



# Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου

Πολυτεχνική Σχολή  
Διατμηματικό Μεταπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα  
Ενεργειακές Τεχνολογίες και Αειφόρος Σχεδιασμός

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18 Ιουνίου 2020

Αξιότιμη κ. Κουτσελίνη,

**Θέμα : Πιστοποίηση Προγράμματος Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program "Energy Technologies and Sustainable Design" (IPP-ETSD, M.Eng. 3-8 semesters/90ECTS & M.Sc. 3-8 semesters/114 ECTS)-  
University of Cyprus**

Σε συνέχεια της επιστολής σας, ημερομηνίας 16/04/2020, αποστέλλεται η απάντηση της Συντονιστικής Επιτροπής του Διατμηματικού Μεταπτυχιακού Προγράμματος της Πολυτεχνικής Σχολής του Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου «Ενεργειακές Τεχνολογίες και Αειφόρος Σχεδιασμός» αναφορικά με το πιο πάνω θέμα.

Ευελπιστούμε στη θετική σας ανταπόκριση.

Με εκτίμηση,

Αναπληρώτρια Καθηγήτρια Μαρίνα Νεοφύτου, Συντονίστρια  
Διατμηματικό Μεταπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα "Ενεργειακές Τεχνολογίες και Αειφόρος Σχεδιασμός"  
Πολυτεχνική Σχολή  
Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου

Κοινοποίηση: Καθηγήτρια Ειρήνη Άννα Διακίδου, Αντιπρύτανη Ακαδημαϊκών Υποθέσεων  
Δήμητρα Δημήτρη, Λειτουργό Γραφείου Διασφάλισης Ποιότητας



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*Below we provide our response to the various points raised by the Quality Assurance Agency before its final decision on our ETSD program:*

**1. “Να διασφαλιστεί ότι το επίπεδο των μαθημάτων του προγράμματος που καταλήγει σε τίτλο MSc είναι το ανάλογο και όχι χαμηλότερο, δηλαδή να προσαρμοστούν τα μαθησιακά αποτελέσματα στο EQF και ανάλογα, το περιεχόμενο, η διδασκαλία, οι δραστηριότητες και η τελική εξέταση.**

***“The addition of a course on research methodology, and addition of two disciplinary elective course, are good steps. However, the issue of other courses that seem superficial or low level for a research M.Sc. was not addressed”. (EEC’s response 16/4/20)***

Although we have not received any (anonymous) written feedback comments on this matter on our individual courses assessment, and although two of the four participating departments have completed their assessment on the graduate level without receiving any such comments on the graduate courses (including those offered under the ETSD program) hinting in this direction, we nevertheless further act proactively on this issue to avoid the possibility of raising again such difficulties. Specifically, in order to address more explicitly this point, the inter-departmental committee has introduced a further new mandatory prerequisite course of 1 ECTS, entitled “Basic Principles of Interdisciplinary Engineering”, (approved by Senate 16/2020, date 17/06/2020 and will be offer from the academic year 2020-2021). This will be offered at the very beginning of the annual ETSD program, specifically 2 weeks before the official start of the normal university semester, in order to introduce and familiarize all the ETSD student audience of the year to a uniform core set of fundamentals spanning across all disciplines and departments so that the possibility of individual course ETSD program lecturers having to face such introduction during or within specific advanced courses is avoided. At the same time, a minimum uniform common interdisciplinary background in Engineering is created. This will help students from the different Engineering School Departments to take classes-courses from

the ETSD postgraduate program across different Departments without jeopardizing the level and quality of individual classes.

We also wish to note at this point that our ETSD program has been enriched with the addition of another new elective course which will be offered from Spring Semester 2020/2021 by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, entitled CEE598: Biotechnological production of biofuels and bioenergy, 8 ECTS.

The revised Annex II is attached to this document.

