



**Establishment of a
Foreign Language Postgraduate Program
MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology.
Streams: (1) Public Health and Applied Epidemiology
(2) Public Health and Maritime Transport**

Internal Regulations

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

APPROVED BY THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY

- Department of Medicine, University of Thessaly

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INTRODUCTION

The Foreign Language Postgraduate Program entitled: "MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology. Streams: (1) Public health and Applied Epidemiology and (2) 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 Programme «MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology. Streams: (1) Public health and Applied Epidemiology and (2) Public Health and Maritime Transport» follows the General Regulation of Postgraduate Studies of the University of Thessaly 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.

ARTICLE 1. SCOPE AND AIM

- 1.1.** The scope of the "MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology" is 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. 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. 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.

1.2. The MSc program leads to the awarding of a Master's Degree (MSc) with the title:

- (1) "Public Health and Epidemiology: Public Health and Applied Epidemiology" or
- (2) "Public Health and Epidemiology: Public Health and Maritime Transport" — (1) MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology: Public Health and Applied Epidemiology or (2) MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology: Public Health and Maritime Transport — after the full and successful completion of the studies according to the curriculum.

1.3. Learning outcomes and qualifications awarded upon successful completion of the MSc program:

The scope of this MSc program is to provide students with three categories of competencies as learning outcomes: transferable competencies, subject-specific skills, and research skills.

A. 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 using new information & communication technologies
- excellent command of academic English
- intercultural communication skills

B. Subject-specific competencies:

Stream 1: Public Health and Applied 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, 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 range of topics related to public health and the health issues of a population
- participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of appropriate policies addressing public health problems
- design, conduct, analyze, and interpret epidemiological studies
- demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and communicate research findings
- show understanding of the impact of various factors on public health, including environmental factors, globalization, and occupational health, while considering available human resources
- be familiar with current research findings and research methods in public health and epidemiology, including: public health and environmental hygiene, cross-border public health threats, management of international public health events, occupational health and human resources, ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature to safeguard public health, effectiveness of treatments, and disease prevention measures
- apply theoretical knowledge to analyze and solve specific public health problems, such as managing public health events, participating in the management of international health crises, health promotion and risk communication, occupational health, and human resources
- work effectively as a researcher or as a professional in public health organizations, occupational health agencies, and research laboratories



- 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 core fields of public health—including statistics, epidemiology, health economics, social research, maritime administration, international health regulations, and maritime law—to real-world problems in public health, maritime health, and cross-border health threats. In addition, students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate the core functions of public health
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in a range of topics related to public health and health issues in the maritime sector
- Participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of appropriate policies addressing public health problems
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and communicate research findings
- Show understanding of the impact of various factors on public health, including environmental factors and the maritime profession, focusing on public health, environmental hygiene, and occupational health in the maritime context, taking into account available human resources
- Be familiar with current research findings and research methods in public health with an emphasis on maritime transport: public health and environmental hygiene, cross-border public health threats, management of international public health events, occupational health and human resources, ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature to safeguard public health in maritime transport
- Apply theoretical knowledge to analyze and solve specific public health problems related to maritime transport: management of public health events in all sectors of maritime transport,



participation in the management of international health crises, public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and human resources

- Work effectively as a researcher and as a professional in public health and environmental hygiene organizations, occupational health agencies, and research laboratories
- Design and implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention and control of health threats in the maritime transport sector

C. Research competences (knowledge and understanding):

Stream 1: Public Health and Applied 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 and use scientific literature
- 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 of maritime workers, and environmental hygiene, with an emphasis on maritime and nautical health.
- ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature
- 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 2. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNING BODIES OF MSc

The competent bodies for the operation of the Postgraduate Program according to Law 4957/2022 are:

2.1. The Postgraduate Studies Committee and the Senate of the University of Thessaly, which is the competent body for any administrative or organizational issue related to postgraduate studies and exercises the powers of paragraph 1 of article 82 of Law 4957/2022.

2.2. The Department Assembly, which is responsible for the organization, administration, and management of the Postgraduate Program and exercises the powers of paragraph 2 of article 82 of Law 4957/2022. The responsibilities of the Assembly include:

- a) Proposing to the Senate, through the Postgraduate Studies Committee, the establishment or modification of the founding decision of the Postgraduate Program, as well as the extension of its duration.
- b) Forming committees for the evaluation of applications from prospective postgraduate students and approving their registration in the Postgraduate Program.
- c) Assigning teaching duties to instructors of the Postgraduate Program.
- d) Appointing the Director of the Postgraduate Program.
- e) Appointing members of the Steering Committee.
- f) Proposing to the Senate the members of the Program Committee of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Programs.
- g) Forming examination committees for the defense of postgraduate theses and appointing supervisors for each thesis.
- h) Confirming the successful completion of studies to award the Postgraduate Program degree.



- i) Approving the financial report of the Postgraduate Program, following a proposal by the Steering Committee.
- j) Exercising any other responsibility provided by relevant provisions.

By decision of the Department Assembly, responsibilities under points (b) and (g) may be delegated to the Steering Committee of the Postgraduate Program.

2.3. The Director of the Postgraduate Program

The Director is selected from the Department's faculty members, preferably those of Professor or Associate Professor rank, and is appointed by the Department Assembly for a two-year term, renewable without limitation.

The Director has the following responsibilities under paragraph 4 of article 82 of Law 4957/2022:

- a) Chairs the Steering Committee, prepares the agenda, and convenes its meetings.
- b) Proposes matters related to the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program to the Department Assembly.
- c) Proposes to the Steering Committee and other bodies of the Program and the University issues related to the effective functioning of the Program.
- d) Acts as the Scientific Responsible of the program according to article 234 of Law 4957/2022 and exercises the corresponding duties.
- e) Monitors the implementation of decisions by the Program's bodies and the Internal Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral programs, as well as the execution of the Program's budget.
- f) Exercises any other responsibility defined in the founding decision of the Postgraduate Program.

2.4. The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of the Director and four faculty members of the Department, drawn from the Program's teaching staff, appointed by the Department Assembly. Its term is two years, concurrent with that of the Director. It exercises the powers of paragraph 3 of article 82 and may be



delegated specific responsibilities of the Department Assembly for more effective operation of the Program, following a relevant delegation decision.

