



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
HELLENIC REPUBLIC



Εθνική Αρχή  
Ανώτατης Εκπαίδευσης  
Hellenic Authority  
for Higher Education

Αριστείδου 1 & Ευριπίδου 2 • 10559 Αθήνα | 1 Aristidou str. & 2 Evripidou str. • 10559 Athens, Greece  
T. +30 210 9220 944 • F. +30 210 9220 143 • E. secretariat@ethaae.gr • [www.ethaae.gr](http://www.ethaae.gr)

**Accreditation Report**  
**for the New Postgraduate Study Programme of:**

**Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications**

**Department: Medicine**  
**Institution: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**  
**Date: 25 November 2023**

Report of the Panel appointed by the HAHE to undertake the review of the New Postgraduate Study Programme of **Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications** of the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** for the purposes of granting accreditation.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Part A: Background and Context of the Review .....</b>	<b>4</b>
I. The External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel .....	4
II. Review Procedure and Documentation .....	5
III. Postgraduate Study Programme Profile .....	8
<b>Part B: Compliance with the Principles.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Principle 1: Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy and Quality Goal Setting for the New Postgraduate Study Programmes .....	10
Principle 2: Design and Approval of New Postgraduate Study Programmes.....	17
Principle 3: Regulations for Student Admission, Progression, Recognition of Postgraduate Studies, and certification .....	22
Principle 4: Teaching Staff of New Postgraduate Study Programmes .....	27
Principle 5: Learning Resources and Student Support .....	30
Principle 6: Initial Internal and External Evaluation and Monitoring of New Postgraduate Study Programmes .....	33
<b>Part C: Conclusions .....</b>	<b>36</b>
I. Features of Good Practice.....	36
II. Areas of Weakness.....	36
III. Recommendations for Follow-up Actions.....	36
IV. Summary & Overall Assessment .....	38

## **PART A: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW**

### **I. The External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel**

The Panel responsible for the Accreditation Review of the new postgraduate study Programme of **Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications** of the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** comprised the following five (5) members, drawn from the HAHE Register, in accordance with Laws 4009/2011 & 4653/2020:

- 1. Prof. Nikolaos Venizelos (Chair)**  
Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden.
- 2. Prof. Thimios Mitsiadis**  
Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 3. Prof. Konstantinos Pantopoulos**  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- 4. Prof. Agapios Sachinidis**  
University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.
- 5. Mr. Sotirios Mavromatis, Postgraduate Student**  
Department of Medicine, University of Patras, Patras, Greece.

## II. Review Procedure and Documentation

In accordance with the requirements of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (laws 4009/2011 & 4653/2020), the Hellenic Authority of Higher Education (**HAHE**), by individual invitation and formal acceptance dated 6/11/2023, sets up an independent External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel (**EEAP**), with the mission to review the compliance of the new Postgraduate Studies Program (**PSP Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Application (Immunology BP-CA)**) of the School of Medicine (**Department**) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (**NKUA**), scheduled 20-25/11/2023.

The established EEAP consists of 4 experts from universities abroad and one postgraduate student from a Greek University.

The evaluation was carried out through reviews of documents, as well as online interviews with Directors of PSP, the Head of the Department, MODIP members, OMEA members, teaching staff, and external stakeholders. The method used was based on random checks on the department's activities with the aim of assessing the fulfilment of the requirements of HAHE's protocol, regarding the new PSP.

On November 16, 2023, the EEAP received all information and supporting documents from HAHE administration. The content of the materials provided is as follows:

### 1. Department Material

A0. Contents

A1. New Proposal of Academic Accreditation

A2. Senate Decision on the Establishment of PSP

A3. MODIP Explanatory Report

A4. Senate Decision on the Institution's Strategy

A5. Study of Feasibility & Sustainability for the Establishment of the new PSP

A6. New Quality Policy of Postgraduate Study Programme

A7. Quality Objectives of the Academic Unit for the Postgraduate programmes

A8. New Study Guide

A9. Course Outline

A10. List of names of teaching staff

A11. Internal rules of procedure of PSP

A12. Traineeship, Mobility and Assignment Regulation

A13. Rules of Procedure for the Management of Student Complaints and Appeals

A14. Rules of Procedure of the Institution of Academic Advisor

A15. Code of Ethics & Good Practice of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

A16. Template Diploma Supplement

A17. Brief report of the performance of teaching staff in research and teaching work

A19. Plan for the utilization of tuition fees of the PSP

## 1. HAHE Material

Acronyms, European Qualifications Framework, Standards new PSP in English, PSP Mapping Grid Assessment Guide in Greek, Template for the new PSP Accreditation Report, Guidelines of Accreditation-English, New PSP Guidelines for the EEAP, PSP Briefing narrated \_initial.

The whole evaluation and accreditation process was carried out solely remotely using the Zoom or Webex platform. All the evaluation and accreditation reviews were scheduled and performed at Athens time zone.

Monday, 20/11/2023, 15:00 - 17:00 hrs., the EEAP members had a first remote introductory meeting to establish a modus operandi regarding the accreditation mission, to schedule and discuss the content and structure of the Report Template and allocation of tasks, and to be prepared ahead of the site visit that would be performed via online using Zoom or Webex platform.

Tuesday, 21/11/2023, 15:30 - 16:15 hrs., the EEAP started formally the evaluation reviews of the PSP program by a virtual meeting with the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, International Relations and Extroversion, Prof. Sophia Papaioannou, the Head of the Department: Prof. N. Arkadopoulos, and the Director of the PSP, Prof. Clio Mavragani who briefly presented the postgraduate programme's origins, academic profile, status, strengths, and possible areas of concern. Present during this meeting, were, the Head of the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of NKUA, Mr. Konstantinos Bourletidis, and MODIP Secretary Mr. Theodoros Chajitheodorou.

Same day at 16:15 -17:00 hrs., the EEAP met with the teaching staff of the PSP, Assoc. Professor M. Simopoulou, Ass. Professor K. Palikaras, Ass. Professor G. Fragkoulis, Ass. Professor L. Piperi, Prof. E. Kapaki, Prof. A. Tzioufas, Prof. M. Manousakis and the Prof. N. Sipsas.

At 17:00 -17:10 hrs., the EEAP had a digital tour on the facilities and educational resources, through access to a provided video.

At 17:30 -18:15 hrs., the EEAP met external stakeholders and social partners from the private sector to discuss relations of the PSP. Present were, Mrs N. Ververoglou, Medical Science Liaison Immunology, Sobi Pharmaceutical, Mr D. Liakos, Scientific Lead Immunology Eastern Europe, UCB CARES, Mrs V. Ntzelve, Medical Representative & Key account, Sandoz/A. Novartis, Mr. Katsaros Theodore, Patient Journey Partner, Roche Pharmaceutical.

Next after the EEAP members had a debriefing in private, to discuss the outcomes of the daily meetings and prepare a preliminary oral report to the closure meeting.

At 18:30 -19:15 hrs., the EEAP met the Director of the PSP, the Head of the Department, MODIP, Steering Committee and OMEA representatives, discussed points/findings, which need further clarification.

The EEAP, at the end of this meeting, was finalised the scheduled PSP-reviews by a short informal oral report of the initial impressions and key findings, to the Director of the PSP Prof.

Clio Mavragani, the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, International Relations and Extroversion, Prof. Sophia Papaioannou, the Head of the Department, Prof. N. Arkadopoulos.

