



ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME
**'ADVANCED CARDIOPULMONARY PRACTICE –
CARDIOVASCULAR PERFUSION SCIENCE'**

REGULATION OF STUDIES

Thessaloniki, June 2026

Article 1

Subject-Purpose of the Postgraduate Programme

The School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, has organised and has been running, since the 2024–2025 academic year, a Postgraduate Programme entitled ‘Advanced Cardiopulmonary Practice – Cardiovascular Perfusion Science (Master of Science in Advanced Cardiopulmonary Practice – Cardiovascular Perfusion Science)’.

The aim of the postgraduate programme is the study, research and the provision of postgraduate education in the applied physiology of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, as well as in technologies related to extracorporeal circulation and the equipment used during cardiac surgery. The curriculum does not replace the specialisation programme for healthcare professionals in the relevant field, but aims to provide all the relevant theoretical knowledge, ranging from the basic sciences to patient management guidelines and the specialisms providing complementary therapies.

The aim of the Postgraduate Programme is to educate postgraduate students in contemporary scientific developments and to provide a high standard of theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of advanced cardiopulmonary applications and extracorporeal circulation techniques.

The main objectives of the Postgraduate Programme are as follows:

- To provide postgraduate academic education and to produce high-calibre scientific personnel in the field of applied physiology of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, as well as in the application of modern techniques for supporting the heart and lungs.
- Furthermore, the Postgraduate Programme enables graduates to proceed to obtain the professional title of Extracorporeal Circulation Technician, in accordance with the relevant legislation (B’ 4972/2018).

The Postgraduate Programme is recognised by the relevant European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (EBCP).

- The guiding philosophy of the Postgraduate Programme is, on the one hand, to provide postgraduate students with a solid foundation, up-to-date knowledge,

methods and fundamental principles that will enable them to pursue lifelong learning, improve and foster a spirit of innovation through the application of modern technologies; and, on the other hand, to cultivate in them the critical and creative skills required for a socially and ethically responsible professional practice. An integral part of the educational process is the observation of clinical cases by postgraduate students.

- Obligation of all those involved in the operation of the Postgraduate Programme This involves ensuring the quality and continuous improvement of every aspect of the programme, the educational process and research, and promoting collaboration with related programmes and centres both in Greece and abroad.

- To train healthcare professionals with the skills required for successful careers in the private, public and academic sectors.

- To contribute to the staffing of public and private sector health structures and services both in Greece and abroad.

The learning outcomes and qualifications of those who successfully complete the Postgraduate Programme are as follows:

- Knowledge: They possess specialised knowledge, some of which is cutting-edge in a field of work or study and forms the basis for original thinking. They possess a critical awareness of knowledge issues within a field and its interconnection with other fields.

- Skills: They possess specialised problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and processes and to integrate knowledge from different fields.

- Competences: They are able to manage and transform work or study environments that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches. They take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for evaluating the performance of teams.

Article 2

Postgraduate Diploma Awarded

The Postgraduate Programme awards a Master's degree entitled 'Advanced Cardiopulmonary Applications – Extracorporeal Circulation Techniques' Successful completion of the Postgraduate Programme leads to level seven (7) of the National and European Qualifications Framework in accordance with Article 47 of Law 4763/2020 (A' 254).

Article 3

Bodies of the Postgraduate Programme

The bodies responsible for the administration, organisation and operation of the Postgraduate Programme are:

1. The University Senate, which is responsible for academic, administrative and organisational matters relating to the Postgraduate Study Programmes, and exercises any powers concerning the Postgraduate Study Programmes that are not assigned by law to other bodies.
2. The Postgraduate Studies Committee, which is established by a decision of the Senate and comprises the relevant Vice-Chancellor, who acts as Chair, as well as one (1) member of the Academic and Research Staff (D.E.P.) from each School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and one (1) member drawn from the categories of Special Educational Staff (E.E.P.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (E.D.I.P.) and Specialised Technical Laboratory Staff (E.T.E.P.) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The members of the Committee have experience in organising and participating in postgraduate programmes. The Committee's term of office is two (2) academic years.
3. The School Assembly. The School Assembly has the following responsibilities:
 - a. to set up Committees to assess applications from prospective postgraduate students and to approve their enrolment in the Postgraduate Programme,
 - b. assigns teaching duties to the programme's teaching staff,
 - c. makes recommendations to the Senate regarding amendments to the decision establishing the Postgraduate Programme, as well as the extension of the Programme's duration,
 - d. establishes examination boards to assess the dissertations of postgraduate students and appoints a supervisor for each dissertation,

- e. certifies the successful completion of the programme, with a view to awarding the Master's degree,
- f. approves the annual report of the Postgraduate Programme, following a recommendation by the Coordinating Committee (CC).

Following a decision by the School Assembly regarding these Operating Regulations of the Postgraduate Programme, the responsibilities set out in points (a) and (d) may be

be delegated to the Postgraduate Programme's Coordinating Committee.

IV. The Coordinating Committee (SC) of the Postgraduate Programme, which comprises the Director of the Postgraduate Programme and four (4) members of the School's academic staff whose fields of expertise are relevant to those of the Postgraduate Programme and who undertake teaching duties within the Postgraduate Programme. The members of the Executive Committee are appointed by a decision of the School Assembly.