It is responsible for monitoring and Steering the Program's operation and in particular:

- a) Prepares the initial annual budget of the Program and any amendments if the Program has resources according to article 84, and submits it for approval to the Research Committee of the Special Account for Research Funds (E.L.K.E.), excluding quarterly revisions of the annual budgets referred to in point (b) paragraph 3 of article 239.
- b) Prepares the program's financial report and submits it for approval to the Department Assembly.
- c) Approves expenditures and may delegate this authority to the Program Director.
- d) Approves scholarships, compensatory or not, according to the founding decision of the Program and the postgraduate and doctoral regulations.
- e) Proposes to the Department Assembly the allocation of teaching duties and the assignment of teaching work to categories of instructors under article 83.
- f) Proposes to the Department Assembly the invitation of Visiting Professors to cover teaching needs of the Program.
- g) Drafts proposals for amendments to the curriculum, which are submitted to the Department Assembly.
- h) Proposes to the Department Assembly the redistribution of modules across academic semesters and other matters related to the qualitative enhancement of the curriculum.

For the operation of the Postgraduate Program, the Department Assembly appoints, for a two-year term, the following Committees:

- **Postgraduate Student Selection Committee**

Responsibilities of the Selection Committee include:

- Reviewing and evaluating all submitted documentation.
- Verifying the relevance of the degree to the Program's subject area.



- Assessing language proficiency in a specified foreign language.
- Ranking candidates based on the Program's criteria list and proposing selections based on this ranking to the Assembly or the Program Committee.

- **Financial Management Committee**

Responsibilities include:

- Proposing to the Assembly or Program Committee the determination of tuition fees, where applicable, with justification.
- Monitoring, controlling, and regularly updating the financial status of the Program.
- Submitting financial planning and accounting reports of the Program to the Department Assembly.

2.5. Secretariat Support of the Postgraduate Program

The Program has its own resources and may hire, in accordance with applicable law, external collaborators for secretarial and administrative support.

ARTICLE 3. CATEGORIES AND NUMBER OF ADMINTED STUDENTS

3.1. The postgraduate program admits graduates:

- a) From all departments of universities of recognized equivalent foreign institutions, related to the broader academic field of the program's content, and
- b) From departments of universities and technological educational institutes (TEI) in Greece, related to the broader academic field of the program's content, according to applicable legislation.

A postgraduate diploma will not be awarded to any student whose first-cycle degree from a foreign institution has not been recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (DOATAP).

According to Article 304 of Law 4957/2022, applications with the required documents are submitted to the Secretariat of the postgraduate program, which reviews the applications based on the criteria of Law 4957/2022, without requiring a DOATAP recognition decision. If the foreign degree is included in the list of Article 307 of Law 4957/2022, the Secretariat must request a Certificate of Place of



Studies issued and sent by the foreign university. Applications are excluded if the place of studies is certified as Greece, unless the part of the studies completed in Greece was at a public higher education institution, according to Law 3328/2005 (A' 80).

3.2. The maximum number of students admitted to the postgraduate program is set at eighty-six (86) in total.

ARTICLE 4. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

4.1. The selection of students is carried out in accordance with the applicable legislation, the Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Regulations of the University of Thessaly, and the provisions of this Regulation.

4.2. Before the start of each academic year, a call for applications for admission of postgraduate students to the program is published and posted on the website of the program and the Institution for the immediately following academic year. Relevant applications with the necessary supporting documents are submitted to the Secretariat of the program during the period specified in the call (PHASE I).

This deadline may be extended by a decision of the Steering Committee (PHASE II).

Applications must be accompanied by the required documentation. Applications that are not accompanied by the necessary certificates or documents will not be considered during the candidate selection process.

4.3. Required documents are:

A. Mandatory:

Electronic application form.

Copy of the degree certificate or a certificate proving the completion of all academic requirements.

Translation of the undergraduate diploma into English, if the original diploma is not in English or another official EU language.

Detailed transcript of all undergraduate modules, including the grade of the thesis or final project.



Short CV and summaries of any published work.

Diploma or certificate of proficiency in one or more foreign languages.

Photocopy of both sides of the national ID card or passport (passport page).

Recent color passport-style photograph.

Optional:

Certificates or diplomas of postgraduate studies, if available.

Certificates of professional training, if available.

Documentation of participation in research activities, if applicable.

Two letters of recommendation, if available.

4.4. In the case of applicants holding a first-cycle degree from abroad, the Secretariat of the Graduate Program, according to the provisions of the applicable legislation, verifies whether the issuing institution is included in the National Registry of Recognized Foreign Institutions and whether the degree type is listed in the National Registry of Degree Types of Recognized Institutions, both published on the website of the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (DOATAP).

If the degree from a foreign university is included in the DOATAP list of Article 307 of Law 4957/2022, the Secretariat of the Graduate Program is obliged to request a Certificate of Place of Studies, which is issued and sent by the foreign university. Applications where the place of studies is certified as Greek territory are excluded, except if the part of studies completed in Greek territory took place at a public Higher Education Institution (A.E.I.) in accordance with Law 3328/2005 (A' 80).

4.5. The evaluation of candidates and the selection of admitted students is based on the overall scoring (on a scale of 1 to 100) according to the following criteria:

No	SELECTION CRITERIA	GRADE %
1	Grade of undergraduate degree/diploma with a minimum grade of "Very Good"	30%



2	Level of foreign language proficiency	10%
3	Publications in scientific journals, Presentations at scientific conferences	15%
4	Possession of other postgraduate degrees	5%
5	Relevant professional experience	10%
6	Reccomendation letters	10%
7	Interview	20%
	TOTAL	100%

The adequacy of the level of English language proficiency is assessed by the Graduate Student Selection Committee.

4.6. The selection of admitted students to the Postgraduate Program is carried out by the Postgraduate Student Selection Committee, which is formed by decision of the Assembly. The selection process for students in the program proceeds as follows: After receiving from the Secretariat the list of applicants, the Committee reviews the submitted documents and prepares a list of candidates who meet the criteria. After posting the list of eligible candidates, the date for the oral interviews is set. The evaluation points awarded to the candidate based on their special qualifications and their performance in the oral interview are summed to form the candidate's total evaluation score. This total determines the ranking of each candidate.

Based on the total evaluation scores, the Selection Committee prepares a ranked list of candidates. This list includes all candidates in order of success and highlights those who are accepted. The lists are then forwarded to the Postgraduate Steering Committee for review and submission to the Department Assembly. Based on the overall criteria, the Assembly prepares and approves the final ranking of admitted students.

In case of a tie, priority is given to the candidate with the higher grade in their first degree. Once the list of admitted students is ratified by the Department Assembly, the successful candidates are



notified to register for the program within a specified period. This timeframe is determined by the Postgraduate Studies Committee in cooperation with the Program Secretariat.

