

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 19/3/2026

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Cyprus
- **Collaborative Institution(s):**
Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Faculty N/A
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz –
Fachbereich 07 Geschichts- und
Kulturwissenschaften (Faculty 07 - History and
Cultural Studies) and Philosophy

- **Town: Nicosia**

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

In Greek:

Διαπανεπιστημιακό Μάστερ στις Βυζαντινές σπουδές: Μια παγκόσμια προοπτική του Μεσαίωνα / 2 έτη / 120 ECTS

In English:

Joint Master in Byzantine Studies: Perspectives on the Global Middle Ages / 2 years / 120 ECTS

- **Language(s) of instruction: English**
- **Programme's status: New**
- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English:



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)

Strengths: The programme's key strengths are its interdisciplinary curriculum across the University of Cyprus, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, combined with integrated mobility. Its most innovative feature is the ambitious employability component: three dedicated modules with structured internships developed alongside committed external stakeholders, creating meaningful professional training and real prospects for future employment.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
None at this time	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose level of compliance:

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

Strengths: The course descriptions are detailed and comprehensive, with extensive bibliographies that support progression to doctoral study. The curriculum situates Byzantium within a global, multiethnic and culturally diverse framework. The programme combines rich classroom teaching with direct engagement with archival, archaeological, and material resources across its partner locations. Assessment encourages active participation, presentations, and close interaction with scholarship leading to a substantial research essay. The employability modules extend this academic breadth through structured, hands-on professional experience.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
We would encourage the academic staff teaching on the programme to offer training in ancient and Byzantine Greek as an online option throughout the four semesters of the MA.	We agree. The consortium will introduce an additional online module in Ancient and Byzantine Greek and/or Latin, offered throughout the first three semesters of the programme. We will reflect on whether it can be extended to the fourth semester as well – so far, we did not plan for this inclusion in order to protect the students' research and writing time for their theses. The module will be coordinated by the University of Cyprus and delivered in an online format, ensuring continuity of linguistic training alongside transnational mobility.	Choose level of compliance:
It would be helpful for the students to specify the range of hours that will be expended working on-site as part of their internship for the Employability module.	We agree. After consultation with our partners, we have decided that the range of hours will be between 10-15 hours a week, following international practice and the EHEA guidelines on equivalence of ECTS and workload.	Choose level of compliance:

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Strengths: The Committee was impressed by the dedication, scholarly excellence, and collegial spirit of the teaching staff, as well as by the professionalism of the administrative personnel. Financial resources are allocated through merit-based evaluation. The recent approval of two new hires in the Department of History and Archaeology is a positive development that may directly strengthen the Programme, and further recruitment in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies would enhance it further. Course outlines are closely integrated with staff research, reinforcing research-led teaching. Moreover, the tenured status of the teaching staff at the University of Cyprus ensures stability and continuity.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The Committee hopes that Ca' Foscari University and JGUM will be able to allocate additional resources to increase course offerings for the students.	We agree. Following the completion of the first academic year of the programme, the Consortium Steering Committee will address this issue at the annual review meeting, where the availability of additional resources and potential institutional investment will be discussed.	Choose level of compliance:

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

Strengths: The Committee noted that careful thought has been given to students' transition between campuses, ensuring smooth mobility across the three participating universities. Within each institution's regulations, clear and viable pathways have been established to allow students to make up missed or failed coursework without jeopardising progression. The Programme's regulations have been fully integrated into the information provided to prospective students and will be clearly presented on the official website upon launch. These measures demonstrate strong procedural planning, regulatory alignment, and commitment to transparent communication and student support throughout the joint degree.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
All relevant information and regulations concerning this complex Programme must be available on the web site at the time of application. In particular, the web site should seek to include full information about potential unanticipated costs and, likewise, ensure that no hidden costs remain.	We agree. A detailed breakdown of costs (fees, mobility, housing estimates, health insurance, local transport etc.) will be included in a dedicated section of the website to ensure full transparency. In the agreement between the three universities there is an official declaration stating the absence of any hidden costs. We aim to have the programme's website operational in the autumn of 2026. Furthermore, each year there will be an annual review of costs and the relevant public documents updated as necessary.	Choose level of compliance:

5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Strengths: The Universities provide a wide range of student support services. At the University of Cyprus, support includes the Student Affairs and Welfare Service, with a service desk, Study Support Office, Housing Office, and Social Support Office. Students may also participate actively in university life through clubs and representation in governance bodies. The Programme benefits from excellent library facilities at the University of Cyprus, complemented by access to major academic libraries in Venice and Mainz. Health care is affordable in Cyprus and expected to be reasonably priced in Venice and Mainz, further supporting student well-being.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Early notification of admission will lead to the timely issuance of visas to students	We agree. The application deadline is not flexible (31 March), but we will make sure to complete the admissions process by the end of each April so that prospective students have at least four months at their disposal to secure their visas.	Choose level of compliance:
The EEC observes that certain issues that pertain to UCY (and not the Departments' and Programme's teaching and administrative staff) have not been addressed. They are: Sufficient and affordable student housing in the vicinity of the campus.	This matter constitutes a strategic priority for UCY, and the University is actively working towards improving both student housing and public transport. Nevertheless, meaningful progress in these areas ultimately depends on governmental support. Furthermore, the relevant Departments at UCY are making a serious effort to secure affordable on-campus accommodation for a number of our programme's students	Choose level of compliance:
Transportation to and from the city centre to campus.	We agree. See above.	Choose level of compliance:
Shared adequate space for all-teaching and administrative staff close to the campus.	We agree. There are concrete plans to relocate all members of the Department of History and Archaeology to a historic building in the Historic Centre of Nicosia. The new premises will include dedicated teaching rooms (particularly for MA students), the Archaeological Library, and purpose-built spaces for seminars and events. We	Choose level of compliance:



	<p>strongly welcome this development. At the same time, UCY maintains the long-term strategic objective of constructing a dedicated building on campus to house all Humanities and Social Sciences departments; however, no specific timeline has yet been determined.</p>	
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6. Additional for doctoral programmes

(ALL ESG) n/a

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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

Strengths: The EEC recognises as a major achievement the successful negotiation of the cooperation agreement underpinning this innovative joint programme. It has strong potential to attract external funding, including Erasmus Mundus and private foundations, which could alleviate students' tuition and mobility costs. The Programme enhances internationalisation across partner institutions and promotes global approaches to Medieval and Byzantine studies. Through high-level multinational teaching collaboration, it expands learning within a pan-European framework. It also strengthens students' employability and global competencies, making it particularly attractive to candidates from both European and non-European regions, including Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The Committee urges the upper administration of each University to fully support the students by facilitating their visa applications and accommodation arrangements.	We agree and we will lobby accordingly.	Choose level of compliance:

B. Conclusions and final remarks

Strengths: The Committee is very impressed by the amount of labour invested in the preparation of this joint programme and believes that it has every potential to be highly successful. The programme will widen students' intellectual horizons, enhance their cultural sensibilities, while also improve their skills in modern languages (Greek, Italian, German). The students' increased mobility and employability will also make them look more attractive in the job market, especially in professional fields such as, higher education, cultural heritage management and preservation, library and archive management, editorial work, data processing, digital literacy.

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Click or tap here to enter text.	We thank the committee for the very positive response and its constructive comments.	Choose level of compliance:
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C.



D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Dionysios Stathakopoulos	Associate Professor	
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	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	

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