

Higher Education in Cyprus and the Legal Framework for Quality Assurance

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Higher Education in Cyprus

- 3 public Universities
- 5 non Public Universities

There is also a large number Higher Education Institutions (58).

Higher Education Institutions operate under the effective control of the laws and regulations of the Republic of Cyprus, focusing on quality in education, and excellence in teaching whilst protecting academic freedom.

Qualifications awarded by Public and Non-Public Universities have the same academic recognition in Cyprus and abroad.

Higher Education in Cyprus

Three (3) Public Universities

- University of Cyprus
- Cyprus University of Technology
- Open University of Cyprus

Five (5) non–Public Universities

- Frederic University
 - European University Cyprus
 - University of Nicosia
 - Neapolis University Pafos
 - University of Central Lancashire – Cyprus
- ▶ Large number of recognised Private and Public Institutions of Higher Education

CYQAA - Law

The Cyprus Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) was established on the basis of,

Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws, of 2015 and 2016

CYQAA - Principles

- ▶ Responsibility toward students and society for the provision high quality higher education.

CYQAA - Principles

- ▶ Ensuring Quality Assurance in Higher Education on the basis of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

CYQAA - Principles

- ▶ To provide a quality assurance framework within which, higher education institutions will be driven to enhance quality and develop an internal quality culture.

Mission:

The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, is responsible

- ❑ to ensure the quality of Higher Education in Cyprus
- ❑ to support, through the procedures provided by the relevant legislation, the continuous improvement and upgrading of higher education institutions and their programs of study.

Vision:

- ❑ Establish Cyprus as a regional educational and research centre, a hub for international scholars and students
- ❑ Provide the framework for the HEIs of Cyprus to offer competitive programmes of study, fully recognised at an international level – complying with the Bologna Process

Autonomy:

“The Agency shall be independent to the extent required to do its work autonomously and to exercise independently its functions so that its conclusions and recommendations contained in the evaluation reports shall not be influenced by third parties such as higher education institutions, ministries or others.”

Law 136 (I) of 2015

Article 26 (9)

Competencies:

- ▶ Institutional, Departmental and Programmatic Evaluation and accreditation of higher education
- ▶ Quality Assurance in higher education on the basis of the European Standards
- ▶ The Evaluation and Accreditation of cross-border forms of education, offered by local institutions in member states or third countries
- ▶ Assessment of the conditions for the provision of cross-border education from foreign institutions in Cyprus
- ▶ Assessment of inter-institutional cooperation of higher education institutions
- ▶ The provision of information of Quality Assurance in higher education

Quality Assurance at the European Level

- ▶ Quality assurance in higher education is the key objective of the European Higher Education Area and the Bologna Process, in which Cyprus is actively involved.

European and International Partners

- ❑ Full member of European Association for Quality Assurance ([ENQA](#))
- ❑ Full member of International Network for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Higher Education ([INQAAHE](#))
- ❑ Affiliate member of European University Association ([EUA](#))
- ❑ Full member of the European Distance and E-Learning Network ([EDEN](#))

European and International Partners

CYQAA has applied for,

- ❑ registration to the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)
- ❑ External evaluation and recognition by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

Student Involvement

At European level QA policy aims toward student-centred learning and teaching.

Student Involvement

CYQAA External Evaluation Committees consist of,

- ❑ Academics
- ❑ Representatives of Professional Associations
- ❑ Students

Student Involvement

HEI's Internal Quality Committees consist of,

- ❑ The Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs
- ❑ Representatives of the Academic/Teaching Staff
- ❑ Members of the Academic Staff specializing in quality assurance
- ❑ Student representatives
- ❑ Representatives of the Administrative staff

- ❑ First of all, the student representative is, of course, a student, and as such the only one who has the ability to see the situation from the perspective of a student and of a learner.
- ❑ Their insight and knowledge of the higher education system is thus significant, and they have the ability to see and understand consequences for the students' situation, which the other panel members may not take into account.
- ❑ A third role of the students consists in being the largest stakeholder in higher education, investing time and money in education. As such they have a special interest in factors that are relevant in making education a good investment.

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