

Assessment Report and Accreditation Recommendation

International Programme Accreditation of

University of West Attica (UNIWA)

**“Sustainable Energy Systems” (M.Sc.),
“Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning” (M.Sc.),
“Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering” (M.Sc.),
“Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing” (M.Sc.),
“Environmental health and communication in general and special education
and training” (M.Sc.),
“Environmental Communication and Health Promotion” (M.Sc.),
“Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control
and Safety of new cosmetic products” (M.Sc.),
“Biomedical Engineering and Technology” (M.Sc.),
“Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies” (M.Sc.).**

I Procedure

Date of contract: 24 July 2023

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Attendance by ACQUIN office: Giorina Maratsi, Dr. Jasmine Rudolph

Accreditation decision scheduled: 27 October 2023

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The **Assessment Report** of the peer-review experts is **based on** the self-assessment report of the **University of West Attica (UNIWA)** and extensive discussions with the **University of West Attica (UNIWA)** management, deans and/or heads of the departments, heads of study programmes, lecturers, staff representatives, students, and alumni.

The basis of the **Assessment Criteria** is part 1 of the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG) in the current official version. At the same time the national context, particularly the national regulations regarding the establishment of study programmes, are taken into account.

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II Introduction

The experts would like to thank the representatives of the University of West Attica (UNIWA) as well as the students that have taken part in the discussions and willingly shared information and their views during the site visit. The discussions are valuable not only for the assessment of the institution, but also for a better understanding of the legal and sociocultural context of the local higher education system.

Evaluation basis for the peer-review experts is the self-assessment report of the University of West Attica (UNIWA), as well as intensive discussions during the site visit with the HEI management, deans and/or heads of the departments, heads of the study programmes, study programmes coordinators, teachers, lecturers, administrative staff, students, and graduates.

The main objective of the accreditation procedure is to assess the quality of the study programmes and compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG).

A group of experts was set up, which ensured that all areas relevant to the accreditation procedure (e.g. legal, structural, social etc. aspects) as well as the ESG and national criteria were considered. The peer-review experts include professors, representatives of the professional practice and the student representative. A certificate with the ACQUIN seal is awarded upon accreditation of the study programmes.

1 The Higher Education System in Greece

The educational system in Greece is ordained by numerous laws and decrees of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. According to Law 2916/2001, Higher Education is divided into Higher University Education, which is provided by the Universities, and Higher Technological Education, which is provided by the Technological Educational Institutions (T.E.I.). It should be noted that all T.E.I.s of the country have merged with university institutions. In addition, since the academic year 1997/98, the Hellenic Open University has been established to provide open and distance education.

The institutions of Higher Education are legal entities of public law, fully self-governing, under the supervision of the state (Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs) and financed by it, in accordance with article 16 of the Constitution. The curricula are offered mainly in Greek. However, specialised undergraduate or postgraduate programmes are offered in a foreign language. The knowledge of one or more foreign languages is a prerequisite for admission to and attendance of postgraduate programmes. Attendance is, for the most part, free of charge, with some exceptions, mainly concerning certain postgraduate programmes and studies at the Hellenic Open University.

According to Law 4957/2022, HEIs have as their core mission to offer high quality higher education, without discriminations and exclusions, to produce and transmit knowledge through teaching and research, to prepare students for its application in the professional and social field and to cultivate and promote the sciences, arts, letters and culture.

According to Eurydice data of European Commission, all Greek universities must conform to quality standards set by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), which has been established by law 4653/2020, as an independent administrative body, under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. Its main mission is to ensure high quality in the field of higher education and contribute to the formation and implementation of the national strategy for higher education. In 2017, the HAHE put into operation the National Information System for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, collected and analysed quantitative and qualitative data of higher education institutions and developed key performance indicators for higher education.

HAHE is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and is responsible for the issuance of licences after successful accreditation of public higher education institutions in Greece ensuring that all higher education institutions adhere to the standards set out in the Hellenic Qualifications Framework (HQF).

The Hellenic Qualifications Framework (HQF) is an 8-level framework with descriptors, fully compatible with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Each level includes qualification types as the main element allowing classification of qualifications in the HQF and comparison between them.

2 Short profile of University of West Attica

The University of West Attica (UNIWA) was established in March 2018, following the union of Piraeus University of Applied Sciences and Technological Educational Institute of Athens, whilst in 2019, the National School of Public Health also joined the newly established university.

The vision of the University of West Attica is the recognition nationally and globally as a high rank dynamic, modern and progressive university with public character and competitive internationally. The University, based on the long and successful tradition of the constituting institutes, provides high-level undergraduate and postgraduate education combined with intensive research activities, maintaining standing strong partnerships with other domestic and foreign educational and research institutes.

At UNIWA, there are twenty-seven Departments operating under the academic umbrella of five Schools, covering a wide range of scientific fields, such as social, administrative, and economic

sciences, engineering sciences, health and welfare sciences, as well as food sciences and applied art and culture studies.

UNIWA, in the context of its international orientation, lays particular emphasis on the implementation of transnational and inter-institutional collaborations with universities, research centres and foreign bodies. Partnerships, aimed primarily at offering joint programmes of study with other Higher Education Institutions, promote scientific research, transfer of know-how practices and scientific data as well as promoting the mobility of academic staff and students. UNIWA has intentionally chosen an international accreditation agency that is a full member of ENQA to demonstrate that it meets the highest standards in the European Educational Area.

Academic Programmes

UNIWA offers a wide range of educational and lifelong learning services, including:

- The undergraduate studies that lead to 4-year Bachelor's (Level 6) and 5-year Engineering Diploma degrees.
- Postgraduate studies leading to the completion of a postgraduate diploma (Level 7).
- Doctoral studies (Level 8).
- Lifelong learning and vocational training programmes.

At the moment, the University consists of 6 Schools (Public Health, Management, Economics and Social Sciences, Food Sciences, Health and Welfare Sciences, Applied Arts and Culture and School of Engineering) and offers 26 undergraduate and 82 postgraduate programmes in total, covering a wide range of modern sciences including social, administrative and economic sciences, engineering sciences, health and welfare sciences, food sciences and art studies.

Students

UNIWA is the third biggest University in Greece with over 57,800 undergraduate, 5,500 postgraduate and 780 doctoral students, spread in three Campuses within the metropolitan region of Athens. Quality services and facilities aim at ensuring a satisfactory standard of student life and promoting the social, cultural, physical and mental development of its students.

Following this approach, UNIWA, through its administrative services, strives to facilitate its students in their day-to-day life, always taking into account the related legislation and decisions of the University administration. Thus, students can benefit from a range of benefits and facilities depending on their needs and interests.

In each UNIWA Department, the student community is represented through student associations. Student clubs are the channel through which university students are being represented co-ordinately. Through the operation of student associations, a series of actions and interventions are implemented that relate to both study and student issues.

Staff

The operation of the institution is supported by its highly-qualified and experienced administrative staff. In terms of personnel, UNIWA incorporates 608 faculty members, 138 special laboratory teaching and technical staff members, and 345 administrative staff members.

3 General information on the study programmes

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	2024
Faculty/ department	School of Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering
Standard period of study	2 years
Number of ECTS credits	120 ECTS
Number of study places	50
Number of students currently enrolled	-
Average number of graduates per year	-
Form of study	Part-time/ traditional (face-to-face) and /or distance learning (depending on the current legislation)
Tuition fee	4.800 € in total

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	2023
Faculty/ department	Faculty of Engineering Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering & Department of Industrial Design and Production Engineering
Standard period of study	3 academic semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS

Number of study places	60
Number of students currently enrolled	38
Average number of graduates per year	10
Form of study	Full-time or part-time / Synchronous - distance learning, with elective courses delivered in hybrid mode
Tuition fee	3.000 € in total

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	October 2023
Faculty/ department	Faculty of Engineering Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Standard period of study	3 academic semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	25
Number of students currently enrolled	0
Average number of graduates per year	0
Form of study	Full-time or part-time / Synchronous - distance learning, with elective courses delivered in hybrid mode
Tuition fee	1.000 € per academic semester

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	-
Faculty/ department	School of Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering

Standard period of study	2 years
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	30
Number of students currently enrolled	44
Average number of graduates per year	18
Form of study	Part-time/ traditional (face-to-face) and /or distance learning (depending on the current legislation) -up to 35% of classes
Tuition fee	4.500€ (Students outside the EU 6.000€)

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	October 2023
Faculty/ department	School of Public Health, Department of Public and Community Health
Standard period of study	3 semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	60
Number of students currently enrolled	-
Average number of graduates per year	-
Form of study	Blended learning (face-to-face and synchronous distance learning)
Tuition fee	2.850€

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental Communication and Health Promotion

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	2020

Faculty/ department	School of Public Health, Department of Public and Community Health
Standard period of study	3 semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	30
Number of students currently enrolled	40
Average number of graduates per year	40
Form of study	Blended learning (face-to-face and synchronous distance learning)
Tuition fee	2,550€

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products

Location	University of West Attica Egaleo Grove, 28 Ag. Spyridonos Street, 12243 Egaleo
Date of introduction	October 2023
Faculty/ department	Faculty of Health and Welfare Sciences Biomedical Sciences
Standard period of study	3 semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	20
Number of students currently enrolled	-
Average number of graduates per year	-
Form of study	Full Time / Distance Learning
Tuition fee	12.500€

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering and Technology

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
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Date of introduction	October 2022
Faculty/ department	Department of Biomedical Engineering School of Engineering
Standard period of study	3 semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	30
Number of students currently enrolled	12
Form of study	Full-time/ traditional (face-to-face) and /or distance learning (depending on the current legislation)
Tuition fee	1.200€

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

Location	University of West Attica Ancient Olive Grove, Campus, 250 Thivon & P. Ralli Street, 12241, Egaleo, Athens
Date of introduction	October 2023
Faculty/ department	Department of Industrial Design and Production Engineering
Standard period of study	3 semesters
Number of ECTS credits	90 ECTS
Number of study places	25
Number of students currently enrolled	-
Average number of graduates per year	-
Form of study	Full-time / traditional (face-to-face) and /or distance learning (depending on the current legislation)-up to 35% of classes
Tuition fee	3.000€

III Implementation and assessment of the criteria

1 ESG Standard 1.1: Policy for quality assurance

Institutions should have a policy for quality assurance that is made public and forms part of their strategic management. Internal stakeholders should develop and implement this policy through appropriate structures and processes, while involving external stakeholders.

1.1 Implementation for all study programmes

UNIWA has developed and establishes procedures of quality assurance policy as a part of its Strategic Planning, approved by the 9th meeting of the Quality Assurance Unit (05.05.2020) and the decision of the 4th meeting of the Senate (08.06.2020).

In the Quality Policy Statement, the rules of Internal Quality Management System (IQM-System) are mentioned, boosting the development and the recognition of the University at national, EU and global level, as an example of innovation and excellency. The Quality Assurance Unit has the following responsibilities, which are assigned to it by the competent bodies of the University:

- a) The cooperation with the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE);
- b) The development of a specific strategy and the required procedures for the continuous improvement of the quality of the academic work and the services of the University;
- c) The organisation, operation and continuous improvement of the internal Quality Assurance system of the University as well as the support of its certification procedures, in the framework of the principles, guidelines and instructions of the HAHE;
- d) The development of the information management system of the evaluation data, its continuous improvement and updating, as well as the responsibility for the systematic monitoring and publication on a specially designed website of the University, of the procedures and the results regarding the evaluation, in compliance with the principles, guidelines and instructions of the HAHE;
- e) The permanent search, study and integration on the website of the Quality Assurance Unit on the University of West Attica website, related to the evaluation of the procedures and their results as well as its monitoring and ordinary updating;
- f) The support, coordination and monitoring of the procedures of the internal and external evaluation of the academic units of the institution. In particular, it takes care of the evaluation of

courses provided, and the educational material and the general support and the implementation of the evaluation procedures of the academic units based on the quality of the teaching work, the quality of the other services (student care, infrastructure, etc.);

g) The coordination, monitoring and supervision of the preparation and the submission of the Annual Internal Reports of the University units;

h) The activation and the support of the External Evaluation process of the academic units of the Institution, sending to the HAHE their Internal Evaluation Reports and providing aid to the organisation and the efficient conduct of the procedure of the in-situ visit of the external auditors;

i) The coordination, organisation and implementation of the procedures for the internal and external evaluation of the central and integral services of the University, where it functions as an Internal Evaluation Team of the University. In particular, is responsible for the evaluation of the UNIWA and takes care of and prepares the Internal Report for the operation of the University every 2 years, taking into account the Annual Internal Reports of the Departments, as well as the procedures of the Internal Evaluation for the good functioning of the University;

j) The communication to the academic units of the final reports for their external evaluation, which are sent by the HAHE;

k) The responsibility for the coordination and the efficient conduct of the audit procedures, of the criteria and the requirements for the annual review for the partial aspects regarding the content of the curricula of studies of the University, in the framework of the principles and the guidelines of the HAHE and according to the articles 9 – 11 of the law 4653/2020, on which he proposes to the Senate. Towards this purpose, the Quality Assurance Unit is entitled to constitute Advisory groups with the participation of the Professors of each School, of executives and specialised staff of the University;

l) The submission to the Senate of the University of an annual report regarding the exercise of duties and the implementation of its objectives;

m) The establishment of advisory committees or special groups consisting of research and teaching staff and other specialised staff of the University, meeting the requirements of the organisation and operation of the procedures of the evaluation and the assessment of the work of the units of the UNIWA;

n) The collection and processing of the data for the facilitation of the work of the competent bodies of the University, regarding the planning and the implementation of the strategic objectives for the good functioning and the development of the University.

