

Doc. 300.1.2

Higher Education Institution's Response

Date: 07.07.2025

- **Higher Education Institution:**
University of Nicosia Athens Branch

- **Town:** Athens

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

In Greek:

Νομική (4 Έτη, 240 ECTS, LLB)

In English:

Law (4 Years, 240 ECTS, LLB)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** Greek
- **Programme's status:** New



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 2019” [N. 136 (I)/2015 to N. 35(I)/2019].

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) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area, the HEI must respond on, without changing the format of the report:*
 - *the findings, strengths, areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the deficiencies noted under the quality indicators (criteria)*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The HEI's response must follow below the EEC's comments, which must be copied from the external evaluation report (Doc. 300.1.1).*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on a separate document.*

Introduction

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) for its professional and diligent approach in providing constructive feedback and recommendations aimed at further improving the operations of the LLB at the UNIC Athens branch.

We are extremely pleased to note that the EEC has wholeheartedly endorsed our work and has recommended the accreditation of the Department. We also note that every area, section, and subsection of the report has been rated by the EEC as Compliant. As the EEC noted: “the proposed LLB programme (Greek Law stream) at UNIC Athens is grounded in a coherent academic vision, and has a solid institutional framework and a strategic implementation plan that builds on the University of Nicosia’s established experience in legal education”.

In the remainder of this report, we provide, for each section:

1. A list of the strengths noted by the EEC.
2. A list of the EEC’s recommendations together with our responses.

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

The LLB has been considered to be fully compliant in all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has confirmed that the LLB meets the prescribed academic and institutional quality standards. It noted that the University of Nicosia operates a clearly defined policy for quality assurance which includes regular internal programme evaluations conducted by a dedicated Quality Assurance Office. This unit, together with programme coordinators and academic staff, oversees the evaluation of programme objectives, content, pedagogical methods, and learning outcomes. It further noted that the programme is subject to an established design and approval process, incorporating both initial internal validation and external accreditation procedures. Ongoing monitoring is performed through internal review mechanisms that involve structured feedback from both students and staff. The ECC reviewed the syllabus, which was found to align with internationally recognised academic standards for legal education at the undergraduate level. The EEC commended the University of Nicosia for a clearly articulated process of programme design, evaluation, and development, with evident institutional support and governance structures in place. It concluded that the programme demonstrates coherence and academic integrity, with well-defined learning outcomes, a balance of formative and summative assessments, and alignment with contemporary legal and societal developments. The use of student feedback mechanisms reflects a responsive and reflective approach to quality assurance and teaching enhancement. The expansion of the programme to Greece represents a socially meaningful and pedagogically sound initiative, improving access to legal education for Greek students, particularly those unable to relocate to Cyprus due to financial or personal obligations. The delivery of the programme in Greek ensures legal and jurisdictional relevance, while also supporting inclusivity for native speakers. The EEC also noted the proactive embedding of digital skills development, which is important for ensuring students's digital literacy and strengthening graduate employability.

The EEC has further made suggestions, noting that these (and subsequent recommendations) do not reflect deficiencies identified by the Committee. Rather, they are forward-looking suggestions intended to support the successful establishment, development, and long-term sustainability of the new Department. These recommendations aim to ensure that the strong foundations laid by the University of Nicosia are effectively translated into the Greek context and that the Department is well-positioned to meet both academic and professional expectations. These recommendations are discussed below:

Recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The Committee recommended ensuring that the full range of elective modules available to students in Cyprus in the Greek law stream is also accessible to students at the Athens campus. This will support curricular parity and equitable learning	We fully agree with the recommendation of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution. However, it is clear that this is an important recommendation,	Choose level of compliance:

opportunities across campuses.	with which we fully concur, and will take all necessary action in order to confirm that this is the case in practice.	
While the primary language of instruction is Greek, the Committee recommended further integration of international legal materials in English across the curriculum. This will not only enhance students' legal English proficiency and comparative legal understanding but also improve graduate employability in both national and transnational legal contexts. Moreover, it will facilitate academic mobility and participation in international exchange programmes such as Erasmus, which increasingly requires students to engage with English-language materials and instruction.	We fully agree with this recommendation of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution. However, it is clear that this is also an important recommendation, and that we will ensure that this is implemented in practice in the best possible way.	Choose level of compliance:
The schedule and availability of elective courses should be communicated clearly and well in advance, ideally prior to the start of the academic year, to allow students sufficient time for informed decision-making and academic planning.	We thank the EEC for their comment, with which we fully agree. This is what the University of Nicosia does in the schedule and availability of elective courses, and this is the intention also for the Branch. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution, but we will definitely ensure that this is implemented in practice.	Choose level of compliance:
It was noted that while the current quality assurance mechanisms are strong, it is	We fully agree and can confirm that the Branch will have equivalent quality	Choose level of compliance:

