



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
HELLENIC REPUBLIC



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Accreditation Report for the Postgraduate Study Programme of:

Civil Law

School of Law

Institution: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Date: 3 October 2023



Επιχειρησιακό Πρόγραμμα
Ανάπτυξη Ανθρώπινου Δυναμικού,
Εκπαίδευση και Διά Βίου Μάθηση
Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



Report of the Panel appointed by the HAHE to undertake the review of the Postgraduate Study Programme of **Civil Law** of the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** for the purposes of granting accreditation.

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PART A: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW

I. The External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

The Panel responsible for the Accreditation Review of the postgraduate study programme of **Civil Law** 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. Symeon Giannakos (Chair)**
Salve Regina University, U.S.A.
- 2. Prof. Emeritus Joseph Joseph**
University of Cyprus, Cyprus
- 3. Assoc. Prof. Thomas Skouteris**
The American University in Cairo
- 4. Assoc. Prof. Dimitris Tsarouhas**
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- 5. Maria Kalitsi PhD**
Democritus University of Thrace

II. Review Procedure and Documentation

The external evaluation and accreditation review of the Civil Law post-graduate program of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EKPA) took place during the week beginning on September 25. The review process was facilitated by the Hellenic Authority of Higher Education (HAHE) and the Law School of the University. HAHE arranged for the private meetings of the Evaluation and Accreditation Panel (EEAP) through Zoom, and provided all the digital materials through its website, while the Law School facilitated the online meetings between the School's Dean, the Secretary of the Quality Assurance Unit of the Law School (MODIP), the program's Steering Committee (OMEA), and the post-graduate program's representatives, with the EEAP through WebEx. Specifically, the private meeting of the EEAP took place on Monday, September 25. The EEAP members discussed the review process in detail and allocated specific responsibilities for each member. Following this meeting the EEAP met with the Head of the Department, the Director of the Civic Law post-graduate program, the Secretary of MODIP and one of its members, along with the members of the program's OMEA. Following this meeting, the EEAP reviewed a pre-recorded online presentation of the facilities of the Law School such as classrooms, seminar areas, and the library. The first day of the review process ended with a private meeting of the EEAP to assess the first impression.

On September 26, the EEAP met with the program's faculty, current students of the program, graduates of the program, and market representatives, such as employers of the program's graduates and social partners. The EEAP then held a private meeting through ZOOM to prepare for the final meeting again with the Head of the Department, the Program Director, the MODIP secretary, the OMEA, and representatives of the teaching faculty. On October 2, the EEAP met again to discuss the draft of the report prepared over the weekend, and make plans for finalizing it and submitting it to HAHE.

All meetings were held with the utmost courtesy and professionalism of all involved and the entire process was efficient and effective, but also amicable and collegial.

III. Postgraduate Study Programme Profile

The Civil Law postgraduate program has been offered since 2018. It is a one-year program requiring the completion of a total of six courses and the writing of a Masters' Thesis, which carries the equivalent of a course and a half worth of credits. Graduate students in the program may concentrate in general civic law, in Civil Law and Modern Technologies, or in Civil Law and Modern Financial Transactions. It is one of about six post-graduate programs offered by the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The program is competitive admitting the best law school graduates in Greece (about 25 per year), and fulfils a vital educational mission in the Greek market place, providing a strong educational academic experience for its graduates in the Greek context.

PART B: COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE 1: QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY AND QUALITY GOAL SETTING FOR THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD APPLY A QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT. THIS POLICY SHOULD EXPAND AND BE AIMED (WITH THE COLLABORATION OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS) AT THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

The quality assurance policy of the academic unit should be in line with the quality assurance policy of the Institution 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 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 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 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 the 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 review and audit of the quality assurance system of the PSP through the cooperation of the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) with the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU)*

Documentation

- *Quality Assurance Policy of the PSP*
- *Quality goal setting of the PSP*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) has a robust quality assurance policy for its postgraduate study program (PSP) in Civil Law. This policy is in alignment with the overarching quality assurance framework of the institution and is articulated through a public statement. The policy is designed to achieve specific goals related to the quality of the program, including its academic profile, orientation, and purpose. The academic unit is committed to implementing quality procedures that focus on various aspects, from the structure and organization of

the program to the quality of teaching and support services.

