

Doc. Number: 300.1.1

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

Republic of Cyprus

**External Evaluation Report
Program of Study**

**Institution: UCLan Cyprus
Program of Study: MSc Sport & Exercise Sciences**

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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:

NAME	TITLE	UNIVERSITY / INSTITUTION
Prof. Vasilios Baltzopoulos	Head of Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences	Liverpool John Moores University, UK
Prof. Dr. Andreas Mierau	Academic Director, Head of Department of Exercise & Sport Science	LUNEX International University of Health, Exercise and Sports, Luxembourg
Dr. Emmanouil Georgiadis	Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Psychology	University of Suffolk, UK
Ms Amalia Evangelou	Student at the Department of Biology	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.

The visit of the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) to UCLan Cyprus took place on 13th March 2018. The Committee was evaluating the program entitled: “MSc Sport and Exercise Sciences”. Firstly, the Committee met with the interim Rector of the Institution and then with the members of the Internal Evaluation Committee including the Dean of the School of Science, the course leader and four members of the teaching staff in the proposed program. During this meeting, there were presentations about the University, the School of Science and the detailed curriculum of the MSc program that was also submitted in paper format showing the allocation of courses per semester, programme structure and the admission criteria. Following this meeting, the EEC met with four existing undergraduate students in the Sport and Exercises Science program. The EEC then met four members of the administrative staff from IT, student support and administration. There was also a meeting via a link-up using skype with the Academic Lead for Sport, Exercise and Nutrition Science at UCLan UK. Finally, a tour to the institution's premises and facilities took place, providing the opportunity to the External Evaluation Committee to visit the library, gym, computer labs and the Sport Laboratory that is the main facility used for sport research and teaching.

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.

The External Evaluation Committee received all the necessary documentation electronically before the arrival in Cyprus, so there was adequate time to review the material. The documentation was complete and included the details of the program of study and the internal evaluation of the documentation. During the visit, the institution team and everyone involved collaborated fully and the EEC received paper copies of the documentation and additional material that included copies of the presentations delivered during the visit by staff, and samples of module evaluation forms, University advertising material, study guides, student handbook, and other student information leaflets about the various services and learning resources of the University.

FINDINGS:

1. EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING WORK – AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Organization of Teaching Work

The student admission requirements to the program of study at UCLan Cyprus University are as follows:

- A minimum of a lower second class (2:2) honors degree of a UK university or its equivalent in a discipline associated with Sport and Exercise Physiology or Sport and Exercise Science. Students should have studied a substantial amount of sport and exercise physiology and research methods during undergraduate studies.
- A qualification or experience deemed to be equivalent to the above.
- Those applicants seeking entry with appropriate experiences will be required to demonstrate the suitability of this experience both on application and at interview.
- For international students IELTS: 6.5 with no sub score lower than 6.0 is required.

The number of students in each class will allow for constructive teaching and communication, and it compares positively to the current international standards and/or practices. The educational process is professionally organized ensuring the quality implementation of the program's purpose and objectives and the achievement of the learning outcomes. This includes the implementation of an academic calendar and its timely publication, as well as the disclosure of the program's curriculum to the students, and its implementation by the academic staff. Program content, course content and descriptions are communicated to students via Blackboard as well as in class. Students are asked for feedback regarding the quality of individual modules on a regular basis using a module feedback questionnaires (MFQ). They are also represented in the university's internal Quality Assurance Committee allowing them to contribute to the evaluation, review and improvement of the program hand in hand with the academic staff. The learning resources including facilities, the library and access to relevant online databases, the infrastructure and the student services are considered adequate for the delivery of a good study program. Students have commended on the communication policy of the university as well as on the academic mentoring and support system. Academic mentoring processes are transparent and effective for undergraduate and postgraduate programs and are taken into consideration for the calculation of academic work load. UCLan Cyprus does not tolerate plagiarism. Turn-it-in software is used to support the process of plagiarism avoidance.

