

VRAA 5-LT-2024

Ref. Num.: 07.14.336.098

January 11, 2024

Professor Mary Ioannidou-Koutselini
President of the Board of the
Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and
Accreditation in Higher Education
Nicosia

Dear Prof Koutselini,

Subject: Postponement of the decision on the accreditation of the MA in Public Administration

We hereby indicate all our actions and/or policies relevant to the requests submitted by the President of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) in the letter sent to us on October 11, 2023, Ref. No. 07.14.336.098, in relation to the pending decision for the accreditation of MA in Public Administration. We note that the items requested were all part of the evaluation procedure and had been positively evaluated by the external accreditation committee.

Request n. 1.

Discuss ways that you currently assist incoming students to advance their level of English proficiency, and provide a plan to further utilize your existing English language unit.

Response

Prospective students must satisfy English language requirements. This criterion is satisfied when a student has a degree taught in English. Otherwise, they would need to present a minimum TOEFL score of 550 and above, or Computer-based TOEFL score of 213 and above, or Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score 79-80 and above, or GCSE (or GCE) English Language "O" Level of "C" or above or IELTS of 6.5 and above or Cambridge Exams (First Certificate with Grade B and above, as well as Proficiency with Grade C and above or a score placement at the ENGL-100 level of the University English Placement Test. The University offers English courses at various levels to help students reach the required standard for admission to a graduate program.

As part of the compulsory coursework, for improving English language skills, MPA students are offered English literature, such as books, book chapters, journal articles, and other academic material, such as reports. Moreover, instructors refer to the basic MPA terminology in English to orient and familiarize students with that terminology. Students have full access to online library sources, which is rich in English language material.

The School and the Department cooperate with UNIC English Language Unit to further assist students who may need to sharpen their language skills. In this case, students are eligible to study in special English courses. We note that the Department has a lengthy collaboration with the English Language Unit for more than 15 years, both in undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Students who have deficiencies in following the prescribed English-speaking material can get help from the English Language Unit which offers courses each semester that the students can register in, so as to familiarize themselves with the terminology and improve their linguistic skills.

Request n. 2

Develop and provide a list of digital activities in an interactive format, making maximum use of digital material to further enhance students' engagement with the content, their instructors, and with each other.

Response

To begin with, kindly note that digital material had been given to the external evaluation committee, who had positively evaluated such material. Accordingly, such material already existed, a fact further highlighted by the program being offered also in e-learning mode for a number of years, where digital activities are the norm. Kindly find study Guides and actual coursework include digital activities in an interactive format on a weekly basis. A sample of a study guide is attached as **Attachment A**. All study guides were given to the evaluation committee.

Kindly further note that instructors and students make maximum use of digital material in course platform, by engaging weekly with course material, exercises and activities. Digital interactive activities include forum, quiz, survey, workshop, wiki. Moreover, instructors attend DL Department training sessions, scheduled throughout each academic year.

Request n. 3

To further advance assessment practices of the conventional program, revise and submit your assessment policy, by giving more weight to formative assessment, and by involving digital and other, more advanced, tools.

Response

Kindly note that the MPA conventional Assessment method is revised as follows pursuant to your request. You may find the table as **Attachment B**. Instructors will incorporate in their conventional courses digital tools and interactive activities, as shown in the table above.

Request n. 4

Provide a list of the time allocation between research and teaching of all of your permanent staff, and discuss how you plan to assist the faculty to expand their research collaborations and publications both locally and internationally.

Response

The table was already included as part of the Application and was evaluated by the external accreditation committee. You may find such table with relevant time allocation as **Attachment C**. Regarding the plan to assist the faculty to expand their research collaborations and publications kindly note that, as already explained to the external accreditation committee who positively evaluated this, the University has recently adopted a Research Recognition Policy which is attached as **Attachment D**. Moreover, the University offers funding to individual faculty to attend conferences locally and abroad, and has signed a number of MoUs and Agreements with other academic and research institutions. The School has in place a number of Erasmus Agreements which academics may use. Note that faculty have already expanded their research collaborations and publications by making use of these resources; the School of Law Annual Review 2022, which is the latest one, is indicative of such faculty activity. We attach it as **Attachment E**. This was also given, and positively evaluated by the external accreditation committee.

Request n. 5

Develop and submit a plan for incorporating alumni of the program, who have relevant work experience, as guest speakers across various events of both the Department of Politics and Governance and the School of Law.

