



# ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ

**School of Public Health, Department of Public and Community Health**

**Postgraduate Program:  
'Environmental Communication and Health Promotion'**

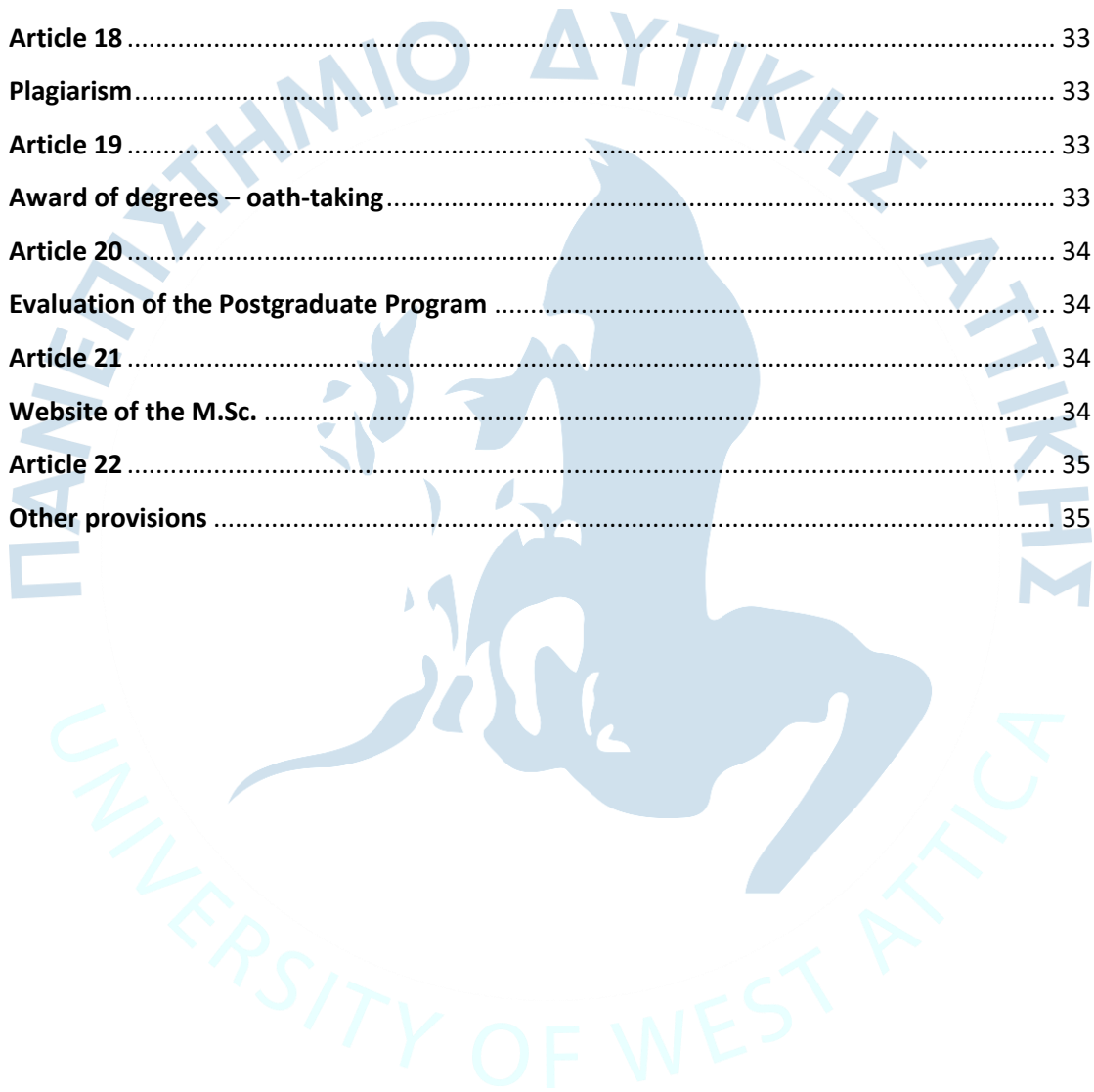
**OPERATING REGULATION**

**AIGALEO 2023**

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## Article 1

### General Principles, Subject Area, Purpose, Objectives, Skills

#### 1. General Principles, Field of Study

The Postgraduate Program entitled "Environmental Communication and Health Promotion" of the Department of Public and Community Health of the School of Public Health of the University of West Attica aims to further promote scientific knowledge, develop research and high-level specialization of graduates in theoretical and applied areas for issues related to both the promotion of responsible environmental behavior and health promotion of participants. The provisions of this Regulation, as detailed below, specify and supplement the legislative framework governing postgraduate studies and regulate in a uniform manner issues of operation of the specific Postgraduate Program, which are defined either by the current legislation or are granted relevant authorizations by law or regulated by recommendations of the competent bodies of the Department of Public and Community Health.

In the MSc, students understand the role of communication in addressing complex social challenges and issues related to environment and health Promotion, from various perspectives with emphasis on their training in the aforementioned scientific fields. Communication geared towards rapid social change is essential to meet some of the great challenges of our time. The transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns, health education and promotion methods that frame formal and non-formal education, inclusive education and, finally, the promotion of attitudes to all members of the community are burning issues. Effective adaptation to modern global requirements determines the need for a deep understanding of health, environmental and their interactions. The MSc promotes the good of planetary health in the light of a healthy environment and communication, elements that allow all citizens without exception to enjoy an individually and communally sustainable everyday life.

#### 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Postgraduate Program is to provide high-level postgraduate education in the scientific field of Environmental Communication and , Health Promotion providing specific knowledge and promoting skills of critical evaluation on issues of environmental texture .

#### 3. Objectives

The Postgraduate Program aims at:

1. Promotion of social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to diversity and interculturalism.
2. Provision of academic knowledge in the field of Environmental Communication and Health Promotion .
3. Development of research in the field of new technologies related to Ecotherapy and Health Promotion.

4. Development of multifaceted professional careers of postgraduate graduates and utilization of knowledge that will acquire during their studies for the better performance of their professional work.
5. Evaluation of advanced and complex concepts, approaches and methods by aspect of communication science, with particular reference to interdisciplinary problems and approaches identified in scientific literature.
6. Implement appropriate design for quantitative and qualitative empirical research, selecting appropriate research methods for data collection and analysis; and highlighting the need to identify needs for new theoretical, methodological and practical approaches.
7. Promote the initiation of constructive, interdisciplinary and interdisciplinary discussions and collaborations within and between different and scientific organizations and professions.
9. Critical analysis of how different health, wellness and healthcare knowledge, communications and practices are used to shape and organize the live of population.
10. Evaluate the instruments used in scientific and social approaches to understand, mediate, defend health and well-being and design innovative actions and ensuring equal opportunities.
11. Creation of scientists with the necessary skills for successful careers in the private, public and academic sector in the field of environmental communication as well as in the field of prevention and promotion of public health.
12. Preparation for doctoral postgraduate studies, since during the studies the student is encouraged to conduct research and is encouraged to participate in national and international conferences, as well as to publish studies in international scientific journals.

#### 4. Skills

In the Postgraduate Program, students understand the role of Communication in addressing complex social challenges, related to issues of environment and health from a variety of perspectives. The acceptance of diversity and communication in connection with rapid social changes are essential elements to address some of the great challenges of our time, such as the transition to sustainable living standards and coexistence of the citizens of the world. Effective adaptation to contemporary challenges requires a deep understanding of health and environment as well as their interactions from various approaches.

Following the successful completion of the program, trainees will be able to successfully contribute to the educational system, environmental centers and generally to various social and working environments regarding issues related to Environmental Education, Public and Community Health.

The Postgraduate Program will operate from the winter semester of the academic year 2021-2022 until the spring semester of the academic year 2024-2025, provided that it meets the criteria of internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the existing institutional framework.

## Article 2

### Bodies of establishment, organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program

The competent bodies for the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program are the following:

- A) The Senate of the University of Athens
- B) the Assembly of the Department
- C) the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Program
- D) the Director of the Postgraduate Program
- E) The Committee of Postgraduate Studies (E.M.S.).

a) The Senate of the University of Athens

The Senate has the following powers:

1. approves the establishment of the Postgraduate Studies Program (MSc) or the amendment of the decision establishing the Postgraduate Program,
2. approves the extension of the duration of the operation of the Postgraduate Program,
3. establishes the Curriculum Committee, in case of interdepartmental or interinstitutional or joint Postgraduate Programs,
4. Decides to abolish the Postgraduate Programs offered by the University of West Attica

#### **b) The Assembly of the Department**

The main responsibility of the Assembly of the Department is to recommend to the Senate, through the Committee on Postgraduate Studies, at least the following. (a) to (p) of paras. 3 and 4 of article 80 of Law 4957/2022 (A' 141) together with the internal Rules of Operation of the Postgraduate Program.