Students admitted to the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program in Public Health with emphasis on Maritime Transport (Official Government Gazette: 2281/B/10.05.22, No. 8755/22/G.P.) will have the option to enroll in the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program titled "Public Health and Epidemiology." These students must submit a request to the Secretariat for transfer to the program "Public Health and Epidemiology" and continue their studies according to the new curriculum. They will not be required to retake common modules they have already successfully completed.

4.7. Successful candidates must pay the first installment of tuition fees within 20 days following the announcement of the results and send the relevant payment receipt. Subsequently, they proceed with registration at the Program Secretariat.



ARTICLE 5. DURATION OF STUDIES

5.1. The duration of study in the Postgraduate Program leading to the award of a Master's Degree is set at 2 full academic years (four (4) full academic semesters) of full-time study:

- 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 research project with a master's thesis

5.2. It is possible to extend the duration of study by up to four academic semesters, following a justified request by the student and approval by the Assembly. Thus, the maximum allowable time to complete studies is set at twice the minimum duration of studies (4 full academic years), i.e., eight academic semesters.

5.3. Students who have not exceeded the maximum study limit may, after submitting a justified application to the Postgraduate Steering Committee, which recommends it to the Assembly, interrupt their studies for a period not exceeding two consecutive semesters. Suspension of studies is granted for serious professional, family, personal, or health reasons. The application must be justified and accompanied by the necessary documentation. During the suspension of studies, student status is suspended and all related rights of the student are put on hold. Student status is automatically restored after the suspension period ends. The suspension period does not count toward the maximum allowable duration of studies.

5.4. Part-time study is available for employed postgraduate students who work at least 20 hours per week, proven by an employment contract or employer's certificate. Part-time study is also available for non-employed students who are unable to meet the demands of full-time study due to indicative reasons such as professional, family, personal, health, etc. Part-time study is approved by the Department Assembly after an application by the interested student submitted at the beginning of the academic semester/year, accompanied by the necessary documentation.

The duration of part-time study may not exceed twice the normal duration of study for the program. The total duration of part-time study is four 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 research project with a master's thesis

ARTICLE 6. CURRICULUM

6.1. The Postgraduate Program starts in the fall or spring semester of the academic year.

6.2. To obtain the Postgraduate Diploma, a total of 120 ECTS credits are required. All modules are taught weekly and include lectures, seminars, exercises, synchronous and asynchronous teaching, and other methods.

6.3. The language of instruction and thesis writing is English.

6.4. During their studies, postgraduate students must attend and successfully complete modules and conduct research work with a postgraduate thesis or a practical research internship with a postgraduate thesis. The maximum allowable absence for each module is 30%. Enrollment in module is mandatory every semester. Failure to register by the deadline results in loss of the right to attend that semester. Continuation of studies in such cases requires approval by the Department Assembly following a proposal from the Steering Committee.

Students may be expelled from the program without tuition refund by decision of the Department Assembly, following a proposal by the Steering Committee, in cases of failure to fulfill their obligations, including:

- Regular attendance of at least 70% of lectures each semester.
- Submission of required assignments within deadlines.
- Attendance at examinations.



- Respecting and complying with decisions of Department bodies and maintaining academic integrity.
- **6.5.** Modules are delivered exclusively via distance learning, in accordance with current legislation and the provisions of Article 7 of this regulation.
- 6.6.** The indicative curriculum per semester is as follows:

1st Semester – Streams 1 and 2

No	Module Code	Module	ECTS
1	1.1	Principles in epidemiology and social research	12
2	1.2	Statistics for public health	8
3	1.3	Management of health services	10
	Total		30

2nd Semester – Streams 1 and 2

No	Module Code	Module	ECTS
1	2.1	Environment and health, principles of occupational health	14
2	2.2	Health promotion and risk communication	8
3	2.3	Issues in public health	8
	Total		30

3rd Semester – Stream 1

No	Module Code	Module	ECTS
1	3.1.1	Epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases	10
2	3.1.2	Epidemiology and prevention of chronic diseases	6



3	3.1.3	Globalization and public health	8
4	3.1.4	Health economics	6
	Total		30

3rd Semester – Stream 2

No	Module Code	Module	ECTS
1	3.2.1	Hygiene, environment and maritime transport sector	10
2	3.2.2	Issues in maritime health	8
3	3.2.3	Introduction to shipping and trade, maritime law and shipping management	6
4	3.2.4	Public health crisis management in maritime transport sector	6
	Total		30

ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑ

4th Semester – Stream 1

No	Module Code	Module	ECTS
1	4.1.1	Research project with a master's thesis	30
2	4.1.2	Applied research project with a master's thesis	30

4th Semester – Stream 2

No	Module Code	Module	ECTS
1	4.2.1	Research project with a master's thesis	30
2	4.2.2	Applied research project with a master's thesis	30



The distribution of modules per semester is decided by the Assembly, according to the needs of the program and the availability of the instructors, and may differ from the indicative schedule above.

6.7. For each postgraduate student, the Assembly, upon recommendation by the Steering Committee, appoints one instructor of the program as an academic advisor and another as a supervisor. The advisor is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the overall progress of the postgraduate student. The advisor meets individually with the student at least once per academic semester (via teleconference), providing guidance and support on matters related to enrollment, modules, choices, and future prospects.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

1. Principles in Epidemiology and Social Research

Concepts and principles of epidemiology / Research design in social sciences (science, social sciences, formulation of research questions, and research design) / Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis (qualitative research methods, interviews, focus groups, and other methods, qualitative data analysis) / Epidemiological measures of health and disease: frequency, association, and impact / Cross-sectional studies / Measurement methods and quantitative approaches (questionnaire design, use of surveys in cross-sectional studies) / Ecological studies / Series studies / Case-control studies / Intervention studies / Interpretation of epidemiological study results (systematic errors and confounding factors), Screening / Diagnostic tests / Principles of ethics and research conduct.

2. Statistics for Public Health

Introduction to statistics and public health / Types of data, summarization, and data presentation / Probability and normal distribution with software practice / Sampling / Principles of statistical inference / Drawing conclusions for numerical data: 2 or more samples with software practice / Drawing conclusions for categorical data with software practice / Drawing conclusions for categorical data II / Correlation and dependencies with software practice / Multivariate methods I with software practice / Unit summary / Statistical analyses.

3. Management of Health Services

Disease prevention strategies / Health systems and services / Health policy and health politics / Environmental health policy / Global health policy / Research and policy



formulation / Health services management - Leadership role of managers / Health care financing, health insurance, and government role in health care / Human resources management / Performance evaluation / Change management / Evaluation of public health interventions.