II. Analysis

The quality assurance policy at NKUA demonstrates a comprehensive approach to ensuring academic excellence in its PSP in Civil Law. The policy addresses:

a) Structure and Organization: The program is well-structured, offering a balanced curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills.

b) Learning Outcomes: The program aligns with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education - level 7, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared for both academic and professional pursuits.

c) Quality of Teaching: The program employs qualified faculty members who are experts in their respective fields, thereby ensuring high-quality teaching.

d) Qualifications of Teaching Staff: The faculty members possess appropriate qualifications, including advanced degrees and professional experience.

e) Annual Quality Goals: The program sets specific annual goals aimed at continuous improvement.

f) Market Demand: The program is designed to meet the demands of the labour market, ensuring that graduates are employable.

g) Support Services: The program offers quality support services, including administrative services, libraries, and student welfare offices.

h) Financial Resources: The program efficiently utilizes its financial resources, including tuition fees, to maintain its quality.

i) Annual Review and Audit: The program undergoes an annual review and audit through cooperation between the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) and the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU).

III. Conclusions

The quality assurance policy for the PSP in Civil Law at NKUA is comprehensive, well-structured, and aligned with both national and international standards. It demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence, continuous improvement, and stakeholder satisfaction. The policy covers all essential aspects, from curriculum design and faculty qualifications to support services and financial management. The program not only meets but often exceeds the quality benchmarks set by the institution and relevant educational bodies.

Panel Judgement

Principle 1: Quality assurance policy and quality goal setting for the postgraduate study programmes of the institution and the academic unit	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- **Broaden Quality Goals:** While the existing quality procedures are commendable, they could be expanded to include a broader set of goals and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This would allow for more measurable outcomes and create a record of performance over several years.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Include regular feedback mechanisms from students, faculty, and alumni to continuously update and improve the quality assurance policy.
- **Career Services:** Enhance the focus on career services to better assess the employability of graduates, thereby providing a metric for the program's alignment with labour market demands.
- **Digital Transformation:** Leverage technology to streamline administrative processes, thereby enhancing the efficiency of support services.
- **Public Reporting:** Publish an annual quality assurance report to keep all stakeholders informed about the program's achievements and areas for improvement.

PRINCIPLE 2: DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF 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 POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THE OBJECTIVES, THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE SET OUT IN THE PROGRAMME DESIGN. DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 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, and specialisations 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. For each 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 of 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 EQF, 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 (name list including of areas of specialisation, its relation to the courses taught, employment relationship, and teaching assignment in hours as well as other teaching commitments in hours)*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) has implemented a well-defined written process for the design and approval of its postgraduate study program (PSP) in Civil Law. This process involves multiple stakeholders, including participants, information sources, and approval committees. The program design clearly outlines its objectives, expected learning outcomes, and employment prospects. The program also adheres to the European and National Qualifications Framework (EQF, NQF) and the Dublin Descriptors for level 7. The program's structure, content, and organization are designed to deepen knowledge and skills, with a focus on research methodology and participation in research projects.

II. Analysis

The design and approval process of the PSP at NKUA is comprehensive and well-structured, meeting the following criteria:

- Academic Profile and Orientation: The program has a clear academic profile, focusing on Civil Law, with an emphasis on research and scientific objectives.
- Course Structure and Teaching Methods: The courses are designed to deepen knowledge and provide practical skills, including a course on research methodology and opportunities for participation in research projects.
- Learning Outcomes: The expected learning outcomes are aligned with EQF and NQF, ensuring a high standard of education.
- Stakeholder Involvement: The program design involves active participation from students and external stakeholders from the labour market, ensuring its relevance and applicability.
- Student Workload: The program adheres to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for level 7, providing a balanced workload for students.
- Work Experience: The program offers the option of providing work experience to students, enhancing their employability.
- Teaching and Research Link: There is a strong link between teaching and research, enriching the academic experience for students.
- Regulatory Framework: The program complies with the relevant regulatory framework and has been approved by the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU).

III. Conclusions

The PSP in Civil Law at NKUA is designed following a rigorous and well-defined process that involves multiple stakeholders and aligns with both national and international standards. The program not only meets but often exceeds the quality benchmarks set by the institution and relevant educational bodies. It is evident that the program is committed to academic excellence, practical skills development, and stakeholder satisfaction.