The Assembly of the Department is responsible for the organization, administration and management of the Postgraduate Program and in particular:

- 1) establishes committees for the evaluation of the applications of prospective postgraduate students and approves their enrollment in the Postgraduate Program,
- 2) assigns the teaching work to the teachers of the Postgraduate Program,
- 3) recommends to the Senate the amendment of the decision establishing the Postgraduate Program, as well as the extension of the duration of the Postgraduate Program,
- 4) approves part-time attendance for students who meet the criteria according to the applicable legislation,
- 5) establishes examination committees for the examination of postgraduate students' dissertations and appoints the supervisor per thesis,
- 6) ascertains the successful completion of studies, in order to be awarded the title of the Postgraduate Program,
- 7) approves the report of the Postgraduate Program, upon the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee,
- (8) carry out the examination of the criteria for exemption from tuition fees and issue a reasoned decision on the acceptance or rejection of the application;

9) approves any other matter required for the smooth operation of the Postgraduate Program.

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the responsibilities of per. 1) and 5) may be transferred to the S.C. of the Postgraduate Program.

**c) The Coordinating Committee (CC):**

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the Coordinating Committee is established, with a two-year term, which consists of the Director of the Postgraduate Program and four (4) members of the Teaching Research Staff of the Department, who have a related subject to that of the Postgraduate Program and undertake teaching work in the Postgraduate Program.

1) prepares the initial annual budget of the Postgraduate Program and its amendments, provided that the Postgraduate Program allocates resources in accordance with article 84 of Law 4957/2022, and recommends its approval to the Research Committee of the Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE),

2) prepares the report of the program and recommends its approval to the Assembly of the Department,

3) approves the implementation of the expenses of the Postgraduate Program,

4) approves the granting of scholarships, contributory or not, in accordance with the provisions of the decision establishing the Postgraduate Program and the Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral studies,

5) recommends to the Assembly of the Department the distribution of teaching work, as well as the assignment of teaching work to the categories of teachers of article 83 of Law 4957/2022,

6) recommends to the Assembly of the Department the invitation of Visiting Professors to meet the teaching needs of the Postgraduate Program,

7) prepares a plan for the modification of the curriculum, which is submitted to the Assembly of the Department,

8) recommends to the Assembly of the Department the redistribution of courses between academic semesters as well as issues related to the qualitative upgrade of the curriculum. Specific responsibilities of the Assembly of the Department may be transferred to the Coordinating Committee for the more effective operation of the Postgraduate Program, following the issuance of a relevant decision of delegation. Emeritus Professors of the Department or of the collaborating Departments may participate in the S.C., provided that they provide teaching work to the Postgraduate Program.

**d) The Director of the Postgraduate Program**

The Director of the Postgraduate Program comes from the faculty members of the Department with priority rank of Professor or Associate Professor and is appointed by decision of the Assembly of the Department for a two-year term, with the possibility of renewal without restriction.

The Director of the MSc has the following responsibilities:

1) presides over the C.C.;

2) recommends issues related to the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program to the Assembly of the Department,

- 3) recommends to the C.E. and the other bodies of the Postgraduate Program and the HEI issues related to the effective operation of the Postgraduate Program,
- 4) is the Scientific Coordinator of the program in accordance with article 234 of Law 4957/2022 and exercises the corresponding responsibilities,
- 5) monitors the implementation of the decisions of the bodies of the Postgraduate Program and the Internal Regulation of postgraduate programs, as well as the monitoring of the implementation of the budget of the Postgraduate Program,
- 6) exercises any other competence, which is defined in the decision establishing the Postgraduate Program.

The Director of the Postgraduate Program, as well as the members of the Postgraduate Program, are not entitled to remuneration or any compensation for the performance of the responsibilities assigned to them and related to the performance of their duties.

The appointment of a new Director or member of the CC, in case of resignation, may be made by decision of the competent bodies, upon submission of an application by the members and an explanatory statement of the request for change/resignation.

**e) The Postgraduate Studies Committee:**

By decision of the Senate, following a proposal by the Deans of the Faculties of the University of West Attica, the Postgraduate Studies Committee is established. The Committee consists of one (1) member of the Teaching Research Staff (T.E.P.) from each School of the University of Athens, one (1) member who comes from the categories of members of Special Educational Staff (E.E.P.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (E.DI.P.) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (E.T.E.P.) of the University of Athens. and the Vice-Rector, who is responsible for academic affairs, as President. The members of the Committee have experience in organising and participating in second-cycle study programmes. The term of office of the Committee is two (2) academic years.

The Commission's responsibility shall be:

- 1) the submission of an opinion to the Senate of the University of Athens. for the establishment of new Postgraduate Programs or the modification of the already operating Postgraduate Programs, after evaluating the requests of the Assemblies of the Departments for the establishment of new Postgraduate Programs, the relevant feasibility and viability reports and the costing of the operation of the Postgraduate Program, as well as the possibility of referring them back, if the recommendation is not sufficiently justified or the accompanying reports are not complete,
- 2) the preparation of a draft Regulation for the Postgraduate Program of the University of Athens. and its submission to the Senate,
- 3) the elaboration of a model draft Regulation of the Postgraduate Program,
- 4) the control of compliance with the Regulations of the Postgraduate Programs,
- 5) the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation, the Regulation and the decisions of the governing bodies of the University of Athens. from the Postgraduate Programmes,
- 6) monitoring the implementation of the procedure for exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees;
- 7) any other responsibility defined by the Internal Regulation of each Postgraduate Program.



By decision of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Studies Committee, the Regulation of postgraduate studies programs is approved, which constitutes a distinct chapter of the internal regulation of operation of the University of Athens.

### Article 3

#### Number of Admissions, Criteria and Method of Selection

The number of students admitted to the Postgraduate Program "Environmental Communication and Health Promotion " is set at a maximum of sixty (60) per year and respectively the minimum number of admissions is set at twenty (20). In case of a tie, the number of admitted postgraduate students is increased, so that the last tied candidate can be admitted. In addition to the number of admissions, members of the EEP, EDIP and ETEP categories are accepted as supernumerary scholars.

Criteria and Method of Selection of Admissions:

##### **I. Call for expressions of interest**

Candidates are informed by the call for expression of interest of the Postgraduate Program, which is published on the websites of the Postgraduate Program, the Department, the University of Athens. and by any other appropriate means. The call for expression of interest includes all relevant information (dates and place of submission of the application, necessary supporting documents that must accompany it), as well as the criteria for evaluating candidates' applications for the necessary supporting documents, the application procedure and the deadline for submission of applications.

Conditions for participation of prospective students

The call for expressions of interest shall specify:

- a) The conditions for the participation of candidate postgraduate students in the selection process.
- b) The categories of graduates and the number of admissions
- c) The necessary supporting documents to be submitted
- d) The deadlines for the submission of supporting documents and the way they are submitted.
- e) The selection process as well as the selection criteria of postgraduate students.
- f) The date of the interview of the prospective postgraduate students.
- g) Any other details deemed necessary, which facilitate the selection process of candidate postgraduate students.

Applications and the required supporting documents are submitted to the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program, in printed or electronic form, within a deadline specified in the call for expression of interest and may be extended by decision of the Assembly

of the Department of Public and Community Health or the Committee of Postgraduate Studies.

## **II. Candidate Evaluation Committee (E.A.Y.)**

The selection of the students is made by a three-member Candidate Evaluation Committee (E.A.Y.) which consists of faculty members of the Department of Public and Community Health who have undertaken postgraduate work, which is formed by decision of the Assembly.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

- i. Evaluation of all submitted supporting documents. The verification of the completeness of the supporting documents is carried out by the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program.
- ii. Test of language proficiency.
- iii. Conducting personal interviews.

