



23 May 2019

Dr. Mary Ioannides-Koutselini
President
Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and
Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)
Lemesou Avenue, 5
2112 Nicosia

Dear Madam President,

Subject: CYQAA Final Report/Larnaca College Master in Business Administration

We would like to express our sincere appreciation of your diligent efforts to promote and establish good practices involving Higher Education in Cyprus.

Larnaca College acknowledges receipt of acceptance of MBA programs (reference: Fax 07.14.236.007) in Management, Hospitality Management, and Human Resource Management. The purpose of this letter is to initiate the appeals process for the approval of the following MBA pathways: MBA in Public Management and MBA in Education Management. Please note that we have not received a rationale for the rejection of the aforementioned pathways by CYQAA.

The external evaluation report (doc 300.1.1) received by Larnaca College following assessment of the proposed program of study reflects extremely high marks for all pathways analyzed and examined by the external committee. It was noted by the evaluation committee that the submitted materials conform to the assessment requirements stated by the CYQAA and include required documentation and supporting information.

In light of the outstanding evaluation received by the external examining committee, the Academic Committee at Larnaca College feels it is just and appropriate to submit an appeal for the inclusion of the following proposed pathways: MBA in Public Management and MBA in Education Management, in the approval letter from CYQAA. Similar MBA programs are being delivered in the EU and in Cyprus by accredited Institutions of Higher Education. Currently, at Larnaca College, there are 33 Cypriot public servants matriculating from bachelor's level studies who have expressed a lively interest in pursuing an MBA in Public Management. Additionally, there are 12-15 educators employed in both public and private educational institutions in Larnaca who have expressed a preference for an MBA in Education Management.

References

Coulie, B., Kolanowska, E., Ortega S.M., Harutyunyan, A. (2019). ENQA agency review: Cyprus agency of quality assurance and accreditation in higher education (CYQAA).

European Commission/EACEA/Eurdice, 2015. *The European higher education area in 2015: Bologna process implementation report*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European higher education area (ESG). (2015). Brussels: Emerald Group Publishing Ltd.

CYQAA's denial of the Public Management and Education Management MBAs neglects consideration of the social dimension of learning set forth in the Bologna Process (2015). Three specific concepts, which an Appeals Committee should consider when examining Larnaca College's proposed MBA pathways include: equal access, life-long learning, and choice. Application of the concept of access means that students have a right to pursue a program of study. Life-long learning is identified by the Bologna Process (2015) as inclusive of flexible paths to higher learning. Finally, the Bologna Process (2015) explicitly confirms their commitment to student choice in order to widen opportunities for access to relevant learning.

Taken together, these concepts indicate that any student no matter their current profession has a right to take advantage of learning opportunities to support not only their professional goals but also their intrinsic desire to learn.

Echoing the Bologna Process (2015), the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) declare that programs of study, in order to be fit for purpose, allow for academic knowledge which influence students' personal development and provide a flexible learning path. Ultimately, denial of the MBA in Public Management and the MBA in Education Management stands in opposition to the ESG report "Compliance of CYQAA with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) which states that currently CYQAA pays "much attention...to whether students can follow their own learning path" (p 30).

It is our fervent hope that CYQAA reconsider their denial of these two innovative and forward-reaching MBA pathways so that higher education in Larnaca, Cyprus can continue to contribute to the overall development of society.

Larnaca College reaffirms CYQAA commitments to higher education in Cyprus and feels sure that we can work together to rectify this situation.

Sincerely yours,

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Professor Dr. Anthony A. Koyzis
Director, Academic Affairs

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Professor Dr. Susan McGowan
Director, Post-graduate Studies