

# HELLENIC REPUBLIC UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY OF MEDICINE

MSc in Public Health. Streams: (a) Public health and Epidemiology and (b) Public Health and Maritime

Transport

# INTERNAL REGULATION OF STUDIES

(in accordance with the provisions of Greek Law 4957/2022)

Approved by the 6th/2023-2024 General Assembly of the Faculty of Medicine on 20-12-2023

# **Internal Regulation of Studies**

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### Internal Regulation of Studies

# INTRODUCTION

The Postgraduate Program entitled: "MSc in Public Health. Streams: (a) Public health and Epidemiology (b) Public Health and Maritime Transport" of the Department of Medicine of the University of Thessaly will operate in accordance with the provisions of Law 4957/2022, as they have been formed and are in force.

The Internal Regulation of Studies of the Postgraduate Public Health. Streams: (a) Public health and Epidemiology (b) Public Health and Maritime Transport" follows the General Regulation of Postgraduate Studies of the University of Thessaly - https://www.uth.gr/sites/default/files/contents/2022/20221205\_kanonismos\_PMS.pdf and is initially approved by the Assembly of the Department of Medicine of the University of Thessaly and then by the Senate of the University of Thessaly, after the agreement of the Postgraduate Studies Committee of the University of Thessaly and then published in the Government Gazette, posted on the website of the Department, notified to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and enters into force.

The Internal Regulation of Studies may be amended and revised periodically with continuous improvements and updates, without losing its basic structure and content, by decision of the Assembly of the Department of Medicine of the University of Thessaly, upon the relevant recommendation of the Director of the University of Thessaly and following the above publication procedure in the Government Gazette.

# ARTICLE 1. Programme aim of the master programme

The Postgraduate Program aims to provide high-level education to researchers and professionals for the protection of public health, which are based on the scientific bases of epidemiology, biostatistics, hygiene, health education, environmental health and management of human resources affected / affect the above.

This MSc is ideal for those who choose to pursue a career in the public health and related sectors, as well as those who currently work or plan to work in the maritime sector. The course is suited to students with both medical and non-medical backgrounds (environment, biology, hygiene, chemistry, engineering food safety etc.) who intend to develop their research and technical professional skills.

Stream 1 focuses on the utilization of the field of epidemiology for the protection of public health and the prevention of the transnational spread of diseases.

Stream 2 focuses on the protection of public health in shipping on both passenger and commercial ships.

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The programme responds to the increased demands for specialists in Europe and around the world in order to promote public health and prevent the transnational spread of diseases, but also in particular to ensure public health and hygiene both on board ships and at their destinations.

The program is complementary to the undergraduate studies provided by Departments of European Universities and other countries, covering the gap that exists in the education provided at national, European and international level.

# **ARTICLE 2. Award Title**

The MSc awards a postgraduate diploma with titles με τίτλους: (1) MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology or (2) MSc in Public Health and Maritime Transport. In order to obtain a Master's Degree, 120 credits (ECTS) are required.

# **ARTICLE 3.** Candidates

Graduates from the following can receive admission to the MSc:

 a) Graduates from all departments of <u>Recognised Foreign Educational Institutions</u> relevant to the wider subject matter of the MSc's content.

and

b) Graduates from all departments of Greek Universities and Technological Educational Institutes relevant to the wider subject matter of the MSc's content.

A Postgraduate Diploma cannot be awarded to a student whose first cycle degree awarded by a foreign institution has not been recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center.

# ARTICLE 4. Application process

An announcement is published on the MSc website, two (2) to three (3) months before the deadline for the submission of applications. Candidates' applications must be accompanied by the required supporting documents. Applications that are not accompanied by the necessary certificates or supporting documents will not be considered during the selection process. Candidates' applications with the attached supporting documents are submitted electronically via the MSc website.

Documents you will be asked to upload for your application assessment:

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- 1. Online application form
- 2. Copy of your first degree, or certificate of completion of studies
- 3. Translation of your undergraduate degree in English if your undergraduate degree is NOT in English or any other official language of the EU (see here the EU official languages https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/commissions-use-languages en)
- 4. Academic transcript / Diploma supplements (if available please see <a href="here">here</a> for further information)
- 5. CV / resume including a list of publications in scientific journals or announcements
- 6. Evidence of English language level (validated English language certificate, unless student has completed an academic program (BSc, MA, MSc, MBA) instructed and assessed in English language)
- 7. Copy of passport (photo page) or EU national ID card
- 8. Your photograph in colour
- 9. Copy of other post-graduate studies (if available)
- Certificates of relevant professional qualifications and research activities (if available)
- 11. Two letters of recommendations