4. Environment and Health, Principles of Occupational Health

Impact of environment on people and their health, and human impact on environment / Concepts of environment, health, and sustainable development, frameworks for assessing environment-health-sustainability relationships / Investigation of environmental risks affecting health: air pollution, chemicals, water supply and sewage, waste / Investigation of environmental risks affecting health: natural environment, built environment, and transportation / Investigation of environmental risks affecting health: disasters and climate change / One Health: ecosystems, humans, and animals / Introduction, occupational epidemiology and exposure assessment, occupational safety and ergonomics / Physical, chemical, and biological risks at work and risk assessment / Occupational accidents, musculoskeletal disorders, and occupational diseases / Risk management / Health protection, health promotion, and disease prevention at the workplace / Stress and psychological factors.

5. Health Promotion and Risk Communication

Risk communication and health promotion / Basic principles and methods in health promotion / Basic principles and methods in risk communication / Guiding behavior change in routine and emergency situations / Risk communication in integrated health promotion programs / Behavioral and cultural knowledge for infection control / Evidence-based health promotion / WHO and international initiatives / Information on risk and health promotion for travelers and mobile populations / Pandemics, public health emergencies, and risk communication: lessons learned / Risk communication and health promotion in multinational populations / New technologies and risk communication.

6. Issues in Public Health

Concept of Public Health / Population data and mortality / Understanding disease burden / Global Health / Health inequalities / Impact of health care on population / Determinants of health and disease / Health economics and financing / Health financing and economic



evaluation / Smoking / Food, trade, and health / Sewage, waste, and diseases / The changing nature of infectious diseases / Principles of screening.

7. Epidemiology and Prevention of Infectious Diseases

Epidemiological surveillance (principles, application, examples) / Outbreak investigation and epidemiological exploration, analytical approaches / Vaccines (evaluation of immunization needs, evaluation of new vaccines, immunization program design, effectiveness, efficiency, vaccination program surveillance, role of mass media) / Norovirus gastroenteritis / Legionnaires' disease / Vaccine-preventable communicable diseases (varicella, rubella, measles, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis) / COVID-19 / Influenza and other respiratory viruses / Vector-borne diseases (malaria, Zika virus disease, yellow fever, dengue fever) / Foodborne and waterborne diseases / Tuberculosis and hepatitis viruses / HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

8. Epidemiology and Prevention of Chronic Diseases

Epidemiology and prevention of chronic diseases: key concepts, definitions, and research challenges / Social determinants of chronic diseases / Epidemiology and prevention of major cancer types / Epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular diseases / Individual, family, social, and global impacts of mental disorders / Developmental origins of chronic diseases / Epidemiology and prevention of diet-related chronic diseases / Air pollution, climate change, and chronic diseases / Smoking and chronic diseases / Alcohol consumption and chronic diseases / Physical activity, sedentary lifestyle, and prevention of chronic diseases / Screening strategies.

9. Globalization and Public Health

How global change occurs and key driving forces of globalization / Transition from national to global health / Effects of global change on social and economic sectors / Effects of global change on environmental and political sectors / Public health issues in a global perspective: infectious and non-communicable diseases and pharmaceuticals / Public health issues in a global perspective: tobacco control, alcohol, food, and human rights / Policy areas and agendas outside health affecting global health / Analysis of overall health policy: research methods / Global health governance structures and forms of global health policies,



institutional reforms, international law, and other forms of cooperation / Global climate change and human health / Disasters / Urbanization and health.

10. Health Economics

Definitions and methods of health economics. Supply and demand: demand model, supply and price determination, demand elasticity. Supply and demand: application of demand elasticity in health policy. Supply and demand: production and costs, and the perspective of broader cost service. Markets. Health financing: the world of healthcare financing. Health financing: private health insurance. Health financing: social health insurance. Economic evaluation: introduction. Economic evaluation: cost calculation. Economic evaluation: measurement of outcomes including QALY, DALY, and EQ-5D. Economic evaluation: cost-effectiveness analysis.

11. Hygiene, Environment, and Maritime Transport Sector

Infection control on ships, hygiene in medical facilities on ships and medicine rooms / Drinking water safety / Recreational water safety / Food safety plans / Food safety and personal hygiene / Indoor air quality and ventilation on ships, lighting, ship installations, waste management, hazardous substances management / Surveillance and control of harmful organisms on ships and ports / Introduction to shipping and environment (humans and the sea, ships and shipping, sustainability and shipping, ships and environmental impacts, sustainability challenges) / Sea discharges (oil, sewage, biological deposit organisms, ballast water, bilge water, marine debris), atmospheric emissions, anthropogenic noise, infrastructure, marine spatial planning, and shipwrecks / Environmental management, methods, and environmental assessment tools / Energy efficiency, reduction of discharges and emissions – improving environmental performance in shipping / Health inspections.

12. Issues in Maritime Health

Welfare of seafarers, health requirements, and fitness examination / Accidents and injuries on ships and ports / Medical care on board, cruise medicine, first aid on board, and personal protective equipment / Chronic diseases related to exposure of seafarers to physical, chemical, and psychological risks, noise, vibrations, and seasickness / Tobacco use, alcohol and drug consumption, mental health of seafarers, psychosocial and organizational



aspects / Epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases in maritime transport: acute gastroenteritis and respiratory infections / Epidemiology and prevention of other infectious diseases in maritime transport / Cardiovascular diseases / Nutrition / Piracy, violence, and crime, shipwrecks and survival at sea, eye diseases and injuries, skin and oral health disorders, soft tissue and joint diseases, heat- and cold-related conditions / Health status of ports, healthy ship design / Ethical practice in maritime health, accreditation, inspection, and quality assurance.

13. Introduction to Shipping and Trade, Maritime Law and Shipping Management

Marine geography (oceans and seas, continents, waterways, ports, trade geography) / Shipping business (trade theory, shipping markets, who trades), ship procurement (shipbuilding, ship operation, ship registration, port state control, ship classification) / The ship and chartering, liner services (capacity, loading lines, ship types, cargo types, tankers, containers, documents, chartering) / Principles of management and special features of ship management: strategic management, commercial management, human resources management, compliance management / Principles of management and special features of ship management: port management / Maritime economics and shipping information systems / Categories of maritime law, legal concepts and terminology, marine insurance, international trade and shipping documents, cargo claims and bills of lading, passenger transport / Maritime labor convention / Aspects of public international law on shipping regulations, safety, and compliance / Public international law aspects of shipping regulations related to marine pollution from shipping activities / International Health Regulations - general provisions / International Health Regulations – points of entry.