Teaching

The ***description of the teaching and learning methodology*** described in the module outline ***must be specific to the desired learning outcomes of the module*** and this is particularly relevant for the newly designed elective modules. According to the students' report continuous-formative assessment and feedback are provided to the students regularly. In addition, the students' report with regard to teaching at

UCLan Cyprus was positive without exceptions. In this context, students acknowledged the scientific and evidence-based teaching approach in the currently delivered BSc Sport and Exercise Science Program. The EEC considers this practice as *sine qua non* for the successful implementation of a Masters program. The assessment system and criteria regarding student course performance are clear and known to the students. Educational activities such as field trips (e.g. diving or skiing) as well as good opportunities for students to participate in small research projects and professional athletes' testing are implemented to encourage students' active participation in the learning process. In addition to that, students' access to the sport and exercise laboratory is guaranteed. The teaching materials meet the requirements set by the methodology of the program's individual courses and will be updated regularly.

Teaching personnel

UCLan Cyprus aims to involve three full-time academic members, working exclusively at the institution to support the program of study. In addition, three part-time Special Teaching Personnel will be involved. The members of teaching personnel for each module have the relevant formal and fundamental qualifications for teaching in the course. All full-time staff members have a PhD and are research active. However, in more recent years, this research activity was not always reflected by international peer-reviewed journal publications. Therefore, ***the EEC would like to encourage the involved academics at UCLan Cyprus to intensify the publication process of completed research at high peer-reviewed journals.*** Furthermore, to increase the quality of the program, the EEC recommends to involve more visiting professors with a strong research profile. This may also reinforce further development of important (international) research collaborations. UCLan Cyprus must ensure that the Special Teaching Personnel does not exceed 30% of the Teaching Research Personnel. In addition, the teaching personnel has recognized academic qualification by one level higher than that of the program of study to a percentage of at least 70%.

In the program of study, the ratio of the number of modules to be taught by full-time personnel, working exclusively at the institution, to the number of modules to be taught by part-time personnel, ensures the quality of the program of study. Assuming 12 students per cohort per year, the ratio of staff to students is not expected to exceed the 1/4 staff/student ratio. The academic personnel's teaching load will be around 9 hours/week (full-time academics). This does not limit the conduct of research, writing, and contribution to the society. Given the presented facilities, infrastructure and personnel resources, the presented program of study is not at risk for a five-year period. The program's coordinator is highly motivated and has the qualifications and experience to efficiently coordinate the program of study.

2. PROGRAM OF STUDY AND HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

Purpose and Objectives

The program is already validated in UK through UCLAN UK (running since 2007) with its most recent revalidation occurring in 2017. Its purpose is the development of

independent study towards the proficiency in health and wellness with a specific focus in sport and exercise science, rehabilitation and sport injury prevention/management. Within this remit the program aims to provide to its students opportunities for scientific and professional skills development based on recent research evidence. It includes an appropriate purpose and set of objectives based on the learning outcomes of its included modules.

Structure and Content of the Program of studies

The structure and contents of the modules are adequate in terms of Research Skills development, Advanced Practitioner Skills and final Research Project. The External Evaluation Committee (EEC) however, would like to suggest additional contents to be included in the three elective modules in a way that;

- The Psychology of injury and rehabilitation in both sport and exercise/health related contexts to be more clearly emphasized in terms of research evidence, practice techniques and applications.
- Biomechanics and injury rehabilitation in both sport and exercise/health related contexts to be in the same way more clearly emphasized within the remit of research and practice in the area of studies.

Both of those disciplines are deemed important for a comprehensive knowledge development of the registered students and they can fit nicely in the contents of the 3 Elective Modules included in the UCLan Cyprus program.

A point of concern is the opportunity of the students to be involved in a broad area of research endeavors. The EEC would like to propose a clearer focus of the tutors and students on either sport or exercise/health related research projects as having a strong emphasis on both can sometimes be overwhelming/daunting and broad for a program that aims to rely and enhance own research outputs.

More research resources are also needed for the development of the staff research portfolios and it would be nice to see more support for the tutors' research projects in the near future. As it is within the declared objectives of this Degree, the EEC would like to suggest an increased emphasis of internal funding towards that end with tutors having the opportunity to examine specific areas.

