



School of Medicine

Department: Medicine

Programme

“Infectious diseases: prevention and control (MSc)”

28 June 2018

The School of Medicine of the European University Cyprus wishes to express its gratitude to the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA), for the evaluation of the postgraduate programme *Infectious diseases: prevention and control (MSc)*.

During this second revision of our program, all additional recommendations and comments were welcome and gave us the opportunity to further improve our program, as indicated in the points below and in the attached supporting documents.

Please find below our point-to-point responses to the CYQAA letter dated 27 June 2018.

We thank you once again and remain at your disposal.

1.A Το διδακτικό προσωπικό πρέπει να ενισχυθεί σύμφωνα με τις παρατηρήσεις της ΕΕΑ στο κριτήριο 1.3.2.

“...The teaching personnel comprises a relatively small team and accordingly represent a limited range of knowledge” (Έκθεση ΕΕΑ, σελ. 6)

“... to include more expertise in hygiene, biomarkers, ethics, and bioinformatics. These topics are covered in the program but should be stressed more” (Έκθεση ΕΕΑ, σελ. 14)

Στην επιστολή σας ημερομηνίας 5 Ιουνίου 2018 αναφέρεται ότι το ίδρυμα έχει προκηρύξει θέσεις για την εργοδότηση ακαδημαϊκών πλήρους απασχόλησης στους τομείς της Internal Medicine και Microbiology. Θα πρέπει να μας αποσταλεί το αποτέλεσμα της διαδικασίας, η οποία έχει λήξει από τις 23 Απριλίου 2018.

Για την εργοδότηση πρέπει να αποσταλούν προσυμφωνίες εργοδότησης, καθώς και συμβόλαιο εργοδότησης όταν το πρόγραμμα λειτουργήσει. Αν το πρόγραμμα πιστοποιηθεί, οφείλεται ως ίδρυμα να δημοσιεύσετε, με ανάρτηση στην ιστοσελίδα σας, το προσωπικό που στελεχώνει κάθε πρόγραμμα σπουδών, τόσο το μόνιμο όσο και το μερικής απασχόλησης. Στην ανάρτηση να περιλαμβάνεται η ιδιότητα, το καθεστώς εργοδότησης και το βιογραφικό τους.

April 23rd was, indeed, the application deadline for the advertised vacancies for Internal Medicine and Microbiology (among others). Applicants for the aforementioned positions were shortlisted and interviewed by a Faculty Selection Committee (FSC). The Department and School Councils have approved each decision of the FSC for each position. Presently these new faculty members are pending approval by the Senate (26th July 2018) and ratification by the University Council. Following this, final agreements/ contracts for employment will be signed and will be available for disclosure in September 2018.

For protection of private data and until the agreements are finalized and signed, we are currently unable to disclose personal information, such as names and curriculum vitae. Of course, these will be available after signed contracts of employment have been processed. To facilitate your review, however, their initials, full time positions and rank, their respective fields and current state of the employment process, are described below:

Internal Medicine (2 positions)

- **E.R.** Assistant Professor, a specialized Internist with extensive experience in teaching and clinical research. In addition to extensive research experience in molecular pathology and clinical biochemistry, this individual has been an active investigator for numerous Phase II and Phase III Clinical Trials, and notable funded research projects. This individual is expected to become involved in the teaching of the courses *IPC610. Infection prevention and control: essentials in healthcare*, *IPC612. Research methods in infectious diseases*, and will also supervise students during their master thesis.
- **A.A.** Lecturer, a specialized Internist-intensivist with training in therapeutics and practical skills, who is expected to become involved in the teaching of the courses *IPC621. Antimicrobial stewardship*, *IPC630. Infection prevention and control: practical approach*, and will also supervise students during their master thesis.

Microbiology (1 position)

- **V.S.** Lecturer who is expected to become involved in the teaching of the courses *IPC611. Essentials of microbiology in infection prevention and control*, *IPC622. Multidrug resistant organisms: public health implications and control*, and will also supervise students during their master thesis.

Note: Above new faculty members will serve in addition to the existing faculty (see initial application) and the faculty and scientific collaborators mentioned in our initial response, June 5th 2018.

Finally, once the Master program commences, all information regarding implicated faculty (including name, rank, status and CV) will be uploaded to the EUC website under the program of studies.

2. Η έμφαση του προγράμματος σπουδών είναι στη διδασκαλία. Θα πρέπει να αναφέρετε με τρόπο τεκμηριωμένο τις ενέργειες που γίνονται για ενίσχυση της συνέργειας έρευνας και διδασκαλίας, σύμφωνα με τις υποδείξεις της ΕΕΑ, όσον αφορά το διδακτικό προσωπικό.