14. Public Health Crisis Management in Maritime Transport Sector

Risk assessment and management in shipping / Unified risk approach: biological, chemical, and radiological risks on various types of ships / Interdisciplinary approach to public health event management / Emergency public health planning on ships / Emergency public health planning in ports / Public health measures list and decision-making process / Management of COVID-19 public health events in shipping / Management of public health events in shipping due to chemical agents / Cross-border communication in managing public health



events on ships / Mass casualties and evacuation / Exercises as part of preparedness
(tabletop, simulations, drills) / In-action, intra-action, and after-action reviews.

15. Research Project with a Master's Thesis

16. Applied Research Project with a Master's Thesis



ARTICLE 7. DISTANCE LEARNING

7.1. Synchronous Distance Learning.

The organization of the educational process of the Postgraduate Program may also be carried out using synchronous distance education methods. The organization of modules and other educational activities using distance learning methods refers to modules and educational activities that, by their nature, can be supported using distance learning methods and do not include practical, laboratory, or clinical training of students, which requires the physical presence of students.

Support for teaching staff and students on issues related to the tele-education system is provided at the first level (Department) by the Head of Department and at the second level (Institution) by the Digital Governance Unit of the University of Thessaly.

7.2. Asynchronous Distance Learning.

The educational process may be carried out using asynchronous distance learning methods, which do not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the credit units of the Postgraduate Programme.

The University of Thessaly provides an electronic platform on which educational material can be posted per module (notes, presentations, exercises).

The electronic platform is also accessible to individuals with disabilities.

ARTICLE 8. EXAMS AND ASSESSMENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

8.1. Each cycle (duration) of the Postgraduate Program of Studies leading to a Master's Degree (MSc) lasts four semesters. Each semester includes thirteen (13) weeks of teaching and two weeks for the written exams or for the submission and evaluation of scientific papers. The Master's Thesis must be submitted within a deadline set by the Director of the MSc.

8.2. In case of any obstacle preventing the conduct of a module, the session will be rescheduled. The date and times for the re-scheduled sessions are posted on the MSc website.

8.3. Attendance of modules is mandatory. The maximum allowable absence for each module is set at 30%.



8.4. Module registration is mandatory for each semester. Missing the registration deadline results in the loss of the right to attend the current semester. In such a case, continuation of studies requires a decision by the Department Assembly, following a proposal by the Postgraduate Studies Committee.

8.5. The evaluation of postgraduate students is conducted at the end of each semester through written exams, assignment completion, or a combination of both. The method of evaluation and grading for each module is the exclusive responsibility of the instructor, carried out independently of other modules, and reflects an objective assessment of the student's performance in the specific module (assignments, exams, etc.). The evaluation criteria are clearly defined and stated in the module specifications.

The grading scale ranges from zero to ten: Excellent (8.5 to 10), Very Good (6.5 to less than 8.5), and Good (5 to less than 6.5).

The final grade for each module results from the overall performance of the students in specific areas (e.g., assignments, exams), according to the instructions given by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The minimum passing grade is five (5), with ten (10) being the highest grade. By decision of the Department Assembly, the minimum passing grade may be set higher than five (5).

If a student fails a module, they may retake the exam during the September resit period. The maximum number of re-examinations allowed for a module is three (3). If the student fails to achieve a passing grade after three attempts, the postgraduate student is considered not to have successfully completed the program. In such cases, the Department Assembly will decide on a case-by-case basis.

8.6. To address emergencies or circumstances classified as force majeure, alternative evaluation methods may be applied, such as conducting written or oral exams via electronic means, provided the integrity of the evaluation process is ensured.

8.7. In cases of illness or recovery from a serious illness, it is recommended that the instructor facilitate the student in any appropriate way (e.g., oral remote examination). During oral exams, the instructor must ensure that they are not alone with the student being examined.

8.8. Evaluation of students in second-cycle programs organized through distance learning methods may be conducted through remote examinations, provided the integrity of the evaluation process is ensured.



8.9. To obtain a Master's Degree, 120 ECTS credits are required, which are acquired through: a) successful attendance and examination of 10 modules, and b) the completion and successful defense of an original master's thesis.

The final grade of the Master's Degree (MSc) is calculated as the average of the grades of the 10 modules and the master's thesis.

ARTICLE 9. PREPARATION OF THE MASTER'S THESIS

9.1. Each student completes in the fourth semester either (a) a research project with a master's thesis, or (b) a Applied research project with a master's thesis, according to the writing guidelines posted on the website of the MSc. The master's thesis has a clearly research-oriented character, concerns contemporary scientific topics, and its content is compatible with the mission of the Postgraduate Program.

9.2. The student submits an application to the Secretariat of the MSc, stating the proposed title of the thesis, the proposed supervisor, and attaches an abstract of the proposed thesis. The language of the master's thesis must be English.

9.3. The supervisor and the members of the three-member examination committee are appointed by decision of the Department Assembly, following a relevant recommendation of the Steering Committee, from the following categories of instructors of the MSc, provided they hold a doctoral degree:

(a) members of the Teaching and Research Staff, Special Teaching Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff, and Special Technical Laboratory Staff of the Department or other Departments of the same or other Higher Education Institutions or Higher Military Educational Institutions, with additional employment beyond their legal obligations if the Program has tuition fees,

(b) emeritus Professors or retired members of Teaching and Research Staff of the Department or other Departments of the same or other Higher Education Institutions,

(c) collaborating professors,

(d) appointed instructors,

(e) visiting professors or visiting researchers,



(f) researchers and specialized functional scientists of research and technological bodies under Article 13A of law 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centers and institutes domestic or foreign.

9.3.1 Research project with master's thesis

Each student completes in the fourth semester a thesis with a clearly research-oriented character, on a topic related to one of the Program's modules, which they publicly defend before a three-member examination committee (1 supervisor and 2 faculty members) appointed by the Assembly of the Medical Department, following a recommendation by the Director of the Graduate Program. The members of the Committee must have the same or a related scientific specialty to the Program's subject.

Instructors authorized to supervise theses, according to current legislation, inform the Secretariat in writing of the thesis topics they propose.

The design of each student's Master's Thesis is the responsibility of their supervisor. After collecting and processing sources or research data, the Master's Thesis is written. Its content should concern contemporary scientific topics and be compatible with the mission of the Program as defined in the introduction of these regulations. Students are encouraged, in cooperation with their supervisors, to present their research findings at conferences and publish them in scientific journals. After writing the thesis and with the supervisor's approval, candidates submit a copy to the Committee members.