Another concern of the EEC is based on the need to combine research related modules and a final research dissertation project with the vocational and practical character of the Course as it is intended by the expressed aspiration of the tutors and is reflected in the included contents of the Elective Modules. Such a combination of research and practical elements needs to be implemented accurately for not creating confusion and overload to the registered students. A solution to this issue could be for the students to have the option to follow either a sport or an exercise/health related route during their study and based on the elective related Modules.

Quality Assurance of the Program of studies

Existing QA mechanisms are well informed and actively operating based on the practice of Academic Degrees at UCLAN Cyprus. QA services presented at UCLAN Cyprus provided information on the existing quality control mechanisms that normally support an optimal student experience and a continuous development of academic programs.

Management of the Program of Study

The Management of programs at UCLAN Cyprus operate under common regulations with UCLAN UK and this provides adequate reassurance around the quality standards of the followed related procedures. Evaluation of programs is based on feedback from students and tutors with the existence of Student Councils, Student Experience Committees, Course Reps and Staff-Student Liaison meetings taking place regularly and supporting the evaluation and quality enhancement of the programs.

International Dimension of the Program of Study

Students of the examined Course are expected to have adequate opportunities to visit and study in UCLAN UK taking advantage of the infrastructure of the campus in UK. The connections between UCLAN UK and UCLAN Cyprus provide an excellent opportunity for students to study in the UK. Additionally, UCLAN has already created a number of international links with partner Institutions through Erasmus agreements that are expected to materialize also for the current Course.

Connection with the labor market and the society

Even if there are aspirations expressed by the academic and management teams on the links between graduates and their employability opportunities based on current market trends, these are not based on market research, but mainly on subjective estimations of the professionals teaching in the particular program. Although it is really encouraging to see the academic team being so enthusiastic over the prospect of running the particular Course, expecting it to match the requirements of the local market and meeting the current societal needs, the EEC was not presented with any formal business case or market report on the analysis of needs of the society pertaining to requests of the particular scientific discipline/expertise.

3. RESEARCH WORK AND SYNERGIES WITH TEACHING

Research Teaching Synergies

The University describes its activities as 'research-led' and there is a Research & Innovation Committee with the main strategic focus in research on collaborations and the establishment of 'non-profit' research centres. The School of Sciences at UCLan Cyprus adopts an interdisciplinary approach in its research activities, trying to bring together expertise from various disciplines such as Computing, Engineering, Mathematics, Physiology and Sports and Exercise Science and produce research results with social, environmental and economic impact locally, nationally and

globally. This interdisciplinary approach in the School is implemented through four main research clusters: Information Systems, Communication Networks and Mobile, Technologies, Developmental Psychology and Educational Technologies, Health and Society. Academics in the School of Sciences have research expertise in a diverse range of areas and they have experience of external research funding through participation in numerous successful European projects and projects funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation. They also participate in various COST actions. In addition to research projects, the academics of the School engage with the industry and community for the development of high impact collaborations to facilitate innovation and enterprise activities.

The module outlines in the course document include references to recent studies and teaching and learning is generally informed by research given that the compulsory module outlines are already running at UCLan UK and the elective modules delivered in Cyprus have been developed by staff with relevant research expertise and experience for the proposed elective modules. Other means of research-informed teaching include plans for examples of practical problems in classes that will be linked to staff expertise and practical experience and design of lectures based on the latest research knowledge. However, the module outlines do not include any recent research or book publications from the teaching staff.

There are some basic sport science research facilities and equipment to support teaching and research in the Sport Laboratory that is well-managed and used efficiently for both teaching, research and external performance testing. However, to enhance the quality of future research, additional state of the art equipment are needed and these will definitely enhance the teaching quality potential as well. The academic staff in the proposed program have relevant research interests and they participate in international conferences but there are only a few recent publications in reputable journals. Student training in the research process is sufficient.

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

Administrative Mechanisms

The Senate Committee in UCLan Cyprus oversees four committees that include the Research and Innovation committee which includes School Research and Innovation Committees, and Research Degrees Board. There is also a Student Experience and Course Planning Committee. The Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee is composed of School representatives and an Academic Regulations Sub-Committee. The assessment Boards are appointed by Sciences by the Senate and are accountable to the Senate for the fulfillment of their terms of reference. In addition, the Senate has appointed panels to meet as and when required to consider Second Stage Student Appeals against Assessment Board decisions. Finally, the Senate has also delegated to University Review Panels the approval and review of courses, working to agreed procedures and the Academic Regulations.