Panel Judgement

Principle 2: Design and approval of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- **Transparency in Evaluation Criteria:** While learning outcomes are public, the program could benefit from also making the evaluation criteria for these outcomes public and developing metrics to that effect.
- **Regular Updates:** Periodically update the program design to reflect advancements in the field of Civil Law and feedback from stakeholders. Several stakeholders that the Panel talked to could play a more formal or institutionalized role in the process.
- **Enhanced Research Opportunities:** Increase opportunities for student participation in ongoing research projects within the department.
- **Alumni Feedback:** Incorporate feedback from alumni who are in the labour market to continuously update and improve the program.
- **Digital Platforms:** Utilize digital platforms for disseminating information about the program's structure, thereby enhancing accessibility and transparency
- **Long-term Performance Metrics:** Implement long-term performance metrics to assess the program's success over several years, focusing on alumni success and research contributions.

PRINCIPLE 3: STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING, TEACHING, AND ASSESSMENT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ENSURE THAT POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEARNING PROCESS. THE ASSESSMENT METHODS SHOULD REFLECT THIS APPROACH.

Student-centred learning and teaching plays an important role in enhancing students' motivation, their self-evaluation, and their active participation in the learning process. The above entail continuous consideration of the programme's delivery and the assessment of the related outcomes.

The student-centred learning and teaching process

- *respects and attends to the diversity of students and their needs by adopting flexible learning paths*
- *considers and uses different modes of delivery, where appropriate*
- *flexibly uses a variety of pedagogical methods*
- *regularly evaluates and adjusts the modes of delivery and pedagogical methods aiming at improvement*
- *regularly evaluates the quality and effectiveness of teaching, as documented especially through student surveys*
- *strengthens the student's sense of autonomy, while ensuring adequate guidance and support from the teaching staff*
- *promotes mutual respect in the student-teacher relationship*
- *applies appropriate procedures for dealing with the students' complaints*
- *provides counselling and guidance for the preparation of the thesis*

In addition

- *The academic staff are familiar with the existing examination system and methods and are supported in developing their own skills in this field.*
- *The assessment criteria and methods are published in advance. The assessment allows students to demonstrate the extent to which the intended learning outcomes have been achieved. Students are given feedback, which, if necessary is linked to advice on the learning process.*
- *Student assessment is conducted by more than one examiner, where possible.*
- *Assessment is consistent, fairly applied to all students and conducted in accordance with the stated procedures.*
- *A formal procedure for student appeals is in place.*
- *The function of the academic advisor runs smoothly.*

Documentation

- *Sample of a fully completed questionnaire for the evaluation of the PSP by the students*
- *Regulations for dealing with students' complaints and appeals*
- *Regulation for the function of academic advisor*
- *Reference to the teaching modes and assessment methods*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

Student-centered learning and teaching play an important role in stimulating students' motivation, self-reflection and engagement in the learning process. The PSP under review follows the principles of student-centered learning and teaching to achieve the learning goals underlined by the Study Program. Compulsory and

elective courses are chosen by the postgraduates' students according to their interests. The teaching methods consist in professors' lectures, assignments, guest lecturers from foreign institutions. There is a provision for visits in institutions and moot courts, meanwhile the preparation and presentation of assignments may familiarize LL.M students -among others-with bibliography searching and oral presentation. The student assessment is conducted by the teaching staff, is written or oral, and mitigating circumstances are taken into consideration. A formal procedure for student appeals is in place.

II. Analysis

The relationship between students and teaching staff is quite close. All the interviewed students confirm that the teaching staff was readily available and accessible. The students were not aware of reported instances/appeals. There is a University Ombudsperson, but the interviewed students claimed that any complaint is received and faced by the teaching staff directly. Classes take place in relatively small groups as the total student number is 25 students. Interviewed students report that the quality of instruction is very high, and the teaching staff stimulates their interests. Assessments take the form of written, and sometimes, oral exams. Student satisfaction surveys are regularly conducted. The student response rate is, however, statistically too low to be useful, probably because the majority of them are professionals and find the process not useful for their goals. Teaching staff foster student-centered learning. The combined use of research, assignments, research papers, oral presentation, and guest lecturers' presentation promote absolutely the principles of student-centered learning and teaching.