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are:

- a. to draw up the initial annual budget for the Postgraduate Programme and any amendments thereto, provided that the Postgraduate Programme has resources in accordance with Article 84 of Law 4957/2022,
and to recommend its approval to the Special Research Funds Account (ELKE), with the exception of the quarterly revisions to the annual budgets referred to in (b) of paragraph 3 of Article 239 of Law 4957/2022,
- b. prepares the financial statement of the Postgraduate Programme and recommends its approval to the School Assembly,
- c. approves expenditure by the Postgraduate Programme and may delegate this authority to the Director of the Postgraduate Programme,
- d. approves the award of scholarships, whether merit-based or not, in accordance with the provisions of the decision establishing the Postgraduate Programme and the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral Programmes of Study,
- e. makes recommendations to the School Assembly regarding the allocation of teaching duties, as well as the assignment of teaching duties to the categories of teaching staff set out in Article 83 of Law 4957/2022,
- f. makes recommendations to the School Assembly regarding the invitation of Visiting Professors to meet the teaching needs of the Postgraduate Programme,

g. draws up a draft amendment to the curriculum, which it submits to the School Assembly,

h. makes recommendations to the School Assembly regarding the redistribution of modules across the academic semesters, as well as matters relating to the qualitative improvement of the curriculum.

V. The Director of the Postgraduate Programme, who is selected from among the School's academic staff, with priority given to Professors or Associate Professors, and is appointed by

a decision of the School Assembly for a two-year term, renewable indefinitely, and is not entitled to additional remuneration for their administrative duties.

The Director has the powers provided for in Article 82(4) of Law 4957/2022 and any others specified in the decision establishing the Postgraduate Programme.

a. chairs the Executive Committee, draws up the agenda and convenes its meetings;

b. submits matters concerning the organisation and operation of the Postgraduate Programme to the School Assembly,

c. submits proposals to the Executive Committee and the other bodies of the Postgraduate Programme and the Higher Education Institution on matters relating to the effective operation of the Postgraduate Programme,

d. acts as the Academic Director of the programme in accordance with Article 234 of Law 4957/2022 and exercises the corresponding powers,

e. monitors the implementation of decisions taken by the bodies of the Postgraduate Programme and the Internal Regulations for postgraduate and doctoral programmes, as well as the implementation of the Postgraduate Programme's budget.

The Director of the Postgraduate Programme, as well as the members of the Executive Committee, are not entitled to any remuneration or compensation for the performance of the duties assigned to them in connection with the fulfilment of their responsibilities.

Administrative support for the Postgraduate Programme is provided by the School of Medicine. The Programme Secretariat is responsible for maintaining the files and marks of postgraduate students. It also keeps postgraduate students informed on matters relating to the organisation and operation of the Programme. Finally, it is responsible for preparing the items to be submitted to the School Assembly.

Individuals with a university education and previous experience in postgraduate study programmes will assist with the administrative support for the Postgraduate Programme; amongst other duties, they will be responsible for student enrolments, maintaining grade records, conducting staff appraisals, keeping attendance registers, and issuing degrees, certificates and attestations. Furthermore, the Secretariat handles day-to-day matters relating to teaching staff, postgraduate students and the programme, liaises with the various departments, and is responsible for public relations and the promotion of the programme.

Article 4

Categories of Candidates for the Postgraduate Programme

Admission to the Postgraduate Programme is open to holders of first-cycle degrees from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Greece and abroad, and in particular to graduates of Schools of Health Sciences and Polytechnic Schools, Schools of Biological and Physical Sciences, and Nursing from domestic university departments or equivalent recognised departments abroad, as well as graduates of Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) (Nursing, Medical Laboratories).

Final-year students of the above-mentioned departments may also apply for the Postgraduate Programme by submitting a Certificate of Completion of Studies.

The recognition of foreign qualifications for admission to a postgraduate programme is carried out by the Academic Departments.

Even if the qualification has been recognised as equivalent by the Interdisciplinary Organisation for the Recognition of Academic Qualifications and Information (DOATAP), applicants are not required to submit this certificate. If equivalence is provided, the procedure is again carried out by the School.

The academic departments are responsible solely for the academic recognition of qualifications and not for their equivalence. Responsibility for the equivalence of qualifications remains with DOATAP.

Applicants who have already applied for or are currently enrolled in postgraduate programmes, provided they submit an individual recognition certificate from DOATAP, are exempt from this obligation, and their application or continuation of studies will be assessed in accordance with the criteria of the new law.

Procedure for verifying the general format of a first-cycle degree:

1. Authentication is carried out:

1.1. by means of a Hague Apostille,

1.2. by the submission of the degree certificate and simultaneous notification of the foreign university by the applicant. This notification must be accompanied by an official email from the foreign university, enabling the Secretariat of the relevant Academic Department to verify the authenticity,

2. where the specialisation conferred by the degree is required, verification is carried out by checking that it is stated on the degree certificate and the detailed transcript or the Diploma Supplement,

3. where we are interested in the grade, we use the equivalence table in accordance with the procedure published by DOATAP,

4. Academic recognition applies solely to this specific procedure; it is formalised by a decision of the School Assembly and is not issued to the applicant. If the applicant wishes to obtain a relevant certificate, they must apply to DOATAP for equivalence.

Article 5

Number of Places, Criteria and Selection Procedure

The maximum number of students to be admitted each year is set at thirty (30) postgraduate students. The Postgraduate Programme cannot operate with fewer than seven (7) postgraduate students.

Following a decision by the School Assembly, the Postgraduate Programme announces places through an open selection process. In particular, the call for

applications sets out the admission requirements, the number of places available, the categories of candidates, the admission procedure, the selection criteria, etc., the deadlines for submitting applications, and the supporting documents required.

The call for applications for postgraduate students is published on the School's website. Applications, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents, must be submitted to the School's Secretariat, either in hard copy or electronically.

The supporting documents that applicants must submit are as follows:

I. Application form for the Postgraduate Programme

II. A copy of a degree or degrees from a Greek university (A.E.I.) or Technical Educational Institute (T.E.I.) in a relevant subject area, obtained either in Greece or abroad.

III. Transcript of academic records showing detailed marks for all undergraduate courses, including the degree classification.

IV. A curriculum vitae detailing the candidate's academic background, teaching and/or professional experience, and academic and social activities.

