

Ref. Number: 07.14.336.042

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

**EVALUATION - ACCREDITATION
OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND PROGRAMME 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
University of Nicosia**

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 10 October 2019, the legal representative of the Higher Education Institution **University of Nicosia**, 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 medical School and programme 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 with the reference number: 07.14.336.042

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:(a) a remote visit at the institution on 21, 28 and 29 September 2020 and (b) a face-to-face visit on 4 and 5 October 2021.

The EEC met remotely with the head of the institution, the Dean of the Medical School, 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, during a face-to-face visit, 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 documented its findings and recommendations and drew up the External Evaluation Report for the Basic Medical Education on the Doc. 300.1.1/1. , based on both the remote visit and an additional report for the face-to-face visit for the clinical teaching and learning.

CYQAA Council's Decision

The Council of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education, during its 76th Summit on 29 November 2021, 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 reports, **decided that the Medical School and programme 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 3 – 7 (EEC report) and in the sub areas 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5 (EEC'S clinical report) and «Additional Areas for improvement and recommendations» stated in this report.

The reports will be submitted to the CYQAA in one year, that is at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year 2022-2023.

Assessment area 3: Assessment of Students – clinical learning

- All staff involved in WPBA must participate in mandatory training to give constructive feedback on performance and to maximise inter-rater reliability.
- The school should continue to develop their use of simulated patients (standardised patients) in formative and summative assessments.
- The School must reconsider its use of WPBA to develop and focus on constructive formative feedback and shift the emphasis in students' clinical learning to a more constructive and reflective approach using all components of the Portfolio

Assessment area 4: Students' admission

The School must review students' own progress and graduation data against the admission criteria to ensure the School is admitting students suitably qualified and prepared to complete the programme with the support provided, in a timely manner. The standard academic requirements for admission should be more demanding in the country

Assessment area 5: Academic Staff/Faculty

The medical school should increase its efforts to establish more combined teaching posts with the health care system. This is a strategy to increase the academic presence in the workplace-based learning settings

Assessment area 6: Educational resources:

- The School must ensure students have experience in role play with people as well as mannequins for clinical skills in the early years. Increasing the use of simulated (standardized) patients may provide this systematically.
- The School must consider how to scale up effective teaching and learning to bring efficiency for both students and staff and allow a healthy work-life balance for both.
- The School must provide training of faculty for interactive facilitation of large and small classes and for providing constructive feedback

Assessment area 7: Programme evaluation

The School must develop more formal Quality Assurance processes and reports instead of relying on committee minutes to capture the evaluation of courses. This will permit clearer transmission of ideas, problems and solutions within the University and across the University-Health Service interface

Additional Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- 1. Developments in the hospital must take account of the needs of clinical teaching. [Standards 6.1, 6.2 and 8.5]*
- 2. The Portfolio should be developed further, with more focus on constructive feedback and students' reflections; written feedback should be explicit. [Standard 2.8, 3.2, 5.2, 6.2, and 6.5]*
- 3. The School must continue to develop a systematic and longitudinal faculty development programme for both academic and clinical teachers that includes the following: patient-centred communication and clinical practice; clinical teaching that encourages student-patient interactivity, and moves away from a didactic approach; working with a translator in the consultation; feedback to learners using a modern framework; collaborative learning amongst students; student-teacher interactivity; and use of the 'flipped classroom', especially where the session with experts should focus on application of knowledge such as skills and communication sessions, revision quizzes and problem-solving workshops. [Standards 2.5, 2.8, 3.2, 5.2, 6.5 and 8.5]*
- 4. The School should consider embarking on interprofessional education in the clinical setting. [Standards 2.4, 2.5 and 2.8]*
- 5. The School should consider requiring students to be able to speak Greek to their patients, even if the teaching is in English/ or to apply effective alternatives that will be approved by the CYQAA. [Standards 2.4, 2.5 and 2.8]*

The current accreditation begins in the Fall semester of the academic year 2020-2021 and ceases to be in effect at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year 2025-2026.

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".

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.

Additionally, the Medical School should pay attention and improve all the assessment areas included in the EEC reports, based on the EEC's recommendations.



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

6 December 2021