The candidates' participation documents are:

1. Application form for the Postgraduate Program
2. Copy of degree / diploma or certificate of completion of studies,
3. Transcript of records.
4. Detailed curriculum vitae, detailing the degrees and possible research or professional activities.
5. Evidence of research or professional activity (if any)
6. Reference letters
7. copy of postgraduate degree (if any),
8. publications in peer-reviewed journals (if any),
9. photocopy of two sides of the identity card,
10. Copies of foreign language qualifications or other certificates.
  - a) Knowledge is certified by a recognized degree (e.g. Diploma from an Educational Institution of an English-speaking country or English-speaking curriculum, First Certificate in English, Toefl Certificate with a score of at least 500 points (or 300 with the new assessment method), IELTS Certificate with a grade of 6.5 and above, State Certificate of Language Proficiency (level B2), etc.

11. Additional qualifications, scholarships, special seminars, postgraduate degrees, supplementary education degrees, etc. (if any).

Graduates of English-speaking universities are exempt from the obligation to present a language certificate.

In case the above conditions for good knowledge of the English language are not met, by decision of the S.C. of the Postgraduate Program, the examination method of the candidates is determined in order to determine the proficiency in the English language.

Knowledge of other foreign languages is also positively taken into account.

The final ranking of the candidates based on the list of criteria of the Program and the proposal for the selection of candidates based on this ranking are submitted for validation to the Assembly of the Department.

Upon completion of the evaluation procedures, the competent National Health Service prepares the list of successful and runner-up candidates in order of ranking, according to the selection criteria and the weighting factors per criterion. Successful

candidates are considered to be candidates who have obtained a grade in the ranking order up to the maximum student admission limit. The H.A.Y. may also consider as successful those candidates who tied with the last successful candidate. Runners-up are considered to be candidates who have obtained a ranking position in the ranking order, beyond the maximum student admission limit, having the right to enrol in case the runners-up do not accept the position or do not register on time.

In case of a tie, all tied candidates are admitted provided that they do not exceed the maximum number of entrants set in the Call for Expression of Interest. If the maximum number of students admitted to the Postgraduate Program is reached, the candidate who has the highest degree grade is admitted.

### III. Criteria for selecting candidates:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	GRAVINESS
K1	Degree grade Grades in courses related to the subject of the Postgraduate Program Diploma thesis, where provided for in the first cycle of studies	30%
K2	Any writing and/or research activity of the candidate	10%
K3	Research or Professional experience of the candidate or documented involvement in a corresponding field or related subject	10%
K4	Interview	40%
K5	Adequate knowledge of at least one foreign language other than the language of the MSc	10%

$$\text{Grade} = K1 \times 0.3 + K2 \times 0.15 + K3 \times 0.15 + K4 \times 0.4$$

### IV. Selection procedure

The required supporting documents shall be submitted within the deadlines set out in the respective call for expression of interest.

The Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program receives the applications and the necessary supporting documents submitted by the candidate postgraduate students, which are provided for in the call for expression of interest each time and draws up a list of postgraduate candidates, which it forwards to the E.A.Y. The supporting documents submitted by the candidates must have been submitted on time, as provided for in the relevant call for expression of interest. Late applications will not be accepted.

The process of evaluating candidates consists of two stages:

In the first, applications are evaluated based on the completeness and validity of the required supporting documents submitted, which is a prerequisite for qualification to the next stage.

During the second stage of the procedure, candidates are invited to an interview before the E.A.Y. The aim is to determine which candidates are capable of substantially meeting the requirements of the Postgraduate Program, taking into account motivation and interest, but also their overall constitution and scientific competence in relation to the subject of the postgraduate program.

Upon completion of the evaluation procedures, the H.A.Y. draws up a complete list of all candidates, prioritizes the candidates, proceeds to the final selection and draws up the provisional list of successful candidates, which is validated by the Assembly of the Department. Its posting is carried out in accordance with the provisions on personal data protection on the website of the Postgraduate Program and in the announcements of the Department.

If two or more candidates obtain the same number of points in total, they shall be accepted as equal scorers.

An objection against the provisional reserve list may be made within five (5) working days from the date of announcement of the lists. The objection must be specific and is finally judged by a three-member Committee of faculty members of the Department who have undertaken postgraduate work, which is appointed by decision of the Assembly of the Department.

After the expiry of the objection deadline and the final decision of the committee of any objections, the final reserve list is uploaded, in accordance with the procedure for posting the provisional list.

Successful candidates are invited to respond in writing or electronically (email) within a predetermined deadline from the posting of the final list as defined in the call for expression of interest for the acceptance of their inclusion in the Postgraduate Program and its terms of operation, as described in this Regulation of Operation.

If there are refusals, the Secretariat shall inform the candidates next in line from the final reserve list.

#### **v. Enrollment in the Postgraduate Program**

Successful candidates must register with the secretariat of the MSc within deadlines set by the competent bodies in the call for expression of interest. For reasons of exceptional need, it is possible to enroll a postgraduate student after the expiry of the deadline by decision of the Coordinating Committee following a reasoned request by the interested party. Admitted postgraduate students can be informed from the website of the Department and/or from the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program.

## Article 4

### Categories of Candidates

The Postgraduate Program admits graduates of Higher Education Institutions in Greece or equivalent Institutions abroad in accordance with the provisions of the current legislation of all departments of Polytechnic, Professorial and Agricultural Schools, graduates of Environmental Sciences of Universities, graduates of the Department of Public and Community Health, Departments of Medicine, Nursing, as well as graduates of all related Natural Sciences and Health Sciences in Greece or equivalent, recognized by DOATAP, foreign institutions as well as graduates of other Departments of Universities in Greece or equivalent, recognized abroad.

Graduates of Departments may also apply, provided that they have submitted a Certificate of Completion of their Studies before the validation date of the list of successful candidates. In this case, a copy of their degree or diploma shall be provided before the start date of the programme.

Applications may also be submitted by graduates of foreign institutions that are not yet included in the National Register of Recognized Foreign Institutions of DOATAP. In case a Foreign Foundation is not posted on the website of DOATAP, the Department applies the procedure set out in para. 5, Article 304 of Law 4957/2022. Otherwise, the student is deleted, without there being a claim from the student for a refund of any money deposited.

Members of the categories E.E.P., as well as E.DI.P. and E.T.E.P. may, upon request, register as supernumerary and only one per year, without tuition fees.

The competent Secretariat of the Department checks whether the institution awarding the title of a foreign institution belongs to the National Register of Recognized Institutions abroad and whether the type of this title belongs to the National Register of Types of Degrees of Recognized Institutions posted on the website of DOATAP.

## Article 5

### Duration of Studies – Suspension of Studies

#### 5.1. Duration of studies

The duration for the studies leading to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) of the Program is set at three (3) academic semesters, each lasting thirteen (13) weeks of teaching, including the time for the preparation and submission for evaluation of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis. Compulsory courses shall not be less than 39 teaching hours' (Article 64, Fri. 3 Law 4957/2022).

The allowed duration of completion of the obligations for obtaining the postgraduate diploma is from a minimum of three (3) to a maximum five (5) academic semesters. However, in exceptional cases, suspension of studies may be granted upon the

recommendation of the Coordinating Committee and decision of the Assembly of the Department and this time is not counted in the total required duration of the award of the Postgraduate Diploma (MSc).

The duration of the courses of the Postgraduate Program per semester of study is at least thirteen (13) weeks, corresponding to 30 ECTS. Compulsory courses are not less than 39 teaching hours" (article 64, par. 3 of law 4957/2022). If there is a dissertation, the time of its writing cannot be less than 1semester and more than 3 semesters .

The M.Sc. is completed with the award of a Postgraduate Diploma (MSc), level seven (7) of the National and European Qualifications Framework, in accordance with article 47 of Law 4763/2020.

The successful completion of studies is determined by the successful performance in the courses of the Postgraduate Program and the successful preparation of a Diploma Thesis where provided.

## 5.2. Suspension of studies

The postgraduate student may, upon request, request a justified suspension of studies (e.g. military service, illness, absence abroad, etc.), provided that he/she provides the relevant supporting documents. The decision is taken by the Assembly of the Department upon the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee. Semesters of suspension of student status are not counted towards the maximum duration of regular study. The right to suspend studies may be exercised once or in part for a period of at least one (1) academic semester, but the total duration of the suspension may not exceed two (2) academic semesters cumulatively. Students who are suspended lose their student status throughout the period of suspension. Upon his/her return to study, the student remains subject to the attendance status of the time he/she registers as a postgraduate student.

