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Accreditation Report for the New Postgraduate Study Programme of:

Military History - War History

Department: History
Institution: Ionian University
Date: May 2025



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



Πρόγραμμα
Ανθρώπινο Δυναμικό και
Κοινωνική Συνοχή



Report of the Panel appointed by the HAHE to undertake the review of
the New Postgraduate Study Programme of **Military History - War
History** of the **Ionian University** for the purposes of granting
accreditation.

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PART A: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW

I. The External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

The Panel responsible for the Accreditation Review of the new postgraduate study programme of Military History - War History of the Ionian University comprised the following five (5) members, drawn from the HAHE Register, in accordance with Laws 4009/2011 & 4653/2020:

- 1. Antoniou Maria**
(Chair) Pace University
- 2. CHIKOVANI ANA**
Department of Modern Greek Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University
- 3. Christophilopoulou Anastasia**
The Fitzwilliam Museum University of Cambridge
- 4. LAZARIS STAVROS**
UMR Orient & Méditerranée (Paris)
- 5. Κωστάκης Δημοσθένης**
University of Ioannina

II. Review Procedure and Documentation

The External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel (EEAP) was formed in the end of April 2025 and the accreditation support material concerning the new Inter-Institutional Postgraduate Study Programme (PSP) “Military History-War History” of the Ionian University was available via the HAHE Accreditation Management System before the accreditation visit. The review was organized by HAHE and the Department of History of the Ionian University. The quality of the support material was excellent. All documents were well-crafted and designed. Indicatively, the providing documentation included: Course Syllabi, Study Guide, the Guidelines for Academic Advisors, the Senate decision for the Quality Policy and Institutional Strategy, the Student Guide, the Internal Evaluation Report of MODIP, Teaching Staff Information, the Accreditation Proposal, etc.

During the visit, all the participants involved (MODIP, Teaching Faculty, Administrative Staff, and social partners) were very prompt to provide us with all the information we asked for. The meetings with the Department of History and the Hellenic Army Academy (“Στρατιωτική Σχολή Ευελπίδων”) which took place on one day, Tuesday, May 6th, were conducted online utilizing zoom video conference facilities. All meetings took place in a very friendly and cooperative spirit.

The timetable and agenda of the accreditation review were as follows:

On Monday, May 5th, the EEAP members had a short meeting to organize the accreditation review and allocate the different tasks. The following day, Tuesday, May 6th, we had the welcome meeting with the University Vice-Rector/President of MODIP, Professor Konstantinos Angelakos, Professor Konstantinos Sbonias, Head of the Department, Professor Grigorios Psallidas, Director of the PSP, and Assistant Professor Nikolaos Kanellopoulos, representative of the Hellenic Army Academy.

The Director of the PSP Professor G. Psallidas shared with us a very detailed and informative presentation of the new PSP programme. Mr. George Zacharakis, administrative staff of the MODIP of the Ionian University fulfilled the request of the EEAP and kindly sent us the presentation of Prof. Psallidas via email.

Immediately afterwards, the EEAP had the opportunity to meet with the following teaching staff members of the new PSP, both from the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy: Professor Mr. Sotiris Livas (Ionian University), Assistant Professor Mr. Nikolaos Pissis (Ionian University), Associate Professor Mr. Nikolaos Tombros (Hellenic Army Academy), Assistant Professor Mr. Dionysios Chourchoulis, (Ionian University). Professors Pissis and Tombros took part also in the next meeting regarding the classrooms, lecture halls, libraries, laboratories, and other facilities related to the PSP. We also had the chance to watch a short video regarding the facilities and student resources of the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy.

During the above meetings there was plenty of time to discuss various topics regarding the proposed new PSP, specifically the programme’s structure and academic profile, strengths, possible areas of concerns, students’ admission, University resources (labs, libraries), the faculty’s workload, professional development opportunities, methods for student

evaluations, teaching and research activities, mobility, link between teaching and research.

The meeting with the employers and social partners was of a very constructive nature and all involved parties expressed their enthusiasm and willingness to offer their support in any possible way. Specifically, the EEAP had discussions with the following: Lieutenant General Mr. Anastasios Polychronos, Commander of the Hellenic Army Academy, Colonel Mr. Komitis Doxakis, Director of the Army History Directorate, Mr. Grigoris Konstantellos, Mayor of Vari, Voula and Vouliagmeni, Mr. Christos Anthis, Deputy Regional Governor of Ionian Islands, and Mr. Valentin Schneider, Research Collaborator of the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

After the end of this meeting, the EEAP members gave a short preliminary verbal report about their impressions and key findings.

The EEAP wishes to thank both the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy for arranging and hosting these meetings and for the exceptional spirit of openness and collaboration with which it responded to the queries of the EEAP over the course of the virtual accreditation visit.

III. Postgraduate Study Programme Profile

The Inter-institutional PSP “Military History - War History” is co-organised by the Department of History and Digital Humanities of the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy, with the first acting as the expediting department (“επισπεύδον τμήμα”).