V. A certificate attesting to proficiency in at least one of the following foreign languages: English, Italian, French, German or Spanish. The following is required: (a) proof of language proficiency at level B2 (good knowledge) or higher, in accordance with the Council of Europe's framework, which is accepted by the ASEP; or (b) TOEFL (English) with a score of at least 87 on the Internet-based test; or c) a school-leaving certificate equivalent to that awarded by Greek secondary schools, provided it was obtained following at least six (6) years of study abroad, or a degree, undergraduate or postgraduate diploma, or a doctoral degree from any recognised foreign higher education institution; or d) a degree in Foreign Languages and Literature or a degree in Foreign Languages , Translation and Interpreting from a Greek institution, or an equivalent and recognised degree from a foreign institution. For foreign nationals who do not hold a Greek-language education qualification, a certificate of proficiency in Greek is also required

VI. Where the candidate is proficient in a second foreign language, the relevant certificate must also be submitted.

If the candidate does not hold a foreign language qualification, they will be assessed orally by the Selection Committee on their ability to understand and write in a foreign language.

VII. Supporting documents relating to any research and writing activities, participation in student mobility programmes, and professional experience relevant to the field of the Postgraduate Programme.

VIII. A photocopy of the applicant's identity card.

In addition to the above supporting documents, candidates may submit the following, if available:

- Letters of recommendation from academic staff, employers or research supervisors.
- A postgraduate degree or degrees from a Greek university or an equivalent institution abroad.
- A doctoral degree from a Greek university or an equivalent institution abroad.
- Supporting documents relating to any research and publishing activities, participation in student mobility programmes and relevant professional experience.

The above supporting documents must be submitted either as certified copies or as simple photocopies.

The method of assessment (scoring) of the selection criteria falls within the remit of the Selection Committee, subject to final approval by the School Assembly.

The selection process for candidates, following a decision by the Selection Committee, is carried out by a competent three-member Selection and Examination Committee comprising academic staff who have

undertaken postgraduate research.

The Committee draws up a complete list of all candidates and, following the relevant checks, rejects those who do not meet the minimum criteria set by the School and invites to an interview the shortlisted candidates who have met the prerequisites.

The scoring of candidates for admission to the Postgraduate Programme is calculated as follows:

Selection is based on the total number of points resulting from the combined assessment of the criteria, as follows:

1) Overall degree mark, multiplied by a factor of 1 [up to a maximum of ten (10) points].

2) Previous research activity or participation in further vocational training, retraining or specialisation programmes in a relevant field [maximum of five (5) points, one (1) point per research project].

3) Any relevant professional experience, or a focus on working in the scientific field of extracorporeal circulation techniques and extracorporeal device technology [from one to ten (1–10) marks, 1 mark per semester of employment].

4) Proficiency in a second foreign language at least at B2 level [5 marks per language, up to a maximum of ten (10) marks].

5) Computer skills [ten (10) marks].

6) The mark for the oral interview is multiplied by a factor of 3.5 [up to a maximum of thirty-five (35) marks].

The selection of successful candidates is carried out by the Three-Member Selection and Examination Committee, and the list of successful candidates is ratified by the School Assembly.

In the event of a tie, this is resolved on the basis of the mark awarded in the oral interview.

The candidate selection process is completed by 31 October.

Appeals against the candidate selection process may be lodged within five (5) days of the announcement of the results

Personal interview

During the interview, candidates are assessed on the personality traits they demonstrate, as well as on the depth of their knowledge based on their professional and research experience (single criterion).

In the event that any places remain unfilled, these are filled until the stipulated admission quota is exhausted (in accordance with the provisions of the call for applications), either by ranking candidates as successful in descending order of their total marks, provided these are at least thirty (30) marks, or by issuing a supplementary call for applications to fill the vacant places.

The final list of successful candidates and any reserve candidates, once approved by the School Assembly, is published on the School's website.

Should a candidate fail to enrol within the specified deadline, this shall be deemed a refusal to accept the place, and the place shall be filled by the next successful candidate in order of merit.

Article 6

Duration and Conditions of Study

Duration

The duration of study on the Postgraduate Programme leading to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma (M.Sc.) is set at a minimum of three (3) semesters, which includes the time required for the preparation and assessment of the postgraduate dissertation.

The maximum permitted duration for completion of the programme is set at five (5) semesters by decision of the School Assembly.

Postgraduate students are permitted to study on a part-time basis, the duration of which may not exceed twice the standard duration of full-time study. Part-time study is available to those who can demonstrate that they work at least twenty (20) hours per week, and to non-working postgraduate students who are unable to meet the minimum requirements of the 'full-time' study, and for specific, exceptionally serious cases (such as illness, heavy workload, serious family circumstances, military service, or force majeure), on which the School Assembly decides.

Furthermore, postgraduate students who have not exceeded the standard duration of study may, upon submission of a relevant application, be granted a suspension of studies, which may not exceed two (2) consecutive semesters. During the suspension, the postgraduate student loses their student status. The period of suspension is not counted towards the maximum duration of standard study. Upon resuming their studies, postgraduate students return to standard student status with all the rights and obligations provided for by the Postgraduate Programme.

Furthermore, upon submission of a reasoned application prior to the completion of the standard duration of study, a postgraduate student may apply for an extension of their studies, for up to two (2) semesters, to enable them to complete their studies or write their postgraduate dissertation. Upon expiry of the extension, the postgraduate student is removed from the postgraduate programme by decision of the School Assembly.

Applications by postgraduate students for part-time study or a leave of absence must be submitted before the start of the academic semesters.

With regard to resits for outstanding modules, a postgraduate student is entitled to sit a resit for a module up to three (3) times.

Regarding student expulsion [grounds for expulsion: a) insufficient progress by the postgraduate student (as evidenced by non-participation in the educational process: attendance, examinations), (b) failure to fulfil other obligations set out in the Regulations, c) conduct that violates academic ethics, such as plagiarism, and d) a request by the postgraduate student themselves), the School Assembly shall decide

following a proposal from the Coordinating Committee, which determines the grounds for expulsion.

