



Ref. number: 07.14.345.008

Tel.: 22 504347

Fax: 22 504392

2 August 2017

URGENT

Director

Rector

University of Central Lancashire Cyprus

Subject: Second evaluation of the programme of study Master of Science in Forensic Psychology (1 year / 90 ECTS, Master's Degree) of the Higher Education Institution UCLan Cyprus

I have been instructed to refer to the above-mentioned subject and to inform you the following:

The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, during its 21st Summit on 24 and 25 July 2017, on the basis of Article 20 (2)(f)(ii) of the "Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws" of 2015 and 2016 [N. 136 (I) / 2015 and N.47 (I) / 2016], and on the basis of the suggestions of the External Evaluation Committee on the external evaluation report and the comments of the institution on the report, decided that a second evaluation is required before any final decision.

In particular, within three months from the date of this letter, you must submit to the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, a report, substantiating the changes with additional elements deemed necessary for the accreditation of the programme, and its proper functioning based on the quality assurance criteria that are posted on the Agency's website.

During the second evaluation, which will be carried out at no extra cost for the institution, it will be judged on the basis of the report you will submit, whether there is full compliance and implementation, and not merely a commitment of the following:

1. The teaching staff shall be enhanced with full-time, permanent faculty members with a proven research record and experience in Forensic Psychology, according to the EEC's comments on criterion 1.3.2.1.

"...no obvious strong specific forensic expertise within the programme team"
(EEC report, page 6)

"...newly appointed staff should have specific forensic expertise" (EEC report, page 6)

The institution is also expected to provide supporting documentation on criterion 1.3.11, regarding the findings of the EEC as far as the programme coordinator is concerned.

"...the EEC felt that although she has the necessary professional qualifications, forensic psychology does not appear to be her main specialism. As noted in the additional report, a co-director would be complimentary." (EEC report, page 21)

Regarding employment, the institution must send the offers of employment, as well as, the contracts of employment once the programme is operational. Moreover, the institution should send curriculum vitae with detailed publications and research work for each of the faculty members within the programme of study. If the programme is accredited, the institution must post on its website the staff that is involved in the programme of study, both permanent and part-time. For each faculty member, the institution shall post online their rank, duties and responsibilities including their employment status and CV.

2. The Council of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education understands the commitment that results from the cooperation with UCLan UK on offering double degrees. Consequently, however since compliance has already been made with the Cyprus framework as far as the 4 years bachelor degrees are concerned, then the same commitment can add elective courses on the master's programme following the recommendations of the EEC. Moreover, given that the programmes are evaluated and improved at a regular time, it is advisable that UCLan CY points out to UCLan UK, the recommendation proposed by the EEC.
3. According to the EEC's observations, changes should be made on the purpose and the learning outcomes of the programme of study.

"...the overall programme learning outcomes lacked depth and content in places and did not fully represent the learning outcomes from each of the individual modules." (EEC report, page 7)

"Include additional programme learning outcomes that reflect each area that is taught on individual modules." (EEC report, page 7)

4. According to the EEC's comments, the name of the course PS4806 should be changed. The answer already given by the institution on this point is not considered satisfactory.

"The title for PS4806 –'Violent and Sexual Offenders; Interventions' should be renamed 'Interventions with Offenders'." (EEC report, page 7)

5. According to the EEC's observations, written documentation on the structure and content of the curriculum of the programme should be made.

"It was not entirely clear why certain topics were included in certain modules. For example, experts witness testimony was included in PS4805 'Psychology, investigation and courtroom' but not PS4803 Professional practice: Forensic consultancy and supervision'." (EEC report pages 7-8)

6. The institution should provide written documentation regarding the EEC's comment on the reconsideration of the number of credits allocated to some courses. The answer already given by the institution is not considered satisfactory.

"There seems to be a disparity in credit weighting." (EEC report, page 8)

"Reconsider ECTS across some modules." (EEC report, page 29)

7. The institution should send a bibliographic list that has been replaced with the most recent books, relevant to the courses offered in the programme of study.
"References should be up-to-date and relevant" (EEC report, page 8)

8. The institution should provide written documentation regarding the observation of the EEC in respect of attendance of people without a degree in "Psychology". The answer already given by the institution is not considered satisfactory.

"Clarify a pathway of entrance to the course for individuals who do not have a first degree in psychology" (EEC report, page 14)

9. The programme that already corresponds to 90 ECTS, should be extended to 13 months duration, in order to respond to the workload and the expected learning outcomes.

10. As far as the admission criteria for the programme are concerned, you are expected to send us the relevant posted link on at the programme's website, in order to ensure transparency and provide all the necessary information to the prospective students before joining the programme.

It is recalled that in view of the existing Legislative Framework for the Quality Assurance of Higher Education in the Republic, Higher Education Institutions cannot operate nor advertise new programmes of study that have not been evaluated-accredited by the Agency.

We are at your disposal for any additional information and / or clarifications.

(Dr. Eleni Deliyianni)

On behalf of the President of the Council of the
Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation
in Higher Education

Date: 2/8/17