<p>advisable to establish a designated quality assurance liaison or sub-committee specific to the Athens campus. This will support responsiveness to site-specific operational or pedagogical issues and help maintain consistent implementation across campuses.</p>	<p>assurance mechanisms as the University currently has.</p>	
<p>The Committee encouraged continued investment in digital tools and student information systems to support seamless programme delivery and data collection across both locations, particularly in the context of course registration, assessment tracking, and student support services. The Committee further advised a regular review of publicly available programme information (e.g. website, prospectus, handbooks) to ensure it is consistent across campuses, up to date, and aligned with regulatory and accreditation requirements in both Cyprus and Greece</p>	<p>We thank the EEC for this comment. We fully agree and will ensure that there is continued investment in digital tools and student information systems, as well as regular review of publicly available programme information. Again, we note that as the EEC stated, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution, but we will definitely ensure that this is implemented in practice.</p>	

2. Teaching, learning and student assessment (ESG 1.3)

The LLB has been considered to be fully compliant in all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has confirmed that the teaching and learning processes at UNIC reflect best practices in student-centred higher education and are well positioned to be replicated effectively at the Athens campus. Small class sizes support active learning, individualised feedback, and a strong sense of academic community. The curriculum balances legal theory and practical skills development, supporting student readiness for legal practice in Greece. There is innovative use of digital tools and responsiveness to emerging educational technologies are embedded within the programme structure. The diverse academic and professional backgrounds of faculty enrich the learning environment and expose students to broader perspectives.

The EEC has also made suggestions. It was noted by the EEC that all recommendations do not reflect deficiencies identified by the Committee. Rather, they are forward-looking suggestions intended to support the successful establishment, development, and long-term sustainability of the new Department. These recommendations aim to ensure that the strong foundations laid by the University of Nicosia are effectively translated into the Greek context and that the Department is well-positioned to meet both academic and professional expectations. These recommendations are discussed below:

Recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
While the programme appropriately focuses on Greek law, the Committee encourages further integration of English legal terminology and comparative approaches throughout the curriculum. This would expose students to transnational legal frameworks, promote legal English proficiency, and enhance students' ability to pursue postgraduate study or practice in international contexts.	We fully agree with the recommendation of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution. However, it is clear that this is an important recommendation, with which we fully concur, and will take all necessary action in order to confirm that this is the case in practice.	Choose level of compliance:
In line with the above, the Committee recommends introducing or expanding elective courses that engage with comparative law. This will better prepare students for participation in mobility	We concur with this recommendation of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution.	Choose level of compliance:

programmes, such as Erasmus, and foster openness to diverse legal traditions and career paths. Involving visiting international scholars or practitioners would also support this aim.	However, we agree that this is also an important recommendation, and that we will ensure that this is implemented in practice in the best possible way.	
The absence of a final-year thesis or dissertation was noted. While writing and research skills are currently embedded within advanced modules, the Committee recommends exploring the possibility of offering an optional or mandatory extended legal research paper. This could serve as a culminating academic exercise and offer students the opportunity to consolidate research, analytical, and writing skills to a higher level.	We thank the EEC for their suggestion, which is noted with interest. Whereas, it is not typical in Greek legal education to offer an extended legal research paper as an option, we intend to discuss this internally and consider how this could be best incorporated in a forward-looking reconsideration of the existing requirements.	Choose level of compliance:
As with the Nicosia campus, it is recommended that elective offerings at UNIC Athens be clearly communicated to students well in advance. This includes providing guidance on how elective choices may relate to professional accreditation requirements (e.g. Bar exam eligibility) and longer-term career goals.	We fully agree and can confirm that the Branch will have equivalent mechanisms on this as the University currently has.	Choose level of compliance:

3. Teaching Staff (ESG 1.5)

The LLB has been considered to be fully compliant in all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has confirmed that the current staffing plan and academic framework provide a solid foundation for the delivery and development of the LLB (Greek Law) programme at UNIC Athens: The initial teaching team consists of staff with direct experience in delivering the Greek Law stream, ensuring continuity, subject-matter expertise, and familiarity with the curriculum. The relocation of existing staff demonstrates institutional commitment to the success of the programme and facilitates a smooth transition in academic delivery. The phased staffing plan is strategically aligned with the projected growth of the programme and student intake, ensuring that teaching capacity evolves appropriately over time. The Department benefits from established recruitment and development policies at the University of Nicosia, including research incentives, academic mentoring, and performance appraisal systems. Moreover, the dual expectation for staff to contribute to both teaching and research helps promote a balanced academic environment and supports long-term scholarly engagement.