Postgraduate students enrol in and participate in the Postgraduate Programme subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Programme's Regulations. Postgraduate students are entitled to all the rights, benefits and facilities provided for undergraduate students, with the exception of the right to receive free course textbooks. The School provides support for postgraduate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

The Postgraduate Programme accepts up to five (5) individuals as 'visiting participants' (auditors) who pay tuition fees, meet the requirements of Article 4 and wish to attend up to four (4) individual modules (subject to agreement with the lecturers) without having been admitted to the Postgraduate Programme. 'Visiting participants' do not receive a Master's degree, but a certificate of attendance, provided they have fulfilled the obligations arising from the requirements of each module.

The tuition fees applicable to them are four hundred euros (€400.00) for each individual module.

Tuition Fees

The Postgraduate Programme stipulates tuition fees set at three thousand euros (€3,000.00) for each cycle of study. These fees are payable by the student themselves (or by a third party, whether a natural or legal person, on the student's behalf) into the ELKE account.

Tuition fees are paid into the Special Research Funds Account of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Failure to meet financial obligations constitutes sufficient grounds for the non-award of the degree or even expulsion from the Postgraduate Programme.

The funding for the Postgraduate Programme

are derived from:

- tuition fees,
- donations, grants and financial support of any kind,
- bequests,
- funds from research projects or programmes, in particular those of the European Union,
- the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's own resources,
- any other lawful source.

Tuition fees shall be paid in three (3) equal instalments: the first upon enrolment, the second before the start of the second (B) semester and the third before the start of the third (C) semester, into a bank account held for this purpose in the Special Research Funds Account of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

A postgraduate student's application for a refund of tuition fees for one semester is permitted only if they cite and provide sufficient evidence of an exceptionally serious reason for discontinuing their studies, and their application must be submitted to the Postgraduate Studies Programme no later than ten (10) days after the start of the semester's courses.

Postgraduate students who meet the criterion of academic excellence during their first cycle of studies are entitled to free tuition on the basis of financial or social criteria, which corresponds, as a minimum, to a mark of seven and a half out of ten (7.5/10) or higher. The specific terms and conditions governing the right to free tuition on postgraduate programmes are set out in the applicable legislation, as well as in the decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sport. The number of students exempt from fees must not exceed thirty per cent (30 per cent) of the total number of students admitted to the postgraduate programme, and this applies to enrolment in a single postgraduate programme. If the number of eligible students exceeds the above percentage, they are selected in order of ranking, starting with those with the lowest income.

The application for exemption from tuition fees is submitted by the applicant to the School following the completion of the student selection process for the postgraduate programme. Exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees is granted exclusively for enrolment in one (1) postgraduate programme organised by a higher education institution in Greece.

Article 7

Rights and Obligations of Students

Postgraduate students enrol in and participate in the Postgraduate Programme subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Programme's Regulations. Postgraduate students are entitled to all the rights, benefits and facilities provided for undergraduate students, with the exception of the right to receive free course textbooks. The School is obliged to provide support to postgraduate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

Postgraduate students admitted to the Postgraduate Programme are required to:

1. To attend all courses of the Postgraduate Programme without fail. Attendance at lectures and seminars is compulsory. Exceptions are permitted only for serious, justified reasons. No more than three (3) absences are permitted per course.
2. To participate in all teaching and research activities.
3. To submit their course registration forms on time each semester.
4. To submit the assignments required for each course within the specified deadlines.
5. To sit the examinations.
6. To submit to the Registry, together with their postgraduate dissertation for assessment, a sworn statement confirming that it does not contain any instances of plagiarism.
7. Pay their tuition fees within the specified deadlines.

8. To have settled all their financial obligations, as well as any other obligations to the Institution, prior to the graduation ceremony. Otherwise, they will not be entitled to take the oath and/or receive their postgraduate degree certificate.

9. Where they have been awarded a scholarship, they must undertake work in return, where this is required (tutoring, assisting with library and research work, and, where necessary, assisting with University services).

10. It is possible to enrol concurrently in an undergraduate programme and a postgraduate programme, or in two (2) postgraduate programmes within the same or a different School, at the same or a different higher education institution.

11. Students must respect and comply with the decisions of the Postgraduate Programme's governing bodies, as well as with academic ethics. Failure to comply with the above, without a substantiated justification, may result in failure of a module or expulsion from the programme.

Failure to comply with all of the above without a serious and substantiated reason constitutes grounds for the postgraduate student's expulsion from the programme.

Article 8

Curriculum – Assessment

The Postgraduate Programme is structured over three (3) semesters. In the first (A') semester, six (6) compulsory modules are taught, each worth four (4) ECTS credits, alongside Clinical Case Studies I, worth six (6) ECTS credits.

In the second (B) semester, six (6) compulsory modules are taught, each worth four (4) ECTS credits, alongside clinical case studies II, worth six (6) ECTS credits.

In the third (C) semester, a postgraduate dissertation worth thirty (30) ECTS is undertaken, and the clinical placements are completed.

Clinical placements I and II are compulsory; they take place during the first and second semesters and are completed in the third semester.

Postgraduate students are required to choose one of the two (2) clinical case observation programmes:

A) Clinical case observation in advanced cardiopulmonary support, during which they are required to observe for at least eighty (80) hours of the operations of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic at the University General Hospital of Thessaloniki (UGHTh) 'ACHEPA' (B'1459/2020), which collaborates with the Postgraduate Programme, as well as to observe at least twenty (20) cardiac operations, which are recorded for each student in a special database (logbook).

B) Observation of clinical cases involving extracorporeal circulation techniques, which includes observing at least one hundred (100) surgical procedures using extracorporeal circulation at the Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic of the AHEPA University Hospital 'ACHEPA', which are recorded for each student in a dedicated database (logbook).