Infrastructures / Support

There is an adequate amount of suitable books locally in Larnaca and electronic access to journals and other material through UCLan UK supporting the program. There is an effective internal communication platform and the general University facilities are adequate in number and size.

The equipment used in teaching and learning (laboratory and electronic equipment, consumables etc) are quantitatively and qualitatively adequate. Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) are adequate and accessible to students who also have access to the UCLan UK material through the electronic library. Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) are updated regularly with the most recent publications. The teaching personnel are provided with training opportunities in teaching methods, in adult education, and in new technologies on the basis of a structured learning framework.

Financial Resources

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. The allocation of financial resources regarding academic matters, is the responsibility of the relevant academic Schools. Each Dean of the UCLan Schools determine the budget required to run the academic programs and research facilities in the School and this budget is requested from the University. The remuneration of academic and other personnel is analogous to the remuneration of academic and other personnel of the respective institutions in Cyprus. Finally, student tuition and fees are consistent to the tuition and fees of other respective institutions in this subject area.

5. DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

N/A

6. DOCTORAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY

N/A

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE¹

- 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 proposed MSc program at UCLan Cyprus is a general Sport and Exercise Sciences postgraduate qualification that is based on an existing program validated and running successfully at UCLan UK for a number of years. Although the support of the UK academics and the existing expertise both in the UK and Cyprus are additional assurances for the successful delivery of the proposed course in Cyprus, the EEC would like to offer some recommendations and suggestions for the improvement of the course:

- Support the course with more laboratory teaching and research resources that have the potential to also improve academics' research portfolio quality
- There is a need for specialisation in research (i.e rehabilitation in injuries)
- A clearer set of modules related to either exercise (clinical) or sports related rehabilitation therapy. A potential solution could be to have the electives specialised in either sport or exercise.
- The intention to focus mainly on research within the program of study contradicts with the need for vocational and applied practice focus of the proposed Degree
- There is a clear need to add Psychology related contents to the Elective Modules in relation to the assessed and treated athlete/individual. Supporting students with tests and applications of Psychology related contents can also create a better expertise around the current rehabilitation needs.

¹ 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: UCLan Cyprus
Program of Study: MSc Sport & Exercise Sciences
Duration of the Program of Study: 14 Months
Evaluation Date: 13/3/2018

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
Prof. Vasilios Baltzopoulos	Head of Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences	Liverpool John Moores University, UK
Prof. Dr. Andreas Mierau	Academic Director, Head of Department of Exercise & Sport Science	LUNEX International University of Health, Exercise and Sports, Luxembourg
Dr. Emmanouil Georgiadis	Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Psychology	University of Suffolk, UK
Ms Amalia Evangelou	Student at the Department of Biology	University of Cyprus

Date and Time of the On-Site Visit: 13 March 2018, 9:00-17:30

Duration of the On-Site Visit: 8.5 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.					✓
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.					✓
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.				✓