The Department of History at the Ionian University has been active since the 1985–1986 academic year. It holds the unique distinction of being the only university department in Greece exclusively focused on the study of history, with an enrolled student body of approximately five hundred. Corfu, with its rich and longstanding cultural legacy, offers a particularly supportive environment for both the university and the History Department. The island is renowned for its contributions to literature, history, music, political thought, and intellectual life in general. Notably, Corfu was home to the Ionian Academy (1824– 1864), the first university established on Greek territory, predating the founding of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The Hellenic Army Academy (S.S.E.) was the personal vision of Greece’s first Governor, Ioannis Kapodistrias, who also founded the institution. In June 1828, he announced the establishment of the Academy and personally named its first five students “Evelpides”. The Academy is dedicated to advancing and sharing knowledge with its cadets and students through research and instruction in Military Science and related disciplines. It aims to cultivate military values and education, shaping officers who are not only professionally competent but also well-rounded in social, cultural, and political understanding. The institution also develops postgraduate (MSc) and research programs in Military Science, following the legal framework outlined in Law 3187/2003. All its activities align with the responsibilities and objectives defined by this legislation.

The PSP “Military History - War History” is the sole postgraduate program of its kind in Greece and among the few available worldwide. It focuses on an in-depth study of warfare, especially as it has evolved over the past three centuries. The programme aims to provide advanced postgraduate education, concentrating on a) the strategic and operational analysis of military campaigns, and b) the academic study of both Greek and global military history, as well as the broader history of warfare.

The PSP is intended for personnel from all three branches of the Armed Forces and the Security Services, as well as scholars and researchers in the field of Humanities. The interdisciplinary approach adopted by both academic departments ensures the program’s innovative character and academic distinctiveness. By adopting a holistic perspective, the program explores the multifaceted nature of war, emphasizing its key dimensions—ranging from politics and economics to culture, society, law, international affairs, strategy, and human behavior.

The duration of studies is three semesters, and the structure of studies is based on eleven courses in total, of which eight are compulsory, three are electives (chosen from a pool of eight), and one is a mandatory seminar. A Master's Thesis (Μεταπτυχιακή Διπλωματική Εργασία) is also required. The programme awards a total of 90 ECTS credits, with 72 allocated to compulsory and elective courses, and 18 credits assigned to the Master's Thesis.

The PSP aims at Hands-on Learning and Academic Engagement as it offers research workshops and practical exercises based on case studies. It also features guest lectures from distinguished academics and researchers, educational field trips, and participation in academic colloquia. The

programme adopts a blended learning approach as it combines in- person (for the first week or the first couple of weeks) and online instruction, supported by a robust learning environment. Facilities include modern classrooms, seminar spaces, and auditoriums, along with access to libraries and comprehensive educational resources. Distance learning is facilitated through platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Jitsi, ensuring flexibility and accessibility in the learning process.

The PSP has established a transparent selection process and admission requirements. Applicants must hold an undergraduate degree or equivalent from accredited universities, military academies, or technological institutions. A postgraduate degree is not mandatory, but holders of postgraduate diplomas may also apply, provided they meet the other eligibility criteria. Applicants must also possess certified English language proficiency at a B2 level. The selection process includes submission of a proposed research topic, written exams, a personal interview, and consideration of prior research experience. Tuition fees can reach up to €3,500. Scholarships are available for up to 30% of students, awarded based on both academic excellence and socio-economic criteria.

The program aims to cultivate highly specialized professionals in military history and the history of warfare, preparing them for roles such as: University-level educators and academic researchers, Military and civilian officers within the Greek Armed Forces and Security Services, and Expert consultants in governmental and private sector institutions. Graduates are also well-equipped to contribute to: Historical research divisions of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, Military archival management, and Strategic think tanks and research centers.

PART B: COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE 1: STRATEGY, QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY AND QUALITY GOAL SETTING FOR THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD INCLUDE IN THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT THE DEVELOPMENT, ORGANISATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES (PSP) IN SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC FIELDS AFTER INVESTIGATING THEIR FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY. INSTITUTIONS SHOULD APPLY A QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY FOR THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT. THIS POLICY SHOULD EXPAND AND BE AIMED (WITH THE COLLABORATION OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS) AT THE PSP OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

By decision/s of the Institutional Senate, the Institutions should adapt their strategy to allow for the provision of postgraduate study programmes, in addition to attending to the profile, vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Institution. In this strategy, the Institutions should anticipate the potential benefits, difficulties or risks from the implementation of new postgraduate study programmes and plan all the necessary actions to achieve their goals. The Institution's strategic choices should be documented through specific feasibility and sustainability studies, especially for new postgraduate study programmes.

In the case of PSP delivered by distance methods, the Institution prepares and applies an e-learning strategy. The Institution's e-learning strategy is integrated into its overall strategy and identifies educational goals while keeping up to the rapid technological changes and to the developments in pedagogical models. The Institution should include in its strategy the justification and feasibility as to why e-learning has been selected as the appropriate learning strategy for the particular programmes of study where it is applied.

In the context of e-learning, innovation strategies, the possibility of programme revision, the linking between learning and research (requiring knowledge of the latest innovations in order to select the most appropriate means to achieve the learning outcomes) should be taken into account.