Present during this meeting, were, the Steering Committee for PSP, Assoc. Professor, E. Evaggelopoulou, Assoc. Professor, S. Giannouli, Assis. Professor, Th. Alissafi. OMEA members, Ass. Professor, A. Goules, Ass. Professor, L. Paschou, Professor, E. Papadavid. MODIP staff/members, Mr. Konstantinos Bourletidis, Head of the Quality Assurance Unit of NKUA, and MODIP Secretary Mr. Theodoros Chajitheodorou.

During the period 22 to 25 of November 2023, the EEAP members were getting familiar to all material send by HAHE and the Department and worked on the completion of a draft of Accreditation Report (AR) of PSP programme.

### III. Postgraduate Study Programme Profile

The University of Athens, inaugurated in 1837, as the first university not only in Greece but also in the Balkan and the Eastern Mediterranean, and in 1932 it was officially named National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), in honour of Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first governor of Greece. Until the early part of the 20th century, it was the only university in Greece that provided the Greek state with qualified professionals in medicine and other disciplines. Today, the NKUA offers 8 larger Schools, 41 undergraduate programs as well as 205 postgraduate programs leading to a Master or Doctoral degrees and enrolled 44.215 undergraduates and 25.944 postgraduate students and Ph.D. candidates, 2.105 academic staff and 1.026 administrative and secretarial staff.

The School of Medicine of NKUA, inaugurated in 1837, and in 1984 the School of Health Sciences was formed that includes four departments: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing. The School of Medicine is organized in six divisions: Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical laboratory, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Mother-Child Health, Social Medicine-Psychiatry and Neurology.

The facilities of School of Medicine and the basic education of the students takes place in the buildings of the School in Goudi (5 lecture halls) and the clinical education in the majority at the Attikon University Hospital Campus, Chaidari (AKISA) (2 lecture halls), and at several other clinical sites. For the practical teaching and training of students, 61 University clinics, 28 laboratories and 4 museums in various hospitals are used.

The School of Medicine of NKUA currently employs 515 teaching staff (DEP), (Professors, Assoc. Professors, Ass. Professor and Lectures), 3.294 undergraduates, 5.048 graduate students. 71 postgraduate programmes leading to a Master or Doctoral degrees, enrolled 4.393 postgraduates' students. The administrative staff sums to a total of 129. The School of Medicine of NKUA is one of the most important and well-established Medical Schools of Greece, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

During the academic year 2024, the School of Medicine of NKUA, plan to established and run the Postgraduate Studies Programme (PSP) entitled "**Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications**", after recommendation of the Assembly of the Medical School.

The PSP is structured based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The duration of the program is 3 semesters of study equivalent to a total of 90 ECTS. The curriculum of the PSP includes 6 compulsory courses of total 60 ECTS in the first two semesters, and a preparation of the thesis of 30 ECTS in the 3rd semester of the studies.

To obtain the degree, attendance in all three (3) semesters and successful examination in all compulsory courses of the PSP are required, and to write the dissertation and successful present it to the three-member examinations committee. According to the Regulations of the Departments of Education, the second cycle degree titled-*METAPTYCHIAKO DIPLOMA EIDIKEFSIS*, is equivalent to the Master's degree.

The PSP of "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications", at NKUA plan to enrol a maximum number of students up to 40 per 2 years. The planned number of students during the starting year 2024 is between 15 and 17 students. The courses are conducted in Greek and/or English language. The total tuition fees are set at 3.000,0 €.

Study guide for the academic year 2023-2024 of the postgraduate program in "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications", is described in detail in Annex A8 and on the PSP Website > <https://www.immunology-postgrad-medical-uoa.com/>

## PART B: COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES

### Principle 1: Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy and Quality Goal Setting for the New Postgraduate Study Programmes

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD INCLUDE IN THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT THE DEVELOPMENT, ORGANISATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES (PSP) IN SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC FIELDS AFTER INVESTIGATING THEIR FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY.

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD APPLY A QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY FOR THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT.

THIS POLICY SHOULD EXPAND AND BE AIMED (WITH THE COLLABORATION OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS) AT THE PSP OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

*By decision/s of the Institutional Senate, the Institutions should adapt their strategy to allow for the provision of postgraduate study programmes, in addition to attending to the profile, vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Institution. In this strategy, the Institutions should anticipate the potential benefits, difficulties or risks from the implementation of new postgraduate study programmes and plan all the necessary actions to achieve their goals. The Institution's strategic choices should be documented through specific feasibility and sustainability studies, especially for new postgraduate study programmes.*

*In the case of PSP delivered by distance methods, the Institution prepares and applies an e-learning strategy. The Institution's e-learning strategy is integrated into its overall strategy and identifies educational goals while keeping up to the rapid technological changes and to the developments in pedagogical models. The Institution should include in its strategy the justification and feasibility as to why e-learning has been selected as the appropriate learning strategy for the particular programmes of study where it is applied.*

*In the context of e-learning, innovation strategies, the possibility of programme revision, the linking between learning and research (requiring knowledge of the latest innovations in order to select the most appropriate means to achieve the learning outcomes) should be taken into account.*

*The quality assurance policy of the academic unit for postgraduate study programmes should be in line with the Institution's strategy and must be formulated in the form of a public statement, which is implemented by all stakeholders. It focuses on the achievement of special goals related to the quality assurance of the postgraduate study programmes offered by the academic unit. Indicatively, the quality policy statement of the academic unit includes its commitment to implement a quality policy that will promote the academic profile and orientation of the postgraduate study programme (PSP), its purpose and field of study; it will realise the programme's goals and it will determine the means and ways for attaining them; it will implement appropriate quality procedures, aiming at the programme's continuous improvement.*

*In particular, in order to implement this policy, the academic unit commits itself to put into practice quality procedures that will demonstrate:*

- a. the suitability of the structure and organisation of postgraduate study programmes*
- b. the pursuit of learning outcomes and qualifications in accordance with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education - level 7*
- c. the promotion of the quality and effectiveness of teaching at the PSP*

- d. *the appropriateness of the qualifications and the availability of the teaching staff for the PSP*
- e. *the drafting, implementation, and review of specific annual quality goals for the improvement of the PSP*
- f. *the level of demand for the graduates' qualifications in the labour market*
- g. *the quality of support services, such as administrative services, the libraries, and the student welfare office for the PSP*
- h. *the efficient utilisation of the financial resources of the PSP that may be drawn from tuition fees*
- i. *the conduct of an annual internal review and audit of the quality assurance system for the PSP through the cooperation of the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) with the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU)*

### **Documentation**

- *The Institutional strategy for postgraduate studies, which includes a special strategy for e-learning, as long as it is applied to the Institution's PSP*
- *Feasibility and sustainability studies for the new PSP*
- *Quality Policy of the academic unit for the development and improvement of PSP*
- *Quality Targeting of the academic unit for the PSP*

### **Study Programme Compliance**

#### **I. Findings**

During the academic year 2024, the School of Medicine of NKUA, plan to established and run a new Postgraduate Studies Programme (PSP) entitled "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications". The new PSP is structured based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The duration of the new program will be 3 semesters of study equivalent to a total of 90 ECTS.

The Postgraduate Program of Studies (MSc) of the Medical School of NKUA entitled "Immunology: Basic Principles and Clinical Applications" is addressed to non-specialists, specialists of any clinical specialty such as dentists, pharmacists, biologists, chemists, bio scientists and health scientists, who wish to deepen their understanding of the mechanisms underlying pathogenesis of immunological diseases and at the same time acquire targeted knowledge on clinical expression and the diagnostic/therapeutic approach of these diseases.

The aims of the new PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles and Clinical Applications" are to highlight the importance of interdisciplinary teaching, the promotion of knowledge, the acquisition of clinical and laboratory skills, education, and research in the broad and developing field of "Immunology: basic principles and clinical applications".