# **ARTICLE 5.** Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the candidate Postgraduate Students is based on the total score (on a scale of 1 - 100) in the following criteria:

The Selection Committee will evaluate the applications and supporting documentation, and will provide an overall rating based on the following criteria:

	Criteria	Rating %
1	Grade of undergraduate degree	20%
2	English language level	10%
3	Publications or announcements	10%
4	Relevant employment experience	20%
5	letters of recommendation	10%
6	Interview	30%
	Total	100%

# **ARTICLE 6.** Selection procedure

The selection of the students admitted to the Postgraduate Program is conducted by the Selection Committee of Postgraduate Students, which is formed by decision of the Assembly.

The selection of students is made according to the procedures described below:

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- The Postgraduate Student Selection Committee, after receiving from the Secretariat
  the list of candidates, checks the supporting documents submitted and draws up the
  final list of candidates.
- After posting the list of candidate students, the date of the oral interviews is set.
- The evaluation points credited to the candidate from his/her specific qualifications and his/her performance in the oral interview are added together and constitute the total of the candidate's evaluation points.
- This total determines the order of success of each candidate.
- Based on the total number of points obtained by each candidate, the Postgraduate Student Selection Committee draws up a list.
- The list includes, in order of success, all candidates and shows the successful candidates.
- These tables are then forwarded to the Steering Committee for review and is then submitted to the Assembly of the Department for approval.
- In case two candidates obtain the same number of points in total, priority is given to the candidate with the highest grade in his/her first degree.
- After the validation of the list of successful candidates by the Assembly of the
  Department the successful Postgraduate Students are informed and are requested to
  complete the relevant registration documents within a specified deadline. The deadline
  is decided by the Steering Committee of the MSc in collaboration with the
  Administration Office of the MSc.

# **ARTICLE 7. Tuition fees**

The tuition fees are 6.000,00 € per student for each study cycle (all fours semesters).

### Payment scheme of tuition fees:

- Full time attendance mode: four (4) installments; each instalment should be paid before the beginning of each of the first three semesters and for the last semester right before the submission of the thesis project. Monthly payments are possible from Semester 2 onwards.
- Part time attendance mode: eight (8) installments; each instalment should be paid before the beginning of each of the first seven semesters and for the last semester right before the submission of the thesis project. Monthly payments are possible from Semester 2 onwards.

# **ARTICLE 8.** Exceptions from tuition fees

According to article 86 of Law 4957/2022, students of Greek citizenship enrolled in the Postgraduate Studies Program (MSc) may study free of charge, provided that they meet the legal economic or social criteria. A prerequisite for granting the right to free attendance due to economic or social criteria is the fulfillment of conditions of excellence during the first cycle of studies, which corresponds at least to the possession of a grade equal to or higher than seven and a half with excellent out of ten (7.5/10), provided that the evaluation in the first degree presented for admission to the Postgraduate Program has been carried out in accordance with the ten-grade evaluation scale of a Higher Education Institution of the country, otherwise, this criterion is applied proportionately according to the respective evaluation scale, if the degree presented has been awarded by a foreign institution.

The total number of students attending free of charge may not exceed the number corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total number of students enrolled per academic year.

The submission of applications for free attendance per Postgraduate Program takes place after the completion of the admission process of students to the Postgraduate Program and within a time period set by the Postgraduate Program itself.

# **ARTICLE 9. Scholarships**

There are opportunities for scholarships of excellence with conditions. All accepted students are eligible to apply. The Steering Committee will take into consideration the following criteria to decide to whom to award the scholarship of excellence

### Criteria:

- Academic excellence. The committee will review the documentation provided during your application form.
- Overall admission score to the MSc
- Future potential: The committee will take into account the applicant's future
  potential. This will be done by reviewing the applicants aptitude for research and the
  likelihood to contribute significantly to the field of public health and maritime
  transport.
- Student motivation statement: The Committee will review the one-page personal statement stating what your future career goals are and what has inspired you to apply for this master degree.

# **ARTICLE 10. Learning Outcomes**

The MSc provides students with three distinct classes of competences as learning outcomes: transferable, subject-specific and research competences.