III. Conclusions

Overall, the student-centered learning, teaching, and assessment is totally achieved by the PSP according to the principle 3, the teaching methods and the accessibility of the teaching staff stimulate the students' interest for more extensive research.

Panel Judgement

Principle 3: Student-centred learning, teaching, and assessment	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Student participation in questionnaires should be increased to a statistically relevant percentage.

PRINCIPLE 4: 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).

All the issues from the beginning to the end of studies should be governed by the internal regulations of the academic units. Indicatively:

- *the student 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*

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

Documentation

- *Internal regulation for the operation of the Postgraduate Study Programme*
- *Research Ethics Regulation*
- *Regulation of studies, internship, mobility, and student assignments*
- *Degree certificate template*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Study Program provides detailed information on the main aspects and phases of studies (admission, progression, recognition, and certification). The general requirements, admission criteria and the relative process are fair and transparent. To be eligible for admission, prospective students must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Law. To obtain the LL.M. degree, students must successfully complete two semesters of core and optional, intensive taught modules and submit a master thesis. The LL.M Thesis is written in Greek and upon request in English. For the successful completion of the program students must collect 75 ECTS. The Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is not applied. If the student succeeds in a second qualification of the same or of a different PSP must re-attend the corresponding mandatory courses with those of the previous specialization in which has studied.

II. Analysis

The PSP under review follows the principles of transparency and fairness in all the phases of Principle 4. The PSP is intensive, the duration of studies and the strict timeline may not be convenient for the students. There is no option to complete more modules and not to submit a master thesis, which is inflexible and may discourage prospective students who are also law practitioners. The Program offers an internship opportunity instead of completing one spring semesters' module.

III. Conclusions

Overall, the Unit has developed and applied published regulations covering all aspects and phases of studies, which are described in the Study Program. The PSP is intensive and requires the full commitment of students.

Panel Judgement

Principle 4: Student admission, progression, recognition of postgraduate studies and certification	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

It could be a provision for admission of part time students, usually law practitioners, who will submit the LL.M thesis one semester after the completion of the teaching modules.

PRINCIPLE 5: TEACHING STAFF OF 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 of the teaching staff of the academic unit teaching at the PSP, the appropriate staff-student ratio, the appropriate staff categories, the appropriate subject areas, the fair and objective recruitment process, the high research performance, the training- development, 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*
- *Employment regulations or contracts, and obligations of the teaching staff*
- *Policy for staff support and development*
- *Individual performance of the teaching staff in scientific-research and teaching work, based on internationally recognised systems of scientific evaluation (e.g. Google Scholar, Scopus, etc.)*
- *List of teaching staff including subject areas, employment relationship, Institution of origin, Department of origin*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Law School, recognising the importance of teaching and research, follows a clear, transparent, and fair process for the recruitment of qualified staff. Their expertise, international background, high qualifications, and enthusiasm enhance the quality of classroom teaching and research output. All of them are Ph.D. holders, active researchers, productive scholars, and dedicated teachers. Visiting professors from other countries and institutions, as well as guest speakers, deliver lectures and participate in teaching and other academic activities of the School. New technologies are widely used in the classroom and in communicating with students. The staff-student ratio is very good.

II. Analysis

The teaching staff follow innovative and widely used pedagogical practices and instructional methods that meet international standards. There is enthusiasm and skills in utilizing new technologies, both in the classroom and in interaction among faculty and students. The Panel had the opportunity to interact with students and received the impression that they think very highly of their teachers. Current

students as well as graduates talked with respect, gratitude and admiration about their professors, the School culture, and the learning environment. They confirmed that their teachers are committed, accessible, understanding, and ready to provide support and guidance. Overall, the teaching, encouragement and advising provided by faculty members are evident and highly appreciated by the students.

III. Conclusions

The Law School and the University provide encouragement and adequate opportunities for the professional development of the faculty, although there is room for improvement. All teaching staff should be commended for the firm commitment, concentrated effort, and enthusiasm in maintaining high-quality teaching and research despite the obstacles and difficulties created by limited resources and other external factors for which the School cannot be blamed. It is pointed out that there is a collaborative climate in the School built on, and reflecting, mutual respect and collegial spirit, not only among faculty members, but also between students and teaching staff.

