

## European University Cyprus – Frankfurt Branch

### Department of Life and Health Sciences

#### Nutrition & Dietetics (4 Academic Years, 240 ECTS, B.Sc.)

##### Formal Institutional Response to the Regulated Professions Representative Comments

The University highly appreciates the observations of the Cyprus Council for the Registration of Food Scientists/Technologists and Dietitians (CyRBFSTD) and warmly welcomes the opportunity to clarify the regulatory and professional context regarding faculty eligibility and registration.

Please find the institutional response to the comments, below:

#### Section 2: Legislation

Please provide specific observations related to the legislation governing this profession:

The Nutrition and Dietetics profession in Cyprus is governed by national legislation, including:

- Law 31(I)/96 and its amendments for the Registration of Food Scientists/Technologists and Dietitians.
- Alignment with the European Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC.

The programme under review should ensure:

- Graduates meet national registration requirements.
- The curriculum includes practical and clinical dietetics placements as required by law.
- Teaching staff are professionally qualified in accordance with the legislation.

#### Institutional Response

##### Response 1 & 2:

The Nutrition and Dietetics B.Sc. at European University Cyprus – Frankfurt Branch has been designed in full alignment with both Cyprus national legislation (Law 31(I)/96 and its amendments) governing the Registration of Food Scientists/Technologists and Dietitians and the European Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC.

##### Response 3:

Graduates of the programme will meet the national and EU-level professional registration requirements through a curriculum that integrates:

- Clinical, community, and food-service practicum components ( $\geq 258$  hours B.Sc. + 1,000–1,400 hours M.Sc.) ensuring compliance with CyRBFSTD and Verband der Diätassistenten (VDD) (Germany) supervised-practice standards.
- Competency-based learning outcomes explicitly mapped to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF Level 6) and EFAD competency domains (A–E) (Appendix II in EEC Response)
- Interprofessional Education (IPE) embedded across courses (NUT300, NUT330, NUT400, NUT405, NUT460 etc.), ensuring readiness for regulated professional practice in multidisciplinary healthcare environments (Appendix VI in EEC Response)
- Stakeholder collaboration, including formal engagement with the CyRBFSTD and the VDD in Germany, guaranteeing continued alignment with evolving professional legislation and standards.

Faculty qualification requirements, stipulating that teaching in nutrition and dietetics modules as well as practical training modules, be delivered by registered dietitians and nutritionists recognised by CyRBFSTD and/or equivalent EU authorities.

Accordingly, the programme demonstrates full legislative and professional compliance, preparing graduates for registration as dietitians in Cyprus, Germany (Diätassistent equivalence via the integrated M.Sc.), and other EU jurisdictions under Directive 2005/36/EC.

### Section 3: Additional Comments

Any further comments:

The programme reflects a strong alignment with European standards and provides a solid academic and practical foundation for future registered dietitians. However, it was observed that:

- The faculty member (coordinator) is not registered with the Cyprus Council for the Registration of Food Scientists/Technologists and Dietitians (CyRBFSTD), which is a legal requirement under Cyprus law.
- This non-compliance must be addressed urgently to ensure legal validity and professional credibility of the programme. How come and only one faculty member is for the dietetic/ nutrition profession?
- It is recommended that all teaching faculty be registered with the CyRBFSTD.
- Additionally, the programme should implement a formal tracking system to ensure ongoing compliance with national professional registration requirements.
- Further collaboration with the CyRBFSTD is encouraged to align teaching practices with evolving professional standards.

## Institutional Response

**Response 1:** The faculty member (Programme Coordinator) is devoted to academic teaching and research, rather than the professional practice of dietetics. Accordingly, the role sits within the University's academic/research remit and does not require Cyprus registration or a practising licence, so long as no patient care, clinical services, or public-facing dietetic work is undertaken.

For completeness—and with thanks for your careful review:

- The Coordinator holds a valid licence to practise as a dietitian in Greece (Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, Decision No. 899/13-12-2005) (Annex A here).
- The Coordinator completed Nutrition & Dietetics studies in the UK and is Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered, with licence renewal in progress (Annex B here).
- The documents in Annex A (Official Decision of the Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, Decision No. 899/13-12-2005 – Recognition of Professional Rights as Dietitian-Nutritionist) and Annex B (Previous HCPC Registration Documentation (Certified Copies). The documents in the Annexes substantiate the Coordinator's professional standing and the ongoing HCPC licence renewal process. We trust this documentation is helpful.

Directive 2005/36/EC supports recognition of the Coordinator's professional qualifications for practising the regulated profession across the EU. Academic appointments, of course, remain at the University's discretion (teaching and research criteria), and we trust this clarification is helpful.

**Response 2:** The coordinator will apply to the CyRBFSTD, as a holder of a bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition & Dietetics.

- With appreciation for the observation regarding the Regulated Professions Representative comment: "*How come and only one faculty member is for the dietetic/ nutrition profession?*" We fully acknowledge the Committee's emphasis on the importance of qualified dietitians being actively involved in the teaching of the program, as we agree that training future dietitians must be led by professionals with clinical and academic expertise to ensure alignment with best practices, workplace expectations, and the highest standards of healthcare professionalism.
- At present, the program is strongly supported by the School of Medicine, where faculty covering core biomedical sciences—such as physiology, biochemistry, anatomy, and microbiology—are already in post. These educators provide a solid scientific foundation for the Dietetics curriculum, bring extensive experience teaching health science students, and cover the

teaching needs for the first three semesters, with the exception of one course.