# **Transferable competencies:**

- ability to develop self-directed learning skills to facilitate lifelong learning and continuous professional development
- ability to demonstrate a high level of critical reflection to develop and apply ideas in a research context
- ability to employ a systematic conceptual approach to gathering, analyzing and disseminating knowledge
- ethical sensitivity in the acquisition and application of information
- synthesis and presentation skills
- oral and written skills in communicating knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- competence in translating research evidence into practice
- · competence in using new information & communication technologies
- excellent command of academic English
- intercultural communication skills

# Subject-specific competencies:

### Stream 1: Public Health and Epidemiology

The MSc aims to train postgraduate students, providing them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet the challenges of public health through research and practice.

Upon completion of their studies, postgraduate students will be able to demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of the key disciplines of public health – consisting of statistics, epidemiology, occupational health, health economics, social research, principles of disease prevention, health services management, principles of occupational health – to real public health events and cross-border health threats. In addition, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate the basic functions of public health and disease prevention measures
- apply principles of epidemiology and design, conduct and evaluate epidemiological studies
- demonstrate knowledge and skills in a series of epidemiology and public health related subjects
- participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of appropriate policies on public health issues

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- understand the interaction between the various public health factors, environmental factors, globalization and occupational hygiene taking into account the available human resources
- ability to apply theoretical knowledge to analyse and solve concrete problems in Public Health issues: response and management of public health events, participation in the management of international public health events, public health and risk communication, occupational health and human resources
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health and epidemiology: public health and environmental hygiene, cross-border public health threats, management of public health events of international consern, occupational health and human resources, ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature to safeguard public health, effectiveness of treatments and disease prevention measures
- ability to work as a researcher and at private or public sectors working in the fields of public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and at research laboratories
- ability to design and implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention and control of health threats.

### Stream 2: Public Health and Maritime Transport

The MSc aims to train postgraduate students, providing them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet the challenges of public health through research and practice, with an emphasis on challenges associated to maritime transport, including the passenger shipping sector.

Upon completion of their studies, postgraduate students will be able to demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of the key disciplines of public health – consisting of statistics, epidemiology, occupational health, environmental health, health economics, social research, maritime administration, international health regulation and maritime law – to real public health events, maritime health and cross-border health threats. In addition, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate the basic functions of public health
- demonstrate knowledge and skills in a series of public health and maritime health related subjects
- participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of appropriate policies on public health issues
- understand the interaction between the various public health factors, environmental factors, the maritime profession on public health, environmental hygiene and

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occupational hygiene with an emphasis on shipping, taking into account the available human resources

- ability to apply theoretical knowledge to analyse and solve concrete problems in Public Health issues related to maritime transport: response and management of public health events in maritime transport, participation in the management of international public health events, public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and human resources
- ability to work as a researcher and at private or public sectors working in the fields of public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and at research laboratories
- ability to design and implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention and control of health threats in maritime transport sector.

# Research competences (knowledge and understanding):

### Stream 1: Public Health and Epidemiology

- understanding of the research process and how it is used to solve problems in new and unfamiliar environments
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health, occupational health and epidemiology and prevention of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
- ability to critically evaluate, use scientific literature and communicate research data
- ability to demonstrate a high level of critical reflection to develop and apply ideas in a research context
- ability to employ a systematic conceptual approach to gathering, analysing and disseminating knowledge

# Stream 2: Public Health and Maritime Transport

- understanding of the research process and how it is used to solve problems in new and unfamiliar environments
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health, occupational health and environmental hygiene with an emphasis in maritime transport sector
- ability to critically evaluate, use scientific literature and communicate research data
- ability to demonstrate a high level of critical reflection to develop and apply ideas in a research context
- ability to employ a systematic conceptual approach to gathering, analysing and disseminating knowledge

# **ARTICLE 11. Programme structure**

This programme includes four semesters and is instructed and assessed in English.

Students are expected to collect 120 ECTS credits during the four semesters (full time mode of study).

includes 10 modules which are taught by distance learning in three semesters. Postgraduate students are required to participate in all modules. Modules of the MSc are twough in English. After the completion of the 10 modules, postgraduate students will be given the choice of either conducting a research project with a master thesis, or an applied project with a master thesis. The research project with a master thesis or an applied project with a master's thesis is written in the fourth semester of the MSc in English. The detailed curriculum per semester is as follows:

# Semesters 1, 2 and 3

The MSc operates on a modular system and includes 10 modules instructed over three semesters. Students will have the opportunity to participate in practical training over the course of one week to put theory into practice (optional).

1st semester: 3 modules
 2nd semester: 3 modules
 3rd semester: 4 modules

# Semester 4

Upon successful completion of all mandatory modules, during the 4<sup>th</sup> semester students will either complete a **Research project with a master's thesis** or partake in an **applied project with a master's thesis**.