## Article 6

### Curriculum

The Postgraduate Program begins in the winter semester of each academic year. The successful examination in all courses of the program of study, the successful preparation of the diploma thesis/or technical report and practical training are prerequisites for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma (D.M.S.).

The detailed curriculum per semester as follows:

1st SEMESTER			
Code	COURSE TITLE	M: Mandatory E: Elective	ECTS
ENV1	Foundations of Environmental Communication - Protecting Health	M	6

ENV2	Introduction to Epidemiology and Public Health for Communication Professionals	M	6
ENV3	Education and Health Promotion from School to Community	M	6
ENV4	Communication Policy in Crisis Management	M	6
ENV5	Project Management Communication Plan and Securing Funding	M	6
TOTAL NUMBER OF SEMESTER ECTS REQUIRED			30

2nd SEMESTER			
	COURSE TITLE	C: Mandatory Q: Elective	ECTS
ENV6	Health and Environmental Communication Strategies	M	6
ENV7	Behaviour Change Communication: Individuals and Communities	M	6
ENV8	Health Communication and Mass Media	M	6
ENV9	Technology and Digital Design in Health Communication	E	6
ENV10	Ecotherapy: From theory to practice	E	6
ENV11	Intercultural Communication in the field of environmental health	E	6
TOTAL NUMBER OF SEMESTER ECTS REQUIRED			30

### 3rd SEMESTER

ENV 12	Diploma Thesis /or Technical report	M	30 ECTS
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Detailed description of the courses:

A SEMESTER

## **Foundations of Environmental Communication - Protecting Health**

Human health and well-being are inextricably linked to the web of interactions that characterize life on this planet and the concept of communication plays a catalytic role in shaping the corresponding conditions. The natural environment affects humans and at the same time receives interventions from human societies. The modern way of life causes environmental and social problems resulting from the increased consumer demands of people. Current challenges include environmental degradation, climate change, antimicrobial resistance, etc. Global processes of social transformation, related to livelihoods, agri-food networks and the environment, are taking place both nationally and internationally. Such processes imply changes at different levels. The changes due to the challenges are leading to heated debates about "what is the right path" and "what needs to be done" to address these urgent conditions. This course emphasizes how to manage change through the prism of communication. The rate of environmental degradation requires citizens to participate in environmental decision-making. Every citizen must acquire the ability to understand environmental issues, understand the causes of problems and assess possible solutions as well as have participatory skills. This requires the development of a communication process between citizens, administration, and specialists. Environmental Communication is the process that can ensure the promotion of the most appropriate decisions and legislation for the protection of the environment and the promotion of health. The ability of citizens to influence with their actions the public structure for the promotion of environmental health is emphasized throughout the course. The main purpose of the course is to provide trainees with specific information and critical evaluation skills regarding environmental problems. These skills will enable them to participate in decision-making processes, thus determining the quality of health and the environment in the decades to come.

## **Introduction to Epidemiology and Public Health for Communication Professionals**

Based on the establishment of the multifactorial character of the health-disease model, the primacy of the subject of public health has expanded significantly to areas that directly or indirectly affect each other, such as the environment, nutrition, physical exercise, social behavior, etc. Based on the above, one of the main responsibilities of public health is to identify and address critical and constantly changing environmental and social conditions through the formulation of behaviours aimed at promoting health in a quality environment. The modern way of life has created, among other things, new data in the science of epidemiology. In this course, a specialized and in-depth analysis is attempted in the light of environmental epidemiology where it seeks to clarify the relationships that physical, chemical and biological factors have with human health. Thus, the course offers in-depth knowledge in epidemiology as the basic science that deals with the study of the distribution of various diseases and / or characteristics in human populations as well as with the investigation of the causative factors that shape or can influence these distributions. The etiological research concerns both the numerous diseases of unknown etiology and the study of specific epidemics, as well as therapeutic medicine, since treatment



is essentially the cause of better prognosis. From observational studies to experimental studies, the aim is to determine the relationships between exposure (to biological agents, diet, etc.) and outcome (health status, disease, etc.). It is noted that the three important concepts that make up the epidemiological triangle are: agent, host and environment. Medical knowledge is being revised and enriched rapidly. The continuous updating of health professionals and responsible health professionals and their critical consideration of the published findings is imperative. Knowledge of general epidemiology is therefore essential, as more than half of the articles published in major international medical journals are based on epidemiological principles and methods. The course teaches the basic concepts, measures and study design required in epidemiology and public health in order for trainees to acquire the skills that will enable them to correctly process and reproduce scientific information.

### **Education and Health Promotion from School to Community**

According to the World Health Organization, health promotion is defined as *"the process that enables individuals and communities to increase control over factors that affect their health and thus improve their health."* Many of the factors that contribute, in the context of an ongoing interaction, to making people healthy or sick – such as income, social status, geographical area where they live, educational level, culture, political system – are partially/inadequately, and/or outside the scope of health promotion. Health promotion practices require a shift in emphasis from messages focused on disease prevention, a more ecological and holistic approach, taking into account the social, environmental and cultural contexts in which human populations live, work and perpetuate themselves (cities, families, workplaces, recreation and communities). An environment can be defined as a place or social context in which people participate in daily activities, in which environmental, organizational and personal factors interact with health and well-being. Good regulation can offer an opportunity to promote health and well-being, but lack of regulation can limit it. An integral element for health promotion is the policy of actions from preschool age and then the health education that a child receives through his education at school with the aim of forming correct attitudes and behaviors in order for adulthood and integration into the community to occur through the best conditions. In this course we focus on the analysis of settings, which may include family/household, educational spaces, workplaces, recreation, prisons, hospitals and communities. The course aims to understand the different theories that govern the relationships of their daily living in the environment with which they interact. At the same time, trainees are required to understand and then be able to implement those strategies that will ensure health promotion (Ottawa Charter, 1986) through the development of personal skills, the creation of a supportive environment, in health education, being the forerunner of health promotion based on the participation of local communities with the ultimate goal of exerting proper pressure for the formulation of new policies on public health issues and reorientation health services.

### **Communication Policy in Crisis Management**

It is a given that humanity will often face the risk of possible crises and survival is based on existing knowledge and proven experience at all levels of their management both locally, nationally, European and globally. Political communication concerns the creation and exchange of ideas and opinions between citizens, civil servants, political institutions and related entities such as the media and how information can be used for political gain or to achieve political goals. This course aims to bridge science with policy-making for functioning communities in crisis situations. Initially, it introduces the field of crisis management in health, nutrition and environmental issues. It then promotes the understanding of scientific issues related to crisis management and specifically in civil protection operations in cases of risk and disasters, but also adaptation to climate change. The relationship between the three processes of political communication is studied: production (how messages are developed and transmitted), content (what is contained in each message) and outcome (how messages are received and interpreted). The best communication ways are presented to quickly identify the possible cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary synergies and needs. Gaps in understanding and effective intervention in health, nutrition and environmental crisis management are highlighted. The scope includes understanding risk, disasters, communicating risk and developing a code of communication with all stakeholders. Finally, the important stages of the crisis management cycle are presented, which are prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery to strengthen our resilience.

### **Project Management Communication Plan and Securing Funding**

One of the most important elements catalytic for the success of a project is effective communication. Effective communication is synonymous with more efficient project management, but difficulties in its implementation are often encountered due to various factors such as the nature of the project, the structure of the organization, etc. In recent years, the field of project management and securing their funding in public health services has been the subject of intense concern of every society for various reasons. First, the progress of medicine and the discovery of new forms of health care treatment and interventions have increased the supply of health services. Second, longer life expectancy and an ageing population has exploded demand for health services. Thirdly, the multiplication of social problems has created budgetary dilemmas in the distribution of resources between the health sector and the other social sectors. Fourth, the increasing demand of citizens for effective coverage of health needs through the provision of high quality services has a significant impact on social policy. Fifth, many countries have received large numbers of migrants seeking medical care from the existing health service structure and sixth, the global economic crisis is asymmetrically pushing the ability to offer quality health services with reduced funds in benefits. The intense concern has raised interest in the study and review of the various management and financial issues of the Health sector. The course highlights where communication takes place and how within a project, the steps required for effective communication, the main obstacles to communication, how obstacles can be overcome, the importance of communication strategies in various working groups, the process of effective communication depending on the case study. Health systems could make better use of resources, whether through better

procurement practices, wider use of generic products, better incentives for providers, or improved funding and simpler administrative procedures. The development of an effective communication plan is explained based on the steps on how to determine communication requirements: What, Why, Who, Where, When and How. Anticipating possible failures, as well as successes, avoids unwanted surprises. The aim of the course is to instill in the trainees the basic principles of implementation of an effective project management and to ensure its funding through a successful communication plan in the field of Health Promotion.