- In parallel, we are addressing the need for specialised instruction in nutrition and dietetics through a structured recruitment plan based on the curriculum (Appendix I in EEC Response) for the program commencing in the Fall 2026. This plan aligns academic appointments with the curriculum map, student numbers, and accreditation requirements. As outlined, teaching needs for the first three semesters are covered, with the exception of one position of a Nutritionist and/or Food Scientist and one Registered Dietitian, currently under review following an open call that closed on 5 September 2025. Faculty selection committees were ratified on 18 September 2025, with shortlisting and interviews scheduled from November 2025 to February 2026. Future recruitment calls will be discipline-specific, ensuring coverage of all program needs as the program expands.

As specified in the ongoing targeted recruitment plan, the program will appoint one Nutritionist and/or Food Scientist and one Registered Dietitian with proven clinical experience and recognised teaching credentials to deliver the eight nutrition-related courses:

- NUT100 Introduction to Nutrition
- NUT105 Food Chemistry
- NUT200 Nutrition, Culture and Environment
- NUT205 Nutrition and Metabolism
- NUT210 Nutrition and Metabolism – Lab
- NUT215 Nutritional Assessments
- NUT220 Nutritional Assessments – Lab
- NUT225 Food Science and Technology.

In a staged manner, additional full-time faculty members will be appointed in clinical dietetics, community nutrition, and foodservice systems management. Ultimately, the planned appointments ensure dietetic leadership across core modules and clinical training. Recruitment will prioritise candidates with interprofessional education (IPE) experience and AdvanceHE Fellowship (or equivalent).

The inclusion of registered dietitians within the academic team will enhance discipline-specific expertise, strengthen professional identity, and ensure students are taught by country-relevant registered practitioners (e.g., Germany, Cyprus as per location of program), who will model the values and competencies expected in modern dietetic practice. The School remains fully committed to maintaining the

highest academic and professional standards in line with the Committee's recommendations.

**Response 3:**

The University respectfully notes that Nutrition and Dietetics is an interdisciplinary field, drawing on expertise from Medicine, Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, and related Life and Health Sciences. Consequently, academic staff include professionals from these diverse disciplines whose teaching and research contributions do not fall within the regulated scope of professional dietetic practice. Requiring professional registration for all such faculty members would not be feasible nor aligned with the interdisciplinary nature of higher education in the life and health sciences.

The University nonetheless wishes to reassure that:

- All teaching faculty hold the appropriate academic qualifications and research credentials in the subjects they teach.
- All appointments are subject to formal review and approval by the University's internal academic and administrative authorities, in line with EUC's quality assurance procedures.
- Nevertheless, all teaching faculty teaching Nutrition and Dietetics courses as well as, faculty and clinical mentors teaching practical training courses will be registered with CyRBFSTD.

**Response 4:**

The University agrees with the recommendation and confirms that a formal Professional Registration Compliance Tracking System (PRCTS) will be implemented to ensure continuous adherence to national and EU professional registration standards.

This system will be administered jointly by the Department of Life and Health Sciences and the Office of Academic Quality Assurance, and will include:

- Annual verification of CyRBFSTD status for all faculty teaching Nutrition & Dietetics courses and practical training courses, within the Nutrition and Dietetics programme.
- Maintenance of a secure digital registry within the University's HR platform recording each faculty member's registration number, renewal date, and licensing authority.
- Automatic reminders and review cycles every 12 months to ensure timely renewal and documentation of professional licences.

- Cross-verification procedures before teaching assignments and clinical placements are approved, ensuring only registered professionals supervise regulated-practice components.
- Reporting mechanisms to the School Dean and Institutional Quality Assurance Committee, documenting compliance with national and EU legislation.
- Annual audit alignment with the Cyprus Council for the Registration of Food Scientists/Technologists and Dietitians (CyRBFSTD) and, where applicable, other competent bodies such as the VDD (Germany) or HCPC (UK).

This system will guarantee that all current and future teaching and clinical staff remain in full compliance with Law 31(I)/96, its amendments, and Directive 2005/36/EC, ensuring the programme's ongoing professional credibility and legal conformity.

#### **Response 5:**

The University fully agrees with this recommendation and highly values the collaborative relationship with the Cyprus Council for the Registration of Food Scientists/Technologists and Dietitians (CyRBFSTD).

To strengthen and formalize this cooperation, the University will implement the following measures:

- Establish a formal liaison mechanism between the Department of Life and Health Sciences and CyRBFSTD, including an appointed contact person responsible for communication and updates regarding professional and legislative developments.
- Invite CyRBFSTD representatives to participate as external stakeholders in the Nutrition and Dietetics Stakeholder Advisory Panel, providing input on curriculum revisions, placement quality, and professional competency expectations.
- Organize annual joint workshops or consultations with CyRBFSTD to ensure the continuous alignment of teaching, clinical training, and assessment practices with evolving professional and legal standards.
- Ensure timely incorporation of any updates to professional competencies, ethical codes, or national legislation into relevant syllabi and learning outcomes, maintaining alignment with Law 31(I)/96 and EU Directive 2005/36/EC.

Through these measures, the University ensures that the Nutrition and Dietetics programme remains fully synchronized with national and European professional frameworks, promoting best practice, regulatory compliance, and continuous quality enhancement.

## Annex A



## Annex B