Attendance at lectures by postgraduate students is compulsory.

The Postgraduate Programme follows a blended learning approach, which combines face-to-face teaching with distance learning. Twenty-five per cent (25%) of the courses will be delivered through face-to-face attendance, whilst seventy-five per cent (75%) will be delivered using modern distance learning methods.

The official language of instruction for the programme is Greek. The language in which the postgraduate dissertation is to be written is Greek (and/or English in justified cases).

First Semester [Total ECTS: thirty (30)] Six (6) compulsory modules and clinical placement I				
No.	Course title	Course (compulsory/optional)	Distance Distance	ECTS
1	Medical Physics	Y	75%	4
2	Medical Biochemistry	Y	75%	4
3	Applied Anatomy	Y	75%	4

4	Cardiac Surgery I	Y	75%	4
5	Perfusion Technology I	Y	75%	4
6	Physiology and Pathophysiology	Y	75%	4
7	Clinical Case Studies I	Y	75%	6

Second Semester [Total ECTS: thirty (30)] Six (6) compulsory modules and observation of clinical cases II				
No.	Course title	Course (compulsory/optional)	Distance Distance	ECTS
1	Pulmonology	Y	75%	4
2	Medical Informatics – Biostatistics	Y	75%	4
3	Cardiology	Y	75%	4
4	Cardiac Surgery II	Y	75%	4
5	Perfusion Technology II	Y	75%	4
6	Clinical Pharmacology – Anaesthesiology	Y	75%	4
7	Clinical Case Studies II	Y	75%	6

Third Semester [Total ECTS: thirty (30)] Postgraduate Dissertation and completion of clinical case studies				
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No.	Course title	Course (compulsory/optional)	Teaching hours	ECTS
1	Postgraduate Dissertation and completion of clinical case studies	Y		30

B) Assessment of knowledge – Student evaluation

Assessment for individual modules takes place at the end of each semester through written or oral examinations, or through the submission of assignments.

The method of assessment is determined by the lecturer for each course at the start of the academic semester. The weighting of participation in other educational activities (such as laboratory exercises, assignments and seminars where required), as well as the student's participation during lectures, is determined in the final mark for each course individually, following a recommendation by the lecturer of each module and subject to approval by the Co-ordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Programme.

The grading scale for assessing the performance of postgraduate students ranges from zero (0) to ten (10), as follows:

Distinction (8.5 to 10)

Very Good (6.5 to 8.5, excluding 8.5)

Good (6 to 6.5, excluding 6.5)

A pass mark is six (6) or above.

Attendance at lectures or any other educational activity is compulsory. A postgraduate student is deemed to have attended a course (and is therefore entitled to sit the examinations) only if they have attended at least 77 per cent of the course's contact hours. Otherwise, the postgraduate student is required to retake the course in the following academic year.

Should a postgraduate student's absence rate exceed 50 per cent across all courses, the matter of their expulsion is raised. This matter is examined by the Academic Committee, which submits its opinion to the School Assembly.

In cases of emergency or force majeure, examinations may be conducted using electronic means, provided that the integrity of the assessment process is ensured.

In cases of illness, it is recommended that the lecturer accommodate the student in whatever way they deem appropriate (e.g. an oral or distance examination).

If a postgraduate student fails the examination for a course or courses three times and is deemed not to have successfully completed the programme, they shall be examined, upon their request, by a three-member committee of academic staff from the School, who specialise in the same or a related subject area to the course being examined and are appointed by the School Assembly. The lecturer responsible for the examination is excluded from the committee.

The mark for the Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) is derived from the weighted average of the modules in the Postgraduate Programme and the Postgraduate Dissertation (weighting is based on the credit units of the modules and the Master's Thesis) and is calculated, to two decimal places, as follows:

The mark for each course and the Master's Thesis (where applicable) is multiplied by the corresponding number of credit points (ECTS), and the sum of the products is divided by the minimum number of credit points required to obtain the Master's degree.

The mathematical formula is as follows:

Master's Degree Mark = (Mark for Course 1 × ECTS for Course 1 + Mark for Course 2 × ECTS for Course 2 + ... + Mark for Master's Thesis × ECTS for Master's Thesis) / Total number of ECTS.

C) Master's Thesis

For the preparation of a Master's Thesis, the School Assembly, following an application by the candidate on specified dates, which must state the proposed title of the Master's Thesis, the proposed supervisor and a summary of the proposed thesis attached, appoints the supervisor and establishes a three-member Examination Committee for the approval of the thesis, one member of which is the supervisor.

The right to supervise dissertations is held by teaching staff in the categories described in Article 83(3) of Law 4957/2022.

The members of the three-member Examination Committee must have the same or a related academic specialism as the subject area of the Postgraduate Programme.

The preparation of the Master's Thesis is governed by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's Code of Academic Conduct. Every creator or co-creator of any intellectual work is entitled to be cited and recognised as such, and to enjoy both the economic and moral rights and powers arising from that work. By way of exception, if the original intellectual creation ('work') is the final output of a commissioned research project, which has been commissioned by a body outside the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the economic rights of the creator or co-creators may be restricted in accordance with the terms of the contract under which the research project in question is commissioned, whilst moral rights remain with the author(s), subject to the contractual restrictions necessary for the exploitation or commercialisation of the intellectual work produced.

For the presentation of the Master's Thesis (M.Th.), a favourable recommendation from the Three-Member Examination Committee is required. Where the defence of the M.Th. takes place in public, a specific date and venue are set by the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Programme.

Following the defence of the Master's Thesis, minutes are drawn up stating the individual mark awarded by each member of the Three-Member Examination Committee, the average mark, and any comments or observations.

Following its approval by the Committee, it must be published on the Institution's website.