The purpose of the PSP is to prepare the graduates, for studies at a Ph.D. level, as well as to cultivate the clinical and laboratory skills of young scientists in the latest technical and clinical methodologies in the broad and developing field of "Immunology: basic principles and clinical applications".

Graduates of the PSP after completed their studies will be able to:

- a) Staff clinics, diagnostic treatment centres and research laboratories in the broad field of Immunology and its clinical applications.
- b) Teach adequately to undergraduate students at Universities the subject of Immunology and the corresponding laboratory or clinical applications.
- c) Acquire interdisciplinary knowledge and laboratory skills in the field of Immunology that will prepare them for Ph.D. studies.
- d) Acquire the theoretical knowledge and practical skills (clinical & laboratory) so that they can become competent professional executives in clinical and research units in Health Sciences.

The PSP plan to achieve learning outcomes and qualifications in line with the European and National Qualifications Framework for higher education:

- The purpose, and learning outcomes
- The objects and specialization
- The duration and conditions for obtaining a Master's degree
- The categories of candidates in the PSP
- The tuition and free tuition of PSP

The minimum duration for the completion of the PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications" is 3 semesters. For to obtain a Master of Science (MSc) degree, required compulsory attendance and successful examination in all courses, which are distributed as follow:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters of PSP the students have a series of lectures, seminars, and labs with mandatory attendance equivalent to 60 ECTS in total.
- During the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of studies, the candidates will prepare and complete their thesis includes, worth of 30 ECTS.

### Teaching facilities

The PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications" at NKUA is expected to start in 2024, and plans to enrol a maximum number of students up to 40 per 2 years. The planned number of students during the starting year 2024 is expected to be 15 to 17. The courses are conducted in Greek and/or English language. The total tuition fees are set at 3.000,0 €.

According to the presentation by the director of the PSP the number of PSP teachers is 55 (23 professors, 11 associate professors, 6 assistant professors, 8 postdoc students, etc.), while according to the lastly provided Excel file to the EEAP, the PSP teachers number is 59, this corresponding to more than 3 lecturers per student at the first 2 years, and 1,5 lecturers later.

According to law 4957 / Government Gazette 141 / 21 07 2022 article 83 § 1, the teachers of the PSP comes from Members of Teaching Research Staff (Educational Staff, and Special Technical Laboratory Staff), Professors Emeritus, Collaborating Teachers, Adjunct Lecturers, Visiting Professors/Researchers, Research Fellows (PhD holders), Scientists of recognized prestige with specialized knowledge/experience in the subject of the MSc programme, PhD candidates of the faculty, and Postdoctoral Researchers.

The PSP “Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications” is a program of the Department of Medicine of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The Department offers to the PSP auditoriums/classrooms for course deliveries and workshops, computers for teaching laboratory courses, as well as a library.

The PSP plans to use specifically the Small Amphitheatre of Physiology "R. NIKOLAIDIS" Capacity of 80 people, and the Amphitheatre of Physiology "G. KOTZIAS" Capacity of 300 people.

The laboratory training will take place at the Laboratory of Physiology, National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF), Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Biomedical Sciences Research Centre "Alexander Fleming", and Biomedical Research Foundation, which show to have all the laboratory infrastructures that needs to run the PSP.

The clinical training will place at the Universities Hospitals with outpatient clinics for autoimmune diseases, as the Hospital, "Laiko", "Aiginio", "Attiko", "Ippokrateio", and "Syggros" Hospital.

The Physiology Laboratory provides also access to people with mobility problems.

The Institution provides digital benefits, support, counselling services etc. to students [https://en.uoa.gr/about\\_us/services\\_units/career\\_office/](https://en.uoa.gr/about_us/services_units/career_office/).

The School of Medicine of NKUA offers a Study Guide for this PSP for the academic year 2023-2024. The PSP is described in detail in Appendix A8 and selected information's in PSPs Website <https://www.immunology-postgrad-medical-uoa.com/>.

### Quality Policy (QP) of the School of Medicine for PSP

The Quality Assurance Policy of the Department of Medicine is fully in line with the QP of the NKUA, making the Department of Medicine fully committed and committed to providing high quality Greek and foreign language higher education to students who choose it, organizing and implementing Postgraduate and Doctoral Programs of high academic standards. Quality Policy Statement.

The Department of Medicine is committed to the implementation of this QP and in PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications", which is planned to be offering in the future, starting in 2024. Implementing quality procedures are provided by the Institution, with ambition of its continuous improvement. This quality policy will strengthen the academic profile and focus of this postgraduate program, promotes its purpose and object, as well as the implementation of specific goals set each year, while determining the means and ways of achieving the above and ensuring the participation of stakeholders in its evaluation and redesign processes.

For the implementation of this policy, the Department of Medicine is committed to implement in its postgraduate programs the quality processes / procedures provided for and analysed in the Quality Manual of the EQMS of the Institution and applied at the level of the Curricula of the Department of Medicine with the required specialization / individualization in its Postgraduate Programs and in close cooperation with its Quality Assurance Unit of University (MODIP). All quality assurance procedures of the PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications" of the Department of Medicine are subject to inspection and review, which are carried out on an annual basis by the OMEA, in collaboration with the MODIP of the Institution.

The processes/procedures applied for the monitoring and continuous improvement of the quality of the Postgraduate Programs are the following:

- 1) The Implementation of a Quality Assurance Policy of the PSP.
- 2) The allocation and management of the resources of the PSP.
- 3) The Establishment of Quality Assurance Objectives on an annual basis of the PSP.
- 4) The Periodic Internal Evaluation and Monitoring on an annual basis of all the Postgraduate Program.
- 5) The collection of quality data: measurement, analysis, and improvement of the PSP of the Department of Medicine.
- 6) The Publication of Information on the Postgraduate Program of the Department of Medicine.
- 7) The External Evaluation of the PSP of the Department of Medicine.

#### Planning of quality objectives

- Improvement of the graduation rate
- Focussing on student-centred learning via enhancement of the curriculum flexibility and use of face-to-face activities
- Active student participation in internal assessment activities via electronic questionnaires
- Enhancement of student participation in research activities and publications (facilitation in participation in seminars on scientific research and writing, congresses)

related to the PSP curriculum, existence of teaching on statistics and research methodology etc.)

- Linking the PSP diploma to the labour market
- Enhancement of the PSP's extroversion

## II. Analysis

The Quality Assurance Policy of the academic unit is in line with the Quality Assurance Policy of the Institution and is formulated in the form of a public statement.

The PSP's Steering Committee has the ambition to achieve learning outcomes and qualifications in line with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.

The Department of Medicine of NKUA demonstrates a good quality and capacity of actively involved teachers with adequate qualifications and competency within the PSP subject to run the PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications".

The Quality Policy statement of the Department of Medicine includes commitments, which implement a Quality Policy in order to promote the academic profile of the PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications", as well as the purpose and field of studies.

The PSP "Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications" provides a Website in both Greek and English with adequate information about study guide, purpose of the Master's programme, subject area of the course and objectives.

## III. Conclusions

The EEAP considers that the School of Medicine of NKUA fulfil well the requirements and commitments required for the implementation of the adequate education Quality Policy in accordance with HAHEs regulation and is in line with the department's Quality Assurance Policy and the quality objectives for postgraduate study programme. In addition the Department offers a good availability of suitable qualified teaching staff for to run the PSP.

