



Ref. Number: 07.14.290.133

**FINAL REPORT OF THE CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND
ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**EVALUATION - ACCREDITATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

IN GREEK: Ψηφιακή Πολιτιστική Κληρονομιά και Αρχαιολογία Τοπίου (3-8 ακαδημαϊκά έτη/ 240 ECTS, Διδακτορικό (PhD))

IN ENGLISH: Digital Heritage and Landscape Archaeology (3-8 academic years/ 240 ECTS, Doctorate (PhD))

**OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION
University of Cyprus**

This Final Report was prepared on the basis of Article (20)(2)(f)(i) of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation in 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].

THE PROCEDURE:

On September 6th 2022, the legal representative of the Higher Education Institution University of Cyprus, submitted an application (Doc. 200.1), based on Article (17) of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws” of 2015 to 2021, for the evaluation-accreditation of the programme of study:

IN GREEK: Ψηφιακή Πολιτιστική Κληρονομιά και Αρχαιολογία Τοπίου (3-8 ακαδημαϊκά έτη/ 240 ECTS, Διδακτορικό (PhD))

IN ENGLISH: Digital Heritage and Landscape Archaeology (3-8 academic years/ 240 ECTS, Doctorate (PhD))

This application is registered with the reference number: 07.14.290.133

In the framework of competences conferred on it by the relevant legislation, the Council of the Agency has constituted an External Evaluation Committee (EEC), which after initially examining the institution's application for programme evaluation and accreditation, performed an on –site meeting at the institution on January 10th, 2023.

The EEC met with the head of the institution, the head of the relevant department, the programme’s coordinator, members of the academic staff, members of the administrative staff, students and/or their representatives and the Internal Quality Assurance Committee.

Additionally, the EEC examined the institution's facilities (library, computer labs, labs, teaching classes, research infrastructures, etc.), various documents presented and/or requested by the EEC, the School's/Faculty's structure and the programme's position in it, the CVs of the teaching staff and their relationship to the institution as teachers in regard to any other duties and teaching.

The EEC has documented its findings and recommendations and drew up the External Evaluation Report in the Doc. 300.1.1.

CYQAA Council's Decision

The Council of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education, during its 90th Summit on February 20th 2023, according to the Article (20)(2)(f)(i) of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation in 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], and on the basis of the suggestions of the External Evaluation Committee, and the comments of the institution on the External Evaluation Committee report and the feedback report from the External Evaluation Committee, **decided that the programme is accredited to be delivered in English. It is noted with emphasis that accreditation is given under the following conditions that the institution is obliged to carry out within the period of five years and in any case before the next evaluation:**

- I. **There should be complementariness among several faculty members in order to maintain a fair workload. A strong recommendation is that the next hire for the department should be an individual with overlapping competencies to Prof. Sarris, which will be necessary to provide some element of resilience within the programme staff**
- II. **On behalf of the EEC there are concerns about the long-term provision of digital data for which there are services provided by the university, however a permanent solution in the form of two servers with timed backups is seen as necessary**
- III. **Students are expected to enter the programme with high technical competence and field experience, therefore there is not a high emphasis on training, per se, within the PhD process.**
- IV. **The available research equipment / software may not fully cover the resource needs for the proposed programme in Digital Heritage and Landscape Archaeology. Currently, the lack of student bench fees and/or clear commitment of equipment designed for digital heritage management beyond geophysical prospection will serve as a limiting factor to the development of the programme. It would be valuable to consider an equipment and software pipeline to ensure that high caliber students are not persuaded to apply to another university with more up to date instrumentation.**
- V. **The Committee is uncertain about the provision of plagiarism checking in the programme. The recommendation is the PhD candidates are required to attend**

courses in plagiarism avoidance. Furthermore, they should be required to scan their theses using plagiarism-detection software such as Turnitin prior to submission of the thesis to the doctoral examination committee.

- VI. On a university-wide and/or Cypriot legal level, there needs to be a higher focus on matriculation of PhD students within a 3-4 year timeframe as opposed to a 7-8 year timeframe.**

The current accreditation begins in the Fall semester of the academic year 2023 - 2024 and ceases to be in effect at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year 2027 – 2028.

On the basis of (4)(c) of the relevant Law, it is noted that “the above accreditation is valid for the period provided by the provisions of the Law and is repeated every five (5) years and that the procedure starts at the request of the institution, which must, and shall be submitted at least sixteen (16) months before the expiry of the previous accreditation”.

Additionally, on the basis of Article (17) (3)(g) during the period of validity of the Accreditation, the Agency acting of its own motion, may examine whether the criteria continue to be met and if they are not met, then the Agency shall revoke the Accreditation, and immediately inform the institution concerned.

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

Date: February 28th, 2023