1.2 Assessment for all study programmes

Quality assurance is a critical component of UNIWA's academic strategy, as the institution is committed to providing high-quality education and support services to its students. To ensure that its academic programmes and services meet the highest standards of quality, UNIWA has established a robust quality assurance framework.

UNIWA has a formal policy for quality assurance in place. This policy is publicly available and can be accessed through the university's official website. It outlines UNIWA's commitment to maintaining high standards of education and continuously improving its academic and administrative processes.

The quality assurance policy at UNIWA comprehensively covers all relevant areas, including teaching and learning, research, governance, student support services, and institutional management. It addresses various aspects of quality, ensuring a holistic approach to the university's operations.

UNIWA actively involves all relevant bodies and institutions in the development and implementation of its quality assurance policy. This collaborative approach includes input from academic staff, administrative personnel, students, as well as external stakeholders such as employers and regulatory bodies. The policy is developed and executed through a participatory process.

UNIWA employs a systematic and rigorous approach to implementing, monitoring, and revising its quality assurance policy. Implementation is carried out through various mechanisms, including regular assessments, evaluations, and feedback mechanisms. The policy's effectiveness is continuously monitored, and necessary revisions are made to address emerging issues and align with best practices and evolving educational standards.

UNIWA is committed to promoting gender equality and equal opportunities within its institution. The university has adopted clear and inclusive policies and programmes aimed at ensuring a diverse and inclusive learning and working environment. This includes efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination, provide support for underrepresented groups, and foster a culture of respect and equality among its staff and students. UNIWA actively participates in initiatives and programmes that support these goals both within the university and in the broader community.

1.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

2 ESG Standard 1.2: Design and approval of programmes

Institutions should have processes for the design and approval of their programmes. The programmes should be designed so that they meet the objectives set for them, including the intended learning outcomes. The qualification resulting from a programme should be clearly specified and communicated, and refer to the correct level of the national qualifications framework for higher education and, consequently, to the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.

2.1 Implementation

All programmes are designed and approved following certain procedural steps: with the Decision of the Senate and after the proposal of the Department Assembly and the opinion of the Postgraduate Studies Committee, new Postgraduate programmes of studies can be approved.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems

The Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Systems (SES), offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering of UNIWA, consists of five (5) core modules, three (3) compulsory elective modules, two (2) specialisation modules and two (2) on energy dissertation, resulting in total 120 ECTS and corresponding to EQF and HQF level 7. The designed curriculum, offers students the opportunity to customise their degree in areas that suit their interests and career goals by working one-on-one with a faculty advisor to tailor the degree to their energy interests by choosing the appropriate M.Sc. Energy Dissertation topic and also by selecting one of the following directions:

- a) Sustainable Energy Systems Design and
- b) Renewable Energy Systems.

The programme is grounded in Energy Engineering and has a strong emphasis on the design of energy systems within the context of sustainability, whereas there is particular focus on the deployment of renewable energy technologies and the related decisions to be made. SES programme is the evolution of the M.Sc. in Energy and of the M.Sc. in Energy Systems, a collaborative programme that was offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Heriot Watt University of United Kingdom for more than 17 years. SES aspires to deliver excellent scientific training and know-how, as well as comprehensive knowledge in all fields of energy meeting up the contemporary challenges of sustainable development.

Design and curriculum (programme) information is available via the programme syllabus which has several critical functions: informing about the learning objectives and learning outcomes of the course, its content, defining students' responsibilities, grading criteria, learning materials

and teaching philosophy. SES master programme syllabus and related information is also included in the M.Sc. Handbook, that is handed to the students at the beginning of their academic studies.

The students will gain a broad understanding of energy systems in the context of sustainability (environmental, social, technological) and will be familiarised with the methods and tools for future business decisions. In more detail, SES Programme aims to provide specialisation within the topic sustainability by the offered individual modules, to focus on the energy industry and the required transition to meet the sustainability goals, to offer combined practical and theoretical course-knowledge elements in the field of sustainable energy systems and to prepare young generations for the professions related to consulting, public relations and applied research and development within topics related to sustainable energy.

Students with a B.Sc. degree certificate in Sciences, Engineering or Technology and a C1 level of English can apply for the SES. Upon completion of the programmes, graduates can pursue a career as sustainable engineering managers with interdisciplinary and practical knowledge, which will support them to make a successful career as engineering managers in business, government, non-profits, universities, labs, consulting firms, or the private sector, as well as serve society by developing new ideas and improving products and services.

The programme is planned to be launched in October 2023 and is currently applying for international programme accreditation in addition to the national. The programme envisages to enroll 50 students per year, during two yearly intakes (September and January).

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

The M.Sc. programme in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning covers an extremely active field of specialisation. The programme is designed to provide students with both the theoretic backbone and the practical, hands-on experience in this field. It aims to address the market demand for professionals capable of designing, developing and applying artificial intelligence and deep learning algorithms in various sectors of the economy including health, industry, education (e.g., emotional intelligence and affect cognition), engineering (e.g., unmanned vehicles) and culture.

The programme is a 3-academic-semesters – 90 ECTS programme, offered in full-time mode and taught in English. It corresponds to EQF and HQF level 7. Upon successful completion of the program of study, students are expected to be able to design and analyse solutions that use artificial intelligence mechanisms and deep learning algorithms, advance the science of artificial intelligence and deep learning by developing new techniques, understand and evaluate the implementation of artificial intelligence and deep learning solutions on various platforms

and computing environments and work alone or collaborate in teams on the design, programming and development of innovative solutions, using AI technological tools. The last (3rd) academic semester is dedicated to the preparation of an M.Sc. thesis, which students have to successfully present and defend. Moreover, during the programme, students are given the opportunity to participate in specialised seminars and workshops to develop their skills.

Prospective students are expected to have a background in Sciences or Engineering and hold a title of level 6 of the EQF/NQF or equivalent. Ideal candidates should hold a diploma in Electrical and/or Computer Engineering or other Engineering faculties, or a degree in Computer Science, Mathematics or other Sciences. Graduates will be able to combine artificial intelligence and deep learning techniques with other technologies like big data and analytics, for decision making. Emphasis of the curriculum is placed on providing the students with hands-on experience: educational material, projects and tools from the Deep Learning Institute of NVIDIA are integrated in the curriculum, while students are given direct access to GPU infrastructure and hardware throughout their studies.

Students are given the option to group elective modules in order to get one of two specialisations within the programme, namely, a) Specialisation in Autonomous Systems and b) Specialisation in Cognitive Systems. In that case, the corresponding specialisation is added on the title conferred.

The programme is planned to be introduced during spring semester of academic year 2023-2024 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 60 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

M.Sc. by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering is a research-focused postgraduate programme corresponding to 90 ECTS of EQF/HQF level 7. Under the supervision and guidance of the experienced academic staff, students are encouraged and led to delve into a specific area of interest within the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and to engage in innovative research in this area. The areas selected are strongly connected to the research carried out in the Laboratories of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

Students become members of the laboratory teams right from the beginning of the study programme; they are thus smoothly introduced to the research atmosphere, procedures and ethics. Laboratories host, encourage and scaffold young researchers in their first steps towards independent research. Moreover, through this programme students that aspire to PhD studies can get a lived experience of research.

These features dictate the character of the programme that is a limited number of annual places, strict selection criteria and close academic supervision throughout the studies. Taught courses are kept to a minimum (24 ECTS) in order to maximize the part dedicated to research (66 ECTS). Work towards the M.Sc. thesis proceeds along all 3 academic semesters of the programme and is culminated by the (required) publication of the results in relevant, internationally acknowledged refereed journals or conference proceedings, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.

Prospective students are expected to have an engineering or sciences background. Ideally, they should hold a diploma on Electrical, Electronics, Computers or other engineering field, or a degree on Computer Science, Mathematics or Sciences. Graduates of other disciplines may also be accepted for research in cross-disciplinary subjects, upon establishing through their portfolio and interview adequate skills and personal interest for research.

The major aims of this M.Sc. programme are to produce graduates who (i) are specialised in an area of their choice within the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, (ii) will have acquired adequate research skills and experience in order to staff research teams in research institutions and laboratories, (iii) are ready for an informed decision as to whether they should enroll in PHD studies in the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

The character of study is highly diversified according to the specific area of research chosen by the student. Certain areas require the presence of the student in the lab for taking measurements and carrying out other experimental procedures, while other areas require mainly computer work that may be done and supervised remotely; hybrid requirements are often the case, as well. To orient candidates as to the requirements of each area, places offered are accompanied by a research title, a short description of contents, expected outcomes and expected type of student contribution, as well as the background of an ideal candidate.

The programme is planned to be introduced in October 2023 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 25 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

The M.Sc. in Advanced Product Design Engineering & Manufacturing is addressed to graduates of higher education, mainly in a relevant engineering discipline, and/or suitable industrial experience. The programme corresponds to 90 ECTS of EQF/HQF level 7 and is structured to provide with the latest developments in this still-evolving discipline of digital product development. It focuses on providing with hands-on experience of the latest computing applications throughout the entire product development cycle, from simple 3D modelling techniques to an

extended capability of 3D laser scanning to generate complex surfaces. Therefore, within the programme context the importance of advanced manufacturing techniques and the methods used to integrate Computer Aided Manufacturing CAM with computer numerical control and 3D printing technologies, is examined.

The hands-on approach, using the multidisciplinary laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment from 3D Printing, CNC machining, Laser Scanning, Metrology, Materials Testing and many more, is a very valuable part of the course. The course dovetails with research activities of the teaching staff, implementing the latest advances in the research. Utilizing applied research, incentivizes students to do their own research within an individual industry-relevant 'capstone' project. This includes preparation of a scientific paper, providing an opportunity for that first breakthrough into publishing their work.

Upon programme completion, students will have gained:

- a) practical and theoretical knowledge of analytical design tools to assist the product validation process by applying advanced mechanism design simulation and finite elements analysis techniques and
- b) entrepreneurship, management and business skills, skills that are necessary to take on leadership roles in major product design engineering projects.

M.Sc. successful completion presupposes the attendance of four modules (Engineering Research Techniques, Entrepreneurship & Quality Management, Computer Integrated Product Development, Advanced CAD/CAM Systems and Mechatronic Design and Automation). Each module is worth 300 hours of student time, and the taught part of the module is normally 60 hours' duration. M.Sc. students are also required to complete an individual project, which is equivalent to two modules (equivalent to 600 hours of effort). Each module is assessed by coursework and the project is assessed by an interim report, a seminar and a final report. Thus, coursework is an essential part of the course.

The programme applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 30 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training

The curriculum of the postgraduate programme in "Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training" provides a high-level education on environmental communication and health promotion within the framework of Special Education and Training with a combination of intervention programmes on environmental issues.

The programme is structured in 2 semesters, each of at least 13 weeks' duration, (corresponding to 60 ECTS), as well as one 1 semester for completing the thesis that comprises 30 ECTS. A total of 90 ECTS are required to obtain the master's degree. In particular, each course corresponds to 4 ECTS, whereas the internship corresponds to 10 ECTS for each semester. The first and second semesters include lectures, laboratory exercises, assessment of progress, internship and final exams held for each course. The third semester includes the preparation of the Diploma Thesis.

The postgraduate programme goal is to teach main concepts, principles and theoretical frameworks of environmental theories and implement this knowledge in mainstream and special education schools through environmental activities. More specifically, the programme aims to evaluate students with special educational needs using psychometric tools, explain the causes and effects of various learning disabilities and discuss the teacher's role in the inclusive educational context, design and implement programmes which enhance the social and cognitive skills of children with special educational needs and students with typical development, point out problems in the educational setting as well as the education system and design research in order to address them through environmental activities and assess the main factors that affect the learning process and critically evaluate the main findings of contemporary research associated with the learning and teaching process.

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to contribute to the educational system, in environmental camps and generally in various social and work environments, regarding issues of Inclusive education, Environmental Education, Public and Community Health.