The quality assurance policy of the academic unit for postgraduate study programmes should be in line with the Institution's strategy and must be formulated in the form of a public statement, which is implemented by all stakeholders. It focuses on the achievement of special goals related to the quality assurance of the postgraduate study programmes offered by the academic unit. Indicatively, the quality policy statement of the academic unit includes its commitment to implement a quality policy that will promote the academic profile and orientation of the postgraduate study programme (PSP), its purpose and field of study; it will realise the programme's goals and it will determine the means and ways for attaining them; it will implement appropriate quality procedures, aiming at the programme's continuous improvement.

In particular, in order to implement this policy, the academic unit commits itself to put into practice quality procedures that will demonstrate:

- a. the suitability of the structure and organisation of postgraduate study programmes*
- b. the pursuit of learning outcomes and qualifications in accordance with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education - level 7*
- c. the promotion of the quality and effectiveness of teaching at the PSP*

- d. *the appropriateness of the qualifications and the availability of the teaching staff for the PSP*
- e. *the drafting, implementation, and review of specific annual quality goals for the improvement of the PSP*
- f. *the level of demand for the graduates' qualifications in the labour market*
- g. *the quality of support services, such as administrative services, the libraries, and the student welfare office for the PSP*
- h. *the efficient utilisation of the financial resources of the PSP that may be drawn from tuition fees*
- i. *the conduct of an annual internal review and audit of the quality assurance system for the PSP through the cooperation of the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) with the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU)*

Documentation

- *The Institutional strategy for postgraduate studies, which includes a special strategy for e-learning, as long as it is applied to the Institution's PSP*
- *Feasibility and sustainability studies for the new PSP*
- *Quality Policy of the academic unit for the development and improvement of PSP*
- *Quality Targeting of the academic unit for the PSP*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The new Inter-institutional Postgraduate Study Program (PSP) in Military History – History of War adheres to the established Quality Assurance Policy for teaching and research set by the Ionian University, while also fully complying with the standards of the Hellenic Army Academy. As an inter-institutional program jointly organized by both institutions, it reflects their shared commitment to academic excellence and institutional integrity.

A Quality Assurance Policy appropriate for the PSP has been established. Regulations plan to establish specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely quality goals regarding the PSP. Regulations and surveys plan to regularly monitor teaching methods, student satisfaction, learning outcomes, and research output.

The courses of the NEW PSP in Military History - History of War of the Ionian University correspond to the second level of higher education and ensure the achievement of the competencies defined by the program. The curriculum is designed to train students in key areas such as Greek military history, military theory and strategy and the political, legal, geostrategic, economic and diplomatic context of warfare, with a strong emphasis on the cultural and social dimensions of conflict. Particular focus is placed on analyzing the broader social, political and economic impacts of war.

The pursuit of learning outcomes and qualifications is in accordance with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education - level 7.

The PSP aligns closely with the broader strategic goals of the involved institutions, such as promoting academic excellence, digital innovation, and interdisciplinary research. The online delivery model supports the Institutions' commitment to expanding access to higher education, while the program's focus on Military History complements institutional strengths in historical studies, defense-related research, and public service education.

II. Analysis

The strategy of the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy for the development of new PSP is fully aligned with the Strategic Plan of the institutions.

PSP has established a Quality Assurance Policy which includes a commitment towards continuous improvement, promoted through the academic rigor of the curriculum.

Based on the studied documents and the results of the interviews, it should be noted that the University has a unified policy and requirements in matters of quality assurance, which ensures the stability of a unified internal quality assurance system.

PSP requirements of admission are demanding and merit based. Student selection criteria for admission are transparent and are clearly described in the regulations.

The PSP will charge tuition fees, with the final amount expected to range between €2,500 and €3,500. While this range is within standard limits for postgraduate programs, the lack of a clearly defined final fee structure may cause uncertainty for prospective students. Transparent and early communication of the exact tuition cost is essential for applicants' financial planning.

The teaching staff is highly qualified and allocated to the appropriate specializations of PSP based on their experience and qualifications. In addition, there is an Academic Advisor who is responsible for handling student complaints and resolving any queries and problems.

The PSP demonstrates a clear commitment to the efficient and transparent use of its financial resources. Tuition income is planned to be strategically allocated - supporting teaching, student services, educational materials, and infrastructure, while 30% of students may benefit from scholarships if they fulfill existing legislation requirements.

Employers and social partners confirmed during interviews that there is demand for the graduates' qualifications in the labour market. Additionally, postgraduate degrees are awarded merit points in the Armed Forces, which increases interest in pursuing a postgraduate study program.

III. Conclusions

The PSP fully complies with the needs and the aims of a modern specialized postgraduate study program in Military History - History of War.

Panel Judgement

Principle 1: Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy and Quality Goal Setting for the New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

N/A

PRINCIPLE 2: DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP THEIR POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES FOLLOWING A DEFINED WRITTEN PROCESS WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE PARTICIPANTS, INFORMATION SOURCES AND THE APPROVAL COMMITTEES FOR THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THE OBJECTIVES, THE SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC SUBJECT AND THE STREAMS OR SPECIALISATIONS, THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE SET OUT IN THE PROGRAMME DESIGN. DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES, THE DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LEARNING OUTCOMES SHOULD BE ASSESSED. THE ABOVE DETAILS, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAMME'S STRUCTURE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE STUDENT GUIDE.