Panel Judgement

Principle 5: Teaching staff of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- The excellent collegial atmosphere in the Law School and accessibility of faculty by the students should be maintained and further enhanced, as it is instrumental in sharing experiences and getting feedback.
- Faculty members could intensify their efforts and enhance their high-quality research output, especially by publishing in international peer-reviewed journals and publishing houses.
- The Law School and the University could seek ways and means to provide further support to faculty members to enhance research and intensify their efforts for attracting external funding, especially through international and European projects. This is in line with the broader need to address the general systemic problem of an inadequately funded public university system.

PRINICPLE 6: LEARNING RESOURCES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO COVER THE TEACHING AND LEARNING NEEDS OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME. 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, 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 students, students with disabilities), in addition to the shift towards student-centred 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 human resources of the PSP are made up of 24 Faculty members, 10 Post-Doc researchers and 1 administrative staff. Existing resources pertaining to classrooms and student support services are adequate, and provisions are in place for access for special needs students. The Law School maintains laboratories that can be used by students for research-related purposes. Study rooms and access to e- services pertaining to library enabled resources are appropriate and in line with the PSP's declared goals. Students have direct access to a range of support services offered by the University, including the Student Career Office, the Student Counsellor, the Student's Advocate (Συνήγορος του Φοιτητή). There is also support for international students, health care, cultural events, athletics, and social security. Students can draw on external resources through potential participation in the School's Erasmus+ program. The annual tuition fees for the LL.M. program amount to 1,200 € and appropriate policies are in place, in line with current legal provisions, to facilitate tuition fee discounts or waivers for students in need.

II. Analysis

Both the human and material resources are adequate, and the Law Library offers a substantial amount of printed and online resources to all students and staff, reading paces. Students have access to inter-library loans and the major national and international legal databases. Students have access to an electronic Directory that offers a valuable study guide and links to a range of available resources. Student testimonies point to the high degree of support offered to them by both Faculty and administrative staff, the readiness of which to answer questions and facilitate administrative procedures is praiseworthy. IT equipment for faculty is in existence but not always adequate to facilitate research. Mechanisms to address potential student grievances have been institutionalized, offering both more organized support to students in need and higher levels of transparency.

III. Conclusions

Student support is multi-faceted and adequate for the program. Students are generally aware of the resources available to them, and content with the level of support offered to them by both Faculty and administrative staff. Existing material resources adequately cover student needs, and their future expansion and improvement would further enhance the student experience.

Panel Judgement

Principle 6: Learning resources and student support	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- The University Library conducts regular student-centered workshops to inform and guide students as to the rich electronic and digital content it offers. Participation in a minimum of one such workshop should be incentivized by all faculty members at the start of the academic year to ensure that all students are fully aware of available resources.
- Available work experience opportunities for students can be enhanced through an increase in institutionalized partnerships with employers, thereby adding to the value of the program.
- Make clear the way student feedback through the relevant questionnaire is used by the School to improve the student experience and improve its performance over time.

PRINCIPLE 7: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INSTITUTIONS BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTING, ANALYSING AND USING INFORMATION, AIMED AT THE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, IN AN INTEGRATED, EFFECTIVE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE WAY.

Institutions are expected to establish and operate an information system for the management and monitoring of data concerning students, teaching staff, course structure and organisation, teaching and provision of services to students.

Reliable data is essential for accurate information and decision-making, as well as for identifying areas of smooth operation and areas for improvement. Effective procedures for collecting and analysing information on postgraduate study programmes and other activities feed data into the internal system of quality assurance.

The information collected depends, to some extent, on the type and mission of the Institution. The following are of interest:

- *key performance indicators*
- *student population profile*
- *student progression, success, and drop-out rates*
- *student satisfaction with their programmes*
- *availability of learning resources and student support*

A number of methods may be used to collect information. It is important that students and staff are involved in providing and analysing information and planning follow-up activities.

Documentation

- *Report from the National Information System for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (NISQA) at the level of the Institution, the department, and the PSP*
- *Operation of an information management system for the collection of administrative data for the implementation of the PSP (Students' Record)*
- *Other tools and procedures designed to collect data on the academic and administrative functions of the academic unit and the PSP*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The information system of the Civil Law graduate program, similar to other PSPs of the University's Law School, is supported by the centralized information system (UniTron) of the University. The system manages all data relating to the student's academic status and performance, course scheduling and registration, and all necessary logistical services for the delivery of the study program, such as classroom scheduling, electronic syllabi, grade recording, exam scheduling, and course evaluations. Subsequently, data regarding the quality of education is fed into the National Information System for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (NISQA) of HAHE on a yearly basis.

