

M5.4 Published Policy on the Support and Development of Teaching Staff

(approved by the Departmental Assembly on January 31, 2024)

Within the framework of the Quality Policy of the University of Piraeus's ESDP, it is recognized that the academic staff constitutes the cornerstone of its pursuit of continuous improvement of the educational and research services it provides and its further development.

Consequently, supporting the professional growth and continuous development of staff across all degree programs and all academic and administrative services they provide is a steadfast commitment at the institutional level.

Given this commitment, each Academic Unit and each Master's Program, by implementing the procedures and specific processes outlined in the Institutional Quality Assurance System (IQAS), sets specific goals, the achievement of which is based on the premise that it bears the responsibility for encouraging and supporting the development of its academic staff.

More specifically, the Department of International and European Studies, recognizing the undeniable contribution of its staff to its broader advancement, declares that the Master's Program "American Studies: Politics, Strategy, and Economics" is committed to:

- Creating the appropriate conditions for the teaching-research-learning triad
- Providing opportunities through the design and implementation of initiatives aimed at the academic and professional development of its teaching staff
- Focusing, within the learning process, on the teaching-research dyad, provided that appropriate preparation is in place to strengthen academic activity
- The encouragement and improvement, both in quantity and quality, of research output through the provision of substantial incentives
- Monitoring compliance with established procedures pertaining to the framework of responsibilities and obligations/rights, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of academic staff through various methods (e.g., self-assessment, targeted training initiatives, etc.)

To fulfill the above commitments, the M.A. program "American Studies: Politics, Strategy, and Economics" has adopted a series of objectives. These include, among others:

1. The integration of methodology of research into content of the Program.
2. The promotion and integration of academic research with the teaching materials of all courses in the Program.

3. Attracting and integrating, into the Program's academic staff, instructors with extensive and recognized research experience.

4. Strengthening collaborations with domestic and international faculty members and researchers active in educational or research institutions of recognized standing.

At this point, it is also important to emphasize the commitment to:

- Focusing on equipping research laboratories with the most modern and advanced tools to ensure the smooth conduct of innovative research.
- Focusing on staffing with specialized technical personnel possessing the necessary skills to support the research work of faculty members
- Adoption practices that will be toward research activities by groups within the context of cooperation between teachers and students.

Specifically to support and develop the teaching staff, the M.A. program

"American Studies: Politics, Strategy, and Economics" recognizes the importance of setting goals framed by corresponding actions such as:

- Training in the fields of innovative teaching techniques and pedagogical methods
- Training on the effective use of ICT in teaching and learning
- Development, through targeted seminars, of skills that ensure effective communication between teachers and students and the effective support of the latter
- Dissemination of innovative research practices and encouragement to take advantage of opportunities for higher-quality research and academic activities in general that ensure the distinction of the teaching staff at the national and international levels

The success of the aforementioned initiatives requires seamless collaboration between the Department of International and European Studies and the Master's Program

"American Studies: Politics, Strategy, and Economics" with the Teaching and Learning Support Center, which strengthens participation in knowledge networks, encourages interdisciplinary collaborations, identifies and disseminates best practices in teaching and learning, continuously monitoring developments in the European Higher Education Area, while simultaneously delving into the essence and context of Lifelong Learning.

Finally, the Academic Unit and the Master's Program "American Studies: Politics, Strategy, and Economics" undertake, in collaboration with the Foundation, to

create the conditions for the provision of the necessary logistical resources, including the equipment required to carry out teaching and research activities, as well as the financial resources necessary to access software and databases, components essential for both high-quality learning and high-quality academic/research operations.

This Statement was approved by the Departmental Assembly (meeting of 12/31/2024) and may be amended as deemed necessary.

It is available on the Master's Program website at

https://www.des.unipi.gr/images/5.4_%CE%94%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%BF%CF%83._%CE%A0%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B9%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE_%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%AC%CF%80%CF%84_%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%89%CF%80_American.pdf