# Modules and ECTS per semester

1 <sup>st</sup> Semester – Stream 1 and 2			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
1.1	Mandatory	Principles in epidemiology and social research	12
1.2	Mandatory	Statistics for public health	8
1.3	Mandatory	Management of Health Services	10
		Total ECTS	30

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2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester – Stream 1 and 2			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
2.1	Mandatory	Environment and health, principles of occupational health	14
2.2	Mandatory	Health promotion and risk communication	8
2.3	Mandatory	Issues in public health	8
		Total ECTS	30

3 <sup>nd</sup> Semester – Stream 1			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
3.1.1	Mandatory	Epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases	10
3.1.2	Mandatory	Epidemiology and prevention of chronic diseases	6
3.1.3	Mandatory	Globalization and Public Health	8
3.1.4	Mandatory	Health economics	6
		Total ECTS	30
3 <sup>nd</sup> Seme	ster – Strean	n 2	
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
3.2.1	Mandatory	Hygiene, environment and maritime transport sector	10
3.2.2	Mandatory	Issues in maritime health	8
3.2.3	Mandatory	Introduction to shipping and trade, maritime law and shipping management	6
3.2.4	Mandatory	Public health crisis management in maritime transport sector	6
		Total ECTS	30

4 <sup>th</sup> Semester – Stream 1			
Module Code	Module	ECTS	
4.1.1	Research project with a master's thesis	30	

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4.1.2	Applied project with a master's thesis	30
4 <sup>th</sup> Semester – Stream 2		
Module Code	Module	ECTS
4.2.1	Research project with a master's thesis	30
4.2.2	Applied project with a master's thesis	30

# ARTICLE 12. Mode of study and course duration

# Full time mode of study

The minimum duration of studies for awarding the MSc is set at 2 full academic years (four (4) academic semesters) of full-time study.

The maximum duration of studies is twice the minimum duration of studies (4 full academic years).

1st semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

2nd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

3rd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

4th semester: Research project with a master's thesis or Applied project with a master's thesis

# Part time mode of study

There is the possibility of part-time study for working students or in other exceptional cases. The duration of part-time studies shall not exceed twice the minimum duration of studies (4 full academic years, eight academic semesters).

1st semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

2nd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

3rd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

4th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

5th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

6th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

7th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

8th semester: Research project with a master's thesis or Applied project with a master's thesis

# **ARTICLE 13.** Suspension of studies

The possibility of temporary suspension of studies, not exceeding two (2) consecutive semesters, may also be provided, following a fully justified recommendation of the Steering Committee. The semesters of suspension are not counted towards the maximum duration of studies.

# **ARTICLE 14.** Course attendance policy

Each cycle (duration) of the MSc leading to a Postgraduate Degree is consisted of four semesters of full-time study, of which the last semester is for the Research project with a master's thesis or Applied project with a master's thesis.

Attendance of the courses is compulsory.

The upper limit of allowed absences for each module is set at 30% of the scheduled live lecture hours. Example: This means that for a module with 26-hour live lectures you are allowed to be absent for the 8 hours.

### If students are absent for >30% of the scheduled live lecture hours:

- If there is a justification students should submit relevant documentation
  (Examples: doctor's note if ill, certificate of attendance if participating in
  seminars/conferences, a signed letter from their supervisor if it is a work-related
  reason, for those onboard submit the itinerary from an official source that we can check
  online)
- View the video of the lectures missed by the end of the semester and before the start of the exam period. The recorded lectures will be available in MOODLE. We are able to check in the MOODLE platform that the recorded presentations have been viewed by the students.

The Steering Committee will decide if students will be required to complete an extra assignment. However, if students have not viewed neither the live nor the recorded lectures for >30% of the scheduled live lecture hours then the Steering Committee may require from you to re-take the module in a next cycle of the MSc.

Even if students are within the limit of allowed absences from the live sessions we strongly advise them to view the video of the recorded lectures to understand better the module taught.

Each semester it is obligatory to complete a registration form. Violation of the registration deadline is equivalent to loss of the ability to attend the current semester. In this case, for the continuation of studies, a decision of the Assembly of the Medical Faculty is required, following a proposal by the MSc Steering Committee.

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It is possible to unenroll a student from the MSc, without the refund of the tuition fees by decision of the Assembly of the Medical Faculty following a relevant proposal of the Steering Committee, in cases of non-compliance with the following obligations:

- Regular attendance of modules at least 70% of the lectures held in each semester.
- Submit within the prescribed deadlines the required assignments for each module.
- Participation in exams.
- Respect and abide by the decisions of the Department bodies as well as academic ethics.

