

Quality Policy of the Academic Unit for the Development and Improvement of Postgraduate Programs at NKUA for the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health"

The Quality Assurance Policy of the Medical School is fully aligned with the Quality Policy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), ensuring that the Medical School is dedicated to providing high-quality higher education in both Greek and foreign languages. The department organizes and implements Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Doctoral Programs of high academic standards and significant added value in both Greek and English, covering major fields of medical science. Additionally, the department strives to create a creative environment for research, free scientific expression, and work for all staff and members of its academic community.

The Medical School is committed to implementing this quality policy in the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health," which it currently offers and will continue to offer in the future. This commitment involves following the quality procedures outlined in the institution's Quality Assurance System (QAS), with the ultimate goal of continuous improvement. This Quality Policy enhances the academic profile and orientation of the postgraduate program, promotes its purpose and objectives, and ensures the achievement of specific annual goals. It also defines the means and methods to achieve these goals and guarantees the participation of stakeholders in the evaluation and redesign processes.

Specifically, to implement this policy, the Medical School commits to applying the quality processes and procedures detailed in the institution's QAS Manual, with the necessary specialization for the Postgraduate Studies Program, in close collaboration with the University's Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP). All quality assurance processes for the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health" are subject to annual inspection, review, and revision by the Department's Internal Evaluation Committee (OMEA) in cooperation with the MODIP of the institution. The processes implemented for monitoring and continuously improving the quality of this Postgraduate Studies Program are as follows:

- 1. Implementing the Quality Assurance Policy for the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."
- 2. Allocating and managing resources for the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."
- 3. Establishing annual Quality Assurance Goals for the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."
- 4. Conducting periodic internal evaluation and monitoring on an annual basis for the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."
- 5. Collecting quality data: measurement, analysis, and improvement of the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."
- 6. Publicizing information regarding the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."

7. Undergoing external evaluation of the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health."

The implementation of these procedures ensures: a) the suitability of the structure and organization of the Postgraduate Studies Program of the Medical School, b) that the learning outcomes and the resulting qualifications of the graduates of the Master's Program align as closely as possible with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education at level 7, c) the promotion of quality and effectiveness in the teaching provided by the Master's Program of the Medical School through its monitoring by the Program's coordinating committee, the OMEA, the administration of the Medical School, and the MODIP of NKUA, d) that the qualifications of the teaching staff, especially external collaborators, are suitable for educating postgraduate students, e) the drafting, implementation, and review of specific annual quality objectives for the improvement of the Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health," f) the level of demand for the qualifications of graduates in the labor market through regular surveys of market needs and tracking the career paths of the Master's Program graduates, g) that the support services provided to postgraduate students—including those with disabilities—are of high quality and meet their needs for effective study. This includes easily accessible and available administrative services, libraries, online services, scholarships, and student welfare services suitable for the Master's Program, h) the efficient use of financial resources from tuition fees to provide necessary services to postgraduate students and facilitate program operations, including site visits outside the Medical School for comprehensive training, i) the conduct of annual internal evaluations and reviews of the quality assurance system for the Master's Program in collaboration with the OMEA and the MODIP of the institution.

The Master's Program "Liaison Psychiatry: Integrative Care for Physical and Mental Health" is fully committed to providing high-quality higher education to its students and fostering a creative research and work environment for its faculty and collaborators. The commitment of the teaching and administrative staff of the Master's Program to the continuous improvement of teaching, research, and services is a strategic choice and responsibility.

The vision of the Master's Program is to continue serving educational, research, and broader social goals, adhering to the principles of scientific ethics and social cohesion within the framework of the biopsychosocial model. The Master's Program has established and implements a specific quality policy, which is fully connected with the legal and regulatory framework governing the operation of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Through the establishment, evaluation, and redefinition of the quality policy, the Master's Program is committed to achieving even higher performance. This strategy will highlight values, standards, and examples, contributing to NKUA's pursuit of high-quality teaching and research outcomes.

The quality assurance policy and its implementation strategy are carried out through the Internal Evaluation Committee (OMEA), in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of NKUA. The quality policy of the Master's Program is always aligned with the legal and regulatory framework of the state. As it is a complementary document to the quality policy adopted and implemented by NKUA, it harmonizes with, specializes, redesigns, and continually redefines its goals based on the institution's quality strategy.

This policy mainly supports:

- 1. the organization of the internal quality assurance system of the Master's Program,
- 2. the assumption of responsibilities by the leadership of the Master's Program and its individual units, faculty, administrative, and other staff members, and students, and the role they play in quality assurance,
- 3. the safeguarding of academic principles, ethics, the prevention of discrimination, and the encouragement of external stakeholders' participation in quality assurance,
- 4. the continuous improvement of learning and teaching, research, and innovation,
- 5. the quality assurance of the curriculum and its compliance with the highest international academic standards, considering the findings of periodic internal and external evaluations of the Master's Program,
- 6. the effective organization of services and the development and maintenance of infrastructure,
- 7. the provision and effective management of necessary resources for the operation of the Master's Program,
- 8. the development and rational distribution of human resources.

The main axes on which the quality assurance and improvement policy of the Master's Program is built, which are connected to and form part of NKUA's strategy, are as follows:

- 1. the continuous revision and improvement of the curriculum,
- 2. the enhancement of student-centered learning,
- 3. the improvement of student performance and achievement,
- 4. the reduction of the dropout rate and time to graduation,
- 5. the enhancement of multi-level research work in the Master's Program,
- 6. the production of more and impactful publications in international scientific journals, collective volumes, and peer-reviewed conference proceedings,
- 7. the continuous improvement of working conditions for teaching, research, administrative, and other staff,
- 8. the development of synergies with organizations focused on Liaison Psychiatry for research, education, and clinical practice,

- 9. the strengthening of collaborations with domestic and international institutions, the dissemination and enhancement of research projects, and broader synergies, as well as the improvement of the research output,
- 10. the development of the Master's Program's extroversion,
- 11. the attraction of high-level faculty members and lecturers from Greece and abroad,
- 12. the contribution of the Master's Program to NKUA's efforts to collaborate with global university ranking agencies to better showcase its quality internationally,
- 13. the resolution of issues related to the implementation of administrative tasks,
- 14. the contribution of the Master's Program to reducing NKUA's environmental footprint in line with the institution's environmental policy,
- 15. the contribution of the Master's Program to NKUA's policy for continuous organization and implementation of activities for the direct and indirect support of vulnerable social groups,
- 16. the utilization of the Master's Program alumni network, within the framework of the NKUA alumni network, to serve academic and social goals.

The results of the quality assurance strategy are documented in detailed information about goals and learning outcomes, as outlined in the Study Guide, positive student evaluations, full alignment with European and international standards (ECTS system), the seamless acceptance of graduates for doctoral studies, and their professional placement and social advancement.

The way this policy is designed, approved, implemented, monitored, and revised is one of the processes of the internal quality assurance system.