The internal evaluation report of the program is available on its website.

II. Analysis

Performance indicators with regard to teaching quality and faculty performance (both teaching and research) are not always accessible and occasionally hard to locate. There is little evidence of systematic data use to improve services offered. There is also little evidence of systematic data use pertaining to program alumni, whose feedback could be used to plan follow-up activities and improve the existing

structure of the program.

III. Conclusions

The information management system used is effective and a reliable source of information for both internal and external stakeholders. The Program makes full use of University-wide resources and has established its own data collection and information system as well. Linking the existing database to the program in a more explicit, direct way so as to benefit from the available data point would constitute a praiseworthy practice.

Panel Judgement

Principle 7: Information management	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- The program may want to use the existing dataset to undertake regular (e.g., every three years) periodic surveys of graduates so as to make adjustments to its content when and if necessary.
- The dataset available is comprehensive but underutilized. One of the reasons behind that is that there is little attempt to make data comparative. The Panel proposes that the School restructures the data so as to demonstrate fluctuations in enrolment, dropout rates, and initiate reforms accordingly.

PRINCIPLE 8: PUBLIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD PUBLISH INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR TEACHING AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES IN A DIRECT AND READILY ACCESSIBLE WAY. THE RELEVANT INFORMATION SHOULD BE UP-TO-DATE, OBJECTIVE AND CLEAR.

Information on the Institutions' activities is useful for prospective and current students, graduates, other stakeholders, and the public.

Therefore, Institutions and their academic units must provide information about their activities, including the PSP they offer, the intended learning outcomes, the degrees awarded, the teaching, learning and assessment procedures applied, the pass rates, and the learning opportunities available to their students. Information is also provided on the employment perspectives of PSP graduates.

Documentation

- *Dedicated segment on the website of the department for the promotion of the PSP*
- *Bilingual version of the PSP website with complete, clear and objective information*
- *Provision for website maintenance and updating*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

HAHE's standard eight requires a "Dedicated segment on the website of the department for the promotion of the PSP, Bilingual version of the PSP website with complete, clear and objective information, [and] Provision for website maintenance and updating." The internal evaluation report notes that information via the website is made available in Greek and English. At the same time, the report notes that one of the priorities of the program in the near future is the upgrading of the website's English version.

There is no English version of the website of the program, but this is not unique to this program. The University does not seem to be contributing resources or effort to the development of the website for postgraduate programs and the Hellenic version of the website is as basic as basic can be. It is limited to a series of links that connect to files with the basic necessary information. When one compares this website with other postgraduate websites in other universities in Athens, the lack of the website is glaring.

II. Analysis

The program aims primarily to serve law school graduates. One would expect that the accepted students are already familiar with the faculties program and the program itself while serving as undergraduates. There is no other similar postgraduate program in Greece. As such, there is no competition, and this can go a long way explaining the lack of attention to the program's website. All the same, the website does not emit the status reserved for itself by the oldest law school in Greece. Both the Hellenic and the English version of the website need serious upgrading.

III. Conclusions

The internal report recognizes the need to upgrade the website in the new future. It should be one of the priorities.

Panel Judgement

Principle 8: Public information concerning the postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	
Substantially compliant	X
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Create a website with faculty bios and pictures, with student testimonies of their academic and professional experiences, and with live links to all necessary information.

PRINCIPLE 9: ON-GOING MONITORING AND PERIODIC INTERNAL EVALUATION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIC UNITS SHOULD HAVE IN PLACE AN INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM FOR THE AUDIT AND ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW OF THEIR POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES, SO AS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES SET FOR THEM, THROUGH MONITORING AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS, WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE ABOVE CONTEXT SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

The regular monitoring, review, and revision of postgraduate study programmes aim at maintaining the level of educational provision and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students.

The above comprise the evaluation of:

- a) the content of the programme in the light of the latest research in the given discipline, thus ensuring that the PSP is up to date*
- b) the changing needs of society*
- c) the students' workload, progression and completion of the postgraduate studies*
- d) the effectiveness of the procedures for the assessment of students*
- e) the students' expectations, needs and satisfaction in relation to the programme*
- f) the learning environment, support services, and their fitness for purpose for the PSP in question*

Postgraduate study programmes are reviewed and revised regularly involving students and other stakeholders. The information collected is analysed and the programme is adapted to ensure that it is up-to-date.

