



## **Department of Biomedical Sciences**

### **Post-Graduate Program: Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics**

Internal Regulations for the Operation of the  
Postgraduate Programs of the academic unit or the  
Institution

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## 1. Subject - Purpose

The goal of postgraduate studies is to advance knowledge, foster research, and meet the educational, research, social, cultural, and developmental needs of the country. This is achieved by training high-level scientists who can contribute to theoretical and applied areas of specific knowledge branches, special thematic units, or individual branches of the cognitive subjects taught in the first cycle of studies of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the School of Health Sciences of the IHU. The department also aims to produce and disseminate knowledge, technology, methodologies, tools, and research results in the scientific field in which it operates.

Global phenotypic changes in microbes and their host (Infectomics) are expressed under certain environmental conditions through specific microbe-host interactions during infection. These changes are encoded by the genomes of microbial pathogens and their hosts. Approaches at the genome level to determine the genotype and phenotype will lead to a global "mapping" of microbial pathogenesis, aiming to effectively and rapidly diagnose infectious diseases and develop new strategies for controlling infections.

The object of the MSc is postgraduate teaching, research, and training and specialization of new scientific potential in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences and their applications in the diagnosis of infectious diseases with an emphasis on the latest developments and the acquisition of knowledge and skills in both applied laboratory and clinical research issues. The MSc aims to provide students with modern and specialized expertise in the spectrum of biomedical developments in the service of infectious disease diagnosis. Through in-depth theoretical and practical laboratory training, students will receive comprehensive training in the range of biomedical and molecular sciences applications, and their professional training will be linked to the job market.

The program aims to train students in the modern molecular diagnosis of infectious diseases, with a focus on bioinformatics application techniques. It will cover important topics such as pharmacology, drug action against pathogens, community infections, public health issues, prevention, and surveillance. The curriculum will include both theoretical and practical training in laboratory diagnostic methods for clinical syndromes and infections, with a special emphasis on traveler infections and tropical diseases. In addition, students will specialize in modern neuroscientific issues related to infections of the central nervous system and infections of hematologic patients.

The program consists of two cycles of courses and training, with a fair and equitable distribution of educational content. The acquisition of critical and research skills is essential, as the ultimate goal is to complete a high-level doctoral dissertation.

## 2. Master's Degree Diploma

The M.Sc. awards a Master's Degree in Specialization (M.D.S.) entitled 'Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics,' which will be conferred by the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University.

The Master's Degree (M.D.) is a public document issued within one of the Master's Programs of the Department of Biomedical Sciences. The M.D. contains information such as the Department's name, the year of completion of studies, the date of issuance of the M.D., the graduation protocol number, the title of the Master's Program, the student's details, and the grading of the studies (Pass, Good, Excellent).

Upon completion, a graduate of the Master's Program may receive a certificate of successful attendance and completion of the program.

In addition to the M.D., a Diploma Supplement is provided as per Article 15 of Law 3374/2005 and Ministerial Decision F5/89656/BE/13-8-2007 (Official Gazette 1466 B), which is an explanatory document providing information about the nature, level, general education framework, content, and status of the studies that were successfully completed. It does not replace the official title of the degree or the detailed course grading provided by the Institutions.

## 3. Admission procedure for graduate students

### 3.1 Categories of Candidates Eligible for Enrollment in the Master's Program

I. Holders of undergraduate degrees from Greek universities (and former Technological Educational Institutes - TEIs). The Regulation of Postgraduate Studies (RPS) of each Master's Program describes in detail the categories of candidates eligible to apply. The competent Secretariat verifies whether the institution that awarded the degree from a foreign institution belongs to the National Registry of Recognized Institutions of the respective country and whether the type of this degree belongs to the National Registry of Degree Types of Recognized Institutions posted on the DOATAP website, in accordance with Article 304 par. 4 of Law 4957/2022.

II. Holders of undergraduate degrees from foreign institutions. A Master's Degree (MSc) is not awarded to a student whose undergraduate degree from a foreign institution has not been recognized by DOATAP (Law 3328/2005, A' 80). The RPS of each Master's Program describes the evaluation procedures for candidates whose undergraduate degree has not been recognized by DOATAP upon application.

III. Members of the teaching and research staff (Faculty, Teaching Staff, and Special Laboratory Teaching Staff) may enroll as supernumerary candidates, limited to one (1) per year per Master's Program organized in the Departments of the University, relevant to the title of their studies and the work they perform at the University.