The programme is planned to be introduced in October 2023 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 60 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental Communication and Health Promotion

The scientific subject of the postgraduate programme in Environmental Communication and Health Promotion covers the subject of Environmental Communication by introducing the concept of communication aimed at education on environmental health issues. Through the ecological model as a communication planning framework for public health, postgraduate students become familiar with the tools of health literacy assessment in research and practice with the ultimate goal of creating and implementing communication strategies to protect the environment as an integral part of promoting the health of the population.

The Department of Public and Community Health is one of the two Departments of the School of Public Health of the University of West Attica (Articles 57-61 of N.4610 / 2019). The Department of Public and Community Health aims at providing modern, high quality undergraduate and postgraduate education to students, as well as promoting basic and applied research in many innovative public health fields.

The master's programme begins in the fall or spring semester of each academic year. The M.Sc. certificate is awarded upon completion of the following: successful assessment of all taught courses and successful completion of the diploma thesis, leading to the accumulation of 90 ECTS of EQF/HQF level 7. More specifically, the postgraduate programme aims to provide academic knowledge in the field of Environmental Communication and further development of knowledge in the field of Ecotherapy and Health Promotion, conduct research studies in the field and promoting the introduction of innovative epidemiological research programmes, highlight the applications of Environmental Communication in the fields of Ecotherapy and Health Promotion and develop research in the field of new technologies related to Ecotherapy and Health Promotion.

Upon successful completion of the postgraduate programme, students will be able to significantly contribute to the school system, in environmental camps, museums, mass media and as well as wherever they can get involved in subjects that concern Environmental Education, Public/Community/Environmental Health.

The programme was introduced in 2020 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 30 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products

The duration of the postgraduate programme in “Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products” which leads to the M.Sc. award certificate is three (3) academic semesters, which also include the time for preparing a diploma thesis. To complete the programme, students are required to attend nine (9) courses, a number of seminars and finally successfully complete and present a postgraduate thesis. The courses are distributed in the 3 semesters in the following way: four (4) in the 1st semester of studies, four (4) in the 2nd semester, while in the 3rd semester of studies, there is one (1) course, the seminars and the preparation of the diploma thesis. Ninety (90) Credit Units (ECTS) are required to obtain the Master's degree, which are divided into thirty (30) over the three semesters of study. The postgraduate thesis corresponds to twenty (20) ECTS.

The programme is offered by the Department of Biomedical Sciences which aims to provide trainee scientists with high quality education in order for them to develop a high-level of proficiency, skills and abilities within the broader field of Biomedical Sciences. The programme aims to teach postgraduate students about the ongoing developments in the field of biomedical technologies for the improvement of skin problems and about the development, research, production, quality control, effectiveness, and safety of cosmetic products. It also wishes to provide the postgraduate students with best possible combination of scientific and applied knowledge within an educational environment that cultivates the interdisciplinary and scientifically multifaceted search for new expertise.

The focus of the programme is on cognitive objects in the field of Aesthetics, emphasizing on the multilevel approach for the acquisition of specialized knowledge and skills on modern applications of Aesthetic Science, in the field of Dermatology dealing with issues related to various skin diseases and in Biomedical Technology that provides the aestheticians with high expertise of the laser and photonics techniques used for the management of aesthetic treatments.

The target group includes aestheticians, scientists who lead aesthetic laboratories or work at aesthetic laboratories, dermatological clinics where aesthetic treatments are performed, and thermal centers, cosmetic scientists, chemists, pharmacists, biologists, chemical engineers and other scientists correlated with cosmetics or employed in cosmetic plants at the development of Research and Development, Manufacturing, Quality control and Assurance as well as health scientists, e.g. doctors, nurses who wish to enrich their knowledge in aesthetic treatments.

The programme is planned to be introduced in October 2023 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 20 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering and Technology

The M.Sc. programme "Biomedical Engineering and Technology" (M.Sc. programme BMET) is organized by the Department of Biomedical Engineering of the University of West Attica. It appeals to those holding a Bachelor's (B.Sc.) university degree related to engineering, technology, life, and health sciences or other relevant to biomedical engineering sciences, who wish for a career change in Biomedical Engineering.

The programme aims to intensively introduce the science of Biomedical Engineering, develop, and enhance problem-solving skills, actively interact with the industry and the labour market,

and prepare students for Ph.D. studies. Specifically, the M.Sc. learning objectives are designed to strengthen the ability for autonomous assimilation of new knowledge in conditions where the developments of science and technology are extremely fast, cultivate an interest in scientific knowledge, and provide the appropriate background for the continuation of Ph.D. studies, expand the skills in addressing any current issues related to the practical application of Biomedical Engineering and Technology in Health Services and Industry and produce skills for contributing to the shaping of the future directions of the biomedical industry.

The programme duration is three (3) academic semesters corresponding to 90 ECTS of EQF/HQF level 7. During the first and second semesters, educational activities involve a/ classical lectures in the auditorium, b/ hands-on laboratories in specialised labs equipped with biomedical instruments, c/ field visits in companies, research facilities, and healthcare sites, d/ special seminars organized with the collaboration of the industry, and the labour market, and e/ personal and group assignments. The third semester involves the elaboration of the Diploma thesis (30 ECTS), which comprises a full-scale research project. For the 1st and 2nd semesters, students should complete all mandatory courses of each semester (mandatory courses are assigned with 15 ECTS) and select at least three optional elective courses (optional courses are assigned with 5 ECTS each).

Upon completion, graduates of the M.Sc. programme are expected to understand, analyse, and apply concepts of engineering and technology to provide solutions in medicine and biology, meeting all the above-mentioned challenges.

The programme was introduced in October 2022 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 30 students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

The M.Sc. “Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies” is a new and innovative programme, structured and offered by hybrid learning methods to provide a flexible and engaging educational experience for all students. This can be achieved through different means including an online learning platform, virtual classes, blended learning, multimedia resources, collaborative online platforms, accessible learning materials and personalized support.

The M.Sc. Programme in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies is thoughtfully designed to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary curriculum that covers various key subjects including Fundamentals of Circular Economy and Industrial Ecology, Analysing Physical Processes, Climate System and Climate Change, Earth System Science and Analysis, Strategic Sustainability Management, Value Chain Management, Environmental Decision-

Making, Sustainable Business Models and Sustainability and Innovation Management. It corresponds to 90 ECTS of EQF/HQF level 7.

In particular, the ultimate goal of the programme is for graduates to be able to understand the trends and levels of the circular economy, how they can be designed and implemented in industrial value chains to reduce environmental and social challenges, and how they contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, understand the basic terms of the circular economy in general and relate to value chains and business models in particular, as well as understand the various contexts and tools of circular economics.

In overall, the programme offers a well-rounded curriculum that covers fundamental concepts, scientific analysis, strategic management, and practical implementation of sustainability principles. The diverse range of subjects ensures that students acquire a comprehensive skill set and knowledge base to address complex environmental and social challenges while promoting a circular and sustainable future. By completion, students will possess the necessary skills to drive innovation, address environmental and social challenges, and make a positive impact in creating a more sustainable future.

The programme is planned to be introduced in October 2023 and applies for the first time for international accreditation procedure in addition to the national. The annual capacity of the programme is 25 students.

2.2 Assessment for all study programmes

Designing and approving programmes at UNIWA is a comprehensive process that involves multiple stakeholders and focuses on ensuring that the institution's academic programmes are up-to-date, relevant, and aligned with the needs of the students and the industry.

The process involves a thorough analysis of the current academic landscape and an assessment of the institution's strengths and weaknesses. Based on this analysis, UNIWA identified areas where it needed to develop or enhance its academic programmes and services and also attract foreign students.

The institution has formed programme development teams, comprising faculty members, subject matter experts, industry partners, and other stakeholders, to design and develop new programmes or revise existing ones. These teams were responsible for identifying the learning outcomes, curriculum, and delivery methods for each programme, as well as ensuring that the programmes meet the needs of the students and the industry.

The programmes are subjected to a rigorous review process, which involves input from internal and external experts, and assessment against established standards and criteria. The reviews

focus on ensuring that the programmes are academically rigorous, relevant, and aligned with the institution's strategic objectives.

In overall, UNIWA's process for designing and approving programmes focuses on ensuring that the institution provides high-quality academic programmes that are relevant, up-to-date, and aligned with the needs of the students and the industry. The process involves multiple stakeholders, rigorous review and assessment, and ongoing support and development.

2.3 Assessment for cross-study specific programmes

M.Sc. Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training & M.Sc. Environmental Communication and Health Promotion

The two Master programmes: Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training & Environmental Communication and Health Promotion fit well into the mission statement of UNIWA and its strategic objectives for the upcoming years. The learning objectives and outcomes are clearly defined and correspond to the intended cognitive level of a master programme.

The programmes are very well planned and analyzed related to their learning objectives, content, way of dissemination of knowledge and skills and their end goal. Both programmes are at the first line of subjects of global interest and demand and follow everything necessary to be respectable educational programmes in the graduate arena and attract students.

External stakeholders are involved in the teaching process through workshops and seminars. Students are also given the opportunity to provide feedback at the end of the semester for each course which is taken into consideration by the teaching staff of UNIWA. Specifically, the Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training programme is considered as unique in Greece for covering special education and training, which is in high demand, at a very considerable cost for the students in comparison to what is being offered by other similar master programmes in the field.

2.4 Assessment for study-specific programmes

M.Sc. Sustainable Energy Systems

The syllabus of the Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Systems is complete and well structured. It covers all relevant aspects and topics, including five core modules which cover essential concepts on energy, renewable energy sources, research and project implementation, as well as environmental and economics of energy. The master programme provides students the chance to select in total three additional modules from a total of seven modules, which cover a large variety of topics, such as energy storage and management, energy in buildings, sustainable transportation, design and optimization of energy systems and specialized modules on specific renewable energy sources: wind, solar, wave, bio-mass, hydro and geothermal, divided in two modules.

The programme is integrated with a dissertation thesis, which is implemented in two parts, at the end of the first and the second academic year. In this way, a quite enlarged and comprehensive syllabus has been formulated. At the same time, with the alternatively offered modules and the dissertation thesis, the students have the option to adapt the overall syllabus that they will attend, according to their needs and interests. Conclusively, the specific course fully aligns with the general academic targets and objectives of a M.Sc. programme offered by a HEI. The expected outcomes are the training of the students on topics relevant with the so-called “energy transition”, so as they can adequately support the need for the study and the design of energy saving systems and power and heat production plants from renewables. The offered tuition level of the courses fully aligns with the anticipated demands of a M.Sc. programme. The completion of the M.Sc. course does not impose the accomplishment of a mandatory internship.

The workload should be clearly defined and presented in an integrated study guide, which is missed from the supported documents. The university should develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analysed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. course’s official web site.

M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

The M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning is aligned with the University’s mission “to be recognized nationally and globally as a modern and progressive university that is competitive internationally” since it provides a very modern and state-of-the-art M.Sc. programme that is of great necessity in the market today and has significant importance for the future. It is a well-known fact that there is a tremendous need of well-trained experts in the field, in Greece, in Europe but also globally. Another point where the programme is aligned with the University’s

strategy is the strong partnerships with other research institutes, like the NVIDIA Deep Learning Institute. The students of the M.Sc. will benefit by their interaction with the teaching material that is available through NVIDIA's Deep Learning Institute.

External stakeholders are involved in teaching different various technologies through workshops and seminars. Students provide feedback at the end of the semester for each course.

The M.Sc. learning objectives reflect adequately the requirements from the professional field as well as the demands on M.Sc. Level. The structure of the programme is in alignment with its objectives since it offers all relevant skills and knowledge through the courses and provides an appropriate pathway that a student can follow in order to acquire the knowledge objectives.

The career opportunities have been defined during the design of the programme and demonstrated in the introductory video that the faculty shares through the home page of the programme. The student workload is adequate and in line with the number of ECTS required for graduation. Internships are not part of the curriculum, but this is expected for a short (1.5 year) programme.

M.Sc. Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

The Master of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering is a by research master course, which means that it is mainly based on the accomplishment of a specific research study – work by each attendant. There are three mandatory modules offered at the first semester of the course, covering essential topics on the research methodology and scientific writing and on computing and mathematics. Additionally, there are in total 8 modules, from which the students should select 2. These modules cover mainly topics on electronics, communications and automation. Topics relevant with electrical systems are missing. It is recommended that some more modules on electrical systems should be added, so as the covered thematic areas can be fully integrated.

The M.Sc. course is fully adapted on the needs and interests of the students, given the fact that its core activity is the implementation of the supervised research, with final outcome the M.Sc. thesis, the subject of which is selected by the students with the guidance of their supervisors. Its learning outcomes are focused on electrical systems and electronics (automation, communication etc), so as the alumni, specialized on academic research, can either continue with the implementation of PhD thesis or can be employed on the electricity production and management sector, telecommunications and automatic control. External stakeholders (academic, private firms, local authorities, citizens, industry) can be potentially actively involved in the course by proposing subjects for the implemented research. The workload is fully flexible, given that there are lectures delivered in predefined days and time only for 5 in total modules

for the whole M.Sc. programme. During the implementation of the research, the students can adapt their daily workload according to their availability and needs. All these aspects should be clearly defined in a comprehensive study guide, which currently is missing from the programme's supportive documents.