B' SEMESTER - B SEMESTER

### **Communication Strategies on Health and Environment**

Through the prism of the communicative approach, the critical interdependence of human health and well-being in relation to the quality of the environment is investigated and analyzed. The course structure combines a general ecological concern with specific elements related to personal and community health. The interdependence of environment and health encourages learners to become aware of how today's environmental issues determine the quality of our daily lives. This course presents the framework of a strategic approach aimed at effective communication regarding the protection and promotion of environmental health. This strategic approach is presented as a framework of principles for effective practice applied to a wide range of communication functions in order for learners to be able to put into practice a design that is understandable, valid and reliable. This framework, based on the basic principles of strategic communication of the World Health Organization - WHO, applies to the following categories – groups: People who make decisions about health care at family level (preventive examinations at a health care provider, daily healthy living, preventive methods of avoiding infectious diseases during travel, etc.) Health care providers who make decisions about screening, diagnosis, treatment, recommendations to patients (recommended vaccinations, counseling of vulnerable groups, etc.) Policy makers at national and international level (investing in training public health specialists, setting up emergency centres, funding health promotion programmes, etc.) Municipalities and communities that make decisions about common areas and related activities and services that take place there (cleaning of public spaces, creation of specially designed walking and exercise areas within residential areas, etc.) International organizations and stakeholders that make decisions regarding the funding and implementation of health programs (assisting countries with inadequate health systems by supporting funding programs to reduce chronic diseases, supporting health promotion research programs, etc.) Health professionals who make decisions about programmes, coordination, resources and partnerships at national and international level. The framework is organised according to the 6 principles of ensuring the correct communication approach according to the WHO where they should be at the core of the respective activities: 1. Accessibility, 2. Effectiveness, 3. Reliability, 4. Relevancy, 5. Timeliness, 6. Understandability. The purpose of the strategic framework is for environmental health decision-makers and their respective target audiences to be trained and adapted at the same time. For this reason, the ability of citizens – in this case the public, to influence the public structure with their actions is emphasized throughout the course. The main purpose of the course is to provide trainees with specific information and critical evaluation skills

regarding environmental problems. These skills will enable them to participate in decision-making processes, thus determining the quality of health and the environment in the decades to come.

### **Health Communication and Mass Media**

Today more than ever, health is one of the main topics covered by the media. Good health is a primary concern for all of us, and maintaining it involves many and varied aspects, including economic data. Thus, the public finds themselves immersed in a veritable sea of health-related news from many different sources, often without the means to discern what is really useful or important, or to understand the true meaning of the messages, or even to appreciate their accuracy. Many demographic surveys have identified the media as the main source of public health information. The impact on coverage of citizens' knowledge, perceptions and behaviours can be analysed from two perspectives: the great power of the media to disseminate information by shaping public opinion and the possibility of disinformation from inaccurate or unreliable information. These results are due not only to the possible information overload but also to the poor quality of information in terms of correctness, reliability, understanding, usefulness, balance and independence, which often cannot be properly assessed by the public due to limited health literacy. Media campaigns are widely used to expose high percentages of large populations to messages through common uses of existing media, such as television, radio and newspapers. Therefore, exposure to such messages is generally passive. Such campaigns often compete with factors such as widespread product marketing, strong social norms, and behaviors driven by addiction or habit. In cases of crises or emergencies, the media may create a "communication storm", which draws attention to a single health problem, such as AIDS, SARS, bird flu, etc. Understanding how the media works is a prerequisite for achieving cooperation between those who control access to media time and space to improve coverage of issues health care about which the public needs and often wishes to be informed. In this course, results of media campaigns in the context of various health risk behaviours (e.g. smoking, alcohol, drugs, heart disease risk factors, gender-related behaviours, road safety, cancer control and prevention, child survival and organ or blood donation) are presented. Mass media campaigns can bring about positive changes or prevent negative changes in health-related behaviours of the population. At the same time, the contribution of the aforementioned results is evaluated, as well as the simultaneous availability of the required services and products, the availability of community programs and policies supporting behavior change.

### **Technology and Digital Design in Health Communication**

Digital design in health communication examines the strategic use of digital technologies for communication professionals. This course deals with how to use the Internet and social media to reach different citizens and how to integrate digital with traditional communication campaigns. Courses include effective online planning and strategy, public relations in the digital age, use of digital and social media, and digital strategy design. Digital communication tools are an important part of the modern

communication space. Learners will examine how social media is used in healthcare and why its effective use has become a prerequisite for many health professionals. You will gain the required knowledge of the value and importance of traditional, social and emerging digital media practice in the field of health communication. At the same time, they will be able to design communication strategies and methods that use digital and visual information to influence the public or influence change in health-related issues and issues as well as to analyse, synthesize, interpret and present health and scientific information for public consumption using clear and concise messages. The ultimate goal is to understand how learners will manage to transmit through digital design a message to social media, websites, mobile applications, videos, in order to achieve a well-designed health promotion campaign through technology.

### **Ecotherapy: From theory to practice**

Research shows that spending too much time indoors and not taking regular trips to nature can have negative effects on health and well-being. Ecotherapy, also known as physiotherapy or green therapy, is the applied practice of the emerging field of ecopsychology, developed by Theodore Roszak. In recent decades there has been increasing interest in the therapeutic potential of nature and interest in the potential of "green interventions" for the benefit of mental health. Ecotherapy, in many cases, stems from the belief that humans are part of the fabric of life and that our souls are not isolated or separate from our environment. Ecopsychology provides individuals with an opportunity to explore their relationship with nature – an area that can be overlooked in many other types of psychotherapy. While some practitioners teach and practice ecopsychology exclusively, other mental health professionals incorporate aspects of ecotherapy into their existing practices. Since ecotherapy is an umbrella term for nature-based approaches to therapy, the types of interventions used are many. Some activities are carried out under the guidance of a therapist while others are performed individually. Some interventions are done in groups, while others require a "one-on-one" setting. In addition, while some ecotherapy sessions take place within the confines of an office, an effort is often made to conduct sessions in natural settings whenever possible. Some of the most common ecotherapy activities are: Meditation in nature, Therapeutic cultivation, Animal therapy, Physical exercise in nature, Participation in activities to restore or preserve the natural environment. The course will offer learners evidence-based approaches to transforming the human relationship with nature in the service of healing and well-being. These profound approaches include practical interventions and guidelines for carrying out therapeutic work outdoors that can be applied on an individual as well as a social level. Ecopsychology and ecotherapy are still relatively emerging fields.

### **Intercultural Communication in the field of environmental health**

In today's increasingly globalised society, citizens are called upon to respond to the complexity of communication in different cultural and geographical contexts. The ideas people have about health, the languages they use, their health literacy skills and their health communication environments reflect their culture. Effective communication can be enhanced when cultural differences that can contribute

positively to it are identified and bridged. Culture is a way of thinking and living, a set of attitudes, values, rules and beliefs that are taught and reinforced by other members of the group. This set of basic assumptions and solutions to the world's problems is a common system passed down from generation to generation to ensure survival. A culture consists of unwritten and written principles and laws that guide how a person interacts with the outside world. Members of a culture can be identified by the fact that they have some similarity. They may be united by religion, geography, race or ethnicity. As part of a cultural group, people learn rules of communication, such as who communicates with whom, when and where something can be transmitted, and what to communicate. Members of a cultural group also learn one or more languages that facilitate communication within the group. Intercultural communication refers to communication between people who have differences in any of the following: forms of work, age, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., i.e. how people belonging to different cultures communicate with each other.

Intercultural communication creates a sense of trust and allows collaboration, but sometimes language can hinder successful communication. When people and organizations try to use their terminology, in other contexts and with people outside the group, communication often fails and creates misunderstandings and barriers to understanding a situation. When two people of different cultures meet each other, they not only have different cultural backgrounds, but also their speech systems are different. For example, doctors, epidemiologists and other public health and healthcare workers belong to professional cultures with their own languages, which are often not the everyday language of most people. When these professionals want to share information, their terminology can have an even greater impact when limited literacy and cultural differences are part of sharing communication with patients and other health workers. On a larger scale, a strong topical phenomenon consistent with this theme includes population groups that migrate voluntarily or are forced by vulnerable situations such as poverty or displaced by conflict or natural disaster, which entails, inter alia, significant adjustments. During migration, people need to redefine personal, interpersonal, socioeconomic, cultural and geographical boundaries. This entails a redefinition of individual, family, group and collective identity, roles and value systems and can be a source of stress for the individual, family and the communities involved. The aim of the course is to introduce the fundamental principles and issues of intercultural communication from an interdisciplinary perspective as well as to develop perception and appreciation of different cultural perspectives and values.

