



**University of Thessaly
Faculty of Health Sciences**

Physiotherapy Department Msc "Advanced Physiotherapy"



MSc Quality Assurance Policy

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Introduction

Quality Assurance in Higher Education is the main objective of the European Single Higher Education Area, in which Greece also participates (Law 3374/2005). Ensuring the quality of Higher Education Institutions aims at the best possible satisfaction of society's needs and its expectations from Educational Institutions. A prerequisite is the organization of an internal system of principles, criteria and regulations, the proper functioning of which is certified by systematic internal and external evaluation procedures.

The external quality assurance of the Institutions is carried out by the National Authority for Higher Education (ETHAAE) which has assumed the responsibility of supporting and carrying out the evaluation and certification procedures of HEIs.

The responsibility and responsibilities for the internal quality assurance of each Higher Education Institution rests with the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP), an organ of the central administration of each Institution (Law 4009/2011 article 14). MODIP has been established and operates at the University of Thessaly (UT), as a central body responsible for the coordination and support of the university's quality assurance procedures, through the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS). The ESDP of TY aims and is committed to the improvement and competition in education, excellence, the promotion of knowledge, innovation and research based on the principles and directions of the Authority for Quality Assurance and Certification in Higher Education (ADIP).

Among other things, MODIP aims to further improve the quality indicators of the academic and administrative units of the TY, to provide incentives for attracting scientists with high training and international recognition, to promote excellence and to improve the position of the individual Academic Units and the TY in general.

The MODIP at TO and the Internal Evaluation Teams (OEMA) in each Department have undertaken the internal evaluation process and submit to the MODIP of TO. the annual evaluation reports. Then the MODIP approves the Quadrennial Internal Evaluation Reports of the Departments and submits them to the ETHAE, while at the same time submitting to the Senate of the University of Athens the Internal Self-Assessment Report of the University of Athens every two years for updating.

The quality assurance policy of the Postgraduate Study Program of the Department of Physiotherapy

The Department of Physiotherapy recognizes the contribution of Quality Assurance for equal access to knowledge, extroversion, international recognition and finally cooperation with local community and national bodies. Thus, the Department of Physiotherapy is committed to ensuring and continuously improving the quality of all its

academic, educational, administrative and research activities. The goal of the Master's Program is to achieve the highest possible quality of operation and continuous improvement of the educational and research work, in accordance with international standards and best practices. It will offer modern and competitive study programs (at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels), focus on innovation, quality culture and applied research in clinical practice.

The Graduate Program of the Department, which is implemented from the Academic Year 2020-2021, aims to provide studies in accordance with the European and National Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, based on interdisciplinary, scientifically documented knowledge with the ultimate goal of training scientists who they will have composed views on the subject, they will have a deep understanding of the cognitive field they have chosen to treat and they will have the ability to respond in a documented and comprehensive way to the developments of science.

The Quality Policy of the *Master's program Advanced Physiotherapy of the Department of Physiotherapy* harmonizes and fully follows the standard of operation of the TY, as it is formed by MODIP with the aim of promoting the quality and effectiveness of the teaching work. In the Department of Physiotherapy, an OMEA committee has been set up consisting of three (3) faculty members and one substitute member. The goal of OMEA is to certify the quality of the educational process provided to the students, the level of the research process and the administration of the Department as well as to propose improvements to the above. OMEA is responsible for writing the annual and four-year evaluation reports of the postgraduate program.

Each academic semester, the Master's students are asked to answer in each course, a special questionnaire which is divided into two parts (5-point Likert scale). The first part includes five [5] sections, more specifically: the course, the assignments, the teachers, the workshops, the student's self-assessment regarding his obligations to the taught course. The second part consists of a series of questions where the student records their opinions (comments) about the courses and the teachers.

The effort to achieve the Political Quality of the advanced *master 's degree Physiotherapy* of the Department of Physiotherapy is carried out through the annual evaluation process, which is completed by the members of the OMEA of the Department of Physiotherapy, in collaboration with the MODIP of the Faculty of Medicine. OMEA members contribute to:

- monitoring the implementation of the quality objectives of the postgraduate program,
- harmonizing the quality policy with the overall strategic goals of the Department and the Foundation,

- decision-making for the continuous improvement of the quality of the offered work of the postgraduate program,
- carrying out the Internal Evaluation and the constructive cooperation with the Quality Assurance Unit of the University of Athens, and
- achieving excellence at all levels of the academic operation of the graduate program

The Quality Policy of the master's program follows the strategic objectives of the Master's program at all levels, is actively supported by all participants in the educational process, is specialized and evaluated through target setting.

Therefore, the Physiotherapy Department will implement a series of procedures such as:

- emphasis is placed on student-centered learning
- it is sought that the learning outcomes are in accordance with the National and the European Framework of Higher Education Qualifications,
- applies the principles of the Management and Quality Assurance System,
- the needs of human resources are met, and they will actively participate in decision-making,
- uses SMART methodology
- links teaching with research in order to improve the qualifications of graduates with the aim of meeting the demands of the labor market
- the quality but also the general research and writing work of the members of the Master's program is promoted,
- an annual evaluation and feedback is carried out in collaboration with the OMEA of the Master's program and the MODIP of TO,
- there is transparency in all the actions of the Master's program,
- ethical rules are applied and any kind of discrimination will be prevented,
- the continuous improvement of the educational activity of the Master's program is sought,
- all the benefits to the students are improved,
- the appropriateness of the structure of the Master's program and the organization of the study program is evaluated
- the formal and substantive qualifications of the teaching staff of the Master's program are evaluated.

The Quality Policy of the postgraduate program is published on the MSc website (https://msc.physio.uth.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/PDP_2022.pdf) so that it is disseminated to all involved members (academic community and society) to ensure accountability, consent and direct involvement in relevant processes.