

Ref. number: 07.14.327.035

(Doc. 400.2.1)

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

**EVALUATION - ACCREDITATION
OF THE PROGRAM OF STUDY**

IN GREEK: Πτυχίο Ιατρικής (6 έτη, 360 ECTS, Πτυχίο)

IN ENGLISH: Doctor of Medicine (MD) (6 years, 360 ECTS, Bachelor)

**OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION
European University 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 2019 [N. 136 (I) / 2015 to N.35 (I) / 2019].

THE PROCEDURE:

On 10 April 2019, the legal representative of the Higher Education Institution **European University 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 2019, for the evaluation-accreditation of the program of study:

IN GREEK: Πτυχίο Ιατρικής (6 έτη, 360 ECTS, Πτυχίο)

IN ENGLISH: Doctor of Medicine (MD) (6 years, 360 ECTS, Bachelor)

This application is registered in the file with the reference number: **07.14.327.035**

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 program evaluation and accreditation, performed an on-site visit at the institution on **17 and 18 December 2019**.

The EEC met with the Vice-Head of the institution, the Dean of the Medical School, the program's coordinator, members of the academic staff and members of the administrative staff, students and/ or their representatives and the Internal Quality Assurance Committee.

Additionally, the EEC examined the institution's facilities and the Medical School's premises (library, computer labs, research infrastructures, etc.), various documents presented and/or requested by the EEC, the School's structure, the curriculum, methodology and equipment used in teaching and learning, the CVs of the teaching staff and their relationship to the institution as teachers in regard to any other duties and teaching in other programs of study.

The EEC also examined clinical core clerkship rotation sites affiliated with the Medical School.

The EEC has documented its findings and recommendations and drew up the External Evaluation Report for Basic Medical Education in the Doc. 300.1.1/1.

CYQAA Council's Decision

The Council of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education, during its **50th Summit on 17 and 18 February 2020**, 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 2019 [N. 136 (I) / 2015 to N.35 (I) / 2019], and on the basis of the External Evaluation Committee's report, the reply of the institution on the report and the final feedback report from the External Evaluation Committee, where the EEC approved the Medical School's new policy which will be applied from the academic year 2020 – 2021 **decided that the program is accredited to be delivered in English.**

Based on the article 16 (2) (f) which provides that:

'if there are recommendations for action or the subsequent preparation of an action plan is required, the relevant procedure for the monitoring and re-evaluation of the institution shall be stated in the text of the External Evaluation Report and shall be consistently applied by the Agency and the institution under evaluation'

The Agency requires the Medical School to report on the implementation of the developed and approved policies, identified in the following assessment areas 2,3 and 6, and also in the sub-areas 1.4, 5.2, 7.3 and 8.1.

Given that the Medical School has provided a SMART Strategic Development Plan, the reports will be submitted to the CYQAA in one year, that is at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year 2020-2021.

Assessment area 2: Educational programme

The School has developed a strategy to enhance its research expertise amongst staff; this seems very appropriate and will certainly support students' skill development if staff and students have opportunities to work on research projects together. However, the strategy through staff appointments and training may take some time to come to fruition and the EEC recommends that the School continues to develop its students' research skills at the same with a view to improving the quality of the theses year on year, at the same time. If external examiners were appointed they could support the School's development in this (and other areas) by bringing external critique to the standard of the theses.

Assessment area 3: Assessment of Students

The EEC encourages the School to continue to develop its use of formative workplace based assessment and summative OSCEs to test application of knowledge. The EEC recommends that External Examiners are appointed across all years of the programme to support the School's ongoing review of assessment methods and its development of valid assessment.

The School has addressed the recommendations and areas for improvement described within the EEC Report and has provided evidence of how these developments will be taken forward, and a timeline. It is understandable that some outcomes of the Strategic Development Plan will not be achieved for 3-5 years. However, the EEC advises that given the importance of reaching valid assessment decisions, the School should embark on developing a Quality Assurance system for its assessment as soon as possible. This should include use of External Examiners.

Assessment area 6: Educational resources

The Medical School has explored in some depth the steps required to develop its medical research and scholarship and enhance its educational expertise. [...] Further comments from the EEC under Section 2 are also relevant here with respect to developing research and scholarship.

The current accreditation begins in the Winter semester of the academic year 2020 – 2021 and ceases to be in effect at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year 2024 – 2025.

On the basis of Article (4) of the relevant Legislation, 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".

On the basis of Article (17) (3) (f) 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.

Additionally, the Medical School should pay attention and improve all the assessment areas included in the final feedback report, based on the EEC's recommendations marked with 'should'.

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

Date: 25 February 2020