### Panel Judgement

<b>Principle 1: Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy and Quality Goal Setting for the New Postgraduate Study Programmes</b>	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

### **Panel Recommendations**

- The PSP should enrich the Website with additional information regarding the established research collaborations, particularly linked to PSP level, as socio-political bodies, stakeholders, and external academic research collaborators.
- The Quality Policy and statement of the PSP must be available on the PSP's website in both Greek and English, so the information will be clearly and completely displayed for all foreign interested partners/companies etc.

## Principle 2: Design and Approval of New Postgraduate Study Programmes

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP THEIR POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES FOLLOWING A DEFINED WRITTEN PROCESS WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE PARTICIPANTS, INFORMATION SOURCES AND THE APPROVAL COMMITTEES FOR THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THE OBJECTIVES, THE SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC SUBJECT AND THE STREAMS OR SPECIALISATIONS, THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE SET OUT IN THE PROGRAMME DESIGN. DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES, THE DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LEARNING OUTCOMES SHOULD BE ASSESSED. THE ABOVE DETAILS, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAMME'S STRUCTURE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE STUDENT GUIDE.

*The academic units develop their postgraduate study programmes following a well-defined procedure. The academic profile and orientation of the programme, the research character, the scientific objectives, the specific subject areas, the specialisations, the expected learning outcomes, the structure, the courses, the teaching and assessment modes, the teaching staff and the necessary resources are described at this stage.*

*The structure, content and organisation of courses and teaching methods should be oriented towards deepening knowledge and acquiring the corresponding skills to apply the said knowledge (e.g. course on research methodology, participation in research projects, thesis with a research component).*

*The expected learning outcomes must be determined based on the European and National Qualifications Framework (EQF, NQF), and the Dublin Descriptors for level 7. During the implementation of the programme, the degree of achievement of the expected learning outcomes and the feedback of the learning process must be assessed with the appropriate tools. In particular, for each expected learning outcome that is designed and made public, it is necessary that its evaluation criteria are also designed and made public.*

*In addition, the design of PSP must consider:*

- *the Institutional strategy*
- *the active involvement of students*
- *the experience of external stakeholders from the labour market*
- *the anticipated student workload according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for level 7*
- *the option of providing work experience to students*
- *the linking of teaching and research*
- *the relevant regulatory framework and the official procedure for the approval of the PSP by the Institution*

The procedure for the approval or revision of the programmes provides for the verification of compliance with the basic requirements of the Standards by the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU).

### **Documentation**

- *Senate decision for the establishment of the PSP*
- *PSP curriculum structure: courses, course categories, ECTS awarded, expected learning outcomes according to the NQF, internship, mobility opportunities*

- *Labour market data regarding the employment of graduates, international experience in a relevant scientific field*
- *PSP Student Guide*
- *Course and thesis outlines*
- *Teaching staff: teaching assignments per subject area and per course*

## **Study Programme Compliance**

### **I. Findings**

The representatives of the new PSP MSc programme entitled “Immunology: Basic Principles & Clinical Applications” submitted all the required documents/proposals/studies according to the relevant instructions of the competent authority (HAHE). Based on these, the necessary academic bodies were created in the PSP to design and supervise the new programme. The programme was designed following the EQAEE principles according to the EU guidelines standards. The PSP was approved by the Senate (30-12-2019) within the overall strategic plan of the University (ΦΕΚ 1726 τ.Β’/6-5-2020) to establish highly competitive programmes according to international standards.

The programme is new and therefore students were not actively involved in the design of the programme. In general, the design of the programme is compatible with other European University Programmes regarding the objectives and the number of ECTSs (90). The EEAP received during the evaluation procedure all the relevant documents from the PSP committee and HAHE. The EEAP has discussed this during the meetings with the MODIP members, teaching staff, and stakeholders from the pharma industry.

### **II. Analysis of judgement**

The main objectives of the PSP are:

1. Understanding the mechanisms governing the pathogenesis of immunological diseases and acquiring deep knowledge about the clinical, diagnostic, and therapeutic aspects involved in the development of the diseases.
2. Improving the academic activities of the MSc students
3. Strengthening and promotion of the research activities
4. Improving the Interface with the labour market
5. Adapting the programme to international standards

In particular, one of the main purposes of the MSc is to educate students so that they get deep insights into the mechanisms of immunological disorders. The second main objective is to introduce research approaches and technologies so that students are in a position to do research in the field. Students should understand the intervention by immunological disorders and be in a position to understand and perform systematic research in health

sciences disciplines related to immunological disorders. After completion of the program, students should be able to apply the clinical/therapeutic tools and/or acquire knowledge for the treatment and research of immunological diseases.

The academic strategy of the PSP focuses on providing the necessary theoretical and practical training so that students become specialised medical doctors and/or research scientists.

According to the documents and the discussions with representatives of the PSP programme as well as with stakeholders, the EEAP agrees that the PSP provides more than sufficient knowledge of basic and clinical education in this specialized field. Apart from theoretical basic mechanistic aspects, the students should learn and understand clinical and research laboratory skills as well as learn novel state-of-the-art technologies/methods in this field.

Students should also learn critical thinking to promote research in this field. The Student Study Guide of the PSP and the programme gives several details of the objectives, inputs, and expected learning outcomes. Overall, the PSP is based on the Greek legislation, which harmonized the European Directives 80/154 and 80/155/EEC. The education takes place in different medical school lecture rooms and laboratories as well as in different local hospitals. The infrastructure of the programme is state of the art. All lectures and laboratories are well equipped and cover all the essential needs for a successful programme.

To achieve the scientific objectives of the PSP, several specialized lecture courses are offered to the students. Additionally, students can also participate in practical experimental courses. The programme duration is 3 semesters (90 ECTS), divided into 2 semesters of lectures and practical courses and 1 semester for preparing the diploma thesis for the MSc degree. After the competition of each semester, there are exams in the form of team presentations of the semester material. The final examination of the students occurs after submitting the thesis by three internal members of the teaching staff.

The EEAP was happy to recognise that all essential courses for the PSP programme were taken into consideration. However, the EEAP believes that an additional 2 to 3 hours for teaching basics in bioethics and 6 additional hours for the application of scientific writing tools and critical thinking should be included in the programme. Students should prepare (3 groups, 5 students per group) and present a small project of 2 to 3 pages including 5 to 10 references after a PubMed search on a specific immunological topic. Within the small project, they can practically apply e.g. the Endnote program.

Moreover, more detailed information is necessary regarding the practical/technical courses. For instance, as stand in the second semester, students should learn molecular biology methods and new technologies; please describe precisely what kind of techniques and molecular biology methods. Are the students actively and how they are involved in the practical courses?

According to the experience of the EEAP also with other PSPs, for some versatile reasons not all students can participate in real research projects. For instance, as stated by several

teaching staff members of similar PSPs, the programmes do not have financial support from the Greek government. However, the EEAP believes that the members of the teaching staff of the present programme are competitive scientists having good h-factors. The teaching staff should make strong efforts to attract more grants. This will allow the integration of all the students (in total 15) into basic research activities of the teaching staff. There are also good possibilities for attracting ERASMUS scholarships for students to execute research work for the diploma thesis in foreign European laboratories. More systematic efforts are necessary to increase the number of students allowing them to perform research work in other international laboratories.

However, the official language of the teaching and writing language of the thesis is Greek. Only courses for foreign speakers will be held in English. It is planned that in the case of foreign students, the courses will be held in English and the writing of the thesis will be allowed in English. However, the last case is not likely to happen if the language of the programme remains Greek. The EEAP suggest that the three advisers/supervisors should motivate the students to write their thesis in English so that the students get a chance to publish in international journals. Moreover, as stated in the programme, lectures will be given in Greek language. The EEAP pointed out that the current PSP in its present form is nationally oriented. The EEAP is also aware that the programme meets the national needs of the country to cover the treatment and logistics of immunological disorders. To fully fulfil the expected learning outcomes as described by the European and National Qualifications Framework (EQF, NQF), and the Dublin Descriptors for level 7, the present programme should be modified accordingly to enable easier mobility of the students within the EU. The EEAP recommend that at least the Diploma thesis should be written in English.