The academic units develop their postgraduate study programmes following a well-defined procedure. The academic profile and orientation of the programme, the research character, the scientific objectives, the specific subject areas, the specialisations, the expected learning outcomes, the structure, the courses, the teaching and assessment modes, the teaching staff and the necessary resources are described at this stage.

The structure, content and organisation of courses and teaching methods should be oriented towards deepening knowledge and acquiring the corresponding skills to apply the said knowledge (e.g. course on research methodology, participation in research projects, thesis with a research component).

The expected learning outcomes must be determined based on the European and National Qualifications Framework (EQF, NQF), and the Dublin Descriptors for level 7. During the implementation of the programme, the degree of achievement of the expected learning outcomes and the feedback of the learning process must be assessed with the appropriate tools. In particular, for each expected learning outcome that is designed and made public, it is necessary that its evaluation criteria are also designed and made public.

In addition, the design of PSP must consider:

- *the Institutional strategy*
- *the active involvement of students*
- *the experience of external stakeholders from the labour market*
- *the anticipated student workload according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for level 7*
- *the option of providing work experience to students*
- *the linking of teaching and research*
- *the relevant regulatory framework and the official procedure for the approval of the PSP by the Institution*

The procedure for the approval or revision of the programmes provides for the verification of compliance with the basic requirements of the Standards by the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU).

Documentation

- *Senate decision for the establishment of the PSP*
- *PSP curriculum structure: courses, course categories, ECTS awarded, expected learning outcomes according to the NQF, internship, mobility opportunities*

- *Labour market data regarding the employment of graduates, international experience in a relevant scientific field*
- *PSP Student Guide*
- *Course and thesis outlines*
- *Teaching staff: teaching assignments per subject area and per course*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The development of the content for the Inter-Institutional new postgraduate programme 'Military History – War History' offered by the Ionian University, School of Humanities, Department of History has been created taking into account factors such as the need to provide a learning context for a discipline not previously offered by a Greek University at accredited postgraduate level, the need to bridge postgraduate studies between the 'Σχολή Ευελπίδων' Military School / department of Military Studies and the Humanities Schools in Greece, but also factoring the active participation of students, and a synergy with relevant Programmes on Military and War History at European University.

The design of the new postgraduate programme is aligned with the requirements and guidelines of the Hellenic Ministry of Education as well as the Ionian University Senate and the School of Humanities internal charters. Its content and structure is devoted to the discipline of the War phenomenon, with emphasis on the last three centuries, and its ambition and goal is to provide a high level of postgraduate specialization in the analysis of military operations and to the provision of teaching Greek and international military History and War history. The new programme aims to equip graduates with a comprehensive understanding of military history concepts and a diachronic approach of studying the history of war. The intention set degree for the new programme's objectives and its learning outcomes is satisfactory and will be assessed throughout the programme's operation.

II. Analysis

The provision of Faculty and assigned teaching staff for the new postgraduate programme 'Military History – War History' is adequate with 15 staff assigned to the overall programme, of which 12 members are core Faculty of the department and 1 member is provided by the 'Σχολή Ικάρων', 1 is Faculty of a foreign university and 1 is Specialist Research staff under contract. The selection of Faculty members guarantees the curriculum goals of the programme, including its cross-disciplinary elements and the need for the students' special skills development in the field. The programme is designed to contain 11 compulsory courses, of which 8 are compulsory, 3 are elective courses, 1 is an obligatory seminar, and 1 postgraduate dissertation. The provision of courses creates a total of 90 (ECTS) for the programme, of which 72 are by taught courses and 18 for the postgraduate dissertation. The curriculum combines a theoretical approach to the history of strategic thought, a comprehensive approach to the study of Greek and International military history and war history, aspects of the economy of war and defense history, but also specialized units such as the political history of the Greek State, and the history of international relations and foreign policy.

The function of the new Programme is primarily educational and provides a much-

needed specialization to graduates of the Greek state Military academies but also graduates of History, Archaeology and to a lesser extent Social Anthropology and Sociology departments, wishing to further specialize on War and Military history pathways. However, the importance of the programme as an avenue for Research into these disciplines, should not be underplayed, as it can provide strong impetus for graduates to follow doctoral studies in these subjects, within Greece or internationally, after the completion of the postgraduate programme. Furthermore, the programme provides good career opportunities for graduates in the cultural sector, and in particular museums, with specialized collections on war history and war episodes in Greece diachronically. The panel was satisfied that the curriculum has been designed to meet the profile, the goals and objectives of the Programme as described in the senate decision and the Student Guide. The modules range from lectures, seminars, and specialist exercises and placements that enhance the learning experience.

The provision of documents submitted to the panel prior to the evaluation and accreditation process, as well as the results of the presentations and interviews with the Faculty and teaching staff and social partners of the programme, was very satisfactory, and the panel is confident that students embarking to the designed curriculum and assessment will achieve the desired learning outcomes, and necessary postgraduate skills, such as ability for critical evaluation and use of various methodological and theoretical approaches, acquisition of specialized knowledge on war and military history, critical thinking, and communication skills required for the study of this discipline.

