

Quality Policy of the Department of International and European Studies

Quality Policy Statement-Position Paper

The Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus commits itself to the implementation of the Policy which will ensure and raise its academic image, the provision of high quality education in the scientific field which it serves, the development of a creative environment of research and work for all its faculty members, the continuous improvement of the research activity and its administrative services. The commitment of the faculty and administrative members of the department for the continuous improvement of the teaching-administrative work and the services provided, constitutes an integral part of the quality culture which is cultivated in its inner part and its choice of Policy.

Consequently, the department is implementing the Quality Policy with the aim of improving its syllabus, the backing and support of its academic image, the enhancement of its research activity, as well as the upgrading of the quality of the whole academic and administrative project.

The department's Quality Policy aims at the accomplishment of its Vision, as it is defined in its strategy and it promotes its Mission. Furthermore, this Quality Policy blends in with the Quality Policy of the institution, its wider framework and its specific regulative framework which regulates the function of the institution. The Qualitative Policy also harmonizes with the legislature in force which has to do with educational issues. At the same time it is shaped, and is enriched and adapted to the running situations and demands.

More specifically for the implementation of this Policy the department is committed to carry out quality procedures which will safeguard:

- a. The appropriateness of the structure and organisation of the Undergraduate Programme of Studies.

- b. The pursuit of the learning results and the qualifications of the European and National Framework for Qualifications of Higher Education.
- c. The fostering of the quality and effectiveness of the teaching project
- d. The appropriateness of the teaching staff 's qualifications
- e. The continuous improvement of the quality and quantity of the academic members' research project
- f. The effective interface between teaching and research
- g. The high level demand of the acquired qualifications of its graduates in the labour market
- h. The continuous upgrading of the quality of its supportive services, for instance the administrative services, academic services (e.g. the university library, laboratory) and the services of the student care.
- i. The completion of the annual evaluation review and internal supervision of the Quality Assurance System of the undergraduate programme of studies, based on a smooth collaboration between the Quality Assurance Unit of the University of Piraeus and that of the department.

All members of the Academic Unit (faculty members, contract members-adjunct lecturers, senior teaching fellows, technical staff members, administrative members, students) as well as external actors/partners contribute to the development and implementation of the Quality Policy of the department. Moreover, the quality policy is implemented in the framework of defining and planning concrete objectives and agenda and their subsequent activities and responsibilities, the supervision of which is performed through appropriate qualitative and quantitative indexes.

More specifically, the Quality Policy of the department supports the safeguarding and continuous improvement of the undergraduate programme of studies through:

- the Academic Committee for the undergraduate programme of studies which is determined by the Chair of the department and is

responsible for a) the configuration and review of the programme in order to keep it up to date with latest scientific advances b) any problem-solving that might arise in the process of implementing the programme and c) the comparative analysis, monitoring, recording and exploiting of good practices and advances occurring in other (competitive) programmes of studies offered by domestic or international relevant departments.

- the establishment of the Quality Assurance Unit of the department that is responsible for: a) the evaluation by the student body of the instructional work and courses offered, b) the internal evaluation procedure in which all members contribute, c) the gathering and processing of data in collaboration with the University Quality Assurance Unit and d) the compilation of an internal evaluation report that is posted on the University Quality Assurance Unit webpage.
- the collaboration with the University Quality Assurance and the harmonization with the good practices that are dictated by the academic standards and criteria administered by the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (HQA) and the European Higher Education Area.

The conclusions, advice, suggested actions and recommendations of the previously mentioned committees form a fundamental parameter for the improvement of the services and infrastructure of the department of International and European Studies. Moreover, they function as feedback for upgrading its mid-term and long-term strategic planning.

The department of International and European Studies posts its Quality Policy on the department webpage. Besides, during the annual first-year student welcome, the Chair of the department as well as the faculty members inform the students about its content and significance. Moreover, the department disseminates its Quality Policy through lectures, open-days, workshops, special events, as well as national and international conferences which organises itself. Last but not least, the department

ensures the sharing of its Quality Policy to all collaborating academic, research, vocational and sociopolitical actors.