The thesis presentation is publicly defended online before the Committee on a date and place set by the Department Assembly, following the Director's recommendation. After approval by the Committee, the thesis is mandatorily posted online in the Institutional Repository of the University of Thessaly (<http://ir.lib.uth.gr>) and on the Program's website.

In exceptional cases (objective inability or important reasons such as illness, absence abroad), replacement of the supervisor or Committee member is possible by decision of the Director of the Graduate Program with the Steering Committee's consent.

The defense takes place before an audience on a date/time set by the Steering Committee, either in person or online. Approval requires the agreement of two-thirds (2/3) of the Committee members. The approved thesis, after any corrections requested by the Committee, is submitted in one electronic copy to the library and posted on the Universities website. The Secretariat will not



complete the academic title issuance stages without receiving a deposit confirmation from the Library.

Final evaluation and judgment of the thesis are made by the above Committee, requiring two-thirds (2/3) agreement for approval. The thesis is graded from 0 to 10, with a minimum passing grade of 5. In case of rejection, a new evaluation date at least three months later is set by the Steering Committee. After a second rejection, the candidate is expelled from the Program.

9.3.2 Applied research project with master's thesis

Students choosing a applied research project with a master's thesis must complete it in the fourth semester. The applied research project aims to develop skills alongside acquiring practical knowledge and may take place in public or private entities such as port health authorities, Ministries of Health, Shipping, Transport, public health institutes, research institutes, international organizations, ship operator associations, shipping companies, vessels, etc.

There are no financial obligations for host organizations. No fixed list of internship positions exists; positions are determined and approved by the Steering Committee. Students submit an application for internship approval to the Secretariat, and if conditions are met, approval is granted. The applied research project is supervised by two instructors, while the hosting organization appoints one supervisor to monitor and support the student. The hosting supervisor completes two evaluation forms mid-term and at the applied research project end. At the start, the three supervisors agree on a written applied research project plan detailing goals and schedule, including logistical matters such as start/end dates, working hours, deliverables, timeline, and content of the thesis related to the applied research project.

The applied research project is graded from 0 to 10 by the two academic supervisors, based on the thesis submitted at the end of the internship and considering the host supervisor's evaluation. If the supervisors grade the applied research project and thesis below the passing grade (5.0), the student must extend the applied research project by three months or complete a research thesis. Upon a second failure, the student is expelled by decision of the Department Assembly.

Academic supervisors may require intermediate evaluation meetings via teleconference to address issues during the applied research project.

Each instructor may supervise a maximum of five theses annually.



In exceptional cases (objective inability or important reasons such as illness, absence abroad), replacement of supervisor or Committee member is possible by decision of the Program Director with Steering Committee approval.

Supervisors authorized to oversee theses must inform the Secretariat in writing of proposed thesis topics, per applicable law.

9.4 To approve the thesis, the student must publicly defend it before the three-member examination committee (1 supervisor and 2 faculty members), on a date and place set by the Department Assembly after the Director's recommendation. The thesis is graded immediately after the defense by the committee members. Approval requires two-thirds (2/3) agreement. For submission procedures: According to Law 4957/2022 Article 279, the Ethics and Deontology Research Committee may issue opinions on ethical matters concerning articles intended for publication or theses under preparation.

However, following the Rector's Council decision no. 53/23-10-2019 regarding confidentiality, personal data protection, and ethical rules for undergraduate thesis, master's thesis, and doctoral dissertations, each Department forms a three-member subcommittee on Ethics and Deontology of Research.

Regarding procedure, applicants submit: 1) examination application, 2) research proposal description, 3) research protocols, consent forms, and other necessary documents depending on the scientific field. Templates for these forms are on the University of Thessaly website: <https://2018.uth.gr/panepistimio/thesmika/themata-deontologias/ΕσωτερικήΕπιτροπή Ηθικής και Δεοντολογίας/Σχετικά Έντυπα-Έγγραφα>

After proposal review, the Department Committee issues an approval certificate for the thesis proposal. If rejected or in case of disagreement, the matter is forwarded to the University Ethics and Deontology Research Committee. Approval certificates are posted in the MODIP information system. Each student is assigned by the Steering Committee one faculty member as advisor and one as supervisor. The advisor monitors and controls the student's overall progress. Thesis supervision is allowed for instructors listed in Article 4, paragraph 2 (a) to (f) of these regulations, provided they hold a doctoral degree. The Graduate Program's competent body may also assign supervision to faculty members without teaching duties in the program.



The supervisor bears scientific responsibility for thesis completion and is appointed by the Coordinating Committee following the candidate's application including thesis title, proposed supervisor, and summary.

For thesis examination, the Steering Committee forms a three-member committee including the supervisor and at least two other doctoral faculty or researchers of ranks A, B, or C. Committee members must share the scientific specialty or related field of the Program.

9.5 Once approved by the three-member examination committee, master's thesis are submitted in one electronic copy to the library and mandatorily posted on the University of Thessaly Institutional Repository (<http://ir.lib.uth.gr>) and the respective University's website.

9.6 Regarding confidentiality, personal data protection, and ethics of master's thesis, the Medical Department has established a three-member subcommittee on Ethics and Deontology of Research.

9.7 Regarding the procedure, applicants submit: 1) examination application, 2) research proposal description, 3) research protocols, consent forms, and other necessary documents according to the scientific field. Templates are available at:

<https://www.uth.gr/panepistimio/thesmika/themata-deontologias>

9.8 After proposal review, the Department Committee issues an approval certificate for the master's thesis proposal. In case of rejection or disagreement among Committee members, the matter is forwarded to the University of Thessaly Ethics and Deontology Research Committee. Approval certificates are posted in the MODIP system.

ARTICLE 10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PLAGIARISM

10.1. The intellectual property rights of Master's Thesis, as well as any potential rights to patents or commercial exploitation of the work, are determined by relevant decisions of the Ethics Committee of the University of Thessaly (UTH).

10.2. Any form of plagiarism in module assignments, publications, or the writing of Master's Thesis, as well as the fabrication of research data and any form of unscientific conduct, is strictly prohibited. The Ethics Committee is responsible for informing postgraduate students of the Postgraduate



Program about these matters and for imposing penalties where necessary. Detailed guidelines on these issues will be issued by the University's Ethics Committee.

10.3. When writing scientific work, whether for individual modules or the Master's Thesis, students are obligated to respect the intellectual property rights of the original authors of the sources used and to strictly follow the current academic rules to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism constitutes a serious academic offense.

10.4. No Master's Thesis may be submitted for defense unless it has first been checked by the University's Central Library electronic plagiarism prevention service.