II. Conclusions

The new postgraduate programme 'Military History – War History' was developed following defined written processes by the Senate of the Ionian University and created with a sense of a strong commitment to support the achievement of the goals and objectives set out in the operating regulations of the Programme. The expected learning outcomes are measurable and assessed through strict criteria described in the Study Guide. All information regarding the Programme is thoroughly outlined in the Student Study Guide. The Panel is satisfied that the programme and its curriculum was created with high standards in mind, in the specific disciplines and that it will cover a much needed learning and research need in the Greek University horizon.

Panel Judgement

Principle 2: Design and Approval of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

N/A

PRINCIPLE 3: REGULATIONS FOR STUDENT ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, RECOGNITION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, AND CERTIFICATION

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP AND APPLY PUBLISHED REGULATIONS COVERING ALL ASPECTS AND PHASES OF STUDIES (ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, THESIS DRAFTING, RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATION).

The Institution should develop and publish the internal regulations prescribed by law which, among other things, should regulate all issues of postgraduate studies from the beginning to the end of the studies.

Indicatively:

- *The students' admission procedures and the required supporting documents*
- *Student rights and obligations, and monitoring of student progression*
- *Internship issues, if applicable, and granting of scholarships*
- *The procedures and terms for the drafting of assignments and the thesis*
- *The procedure of award and recognition of degrees, the duration of studies, the conditions for progression and for the assurance of the progress of students in their studies*
- *The terms and conditions for enhancing student mobility*

In case that the PSP is offered through distance learning methods, the Institution should have in place a regulation for e-learning, including in particular the following issues:

- *Services of the Institution to support e-learning*
- *Methodology for the development and implementation of courses*
- *Ways of providing teaching and variety of teaching and assessment modes*
- *General standard of course structure*
- *Student support system*
- *Support of faculty/teachers with mandatory e-learning training for new staff members*
- *Technological infrastructures made available by the Institution*
- *Student identity confirmation system (student identity check, assignment and exam writing process, security and certification issues).*
- ❖ *The Institution should establish rules for the provision of appropriate access and for the assurance of the participation of students affected by disability, illness, and other special circumstances.*
- ❖ *Ethical issues, such as those concerning data protection, intellectual property rights and rules for protection against fraud are governed by the e-learning regulation.*

All the above must be made public within the context of the Student Guide.

Documentation

- *Internal regulation for the operation of the postgraduate study programme*
- *Special regulation for the implementation of e-learning if the PSP is delivered through distance methods*
- *Research Ethics Regulation*
- *Regulation of studies, internship, mobility, and student assignments*
- *Degree certificate template and Diploma Supplement template*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

In order to be admitted to the department, the necessary documents, such as CV, degree, foreign languages certificate, cover letter, etc., must be sent to the secretariat. Then follows a written examination and an oral presentation. The courses of the programme will be conducted entirely online, except for the first week of each semester as students and faculty will meet to kick off the semester. Also, meetings will take place to visit historical sites. So, in fact, it is a blended form of teaching.

II. Analysis

The infrastructure is considered to be fully equipped for online teaching as the classrooms of both the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy will be used, which are equipped with the necessary equipment. The teaching staff is certified for online and blended teaching.

Teaching will be done through the Teams and Jitsi platforms. These platforms allow the creation of quizzes and tests, thus enabling interactive learning and continuous assessment of students. The Teams platform also provides tools for people with disabilities, such as subtitling, for example. In addition, the Jitsi platform provides end to end encryption ensuring the confidentiality of the process.

Through the e-class platform, students will have access to the bibliography and supporting material, such as documentaries and primary archives, thus enabling them to follow the course, take part in the exams and access the learning material 24/7. Through the e-learning regulation, students are informed about the participation procedures and requirements of the programme. Through the institution of the academic advisor, students can receive additional information about the academic requirements of the department and can be advised on their professional rehabilitation.

The courses in terms of their content appear to be well structured and to cover issues of military history in a broad and in-depth manner. However, as they are limited to a three-month programme, they are expected to create three demanding semesters. Students during the course will be assigned a written assignment or participate in a written or oral examination at the end of the semester. However, it remains unclear how the final assessment of students will be conducted.

Exceptions are the courses "ΝΑΥΤΙΚΗ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΗ & ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ, 1821-1944", which clearly stipulate the need to prepare a written paper of 5,000 words. The dissertation will be carried out during the 3rd semester, in parallel with 2 courses, one compulsory and one compulsory elective. The diploma is issued in both Greek and English.

The department has foreseen a course on how to write a university thesis, which

is crucial for students to know the tools and ethical rules of writing a scientific paper. Also on the department's website is a guide to the requirements and standards of the thesis.

The mandatory participation of students in conferences, lectures and the final Colloquium is supportive in creating an academic profile of the students, encouraging their active involvement in the research community.

The programme does not provide internship or mobility opportunities, partly justified due to the course content.

III. Conclusions

Students who are admitted to this postgraduate programme will gain in-depth knowledge of the subject. The tele-education as well as the possibility of admission to the programme from any professional group will create a heterogeneous community that will give different aspects to both the discussion during the lessons and the research production. However, this may potentially be done in a way that is uneven in terms of humanitarian disciplines. Most of the teaching staff come from military schools and also the programme is expected to attract mainly students from similar areas.