For this specific M.Sc. programme the recommendation of the expert group related to the syllabus is to introduce some more optional modules on electrical systems, so as to configure a more balanced syllabus.

Additionally, it is suggested to develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analysed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. programme's official website.

The completion of the M.Sc. course does not impose the accomplishment of a mandatory internship.

M.Sc. Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

The Master of Science in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing exhibits a satisfactorily integrated and robust syllabus. It focuses on covering the required disciplines on the modern methods and processes in products design and manufacturing: 3D Printing, CNC machining, Laser Scanning, Metrology, Materials Testing etc. The M.Sc. programme aims to train engineers capable to be involved in modern industrial manufacturing processes, as well as to continue with research and academic activities. The M.Sc. programme consists of mandatory modules on research techniques and quality management, on computer integrated product development, on advanced CAD/CAM systems and on mechatronic design and automation. With the aforementioned modules, all the modern manufacturing processes are covered. The course is integrated with an engineering individual project, which aims to enable the students to apply the gained awareness and technical knowledge on a real construction project. It is suggested to enhance the offered syllabus with one or two additional mandatory modules focused on the modern materials, such as synthetic, composite matrix ceramics, etc, as well as their potential applications under high pressure and temperature demanding processes: aerospace, aeronautical, biomechanics, power plants etc.

Through the final individual project the students can adapt the course according to their needs and interests. The introduced workload is also fully flexible, given that the M.Sc. programme is part-time. External stakeholders (industry and commerce, local authorities, academia) are strongly involved in the tuition process by proposing potential projects to be undertaken by the

students. The completion of the M.Sc. course does not impose the accomplishment of a mandatory internship.

For this specific M.Sc. programme the expert group recommends to introduce one or two new modules on modern materials and their applications. Additionally, it is suggested to develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analysed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. programme's official website.

M.Sc. Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products

The Advanced Aesthetics programme integrates successfully into the overall mission and strategy of the HEI by offering graduates the opportunity to acquire specialised scientific knowledge, skills and competences through teaching and research, and preparing them for both society and the market. The involvement of external stakeholders and professionals in the field will make it possible to build strong connections with the industry promoting the development of innovative education technologies that can also expand at the level of the creation of spin-off. For their final year project, students are encouraged to undertake research thesis in cooperation with the cosmetic industry in Greece or abroad, with the programme covering student mobility and part of the research costs.

Tuition fees are high because the programme intends to invite experts from other universities and industry and allow students to visit industrial companies. The programme also aims to provide scholarships for countries with lower income also including Greek students. Collaboration with various cosmetic companies is already active (Apivita, Korres, Frezyderm, Sarrantis).

The learning outcomes are clearly described and detailed in the overview of each M.Sc. module, the expected workload and the assessment are defined. The programme is translational in the fields of Aesthetics, Dermatology and Cosmetic Science, with the aim of improving the knowledge in the field of biomedical technologies used for the treatment/improvement of skin problems, and in the field of research, development, manufacturing, quality control, efficiency, and safety evaluation of cosmetic products.

The acquired interdisciplinary and practical knowledge will support students in creating career opportunities in private or public organizations, such as industrial laboratories, hospitals, and universities. This can also be very attractive for students from abroad.

It is recommended to update the English website with all possible information for students related to what is covered by the tuition fees.

M.Sc. Biomedical Engineering and Technology

The university is continually seeking ways to attract students, both national and international. The programme and its internationalization efforts are in line with the institution's overall strategy.

Student involvement is fostered through the ability to choose optional subjects, allowing students to select three out of six options during each of the first two semesters. The programme's learning outcomes are well-suited for acquiring the professional competencies expected of a Master's graduate. The curriculum is thoughtfully structured to help students develop these competencies and meet the desired outcomes. The programme is organized into two semesters, offering a wide range of subjects to enable students to specialize in their preferred area within the biomedical engineering field.

The information on possible job opportunities for graduates is well defined, with a contextualization of the biomedical industry. The credits and workload of each subject are correctly defined, with a brief description of contents. The information about the exams is communicated by the professor on the first day of class and made available to the students through the e-learning platform.

M.Sc. Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

The programme aims to provide high quality education in an international context, addressing a theme of high societal relevance namely sustainability. Circularity, sustainability and green transition are addressed from multiple perspectives, technical as well as economic and digitalisation. It builds upon the strengths of the department and faculty. It focuses not only on knowledge acquisition, but also on personal development and social awareness. Mobility is encouraged.

Being a new programme, students have not yet been involved in the design of the study programme. Student representation in various bodies is part of the management procedures, although it seems difficult to attract sufficient students to take this role. Engagement of external stakeholders and field professionals ensures strong connections with industry.

The programme provides a theoretical and practical background acquiring deeper knowledge and developing skills and prepares for the elaboration of a PhD after the M.Sc. studies. The programme addresses the necessity, benefits and trends of a circular economy, economic models, challenges and measurement in a multisectoral context. The programme does not focus on the human factor, but students with a background in humanities are offered preparatory courses to be at the same level as engineers.

A variety of teaching methods (including blended learning, online assessment, possibilities for an internship and online platforms) and personalized student support will be adopted to reach the programme goals in terms of knowledge acquisition and skills development.

The programme has clearly addressed the knowledge and transversal skills needed for a career in various sectors. Being the first edition, no information can be given yet concerning the adequacy of career opportunities, but support is there. One course (sustainability in practice) offers the possibility to work with companies relevant to the students' career aspirations.

Understanding and adopting sustainable behaviour, including topics like corporate social responsibility and change management, largely contribute to responsible and active citizenship.

2.5 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

3 ESG Standard 1.3: Student-centred learning, teaching, and assessment

Institutions should ensure that the programmes are delivered in a way that encourages students to take an active role in creating the learning process, and that the assessment of students reflects this approach

3.1 Implementation

Student-centered teaching and learning are at the heart of UNIWA's didactical model. Both play a crucial role in fostering students' motivation, self-reflection, and engagement with the learning process. UNIWA places high value to all components which ensure full compliance with the ESGs. Therefore, careful consideration is given to the design, delivery, and evaluation of its educational programmes.

UNIWA puts special emphasis on providing students with information about the programmes in the beginning of their studies and each semester. The design and curriculum information are available in the programme syllabus that includes information about the learning objectives and outcomes of the courses, the goals of the courses, courses' content and schedule, grading methods, access to learning resources and platforms, as well as teaching philosophy. This

information is also included in the M.Sc. handbook that is handed to the student at the beginning of their academic studies. The Handbook is regularly updated at annual basis. Student-centered instruction focuses as well on skills and practices that enable lifelong learning and independent problem-solving.

The Master programmes offered at UNIWA contribute to the deepening of students' knowledge and research in a variety of disciplines while engaging methods of student-centered learning to meet their academic needs. By aiming to develop learner autonomy and independence putting responsibility for the learning path in the hands of students by imparting to them skills, and the basis on how to learn a specific subject and schemata required to measure up to the specific performance requirement.

To guarantee that modules' workload is clearly communicated and reasonably compatible with the students' work life balance and that allows them to operate in a healthy working environment, the uniform workload allocation model that applies at university level is used. The workload typically includes the both in-class scheduled activities, as well as the time spent outside class for reading, preparing reports and essays, study visits if foreseen etc. At the beginning of each semester, at the first meeting, in each offered course, the workload is discussed allowing students to get a rough idea on which are the expected outcomes and how much time they will need to spend in the various courses' components. Also, students are encouraged to express any concerns about the workload and suggest at the end of the semester any possible improvements.

In all M.Sc. courses the final grade (deriving from a weighted averaged of the modules) is a mixture of both independent or group essays and a final written exam (with assigned value-weights) allowing students to smoothly allocate their effort during the semester.

In face-to-face teaching, written exams take place in class, with the appropriate oversight of two examiners safeguarding the exam procedure transparency. In the case of distance / online exams, this is made via dedicated examination environments (i.e. Moodle) that allow precautions to be taken using i.e. specific settings in Moodle quizzes that can safeguard the academic integrity.

Finally, concerning the marks / performance at each individual module, the results are transparent and students get clarifications if needed on the final mark breakdown and on their "mistakes" as well.

It should be also noted that in each M.Sc. course in UNIWA applies all institutional regulations, and students are also encouraged in case of an unforeseen, unhappy situation to contact the M.Sc. Programme Committee to make their own claim or engage the "Student Advocate"

whose role is to mediate between students and professors or administrative services and generally ensures the observance of legality in student matters, always in the context of academic freedom and the proper functioning of the University.

Lockdown and restrictions of Covid-19 released the necessity of blending learning concept, of technology mediated instruction model and is combined with the traditional in-person classes and learners take advantage both of online and offline resources. Both, distant and face-to-face learning facilitate and familiarise peer collaboration, writing assignments and offer time for teacher and students' meetings. As described in Government Gazette B 1079/28-02-2023, "Determination of the conditions and procedure organisation of Master's Programmes Distance learning methods Education of Higher Education Institutions", in UNIWA there is foreseen a strategy for justified and feasible distant learning model. However, it is prohibited to teach courses by means of distance education in a percentage greater than thirty-five percent (35%), in accordance with what is specifically defined in the Postgraduate Studies Regulation of UNIWA.

UNIWA supports gender equality and diversity a priority as stated in its policy and mission. For this reason, at UNIWA operates an organised Department of Social Care, Counselling and Psychological Support operates to support Students with Disabilities, whilst at the same time, a list of Faculty Advisors (university professors) of the Faculty of Education, as well as their deputies, are appointed in each academic Department of the University. Students with disabilities can be addressed to be advised on issues concerning their studies. This is the connection link between this special student category and the teaching staff.

In addition, in UNIWA runs the institution of Academic Advisor that is meant to provide employment and career counselling services to students and graduates. The Academic Advisors, one from each Department, are faculty members (professors), that through their educational, research and professional experience, can provide support and guidance to students concerning their scientific/ research and professions aspirations pursuit in Greece and abroad as well.

3.2 Assessment

The university employs a broad spectrum of teaching and learning methods, ensuring that students have access to a rich array of instructional approaches. These methods include traditional in-person lectures, e-learning platforms and remote learning tools. This diversity allows students to choose the learning mode that best suits their needs and preferences. It's worth noting that the incorporation of various teaching methodologies aligns with the principles of modern education, where adaptability and choice are paramount.

Students, on their part, are granted substantial agency in the continuous improvement of teaching approaches. They enjoy direct communication channels with their professors, allowing

them to voice complaints or suggest improvements, creating a culture of openness and responsiveness. Students play a pivotal role in the ongoing enhancement of teaching approaches within the university. They are granted not only the right but also the opportunity to actively participate in shaping the educational process. One notable aspect is the establishment of direct and open communication channels between students and their professors. This accessibility empowers students to not only voice concerns or critiques, but also to proactively suggest improvements. This dynamic interaction fosters a culture of transparency, openness, and responsiveness within the academic community, where feedback is not only encouraged but highly valued. This collaboration between students and educators not only ensures a student-centric approach to education but also facilitates continuous improvement by integrating real-time insights and perspectives into the teaching and learning experience.

The university's regulations and documentation regarding assessment are notable for their explicit definitions of assessment criteria and methods. These well-defined guidelines ensure that the assessment process maintains a high level of consistency and reliability. The assessment formats employed by the university exhibit a strong alignment with the intended learning outcomes of the programmes. This alignment ensures that students' evaluations are closely tied to the knowledge and competencies they are expected to acquire. Such alignment significantly contributes to the overall reliability and validity of the assessment process.

3.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

4 ESG Standard 1.4: Student admission, progression, recognition, and certification

Institutions should consistently apply pre-defined and published regulations covering all phases of the student “life cycle”, e.g. student admission, progression, recognition and certification.

4.1 Implementation

UNIWA applies certain rules for the admission, progression, recognition and certification horizontally, but at the same time the different postgraduate programmes may adopt particular rules according to their Study Regulations. Each Master Programme embraces the University rules and also implements fit-for-purpose admission, recognition and completion procedures, so as to assist students' mobility within and across higher education systems, with all access policies, admission processes and criteria designated to be implemented consistently and in a transparent manner.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems

Student Admission

Students will be admitted to the programme after successful evaluation of their application. They will be then enrolled and attend a number of courses upon successful completion of which they undertake a postgraduate research and write a dissertation. Entry requirements include a B.Sc. degree certificate in Sciences, Engineering or Technology, a C1 level of English language competency as indicated in the relevant ASEP guide, two letters of recommendation supporting his/her application.

The Scientific Committee examines the applicant's qualifications and after a personal interview makes the applicant an offer.