The MODIP and other participants of the meeting (in particular the stakeholders) agreed that the research part of the programme should be strengthened, and more efforts are required to improve the research part of the programme, which justifies the degree of Master of Science. Also, stakeholders from the pharma industry will put more effort into financially supporting the PSP.

### **III. Conclusions**

The EEAP concluded that the programme is well designed taking into consideration all the basics, clinical and therapeutic aspects of the immunological disorders. The structure of the programme is rational but needs some minor improvements regarding the scientific research part. The EEAP conclude that the PSP in its present form is more national-oriented. It is suitable for the professional specialization of medical doctors and biologists/biochemists to cover the country therapeutic needs. More efforts are needed to improve the mobility of the participants in the European market. The scientific/research part of the programme should be systematically developed and needs significant efforts to fulfil the criteria for a Master of Science Degree.

## Panel Judgement

<b>Principle 2: Design and Approval of New Postgraduate Study Programmes</b>	
Fully compliant	
Substantially compliant	<b>X</b>
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

## Panel Recommendations

- The EEAP strongly recommends the participation of more students in research project via the ERASMUS students exchange programme, and collaboration with other institutions.
- The EEAP recommends acquiring third-party financing grants by the teaching staff that will allow the integration of the students into more research projects.
- At least the diploma thesis of the students must be written in English to increase the chances of publishing in international journals.
- More precise details are needed about the methods and the new technologies regarding the practical courses of the programme.
- Six additional hours are needed to allow the students to apply scientific writing tools and promote critical thinking.
- Continuous support and training for teaching purposes for all PSP faculty members.

### **Principle 3: Regulations for Student Admission, Progression, Recognition of Postgraduate Studies, and certification**

**INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP AND APPLY PUBLISHED REGULATIONS COVERING ALL ASPECTS AND PHASES OF STUDIES (ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, THESIS DRAFTING, RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATION).**

*The Institution should develop and publish the internal regulations prescribed by law which, among other things, should regulate all issues of postgraduate studies from the beginning to the end of the studies.*

*Indicatively:*

- *The students' admission procedures and the required supporting documents*
- *Student rights and obligations, and monitoring of student progression*
- *Internship issues, if applicable, and granting of scholarships*
- *The procedures and terms for the drafting of assignments and the thesis*
- *The procedure of award and recognition of degrees, the duration of studies, the conditions for progression and for the assurance of the progress of students in their studies*
- *The terms and conditions for enhancing student mobility*

*In case that the PSP is offered through distance learning methods, the Institution should have in place a regulation for e-learning, including in particular the following issues:*

- *Services of the Institution to support e-learning*
- *Methodology for the development and implementation of courses*
- *Ways of providing teaching and variety of teaching and assessment modes*
- *General standard of course structure*
- *Student support system*
- *Support of faculty/teachers with mandatory e-learning training for new staff members*
- *Technological infrastructures made available by the Institution*
- *Student identity confirmation system (student identity check, assignment and exam writing process, security and certification issues).*
- ❖ *The Institution should establish rules for the provision of appropriate access and for the assurance of the participation of students affected by disability, illness, and other special circumstances.*
- ❖ *Ethical issues, such as those concerning data protection, intellectual property rights and rules for protection against fraud are governed by the e-learning regulation.*

All the above must be made public within the context of the Student Guide.

#### **Documentation**

- *Internal regulation for the operation of the postgraduate study programme*
- *Special regulation for the implementation of e-learning if the PSP is delivered through distance methods*
- *Research Ethics Regulation*

- *Regulation of studies, internship, mobility, and student assignments*
- *Degree certificate template and Diploma Supplement template*

## **Study Programme Compliance**

### **I. Findings**

This PSP will start its function in 2024 and will offer a degree of immunology linked to the various needs of the clinics. The 34 members of this PSP are exclusively faculty members of the Medical School of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), according to the documents received from HAHE. However, according to the PDF presentation by the director of the PSP the number of PSP teachers is 55 (23 professors, 11 associate professors, 6 assistant professors, 8 postdoc students, etc.), while according to the Excel file provided by the PSP to the EEAP members, this number is 59. It becomes obvious from this lastly provided document that the PSP has recruited a good number of staff from other Greek institutions (Crete University, Thessaly University, University of Cyprus, Academy of Athens, Democritus University of Thrace, etc.). The PSP student admission follows well-established criteria. The selection of the applicants is based on their study scores, research experience, foreign language diplomas, recommendation letters, etc., followed by candidates' interviews by an established academic committee composed of three PSP staff members. The maximum number of students admitted per year will be up to 40. In 2024, the number of students will be between 15 and 17. The PSP charges student fees (3.000 euros for the duration of studies). Some scholarships are available to be awarded to PSP students with specific needs. These procedures are clearly described in the required supporting documents, which also contain information about student rights and obligations and ways to monitor their progression. Research ethics regulation, regulation of studies, internships, Erasmus+ mobility (Erasmus+ Studies and Erasmus+ Traineeships), and student assignments are also provided. This information also exists on both the Greek and English websites. Eligible for admission are graduates from various fields and disciplines, such as medical doctors, health profession graduates, biologists, chemists, etc.

The PSP has established clear procedures concerning the degree, the duration of studies, and rules ensuring students' progress. The duration of the PSP is three semesters (30 ETCS each semester), with lectures and seminars, practical exercises, and the dissertation thesis during the third semester. Students are evaluated at the end of each semester (written examinations, students' presentations, practical work, etc.). Students are obliged to write a dissertation, either research-oriented or meta-analysis or literature-based). The purpose of the PSP diploma is to allow the students to either get jobs with specific requirements or to further develop a scientific and academic career by acquiring a PhD degree. PSP faculty will be constantly available to assist the students and provide the necessary information for the completion of their studies. The PSP faculty will closely follow the progress of the students. The status of the academic advisor exists in the present PSP. The role of the academic advisor is understood by the PSP faculty, and it is envisaged to be in constant contact with the PSP students. The Medical School and NKUA have in place appropriate processes and tools to collect and effectively analyse information concerning the PSP students' processes. This information is stored within the PSP students'

registration system. PSP faculty evaluation by students is conducted upon course evaluation questionnaire completion. These questionnaires are anonymous and collected on an online platform of the NKUA.

Multidisciplinary courses and mechanisms of supervision of PSP students' clinical practice and research projects (taking place in "Laiko" Hospital, "Ippokratio" Hospital, "Syggros" Hospital, Fleming Institute, Pasteur Institute, etc.) by academic staff are operational within this PSP. The lectures of the PSP are well structured and of great interest. Courses can be delivered in either Greek or English. The PSP staff considers the diversity of the students, who come from different knowledge backgrounds. The majority of the courses are mandatory and conducted in person (20% through digital platforms for staff living abroad). In-person and digital teaching tools are designed to support, complement, and enrich the educational process. The assessment of the students is performed with either written or oral examinations. However, there is also the possibility of using other forms of examination, such as a series of exercises and students' presentations, or a combination of the above. Course examinations are held at the end of each semester.

The meeting of the EEAP with stakeholders left a very positive impression of the utility of this PSP. The stakeholders pointed out that the quality of the PSP is high and that the courses are beneficial to the students for their future development. Overall, all mentioned that this PSP is very rewarding.