Panel Judgement

Principle 3: Regulations for Student Admission, Progression, Recognition of Postgraduate Studies, and certification	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- Clarify how the final examination of each course is to be conducted.
- Provision should be made for smaller classes of students, as the number of places offered is up to 70.
- The humanitarian aspect of the department should be demonstrated.

PRINCIPLE 4: TEACHING STAFF OF NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ASSURE THEMSELVES OF THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THEIR TEACHING STAFF, AND APPLY FAIR AND TRANSPARENT PROCESSES FOR THEIR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

The Institution should attend to the adequacy and scientific competence of the teaching staff at the PSP, the appropriate staff-student ratio, the proper staff categories, the appropriate subject areas, the fair and objective recruitment process, the high research performance, the training, the staff development policy (including participation in mobility schemes, conferences, and educational leaves-as mandated by law).

More specifically, the academic unit should set up and follow clear, transparent, and fair processes for the recruitment of properly qualified staff for the PSP and offer them conditions of employment that recognise the importance of teaching and research; offer opportunities and promote the professional development of the teaching staff; encourage scholarly activity to strengthen the link between education and research; encourage innovation in teaching methods and the use of new technologies; promote the increase of the volume and quality of the research output within the academic unit; follow quality assurance processes for all staff (with respect to attendance requirements, performance, self-assessment, training, etc.); develop policies to attract highly qualified academic staff.

Documentation

- *Procedures and criteria for teaching staff recruitment, policy for attracting highly qualified staff, and PSP Obligation Regulation*
- *List of the intended for recruitment teaching staff including subject areas, employment relationship, Institution of origin, Department of origin and relevant individual achievements*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Programme emphasises the enhancement of knowledge in scientific disciplines, the comprehension of research methodologies, and the preparation of students for positions in associated professional and scientific domains, including but not limited to the History of War, Geopolitics, the History of Strategic Thought, the Ethics of War, and the Evolution of International Law.

The programme's teaching staff consists of 15 members, including 12 faculty members (<https://history.ionio.gr/>), one representative from the Hellenic Air Force Academy (<https://sse.army.gr/>), one external instructor from a university outside Greece, and one contract lecturer. The Programme prioritises the quality of its teaching staff, cultivating a supportive environment that facilitates significant growth in teaching activities. The teaching workload appears reasonable, and staff have the opportunity to engage in research and other personal development activities.

The policies of the Programme aimed at attracting highly qualified academic staff are akin to those implemented by other Greek universities. All teaching personnel possess extensive qualifications, with their areas of specialisation closely aligned with the academic orientation of the programme. Considering their recent publication counts, h-index metrics, and citation records documented in Scopus and

Google Scholar, all members demonstrate active and significant engagement in their respective research domains. Faculty involved in research of international relevance typically publish their work in internationally recognised languages and peer-reviewed journals. Undoubtedly, the research activities of the academic staff represent a distinct strength of this Programme, as evidenced by the volume of publications in high-quality journals and at reputable conferences.

A tenure and promotion committee undertakes a thorough assessment of the research and teaching qualifications of the programme under review.

II. Analysis

The faculty undergoes evaluation across all facets of their professional responsibilities, utilising the procedures established by the institution's Quality Assurance Committee (ΜΟΔΙΠ) in accordance with its internal quality assurance system, as well as the protocols outlined by the Committee on Internal Evaluation (ΟΜΕΑ). This evaluation process aligns with international best practices and incorporates student assessments of the modules delivered, alongside the annual compilation and review of faculty research and administrative contributions. All pertinent data is systematically collected and organised through a transparent administrative process, initiated by communication from the chair of the Quality Assurance Committee to the chair of the Internal Evaluation Committee, who subsequently liaises with the faculty. The assembled data is then presented at departmental meetings, accompanied by relevant recommendations pertaining to teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and faculty advancement.

III. Conclusions

The PSP maintains transparent and equitable processes in the recruitment of its educators, all of whom possess the requisite qualifications to instruct the courses provided, with their research performance exhibiting variability. The teaching personnel, their credentials, instructional methodologies, and assessment practices align closely with those established in comparable postgraduate programs both within Greece and internationally.

Panel Judgement

Principle 4: Teaching Staff of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

N/A

PRINCIPLE 5: LEARNING RESOURCES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO COVER THE TEACHING AND LEARNING NEEDS OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THEY SHOULD -ON THE ONE HAND- PROVIDE SATISFACTORY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORT, AND- ON THE OTHER HAND- FACILITATE DIRECT ACCESS TO THEM BY ESTABLISHING INTERNAL RULES TO THIS END (E.G. LECTURE ROOMS, LABORATORIES, LIBRARIES, NETWORKS, CAREER AND SOCIAL POLICY SERVICES ETC.).

Institutions and their academic units must have sufficient resources and means, on a planned and long-term basis, to support learning and academic activity in general, so as to offer PSP students the best possible level of studies. The above means include facilities such as the necessary general and more specialised libraries and possibilities for access to electronic databases, study rooms, educational and scientific equipment, IT and communication services, support, and counselling services.

When allocating the available resources, the needs of all students must be taken into consideration (e.g., whether they are full-time or part-time students, employed and foreign students, students with disabilities), in addition to the shift towards student-centered learning and the adoption of flexible modes of learning and teaching. Support activities and facilities may be organised in various ways, depending on the Institutional context. However, the internal quality assurance proves -on the one hand- the quantity and quality of the available facilities and services, and -on the other hand- that students are aware of all available services.