**2. Πέραν της ανατροφοδότησης που δίνεται από τους φοιτητές για κάθε μάθημα, χρειάζεται θεσμοθέτηση και υλοποίηση διαδικασίας αξιολόγησης του προγράμματος στην ολότητά του.**

***“However the response to 4.3 in our report remains unresolved. The institutional response: “Taking your suggestion into consideration, the formal evaluation mechanism for the interdepartmental programme will be discussed with Centre for Teaching and Learning, UCY.” is inconclusive. We would like re-assurance that a formal evaluation mechanism is indeed being implemented and not just discussed.” (EEC’s response 16/4/20)***

Regarding this point and in order to assure and further enhance the quality of the ETSD inter-disciplinary program, the ETSD coordination committee adopted the newly introduced by the University of Cyprus Quality Assurance Committee actions regarding evaluations, following the decisions # 02/2019, date 3/12/2019) - both for its current and graduate students. Specifically:

- I. An internal self-evaluation of the curriculum of the study program of the program will be regularly conducted at least on year before the regular application for evaluation for certification to the Quality Assurance Agency (Maximum Periodicity: 5 years).
- II. A self-assessment tool has been adopted in order to help the coordination committee of the ETSD study program to identify any weaknesses and to improve its quality taking into account factors such as the national legislation, the European standards and guidelines (ESG), students and graduates’ feedback as well as professional associations and other social partners.

- III. An Annual Evaluation of the Program by the Graduating students has been adopted with targeted feedback with questionnaires or focus groups.

The programs of studies will be evaluated by graduate students once a year. The above measures will be established with in the next academic year. While individual courses (and instructors) will be evaluated at the end of each semester.

**3. Στο πρόγραμμα που καταλήγει σε τίτλο MSc, το Capstone Design Project να γίνει Capstone Research Project. Με τον τρόπο αυτό θα γίνει και εφαρμογή του μαθήματος έρευνας POL 800 Research Methodology και θα υπάρχει και η επιδιωκόμενη διεπιστημονικότητα.**

***“Since the programme committee would like to keep the capstone project also for the MSc track, we also would recommend refocusing that MSc. element more towards a Capstone Research Project instead of just the Capstone Design Project. This way the learnings from POL 800 Research Methodology could be applied and the interdisciplinarity maintained.” (EEC’s response 16/4/20)***

Taking into account this point for introducing integrated research methods, the inter-departmental coordinating committee has revised the so-far offered course Capstone Design Project into “Capstone Design & Research Project” (approved by Senate 16/2020, date 17/06/2020) to be taken by both the MSc and the MEng students. We believe that it is important both for the MEng students to appreciate the importance of integrating research aspects in their practice as well as for the MSc students to understand the importance of the integrated design - as Design is an important attribute in fostering Interdisciplinary Engineering.

The teams will be composed by both MSc & MEng students as this enriches their program complementarily; the newly introduced course of POL800-Research Methodology is still mandatory for the MSc students and elective for the MEng students of the program. We would also like to note that MSc students will also have their MSc research thesis project through which they have the opportunity to sharpen-up further their research skills.

Considering the changes mentioned above the program's structure has been revised as follow:

| Offered Programs of Studies                       | M.Eng.    | M.Sc.      |
|---|-----------|------------|
| <b>Prerequisite Courses:</b>                      |           |            |
| Basic Principles of Interdisciplinary Engineering | 1 ECTS    | 1 ECTS     |
| <b>Mandatory Courses:</b>                         |           |            |
| Core Courses                                      | 32 ECTS   | 40 ECTS    |
| Capstone Design & Research Project                | 24 ECTS   | 24 ECTS    |
| Graduate Seminar                                  | 1 ECTS    | 1 ECTS     |
| Educational visits and engagement with industry   | 1 ECTS    | 1 ECTS     |
| <b>Elective Courses</b>                           | 32 ECTS   | 8 ECTS     |
| <b>Master Thesis</b>                              | 0 ECTS    | 40 ECTS    |
| <b>TOTAL ECTS</b>                                 | <b>91</b> | <b>115</b> |