

Ref. Number: 07.14.455.026

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

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

IN GREEK:

Μεταπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα Σπουδών Δικαίου Ευρωπαϊκών Και Διεθνών Επιχειρήσεων Ή
Δικαίου Ευρωπαϊκών Και Ναυτιλιακών Επιχειρήσεων (1,5 Έτος , 90 ECTS, Μεταπτυχιακό, εξ
αποστάσεως)

IN ENGLISH:

Master's Degree In Law (Llm) In European And International Law Or European And Shipping
Law (1,5 90 ECTS, Master, Learning)

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

This Final Report was prepared based on 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 19 April 2025, the legal representative of the Higher Education Institution American University of Cyprus, applied (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:

Μεταπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα Σπουδών Δικαίου Ευρωπαϊκών Και Διεθνών Επιχειρήσεων Ή
Δικαίου Ευρωπαϊκών Και Ναυτιλιακών Επιχειρήσεων (1,5 Έτος , 90 ECTS, Μεταπτυχιακό, εξ
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This application is registered with the reference number: 07.14.455.026

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 visit at the institution on 16 June 2025.

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 121th Summit on 23 July 2025, 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 rejected**

The Agency inform the institution that the decision is based on the following substantive deficiencies identified during the evaluation:

1. Teaching Staff Appointments

- **The University has not yet proceeded with the confirmed hirings of permanent academic staff, as described in the submitted documentation.**
- **The current reliance on memoranda of understanding with prospective teaching staff does not meet the requirements of the Law [L.136(I)/2015–L.132(I)/2021] and the Agency's standards, which stipulate that the academic team must be in place at the time of accreditation.**

- The majority of the staff presented are visiting/part-time collaborators, raising concerns regarding the sustainability of the programme and compliance with the minimum ratio of permanent to visiting faculty.

2. E-learning Infrastructure and Pedagogical Model

- The e-learning unit's organizational structure has not been fully established, with several key posts (including instructional design and pedagogical planning) vacant at the time of evaluation.
- The pedagogical model of delivery (balance between synchronous and asynchronous learning, workload per course, feedback mechanisms) is insufficiently described and therefore does not provide clarity for prospective students.

3. Learning Resources and Student Support

- While the Moodle platform is in use, the integration of advanced digital tools (simulations, interactive assessments, scenario-based activities) is limited and does not reflect best practice in postgraduate e-learning provision.
- Student support services, particularly mentoring for international and part-time students, are underdeveloped and not supported by formalised structures (e.g. student handbook, pathways for students with special needs).

4. Assessment Framework and Academic Integrity

- Although procedures for assessment are outlined, the absence of consistent double marking and the lack of an institutional policy on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence undermine the robustness of the assessment framework.

The Council, in accordance with the standards of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) and the above deficiencies, considers that the Institution does not yet possess the required experience, tradition, and academic maturity in the specific scientific field to offer a postgraduate-level programme.

It is therefore recommended that, as an initial step, the Institution consolidates its presence and expertise through the successful operation of an undergraduate programme in the same discipline. Such development would establish the necessary preconditions for the potential future submission and approval of a postgraduate programme in this field.

Based on (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, based on 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

29 August 2025