The Master's Program accepts graduates from the Departments of Biomedical Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology, Nursing, Medical Laboratories, Veterinary Medicine, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Agriculture, Geology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering, Polytechnic Schools, Economics and Management Sciences, Informatics, Social Sciences, Humanities, Physical Education Sciences, Nutrition, Aesthetics-Cosmetology, and other Departments of Greek Universities, former Technological Educational Institutes (TEIs), and recognized equivalent foreign institutions. Also eligible are final-year undergraduate students who will have successfully completed their undergraduate studies before the enrollment deadline and meet all admission requirements for the Master's Program

### 3.2 Application Procedure

The Coordinating Committee of the Master's Program decides on the publication timing, in the press and on the website of the University (at least four months before the start of classes), of a relevant announcement to interested candidates, defining:

- The necessary qualifications and prerequisites for admission to the Master's Program.
- The categories of graduates and the number of admissions.
- The general method of admission and evaluation criteria for candidates.
- The required documentation.
- The deadline for submission of documents.
- The submission address for the documentation.
- The Secretariat of the Master's Program, where candidates' applications with supporting documents are submitted.

Applications are made using a specific form available on the Master's Program website. The documents that candidates must submit include:

- Application form.
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae.

- Copy of degree/diploma or its photocopy (same applies to second degree or Master's title).
- Copy of detailed transcript of records or its photocopy.
- Proof of English language proficiency: a) State Language Proficiency Certificate for English language at least level B2. b) First Certificate in English from the University of Cambridge (Lower). c) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) from Cambridge, Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) - The British Council – IDP Education Australia IELTS. d) Business English Certificate-Vantage (BEC Vantage) from Cambridge, Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES). e) Michigan Certificate of Competency in English (MCCE) from the University of Michigan. f) London Tests of English Level 3-Upper Intermediate Communication from EDEXCEL. g) Certificate in Integrated Skills in English ISE II from Trinity College London. h) TOEFL certificate. i) Degree from an English-speaking university or English philology degree.
- Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals or conference proceedings (with reviewers) or professional journals related to the scientific field of the Master's Program (if available).
- Proof of professional experience (if available).
- Proof of participation in international exchange programs (if available))

### 3.3. Number of entrants and Selection Criteria

The maximum number of admitted graduate students is set at fifty (50). The maximum number of postgraduate students per lecturer and per department cannot exceed five (5). The minimum number of admissions per admission cycle is set at ten (10) postgraduate students. In addition to the number of admissions, one (1) scholarship holder of the State Scholarship Foundation who succeeded in the relevant internal postgraduate studies competition of the MP subject may be accepted. Also, one (1) foreign scholarship holder of the Greek State may be accepted. By decision of the Coordinating Committee and the General Assembly, the number of scholarships can be increased.

The Department of Biomedical Sciences announces positions with an open process (invitation for expressions of interest) for the admission of graduates. The notice states the conditions for admission, the categories of graduates and the number of admissions, the method of admission, the selection criteria, the deadlines for submitting applications and the supporting documents required. In the event that the method of admission requires a written examination, the procedure should be specified: the number and subject matter of the subjects to be examined, the examination dates and the grading method.

Applications together with the necessary supporting documents are submitted to the Department's Secretariat in paper or electronic form.

The selection criteria for candidates may include, for example:

1. Degree / Diploma
2. Analytical Grading in the undergraduate courses, which are related to the MP.
3. Performance in the Diploma Thesis, where this is provided for in the first cycle of studies.
4. At least good knowledge (B2) of one of the languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish.
5. Knowledge of a second and/or other foreign language
6. Letters of Recommendation
7. Interview by a competent Committee.
8. Additional criteria, according to the decision of the Assembly, such as:
  - a. Professional experience (duration and type).
  - b. Research experience.
  - c. Publications and writing activity.

The level of language proficiency in a foreign language is demonstrated by:

- a) State Certificate according to Law 2740/1999 as replaced by par. 19 of Article 13 of Law 3149/2003,
- b) Bachelor's degree in Foreign Language and Literature or Bachelor's degree in Foreign Languages Translation and Interpretation from domestic institutions or an equivalent degree from foreign institutions,
- c) Degree, undergraduate or postgraduate diploma, or doctoral diploma from any recognized institution of higher education abroad,
- d) Diploma equivalent to Greek Secondary Education diplomas if obtained after at least six years of regular education abroad.