	1.1.3.2	The disclosure of the program's curricula to the students, and their implementation by the teaching personnel					✓
	1.1.3.3	The course web-pages, updated with the relevant supplementary material				✓	
	1.1.3.4	The procedures for the fulfillment of undergraduate and postgraduate assignments / practical training					✓
	1.1.3.5	The procedures for the conduct and the format of the examinations and for student assessment				✓	
	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.				✓	
1.1.4	Adequate and modern learning resources, are available to the students, including the following:						
	1.1.4.1	facilities				✓	
	1.1.4.2	library				✓	
	1.1.4.3	infrastructure				✓	
	1.1.4.4	student welfare				✓	
	1.1.4.5	academic mentoring				✓	
1.1.5	A policy for regular and effective communication, between the teaching personnel and the students, is applied.					✓	
1.1.6	The teaching personnel, for each course, provide timely and effective feedback to the students.						✓
1.1.7	Statutory mechanisms, for the support of students and the communication with the teaching personnel, are effective.					✓	
1.1.8	Control mechanisms for student performance are effective.						✓
1.1.9	Support mechanisms for students with problematic academic performance are effective.					✓	
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.					
1.1.11	The program of study applies an effective policy for the prevention and detection of plagiarism.				✓	
1.1.12	The program of study provides satisfactory mechanisms for complaint management and for dispute resolution.				✓	
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>No further comments</p>						
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.		✓			
1.2.2	The methodology of each course is suitable for adults.				✓	
1.2.3	Continuous-formative assessment and feedback are provided to the students regularly.				✓	
1.2.4	The assessment system and criteria regarding student course performance, are clear, adequate, and known to the students.				✓	
1.2.5	Educational activities which encourage students' active participation in the learning process, are implemented.					✓
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.				✓	
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.			✓		
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>1.2.1: The description of the teaching and learning methodology described in the module outline must be specific to the desired learning outcomes of the module and this is particularly relevant for the newly designed elective modules.</p> <p>1.2.7: Only few hard copy text book exemplars are available</p>						

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.				✓	
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.				✓	
1.3.2.2	Publications within the discipline.			✓		
1.3.3	The specializations of Visiting Professors adequately support the program of study.				✓	
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.				✓	
1.3.5	In every program of study the Special Teaching Personnel does not exceed 30% of the Teaching Research Personnel.				✓	
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 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.				✓	
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.					✓
1.3.9	The academic personnel's teaching load does not limit the conduct of research, writing, and contribution to the society.				✓	
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.				✓	

1.3.11	The program's Coordinator has the qualifications and experience to efficiently coordinate the program of study.				✓	
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>1.3.2.2: Only one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal in more recent years</p>						

2. PROGRAM OF STUDY AND HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS						
2.1	Purpose and Objectives and learning outcomes of the Program of Study	1	2	3	4	5
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
2.1.6	The learning process is properly designed to achieve the expected learning outcomes.				✓	
2.1.7	The higher education qualification awarded to the students, corresponds to the purpose and objectives and the learning outcomes of the program.				✓	
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p>						

The learning process, purpose and objectives of the program correspond nicely to a very well designed degree.

2.1.3 (N/A)

There are not any defined qualification rules pertaining to relevant Vocational and Professional Bodies in Cyprus.

2.2	Structure and Content of the Program of Study	1	2	3	4	5
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 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.					✓
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.				✓	
2.2.4	The higher education qualification awarded, the learning outcomes and the content of the program are consistent.				✓	
2.2.5	The program, in addition to the courses focusing on the specific discipline, includes an adequate number of general education courses.				✓	
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.				✓	
2.2.7	The number and the content of the program's courses are sufficient for the achievement of learning outcomes.			✓		
2.2.8	The content of the program's courses reflects the latest achievements / developments in science, arts, research and technology.			✓		
2.2.9	Flexible options / adaptable to the personal needs or to the needs of students with special needs, are provided.				✓	

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

2.2.7; 2.2.8

Although the overall program satisfies many criteria of learning outcomes, knowledge and skills as part of the examined modules, it can be definitely be improved through enriching contents on parts of sport and exercise related disciplines (pl. see p.7-8)

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.

According to the academic team, the program can run with a minimum of 5 students with the only restriction being the need to have 15 students as a maximum number during the practical (Lab) sessions. Organisers and academic team reassured the EEC that there is not going to be any case of students having to be registered simultaneously in the current Course and any other academic program.

Based on the understanding of the EEC and the international practice, students are expected to receive a **Doubly Awarded Degree** (not a Double Degree) from both UCLAN Cyprus and UCLAN UK.

