

Doc. 300.1.3

Date: *Date*

Feedback Report from EEC Experts

- **Higher Education Institution:**
Philips College
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **School/Faculty:** School/Faculty
- **Department:** Department/Sector
- **Programme of study under evaluation
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)**

In Greek:

Programme Name

In English:

Accounting and Finance (4 years, 240 ECTS, Bachelor of Arts)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** English
- **Programme's status:** New
- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English: Concentrations



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 2021 [L.136(I)/2015 – L.132(I)/2021].

A. External Evaluation Committee (EEC)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>University</i>
Georgios Panos	Professor and Chair	University of Glasgow
Hans van der Heijden	Professor	University of Sussex
Dionisis Philippas	Professor	ESSCA School of Management
George Aristotelous	Student representative	Technological University of Cyprus



B. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

The EEC based on the external evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4) and the Higher Education Institution's response (Doc.300.1.2), must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area.

1. Study programme and study programme's design and development (ESG 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

Following (i) the invitation by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA), (ii) the evaluation of the proposed BA in Accounting and Finance of the Philips College (hereafter PC) on 21st July 2022, (iii) the submission of the external evaluation report on 22nd July 2022, and (iv) the response by the Philips College of 29th August, received on 14th October 2022, the External Evaluation Committee (hereafter EEC) has reviewed the detailed responses by the higher education institution. The EEC comprises of four academics: Professor and Chair Georgios Panos (University of Glasgow, UK), the members Professor Hans van der Heijden (University of Sussex Business School, UK), Professor Dionisis Philippos (ESSCA School of Management, France), and the student member Mr. George Aristotelous (Technological University of Cyprus, Cyprus). All members of the EEC find that the response document provided by the Philips College (hereafter PC) has catered to all provided comments in an efficient and effective way. The PC provided clarifications, modifications, new branding elements, and targets that are in line with their strategic vision for the programme, in a way that incorporates the recommendations and suggestions by the EEC. One of these recommendations was to give the programme a more specialist orientation, so that it would be distinctive from the more generalist orientation of the existing programme of the Philips University. It is worth clarifying that generating a specialist programme is a dynamic process that receives continuous feedback from the cohorts of graduates, the knowledge transfer partnerships of the PC, and its continuous interactions with the accountancy and finance professions. Moreover, the process develops alongside new staff recruitment in the first years of operation of the programme. Hence, it is not an objective that can be reached in the short term. Noting this, the strategic vision of PC entails the above elements, and the changes proposed satisfy the EEC's expectations on the more specialist orientation of the programme. Specifically: (a) The PC has proposed a new brand name for the programme, as BAcc in Accountancy. (b) It has introduced 2 pathways, namely the accountancy profession, and finance, respectively. Both aim at the higher education of more specialist graduates that will cater to the technical and professional needs of the sectors of accountancy, and financial services/financial intermediation. (c) The PC has introduced new courses, which are more specialist in their titles, aims, and objectives, in accordance with the recommendations by the EEC. Hence, all actions and responses by the PC have promptly taken on board the recommendations by the EEC and incorporated them in the programme design. This is an optimal response, which sets in motion the dynamic process of the generation of a high-quality specialist programme that adheres to the reputation of the PC.

2. Student - centred learning, teaching and assessment (ESG 1.3)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

The EEC had previously evaluated the proposal of the new programme as fully compliant in terms of student assessment and the process of teaching and learning and student-centred teaching methodology. The EEC has recommended that actions be taken to increase - where possible - the amount of practical training in collaboration with the business/industry or professional sector, small companies or relevant stakeholders in Cyprus. The responses and related actions taken by the EEC have made its new programme proposal fully compliant with respect to the element of practical training. All new branding, new courses, new pathways, along with the restructuring of the PC's careers office were prompt and optimal responses to the EEC's recommendation.

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

The EEC had previously evaluated the proposal of the new programme as fully compliant in terms of teaching staff recruitment and development, as well as teaching staff number and status. The EEC has recommended that actions be taken to increase the synergies of teaching and research in a manner that encourages research-led and professional specialist teaching, in the fields of expertise of its members. The responses and related actions taken by the EEC have made its new programme proposal fully compliant with respect to the element of synergies between teaching and research. The comprehensive faculty training programme proposed, and the new policy and process handbook were prompt and optimal responses to the EEC's recommendation. Of course, the generation of a research-led and specialist curriculum of excellence is a dynamic process that benefits from the planned and targeted faculty hiring strategy by the PC in the first years of operation of the programme.

4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification (ESG 1.4)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

The previous evaluation report by the EEC has marked the proposal by the PC as fully compliant in the areas of student admission, processes and criteria; student progression; student recognition, and student certification. Hence, there were no revisions expected for these areas.



5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

The previous evaluation report by the EEC has marked the proposal by the PC as fully compliant in the areas of teaching and Learning resources, physical resources, human support resources, and student support. Hence, there were no revisions expected for these areas.



6. Additional for doctoral programmes
(ALL ESG)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

N/A



7. Eligibility (Joint programmes)
(ALL ESG)

EEC's final recommendations and comments on the HEI's response

N/A

C. Conclusions and final remarks

The EEC must provide final conclusions and remarks, with emphasis on the correspondence with the EQF.

EEC's final conclusions and remarks

All actions and responses by the PC have promptly taken on board the recommendations by the EEC and incorporated them in the programme design. This is an optimal response, which sets in motion the dynamic process of the generation of a high-quality specialist programme that adheres to the reputation of the PC.



D. Signatures of the EEC

<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Georgios Panos	
Hans van der Heijden	
Dionisis Philippas	
George Aristotelous	

Date: 21/10/2022