PSP graduation documents are obtained electronically within a very short time in both Greek and English.

## **II. Analysis of judgement**

This PSP provides an important basis for all health disciplines related to immunology and fulfils an important need for further education and training for health professionals, biologists, etc., working in hospitals and clinics. This PSP will allow the students either to get a specialised job in the public or private domain (e.g., pharmaceutical industry) or to follow a research or academic-oriented career. The length of PSP studies (3 semesters) is considered appropriate. The curriculum of this PSP includes a wide range of courses covering current and topical issues in immunology. Therefore, the theoretical training of the students at the end of this PSP will be satisfactory since they will have expanded their knowledge in this field. In addition to the classical method of theoretical lectures, some courses include assignments, which encourage the development of critical and scientific ways of thinking. As for the acquisition of practical experience, the curriculum includes thorough practical training that adequately prepares the students for their future jobs. The majority of the courses take place in person, which enables students to form relationships and communicate with the PSP staff. The load of teaching and practical courses seems to be appropriate. Teaching and practical courses are well balanced. It is desirable that the majority of PSP students finish their studies and deliver their dissertation soon after the end of the 3rd semester. The PSP's requirements and other information are available in the guide to studies. Courses and practical exercises are communicated to students early on. Students are encouraged by the PSP staff to complete the teacher evaluation questionnaires.

On-site teaching will be delivered by the PSP faculty in either Greek or English. Some lectures could also be delivered online (less than 20%). The PSP does not offer a bank of research topics that the students could consult prior to their practical exercise. Students' mobility through Erasmus+ and Erasmus+ Traineeships might be a problem. PSP staff should promote and use the Erasmus+ platform. This will offer more opportunities for international exchanges and increase the chances for the students to get jobs in Greece or abroad.

### III. Conclusions

This is a very well-designed and important PSP that links immunology to the various clinics. Bridging immunology concepts with applications in medicine renders this programme very attractive to students. Another PSP in immunology runs at the Democritus University of Thrace, but this is not focused on clinical applications and outcomes. The curriculum of the PSP is in line with the standards of HAHE. The length of the three-semester study and the practical training look appropriate. The EEAP finds that the programme is delivered in a student-centred learning environment that promotes mutual respect. There is a special need to involve future graduates of the programme as mentors to PSP students with regard to their career development. External stakeholders could participate in advisory committees to offer their view of the need for certain courses and practical exercises as well as provide important connections to the outside world. This PSP could be very attractive to foreign students if courses were taught in English. A seminar series should be created, allowing foreign experts to deliver lectures remotely on areas of high interest in immunology research and applications.

#### Panel Judgement

<b>Principle 3: Regulations for Student Admission, Progression, Recognition of Postgraduate Studies, and certification</b>	
Fully compliant	
Substantially compliant	<b>X</b>
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

## Panel Recommendations

- Resolutions should be taken in advance to have students fill out the questionnaires in class during final exams to secure 100% participation.
- Create and promote from these first years the PSP alumni. A specific web page should be created.
- Implement the actual PSP web page in English. The context of the PSP courses should be in English and not Greek.
- The programme should adopt the English language in most, if not all, courses. The Greek terminology could be provided in parallel to ensure that those students who will find employment in Greek institutions that utilise the Greek language will be able to use both languages with ease. Offer the opportunity to conduct the dissertation in English.
- Efforts should be made to increase communication between stakeholders and students. This can be achieved by hosting a social event per year or perhaps a symposium to allow stakeholders to participate and share their knowledge and experience. Design workshops for introducing market needs and career opportunities to ensure the effectiveness of the programme.
- A seminar series that can utilise foreign speakers (especially Greek-born scientists) may be particularly useful to connect the programme to major foreign laboratories and industry.
- An external advisory-evaluation committee could also help provide an unbiased review of the programme.
- Establish in advance strict criteria for the delivery of diplomas on time (immediately upon completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester).
- Promote the participation of the PSP students in the published scientific articles. This will greatly increase the visibility of the PSP.
- Promote students' mobility (short-term visits and/or research practices) towards companies, including the pharmaceutical industry. This might be a strong motivation for endorsement of students' skills.
- Create a bank of selected thesis topics and incorporate them into the web page of the PSP.
- Provide courses focusing on bioethics, research integrity issues, etc.
- Create trophies for the best students each year.
- Attribute scholarships to at least two PSP students with excellent performances.

## Principle 4: Teaching Staff of New Postgraduate Study Programmes

**INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ASSURE THEMSELVES OF THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THEIR TEACHING STAFF, AND APPLY FAIR AND TRANSPARENT PROCESSES FOR THEIR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.**

*The Institution should attend to the adequacy and scientific competence of the teaching staff at the PSP, the appropriate staff-student ratio, the proper staff categories, the appropriate subject areas, the fair and objective recruitment process, the high research performance, the training, the staff development policy (including participation in mobility schemes, conferences, and educational leaves-as mandated by law).*

More specifically, the academic unit should set up and follow clear, transparent, and fair processes for the recruitment of properly qualified staff for the PSP and offer them conditions of employment that recognise the importance of teaching and research; offer opportunities and promote the professional development of the teaching staff; encourage scholarly activity to strengthen the link between education and research; encourage innovation in teaching methods and the use of new technologies; promote the increase of the volume and quality of the research output within the academic unit; follow quality assurance processes for all staff (with respect to attendance requirements, performance, self-assessment, training, etc.); develop policies to attract highly qualified academic staff.

### **Documentation**

- *Procedures and criteria for teaching staff recruitment, policy for attracting highly qualified staff, and PSP Obligation Regulation*
- *List of the intended for recruitment teaching staff including subject areas, employment relationship, Institution of origin, Department of origin and relevant individual achievements*

### **Study Programme Compliance**

#### **I. Findings**

The PSP staff is made up of dedicated academics with teaching and research capabilities. The PSP staff consists of 35 members. A list of the PSP staff, the staff's department of origin, and other relative documents are provided. However, information concerning teaching staff accomplishments and performances (publications, h-index, etc.) is not available on the PSP's web page. Similarly, there is no information on available extramural funding for most of the faculty involved in the programme. Employment regulations and obligations of the PSP staff are also provided and described in the corresponding official documents. A policy for the faculty's support and development is also in place.

The medical school of the NKUA adheres to transparent procedures for the selection and recruitment of the PSP faculty (APELLA platform). This recruitment is based on covering PSP teaching needs and well-defined research directions. There is a five-member curriculum committee that selects the proposed lecturers, ensuring transparency and meritocracy regarding the selection of the teaching staff. The majority of the staff is recognised for their

research quality, and they have a lot of experience participating in academic courses. However, the research activities of PSP staff members are not visible on the PSP's webpage. Research activities and the attraction of external funding by the PSP staff are not monitored yet for all faculty via universally accessible tools (e.g., Google Scholar, Scopus, etc.). Staff's teaching excellence will be assessed by means of student evaluations (PSP student surveys). Overall, the staff's research productivity and teaching quality are very satisfactory. Faculty teaching is evaluated by students anonymously. This is a very important function that can help improve the PSP in the future. The evaluation questionnaires should be administered during final examinations to ensure 100% participation of all students. The PSP curriculum committee should potentially attend certain lectures to provide additional feedback to individual teaching faculty. The teaching load is acceptable. The PSP staff can be mobile by means of the Erasmus+ programme. The EEAP notes the possibility of specific training in teaching innovation. There is the possibility of continued education and training that will be provided to PSP faculty to improve their teaching.