2.3	Quality Assurance of the Program of Study	1	2	3	4	5
2.3.1	The arrangements regarding the program's quality assurance define clear competencies and procedures.					✓
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					✓
	2.3.2.2 the members of the administrative personnel					✓
	2.3.2.3 the students.					✓
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.					✓
2.3.4	The quality assurance process constitutes an academic process and it is not restricted by non-academic factors.					✓
Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.						
2.4	Management of the Program of Study	1	2	3	4	5

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.				✓	
2.4.2	It is ensured that learning outcomes may be achieved within the specified timeframe.				✓	
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
2.4.5	Information relating to the program of study are posted publicly and include:					
2.4.5.1	The provisions regarding unit credits				✓	
2.4.5.2	The expected learning outcomes				✓	
2.4.5.3	The methodology				✓	
2.4.5.4	Course descriptions				✓	
2.4.5.5	The program's structure				✓	
2.4.5.6	The admission requirements				✓	
2.4.5.7	The format and the procedures for student assessment				✓	
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.				✓	
2.4.7	The effectiveness of the program's evaluation mechanism, by the students, is ensured.				✓	
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.				✓	
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>In the case of practical training, note:</p> <p>- The number of credit units for courses and the number of credits for practical training</p>						

- In which semester does practical training takes place?
- Note if practical training is taking place in a country other than the home country of the institution which awards the higher education qualification

Practical training is not a part of the Course in focus

2.5	International Dimension of the Program of Study	1	2	3	4	5
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.				✓	
2.5.2	The program attracts Visiting professors of recognized academic standing.				✓	
2.5.3	Students participate in exchange programs.				✓	
2.5.4	The academic profile of the program of study is compatible with corresponding programs of study in Cyprus and internationally.				✓	

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

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.

The Course is currently linked solely with the (similar) MSc Degree in Sport and Exercise Science provided by UCLAN UK.

2.6	Connection with the labor market and the society	1	2	3	4	5
2.6.1	The procedures applied, so that the program conforms to the scientific and professional activities of the graduates, are adequate and effective.				✓	
2.6.2	According to the feasibility study, indicators for the employability of graduates are satisfactory.			✓		
2.6.3	Benefits, for the society, deriving from the program are significant.				✓	

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

2.6.2

More evidence is needed around the employability prospects of the graduates based on industry needs analysis.

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.					✓
3.1.2	New research results are embodied in the content of the program of study.				✓	
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
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.				✓	
3.1.7	The policy for, indirect or direct, internal funding of the academic personnel's research activity is satisfactory.				✓	
3.1.8	The participation of students, academic, teaching and administrative personnel of the program in research activities and projects is satisfactory.				✓	
3.1.9	Student training in the research process is sufficient.				✓	
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>No further comments</p>						
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.					✓
4.1.2	Statutory administrative mechanisms for monitoring and supporting students are sufficient.					✓
4.1.3	The efficiency of these mechanisms is assessed on the basis of specific criteria.					✓
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>No further comments</p>						
4.2	Infrastructure / Support	1	2	3	4	5
4.2.1	There are suitable books and reputable journals supporting the program.				✓	
4.2.2	There is a supportive internal communication platform.					✓
4.2.3	The facilities are adequate in number and size.				✓	
4.2.4	The equipment used in teaching and learning (laboratory and electronic equipment, consumables etc) are quantitatively and qualitatively adequate.				✓	
4.2.5	Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) are adequate and accessible to students.				✓	
4.2.6	Teaching materials (books, manuals, scientific journals, databases) are updated regularly with the most recent publications.				✓	
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.				✓	
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>No further comments</p>						

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.					✓
4.3.2	The allocation of financial resources as regards to academic matters, is the responsibility of the relevant academic departments.					✓
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.					✓
4.3.4	Student tuition and fees are consistent to the tuition and fees of other respective institutions.					✓
<p>Justify the answer you have provided and note the additional comments you may have on each standard / indicator.</p> <p>No further comments</p>						

FINAL REMARKS – SUGGESTIONS

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

The proposed MSc program at UCLan Cyprus is a general Sport and Exercise Sciences postgraduate qualification that is based on an existing program validated and running successfully at UCLan UK for a number of years. The support of the UK academics and the existing expertise both in the UK and Cyprus are additional assurances for the successful delivery of the proposed course in Cyprus.

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

Name:	Signature:
Prof. Vasilios Baltzopoulos	
Prof. Andreas Mierau	
Dr. Emmanouil Georgiadis	
Ms Amalia Evangelou	

Date: 17 March 2018