## **Article 7**

### **Postgraduate Thesis (M.Sc.)**

The postgraduate student is required to prepare and successfully defend his/her postgraduate thesis in the third semester of studies. The postgraduate student has the right to apply for a Master's degree if he/she has successfully completed the courses of the program of study, unless otherwise decided by the competent body on

a case-by-case basis. The subject of the Master's Thesis should be part of the subject of the Postgraduate Program with emphasis on Environmental Communication. Specific issues for the preparation of a Master's Thesis are defined by the Guide of the Postgraduate Thesis of the Postgraduate Thesis, which includes the following:

1. the educational purpose of the dissertation,
2. the stages of submission of the dissertation,
3. fields of research interest,
4. the stages of the JMC,
5. the change of title of the M.D.E.
6. good practices for writing the text and electronic or printed reading of the Master's Thesis,
7. studying and finding bibliographic sources,
8. the preparation of research papers,
9. the evaluation criteria of the Master's Degree,
10. change of supervisor

Alternatively, it is possible the training in places with a subject related to the cognitive field of the master's program and for the master's student to submit a technical report in accordance with the academic specifications of a thesis.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Organization using modern distance learning methods**

The organization of the educational process is done through a combination of distance and face-to-face means (blended teaching and learning) education. The percentage of teaching hours that are done by means of (synchronous and / or asynchronous) distance education will be in accordance with the current provisions of No. 18137/Z1/16.2.2023 joint ministerial decision and law 4957/2022.

All courses of the MSc and other educational activities may be carried out using "Modern Distance Education" provided that by their nature they do not involve practical training of students in school structures, for which the participation of students with physical presence is required. "Modern distance education" is the educational method through technological mediation (video conferencing environment) where teacher and learners interact in a different space, but at the same time with the possibility of two-way communication and sharing of multimodal content (slides, videos, etc.) in real time.

The percentage of teaching that will be done using "Modern Distance Education" can reach 80% of the ECTS of the course. Each course includes at least one initiating face-to-face teaching (aiming at acquaintance and orientation in the lesson - description, objectives, activities, workshops, assignments), an intermediate face-to-face teaching (with the aim of formative the course of the course, tasks, etc.) and another final face-to-face (aiming at the final overall evaluation of the course).

For the needs of distance education, MS TEAMS systems and the Moodle Electronic Classroom Management System of the University of West Attica will be utilized. The MS TEAMS system will be utilized for modern video conferencing and virtual online classroom sessions. MS TEAMS supports:

- visual and audio communication in real time using appropriate equipment (computer with camera, microphones, speakers, headphones) so that teachers and students can have voice and visual communication while in different rooms,
- Application and document sharing
- Use and share of an electronic whiteboard
- Access to chat rooms both between teacher and learners for collaboration, exchange of views and preparation of joint projects
- Breakout sessions for organizing group activities.

The Moodle Electronic Classroom Management System of the University of West Attica is the central access point to all distance learning services. All courses of the MSc are hosted in Moodle and their content is properly organized by the teacher in charge per thematic unit or lecture week and contains the slides, exercises, videos, tests, etc. as well as the links for the respective synchronous distance sessions of each course. Each course contains an announcement forum (concerns announcements to students by the teaching staff) and a discussion and question resolution forum in which all students can participate. Indicative tools provided to teachers through the Moodle Online Classroom Management System are the following:

- Interactive Content Creation Tools (H5P)
- Create a test (online quiz)
- Assignment of tasks (either individual or group)
- Discussion groups (forums)
- Instant messaging (chat)
- Creation of collaborative websites (wikis)
- Blogs
- Questionnaires for data collection
- Calendar, Gradebook, etc
- The educational process with distance education methods ensures the accessibility of people with disabilities and special educational needs

## Article 9

### Student Assessment – Examinations

At the beginning of each semester and before the beginning of the courses of the Postgraduate Program, postgraduate students are announced the academic calendar of the Postgraduate Program, which is determined by decision of the Assembly of the Department, upon the recommendation of the S.E. The academic calendar of the Postgraduate Program lists the start and end dates of the semesters, the holidays, as well as the dates of the examinations.



The Coordinating Committee prepares and announces in due time the timetable of the examinations of each examination period and no later than ten (10) days before the beginning of the examinations.

There may be a repeat examination period.

The evaluation of postgraduate students and their performance in the courses they are required to attend within the framework of the Postgraduate Program is carried out through written or oral examinations or assignments throughout the semester. The method of assessment is described in the outline of each course. The performance in each course is evaluated by the instructor(s) and is graded according to the current grading scale for undergraduate students. Specifically, the grades given range from zero (0) to ten (10). Passing points are five (5) and greater. In order to deal with emergencies or circumstances related to force majeure, electronic means may be used for the evaluation of courses, provided that the integrity of the evaluation process is ensured.

Alternative methods may be applied for the evaluation of students with special educational needs, according to the Internal Regulations of the University of Western Attica

In order to improve the grade of postgraduate students, it is possible to review only one course, in which it has been successfully examined, in an examination period that includes the specific course, upon application of the student to the secretariat of the MSc within ten (10) days from the announcement of the grade. If the postgraduate student fails more than three (3) times in the same course, may request, upon application to the Director of the Postgraduate Program, to be evaluated by a three-member committee, which consists of teaching staff of the same or another Department of the University of Athens, with the same subject or related to that of the course to be examined, in which the course teacher may not participate. If the Director of the MSc does not appoint the members of the committee within one (1) month from the submission of the application, the student may request their appointment from the Head of the Department.

## **Article 10**

### **Practical Training**

In the Study Program of the master's program, an internship of 30 ECTS credits - at least 500 hours of total workload in areas of environmental education and activity, is carried out as an alternative to writing a diploma thesis. It is recommended that the internship be done through the Academy of Environmental Educators of the Special Unit for Environmental Education, Training and Communication.

The goal of the Academy of Environmental Educators is pioneering education based on the specialization needs of those who train in the field of Environmental Awareness.

The Academy of Environmental Educators innovates in the training of the new generation of environmental educators. Learners acquire knowledge and skills to be able to contribute successfully at all levels of the educational system, Environmental Education Centers, cruise ships, museums, gardens (school, botanical, zoo) and the

Mass Media. Therefore the participants will join the formal, non-formal and informal promotion of responsible environmental behavior.

The Summer Academy program is structured in 6 thematic units based on the principles defined by the environmental education standard of the National American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE).

The structure of the program in thematic sections:

Thematic Unit 1: Environmental Education

Thematic Unit 2: Foundations of Environmental Education

Thematic Unit 3: Professional Responsibilities of the Environmental Educator

Thematic Unit 4: Design and implementation of Environmental Education

Thematic Unit 5: Enhancing learning and promoting participation

Thematic Unit 6: Assessment and evaluation

In the context of the above thematic sections, lectures, special speeches and interactive practices (simulation exercises dealing with marine pollution, role-playing games for human rights and environmental refugees, etc.) are held in specially designed facilities. Boat trips and sailing lessons are also available.

The lecturers of the program are faculty members of HEI departments, specialized representatives of the Public Agency, specialist environmental scientists, representatives of major Environmental Organizations, professional journalists, photographers, directors and psychologists.

At the end of the scheduled hours, the students write a technical Internship report that they submit to the Director of the MPS.

## **Article 11**

### **Student Rights and Obligations - Deletion of a Postgraduate Student.**

#### **11.1. Student Rights**

Postgraduate students have all the rights and benefits provided for students of the first cycle of studies, except for the right to provide free textbooks. Postgraduate students may use the existing material and technical infrastructure of the University of West Attica, which includes teaching spaces properly equipped with modern teaching tools and computers, the Library, and the facilities of the Department of Public and Community Health.