In delivering support services, the role of support and administration staff is crucial and therefore this segment of staff needs to be qualified and have opportunities to develop its competences.

Documentation

- Detailed description of the infrastructure and services made available by the Institution to the academic unit for the PSP, to support learning and academic activity (human resources, infrastructure, services, etc.) and the corresponding firm commitment of the Institution to financially cover these infrastructure-services from state or other resources
- Administrative support staff of the PSP (job descriptions, qualifications, and responsibilities)
- Informative / promotional material given to students with reference to the available services
- Tuition utilisation plan (if applicable)

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The New inter-institutional Postgraduate Study Programme (PSP) Military History-History of War of the Ionian University and the Hellenic Army Academy (Στρατιωτική Σχολή Ευελπίδων) offers an adequate and well-structured teaching infrastructure to support its fully online delivery model. The PSP is conducted entirely online, utilizing both synchronous and asynchronous teaching methods. Only the first week (or the first couple of weeks) will be conducted in presence and will be held in the premises of the Hellenic Army Academy. The PSP is supported by a well-organized IT infrastructure, including advanced platforms such as Microsoft Teams and a customized Jitsi-based teleconferencing system.

Students will have access to the libraries and general facilities of the Hellenic Army Academy and the Ionian University, as well as the laboratories of the collaborating institutions.

Students and faculty have full access to digital libraries and academic databases,

ensuring the availability of high-quality educational resources. These systems collectively ensure the effectiveness, flexibility, and reliability of the teaching and learning process, aligned with the standards of a modern online academic environment.

The program's tuition fees are expected to range between €2,500 and €3,500. Up to 30% of students may be eligible for scholarships, provided they meet the criteria set by current legislation.

Effective communication strategies which are scheduled, ensure that students will be well-informed about the services available to them.

II. Analysis

The PSP provides a comprehensive digital infrastructure to support student learning and engagement. All educational materials, including primary and secondary historical sources, bibliographies, lecture slides, documentaries and other instructional tools and visual aids, are made available in digital format. This ensures that students can access course content conveniently from any location and at any time.

In addition, the structure of written assignments is designed to accommodate remote learning. Students are able to draft and submit their work entirely online. This approach supports flexibility, accessibility, and continuity in the educational process.

The PSP employs advanced digital platforms to support high-quality remote education. Microsoft Teams is used to organize, manage, and deliver educational content. It supports the live streaming of lectures and enables instructors to track student progress effectively.

Additionally, Hellenic Army Academy (Στρατιωτική Σχολή Ευελπίδων) utilizes a customized instance of the open-source platform Jitsi for synchronous (real-time) online instruction. It supports concurrent access by hundreds of users, with complete communication privacy guaranteed through end-to-end encryption between each user and the server.

This digital infrastructure ensures that remote learning is reliable, secure, and scalable, contributing significantly to the program's flexibility and accessibility.

Tuition fees for the PSP are allocated according to established principles and a detailed budget framework. After deducting the statutory 30% share directed to ELKE (Special Account for Research Funds), the remaining tuition revenue is distributed as follows:

- Approximately 25% is used to cover compensation related to the supervision of thesis projects and for administrative support services.

- Approximately 25% is allocated to support educational activities. This includes academic excursions, events, and conferences, as well as the procurement of educational materials such as books, e-books, journal subscriptions, computer

equipment, and software licenses.

-20% is dedicated to publicity and outreach efforts, including promotional materials, as well as the purchase of office supplies and maintenance of equipment.

This allocation ensures that tuition revenue directly supports both the academic quality and operational efficiency of the program.

The availability of career counselling helps students transition smoothly from academic life to professional careers, while the student welfare services address personal and social needs. Creation of the PSP alumni network in due course would be an asset to the PSP and could further support its advancement.

The PSP ensures comprehensive access to historical and academic resources essential for graduate-level research. A significant investment was recently made in the renovation of the Hellenic Army Academy (Στρατιωτική Σχολή Ευελπίδων) Library. This upgraded facility now supports the digitization of the School's archival materials. Some documents - dating back to the 19th century - have already been digitized, and the full digitization process is actively underway.

In addition to institutional archives, graduate students will have access to the General State Archives of Greece, as well as other archives, among them archival facilities in Corfu, expanding their research capabilities with national and regional historical records.

Students will also benefit from digital library access, including databases and scholarly journals. Plans are in place at the Ionian University to expand subscriptions to academic journals, and existing subscriptions - temporarily suspended - are expected to be renewed. Book lending services are also available via library networks. This infrastructure supports the program's research-oriented goals and ensures that students, regardless of location, have the necessary tools to engage in high-quality academic work.

III. Conclusions

The range of Student support services available is adequate and covers academic, personal, and professional needs, including career counselling, student welfare services. The PSP also demonstrates a solid foundation in academic structure, digital infrastructure, and research support. Continued investment in digital platforms and research resources will further enhance the programme's impact and academic excellence.

Panel Judgement

Principle 5: Learning Resources and Student Support	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- Implement regular student surveys to assess the usability and effectiveness of online resources, using feedback to guide updates and improvements.
- Ensure continuity and timely renewal of academic journal subscriptions and consider extending access to specialized databases and academic resources.

