

Date: Date.

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Cyprus

- **Town:** Nicosia

- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

In Greek:

Νεότερη και Σύγχρονη Ιστορία (19ος - 20ος αιώνας) -Ph.D.

In English:

Ph.D. in Modern and Contemporary History (19th–20th century)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** Greek
- **Programme's status:** Choose Status
- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English: Concentrations

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 2021 [L.136(I)/2015 – L.132(I)/2021].

A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- *The Higher Education Institution (HEI) based on the External Evaluation Committee's (EEC's) evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area. The answers' documentation should be brief and accurate and supported by the relevant documentation. Referral to annexes should be made only when necessary.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area and by using the 2nd column of each table, the HEI must respond on the following:*
 - *the areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The institution should respond to the EEC comments, in the designated area next each comment. The comments of the EEC should be copied from the EEC report **without any interference** in the content.*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on separate document(s). Each document should be in *.pdf format and named as annex1, annex2, etc.*

1. Study programme and study programme's design and development
(ESG 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	CYQAA officer's comments
The program curriculum could be enhanced by incorporating courses related to digital humanities. This is also a demand from students and could potentially be fulfilled, especially considering that the Department of History and Archaeology has recently strengthened its focus on Digital Humanities with the appointment of a dedicated chair.	<p>3 (three) teaching hours related to the use of digital technology in History will be added, in co-operation with the chair of Digital Humanities of the Department, with the aim of proposing a new specialized course.</p> <p>The following elective module will be offered (taught in English): ARC 671 – Computational and Analytic Techniques in the Humanities and Social Sciences)</p>	Το τμήμα έχει συμμορφωθεί_ (Annex 1)
The information provided on the program's web page could be expanded to offer more comprehensive details.	<p>The program's web page has already been improved and will continue to be updated regularly.</p> <p>In order to view the program's website please click the following links</p> <p>Ph.D. Modern and Contemporary History</p> <p>Master in Modern and Contemporary History</p>	Έχει γίνει ο έλεγχος και έχει γίνει η αναβάθμιση

2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment (ESG 1.3)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<p>More flexible 'pathways' can be created to attract students from different backgrounds and with different development goals;</p> <p>- Similarly, assessment practices can be diversified (including options for 'authentic', public-facing types) in order to align with a wider set of different student learning styles and development needs.</p>	<p>There will be proposed a selection of new courses tailored to the needs of diverse students, e.g. integration of technology in History lessons in Secondary schools; development of digital skills for the new generation philologists.</p> <p>The new courses are still under development, and after they are approved by the Department, they are scheduled to be added to the new program of studies in the winter semester 2024-2025.</p>	<p>Θα ελεγχθεί σε μεταγενέστερο στάδιο όταν θα προστεθούν τα νέα μαθήματα. Έχω σημειώσει την εκκρεμότητα και θα το παρακολουθώ.</p>

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
It is worth noting that the current teaching staff members are heavily burdened with the supervision of master's and doctoral theses, even though this additional workload is not factored into their weekly workload.	This issue cannot be resolved by our Department. It will be forwarded by the Quality Assurance Office to the Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs for the investigation of a viable solution. <small>p here to enter text.</small>	Το συγκεκριμένο comment έχει συμπεριληφθεί στο eec report και είναι στη ευχέρεια του ιδρύματος να προβεί σε ενέργειες.

4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
(ESG 1.4)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
It is worth noting that both study programmes do not have any students from outside Cyprus and Greece. This may be attributed to the predominant use of the Greek language in the programmes, which could pose a barrier for non-Greek speakers.	The Master's program of studies does, indeed, currently target, mainly, students from Cyprus or Greece, and Greek-speaking students. However, a new course taught in English has been included (annex 1) and the doctoral students are given the option to write their thesis in English.	Έχει συμπεριληφθεί στο πρόγραμμα ένα καινούριο course στην αγγλική (Annex 1) έτσι ώστε οι μεταπτυχιακοί/διδακτορικοί φοιτητές να έχουν τη δυνατότητα να γράψουν στην αγγλική

5. Learning resources and student support
(ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<p>The way in which the Department and the University impart digital information to the students could be improved in a more user-friendly direction. Some students commented that it was difficult for them to find the information they wanted from the website.</p>	<p>As answered above: the program's web page has already been improved - further to that, students will be asked (through questionnaires) to provide feedback, and point out any difficulties/problems.</p> <p>In order to view the program's website please click the following links</p> <p>Ph.D. Modern and Contemporary History</p> <p>Master in Modern and Contemporary History</p>	<p>Έχει γίνει ο έλεγχος και έχει γίνει η αναβάθμιση</p>

6. Additional for doctoral programmes
(ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
To obtain more information, it is recommended to visit the PhD program's webpage rather than relying solely on the university's main page.	The program's website is accessible through the Departments website in the following link Ph.D. Modern and Contemporary History and is also accessible through the University's main page please refer to the following Programs Catalogue for 2023-2024	No comment
To make the PhD program more appealing not only to Cypriot and Greek students but also to students from other backgrounds, it is important to enhance the connection between Cypriot history, Middle Eastern history, Mediterranean history, European history, and global history.	<p>Since September 2023, the teaching staff of the program has been strengthened by the addition of another member, specializing in the history of the Mediterranean. What is more, the students of the PhD program can opt to write their final thesis in English.</p> <p>Having hired the new faculty member in the Department, three out of the five teaching members in the PhD program specialize in European or Mediterranean History: Associate Professor Anna-Anastasia (Natasha) Constantinidou – Modern European History Associate Professor George Kazamias – Contemporary European History Associate Professor Stefanos Katsikas – History of Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe (18th – 21st centuries) In their theses, students can combine topics that concern not only Cyprus or Greece, but also Europe or the Eastern Mediterranean (e.g. First / Second WW, Cold War, Decolonization, etc.)</p>	Το Τμήμα φαίνεται να έχει συμμορφωθεί

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B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
However, despite the positive reputation they currently enjoy, there are potential challenges for the future. The sole administrative support person, who assists both the undergraduate program of the Department of History and Archaeology and other graduate programmes, may face difficulties due to an overwhelming workload. This situation has sometimes resulted in delays in student services and may lead to more significant problems in the future.	The Department has officially requested from the University of Cyprus the assignment / hiring of a second person for administrative support. The Rectorate has promised that at least one administrative support employee will be hired on a part-time basis by 2024.	Κατά τη διάρκεια του on site meeting σχολιάστηκε το θέμα και φαίνεται ότι το Τμήμα χρειάζεται επιπλέον γραμματειακή υποστήριξη
The External Evaluation Committee also expressed concern about the extensive length of the final essays in both programmes. Specifically, the master's programme stipulates a final thesis of up to 50,000 words; the equivalent figure for the doctoral programme is up to 150,000 words. The Evaluation Committee believes that these requirements are excessively long and recommends reducing them. Furthermore, within the strategic development of the programmes, the committee believes that this aspect may discourage prospective students, particularly in the master's programme, from applying. The length of the final essay likely contributes to the declining number of admitted students in recent years, along with the rise of competing academic institutions and tuition fees.	The word limit of the final thesis of the master's program has already been decreased in the current academic year, 2023-2023, to 20.000 - 30.000 words. In like manner, the final thesis of the doctoral programme has been decreased to 100.000 - 120.000 words.	Το Τμήμα φαίνεται να έχει συμμορφωθεί
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C.

D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Associate Professor Petros Papapolyviou	Program Coordinator	
Associate Professor Maria Parani	Department Chairperson	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	

Date: 10-11-2023