If the Thesis Defence Committee's assessment is negative, the postgraduate student may resubmit their thesis, incorporating the points raised for its improvement, within a timeframe set by the Three-Member Examination Committee. If the second assessment is also negative, the postgraduate student forfeits the right to be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma.

In exceptional cases, where there is an objective impediment or a compelling reason, it is possible to replace the supervisor or a member of the Three-Member Examination Committee, as well as to change the topic of the Master's Thesis, following a decision by the School Assembly.

The Master's Thesis may be theoretical, applied or experimental.

Postgraduate students may only present their Master's Thesis once they have successfully passed the examinations for all their modules.

For a Master's Thesis to be approved, it must meet the following requirements:

- a) The topic and content of the thesis (theoretical or research-based) must be relevant to the subject area of the Postgraduate Programme.
- b) The thesis (excluding the bibliography) must be at least twenty (20) single-sided typographic sheets in length, in Arial font, size 12, full justification, with one-and-a-half line spacing. The thesis must include (in addition to the main body of the text) a detailed table of contents, a list of abbreviations (where necessary), a list of appendices, an abstract in Greek and English, and a bibliography.
- (c) By decision of the School Assembly, the deadline for the completion and submission of the Master's Thesis may be extended. The submitted thesis shall be assessed no later than three months after its submission.

d) A candidate may change their topic only upon the recommendation of the Programme Committee and a decision by the School Assembly, following a reasoned recommendation from the supervising lecturer.

e) Once the research has been completed and the thesis written, it must be submitted in electronic form to the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Programme, with the supervising lecturer's approval that it meets the requirements for submission for assessment.

(f) The language in which the Master's Thesis is to be written is Greek (and/or English in justified cases).

(g) The Director of the Postgraduate Programme sends the thesis to the members of the three-member Examination Committee, which must decide whether to accept or reject it within thirty (30) days of receipt. If a member of the Examination Committee requests, with justification, an extension of up to thirty (30) days, once this deadline has also elapsed, and provided that the member fails to fulfil their obligations, they must be replaced. In this case, the procedure must be completed within one month of the expiry of the 30-day extension.

(h) For the final assessment and marking of the candidate's Master's Thesis, the Three-Member Examination Committee invites the candidate to a public examination on the subject of their thesis, which may last up to one hour. Once the examination is complete, the three-member Examination Committee marks the Master's Thesis on a scale from zero (0) to ten (10), and sends the minutes of the candidate's examination to the Secretariat of the School of Medicine. The invitation and notification regarding the candidates' examination are issued by the supervising Professor of the Thesis Committee, who is responsible for coordinating the process and who chairs the examination.

Students are provided with a guide to writing a dissertation (specifying the length, font, the style of writing, the number of copies of the postgraduate dissertation to be submitted, and any other matters relating to its structure, as well as a timetable for revisions).

Article 9

Scholarships

Subject to a decision by the Programme Committee, depending on the revenue of the Postgraduate Programme, scholarships may be awarded to postgraduate students. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic, objective criteria (such as academic performance based on the average mark from the previous semester) and must be included in the approved budget of the Postgraduate Programme. The conditions for awarding scholarships, as well as the obligations and rights of scholarship holders, are determined on the recommendation of the Special Committee and by decision of the School Assembly.

AUTH may award merit-based scholarships to postgraduate students on condition that they support the educational process and undertake auxiliary teaching duties. The Postgraduate Programme determines the maximum amount of the merit-based scholarship per student, the maximum number of hours of weekly work, and other details regarding the award of scholarships. Postgraduate students are informed following a relevant announcement by the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Programme.

Article 10

Teaching Staff

Teaching duties within the Postgraduate Programme are assigned, following a recommendation by the Programme's Executive Committee and a decision by the School Assembly, to the following categories of teaching staff:

- a. Members of the Academic Staff, Special Teaching Staff (EEP), Laboratory Teaching Staff (E.D.I.P.) and Specialised Technical Laboratory Staff (E.T.E.P.) of the School or other Schools of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki or another Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Higher Military Education Institution (HMEE),
- b. emeritus professors or retired academic staff of the School or other Schools of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) or another Higher Education Institution (HEI),

- c. visiting lecturers,
- d. appointed lecturers,
- e. visiting lecturers or visiting researchers,
- f. researchers and specialist scientific staff from research and technology organisations as defined in Article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centres and institutes in Greece or abroad,
- g. scientists of recognised standing who possess specialised knowledge and relevant experience in the subject area of the Postgraduate Programme.

The Assembly's decisions on the allocation of teaching duties must include the following details:

- a. the lecturer's full name,
- b. their academic title,
- c. the type of teaching duties assigned to each lecturer (lecture, seminar), and
- d. the number of teaching hours per course or seminar.

It is the duty of the visiting lecturer to adhere to the weekly teaching timetable, as determined by the Academic Council, and to comply with the examination and assessment conditions, as set out in these Regulations.

The obligations of lecturers include, amongst other things, providing a course or lecture description, listing relevant bibliography, specifying the method of assessment for the course, and communicating with postgraduate students.

Teaching on the Postgraduate Programme is conducted in accordance with the timetable drawn up under the responsibility of the Director of the Postgraduate Programme.

Upon commencing the Postgraduate Programme, a permanent member of the Programme's academic staff is appointed as an Academic Adviser for each postgraduate student. Their role is to monitor the progress of students' studies, to be informed by lecturers of any prolonged absences of the students under their supervision, and to ensure that students are informed (via the Secretariat) that such absences may result in failure of the module. Furthermore, the Academic Adviser provides assistance with the selection of the postgraduate dissertation, taking into account the postgraduate student's research interests. Postgraduate students are required to contact their Academic Adviser regarding any issue that may affect the smooth progress of their studies.

The Academic Adviser provides postgraduate students with the necessary guidance to meet the requirements of the postgraduate programme.