Progression

For the students to progress to the second year of studies they must successfully attend all courses taught within the framework of studies and then enroll to the second year. In the case a student fails the semester exam, he/she can resit the September exam to proceed to the second year of studies. If the result is not successful again, he/she might need to re-attend the course in the next academic year.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

After completing all their academic obligations, students will be awarded a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

Student Admission

Calls for applications are issued yearly, in June. The selection process is completed by December and classes start in the Spring Semester, typically in the end of February. Admission of candidates is decided on the basis of an interview and a portfolio submitted with the application. In their portfolio, candidates should document their achievements, academic and/or professional, and document their skills relevant to the programme. In the interview, candidates should prove their interest in the specific field of study, establish their connection to the area and present their skills that ensure that they will carry out programme requirements successfully.

The final score for each candidate is the average of portfolio and interview scores, with equal weights. On the basis of the final score, the evaluation committee draws up the list of successful candidates and submits it to the board for approval. All applicants are notified for the evaluation results. Successful candidates must register at the M.Sc. Secretariat within fifteen (15) days of the letter of acceptance, presenting at the same time all the necessary registration documents along with the proof of payment of the first instalment of the first semester tuition fees.

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student's progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

Upon successful completion of all programme requirements, the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning is conferred by the University of West Attica. In addition, for students who choose all three electives from the same specialization track, either Autonomous Systems or Cognitive Systems, the respective specialization is added on the M.Sc. title.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Student Admission

Admission of candidates in M.Sc. by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering is decided on the basis of an interview and a portfolio submitted with the application. In their portfolio, candidates should document their achievements, academic and/or professional, especially those related to research, if applicable (participation in research projects, teams or collaborations, authorship of research publications, etc.). In the interview, candidates should prove their interest in the specific research title they apply for, establish their connection to the area and present their skills that ensure that they will carry out the relevant research work

successfully. A positive response by the academic staff member who has proposed the subject of research is critical for acceptance; this may come as an oral communication or as a written letter of recommendation. Candidates are encouraged to get in direct contact with the prospective supervisors in order to have all necessary information on what entails a specific research subject.

A call for applications is issued annually, after endorsement by the Assembly of the Department. The call opens 25 places (maximum) grouped under research areas of specialization within the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering as these are proposed by the academic staff members willing to supervise research in the respective area. In addition to the area of specialization, each place is accompanied by a proposed research title, brief description, prerequisite knowledge and skills and expected research outcomes. Areas of specialization, as listed below, are mentioned on the M.Sc. title conferred: Energy, Telecommunications, Electronics, Computing Systems, Cross-disciplinary areas: Defence / Education / Biomedical / Marine / Industrial Automation technologies.

Applications are accepted from candidates who hold an academic title of the 1st cycle, at Level 6 of the EQF or equivalent, from an academic institution accredited by Hellenic NARIC. Candidates may check the status of their degrees online. The ideal candidate should hold a degree in Electrical and/or Electronics and/or Computer Engineering. Degrees in other Engineering Faculties or degrees in Sciences are also welcome. Additionally, a “Very Good” (B+) or higher mention on their degree from studies of the 1st cycle is required, as well as English language certified at C1 level. Applications of candidates who hold degrees in other disciplines are judged per case by the Selection Committee.

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student’s progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme. Validity of the degrees of candidates obtained in academic institutions not in Greece are checked by the Secretariat of the Department through the Hellenic NARIC, according to the procedure defined in Greek Law 4957/2022, Chapter A, Article 304.

Certification

Upon successful completion of all programme requirements, the Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering is conferred by the University of West Attica.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing**Student Admission**

Students will be admitted to the programme after successful evaluation of their application. They will be then enrolled and attend a number of courses upon successful completion of which they undertake a postgraduate research and write a dissertation.

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student's progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

Candidate will be considered for an M.Sc. in Advanced Product Design Engineering upon completion of 90 credits at level 7. Students who are deemed not to complete 90 credits may be awarded other exit qualifications as follows:

- Postgraduate Diploma: If achieved a min of 60 credits at level 7;
- Postgraduate Certificate: If achieved a min of 30 credits at level 7.

The standard module size equates to 15 credits so, for example, a Master Degree normally consists of 4 x 15 credit modules with a 30 credit dissertation. For a Master Degree or Postgraduate Diploma with Merit, students must achieve an average score of 60-69% across all of the credit required for the qualification. For a Master Degree or Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction, student must achieve an average score of 70% or above across all of the credit required for the qualification (Note: The Postgraduate Certificate may not be awarded with commendation or distinction).

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training

Student Admission

Graduates of all Pedagogical Departments, graduates of all Departments of Polytechnic Schools, graduates of Environmental Sciences of the Universities are admitted to the M.Sc., graduates of the Department of Public and Community Health, the Departments of Medicine, Nursing, as well as graduates of all related natural sciences and health sciences of the national territory or similar institutions abroad, recognized by Greek relevant authority.

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student's progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

The completion of the programme leads to the awarding of a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in "Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training", after full and successful completion of studies based on the curriculum.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental Communication and Health Promotion

Student Admission

The admitted students are graduates of higher education or higher technological education, as well as all related health sciences and humanities studies. Graduates and diploma holders of all departments of Polytechnic 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 relevant national or allied health sciences, recognized by Greek relevant authority, are accepted in the M.Sc.

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student's progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

The completion of the programme leads to the awarding of a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in "Environmental Communication and Health Promotion", after full and successful completion of studies based on the curriculum.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products

Student Admission

Admission criteria include: applicants should hold an Undergraduate/Bachelor's university degree (B.Sc.) related to Biomedical Sciences, Aesthetics Science, Cosmetic Science, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Medical Science, Nursing or other life and health sciences relevant to biomedical sciences. Applicants should have a minimum level of English certified with a B2 or higher qualification degree according to the CERF system. The Evaluation and Selection Committee has the authority to admit additional candidates beyond the initial limit of 30 students in cases where their evaluation score matches that of the 30th successful candidate.

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student's progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

The completion of the programme leads to the awarding of a Postgraduate Diploma (M.Sc.) in "Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development-Quality Control and Safety of New Cosmetic Products", after full and successful completion of studies based on the curriculum. The titles are awarded by the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the School of Health Sciences and Welfare of the University of West Attica, in Greece.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering and Technology

Student Admission

During the summer semester, there is an annual call for applications published on the official website of the M.Sc. programme. Admission criteria include an undergraduate/bachelor degree certification, a transcript of records including the list of the courses' grades, academic recognition of the undergraduate/bachelor degree by the Hellenic National Recognition and Information Center, English language certification of at least B2 level, a CV and motivation letter.

Progression

For the successful completion of the M.Sc. programme, the student is required to:

1st semester: a/ pass the examinations of all required courses (15 ECTS) and b/ pass the examinations of three elective courses (15 ECTS), thus, collect in total 30 ECTS in the 1st semester;

2nd semester: a/ pass the examinations of all required courses (15 ECTS) and b/ pass the examinations of three elective courses (15 ECTS), thus, collect in total 30 ECTS in the 2nd semester;

3rd semester: complete and successfully defend the Diploma Thesis (30 ECTS), thus, collect in total 30 ECTS in the 3rd semester.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

The Department Assembly approves the list of students that have completed the M.Sc. programme. These students are awarded the Postgraduate Diploma entitled “Biomedical Engineering and Technology” during a special ceremony organized by the University of West Attica before the Rector's Authorities and the Head, or his / her Deputy, of the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Until the official ceremony, the student may ask the Programme’s Secretariat for a certificate of study completion.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

Student Admission

Potential candidates are invited to complete and submit an application through the website <https://msc-circular.uniwa.gr/>

Required documents (scanned copies):

1. Application Form (submitted electronically through the website)
2. Face photograph (compulsory)
3. A detailed Curriculum Vitae (compulsory)
4. English language certification, at least B2 (compulsory) or application for written and oral English exam (compulsory)
5. Undergraduate/bachelor degree certification (compulsory)
6. Transcript of records including the list of the courses’ grades (compulsory).
7. Motivation letter (max 1 page) (compulsory)
8. Recommendation letters (at least 2) (compulsory)
9. Undergraduate/bachelor degree thesis (optional)
10. Academic publications in scientific journals and / or conferences (optional)
11. Related to circular economy professional or research activity (optional)
12. Scanned copy of ID (for Greek citizens), passport (for EU and non-EU citizens) (compulsory)

Progression

UNIWA implements processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information regarding student progression. By tracking the student’s progression periodically, UNIWA ensures that

students are meeting the minimum academic requirements needed to make satisfactory academic progress. This approach provides a reference for academic advisors who can help students plan their academic programmes and to make informed decisions about studies.

Recognition

Successful completion of courses provides the student with the relevant credits according to the ECTS scheme.

Certification

The completion of the programme leads to the awarding of a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in "Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies", after full and successful completion of studies based on the curriculum.

4.2 Assessment for all study programmes

The university takes significant strides in upholding a clear and transparent admission process. Admission requirements are clearly defined, offering prospective students and stakeholders a comprehensive understanding of the prerequisites and procedures involved. This not only fosters confidence, but also ensures that the admission process is fair to all who seek to embark on their educational journey.

A hallmark of the institution's commitment to educational excellence lies in its effective utilisation of processes to collect, monitor, and respond to information related to student progression. This dedicated focus on monitoring student advancement reflects the university's desire to support students throughout their academic journey. The university diligently adheres to appropriate recognition procedures. Notably, these procedures conform to the Lisbon Recognition Convention, signifying the university's commitment to international standards. This alignment ensures that qualifications obtained at the university are not only locally recognized but also hold global relevance, providing students with valuable credentials in an increasingly interconnected world.

The institution demonstrates a laudable commitment to excellence across a spectrum of aspects. The noteworthy clarity and transparency in the admission process, the effective support for student progression, the adherence to recognized international standards in recognition procedures, and the provision of informative graduation documents all reflect the university's unwavering dedication to its educational mission. These strengths are particularly commendable, leaving minimal room for optimization or critique in this evaluation.

4.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

5 ESG Standard 1.5: Teaching staff

Institutions should assure themselves of the competence of their teachers. They should apply fair and transparent processes for the recruitment and development of the staff

5.1 Implementation

In each master programme, teaching staff is meant to match the particular thematics as described in the field of specialisation and context of the M.Sc. Professors are mainly permanent personnel of UNIWA academic staff, and their recruitment follows the University's formal procedures.

In Particular, as quoted in Law 4692/2020, in each master programme, the teaching duty is a decision of the Programme Curriculum Committee following a proposal of the Director of the Programme, and is assigned to following categories:

- a) members of Teaching Research Staff (Faculty), Special Teaching & Laboratory Staff of the relevant Department or other Departments of the same or another Higher Educational Institute (HEI),
- b) emeritus Professors or retired members of the relevant Department and/ or other Departments of the same or another HEI,
- c) teachers staff as described on article 5 of the Government Gazette 407/1980 (Issue A' 112),
- d) academic scholars as described on paragraph 7 of article 29 of Law 4009/2011 (Issue A' 195),
- e) visiting professors of paragraph 6 of article 16 of Law 4009/2011,
- f) researchers employed in research centers as described in article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (Issue A' 258) or in research centers abroad, who hold a PhD and have teaching experience and scientific, writing and research activity,
- g) young scientists who hold a PhD and have specialised knowledge or relevant experience in the scientific field of master programme.

Classes are assigned by the Programme Committee with the Principal's proposal, which is dynamic and subject to changes, having a student-centered learning and teaching approach.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems

In this master programme, the basic core of professors are faculty members of Department of Mechanical Engineering and are meant to cover a wide nexus of research topics around sustainability, energy systems design and operation. The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university.

The teaching staff comprises of two full professors, one associate professor and two assistant professors. The research interest of the faculty is around: Feasibility analysis of Energy sector projects, Technological progress in RES, Energy Storage, Optimisation Tools in Energy, Circular Economy, Energy improvement of Buildings, Modelling and Optimisation of Energy and Water Systems and of Biofuels and Biomass supply chains.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

The director and the academic staff of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Department of Industrial Design and Production Engineering involved in this programme have long experience in graduate and undergraduate teaching as well as an active role in the respective Research Laboratories of the two Departments. All mandatory and optional course modules are taught by tenured professors and adjunct professors of the same Departments, while experienced members of the staff are responsible for the digital resources, website and other infrastructure. Each and every module is taught by highly specialised staff with active research role in the respective area. Besides the team of instructors of the taught modules, all other academic members of the two collaborating Departments may propose M.Sc. thesis subjects in their area of interest. As a result, students can practically benefit from the expertise of all academic members of the two Departments.

