



Reference No: 07.14.164.012

Tel.: 00 357 22504357

Fax: 00 357 22504392

email: dlavithi@dipae.ac.cy

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To
Director
City Unity College

SUBJECT: Preliminary review regarding the programme of study “*Masters in Criminology (MSc)*”, which is going to be offered by the City Unity College Nicosia, via the franchise method, in collaboration with the London Metropolitan University, UK

Based on the Law [N. 136 (I) / 2015 to 35 (I) 2021], I have instructions to inform you in regards to the findings of the **preliminary review**, carried out by CYQAA, for the programs of study **Masters in Criminology (MSc) - (1 year, 90 ECTS, Masters) 2nd Cycle**, of the institution London Metropolitan University, UK which will be offered via the franchise method by your institution, City Unity College, Nicosia.

In your letter of reply, you should include, in accordance with the above-mentioned Law, all the information that the Agency has identified as deficient or missing in the preliminary review.

It is expected that your response will be structured, and you will reply with specific references to documentation (annexes and pages) in accordance to the Agency’s Law.

Observations during the preliminary review:

1. On page 1 – *INSTITUTION'S CHECK LIST* “**In order for your request to be forwarded and properly examined, you must confirm that the following have been delivered at CYQAA’s offices (check ✓ where applicable):**”
On the checklist, point 9 was not completed although the information was submitted on page 158 of your application, under section 4. Admissions.
2. On pages 6 & 7 & 8 - The confirmation of the ‘*UK QAA recognition that London Metropolitan University has degree awarding powers*’ **web page cannot be found**.
3. On page 7 – The ‘*Programme Rankings: Number 29 on Guardian University Rankings*’ appears to be incorrect. Since on the relevant website, it is ranked: **Ranked 73rd in subject**, according to your documentation (<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2023/sep/09/the-guardianuniversity-guide-2024-the-rankings>).
4. On page 11 – *Part (b)* – “**Complete evidence for the academic facilities and services to be offered by the educational institute as well as those offered by the educational institute whose degree title will be awarded**”.
In regards with the above point, in your documentation, you refer only to the building facilities which are offered by the collaborating institution. It is required to provide documentation on all facilities, including **infrastructures and services for students** that will be offered by your institution City Unity College Nicosia, in the same way as they are offered by London Metropolitan University. Such examples are, Counselling Service support and personal development (e.g. school offices that can help students’ access to advice and guidance from staff, from financial issues to careers, The Students' Union, etc.).
5. On page 15 – *TABLE A: TEACHING STAFF OF THE Masters in Criminology (MSc) programme*, you provide a nominal list of the teaching staff of your institution. In your list, all of the teaching staff appear to be at the rank of **Lecturers** (even though on your website **Despina Christofi** is listed as **Associate Professor**). In addition, one faculty member is **Special Teaching Personnel** whose **academic qualification is at the degree of MSc**. The Agency would like to highlight that recruiting qualified staff is a prerequisite for running successful programmes of study. Additionally the Course should be delivered by staff with the minimum qualifications set out the Course Level Agreement (page 103). For this reason the education level of the Academic staff should be at least one level higher than the level taught (i.e. for Master’s level, academics should be qualified with a Doctorate at the least). Please, do submit more information on this matter. The CYQAA Council, during the 99th Council Summit, decided that institutions will be required to additionally send the list of their academic staff extracted from the **ERGANI database** and also submit **proof of social insurance payment** for **all** academic staff who teach in the programme.

6. Furthermore, in order for the Agency to assure that the quality of the programmes of study is not compromised by any excess in the weekly **teaching load** of the academics, you need to submit the total number of teaching periods per week, for each academic/teacher and for each programme they are a part of, at City Unity College Nicosia. Additionally, their **CV's** should be updated so that their position at your College can be visible, under their current professional experience. In addition, from the requested "**Data**", all of the Teaching Staff's **Short CV's** are missing (*Doc. 500.01.03/500.01.04, TABLE A: TEACHING STAFF*), and only one faculty member's profile (name and rank) is uploaded on your **website**.
7. On page 17 – *TABLE C: COURSE DISTRIBUTION PER YEAR/PER SEMESTER* and page 167 of your application, under *Appendix 10: Course Structure Diagram*, the **underlined optional Modules of the Course, (as shown in ANNEX 1)**, are not offered by City Unity College, compared to the **Year 1 Modules** listed on the London Metropolitan University webpage (<https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/criminology---msc/>).
8. On page 32 – *Appendix 3 – City Unity College (Nicosia) Ltd – CYQAA Letter_030723 – Section 'Certificate and transcript'*, it is stated that "**graduates of the approved courses taught at the Partner Institution shall receive a certificate produced by the University and it will be the same certificate as London Metropolitan University students enrolled on the same course taught on its main campus**". You need to submit a sample of the official document of the higher education qualification in a printout form.

I remain at your disposal for any inquiries.

(Droso Lavithi)

On Behalf of the President of
Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance
and Accreditation
In Higher Education

ANNEX 1

Section 22: Course Structure Diagram (page 167 of your application)
Course Structure Diagram
SS7175CP Critical and justice issues in criminology (core, 20 credits)
7 SS7173CP Transnational Organised Crime (core, 20 credits)
7 SS7170CP Explaining Violence (core, 20 credits)
7 SS7079CP Criminological research methods (core, 20 credits)
7 SS7178CP Terrorism and radicalisation studies (core, 20 credits)
7 SS7085CP Psychology and Crime (core, 20 credits)
7 SS7P81CP Criminology Dissertation (core, 60 credits)

London Metropolitan University London Metropolitan University Courses https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/criminology---msc/
London Metropolitan University Postgraduate courses Criminology - MSc
Year 1 modules include:
Criminological Research Methods (core, 20 credits)
Criminology Dissertation (core, 60 credits)
Critical and Justice Issues in Criminology (core, 20 credits)
Explaining Violence (core, 20 credits)
Terrorism and Radicalisation Studies (core, 20 credits)
Beyond the headlines - Global Crime in Focus (option, 20 credits)
Crime, Risk and Prevention (option, 20 credits)
Gender, Victimisation and Crime (option, 20 credits)
Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking & Organised Crime (option, 20 credits)
Psychology and Crime (option, 20 credits)
Transnational Organised Crime (option, 20 credits)
Wildlife Crime, Security and Conservation (option, 20 credits)