



QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPY

1. Introductory Information

Quality Assurance in Higher Education is a key objective of the European Higher Education Area, in which Greece is a participant (Law 3374/2005). The quality assurance of Higher Education Institutions aims at the best possible satisfaction of the needs of society and its expectations from the Educational Institutions. A prerequisite is the organisation 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 Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), which is responsible for the support and implementation of the evaluation and accreditation procedures of HEIs.

The responsibility and competences for the internal quality assurance of each higher education institution are vested in the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU), a body of the central administration of each institution (Law 4009 /At the University of Thessaly (UTH), the Quality Assurance Unit has been established and operates as a central body responsible for the coordination and support of the university's quality assurance processes through the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS). The IQAS of the UTH aims and is committed to improvement and fairness in education, excellence, promotion of knowledge, innovation and research based on the principles and guidelines of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Authority for Higher Education (Hellenic Authority for Higher Education - HAHE).

Among other things, the QAU aims to further improve the quality indicators of the academic and administrative units of the UTH, to provide incentives for attracting highly qualified and internationally recognised scientists, to promote excellence and to improve the position of the individual academic units and the UTH in general.

The QAU at the UTH and the Internal Evaluation Teams (IETs) in each Department are responsible for the internal evaluation process and submit the annual evaluation reports to the QAU of the UTH. Subsequently, the QAU approves the Four-Year Internal Evaluation Reports of the Departments and submits them to the HAHE, while also submitting the Internal Self-Evaluation Report of the UTH to the UTH Senate every two years for updating.

2. The quality assurance policy of the Department of Physiotherapy

The Department of Physiotherapy recognises the contribution of Quality Assurance to 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 quality in all its academic, educational, administrative and research activities. The aim of the Department of Physiotherapy is to achieve the highest possible quality of operation and continuous improvement of its educational and research work, in accordance with international standards and best practices. It will offer modern and competitive curricula (at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level), focus on innovation, culture of quality and applied research in clinical practice.

The Department's Undergraduate Studies Programme, which will be implemented from the Academic Year 2019-2020, aims to provide studies in accordance with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, based on interdisciplinarity, on scientifically based knowledge with the ultimate goal of training scientists who will have coherent views on the subject, will have an in-depth understanding of the field of knowledge they have chosen to treat and will be able to respond in an evidenced-based and integrated way to the advancements of the physiotherapy science.

The Quality Assurance Policy of the Department of Physiotherapy is harmonized and fully follows the standard of operation of the UTH, as formulated by the QAU in order to promote the quality and effectiveness of the teaching work. The Department of Physiotherapy has established an IET committee consisting of three (3) faculty members and one alternate member. The aim of the IET 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 and to suggest improvements in the above. The IET is responsible for the preparation of the annual and quadrennial evaluation reports of the Department.

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

The effort achievement of the Quality Assurance Policy of the Department of Physiotherapy is carried out through the annual evaluation process, which is completed by the members of the IET of the Department of Physiotherapy, in collaboration with the QAU of the University of Thessaly. The members of the IET contribute to:

- monitoring the implementation of quality objectives of the Department,
- harmonization of policy quality with the more general ones strategic goals of the Department and the University,
- decision making for the continuous improvement of the quality of the service offered by the Department,
- conducting the Internal Evaluation and constructive cooperation with the QAU of the University of Thessaly, and



- achieving excellence at all levels of the academic operation of the Department

The Department's Quality Assurance Policy follows the strategic goals of the Department at all levels, supported actively by all participants in the educational process and is specialized and evaluated through goal setting.

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

- Emphasis is given to student-centered learning
- The learning outcomes are intended to be according to the National and European Framework Qualifications for Higher Education,
- applies the principles of the System Administration and Assurance Quality,
- human needs are met potential, which will participate actively to decision-making,
- uses S. M. A. R. T. methodology.
- connects teaching with research, in order to improve the qualifications of graduates with the aim of meeting market demands work
- quality is promoted but also the research and published work of the members of the Department,
- is being carried out annual evaluation and feedback in collaboration with the Department 's IET and the QAU of the University of Thessaly,
- there is transparency in all actions of the Department of Physiotherapy,
- are applied ethical rules eand any violations will be prevented kind discrimination,
- is sought continuous improvement of education activity of the Department,
- are improving all benefits and support to students,
- the suitability of the Department's structure and the organization of the curriculum is assessed
- The formal and substantive qualifications of the Department 's teaching staff are evaluated.

The Quality Assurance Policy of the Department of Physiotherapy will be published on the Department 's website (<https://physio.uth.gr/en/qap/>) so that it is disseminated to all stakeholders (academic community and society) to ensure accountability, consensus and direct involvement in the relevant procedures.