The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Regarding the M.Sc. by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the director and the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (DEEE) academic staff involved in this programme have long experience in graduate and undergraduate teaching as well as an active role in the respective Research Laboratories of DEEE. All mandatory and optional course modules are taught by 9 tenured professors and an adjunct professor of DEEE, while an experienced member of the staff is responsible for the digital resources, website and other infrastructure. Each and every optional module is taught by highly specialised staff with active

research role in the respective area. Besides the team of instructors of the taught modules and thanks to the unique feature of supervised research that characterizes this programme, all other academic members of the Department may open a place for supervised research in their area of interest. As a result, places offered in the yearly calls for applications are never identical, while at the same time successful candidates are guaranteed supervision by an expert in the respective area.

The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

The course is taught by the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Staff has a wide range of experience across research and industry and continue to practice and research at the cutting edge of their discipline. This ensures that the courses are current and industry-informed, ensuring that learners receive the most relevant and up-to-date education possible.

The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university which includes two full professors, three associate professors, one assistant professor and a PhD candidate.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training

For the Environmental Health and Communication in General and Special Education and Training programme, the basic core of professors are faculty members of the Department of Public and Community Health and are meant to cover a wide nexus of research topics around environmental education, epidemiology, physical and mental health promotion, sociology and special education.

The teaching staff comprises of two professors, one associate professor, one lecturer, four counsellors or education advisors for primary school and preschool, as well as a member of Laboratory Teaching Staff.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental Communication and Health Promotion

For the Environmental Communication and Health Promotion programme, the basic core of professors are faculty members of the Department of Public and Community Health and are

meant to cover a wide nexus of research topics around environmental education, epidemiology, physical and mental health promotion, sociology and education, as well as cardiovascular diseases.

The teaching staff comprises of two professors, two associate professors and one lecturer.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products

Classes are assigned by the Programme Committee with the Principal's proposal, which is dynamic and subject to changes, and has a student-centred learning and teaching approach. Teaching staff of this programme includes two full professors, three assistant professors, seven associate professors and one lecturer in a broad field of studies and scientific areas relevant to the master: Pharmaceuticals, Physiology, Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, Medical education, Molecular epidemiology, Aesthetics, Laser applications, Biosafety of a laboratory handling biological samples, Biological sampling, Instrumental analysis in Clinical Chemistry, Accreditation of biochemical laboratories, Human anatomy, Thoracic surgery, Cancer, Pathology and Immunohistochemistry, Radiotherapy, Clinical Biochemistry and Lipids Biochemistry.

The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering and Technology

The teaching staff of the M.Sc. programme comprises high-quality University Professors, experienced Researchers holding a Ph.D. degree, and active Biomedical Engineers according to the provisions of the Greek legislation (par. 1, art. 36, Law 4485 / 2017 and art. 242, Law 4610 / 2019). The teaching staff of the M.Sc. programme originates from:

- Eight (8) universities from seven (7) countries (Greece, Portugal, USA, UK, Romania, Spain, Germany);
- Research centres;
- Industry and labour market.

The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

The teaching staff of the M.Sc. programme comprises high-quality University Professors and experienced Researchers (15 in total) in different areas including: RES applications, stand-alone energy systems design, Energy Improvement of Buildings, Optimization of Energy Systems, Modelling and Optimisation of Energy and Water systems and of Biofuels, Biomass supply chains, Material process, Nanotechnology and the use of non-destructive techniques and 3d scanning – printing, Oil and Gas Process Systems Engineering, Mineral Resources Engineering, Strategic management, Entrepreneurship and Innovation and more. The teaching staff and their qualifications is described in detail in the self-assessment report of the university.

5.2 Assessment for all study programmes

The teaching staff at UNIWA is composed of highly qualified and experienced professionals who are committed to providing students with a high-quality education. The institution's rigorous hiring process ensures that only the most qualified and experienced individuals were selected to join the teaching staff. UNIWA's teaching staff is committed to creating a learning environment that is engaging, interactive, and student-centered. They use a variety of teaching and learning methods, including lectures, discussions, case studies, group projects, and experiential learning, to ensure that students have opportunities to engage with the material and to apply their learning in real-world situations.

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, UNIWA's teaching staff is also actively involved in research and other scholarly activities. They are encouraged to engage in research and to publish their findings in leading academic journals, which helped to enhance the institution's reputation and to provide students with access to the latest research and knowledge in their respective fields. UNIWA actively participates in and coordinates a range of Erasmus+ projects, which is a good source for staff training, including elaboration of study materials and implementation of novel teaching methods. Staff members also make use of Erasmus+ mobility grants to visit colleagues from all over the world.

Finally, UNIWA's teaching staff is committed to providing students with individualized attention and support. They provided academic advising, mentoring, and tutoring services to help students succeed in their programmes and to achieve their academic and professional goals.

Attention to safety and well-being of staff (and students) is existent but could be more streamlined and communicated in a more active way. For instance, for international programmes, safety instructions at the lab should also be available in English.

In overall, the teaching staff at UNIWA is composed of highly qualified and experienced professionals who are committed to providing students with a high-quality education. They create

a learning environment that is engaging, interactive, and student-centered. It would be recommended to make a plan for staff and modernisation and expansion of infrastructure needed in the future to further evolve and grow.

5.3 Assessment for cross-study specific programmes

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems, Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering & Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

Regarding the afore-mentioned programmes, expert group recommends that all teaching staff, including external contributors is clearly presented in the study guide of the M.Sc. study programme, along with the process for their selection and recruitment. Additionally, a short CV for both the faculty members and the external contributors, at the size of one paragraph (300-500 words), preferably with a photo, should be also included in the relevant section of the study guide.

5.4 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

6 ESG Standard 1.6: Learning resources and student support

Institutions should have appropriate funding for learning and teaching activities and ensure that adequate and readily accessible learning resources and student support are provided.

6.1 Implementation

The UNIWA infrastructure is widely employed to support all master programmes educational needs. The classrooms and the laboratory spaces of the different departments are accessible by all students. In addition, all UNIWA services digital and/or not i.e. the libraries, the restaurants the sports centres, the Network Operations Centre supporting the IT, are constantly available to M.Sc. students.

In more detail, in the University there are two sports centres, one at Egaleo Park Campus and one at the Ancient Olive Grove Campus, where students and staff can exercise every day except Saturdays and Sundays. The spaces are fully equipped with fitness equipment, while the gym staff guides and supervises every interested visitor. In both campuses operate two

infirmaries (one in each), which are tasked to address the health needs of students, professors, administrative staff etc.

Furthermore, catering of the meals to the UNIWA students is supported by three student restaurants located at the 3 campuses of the University. The restaurants provide to the students' breakfast, lunch and dinner and are open daily and during the weekends and the public holidays from the 1st of September until the 30th of June of each academic year, except the Christmas and Easter holiday. According to the current legislation, the students of UNIWA are entitled to apply for free meals (if they meet particular economic criteria). The students who are not eligible for free meals can also dine at the restaurants, paying a low daily rate for a full menu (lunch and dinner).

About the accommodation, UNIWA does not have privately owned dormitories, that could ensure the free of charge accommodation to the students. However, the students are entitled to apply for free accommodation at the dormitory of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, under the condition that their brothers or sisters are already registered students of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and they already stay at the dormitories of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Facilities and Equipment

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems

Sustainable Energy Systems programme benefits from the expertise and the experimental equipment of the Soft Energy Applications and Environmental Protection Laboratory (SEALAB, <http://www.sealab.gr/>) under the scientific responsibility of which the master programme is offered. On that note, students have the possibility to get hands on experience on the majority of sustainable energy systems (PV, wind, batteries / energy storage etc) and get familiarised with the related technologies.

Additionally, SEALAB has developed an in-house simulation software for the development and simulation of integrated energy and water solutions for island electricity systems, featuring advanced energy management and dispatching strategies, demand- side management techniques, electromobility and desalination aspects, coupled with an in-house Machine Learning forecasting platform that captures different forecasting techniques (e.g. ANNs, SVR, etc).

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

Upon enrolment in the M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning, students are given access to all equipment and materials necessary for their study and projects within the following Research Laboratories that jointly support the M.Sc. programme:

A. Laboratory of Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Systems (LCIIS), Department of Industrial Design and Production Engineering (<https://eynes.uniwa.gr/>).

B. Laboratory of Electronic Automation, Telematics and Cyber-physical Systems (EITCS), Department of Industrial Design and Production Engineering (<http://eatcps.uniwa.gr/index.php/en/>).

C. Computer Networks and Services Research Laboratory (CONCERT), Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (<https://concert.eee.uniwa.gr/>).

D. Electronics and Computer Technologies Laboratory (ECTLab), Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (<http://ectlab.eee.uniwa.gr/index.php/en/>).

In addition, students are given access (a) to the common software tools available to all UNIWA students, such as Matlab®, SPSS®, MSOffice365®, etc. and (b) to the two UNIWA Academic Libraries and their on-premises or remote/electronic services.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Regarding M.Sc. by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, upon enrolment in the M.Sc. Programme a student becomes member of the departmental Laboratory team of his/her supervisor and obtains access to all equipment and materials necessary for his/her research project. The Department hosts 11 Research Laboratories namely,

1. Electrical Circuits and Power Measurements Lab.
2. High Voltage and Energy Systems Lab.
3. Building and Industrial Energy Systems Lab.
4. Electronics and Computer Technologies Lab.
5. Wireless and Optical Devices and Communication Networks Lab.
6. Smart Technologies, Renewable Energy Sources and Quality Lab.
7. Electronic Devices and Materials Lab.

8. Telecommunications and Signal Processing Lab.
9. Microsystems, Sensors and Embedded Devices Lab.
10. Energy Applications and Energy Saving Systems Lab.
11. Computer Networks & Services Lab.

All Laboratories open places for candidates in this M.Sc. Programme, in the yearly calls. In addition, students are given access to the common software tools available to all UNIWA students, such as Matlab ®, SPSS ®, and MSOffice365®.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

Most of the laboratory teaching will be held in the premises of the Engineering Design Laboratory, Mechanical Engineering Department, University of West Attica. It belongs to the Faculty of Engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The purpose of the laboratory is to cover the need and the gap that exists, for the development of a research project, the offering of seminars and the dissemination of knowledge as well as the provision of services in the field of Design of Mechanical Constructions.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training & Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental Communication and Health Promotion

Postgraduate students can access the full text of thousands of electronic journals and books through the Hellenic Academic Libraries Union (HEAL-Link) agreements with international publishers. Users can also perform searches through HEAL-Link's Unified Search Engine. Access is allowed to all computers that are part of the academic network of the University of West Attica. Users also have the option of remote access by activating the VPN service using their academic e-mail username and password.

Traditional, face-to-face learning takes place in the Environmental Communication Lab classrooms. Distance learning courses take place through Ms Teams. The educational material is provided to the students through the e-class. The UNIWA Open e-Class platform is a complete Electronic Course Management System. It follows the philosophy of open-source software and supports the Asynchronous Distance Learning service without limitations and commitments. Access to the service is done by using a simple web browser without requiring specialized technical knowledge.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products

Videos of laboratory exercises-workshops will be performed in) the Laboratory of Chemistry-Biochemistry-Cosmetic Science (ChemBiochemCosm), Department of Biomedical Sciences, UniWA b) the laboratories of the Sector of Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science and c) the Laboratory of Dermatology-Aesthetics-Laser Application (Lablad) of UNIWA.

The Laboratory of Chemistry-Biochemistry-Cosmetic Science (ChemBiochemCosm) is an infrastructure of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, consisting of academic staff coming from two Sectors of the Department: i) Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science and ii) Medical Laboratories.

The Department of Biomedical Sciences is equipped with classrooms and laboratories with digital projectors and cameras for distance learning. MS Teams and Moodle software are provided by the Institution to the students for the distance learning lectures, as well as an interactive E-class system is available to the students. Free entrance and downloading of articles from Scopus and Med line-PubMed databases for the students of the programme will be also provided via institutional connection. Lastly, e-study and e-secretary are also available to the students.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering and Technology

Most of the educational activities of the M.Sc. programme are organized at the premises of the Department of Biomedical Engineering of the University of West Attica, which is located at the Egaleo Park Campus. The premises include lecture auditoriums, specialised laboratories (PC lab, Imaging lab, electronics lab, instrumentation lab, mechanical engineering lab) using specialised BME equipment (X-ray radiography and Computed Tomography systems, Ultrasonography systems, Optical Coherence Tomography system, Microscopes, in vivo and in vitro diagnostic systems, nuclear imaging systems, etc.), teaching staff offices, secretariat offices, and basic infrastructures of the University of West Attica (libraries, restaurants, health care services, gym, etc.).

Besides the premises of the M.Sc. programme at Egaleo Park Campus, various field visits are organized to companies, research centres and healthcare sites, such as hospitals.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

Upon enrolment in the programme, students are given access to all equipment and materials necessary for their study and projects. In addition, students are given access: (a) to the common software tools available to all UNIWA students, such as Matlab®, SPSS®, MSOffice365®, etc. and (b) to the two UNIWA Academic Libraries and their on-premises or remote/electronic services.