Only in exceptional cases may an extension of studies be granted up to 2 years following a reasoned decision of the Assembly of the Medical Faculty.

# **ARTICLE 15. Assessment strategy**

Students are assessed through:

- time-limited online examinations
- individual module assessments (which may be essays or other written assignments, short written tests, reports or presentations, or other methods)

Assessments are designed to assess through the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been achieved.

The evaluation and grading in each module are the exclusive responsibility of the tutor, is done in complete independence from the other modules and is a derivative of the objective assessment of the student's performance in the specific module (assignments, exams, etc.).

The evaluation criteria are clearly defined and are listed in the module specification. Student will receive detailed written instructions for each assignment.

The final grade of each module results from the total performance of students in specific areas (e.g. assignments, exams) according to the instructions provided in the module specifications.

# ARTICLE 16. Grading scheme

According to the grading regulations a 0- 10 grades scale applies in all higher education. Minimum passing grade is five (5) out of ten (10).

Students are assessed against a grade classification postulated by the Ministerial Decree 70024/12-7-68, as follows:

# 8,50 -10 **EXCELLENT**

6,50 -8,49 VERY GOOD 5,00-6,49 GOOD

# **ARTICLE 17.** Re-sit policy

A student may re-take the examination of a module up to a maximum of 3 (three) times. In the event of three repeated failed attempts, the postgraduate student is considered as not successfully completing the programme. At their own request, the student will be examined by a three-member committee of faculty members who have the same or related subject-matter expertise with the examined module; the committee is appointed by the Assembly of the Medical Faculty. The tutor/facilitator in charge of the examination will be excluded from this committee.

# **ARTICLE 18.** Completion of studies

A postgraduate student is awarded the Postgraduate Degree from the moment he/she has fully completed his/her obligations.

For the successful completion of the obligations of the postgraduate student leading to the receipt of the Postgraduate Degree, he/she must have received a passing grade (>5) in the ten (10) modules and in his/her master thesis.

In order to take part in the award ceremony, the student must have:

- successfully completed all modules and the master's thesis;
- submitted the Academic Identity Card;
- no pending matters with the UTH library;
- · settled all financial obligations.

The award ceremony of the postgraduate students is performed by the Dean of the Faculty, in the presence of the Director of the Postgraduate Program and the Head of the Department.

# **ARTICLE 19. Diploma supplement**

The Diploma Supplement is given automatically and free of charge to all graduates.

There is a completed example of a diploma supplement on the UTH website here: <a href="https://www.uth.gr/en/diploma-supplement">https://www.uth.gr/en/diploma-supplement</a>

# **ARTICLE 20.** Copyright

The copyright of the Master's Thesis or patent rights or commercial exploitation rights of the studies are determined by relevant decisions of the Ethics Committee of the University of Thessaly.

# **ARTICLE 21. Plagiarism**

Any kind of plagiarism in the module assignments, publications or the writing of the master's thesis, fabrication of research data and unscientific behavior in general is prohibited. The Ethics Committee is responsible for informing students of the Postgraduate Studies and imposing penalties, where necessary. Detailed guidance on the subject will be issued by the University's Ethics Committee. No assignment and master's thesis are submitted unless previously checked by the electronic plagiarism prevention service of the Central Library of the University of Thessaly. Students will receive detailed instructions about the process.

# ARTICLE 22. Evaluation – quality control of the programme

The MSc programme in total and each module separately will be systematically evaluated according to the proposed procedures and criteria established by the Internal Quality Assurance Unit of the University of Thessaly and at the same time contribute to its further improvement.

# ARTICLE 23. Governing bodies of the programme

For the organization and operation of the MSc the governing bodies of the Postgraduate Programs are formed as follows:

- Senate, which is the competent body for any matter of administrative or organizational nature related to postgraduate studies
- Department Assembly
- Director of the M.Sc.
- Steering Committee, which consists of the Director of the Postgraduate Program
  and four faculty members of the Department, who come from the teaching staff of
  the Postgraduate Program and are appointed by the Assembly of the Department.
- ostgraduate Student Selection Committee
- Financial Management Committee

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# **ARTICLE 24. Tutors**

Tutors of the MSc are renowned instructors and researchers in the fields of applied epidemiology, public health, environmental health and hygiene, chronic and infectious diseases, maritime health, health economics, occupational hygiene including maritime occupational health and safety, human resource management and maritime economics. The invited speakers include public health professionals with practical experience in public health issues in maritime transport.