The Academic Adviser ensures that they hold meetings at regular intervals with the postgraduate students under their supervision, and no fewer than twice (2) per semester.

Their duties include, amongst other things:

- Identifying the postgraduate student's needs and research interests, supporting their aptitudes and skills, and encouraging them to pursue fields that suit them.
- Keeping postgraduate students informed and facilitating their contact with the collective bodies of the Postgraduate Programme and the administrative services.
- To provide assistance in drawing up their individual semester-by-semester study programme and in determining the topic of their postgraduate dissertation.
- Identifying students who are behind in their coursework.
- Organising and drawing up a plan for these students.

The teaching staff, administrative staff and the relevant departments of the Institution collaborate with and support the Academic Advisers in their work, whilst taking into account information, comments, suggestions and requests regarding any

shortcomings or malfunctions that cause problems for students, and any proposals for addressing them.

Upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Programme Co-ordinating Committee or the Director, auxiliary teaching duties may be assigned to PhD candidates of the Department or School, under the supervision of a lecturer on the Postgraduate Programme. Teaching assistance is defined as assisting academic staff in the performance of their teaching duties, supervising students, conducting tutorials and laboratory exercises, invigilating examinations and marking assignments. By decision of the School Assembly, either support work may be assigned or a call for expressions of interest may be published for subjects offered within the postgraduate programme. The Call for Expressions of Interest sets out the deadlines for submitting applications as well as the specific qualifications required.

Lecturers, whilst on educational leave or on suspension from their duties, may undertake teaching duties for the Postgraduate Programme, if they consider that their programme permits it, provided, of course, that this is substantively and practically feasible given the prevailing circumstances; this matter must be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the competent authority.

Article 11
Programme Revenue –
Financial Management Procedure

The resources of the Postgraduate Programme may derive from:

- a. tuition fees,
- b. donations, grants and financial support of any kind,
- c. bequests,
- d. funds from research projects or programmes, in particular those of the European Union,
- e. the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's own resources,

f. any other lawful source.

The payment of tuition fees, set at three thousand euros (€3,000.00), is to be made by the student themselves (or by a third party, whether a natural person or legal entity, on the student's behalf) into an account held by the ELKE in three (3) equal instalments: the first upon enrolment, the second before the start of the second (B) semester and the third before the start of the third (C) semester.

The resources of the Postgraduate Programme are allocated as follows:

a. an amount corresponding to thirty per cent (30 per cent) of the total revenue derived from tuition fees is withheld by the Research and Innovation Organisation (ELKE). This amount includes the percentage withheld in favour of the ELKE for the financial management of the Postgraduate Programmes.

By a decision of the Governing Council, taken by the end of March each year, it is determined whether the remaining amount, after deduction of the withholding for ELKE, is transferred to the regular budget or allocated to the creation of projects/programmes through ELKE, with the aim of prioritising the needs of postgraduate programmes operating without tuition fees and covering the research, educational and operational needs of the Higher Education Institution. A deduction in favour of the ELKE, as applicable to revenue from corresponding sources of funding, shall be made from the revenue of the Postgraduate Studies Programme referred to in sub-paragraphs (b) to (d) of paragraph 1;

b. the remaining amount of the Postgraduate Programme's total revenue is allocated to cover the Programme's operational expenses.

The Postgraduate Programme accepts as 'visiting participants' (auditors) up to five (5) individuals who pay tuition fees and wish to attend up to four (4) individual modules (subject to agreement with the lecturers) without having been admitted to the Postgraduate Programme.

The tuition fees applicable to them are four hundred euros (€400.00) for each individual module.

The Postgraduate Programme draws up, in accordance with current legislation, a detailed budget for its five (5) years of operation, which includes all types of programme resources and its operating costs.

Article 12

Administrative Support

Administrative and secretarial support for the Postgraduate Programme is provided by the Secretariat of the School of Medicine.

University-trained staff with previous experience in postgraduate programmes assist with secretarial duties and, amongst other tasks, will be responsible for student enrolments, maintaining grade records, conducting staff appraisals, keeping attendance registers, and issuing degrees, certificates and statements. Furthermore, the Secretariat handles day-to-day matters concerning teaching staff, postgraduate students, the programme, and liaising with various departments and partner institutions, whilst also managing public relations and the promotion of the programme.

Article 13

Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony is not a formal requirement for the successful completion of studies; however, it is a necessary prerequisite for the award of the degree certificate. The conferral takes place during the School Assembly, in the presence of the Director of the Postgraduate Programme, the Head of School/Dean of the School or their Deputy and, where possible, a representative of the Vice-Chancellor.

Postgraduate students who have successfully completed the Postgraduate Programme may, in exceptional circumstances (such as studying, living or working abroad, or for health reasons, etc.), apply to the School Secretariat for an exemption from the requirement to attend the graduation ceremony.

Article 14

Format of the Postgraduate Diploma Awarded

The Postgraduate Diploma is issued by the Secretariat of the School of Medicine. The Diploma shall state the School involved in organising the Postgraduate Programme, the emblem of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the date of completion of studies, the date of issue of the Postgraduate Diploma, the graduation reference number, the title of the Postgraduate Programme, the postgraduate student's details and the assessment grade: Good, Very Good or Excellent.

A graduate of the Postgraduate Programme may be issued, prior to the award ceremony, with a certificate confirming successful attendance and completion of the Programme.

In addition to the Postgraduate Diploma, a Diploma Supplement is awarded [Article 15 of Law 3374/2005 and Ministerial Decision Φ5/89656/BE/13-8-2007 (Government Gazette 1466, Series B)], which is an explanatory document providing information on the nature, the level, the broader educational context, the content and the status of the studies successfully completed; it does not replace the official qualification or the detailed course mark sheet issued by the institutions.