ARTICLE 11. OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

11.1. Postgraduate students are entitled to all rights, benefits, and services provided to undergraduate students, except for the right to receive free textbooks.

11.2. The institution provides support and accommodations for postgraduate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

11.3. A student may be dismissed from the Postgraduate Program, without a refund of tuition fees, by decision of the Department Assembly following a recommendation by the Steering Committee, if they:

- exceed the maximum allowed absences,
- fail one or more modules and do not successfully complete the program requirements as outlined in the Program's regulations,
- exceed the maximum duration of study as defined in this Regulation,
- violate existing regulations concerning disciplinary conduct as determined by the competent disciplinary bodies,
- fail to pay the required tuition fees,
- do not respect or comply with the decisions of the program's governing bodies and breach academic ethics,
- submit a formal request for withdrawal from the program.

11.4. In the event of dismissal, upon request, the student may receive a certificate listing the modules successfully completed.

11.5. At the end of each semester, postgraduate students are required to evaluate the modules and instructors (see Article 18).



11.6. For their participation in the MSc, postgraduate students are required to pay tuition fees amounting to €6,000 for the entire duration of the program. These fees are to be paid in equal installments prior to the beginning of each semester.

ARTICLE 12. TUITION FEE EXEMPTION

12.1. Students enrolled in the Postgraduate Program are exempt from tuition fees if they meet the financial or social criteria and the academic excellence requirements from their undergraduate studies, in accordance with current legislation. This exemption is granted exclusively for attendance in *one (1)* postgraduate program organized by a public Higher Education Institution in Greece. The total number of students who may study free of charge may not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the total number of enrolled students per academic year. If the calculation of eligible students for exemption results in a decimal, it is rounded to the nearest whole number. If the number of applicants eligible for exemption exceeds the set percentage, selection is made in descending order of ranking until the quota is filled.

12.2. Applications for exemption from tuition fees must be submitted after the completion of the admission process and within a time frame set by the MSc itself.

12.3. Students receiving a scholarship from another source or who are citizens of non-EU countries are not eligible for exemption.

12.4. The evaluation of criteria for fee exemption is conducted by the Department Assembly, which issues a reasoned decision either approving or rejecting the application.

12.5. If current legislation establishes an age limit, for the purposes of good governance and equal treatment, the student's date of birth shall be considered as December 31 of the year of birth.

ARTICLE 13. SCHOLARSHIPS.

Scholarships for academic excellence are awarded to postgraduate students as follows:

Award of Excellence Scholarships valued at €6,000.00.

A scholarship will not be granted if the postgraduate student is already receiving a scholarship from another source.



Scholarships are not awarded to students who were admitted to the MSc without the obligation to pay tuition fees.

ARTICLE 14. INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING OF THE MSc PROGRAM

14.1. In the proposed MSc program, teaching will be conducted **entirely via distance learning**, according to current legislation. Distance learning will contribute to the uninterrupted delivery of modules, given that the MSc's subject matter can be organized through **synchronous or asynchronous lectures** and does not include laboratory exercises or other learning methods requiring physical presence.

The University of Thessaly has an existing, fully functional integrated distance learning system for organizing MSc programs using both synchronous and asynchronous methods. For synchronous education, the **Office 365 A1 for students/faculty** (a leased system) is available, while for asynchronous education the locally hosted **eClass system** is provided, developed and maintained by the Academic Network GUnet. These two systems are distinct, but their combined use ensures a complete distance learning system.

Specifically, the **MS Teams application**, part of the synchronous distance learning system, supports teleconferencing and the creation of virtual classrooms. It provides real-time audio and visual communication with appropriate equipment (computers, cameras, microphones, speakers, headphones, high-speed networking) so that instructors and students can communicate vocally and visually even when located in different places. It also supports sharing of applications and documents, use of an electronic whiteboard, and access to chat rooms for interaction between instructors and students, as well as among students for collaboration, exchange of views, and joint assignments.

The asynchronous distance learning system **eClass** is a Learning Management System (LMS) which includes a Learning Content Management System (LCMS) and offers authoring tools for course development and content creation. Educational materials such as notes, presentations, exercises with feedback, sample solutions, as well as multimedia content (recorded lectures, respecting data protection laws), simulations, and interactive educational material based on distance learning methodology can be uploaded by course. All educational material is provided exclusively for student educational use and is protected by intellectual property laws in force.



The University of Thessaly's integrated distance learning environment is in Greek, but is fully supported in English as well. The system is fully accessible to persons with disabilities and students with special educational needs.

The MSc teaching staff possess digital skills and fully meet the educational requirements of distance learning. In particular, instructors are familiar with digital tools and platforms such as Moodle and eClass, as well as with digital communication and its use in teaching and communication with students.

14.2. Administrative and secretarial support for the MSc is provided by staff from the Department of Medicine with the necessary experience and responsibility, with their consent, and their remuneration is covered by the MSc's budget. The administrative personnel involved include: Programme Manager, Administrative and Financial Officer, and IT Manager of the integrated distance learning system.

The IT Manager of the distance learning system supports instructors and students in using the system and is supported by the University of Thessaly's Teaching and Learning Support Center.

Personnel undertaking secretarial support should have experience in digital transformation practices.

14.3. Funding for the MSc program may come from:

- a) tuition fees,
- b) donations, sponsorships, and various financial aids,
- c) bequests,
- d) resources from research projects or programs, research activities of postgraduate programs,
- e) any other legal source.

Tuition fees are paid by the student or by a third party (individual or legal entity) on behalf of the student.

14.4. The MSc program's financial resources are managed by the University of Thessaly's Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE).

14.5. The MSc program's resources are allocated as follows:

- a) An amount equal to **30%** of the total revenue from tuition fees is withheld by ELKE. This amount includes the retention fee for ELKE's financial management of MSc programs. By decision of the



Administrative Council, taken by the end of March each year, it is decided whether the remaining amount after the ELKE retention is transferred to the regular budget or allocated for projects/programs via ELKE to primarily cover the needs of tuition-free MSc programs and the research, educational, and operational needs of the University. From donations, sponsorships, bequests, and resources from research projects or programs, ELKE withholds **12%**.

b) The remaining revenue is allocated to the operational expenses of the program.