“...with the development of the masters studies a research informed teaching approach needs consideration at a minimum” (Έκθεση ΕΕΑ, σελ. 7)

“ There is a lack of research capacity building including essential infrastructure and expertise. We do not recommend focusing on building up this capacity for this program as the focus is and should remain on teaching. Nevertheless, academic personnel should be aware of contemporary research developments.” (Έκθεση ΕΕΑ, σελ. 14).

We agree that a research informed teaching approach is important for this MSc program. An effective synergy between research and teaching will be achieved throughout the program by multiple efforts, including the following:

1. Specific relevant aspects of research have been included in each course description for all courses. Information regarding both basic and clinical research is different and specific for the content of each separate course.

2. In order to more actively address the significance of research as correctly suggested by the committee, two courses have been modified in order to facilitate the development of research capacity and provide a heavier research aspect to the program. This was described in our initial response to the comments of the External Evaluation Committee, **(Please see Appendix 1)**:

- The course *IPC612. Research methods in infectious diseases* is now a compulsory course in Semester 1. The aim of this course is not only to introduce students to research methodology, but to provide/be involved (in) an in-depth analysis of research methods, types of studies and different methodologic approaches that currently exist in the field of Infectious diseases.
- The elective course *IPC633. Current issues in infection prevention and control* aims to update students on current trends, new clinical, laboratory and epidemiologic research data, and contemporary research developments in the field of infection prevention and control.

3. As previously outlined, the recent establishment of the new research laboratory and the completion of an additional research laboratory by the end of July, will give the opportunity to both faculty and postgraduate students, to have dedicated space and time for their research activity independent of teaching load. The following documents, related to our research laboratories, are attached:

- Architectural plan of the new research laboratory **(Please see Appendix 2)**.
- Inventory of available equipment (for privacy reasons, manufacture names are not disclosed) **(Please see Appendix 3)**.
- Laboratory techniques that are currently up and running for research purposes **(Please see Appendix 4)**.

4. In 2018, a cooperation agreement with the German Oncology Center (GOC) in Limassol was achieved, establishing GOC as a University Clinic exclusively for EUC. Within GOC, Cancer Research Center was formed, which is a collaborative research center between renowned Universities of Cyprus, Greece and Germany, and will be supported by innovative research infrastructure, focusing on clinical aspects of cancer diagnosis, management and prevention. GOC will offer additional research opportunities for students of the current Master program.

5. It is clear that the aforementioned faculty, each with extensive basic and/or clinical research experience will significantly augment and contribute to the research potential of the program.

3. Εφόσον το πρόγραμμα δεν θεμελιώνεται σε έρευνα την οποία θα κάνουν οι φοιτητές, δεν αναμένεται να υπάρξει thesis σε ένα τέτοιο πρόγραμμα, το οποίο οι αξιολογητές χαρακτηρίζουν πρόγραμμα διδασκαλίας και επισημαίνουν ότι από αυτό δεν προχωρούν

οι φοιτητές σε διδακτορικό και με βάση το πρόγραμμα το ίδρυμα δεν θα πρέπει να προχωρήσει σε διδακτορικό πρόγραμμα.

“The planned strategy over the past five year has been on teaching. Well-equipped research facilities have been established for teaching purposes. In addition, research laboratories and work places for research purposes are in the process of being established. With the development of the masters studies a research informed teaching approach needs consideration at a minimum. In addition, there should be a clear distinction between learning and research labs and work places. That should be in place if the research activity shall grow. On the hand, we recommend to not pursue establishing a PhD program because of the major investment into research capabilities required.” (Έκθεση ΕΕΑ, σελ. 7).

We agree that this program has primarily a teaching focus and there are no immediate plans to develop a PhD program.

4. Να προστεθεί η τελική εξέταση σε τουλάχιστον το 70% των προσφερόμενων μαθημάτων, εφόσον το πρόγραμμα δεν είναι ερευνητικό.

“Research labs are in the process of being completed, which will be essential for research within the scope of the program”. (Έκθεση ΕΕΑ, σελ. 21).

We confirm that all courses (except the Master thesis) have written examinations, including a final exam, that correspond to 70% of the final mark. This is stressed throughout the revised course syllabi **(Please see Appendix 2)**.

For details regarding the research laboratory, please see Point 2, response C.

We thank you once again and remain at your disposal.

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Professor Elizabeth Johnson
Vice Dean, School of Medicine

Supporting documents

- Appendix 1: Revised syllabi
- Appendix 2: Plan of the new research lab
- Appendix 3: Research laboratory equipment inventory
- Appendix 4: Currently running Laboratory techniques