PRINCIPLE 6: INITIAL INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIC UNITS SHOULD HAVE IN PLACE AN INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM, FOR THE AUDIT, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE NEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES, THUS ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PRESENT STANDARDS. ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE ABOVE CONTEXT SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

The internal evaluation of the new PSP includes the assessment of the accreditation proposal, as well as the documentation in accordance with the Principles of the present Standards and the quality procedures of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS). The internal evaluation of new postgraduate study programmes also aims at maintaining the level of educational provision and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students. The Institution, through its Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) and the corresponding academic units, organise and support the external evaluation procedures of the new PSP, according to the specific guidelines and directions provided by HAHE.

The above comprise the assessment of:

- the objectives, content, and structure of the curriculum, the knowledge offered and the level of science and technology in the given discipline, thus ensuring that the PSP is up to date, according to the relevant documentation listed in the decisions of the pertinent bodies*
- the entailed students' workload for the progression and completion of postgraduate studies*
- the satisfaction of the students' expectations and needs in relation to the programme*
- the learning environment, support services, and their fitness for purpose for the PSP in question*

Postgraduate study programmes are designed and established in accordance with the provisions of the Institution's internal regulations, involving students and other stakeholders.

Documentation

- *The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) procedure for verifying whether the requirements of the Standards for Quality Accreditation of New PSP are met, as well as the procedure for organising and supporting their external evaluation procedures*
- *Assessment and feedback mechanisms of the PSP strategy and quality targeting, and relevant decision-making processes (students, external stakeholders)*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

All parties involved in the Programme have established internal self-assessment procedures and mechanisms, which are integral elements of an efficient quality assurance system. This system is designed to facilitate regular monitoring, review, and revision of the Programme once it becomes operational. The internal quality assurance framework aims to uphold high Programme standards and ensure an appropriate level of education, while fostering a supportive and effective learning environment for students.

The MODIP team, alongside the Departmental leadership team, will assume a pivotal role throughout the various stages of internal self-assessment. The results

of the self-assessment must be meticulously recorded, analysed, disseminated, and utilised, particularly in the process of formulating and communicating recommendations and action plans during the initial years of the Programme's operation.

II. Analysis

The Programme Studies Committee must ensure that sufficient effort is devoted to the review and revision of the Programme following its initiation, in order to maintain its relevance and alignment with the most recent research and pedagogical methodologies in the respective fields.

Revisions should also strive to align its objectives and content with the needs and expectations of students, while adhering to international standards and best practices.

Additionally, considerations must be given to the evolving needs of the student demographic, as well as the evaluations and feedback provided by the students.

III. Conclusions

The internal quality assurance system of the programme fosters continuous improvement through regular updates, stakeholder feedback, and comprehensive assessments. This systematic approach maintains elevated educational standards and facilitates a nurturing learning environment, ensuring that the program remains current, pertinent, and responsive to the needs of both students and society. In conclusion, the external evaluation members express confidence that the current internal quality assurance system is adeptly structured to monitor, update, and enhance the new programme.

Panel Judgement

Principle 6: Initial Internal and External Evaluation and Monitoring of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

N/A

PART C: CONCLUSIONS

I. Features of Good Practice

- Specialized Academic Pathway / One-of-a-Kind Curriculum in Greece. The PSP is the only program of its kind in Greece offering a postgraduate degree in Military History – History of War Studies.
- Comprehensive Digital Infrastructure. The PSP is fully supported by modern platforms (Microsoft Teams, Jitsi) for both synchronous and asynchronous online learning, ensuring flexibility and accessibility for all students.
- High-Quality Educational Resources. All teaching materials - primary sources, literature, documentaries, and more, are available digitally, enabling students to study remotely without academic compromise.
- Access to Archives and Libraries. Students have access to major national archives (e.g., General State Archives of Greece, Hellenic Army Academy Library) and institutional resources, including regional and digitized historical materials - particularly valuable for Military History research.

II. Areas of Weakness

- Partial Digitization of Archives. Although progress has been made, a significant portion of historical military archives remains undigitized, limiting full remote access to key primary sources.
- Interrupted Journal Subscriptions. Some academic journal subscriptions have been paused and are awaiting renewal, which may temporarily affect access to current research.
- Limited In-Person Research Options. For a program rooted in Military History, students who are unable to travel may face challenges accessing non-digitized archival collections.

III. Recommendations for Follow-up Actions

- Implement regular student surveys to assess the usability and effectiveness of online resources, using feedback to guide updates and improvements.
- Ensure continuity and timely renewal of academic journal subscriptions and consider extending access to specialized databases and academic resources.
- Clarify how the final examination of each course is to be conducted.
- Provision should be made for smaller classes of students, as the number of places offered is up to 70
- Accurately define the tuition fee amount of the PSP.

IV. Summary & Overall Assessment

The Principles where full compliance has been achieved are: **1,2,3,4,5, 6.**

The Principles where substantial compliance has been achieved are: **None**

The Principles where partial compliance has been achieved are: **None**

The Principles where failure of compliance was identified are: **None**

Overall Judgement	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

The members of the External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

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