary academic qualifications and experience for the supervision of the specific dissertations.					X
6.5	The degree of accessibility of all interested parties to the Doctoral Studies Regulations is satisfactory.					X
6.6	The number of doctoral students, under the supervision of a member of the academic personnel, is apt for the continuous and effective feedback provided to the students and it complies with the European and international standards.					X
6.7	The research interests of academic advisors and supervisors are satisfactory and they adequately cover the thematic areas of research conducted by the doctoral students of the program.					X

Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.

**The Institute ensures that the student is rapidly integrated into his/her host laboratory. The student is matched with the host laboratory on the basis of**

**his/her primary research interest, but is able to switch with good reason.**

Note the number of doctoral students under the supervision of each member of the academic personnel of the program and the academic rank of the supervisor.

**The number of students is small and highly selective. There are only 2 so far in Neuroscience, and total of 32 current students in all of the programmes of the Institute. This ensures excellent supervision.**

### FINAL REMARKS – SUGGESTIONS

Please note your final remarks and suggestions for the program of study and/or regarding particular aspects of the program.

**The EEC congratulates the Institute on this impressive, excellent programme.**

**We only have minor suggestions for improvement as detailed in this annex.**

**Names and Signatures of the Chair and the Members of the External Evaluation Committee:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
Angelo Poletti	
Nicoletta Kessarlis	
David Murphy	
Sofia Economidou	

Date: .....10/02/2017.....