



University of Cyprus
Graduate School

***EVALUATION OF
POSTGRADUATE
PROGRAMMES
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS
2011-2015***

December 2016

The Graduate School of the University of Cyprus (UCY) following the decision of the University's Rector's Council, went ahead with the internal evaluation of the postgraduate programmes of the University until the academic year 2014/15.

Currently, all academic departments of the UCY with the exception of the newly created Medical School and the Department of Law, offer postgraduate programmes of study. The UCY during the academic year 2014/2015 offered 109 postgraduate programmes (64 programmes at Master level and 45 at PhD level).

The evaluation of the postgraduate programmes by the Graduate School was based on the following parameters: prerequisites for admission to postgraduate programmes, first degree grade, number of students per academic programme, length of study to complete the requirements of the academic programme, student funding and student participation in conferences.

1. Prerequisites for the evaluation and selection of new postgraduate students

The academic departments have adopted evaluation criteria for the selection and evaluation of the new postgraduate students, which are based on the Rules of Postgraduate Studies, such as: (a) academic background in the appropriate discipline, (b) grades in related degrees, (c) submission of at least two reference letters, (d) personal interview, (e) submission of a preliminary research proposal for a student place in a PhD program.

Each academic department might set additional requirements and quality indicators such as: (a) number of student publications in scientific journals, (b) student participation in seminars, symposia, research programmes, (c) student presentations in conferences, (d) knowledge of foreign languages, (e) professional experiences, (f) written examinations at the discretion of each department, etc.

2. Length of studies

The minimum duration of studies for obtaining a PhD title is six academic semesters and the maximum is sixteen semesters, whereas for a Master degree the minimum duration is three semesters and the maximum is eight. During the process for the evaluation of the postgraduate programmes, it was concluded that the average length of study required to complete a master's programme is four semesters and for a PhD programme nine semesters.

The Senate of the University of Cyprus has until the academic year 2014/15, approved the award of 407 PhD titles and 4352 master degree diplomas. The Faculty which awarded the most PhD titles was the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences (66 PhD - Department of Chemistry) with second in line the Faculty of Social Sciences and Education (64 PhD - Department of Education). The difference in the number of doctoral dissertations defended between Faculties, is due to the different culture which exists between the departments.

The Faculty which awarded the most master degree diplomas was the Faculty of Social Sciences and Education (1693 master degrees) with second in line the Faculty of Economics and Management (1007 degrees).

NO. OF AWARDED PhD TITLES PER FACULTY/DEPARTMENT UNTIL THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15

FACULTIES	DEPARTMENTS	PhD GRADUATES PER DEPARTMENT	PhD GRADUATES PER FACULTY
Humanities	English Studies	12	18
	French and European Studies	-	
	Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies	6	
Pure and Applied Sciences	Biological Sciences	28	167
	Mathematics and Statistics	24	
	Computer Sciences	38	
	Physics	11	
	Chemistry	66	
Social Sciences and Education	Education	64	99
	Social and Political Sciences	11	
	Psychology	24	
Economics and Management	Business and Public Administration	-	22
	Accounting and Finance	10	
	Economics	12	
Engineering	Architecture	2	60
	Electrical and Computer Engineering	32	
	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	13	
	Civil and Environmental Engineering	13	
Letters	Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies	22	41
	History and Archaeology	16	
	Classics and Philosophy	3	
TOTAL		407	407

NO. OF MASTER DEGREES PER FACULTY/DEPARTMENT UNTIL THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15

FACULTIES	DEPARTMENTS	MASTER GRADUATES PER DEPARTMENT	MASTER GRADUATES PER FACULTY
Humanities	English Studies	73	123
	French and European Studies	20	
	Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies	30	
Pure and Applied Sciences	Biological Sciences	125	842
	Mathematics and Statistics	199	
	Computer Sciences	304	
	Physics	128	
	Chemistry	86	
Social Sciences and Education	Education	1441	1693
	Social and Political Sciences	82	
	Psychology	170	
	Business and Public Administration	699	

Economics and Management	Accounting and Finance	108	1007
	Economics	200	
Engineering	Architecture	8	412
	Electrical and Computer Engineering	135	
	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	60	
	Civil and Environmental Engineering	209	
Letters	Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies	141	275
	History and Archaeology	74	
	Classics and Philosophy	60	
TOTAL		4352	4352

3. Admission to Masters Programmes

The assessment of an application for admission in a Master's programme, is based on the candidate's academic background in the appropriate discipline and his/her grades in related degrees. The minimum first degree grade required for admission to a postgraduate programme is 6.5, whereas for the departments of the Faculty of Letters, is 7. With minor exceptions, such as the Department of Physics and the Departments of the Faculty of Engineering, students were offered a place with a lower first degree grade after sufficient justification of the department's decision and the approval of the Senate. The evaluation process of the postgraduate programmes, concluded that candidates for admission in the Department of Education had high first degree grades.

4. Number of new postgraduate students

There was an increase in the advertised number of vacant places in PhD and Master programmes of the UCY while the number of the actual places offered remained stable. The percentage rate of occupancy of places per academic year varies between 53% - 67%.

The total number of registered postgraduate students during the academic year 2014/15 was 1834 (1220 master degree students and 614 PhD students).

TOTAL NO. OF ADVERTISED POSTGRADUATE PLACES/NO. OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS									
	Academic year 2012/13			Academic year 2013/14			Academic year 2014/15		
	PhD	Master	No. of places	PhD	Master	No. of places	PhD	Master	No. of places
No. of advertised places	186	804	990	191	844	1035	199	892	1091
No. of new students	101	535	636	101	534	635	108	532	640
% of occupancy of places	54%	67%	64%	53%	63%	61%	54%	60%	59%

5. Postgraduate student funding, participation in conferences and publications

The postgraduate programmes evaluation process revealed that a significant number of UCY publications include postgraduate students among the authors. Furthermore, a significant number of students did not receive any funding for the conduct of their research either from UCY research programmes, or from research programmes outside the UCY. It is noted that a significant number of students are supported in other ways such as through employment as teaching assistants. The Faculties with the most articles with students among the authors, were the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering. Also, it must be emphasized that the active and significant participation of the postgraduate students in international conferences, contributes towards the internationalization of the UCY.