Postgraduate students who do not have other medical and hospital care, are entitled to full medical and hospital care in the National Health System (E.S.Y.) with coverage of the relevant expenses by the National Organization for the Provision of Health

Services (E.O.P.Y.Y.) in accordance with article 33 of Law 4368/2016 (A' 83), as amended and in force.

Postgraduate students are entitled to free meals based on their individual and family financial situation and locality.

Postgraduate students may claim external funding of their studies from various institutions or bodies of the public and private sector and Research Institutes.

Postgraduate students may be financially covered by funded research programs in which they participate. The relevant details are defined by decision of the S.C., upon the recommendation of the Director of the Postgraduate Program.

Postgraduate students may participate in student exchange programs (e.g. ERASMUS) of the University or in other research programs of foreign HEIs, within the framework of transnational agreements of the Department with peer institutions and be enrolled in them as guest students.

### **11.2. Student Obligations**

Postgraduate students are required to renew their registration at the beginning of each semester. The renewal takes place at the beginning of each semester, within deadlines set by the competent authorities. More specifically, postgraduate students have the following obligations:

To continuously attend the courses of the current curriculum.

- Submit the required work within the set deadlines.
- Attend the prescribed examinations.
- Responsibly declare that the dissertation is not plagiarized either in its entirety or in individual parts.
- Pay the prescribed tuition fees, as defined in the Internal Regulation of the Postgraduate Program.
- To respect and abide by the Postgraduate Studies Regulation, the decisions of the bodies of the Postgraduate Program, the Department and the University of West Attica, as well as academic ethics.

Postgraduate students are invited to participate and attend seminars, discussions, conferences/workshops on a subject related to that of the Postgraduate Program, lectures or other scientific events of the Postgraduate Program. Postgraduate students must issue an academic identity card through the Electronic Service for the Acquisition of Academic Identity of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

### **11.3. Deletion of a postgraduate student**

The deletion of a postgraduate student is made after the relevant proposal of the Postgraduate Program to the Assembly of the Department and the relevant decision is taken. The decision is notified within 15 days to the postgraduate student concerned and he/she has the right to submit an objection within fifteen (15) days from the date of its issuance. The objection is finally decided by the above bodies.

The Assembly of the Department, following the recommendation of the C.E., may decide to expel postgraduate students for the following reasons:

- a. Improper fulfillment of the obligations of the postgraduate student, as described in the Internal Regulation of the Postgraduate Program.

- b. Non-payment of the prescribed tuition fees (in any case, a student who has not met his financial obligations is not entitled to receive either a certificate of completion of studies or the Postgraduate Diploma),
  - c. Disciplinary offenses, such as violation of academic ethics and generally any violation of the applicable legislation and the Internal Regulation of the University of Athens.
  - d. Application for deletion of the postgraduate student himself/herself.
  - e. Have repeatedly failed the examination of a course or courses as defined in the Rules of Procedure
  - F. They did not renew their registration or attend classes for two (2) consecutive semesters
  - g. Have committed the offense of plagiarism or an offense falling under copyright law (Law 2121/1993)
  - h) For any other reason deemed necessary.
- In case of permanent termination of studies or deletion of a postgraduate student for any reason, the already paid tuition fees are not refunded.

#### **Article 12**

##### **Tuition fees**

The amount of tuition fees for the MSc "Environmental Communication and Health Promotion" amounts to 2.250,00 euros. Tuition fees are paid in three equal installments at the beginning of each semester to the Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE), which is responsible for their management. In cases of interruption of studies, the total amount paid is not refunded.

Postgraduate students must have paid all their financial obligations before the issuance of a certificate of completion of studies and the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

The Postgraduate Program provides the possibility of exemption from tuition fees according to article 14 of the Standard Study Regulations of P.M.S. of the University of Western Attica and the current legislation.

#### **Article 13**

##### **Scholarships**

The Postgraduate Program "Environmental Communication and Health Promotion" may grant scholarships, whether rewarding or not, or awards of excellence to full-time postgraduate students, according to a decision of the Assembly.

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of objective academic, economic and social criteria, which are:

1. Academic: a) Attendance. b) The average score of the previous semester. c) The degree grade with which he was admitted to the Postgraduate Program. d) Recent academic performance (awards and honorary distinctions).
2. Economics: Enrolled students of the Postgraduate Program may attend a Postgraduate Program free of charge, provided that they meet the economic or social criteria in accordance with the provisions of article 86 of Law 4957/2022 and No. 108990/Z1/8-9-2022 M.D. (B' 4899/2022)
3. Social: a) Divorced with dependants (children). b) Candidate's disability. c) Single parent family. d) Orphaned by two parents and has not exceeded the age of 25. e) Child of a large family. (f) Members of the same family.

Procedure:

Upon the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Program, an invitation to apply for a scholarship is announced. Candidates must fill in all mandatory fields of the application with the required supporting documents and submit them to the Secretariat of the Department within the calendar deadlines specified in the call. The application serves as a Solemn Declaration of Law 1599/1986. The competent body evaluates and ranks the candidacies based on the criteria set out in the internal Rules of Operation of the Postgraduate Program and proposes the list of names of candidates to the Assembly. The maximum number of scholarships for the Postgraduate Program is set at 19 students per year.

A scholarship is not granted if the postgraduate student already receives a scholarship from another source and to a postgraduate student who has been admitted to the Postgraduate Program without the obligation to pay tuition fees.

#### **Article 14**

##### **Postgraduate Diploma (D.M.S.)**

The Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) is a public document. The graduate of the Postgraduate Program may be granted, prior to the award, a certificate that he/she has successfully completed the attendance of the Postgraduate Program and a transcript of grades with the corresponding credits (ECTS).

A Diploma Supplement is attached to the Postgraduate Diploma Diploma, which is an explanatory document and does not replace the official degree or the transcript of the courses. The Diploma Supplement is attached to the MSc and provides information on the nature, level, general context of education, content and status of studies, which were successfully completed by the person named in the original of the title. In the Appendix there are no value judgments and there are no statements of equivalence or equivalence or proposals regarding the recognition of the MSc abroad. The Diploma Supplement is issued automatically and free of charge in Greek and English and must meet the requirements of authenticity required for the awarded degree. The date of issue of the Appendix does not necessarily coincide with the date of granting the BMI, but can never be earlier than this.

The grade of the Postgraduate Studies Diploma (D.M.S.) results from the grade of evaluation in courses, internships and M.Sc. by analogy.

More specifically, in each semester the student receives a grade in each course examined and if successfully evaluated, he is credited proportionally to the corresponding credits. The final grade of the MSc results from the evaluation grade:

- a) in courses,
- b) the Master's Thesis and
- (c) traineeships

The grade of the Postgraduate Diploma (D.M.S.) is derived to two decimal places and results from the formula:

$$B = \frac{B_1 \cdot \Pi_1 + B_2 \cdot \Pi_2 + \dots + B_n \cdot \Pi_n}{\Pi_1 + \Pi_2 + \dots + \Pi_n}$$

where B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>...B<sub>n</sub> are the grades of all courses attended by the student and P<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>...P<sub>n</sub> are the credits corresponding to each course.

Postgraduate students must have been assessed with at least a grade of five (5) in all courses they have registered. The grading scale for evaluating the performance of postgraduate students is defined from zero (0) to ten (10) as follows:

- **Excellent:** from eight and fifty (8.50) to ten (10),
- **Very good:** from six and fifty (6.50) to eight and forty-nine (8.49),
- **Good:** from five (5) to six and forty-nine (6.49) or
- **Rejected:** from zero (0) to four and ninety-nine (4.99).

## Article 15

### Lecturers of Postgraduate Programs

**15.1.** The teaching work of the Postgraduate Studies Program is assigned, following a decision of the S.T., to the following categories of teachers:

- a) members of Teaching Research Staff (T.E.P.), Special Educational Staff (E.E.P.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (E.D.I.P.) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (E.T.E.P.) of the Department or other Departments of the University of Athens. or another Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Higher Military Educational Institution (ASEI), with additional employment beyond their legal obligations,
- b) Emeritus Professors or retired faculty members of the Department or other Departments of the University of Athens or another HEI,
- c) collaborating professors,
- (d) teaching assistants;
- (e) visiting professors or visiting researchers;
- f) researchers and special operational scientists of research and technological bodies referred to in article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centers and institutes in Greece or abroad,
- g) scientists of recognized prestige, who have specialized knowledge and relevant experience in the subject of the Postgraduate Program.