Response

Incorporation of alumni is always a priority for our institution. Alumni of the program have proceeded with PhD studies either in the University or in other Universities, and have participated in conferences or symposia organized by either the Department of Politics and Governance or the School of Law. It is noted that the School organizes a number of events (we cite indicatively **Attachment F**) and regularly issues call for papers where alumni can participate. Moreover, alumni who are engaged in research activities are invited to submit articles for publications in the School's peer-review journals. A relevant forum is the "Επιθεώρηση Δημόσιας Διοίκησης", which has already published three issues and which has been positively welcomed in Greece and Cyprus, and where alumni of the program have recently been particularly invited to submit their research work for review. With regards to inviting alumni of the program as guest speakers, we note that this already occasionally takes place in circumstances where the alumni have already distinguished themselves, but also in other activities such as webex meetings between existing students and alumni. Students who have submitted excellent dissertations are particularly invited to share their experience with students who plan to produce a thesis. The Program will continue to work along the above lines of its existing plan on how to best utilize its alumni.

We remain at your disposal,

Dr Giorgos Kentas
Programme Coordinator

Attachments

Attachment A

Provided separately

Attachment B

Μέθοδος Αξιολόγησης Συμβατικών μαθημάτων ΜΡΑ

Αριθμός	Είδος	Ποσοστό επί του τελικού βαθμού	Ημερομηνία Παράδοσης
Εβδομαδιαία	Συμμετοχή στο μάθημα	10%	Κατά τη διάρκεια εξαμήνου
1	Μικρή Εργασία	15%	Κατά τη διάρκεια εξαμήνου
1	Εργασία Εξαμήνου (Term Paper)	25%	Κατά τη διάρκεια εξαμήνου
	Συμμετοχή στα εβδομαδιαία φόρουμ συζήτησης στον ιστοχώρο του μαθήματος	10%	Κάθε εβδομάδα
1	Τελική Εξέταση	40%	Εξεταστική περίοδος

* Οι καθηγητές παρέχουν ανατροφοδότηση στους φοιτητές σε όλα τα στάδια της διαδικασίας αξιολόγησης.

Attachment C

Academic Staff (Qualifications, expertise, distribution of time in teaching/research/administration) for each Department (TABLE 11)			
Name	Qualifications	Expertise	Distribution of Time Teaching/Research/Administration (%)
	PhD in Economics MA in Economics		

Prof. Andreas Theophanous	BA (Honors) Economics and Political Science	Political Economy, Politics, Governance	15% - 50% - 35%
Prof. Hubert Faustmann	PhD in History MA in History MA in German Language and Literature MA in Political Science	History, Politics	20% - 65% - 15%
Associate Professor Dr. Christina Ioannou	PhD in European Politics MA in European Politics and Policy BSc in Economics	European politics and studies, social policy, labour law	30%-40%-30%
Associate Professor Dr. Giorgos Kentas	PhD in Political Science MA in International Relations BA in Political Science	Politics, Public Administration	20%-60%-20%
Assistant Professor Dr. Constantinos Adamides	PhD in Political Science and International Studies MA in Diplomacy and International Relations MBA B.Sc. Finance and Political Science	International relations, security, diplomacy	30%-55%-15%
Assistant Professor Dr. Michalis Kontos	PhD in International Relations MA in International Relations and Strategic Studies Post-Graduate Diploma in European Studies (EU and Developing Countries) BA in Political Science and Public Administration	International relations, politics, european studies, international law	30%-40%-30%
Assistant Professor Dr. Giorgos Charalambous	PhD in Politics MSc in European Public Policy BA in Government and Economic Studies	Governance, Comparative politics European politics	30%-50%-20%
Dr. Yiannos Katsourides	Phd in Politics MBA	Politics	30%-65%-5%

	BSc in Public and Business Administration		
Name	Qualifications	Expertise	Distribtuion of Time Teaching/Research/A dministration (%)
Associate Professor Dr. Christos Papastylianos	PhD in Public Law LLM LLB	Public Law	25% - 45% - 30%
Assistant Professor Dr. Odysseas Christou	PhD in Government Bachelor of Arts in Government and Philosophy	International politics, international law, methodology, political philosophy, social policy	30% - 50% - 20%
Lecturer Dr. Giorgos Tsaousis	PhD in Public Law LLM LLB	Public law, public administration, personal data	40%-55%-5%

Attachment D

Provided separately

Attachment E

Provided separately

Attachment F

Provided separately