Documentation

- *Procedure for the re-evaluation, redefinition and updating of the PSP curriculum*
- *Procedure for mitigating weaknesses and upgrading the structure of the PSP and the learning process*
- *Feedback processes concerning the strategy and quality goal setting of the PSP and relevant decision-making processes (students, external stakeholders)*
- *Results of the annual internal evaluation of the PSP by the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU), and the relevant minutes*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Law School and the University have in place internal self-assessment procedures and mechanisms, which are part of an efficient quality assurance system, providing for regular monitoring, review and revision of the Programme. The internal quality assurance system aims at maintaining high Programme standards and an appropriate level of education while creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students. MODIP, OMEA and the Law School study programme committee play a central role throughout the various stages of internal self-assessment. The outcomes of self-assessment are properly recorded, analysed, shared and utilized, especially in formulating and communicating recommendations and action plans.

II. Analysis

Constant efforts are made to review and revise the Programme to ensure that it is up-to-date and in line with the latest research and pedagogical approaches.

Revisions are also aimed at harmonizing its objectives and content with students' needs and expectations, maintaining international standards and following best practices. They also take into consideration the changing needs of society and the expectations of students who provide evaluations of courses and faculty, as well as the overall learning environment.

III. Conclusions

The Panel is convinced that the commitment of the School and the on-going internal monitoring and evaluation ensure that high quality teaching and research are firm and clear objectives embedded in the Programme. The internal review and monitoring of the Programme reflect an academically rigorous and open Law School and internal University quality assurance process. All actions taken are communicated to all parties and stakeholders concerned. Overall, the internal quality assurance system in place works efficiently in monitoring, updating and promoting the continuous improvement of the Programme.

Panel Judgement

Principle 9: On-going monitoring and periodic internal evaluation of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Create a website with faculty bios and pictures, with student testimonies of their academic and professional experiences, and with live links to all necessary information.

PRINCIPLE 10: REGULAR EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES SHOULD REGULARLY UNDERGO EVALUATION BY PANELS OF EXTERNAL EXPERTS SET BY HAHE, AIMING AT ACCREDITATION. THE TERM OF VALIDITY OF THE ACCREDITATION IS DETERMINED BY HAHE.

HAHE is responsible for administrating the PSP accreditation process which is realised as an external evaluation procedure, and implemented by panels of independent experts. HAHE grants accreditation of programmes, based on the Reports delivered by the panels of external experts, with a specific term of validity, following to which, revision is required. The quality accreditation of the PSP acts as a means for the determination of the degree of compliance of the programme to the Standards, and as a catalyst for improvement, while opening new perspectives towards the international standing of the awarded degrees. Both academic units and Institutions must consistently consider the conclusions and the recommendations submitted by the panels of experts for the continuous improvement of the programme.

Documentation

- *Progress report of the PSP in question, on the results from the utilisation of possible recommendations included in the External Evaluation Report of the Institution, and in the IQAS Accreditation Report, with relation to the postgraduate study programmes*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

This Programme, has not been externally evaluated before. During the current external review, all stakeholders were actively engaged. The Law School and the University worked diligently in preparing materials, presentations, as well as in organizing and hosting the virtual meetings with the Panel. All the meetings included presentations, discussions, and question and answer sessions. The Panel had the opportunity to meet, talk, and interact with all the participants of all meetings. The discussions were very constructive and fruitful and were conducted in a cooperative manner and attitude. The efficiency and eagerness of the Law School to answer questions and provide additional information and clarifications during the meetings are worth noting.

II. Analysis

Based on the materials submitted and the information gathered during the online presentations and discussions, it appears that all members of staff (teaching and administrative), as well as students, alumni and other stakeholders are aware of the importance of external review, its usefulness and the contribution it can make in improving the Programme. Throughout the current external evaluation process, it was convincingly demonstrated that the University and the Law School are committed to the letter, spirit and process of quality assurance and external review. There is already in place a step-by-step action plan for utilizing the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation. As they pointed out during the meetings, it will help them become better by enabling them to identify any problematic areas and find suitable solutions.