## **II. Analysis of judgement**

This new PSP is designed to successfully accomplish the stated goals of the programme. The faculty involved in the programme are experienced and recognised in the field. The majority of the PSP faculty originates from NKUA, while additional staff or visiting faculty are from other Greek institutions and research centres. Increasing the number of certain faculty from external entities could further enrich the programme. The PSP staff covers various aspects of the immunology field. There is a core group that administers the PSP. However, there is a need for an additional core group, composed by both staff and students, that controls the PSP's quality and reorganises the programme. It is recommended that the entire teaching faculty meet once per year to discuss the entire programme and receive expert consultation for new teaching methodologies that involve the active participation of students. There is a formal policy in place for the faculty's continuous support and development concerning their teaching activities. Apparently, there is no discussion of institutionalising of teaching awards to provide additional motivation and recognition to faculty. This is not yet in place, but it will motivate teachers and help them to excel in the future.

## **III. Conclusions**

This is an important PSP serving in both education and training. There is significant interaction with external institutions and research centres. This PSP offers job opportunities and allows for further academic studies (PhD). The PSP can be further enhanced by adopting the English language in lectures and seminars and increasing the participation of external stakeholders in advisory and evaluating capacities for the programme.

## Panel Judgement

Principle 4: Teaching Staff of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

## Panel Recommendations

- The EEAP recommends the creation of a committee of 4 to 5 persons (PSP faculty and students) who will meet once per year to discuss progress, problems, and reorganisation of the PSP.
- It is recommended to involve stakeholders during the PSP content review to get their opinion on additional courses that need to supplement the curriculum based on their experience. This could be realised through an informal advisory team.
- The EEAP recommends the mobility of PSP faculty throughout Erasmus+ and other similar platforms.
- Identify mechanisms to encourage students to fill out surveys and questionnaires related to the programme and evaluation of each module, lecturer, instructor, or supervisor. For example, the inclusion of evaluation questionnaires during final examinations will ensure 100% of the students' participation.
- The PSP should continuously promote the policy for the faculty's support and development concerning their teaching duties. Establish formal mechanisms for validating and enhancing teaching credentials through participation in teaching methodology seminars. Establish the "teacher of the year" concept.

## Principle 5: Learning Resources and Student Support

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO COVER THE TEACHING AND LEARNING NEEDS OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THEY SHOULD -ON THE ONE HAND- PROVIDE SATISFACTORY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORT, AND- ON THE OTHER HAND- FACILITATE DIRECT ACCESS TO THEM BY ESTABLISHING INTERNAL RULES TO THIS END (E.G. LECTURE ROOMS, LABORATORIES, LIBRARIES, NETWORKS, CAREER AND SOCIAL POLICY SERVICES ETC.).

*Institutions and their academic units must have sufficient resources and means, on a planned and long-term basis, to support learning and academic activity in general, so as to offer PSP students the best possible level of studies. The above means include facilities such as the necessary general and more specialised libraries and possibilities for access to electronic databases, study rooms, educational and scientific equipment, IT and communication services, support, and counselling services.*

*When allocating the available resources, the needs of all students must be taken into consideration (e.g., whether they are full-time or part-time students, employed and foreign students, students with disabilities), in addition to the shift towards student-centered learning and the adoption of flexible modes of learning and teaching. Support activities and facilities may be organised in various ways, depending on the Institutional context. However, the internal quality assurance proves -on the one hand- the quantity and quality of the available facilities and services, and -on the other hand- that students are aware of all available services.*

In delivering support services, the role of support and administration staff is crucial and therefore this segment of staff needs to be qualified and have opportunities to develop its competences.

### Documentation

- Detailed description of the infrastructure and services made available by the Institution to the academic unit for the PSP, to support learning and academic activity (human resources, infrastructure, services, etc.) and the corresponding firm commitment of the Institution to financially cover these infrastructure-services from state or other resources
- Administrative support staff of the PSP (job descriptions, qualifications, and responsibilities)
- Informative / promotional material given to students with reference to the available services
- Tuition utilisation plan (if applicable)

### Study Programme Compliance

#### I. Findings

The Department of Medicine provides the PSP with a primary lecture hall accommodating up to 300 individuals, a secondary lecture hall with a capacity for 80 individuals, and a seminar room that can accommodate 40 persons. They are all equipped with modern audio-visual infrastructure and are accessible to persons with disabilities. The Department of Medicine also provides the PSP students access to a room equipped with 25 personal computers. For laboratory exercises, the PSP students will utilize the infrastructure of the Laboratory of Physiology. This includes 8 laboratories, which are fully equipped for hands-on training in

biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell culture techniques. Moreover, it includes a High-Fidelity Clinical Simulation Centre. The facilities of collaborating research centres (Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, BSCR Al. Fleming and the Pasteur Institute) will also be utilized for laboratory training. Clinical training will be performed in outpatient clinics of University Hospitals such as “Attiko”, “Laiko”, “Aiginitio” and “Syggros”.

Students of the PSP will have access to the library of the School of Health Sciences, which has a high content on books and scientific journals in printed and digital forms. They will also have access to sports and recreational facilities of the University. Every student will be provided with an email account, access to wi-fi services and the virtual private network (VPN) of the University, as well as access to e-class and e-administration services. The e-class platform contains details on courses and teaching material. The e-administration service is based on the UniTron platform, which enables the management of student and teaching staff data, course organization and student services.

There will be dedicated administrative staff for learning resources and student support. An academic advisor will consult students on several issues related to the academic program, academic life and professional perspectives and opportunities. A consulting service on career opportunities is apparently in place. Internal and external structures for psychosocial services are also available for student counselling. A student attorney will be offered to deal with student complaints and interfere with the University administration in case of conflicts. A plan for specific support for students with disabilities has been developed.

A detailed tuition utilization plan and budget breakdown for the next 4 years has been provided. The funds of the PSP are managed centrally by ELKE, a unit that administers research funds, and operates by charging 30% overheads. The remaining funds cover operational expenses such as administrative and infrastructural support, salary supplements to teaching and administrative staff, and support for conference organization and participation. A tuition fee waiver for 9 out of 30 students has been calculated in the budgets.

## **II. Analysis of judgement**

The seminar rooms and overall infrastructure of the PSP were recently renovated and appear to be in excellent condition. The comprehensive library of the School of Health Sciences offers important resources to students and covers their needs regarding specialized literature.

Information on the program, the courses and student services can be found on the PSP website, which is also used to post housekeeping announcements. The PSP website is in principle bilingual; however, many important links are only offered in Greek and an English version is missing.

There is no information on availability of other promotional material on the PSP (such as pamphlets or booklets).

The plan for utilization of tuition fees and other financial resources such as donations is satisfactory but there is no budget allocation for awards to outstanding students.

### III. Conclusions

The Accreditation EEAP agreed that the PSP is fully compliant to the requirements on learning resources and student support. The overall teaching and learning environment is excellent, while an adequate range of support services are available to students.

However, important information on the program (such as detailed syllabus) and student services need to be better communicated and publicized. This can be done on the website, but also in pamphlets or booklets offered to students.

The Accreditation EEAP found that the website is generally well-designed and functional; however, it should be enriched with additional content, such as a detailed syllabus, CVs and brief description of research programs of teaching staff, internal rules and regulations, details on student services. In addition, the English version is incomplete and requires improvement. The detailed budget breakdown shows a thoughtful distribution and utilization of the PSP income.

#### Panel Judgement

<b>Principle 5: Learning Resources and Student Support</b>	
Fully compliant	<b>X</b>
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

#### Panel Recommendations

- The Accreditation EEAP recommends to the PSP organizers to take actions for better communication to students of the PSP syllabus, the CVs and research interests of teaching staff, and student services. This can be done via an updated website and via promotional pamphlets or booklets. The English version of the PSP website requires improvement.
- The Accreditation EEAP also recommends the allocation of a small budget for awards to outstanding students. If the finances are limited, this could be done by reducing the number of students receiving a tuition fee waiver.