Moreover, they have access to the Laboratory Of Design And Development Of Innovative Knitted Textiles And Garments (DIKNIGA). The mission of the “Design and Development of Innovative Knitted Textiles and Garments” (DIKNIGA) Laboratory is to support academic and research activities related to the phases of design, engineering, optimization, manufacture and quality control of fabrics, garments and industrial products. The Laboratory was established by Decision No. 24006, Government Gazette Issue B ‘2070 / 04.06.2019 and consists of individual rooms, where there is the necessary equipment and devices for the supporting of the specific research objects, such as the design and manufacturing of knitted fabric/garment and development of innovative textile products.

6.2 Assessment for all study programmes

UNIWA's infrastructure and staff for teaching and learning are appropriate and sufficient to achieve the qualification goals of the programmes. The buildings are large and well-kept. There is special attention paid to the accessibility for students with disabilities. The teaching staff involves professors and tutors highly specialized regarding the cohesion of their fields of expertise with the offered syllabus and the scientific disciplines of the accomplished research. The supervisory/administrative staff are highly qualified in supporting the learning process and aiding when necessary. However, life-long training is always a good practice in order to get familiar with the recent developments in higher education.

The provision of learning materials and support with regards to heterogeneous student body, student-centred learning and flexible learning is adequate since UNIWA prioritizes gender equality and diversity as per its policy. The university has a Department of Social Care for Students with Disabilities and designates Faculty Advisors in each academic department. These advisors assist students with disabilities regarding their academic concerns, bridging the gap with other faculty.

The variety of teaching methods including traditional face-to-face learning and online learning platforms (MS teams, Moodle) meet the educational needs of students. The students access e-classes for learning content, communication, assignments, projects, and other supplemental material. The classrooms are well-equipped with digital projectors and cameras to ensure that meetings and distance learning lectures are seamless.

The use of UNIWA's digital services, libraries, restaurants, sports centres, and IT support ensures the constant support of students. The library is easily accessible and provides books, scientific journals, and online material. Free entrance and downloading of articles from Scopus and other databases for the students is also provided via institutional connection. Moreover, the library is equipped with cutting-edge tools for students with special needs.

Students' mobility is supported on a central level and is adequate. Technical staff is being trained through involvement in research projects and mobility.

In overall, for all Master programmes the facilities and equipment are appropriate for meeting the learning objectives of each study programme with emphasis put on students having possibilities to receive hands on experience in their field of study.

6.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

7 ESG Standard 1.7: Information management

Institutions should ensure that they collect, analyse and use relevant information for the effective management of their programmes and other activities.
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7.1 Implementation

Student and staff evaluation are part of UNIWA's internal quality assurance system and reporting and are carried out regularly on annual basis. The main tool for the evaluation is questionnaires, the elaboration of which follows the University's Data Collection Policy for the data collection and analysis. At central level, UNIWA has a centralised information collection and management systems which is being used by the departments. The information management system is a student management application called UniTron Student Registry. Its objective is to manage students' course declarations, grades, degree calculation and issuing of certificates and to support teachers in course grading, management of the study programmes, exam programmes, printing statistical reports and certificates for students and courses.

UniTron Student Registry is interconnected with a number of internal or external services such as: the electronic protocol, the student web application service, the teachers' web application, the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) and external applications (e.g. Academic ID, EVDOXOS, etc.). More specifically, the student web application service enables the gathering of information related to course registration, monitoring their scores and applications for issuance and

receipt of certificates. The Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) in its role for information management, caters for the elaboration of questionnaires, census records, courses, professor, studies and foundation statistics, as well as course/teaching evaluation summary statistics. MODIP is interconnected with UniTron Student Registry, Student Web and Faculty Web.

The Electronic Classroom Schedule Platform is used for classrooms information scheduling. There are also different tools used for academic staff services (administrative and economic issues), such as the application of administrative staff leaves, the electronic Portal of Administrative Services and the Financial Services Online Portal. The research field has its own platform for recording UNIWA research projects.

At department level, the same standard evaluation procedures apply (via the Platform for recording UNIWA Assessment Programmes (<https://modip-evalless.uniwa.gr/>), with the evaluation data meant to reflect the degree of satisfaction of students both for the courses and for the teaching staff. In addition, data collected are analysed and cited in the department's internal evaluation report. In case of an urgent/emergency problem, the Assembly of the Department can be convened.

Apart from monitoring students' satisfaction level, the digitisation of information has also enabled to monitor the profile of the population, their scores thought out their study time and the graduation rates, that serve as key performance indicators for the courses (undergraduate and postgraduate) and each of the departments.

Career paths of graduates are monitored centrally by the Career, Liaison and Innovation Office (CLIO) of UNIWA. On annual basis, statistics on employability and career mobility of graduates are tracked and made available. Apart from CLIO, the departments can organize internal graduate monitoring activities and tools that take into consideration the special features of the programme.

UNIWA is the third Greek university to join the national eDiplomas service (<https://ediplomas.gr/>). Through this portal, a degree holder from a Greek university can, using his TAXISnet account, authorise a body (public organisation or company) to receive information about their degree.

Lastly, student support is facilitated by the Integrated Student Feeding Management System.

Specific information on each programme

Graduate data (profile, completion rates, grades) are provided as examples from different master programmes such as the M.Sc. Sustainable Energy Systems. The M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning plans for setting up a mechanism which will be able to monitor the paths of graduates, but also offer employment/career opportunities. This will be set in place

through a registry including information of graduates which will be maintained by the M.Sc. secretarial office. An online magazine on Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning topics, as well as opportunities for employment is under design, to which all graduating and enrolled students will have access to.

7.2 Assessment

The procedures for collecting and analyzing information on study programmes and other activities at the UNIWA are assessed rigorously. UNIWA employs a combination of internal and external evaluation mechanisms to ensure the quality and effectiveness of these procedures. Internal assessments involve regular reviews by academic departments and administrative units to monitor data collection processes. External evaluations are conducted by accredited external quality assurance agencies to provide an objective and independent assessment. Both internal and external assessments work in tandem to guarantee the robustness and reliability of data collection procedures.

UNIWA places a strong emphasis on assessing the completeness, timeliness, and usability of collected data for its internal quality assurance system. Regular audits and reviews are conducted to ensure data completeness and accuracy. Data is collected on a predetermined schedule to ensure timeliness, and feedback mechanisms are in place to address any delays or data discrepancies. Usability is evaluated through feedback from stakeholders, including academic staff, administrators, and students. Any identified issues are addressed promptly to enhance the quality of the data and its relevance to the internal quality assurance system.

UNIWA actively evaluates the participation of students and employees in the supply and evaluation of data in the planning of follow-up activities. This evaluation involves surveys, focus groups, and consultations with representatives from both groups. Their feedback is considered integral to the quality assurance process. Student and employee participation is encouraged and promoted through regular communication and engagement initiatives. Any challenges or barriers to participation are identified and addressed to enhance their involvement.

As a matter of very good practice, UNIWA acknowledges the commitment of its stakeholders to maintaining a culture of quality and continuous improvement. The active involvement of students and employees in the quality assurance process is a commendable aspect. The comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis ensures the completeness and reliability of data.

In cases of re-accreditation, UNIWA is dedicated to addressing recommendations from previous accreditations with utmost seriousness. A thorough review of these recommendations is conducted, and a formal action plan is developed to address each recommendation. Progress

to-wards fulfilling these recommendations is documented and communicated to the accrediting body.

UNIWA actively involves relevant stakeholders, including academic and administrative units, to ensure the successful implementation of these recommendations. The institution views re-accreditation as an opportunity for continuous improvement and a chance to demonstrate its commitment to enhancing quality in education.

Areas for optimization include streamlining data collection processes for greater efficiency and reducing any redundancies. There is also a need to improve the communication and feedback mechanisms to facilitate real-time responses to emerging issues. In overall, UNIWA aims to enhance the usability and accessibility of collected data to facilitate more data-informed decision-making.

7.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

8 ESG Standard 1.8: Public information

Institutions should publish information about their activities, including programmes, which is clear, accurate, objective, up-to date and readily accessible.

8.1 Implementation

UNIWA releases information about its operations and programmes that is valuable for prospective and current students, alumni, other stakeholders, and the general public. The English website of UNIWA provides information to prospective and current students, as well as the wider public about the history of the university, its vision and mission, its organisational structure, the offered studies at BA, M.Sc. and PhD level, the research activities of UNIWA, the laboratories, libraries and contact points and locations of the campuses.

Information to the M.Sc. students is made available via each programme's website. More specifically it includes information about the programme aims, its learning outcomes, key features, staff capacity, admission criteria and enrolments, contact information and relevant leaflets. The website also provides detailed information about the M.Sc. offered modules and the related curriculum. The programme of courses, as well as the location of each class are updated at the beginning of each semester, while the web page of each course includes a link to the corresponding e-class page supporting the course.

Concerning the M.Sc. graduates, strong connections are kept with each programme as they are welcome to any special arrangements for seminars, lectures or summer schools that are

organised within the framework of the M.Sc. programme. Graduates are also encouraged to join as members of the Graduates Alumni Club.

8.2 Assessment

In evaluating the accessibility of public information related to the activities of the university, it becomes evident that the institution excels in providing a comprehensive and accessible repository of resources. Notably, this wealth of information is made available in both Greek and English, extending its accessibility to a wider audience, including international stakeholders.

Furthermore, the university admirably ensures that all relevant public information, encompassing programme offerings, selection criteria, intended learning outcomes, qualifications conferred, teaching and assessment procedures, and learning opportunities, is readily accessible to students, prospective students, graduates, and the broader public. This accessibility contributes to the transparency and inclusivity of the institution's operations, making vital data easily obtainable.

The public information provided exhibits a commendable degree of transparency, up-to-datedness, and utility for all stakeholders and the public. The university's modern web presence, characterized by a diverse range of contemporary approaches, effectively complements the availability of public information, including text and videos. To further enhance its online presence, it is recommended aligning the English web content with the higher level of content quality found in the Greek study programmes, ensuring that both local and international students receive a consistent and top-tier educational experience.

8.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

9 ESG Standard 1.9: On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes

Institutions should monitor and periodically review their programmes to ensure that they achieve the objectives set for them and respond to the needs of students and society. These reviews should lead to continuous improvement of the programme. Any action planned or taken as a result should be communicated to all those concerned.

9.1 Implementation

UNIWA's quality assurance methodology ensures that the quality objectives of each programme are monitored through the evaluation of procedures in all stages, from programme delivery to programme update. The content of the programmes is being updated, taking into

account the needs of the labour market and society, as well as students' needs including workload, progression and completion, expectations and satisfaction.

The vision of UNIWA is to become a leading University and its mission is to provide education of excellent quality in the fields of study, scientific breakthroughs with globally reputation - communicated to the society- and promote culture, art and civilization.

It is committed with responsibility to the continuous improvement of educational and research work and to an effective performance of administrative services according to international practices and the principles and guidelines of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE).

The commitment to quality is based on the procedures of the Internal Quality Management System (IQM-System) which is drawn up, applied, reviewed and refocused annually by being the framework for the academic community to achieve the objective of the Institution. The Internal Quality Management System (IQM-System) is based on international practices of European Higher Education Area and the principles and guidelines of Hellenic Authority of Higher Education (HAHE).

More specifically, the involvement of stakeholders is described in terms of internal and external stakeholders. Regarding internal stakeholders, students have the opportunity to provide feedback on the basis of the formally, periodically submitted evaluation questionnaires, but also informally and continuously via discussion / focus groups that allow free criticism on the course content and effectiveness, as well as suggestions and ideas for improvement.

Regarding external stakeholders, UNIWA has built strong connections and cooperation alliances both with public and private companies and organisations as well as with foreign professors (invited via the ERASMUS Programme mobility), fostering cooperation in the field of its research interests by means of master dissertations, seminars, invited speeches, and/or expert opinions - interviews. This multifaceted communication allows modernisation and constant improvement of the university's undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Lastly, regarding the participation of staff in national/ international conferences, UNIWA's staff and academic community in general is encouraged to participate in international conferences and workshops by providing special allowances which in turn allows students, professors and researchers to be exposed to new ideas and perspectives, as well as to interact and discuss new research, theories and developments in their field.

9.2 Assessment

At UNIWA the processes of continuous monitoring and readjustment of study programmes are assessed through a systematic and cyclical approach. This process involves regular reviews

by academic departments and faculty members who analyse the programme's outcomes, feedback from students, and relevant status groups. The closed-loop feedback mechanism ensures that identified issues or areas for improvement are addressed promptly. UNIWA actively promotes a culture of continuous improvement and uses data-driven insights to enhance study programmes.

Content of the programme in the light of the latest research in the given discipline:

UNIWA ensures that study programmes are up to date by reviewing and incorporating the latest research findings and industry best practices. This evaluation is performed in collaboration with academic staff and external experts.