The EEC has also made suggestions. It was noted by the EEC that all recommendations do not reflect deficiencies identified by the Committee. Rather, they are forward-looking suggestions intended to support the successful establishment, development, and long-term sustainability of the new Department. These recommendations aim to ensure that the strong foundations laid by the University of Nicosia are effectively translated into the Greek context and that the Department is well-positioned to meet both academic and professional expectations. These recommendations are discussed below:

Recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
While the staffing plan is broadly appropriate for the programme's initial phase, the following recommendations are proposed to support the long-term development and sustainability of the academic team at UNIC Athens. As the programme expands, the development of a comprehensive staff development strategy tailored to the UNIC Athens context will be essential, including training in pedagogical methods, student engagement, and research integration. The Committee encourages the early implementation of structured induction processes for new	We fully agree with the recommendations of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this are forward-looking recommendations that do not necessitate any immediate action on behalf of the Institution. However, it is clear that this are all important recommendation, with which we fully concur, and will take all necessary action in order to implement them when the time comes as part of the ongoing implementation of our strategy for the Branch.	Choose level of compliance:

<p>hires, particularly those joining from outside the University, to support institutional cohesion and academic consistency. Ongoing monitoring of staff workloads and the staff–student ratio will be important to maintain high-quality teaching and research outputs as enrolment increases.</p>		
--	--	--

4. Students

(ESG 1.4, 1.6, 1.7)

The LLB has been considered to be fully compliant in all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has confirmed that the programme's admission and progression criteria are clearly aligned with the Greek national legal education framework, ensuring consistency and fairness for prospective students, the credit transfer process is clearly regulated and offers opportunities for students to continue or resume their legal education based on recognised prior learning, the procedures for progression and certification are well-established and reflect the parent institution's quality assurance mechanisms, and the recognition of credits and qualifications through DOATAP/NARIC ensures legal and academic compatibility with the Greek system.

The LLB has been considered to be fully compliant in all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has confirmed that the current staffing plan and academic framework provide a solid foundation for the delivery and development of the LLB (Greek Law) programme at UNIC Athens: The initial teaching team consists of staff with direct experience in delivering the Greek Law stream, ensuring continuity, subject-matter expertise, and familiarity with the curriculum. The relocation of existing staff demonstrates institutional commitment to the success of the programme and facilitates a smooth transition in academic delivery. The phased staffing plan is strategically aligned with the projected growth of the programme and student intake, ensuring that teaching capacity evolves appropriately over time. The Department benefits from established recruitment and development policies at the University of Nicosia, including research incentives, academic mentoring, and performance appraisal systems. Moreover, the dual expectation for staff to contribute to both teaching and research helps promote a balanced academic environment and supports long-term scholarly engagement.

The EEC has also made suggestions. It was noted by the EEC that all recommendations do not reflect deficiencies identified by the Committee. Rather, they are forward-looking suggestions intended to support the successful establishment, development, and long-term sustainability of the new Department. These recommendations aim to ensure that the strong foundations laid by the University of Nicosia are effectively translated into the Greek context and that the Department is well-positioned to meet both academic and professional expectations. These recommendations are discussed below:

Recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
While the programme is delivered in Greek, the Committee recommends introducing a minimum requirement for English language proficiency. This would better prepare students for modules involving EU law, private international law, and comparative legal studies,	We fully agree with the recommendation of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution. However, it is clear that this is an important recommendation, with which we fully concur,	Choose level of compliance:

which often require engagement with English-language materials. Furthermore, English proficiency enhances employability and postgraduate opportunities, both domestically and internationally.	and will take all necessary action in order to confirm that this is the case in practice.	
The current admission framework, due to its reliance on Greek-specific recognition criteria, significantly limits the potential for international student participation. Given the shared roots of Greek law with other continental legal systems (e.g. German, Austrian), the programme could be attractive to non-Greek students. The Committee recommends exploring mechanisms to allow broader recognition of international qualifications, possibly in partnership with DOATAP, or by developing a structured preparatory or bridging programme.	We thank the EEC for their comment, which we take seriously into account. We note that the existing legal framework introduced by the Greek Government offers the possibility for recognition of international qualifications, and we will definitely fully use this mechanism of allowing recognition of international qualifications as also suggested by the EEC.	
The Committee encourages the programme to continue enhancing transparency around academic advising and student progression pathways, including clear communication of policies related to academic performance or academic integrity (including in relation to plagiarism and ethical use of generative AI).	We fully agree and can confirm that the Branch will have equivalent mechanisms on this as the University currently has, and will continue to enhance transparency on these issues.	