## Principle 6: Initial Internal and External Evaluation and Monitoring of New Postgraduate Study Programmes

INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIC UNITS SHOULD HAVE IN PLACE AN INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM, FOR THE AUDIT, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE NEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES, THUS ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PRESENT STANDARDS. ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE ABOVE CONTEXT SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

*The internal evaluation of the new PSP includes the assessment of the accreditation proposal, as well as the documentation in accordance with the Principles of the present Standards and the quality procedures of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS). The internal evaluation of new postgraduate study programmes also aims at maintaining the level of educational provision and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students. The Institution, through its Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) and the corresponding academic units, organise and support the external evaluation procedures of the new PSP, according to the specific guidelines and directions provided by HAHE.*

*The above comprise the assessment of:*

- the objectives, content, and structure of the curriculum, the knowledge offered and the level of science and technology in the given discipline, thus ensuring that the PSP is up to date, according to the relevant documentation listed in the decisions of the pertinent bodies*
- the entailed students' workload for the progression and completion of postgraduate studies*
- the satisfaction of the students' expectations and needs in relation to the programme*
- the learning environment, support services, and their fitness for purpose for the PSP in question*

Postgraduate study programmes are designed and established in accordance with the provisions of the Institution's internal regulations, involving students and other stakeholders.

### **Documentation**

- *The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) procedure for verifying whether the requirements of the Standards for Quality Accreditation of New PSP are met, as well as the procedure for organising and supporting their external evaluation procedures*
- *Assessment and feedback mechanisms of the PSP strategy and quality targeting, and relevant decision-making processes (students, external stakeholders)*

### **Study Programme Compliance**

#### **I. Findings**

This postgraduate programme is addressed to graduates in health sciences, such as doctors, both non-specialists and specialists, dentists, pharmacists and bio scientists. It aims to deepen postgraduate students' understanding of the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of immunological diseases, while gaining targeted knowledge on the clinical expression, diagnostic and therapeutic approach of these diseases. The curriculum aims to cultivate skills

for the early diagnosis of immunological diseases, understanding of therapeutic strategies, as well as to develop laboratory skills in the newest techniques in the broad and growing field of diagnostic immunology. Periodic internal evaluation and monitoring will be carried out on an annual basis by the MODIP, during which quality data will be collected and evaluated, such as the structure and organization and courses, teaching methods, degree of student satisfaction, etc. All the above information will be made public, in order to be easily accessible to all interested participants.

## **II. Analysis of judgement**

All of the courses in this Master's degree program address current issues in the field of immunology, so that students can potentially obtain the necessary knowledge and training in the broad field of the basic principles and clinical applications of immunology. Its collaboration with major institutions will ensure that students will be provided with a good level of practical and research experience, which will also enable them to develop extramural skills. Indeed, it ensures that students will develop the appropriate skills to continue their academic career with a doctoral thesis. The services provided, both electronic (online secretariat) and academic (academic identity, academic advisor, collaboration with institutions, medical school facilities) are of good quality. The organization of internal evaluation by the MODIP is quite satisfactory and aims at providing high quality studies, improving the benefits and services, as well as the efficiency of the teaching staff. In particular, the monitoring of the structure and organization of the curriculum, student satisfaction with the courses and the transferability of teachers, as well as the evaluation of the level of demand of graduates, the use of financial resources and the qualifications of teaching staff will contribute to the continuous improvement of quality.

## **III. Conclusions**

The organization of this Master's degree is quite satisfactory. The curriculum is well designed, including courses on current topics in the field of Immunology, as well as practical training in well-known universities and research institutions, in order to ensure high quality education and laboratory-research experience. The structure and organization of the internal evaluation is also satisfactory and aims at a multi-faceted evaluation of the postgraduate programme.

### Panel Judgement

<b>Principle 6: Initial Internal and External Evaluation and Monitoring of New Postgraduate Study Programmes</b>	
Fully compliant	<b>X</b>
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

### Panel Recommendations

No further recommendations.

## **PART C: CONCLUSIONS**

### **I. Features of Good Practice**

- Very important programme in immunology and the only one running in Greece combining immunology and clinics.
- The programme is well designed and rational taking into consideration all the basics, clinical and therapeutic aspects of the immunological disorders.
- The overall teaching and learning environment are excellent, while an adequate range of support services are available to students.
- There are informative web pages in Greek and English.
- Existence of questionnaires about faculty performance.
- Mechanisms to follow up on students' progression.
- Very good PSP faculty, highly respected and recognised in the field of immunology.
- Sufficient information concerning studies guide and practical exercise.
- Appropriate number of courses.
- Satisfactory time for the PSP accomplishment (three semesters).
- Enthusiastic faculty and stakeholders.
- Information about the use of the academic advisor.
- The academic and online services provided by the postgraduate school are quite satisfactory.
- The organization of the internal evaluation by the MODIP has a good structure.
- Strong cooperation with other institutions.

### **II. Areas of Weakness**

- The PSP in its present form is more national-oriented.
- The scientific/research part of the programme should be systematically organized and strengthened to integrate more students in research projects.
- The mobility of the PSP participants in the European market is limited.

### **III. Recommendations for Follow-up Actions**

- The PSP should enrich the website with additional information regarding the established research collaborations, particularly linked to PSP level, as socio-political bodies, stakeholders, and external academic research collaborators.
- The Quality Policy and statement of the PSP must be available on the PSP's Website in both Greek and English, so the information will be clearly and completely displayed for all foreign interested partners/companies etc.
- Promotion of courses delivery in English and encouragement to write dissertations in English.

- Students' motivation to participate in various national and international meetings and competitions.
- Creation of a library of research topics.
- Organisation of an information day (open day) where the various stakeholders could explain the possibilities of mobility, job opportunities, etc.
- Involvement of PSP students, alumni and stakeholders in the design of the PSP.
- Creation of an internal formal evaluation committee that will meet once per year to discuss issues related to the improvement of the quality of the PSP.
- Introduction of bioethics courses.
- Creation on an active PSP alumni association.
- Delivery of scholarships to excellent students.
- Establish the "Best teacher of the year" price.
- Establish the "Best student of the year" price.
- Promote student and staff mobility via the Erasmus+ and Erasmus+ Traineeship platforms, and enhance collaboration with institutions from abroad.
- Improve the communication of the PSP syllabus to students via an updated website and via promotional pamphlets or booklets. The English version of the PSP website requires improvement.
- Give more details about the methods and the new technologies regarding the practical courses of the PSP.
- Additional courses focused to scientific writing tools and promoting critical thinking are needed.

#### IV. Summary & Overall Assessment

The Principles where full compliance has been achieved are: **1, 4, 5, and 6.**

The Principles where substantial compliance has been achieved are: **2 and 3.**

The Principles where partial compliance has been achieved are: **None.**

The Principles where failure of compliance was identified are: **None.**

Overall Judgement	
Fully compliant	<b>X</b>
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

## The members of the External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

Name and Surname

Signature

1. **Prof. Nikolaos Venizelos (Chair)**  
Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden.
2. **Prof. Thimios Mitsiadis**  
Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.
3. **Prof. Konstantinos Pantopoulos**  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
4. **Prof. Agapios Sachinidis**  
University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.
5. **Mr. Sotirios Mavromatis, Postgraduate Student**  
Department of Medicine, University of Patras, Patras, Greece.