

M.1.1 Quality Assurance Policy of the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics*.

The Department of International and European Studies of the University of Piraeus is committed to the implementation of a quality assurance policy in all its undergraduate and postgraduate programs. This policy is designed to safeguard the academic identity of the Department, to ensure the provision of high quality education in its chosen fields of study, to foster a creative research environment for all members of the academic community, and to facilitate continuous improvement in both research activities and administrative services. The commitment of the Department's faculty and administrative staff to the continuous improvement of its teaching, research, and services is an integral part of the Department's quality assurance culture and a strategic choice. Consequently, the Department applies a Quality Assurance Policy with the following objectives: continuous improvement of its undergraduate and postgraduate programs, promotion of its academic identity, improvement of its research activities, and enhancement of the quality of its overall academic and administrative work.

The Quality Assurance Policy of the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* is fully harmonized with the Quality Assurance Policy of the Department of International and European Studies of the School of Economics, Business and International Studies and the Quality Assurance Policy of the University.

The Quality Assurance Policy of the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* program is committed to achieving its mission to the fullest extent possible. The Mission of the MSc in American Studies is to cultivate and promote scholarship through rigorous academic and applied research in the field of American Studies, with a particular emphasis on Politics, Strategy and Economics. Additionally, the program aims to equip students with the essential skills and knowledge required to succeed in their academic and professional careers. "The objective of the MSc is to address the absence of a systematic approach to American Studies in Greece, which has resulted in a lack of academic degrees in this field. The program is interdisciplinary, with an emphasis on cutting-edge issues of contemporary research in diverse subareas and subtopics. It draws on the long experience of Greek-American cooperation in the analysis of US regional policy over time and over periods in three key areas: strategy, history, and economics» (ΦΕΚ 1403b-2021).

In order to implement this policy, the MSc *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* is dedicated to the implementation of quality assurance procedures that will guarantee:

- (a) the appropriateness of the structure and organization of the MSc.
- (b) the pursuit of learning outcomes and qualifications in accordance with the European and National Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (level 7)
- (c) the promotion of teaching quality and effectiveness
- (d) the promotion of the quality and quantity of the research work of the members of the academic unit

- e) the suitability of the qualifications of the teaching staff
- (f) the effective linkage between teaching and research
- (g) the drafting, implementation and monitoring of annual Quality Objectives for the improvement of the program
- (h) the high level demand for the acquired qualifications of the graduates in the labor market
- (i) the provision of quality services to students and their continuous improvement.
- (j) the efficient and effective use of the financial resources of the MSc
- (k) the execution of the annual internal evaluation of the MSc within the framework of the Internal Quality Assurance System with the cooperation of the Department's Internal Evaluation Unit and the University's Quality Assurance Unit.
- (l) the further expansion and capitalization of existing partnerships in order to enhance the profile, extroversion and contribution to the progress of society of the MSc.

In particular, the Quality Assurance Policy of the MSc guarantees the ongoing improvement of the MSc through the following means:

- The implementation of the Quality Assurance Policy for the MSc entails the implementation of specific quality assurance measures that delineate the framework within which this postgraduate program must operate.
- The establishment and operation of an MSc Coordination Committee, which is responsible for: a) the formulation and revision of the MSc in order to adapt it to scientific developments, b) the treatment and resolution of problems arising during the implementation of the MSc, and c) the comparative monitoring, recording and use of developments in the corresponding postgraduate programs of relevant departments in Greece and abroad
- The operation of the Internal Evaluation Unit, which is responsible for monitoring the achievement of quality assurance objectives, conducting internal evaluations, collecting and processing data in collaboration with the University's Quality Assurance Unit, making decisions for the continuous improvement of the quality of the MSc and implementing corrective actions in case of deviations from the strategic objectives set.
- The establishment of annual quantitative and qualitative quality assurance objectives that are specific and measurable. The achievement of these objectives is considered critical to the quality assurance and improvement of the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics*.
- The collection of data to measure, analyze and improve the quality of the MSc. Effective procedures are implemented to collect and analyze information about the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* (student data, faculty data, course structure and organization, teaching and student services, etc.).

- Periodic internal evaluation and monitoring of the MSc on an annual basis, in collaboration with and the support of the University's Quality Assurance Unit. In particular, an internal evaluation and assessment of all the processes implemented in the MSc is carried out in order to achieve the objectives set for the MSc, identifying elements and issues for correction, with the implementation of improvement actions agreed upon jointly with the University's Quality Assurance Unit.
- The external evaluation of the MSc, which is carried out by a committee of independent experts.

It is emphasized that the conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for the improvement of the quality assurance policy of the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* serve as feedback for the improvement of its medium and long-term strategy.

The Department of International and European Studies has established the objectives for the MSc *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* taking into account the University's objectives for its graduate programs, the Quality Assurance indicators and the nature of the program itself. The objectives were discussed between the members of the Steering Committee of the MSc, the members of the Internal Evaluation Unit and the Rector of Academic Affairs and Personnel. The strategic objectives, the plan for achieving these objectives and the necessary actions serve as a reference point for all functions of the MSc in *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics*.

The Quality Assurance Policy of the MSc *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* is made public and communicated to its stakeholders so that the academic and administrative staff and graduate students can contribute to the assurance and effective implementation of the Quality Assurance Policy. The Quality Assurance Policy is published on the website of the MSc: *American Studies: Politics, Strategy and Economics* at the following link:

https://www.des.unipi.gr/images/Quality_Assurance_Policy_-_MSc_American_Studies_-_Politics_Strategy_and_Economics.docx.pdf