**15.2.** The assignment of the teaching work of the Postgraduate Program is carried out by decision of the Department, upon the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Program or the Director of the Postgraduate Program. By decision of the Assembly of the Department, auxiliary teaching work may

be assigned to doctoral candidates of the Department or the School, on a subject related to the auxiliary teaching work provided by the Postgraduate Program, under the supervision of a teacher of the Postgraduate Program, upon the recommendation of the S.E.

**15.3.** The right to supervise diploma theses has the teachers of per. (a) to (f) of para. 1, provided they hold a doctorate. By decision of the competent body of the Postgraduate Program, the supervision of diploma theses may also be assigned to members of Teaching and Research Staff, Teaching Staff and Teaching Staff. of the Department, who have not undertaken teaching work in the Postgraduate Program.

**15.4.** All categories of teachers may be paid exclusively from the resources of the Postgraduate Program. No remuneration or other benefit may be paid from the state budget or the public investment program. By decision of the competent body of the Postgraduate Program on the assignment of the teaching work, the amount of remuneration of each teacher is determined. Especially teachers who have the status of faculty members, may be additionally remunerated for work they offer to the Postgraduate Program, provided that they fulfill their minimum legal obligations, as defined in para. 2 of article 155 of Law 4957/2022. The last paragraph shall apply mutatis mutandis to the members of E.E.P., E.D.I.P. and E.T.E.P., provided that they fulfill their minimum legal obligations.

The obligations of the teachers include, among others, the definition and description of the course, the citation of relevant bibliography, the determination of the way the course is examined, the communication with postgraduate students.

**15.5.** By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the institution of the Academic Advisor is applied to the Postgraduate Program.

The purpose of this institution is to provide counseling to postgraduate students during their studies on academic issues in a personalized way. The expected result is to facilitate postgraduate students in completing their studies while utilizing their particular skills and interests in the educational and research process. The Academic Advisor chooses how to approach and provide counseling to the students assigned to him in each academic year.

## Article 16

### Auxiliary teaching work of postgraduate students

By decision of the Assembly of the Department of the Postgraduate Program, it is possible to approve the participation of postgraduate students, doctoral candidates and postdocs in the provision of auxiliary teaching work.

The U.D.A. may grant rewarding scholarships to postgraduate students with the obligation to support the educational process and provide auxiliary teaching work.

Auxiliary teaching work is defined as the assistance of the members of the Teaching Research Staff in the exercise of their teaching work, the exercise of students, the conduct of tutorials, laboratory exercises, the supervision of examinations and the correction of exercises.

## Article 17

### Financing - Financial management

The funding of the Postgraduate Program comes from: a) tuition fees, b) donations, sponsorships and all kinds of financial support, c) bequests, d) resources from research projects or programs, e) own resources of the University of West Attica and f) the state budget or the public investment program.

The payment of tuition fees is made by the student himself or by a third natural or legal person on behalf of the student.

The management of the resources of the Postgraduate Program is carried out by the Special Account for Research Funds (E.L.K.E.) of the University of Athens.

The resources of the MSc are distributed as follows:

a) an amount corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total income derived from tuition fees is withheld by ELKE. This amount includes the percentage withheld in favor of ELKE for the financial management of the Postgraduate Programs. (b) to (d) of para. 1 the deduction in favour of ELKE, which applies to revenues from corresponding sources of financing, is made.

b) The remaining amount of the total revenue of the Postgraduate Program (70%) is allocated to cover the operating expenses of the Postgraduate Program.

It refers to the budget of a full cycle of studies of the Postgraduate Program for the students of that year.

Detailed budget of expenses:

As far as expenses are concerned, the categories of operating expenses and the corresponding amounts - expected outputs are indicated.

Specifically, thirty percent (30%) is attributed to the ELKE and seventy percent (70%) of the operating expenses of the MSc are allocated to:

a) fees for administrative - technical support,

b) Remuneration of teaching staff,

(c) travel expenses;

(d) expenditure on equipment and logistics;

(e) costs of awarding scholarships.

f) Other operating expenses (per. a. of paragraph 4 of article 80 of Law 4957/2022).

The remuneration of the regular teaching, technical and administrative staff of the Institutions concerns work that exceeds their legal obligations.

Expenses - categories of expenditure	
1	Fees for administrative - technical support
2	Remuneration of teaching staff
3	Travel expenses
4	Expenditure on equipment and logistics
5	Scholarship costs



6	Other operating expenditure
Subtotal (70%)	
7	Operating expenses of the University of Athens (30%) ELKE

According to para. 2, of article 85, of Law 4957/2022, a percentage of two percent (2%) is determined, as a maximum percentage of the total annual revenue of each Postgraduate Program that may be allocated to a Project / Program of par. 1 of the same article.

#### **Article 18**

#### **Plagiarism**

The postgraduate student is obliged to indicate in an appropriate way whether he/she has used the work and the opinions of others. In addition, postgraduate students who have used the services and assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the preparation of assignments assigned to them in the context of the MSc and/or the Master's Degree, should include in the preamble of the text a "Statement on the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies during the writing process", stating which tool they used and why.

Plagiarism is considered serious academic misconduct. Plagiarism is the copying of someone else's work, as well as the use of someone else's work - published or not - without proper attribution. The copying of any documentary material, even from the candidate's own studies, without relevant reference, may constitute a decision of the Assembly of the Department to delete him/her. In the above cases, the Assembly of the Department may decide to delete him/her, after he/she has been given the opportunity to present, orally or in writing, his/her views on the matter.

Any misconduct or violation of academic ethics is referred to address the problem to the Assembly of the Department or the E.P.S. Violations are also considered the offenses of copying or plagiarism and generally any violation of intellectual property provisions by a postgraduate student during the writing of papers in the context of courses or the preparation of the dissertation.

#### **Article 19**

#### **Award of degrees – oath-taking**

A student who has successfully completed his/her postgraduate studies, takes the oath at a public swearing-in ceremony, before the Rector or the Vice-Rector as representative of the Rector and the Head of the Department, which takes place after the end of each examination period, on a day and time set by the Rector in cooperation with the Heads of the Departments. The oath is not a component of the successful completion of studies, but it is a necessary condition for the granting of the Master's Degree. For reasons of force majeure (e.g. health reasons, residence or work

abroad, military obligations) and upon application to the Secretariat of his/her Department, the graduate may request the granting of the degree without participating in the swearing-in ceremony or request to participate in a subsequent swearing-in ceremony. The exemption from the obligation to participate in an oath is approved by the Head of the Department. Before taking the oath or being discharged, graduates may be given a relevant certificate for the successful completion of their studies.

A Postgraduate Diploma awarded may be revoked or cancelled if it is proven that the legal and institutional conditions for obtaining it were not met at the time of its acquisition. Revocation or cancellation is made following a decision of the relevant Assembly, which is notified to the Rector of the Institution.

## **Article 20**

### **Evaluation of the Postgraduate Program**

At the end of each semester, postgraduate students evaluate each course and each instructor. The evaluation is done using a special evaluation form/questionnaire completed by postgraduate students. The courses are evaluated in terms of content, teaching method, educational material and their degree of correlation with the principles and philosophy of the postgraduate program. Teachers are evaluated at many levels, which may indicatively include assessment of their knowledge and ability to transmit them to students, their preparation, the use of modern literature, their willingness to answer questions, the timely grading and return of assignments and written exams and the observance of course teaching hours.

The annual internal evaluation of the Postgraduate Program is carried out in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit of the University of West Attica in the context of the internal evaluation of the Department of Public and Community Health, the School of Public Health and in accordance with the corresponding process of the internal Quality Assurance System of the University of West Attica.

The external evaluation of the MSc is carried out in collaboration with MODIP. in the context of their certification in accordance with the procedure laid down by HAHE.

In this context, the overall evaluation of the work carried out by the Postgraduate Program is evaluated, the degree of fulfillment of the goals set at its establishment, its viability, the absorption of graduates into the labor market, its degree of contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the feasibility of extending its operation, as well as other information on the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education.

## **Article 21**

### **Website of the M.Sc.**

The MSc has its website in Greek and English <https://pchenvihealth.uniwa.gr/>. The official website of the Postgraduate Program is constantly updated and contains all the information and announcements of the program and is the official information space for students.

## **Article 22**

### **Other provisions**

Any issue that may arise in the future that is not covered by the relevant legislation or this Regulation will be dealt with by decisions of the competent bodies and, where necessary, by amending the Regulation.