5. Resources

(ESG 1.6)

The LLB has been considered to be fully compliant in all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has confirmed that the teaching and learning resources are of a high standard, with appropriate use of academic and technological tools. The student advising and support system is well developed and offers a range of academic, personal, and psychological services. The provision of free counselling and support services for psychological well-being and learning challenges is particularly commendable. The University demonstrates a forward-looking approach in equipping the Athens campus with facilities that reflect inclusivity and accessibility.

The EEC has also made suggestions. It was noted by the EEC that all recommendations do not reflect deficiencies identified by the Committee. Rather, they are forward-looking suggestions intended to support the successful establishment, development, and long-term sustainability of the new Department. These recommendations aim to ensure that the strong foundations laid by the University of Nicosia are effectively translated into the Greek context and that the Department is well-positioned to meet both academic and professional expectations. These recommendations are discussed below:

Recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The Committee notes that the number of teaching and administrative staff may initially be limited during the transition period of the programme's expansion to Athens. It recommends that the University ensure adequate staffing levels (both academic and administrative) are in place from the outset to support teaching quality and student experience.	We fully agree with the recommendation of the EEC. As the EEC noted, this is a forward-looking recommendation that does not necessitate any action today on behalf of the Institution. However, it is clear that this is an important recommendation, with which we fully concur, and will take all necessary action in order to confirm that this is implemented in practice.	Choose level of compliance:
To further enhance students' access to learning resources, the Committee recommends that training sessions on the use of digital libraries and legal databases be routinely offered, particularly for first-year students or those less familiar with academic research tools.	We thank the EEC for their comment, with which we fully concur. We shall ensure that the Branch offers training sessions similarly as the University currently does.	



6. Additional for distance learning programmes (ALL ESG)

Click or tap here to enter text.



7. Additional for doctoral programmes (ALL ESG)

Click or tap here to enter text.



8. Additional for joint programmes (ALL ESG)

Click or tap here to enter text.

B. Conclusions and final remarks

We wish to thank the EEC for the professionalism they showed during the execution of their duties. The detailed discussion of all issues pertinent to the degree under evaluation, led to a fruitful discussion between the members of the EEC and the official representatives of the University and faculty members of the programme. The discussion proved to be extremely helpful due to the expertise of the members of the EEC and their willingness to share their suggestions and recommendations for further improving the programme. The demanding set of questions allowed us to elaborate on the pedagogical foundations of the programme and expand upon the content of the application form.

We have assessed and reviewed carefully the EEC report. We are pleased to note that the report is extremely positive, and we thank the EEC for their positive and indeed very generous comments. Coming from distinguished colleagues from other Universities, this extremely positive evaluation gives us increased focus and energy. We thank the external committee for concluding that 'that the proposed LLB programme (Greek Law stream) at UNIC Athens is grounded in a coherent academic vision, and has a solid institutional framework and a strategic implementation plan that builds on the University of Nicosia's established experience in legal education. The initiative to expand the Greek Law stream into Greece reflects an understanding of regional demand and demonstrates potential to contribute meaningfully to legal education and professional development in the Greek context. The programme benefits from a phased staffing plan, an already accredited and well-functioning curriculum, and a commitment to quality assurance processes. The relocation of experienced academic staff from Cyprus provides an immediate level of pedagogical and subject-matter continuity, while future local recruitment will support contextual relevance and long-term sustainability'.

We further thank the EEC for noting that with careful execution, continued institutional support, and responsiveness to the Greek higher education environment, the UNIC Athens LLB programme is well-positioned to develop into a reputable and impactful academic offering. We fully acknowledge that all programmes are always amenable to further improvement, and indeed we have been constantly working towards further improving our programmes since they were initially accredited. Accordingly, all suggestions for further improvement offered by the EEC are taken very seriously into account. We consider the suggestions of the EEC as very helpful and we will try to incorporate them to the widest extent possible. Having said that, we acknowledge that, as the EEC has noted, the recommendations aim to the further improvement of an already fully compliant Department and are forward looking rather than requiring any immediate attention. We would like to thank the EEC once more, both for the positive and fair evaluation, as well as the constructive comments and suggestions and the fruitful discussion that we had with its members during the lengthy virtual visit. We also thank the committee for the time and thoroughness it dedicated to the evaluation of the LLB and for helping us improve the LLB through the suggestions made. We consider this endorsement under the conditions of external peer review as a resounding vote of confidence in the LLB and its potential for academic success. We finally acknowledge the clear positive evaluation and recommendation for accreditation of the LLB.

C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Achilles C. Emilianides	Professor, Dean/ General Co-ordinator	
Christina Ioannou	Associate Professor, Associate Dean	
Irini Stamatoudi	Professor, HoD	
Vagia Polyzoidou	Associate Professor, Associate HoD	

Date: 07.07.2025