Article 15

Plagiarism

When submitting any postgraduate dissertation, the postgraduate student is required to state whether they have used the work and views of others.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence. Plagiarism is defined as copying another person's work, as well as using another person's work – whether published or unpublished – without proper citation. The inclusion of any source material, even from the candidate's own studies, without the relevant citation, may lead to a decision by the School Assembly to expel the student.

In the above cases – and following a reasoned recommendation from the supervising lecturer – the student must rewrite the Master’s thesis. and if the student fails to do so following a recommendation by their supervisor, the School Assembly may also decide to expel them.

Any misconduct or breach of academic ethics is referred to the Postgraduate Programme Co-ordinating Committee for assessment and a recommendation on how to address the issue to the School Assembly. Misconduct such as cheating or plagiarism, and more generally any breach of copyright provisions by a postgraduate student whilst writing assignments as part of their courses or whilst preparing a postgraduate dissertation, is also considered a breach.

The Institution’s Ethics Committee is responsible for dealing with breaches of the rules of ethics and academic standards.

Article 16

Accreditation and Evaluation of Postgraduate Programmes

Following the issuance of the decision establishing a Postgraduate Programme and prior to its commencement, the Postgraduate Programme must be accredited by the National Authority for Higher Education—

the Ministry of Education (ETH.A.A.E.), in accordance with sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Article 8 of Law 4653/2020 (A’ 12). Following their establishment, Postgraduate Programmes are accredited periodically, in accordance with sub-paragraph (bb) of paragraph (b) of Article 8(1) of Law 4653/2020, as part of the evaluation of the academic unit to which they belong.

In the event that the founding decision is amended, the postgraduate programme must be re-accredited by the National Accreditation Agency (E.TH.A.A.E., provided that the amendment concerns elements such as the subject matter, the programme’s purpose, the learning outcomes and the qualifications acquired upon successful completion, as well as the specialisations leading to a different diploma.

The postgraduate programmes of each School, including inter-departmental, inter-institutional and joint postgraduate programmes for which the School provides administrative support, are evaluated as part of the periodic evaluation/accreditation of the academic unit by the National Accreditation Agency (E.T.A.A.E. Within this framework, an overall assessment is made of the work carried out by each postgraduate programme, the extent to which the objectives set at the time of its establishment have been met, its sustainability, the absorption of graduates into the labour market, the extent of its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the advisability of extending its operation, as well as other factors relating to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education.

If, during the evaluation stage, a postgraduate programme is deemed not to meet the conditions for continuing its operation, its operation shall be terminated upon the graduation of currently enrolled students, in accordance with the founding decision and the regulations governing postgraduate and doctoral programmes.

Internal Evaluation by MO.DI.P.

With the aim of ensuring and improving the quality of the Postgraduate Programme, the Quality Assurance Unit of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (MO.DI.P.) carries out periodic internal evaluations of the postgraduate programme within the framework of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System and in accordance with the guidelines and directives of the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (HQAA).

The responsibilities of the Programme's administrative bodies and teaching staff also include all procedures provided for, in accordance with the relevant guidelines and directives of MODIP-A.U.Th. for the internal and external evaluation and accreditation of study programmes and academic units.

Student evaluation of lecturers and modules

With the sole aim of improving the standard of the Postgraduate Programme and with their anonymity fully guaranteed, students are invited to evaluate the courses and lecturers each semester.

To ensure the consistent collection of statistical data and to enable the drawing of conclusions that can be utilised for the educational work of the Schools and the University as a whole, the evaluation questionnaires are drawn up by the Quality Assurance and Improvement Unit (MO.DI.P.) and may be partially adapted to reflect the specific characteristics and needs of each academic unit and/or each course. They are completed electronically.

The evaluation is carried out under the responsibility of the Internal Evaluation Team (OMEA) operating in each School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Internal Evaluation Team (IET), in collaboration with the Aristotle University's Quality Assurance Unit (MO.DI.P.), and is carried out via the latter's Quality Management Information System (QMIS). The School's Management and the Internal Evaluation Team (IET) are required to take systematic measures to ensure student participation in the evaluation, in accordance with the guidelines of the Quality Assurance Unit (MO.DI.P.) and the relevant decisions of the Senate.

The Academic Quality Assurance Committee (AQAC) of each School monitors, via the Quality Management Information System (QMIS) of the Centre for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (MO.DI.P.), the level of student participation in the evaluation process, analyses the relevant results and reports on them to the governing bodies of the Postgraduate Programme and the respective academic unit. The evaluation questionnaires relate to each course taught and to each lecturer individually.

The governing bodies of the Postgraduate Programme and the academic unit, in collaboration with the relevant Academic Evaluation Committee, are required to analyse the evaluation results, announce their conclusions, decide on the publication of the summary evaluation results where deemed necessary and, in any case, after the announcement of the course marks for the semester, in accordance with the legislation in force on the protection of personal data, and to take action to address any problems.

Article 17

Study Guide

The Postgraduate Programme publishes a Study Guide with the aim of informing postgraduate students about its operation.

The Study Guide may include:

1. General information as well as useful online information about the University and the School, in particular regarding administrative services or governing bodies to postgraduate students may contact to ensure the successful completion of their studies.
2. The purpose and scope of the Postgraduate Programme, as well as the qualifications acquired upon award of the Postgraduate Diploma (PGD).
3. The academic calendar, which includes the start and end dates of the academic semesters, examination periods, public holidays, periods for the presentation of postgraduate dissertations and any other obligations such as work placements, seminars, conferences, etc.
4. The course programme, credit points, teaching staff, and the rights and obligations of postgraduate students.
5. The official language of instruction and of the postgraduate dissertation.

Article 18

Transitional provisions

Any matter arising in the future that is not covered by the relevant legislation, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Postgraduate Studies Regulations and these Regulations Governing the Operation of the Postgraduate Programme, shall be addressed by decisions of the competent collective bodies and by amending the relevant Regulations.