III. Conclusions

It is the impression of the Panel that the Law School and the University are committed to external evaluation as a key component of a quality assurance system. They worked diligently to facilitate the current review and meet its

objectives. Overall, their positive approach toward quality assurance and external review is expected to have a positive impact on the Programme and contribute to its continuous improvement. However, more tangible results and a more meaningful assessment regarding this Principle will be possible when a second external evaluation is carried out.

Panel Judgement

Principle 10: Regular external evaluation of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Create a website with faculty bios and pictures, with student testimonies of their academic and professional experiences, and with live links to all necessary information.

PART C: CONCLUSIONS

I. Features of Good Practice

- Faculty commitment to students' academic needs and well-being
- Strong support services for the students
- Well placed academic program in relation to market needs
- Strong student body
- Intense program of studies

II. Areas of Weakness

- Duration of studies can be longer; three academic semesters rather than two
- Library hours can be adaptable to students' needs
- Website needs to be developed

III. Recommendations for Follow-up Actions

- While the existing quality procedures are commendable, they could be expanded to include a broader set of goals and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This would allow for more measurable outcomes and create a record of performance over several years.
- Include regular feedback mechanisms from students, faculty, and alumni to continuously update and improve the quality assurance policy.
- Enhance the focus on career services to better assess the employability of graduates, thereby providing a metric for the program's alignment with labour market demands.
- Leverage technology to streamline administrative processes, thereby enhancing the efficiency of support services.
- Publish an annual quality assurance report to keep all stakeholders informed about the program's achievements and areas for improvement.
- While learning outcomes are public, the program could benefit from also making the evaluation criteria for these outcomes public and developing metrics to that effect.
- Periodically update the program design to reflect advancements in the field of Civil Law and feedback from stakeholders. Several stakeholders that the Panel talked to would become a more formal or institutionalized role in the process.
- Increase opportunities for student participation in ongoing research projects within the department.
- Incorporate feedback from alumni who are in the labour market to continuously update and improve the program.
- Utilize digital platforms for disseminating information about the program's structure, thereby enhancing accessibility and transparency
- Implement long-term performance metrics to assess the program's success over several years, focusing on alumni success and research contributions.
- Student participation in questionnaires should be increased to a statistically relevant percentage.
- The excellent collegial atmosphere in the Law School and accessibility of faculty by the students

should be maintained and further enhanced, as it is instrumental in sharing experiences and getting feedback.

- Faculty members could intensify their efforts and enhance their high-quality research output, especially by publishing in international peer-reviewed journals and publishing houses.
- The Law School and the University could seek ways and means to provide further support to faculty members to enhance research and intensify their efforts for attracting external funding, especially through international and European projects. This is in line with the broader need to address the general systemic problem of an inadequately funded public university system.
- Available work experience opportunities for students can be enhanced through an increase in institutionalized partnerships with employers, thereby adding to the value of the program.
- The program may want to use the existing data set to undertake regular (e.g., every three years) periodic surveys of graduates so as to make adjustments to its content when and if necessary.
- The dataset available is comprehensive but underutilized. One of the reasons behind that is that there is little attempt to make data comparative. The Committee proposes that the School restructures the data so as to demonstrate fluctuations in enrolment, dropout rates etc. and initiate reforms accordingly.
- Create a website with faculty bios and pictures, with student testimonies of their academic and professional experiences and with live links to all necessary information.
- The Law School quality assurance committee may wish to consider having a more structured procedure -- such as scheduled meetings and time-frames -- to ensure that on-going monitoring and periodic reviews are sustained and further enhanced.
- Maintain and further enhance the existing positive attitude toward the external review process, its findings, and recommendations.

IV. Summary & Overall Assessment

The Principles where full compliance has been achieved are:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10.

The Principles where substantial compliance has been achieved are:

8.

The Principles where partial compliance has been achieved are:

None.

The Principles where failure of compliance was identified are:

None.

Overall Judgement	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

The members of the External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

Name and Surname

Signature

- 1. Prof. Symeon Giannakos (Chair)**
Salve Regina University, U.S.A.
- 2. Prof. Emeritus Joseph**
University of Cyprus, Cyprus
- 3. Assoc. Prof. Thomas Skouteris**
The American University in Cairo
- 4. Assoc. Prof. Dimitris Tsarouhas**
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- 5. Maria Kalitsi PhD**
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