Changing needs of society:

UNIWA assesses the alignment of study programmes with the evolving needs of society through stakeholder engagement, including employers and industry representatives.

Students' workload, progression, and completion:

UNIWA evaluates these aspects by regularly reviewing student data, feedback, and academic performance. Any issues are addressed through curriculum adjustments or student support initiatives.

Effectiveness of procedures for assessment of students:

Assessment procedures are assessed through regular feedback from academic staff and students. UNIWA ensures that assessment methods are fair, reliable, and aligned with learning outcomes.

Student expectations, needs, and satisfaction in relation to the programme:

UNIWA collects feedback from students through surveys and focus groups to evaluate their expectations and satisfaction, incorporating this information into programme development.

Learning environment and support services and their fitness for purpose for the programme:

The learning environment and support services are assessed through ongoing feedback and regular evaluations. Any shortcomings are addressed to enhance programme delivery and support services.

UNIWA actively involves students and stakeholders in measures to ensure efficient study design. This participation is assessed through regular surveys, focus group discussions, and consultations. The university evaluates the quality and quantity of feedback received and uses it to refine study designs, ensuring they align with the needs and expectations of all relevant parties. UNIWA evaluates the reflection and communication of results to students and other stakeholders through feedback mechanisms and transparency. The university ensures that

results of evaluations and reviews are shared with relevant parties, including students, academic staff, and external stakeholders. The effectiveness of these communication channels is continuously assessed.

In overall, UNIWA acknowledges the active engagement of students and stakeholders in the continuous improvement of study programmes. The commitment to regular reviews and data-driven decision-making is commendable.

Areas for optimization include streamlining the data collection process for more efficient assessment and ensuring that the feedback loop is closed promptly.

9.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

10 ESG Standard 1.10: Cyclical external quality assurance

Institutions should undergo external quality assurance in line with the ESG on a cyclical basis

10.1 Implementation

The Quality Assurance Unit coordinates the procedures of quality assurance in UNIWA according to the guidelines of the Hellenic Authority for higher Education and supported by the administration of the UNIWA in order to be a functional implementation of the Internal Quality Management System.

UNIWA has developed and established procedures of quality assurance policy as a part of its Strategic Planning, approved by the 9th meeting of The Quality Assurance Unit (05.05.2020) and the decision of the 4th meeting of the Senate (08.06.2020). In the Quality Policy Statement, the rules of Internal Quality Management System (IQM-System) are mentioned, boosting the development and the recognition nationally, in Europe and globally in the academic area as an example of innovation and excellency.

The policy of quality assurance of UNIWA aims to a culture of quality and all the members of the academic community are responsible for the quality assurance. This policy is official and in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework and disclosure the information.

At a different level, academic personnel are also engaged in the quality process, directly as part of the different (Scientific) Boards of the M.Sc. Programmes and indirectly via collaborative conferences that both the professors and students participate and organise to demonstrate scientific results produced within the master programmes.

Lastly, the M.Sc. Programmes' application for international accreditation, as an additional one to the National, closes the loop of actions safeguarding, that Cyclical external quality assurance is achieved.

10.2 Assessment

UNIWA embraces the concept of Cyclical External Quality Assurance as a process of periodic external evaluation of the quality of higher education institutions, as well as of academic programmes. A successful accreditation by a recognized, independent accreditation agency enhances the credibility of an institution, therefore UNIWA decided to undergo an external accreditation procedure for its English Master study programmes as part of internationalisation strategy.

In the case of re-accreditation by the national accreditation authority, UNIWA rigorously addresses recommendations from previous accreditations. The institution conducts a detailed review of these recommendations and develops action plans to address each one. Progress towards fulfilling these recommendations is documented, communicated to the accrediting body, and monitored closely.

In overall, UNIWA views re-accreditation as an opportunity for continuous enhancement and ensures that previous recommendations are thoroughly addressed. The institution actively uses re-accreditation processes as a way for improvement. The implementation of previous recommendations and ongoing quality assurance measures contribute to raising the overall standard and quality of education and services provided by UNIWA.

10.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

IV Recommendation to the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN

1 **Assessment of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines in the Higher European Area (ESG) in the actual official version**

The study programmes: “**Sustainable Energy Systems**” (M.Sc.), “**Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning**” (M.Sc.), “**Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering**” (M.Sc.), “**Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing**” (M.Sc.), “**Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training**” (M.Sc.), “**Environmental Communication and Health Promotion**” (M.Sc.), “**Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products**” (M.Sc.), “**Biomedical Engineering and Technology**” (M.Sc.), and “**Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies**” (M.Sc.) were assessed on the basis of the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG).

The expert group concludes that the **ESG standards** 1.1 (Policy for quality assurance), 1.2 (Design and approval of programmes), 1.3 (Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment), 1.4 (Student admission, progression, recognition and certification), 1.5 (Teaching staff), 1.6 (Learning resources and student support), 1.7 (Information management), 1.8 (Public information), 1.9 (On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes) and 1.10 (Cyclical external quality assurance) are **fulfilled**.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

Standard 1.1 Policy for quality assurance: Universities have a publicly accessible quality assurance strategy, which is part of their strategic management. This strategy is developed and implemented by internal stakeholder representatives through appropriate structures and processes, involving external stakeholders.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.2 Design and approval of programmes: Universities have procedures for the design and approval of their courses. The courses are designed in such a way that their objectives, including the desired learning outcomes, can be achieved. The qualification obtained during a degree programme is clearly defined and communicated; it refers to the corresponding level of the national qualifications framework for higher education and, consequently, the qualifications framework for the European Higher Education Area.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.3 Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment: Universities ensure that the courses offered are carried out in such a way as to encourage students to play an active role in the design of the learning process and that this approach is also taken into account when assessing students / examinations.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.4 Student admission, progression, recognition and certification: Universities ensure that the courses offered are carried out in such a way as to encourage students to play an active role in the design of the learning process and that this approach is also taken into account when assessing students / examinations.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.5 Teaching staff: Universities ensure the competence of their teachers. They use fair and transparent procedures for the recruitment and further training of their employees.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.6 Learning resources and student support: The university has adequate funding to finance study and teaching and ensure that there is always a sufficient and readily available range of learning and support available for their studies.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.7 Information management: Universities ensure that they collect, analyze and use the relevant data relevant to the successful conduct of studies and other activities.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.8 Public information: Universities publish easily understandable, correct, objective, up-to-date and well-accessible information about their activities and courses of study.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.9 On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes: Universities are constantly monitoring their courses and regularly reviewing them to ensure that they achieve the goals set and meet the needs of students and society. The tests lead to a continuous improvement of the courses. All affected parties will be informed about any measures planned or resulting from this.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

Standard 1.10 Cyclical external quality assurance: Universities regularly undergo external quality assurance procedures in accordance with the ESG.

The criterion is **fulfilled**

2 Accreditation Recommendation

The peer-review experts recommend an **unconditional accreditation** of the study programmes: **“Sustainable Energy Systems” (M.Sc.)**, **“Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning” (M.Sc.)**, **“Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering” (M.Sc.)**, **“Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing” (M.Sc.)**, **“Environmental health and communication in general and special education and training” (M.Sc.)**, **“Environmental Communication and Health Promotion” (M.Sc.)**, **“Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products” (M.Sc.)**, **“Biomedical Engineering and Technology” (M.Sc.)**, and **“Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies” (M.Sc.)**

The peer-review experts recommend the following **recommendations**:

General recommendations

1. Attention to safety and well-being of staff (and students) is existent but could be more streamlined and communicated in a more active way. For instance, for international programmes, safety instructions at the lab should also be available in English.
2. It would be recommended to make a plan for staff and modernisation and expansion of infrastructure needed in the future to further evolve and grow.
3. Areas for optimization include streamlining data collection processes for greater efficiency and reducing any redundancies. There is also a need to improve the communication and feedback mechanisms to facilitate real-time responses to emerging issues.
4. To further enhance its online presence, it is recommended aligning the English web content with the higher level of content quality found in the Greek study programmes, ensuring that both local and international students receive a consistent and top-tier educational experience.

Cross-study recommendations for the study programmes: Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Sustainable Energy Systems, Master of Science (M.Sc.) by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering & Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing

1. Expert group recommends that all teaching staff, including external contributors is clearly presented in the study guide of the M.Sc. study programmes, along with the process for their selection and recruitment. Additionally, a short CV for both the faculty members and

the external contributors, at the size of one paragraph (300-500 words), preferably with a photo, should be also included in the relevant section of the study guide.

2. The workload should be clearly defined and presented in an integrated study guide, which is missed from the supported documents. The university should develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analysed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. course's official web site.

Study-specific recommendation for the study programme: “Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering” (M.Sc.)

3. The expert group recommends introducing to the syllabus some more optional modules on electrical systems, so as to configure a more balanced syllabus.

Study-specific recommendation for the study programme: “Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing” (M.Sc.)

4. It is suggested to enhance the offered syllabus with one or two additional mandatory modules focused on the modern materials, such as synthetic, composite matrix ceramics, etc, as well as their potential applications under high pressure and temperature demanding processes: aero-space, aeronautical, biomechanics, power plants etc.

Study-specific recommendation for the study programme “Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of new cosmetic products”

5. It is recommended to update the English website with all possible information for students related to what is covered by the tuition fees.

V Decisions of the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN

Based on the evaluation report of the expert group and the statement of the Higher Education Institution, the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN has made its decision on 27 October 2023.

General recommendations for all study programmes:

- Attentional to safety and well-being of staff (and students) is existent but could be more streamlined and communicated in a more active way. For instance, for international programmes, safety instructions at the lab should also be available in English.
- It would be recommended to make a plan for staff and modernization and expansion of infrastructure needed in the future to evolve and grow.
- Areas for optimization include streaming data collection process for greater efficiency and reducing any redundancies. There is a need to improve the communication and feedback mechanisms to facilitate real-time responses to emerging issues.
- To further enhance its online presence, it is recommended aligning the English web content with the higher level of content quality found in Greek study programmes, ensuring that both local and international students receive a consistent and top-tier education experience.

Sustainable Energy Systems (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Sustainable Energy Systems” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

The following recommendations are given for the further development of the study programme:

- Expert group recommends that all teaching staff, including external contributors is clearly presented in the study guide of the M.Sc. study programmes, along with the process for their selection and recruitment. Additionally, a short CV for both the faculty members and the external contributors, at the size of one paragraph (300-500 words), preferably with a photo, should also be included in the relevant section of the study guide.
- The workload should be clearly defined and presented in an integrated study guide, which is missed from the supported documents. The University should develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analyzed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. course’s official web site.

Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

Electrical and Electronics Engineering (M.Sc. by Research):

The study programme “Electrical and Electronics Engineering” (M.Sc. by Research) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

The following recommendations are given for the further development of the study programme:

- The expert group recommends introducing to the syllabus some more optional modules on electrical systems, so as to configure a more balanced syllabus.
- Expert group recommends that all teaching staff, including external contributors is clearly presented in the study guide of the M.Sc. study programmes, along with the process for their selection and recruitment. Additionally, a short CV for both the faculty members and the external contributors, at the size of one paragraph (300-500 words), preferably with a photo, should also be included in the relevant section of the study guide.
- The workload should be clearly defined and presented in an integrated study guide, which is missed from the supported documents. The University should develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analyzed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. course’s official web site.

Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Advanced Product Design Engineering and Manufacturing” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

The following recommendations are given for the further development of the study programme:

- It is suggested to enhance the offered syllabus with one or two additional mandatory modules focused on the modern materials, such as synthetic, composite matrix ceramics, etc., as well as their potential applications under high pressure and temperature demanding processes: aero-space, aeronautical, biomechanics, power plants etc.
- Expert group recommends that all teaching staff, including external contributors is clearly presented in the study guide of the M.Sc. study programmes, along with the process for their selection and recruitment. Additionally, a short CV for both the faculty members and the external contributors, at the size of one paragraph (300-500 words), preferably with a photo, should also be included in the relevant section of the study guide.
- The workload should be clearly defined and presented in an integrated study guide, which is missed from the supported documents. The University should develop an integrated and comprehensive study guide, where the workload for the completion of the courses should be clearly presented and analyzed. The study guide should be in English and should be uploaded in the M.Sc. course’s official web site.

Environmental Health and Communication in General and Special Education and Training (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Environmental Health and Communication in General and Special Education and Training” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

Environmental Communication and Health Promotion (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Environmental Communication and Health Promotion” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of New Cosmetic Products (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Advanced Aesthetics and Cosmetic Science: Development - Quality Control and Safety of New Cosmetic Products” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

The following recommendations are given for the further development of the study programme:

- It is recommended to update the English website with all possible information for students related to what is covered by the tuition fees.

Biomedical Engineering and Technology (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Biomedical Engineering and Technology” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies (M.Sc.):

The study programme “Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies” (M.Sc.) at the University of West Attica is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.