ARTICLE 15. ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHING / INSTRUCTORS IN THE MSc PROGRAM

15.1. The teaching duties in the MSc program are assigned by decision of the Department Assembly, following the recommendation of the MSc Coordinating Committee, to the following categories of instructors:

- a) Members of the Teaching and Research Staff (Δ.Ε.Π.), Special Educational Staff (Ε.Ε.Π.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (Ε.ΔΙ.Π.), and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (Ε.Τ.Ε.Π.) of the Department or other Departments of the same or another Higher Education Institution (Α.Ε.Ι.) or Higher Military Educational Institution (Α.Σ.Ε.Ι.), with additional employment beyond their statutory obligations, if the MSc charges tuition fees.
- b) Emeritus Professors or retired members of the Teaching and Research Staff of the Department or other Departments of the same or another Higher Education Institution.
- c) Collaborating professors.
- d) Adjunct lecturers.
- e) Visiting professors or visiting researchers.
- f) Researchers and specialized functional scientists of research and technological organizations under Article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (Α' 258) or other research centers and institutes, domestic or foreign.
- g) Scientists of recognized prestige, possessing specialized knowledge and relevant experience in the MSc's subject area.

By decision of the Department Assembly, auxiliary teaching duties may be assigned to PhD candidates of the Department or School, under the supervision of an MSc instructor.



15.2. The instructors' obligations include, among others, the module or lecture description, preparation and teaching of the module or lectures, provision of relevant bibliography and a list of assignments, the method of module assessment, and supervision of the thesis. They are also obliged to submit grade lists on time to the Secretariat and maintain communication with the postgraduate students. The Module Coordinator is responsible for organizing the module to provide the best possible teaching. If teaching is conducted with the assistance of other experts, the Coordinator is responsible for:

- Informing co-instructors about the module program and content.
- Ensuring timely availability of all teaching materials (presentations, bibliography, evaluation materials).
- Being present during teaching, acting as coordinator.
- Suggesting improvements to co-instructors regarding their teaching methods.
- Assisting co-instructors in organizing materials adapted to the postgraduate students' level and background.

15.3. Members of the Teaching and Research Staff, Special Educational Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff, and Special Technical Laboratory Staff may work in MSc programs only if they fulfill their minimum teaching obligations. It is not permitted for members of the Teaching and Research Staff to be employed exclusively in the MSc programs of their Department or School.

15.4. All categories of instructors in the MSc may be paid exclusively from the MSc's resources. Payment or other benefits from the state budget or public investment programs are not permitted. Specifically, members of the Teaching and Research Staff may receive additional remuneration for work provided to the MSc program if they:

- Provide teaching duties: a) independent teaching of compulsory and elective module, b) conduct of laboratories and lab exercises, c) clinical work and clinical exercises for student teaching.
- Their teaching workload in first and second cycle programs, secondary specialization, or short-duration programs of their Department or other Departments averages at least six



(6) hours per week during the academic year. Teaching work remunerated additionally in second cycle programs, as well as foreign-language programs, winter and summer schools, is not counted.

The relevant MSc authority decides the amount of remuneration for each instructor. Specifically, Teaching and Research Staff who fulfill their minimum statutory obligations, as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 155 of Law 4957/2022, may receive additional remuneration for MSc work. The same applies proportionally to members of the Special Educational Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff, and Special Technical Laboratory Staff fulfilling their minimum statutory obligations.

Details regarding the conclusion of payment contracts for Teaching and Research Staff members are set by the Research Committee.

15.5. The assignment of teaching duties for the MSc program is made by decision of the Department Assembly before the start of the academic year. By a reasoned decision of the Assembly, teaching assignments may be modified during the academic year.

ARTICLE 16. AWARDING OF THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

16.1. The student completes their studies for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma by fulfilling the minimum number of modules and credit units required for the MSc diploma, as well as the successful completion of the postgraduate thesis. The Assembly certifies the completion of studies in order for the Postgraduate Diploma to be granted. To participate in the graduation ceremony, the student must have successfully completed the study program as provided in the Curriculum, have returned the Academic ID card, have no outstanding library obligations, and have settled any financial obligations.

16.2. Upon completion of the above process, a certificate of study completion is issued to the postgraduate student, their student status is terminated, and their participation in the University's governing bodies ceases.

16.3. The Department Secretariat does not finalize the issuance of the academic degree unless it receives a certificate of thesis submission from the institution's Library. Under the responsibility



of the central library of the University of Thessaly, all theses are published in the institutional repository of the University: <http://ir.lib.uth.gr>.

16.4. The format of the MSc diploma by type of postgraduate program is common for all Departments and Schools of the University of Thessaly and is included in the Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Regulations of the Institution.

16.5. The MSc program awards the Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) with the following titles:

- (1) Public Health and Epidemiology: Public Health and Applied Epidemiology or
- (2) Public Health and Epidemiology: Public Health and Maritime Transport.

ARTICLE 17. GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony is not a formal prerequisite for the successful completion of studies, but it is a necessary condition for the issuance of the official diploma document. The ceremony is organized by the respective Dean's Office of the School to which the MSc program belongs, in the presence of the Dean of the School, the Head of the Department, and the Director of the MSc program.

In exceptional cases (studies, residence or work abroad, health reasons, etc.), postgraduate students who have successfully completed the MSc program may request an exemption from the graduation ceremony obligation from the Department Secretariat. Such exemption is granted by the Head of the Department.

ARTICLE 18. EVALUATION OF THE MSc PROGRAM

18.1. Evaluation by the National Authority for Higher Education.

The MSc program is evaluated within the framework of the periodic evaluation/certification of the Department by the National Authority for Higher Education. This evaluation includes the overall assessment of the work carried out by each MSc program, the degree of achievement of the objectives set at its establishment, its viability, the employment absorption of graduates in the labor market, its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the justification for the continuation of its operation, as well as other data related to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education. If, during the evaluation stage, the



MSc program is found not to meet the conditions for its continuation, its operation will be completed with the graduation of already enrolled students according to the founding decision and the postgraduate and doctoral programs regulations.

18.2. Internal Evaluation.

The internal evaluation of the MSc programs is carried out annually by the Quality Assurance Unit of the Institution. According to the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System, to optimize the teaching work and study program, all MSc programs at the University of Thessaly conduct an evaluation at the end of each semester of each module and instructor by the postgraduate students.

ARTICLE 19. DURATION OF THE MSc PROGRAM OPERATION

The MSc program will operate until the academic year 2029-2030, provided it meets the criteria of internal and external evaluation according to the current legislation.

ARTICLE 20. MSc PROGRAM WEBSITE

The official website of the MSc program – <https://mscpublichealthmaritime.med.uth.gr/> – is continuously updated and contains all information and announcements of the Program and serves as the official information platform for students.

ARTICLE 21. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Currently enrolled students shall complete their studies according to this Regulation. For any matters not defined by the current legislation, the Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Regulations of the University of Thessaly, or this Regulation, the competent authorities of the MSc program shall decide.