

Formal Institutional Response to the Regulated Professions Representative Comments

The University highly appreciates the observations of the Council of Registered Professional Psychologists, Cyprus.

Please find the institutional response to the comments, below:

Section 2: Legislation

Following feedback, we acknowledge the three main points:

1. Practicum placements and supervisor criteria should be clearly documented and communicated.
2. Clinical Psychology practicum should be conducted within the Mental Health Services
3. Clinical placements abroad, especially in Greece, should be avoided due to legislative differences and potential financial/logistical burdens on students.

Institutional Response

We would like to thank you for taking the time to review our report and for your participation in this process. Following your feedback, we acknowledge the three main points outlined below and have addressed them in detail in the sections above.

Issues regarding supervision

At the European University Cyprus (EUC), we employ only *applied psychologists* as practicum supervisors — preferably Clinical Psychologists. In line with international guidelines and European standards of practice (EuroPsy), our supervision model emphasizes both formal specialization and applied expertise, in accordance with the Psychologists' Registration Law, which stipulates that only registered applied professionals may provide supervision. Beyond formal qualifications, supervisors are selected based on their specific clinical experience relevant to the practicum area. For example, when students undertake training related to trauma, neurocognitive disorders, or dementia, supervision is assigned to professionals with substantial applied experience in these fields. This approach ensures that students are exposed to diverse areas of professional practice while maintaining high standards of supervision that reflect both national legislation and European professional

expectations. All details regarding Clinical and Administrative supervision are included in *the Supervised Clinical Practice Guide* under the topic “Clinical and Administrative supervision”. In addition, all our students complete the course CCP659: Specialized Preparatory Internship Seminars for Clinical/Counseling Psychology, through which they are thoroughly introduced to the supervision process, including the qualifications of supervisors, the procedures involved, and all necessary information related to the supervision framework. This preparatory training ensures that students fully understand the structure, expectations, and professional standards of the supervision process before commencing their practicum. Additionally, after the course is completed, coordinators hold a meeting with all trainees to review and clarify the practicum procedures. Moreover, throughout the practicum, coordinators maintain ongoing communication through regular updates and meetings to ensure proper implementation and continuous support.

Practicum hours and placement settings

The structure and duration of practicum training at EUC fully comply with the Psychologists’ Registration Law, the CYQAA recommendations (e.g., information dated 12/09/2025), and European professional frameworks (as defined by EuroPsy). The programme is designed to prepare students for practice across a broad range of professional contexts — including community agencies, private practice, and mental health centres. This reflects the professional reality that our graduates work both within the General Healthcare System and in private practice, serving community populations. We ensure that all students gain meaningful experience with severe psychopathology, which can be encountered not only in psychiatric hospitals and inpatient units but also in community and counselling centres, where clients frequently present with complex or comorbid conditions. To document this, students are required to maintain detailed practicum logs specifying the types of cases and psychopathologies they address (see Appendix). While we strongly encourage placements in diverse clinical environments, it is important to note that the University cannot mandate a specific placement site (e.g., the Mental Health Services or other inpatient setting). This approach is adopted both to enhance the variety of students’ clinical experience and to avoid limiting placements to a single setting, which would significantly reduce the number of available practice opportunities. Moreover, such a restriction would not reflect the realities of professional practice, as out of the 968 registered clinical psychologists in Cyprus, only about 5% work within the Mental Health Services, and even fewer are employed in inpatient settings and psychiatric hospitals. Moreover, if students wish to complete, for example, 300 hours of practical training within Mental Health Services (MHS), they are required to pay approximately €910 to the MHS for this placement, which constitutes a significant financial barrier for many. Instead, we promote flexibility and breadth of clinical experience, requiring each student to complete training in at least two distinct settings — including, where possible and if they choose to, the Mental Health Services and/or other inpatient settings. This policy ensures broad exposure and the development of well-rounded

clinical competencies, aligning with the recommendation of the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) to monitor our graduates' career paths and ensure that the program closely corresponds to their future professional realities.

Clinical placements abroad

EUC supports international practicum experiences as a valuable means of broadening students' professional perspectives and fostering intercultural competence. We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding differing national frameworks; however, these placements are conducted exclusively through the Erasmus+ Internship scheme, which provides structured oversight and ensures full compliance with quality assurance and legal standards. Before approving any international placement, the Department carefully reviews official documentation to ensure compliance with Cypriot legislation and to mitigate potential regulatory or professional discrepancies (see Appendix for documents and procedures). Importantly, all relevant documents and approvals are submitted to CYQAA prior to the official launch of any practicum abroad, ensuring full transparency and adherence to institutional and national requirements. Although we recognize the logistical challenges associated with placements abroad, these experiences remain an important educational opportunity, enhancing students' professional maturity, adaptability, and readiness to engage with psychology as a global profession, and is also reported as a strength from the EEC. Last but not least, the clinical placement abroad is optional and undertaken solely on the student's initiative and preference, with the department providing support where needed.

Section 3: Additional Comments

None

Institutional Response

None