The teaching adequacy license for a foreign language does not prove knowledge of a foreign language (Presidential Decree 347/2003). Candidates holding the relevant license must submit a certified copy and an accurate translation of the academic degree based on which the teaching adequacy license was issued.

The number and type of recommendation letters (from academic faculty, employers) are determined by the decision of the Assembly.

The selection process of candidates, as decided by the Assembly, is conducted by a competent three-member Selection Committee comprised of academic faculty members engaged in postgraduate work, which is constituted by the decision of the Assembly. The Committee compiles a list of all candidates and, after the relevant examination, rejects those who do not meet the minimum criteria determined by the Department of Biomedical Sciences. It invites for an interview, where applicable, the eligible candidates who have met the prerequisites. Upon completion of the process, whether it involves a written examination or assessment based on document submission and interview, the list of successful candidates is compiled. The final list of successful and potential candidates, once ratified by the Assembly, is posted on the Secretary's notice board and on the Department's website.

The number of admissions per year is set at a maximum of fifty (50) postgraduate students, with the possibility of modifying the number based on candidates' applications and the program's capabilities. The exact number of admissions is determined annually by the Academic Senate and the General Assembly. In case of tie scores, all candidates with tied scores are admitted. Members of academic categories, such as Teaching Staff, Adjunct Teaching Staff, and Special Laboratory Teaching Staff, who meet the requirements of the first paragraph of Article 34, can enroll as supernumerary members, limited to one per year, provided they serve in one of the two relevant Departments of the Institution organizing the Postgraduate Program. These members must serve in one of the two Departments of the Institutions organizing the Postgraduate Program, which should be related to the subject of the academic degree and work they perform at the respective Institution.

### 3.4 Procedure for Evaluating Applications and Enrollment in the Postgraduate Program

Initially, the Program Secretary's Office compiles a complete list of all applicants. The evaluation of student candidates who have submitted all required documents is conducted by the Admissions Selection Committee in three phases:

#### 1st Phase: Preliminary selection

The Admissions Selection Committee verifies all required documents and reserves the right to request clarifications regarding the submitted documents and/or certification of knowledge necessary for attending the Postgraduate Program. Finally, it rejects candidates who do not meet the requirements.

#### 2nd Phase: Scoring criteria (up to 80 points)



The Admissions Selection Committee ranks candidates according to their score and publishes the provisional selection list, announcing the duration for objections. The ranking of candidates based on the accumulated points is done as described below. The total points of each candidate, resulting from the second phase, range up to 80 points. Performance points of undergraduate studies correspond to the degree grade. Available professional experience, possessing good to excellent knowledge of the English language, and participation in programs grant respective points as a whole. Scientific and research work grants 15 points to those with at least one (1) publication in an international peer-reviewed journal and 10 points to those with at least one (1) free presentation at a conference with reviewers (the total points cannot exceed 15 points). Postgraduate student candidates can submit objections within a period of 5 working days from the publication/notification of the results of the 2nd Phase. Below is the detailed scoring of the second phase:

- Undergraduate Performance (Up to 30 points)
- Relevant Professional Experience (Up to 15 points)
- Academic and Research Work Related to the Program (Up to 15 points)
- English Language Proficiency Higher Than Required (10 points)
- Participation in European Exchange Programs (10 points)

Selection Phases:

- Preliminary Evaluation - Review of submitted documents and requirements.
- Scoring Criteria - Ranking based on points accumulated.
- Interview - Personal assessment of candidates (up to 20 points).
- Finalization of Selection:
  - After assessing objections, a final ranking is compiled based on the total points.
  - Successful candidates are notified and required to confirm their acceptance within a specified period.
  - Enrollment procedures are outlined, and candidates must submit all necessary documents for enrollment.
  - Unfilled positions from accepted candidates are filled by candidates from the waiting list based on their ranking.

This process aims to select candidates based on academic qualifications, professional experience, language proficiency, and their suitability for the program through interviews. Successful candidates need to follow enrollment guidelines to secure their place.

## 4. Duration and Terms of Enrollment

The duration of enrollment in the Postgraduate Program leading to the acquisition of a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) is set at a minimum of three (3) semesters (90 ECTS), including the time for conducting and evaluating the Master's Dissertation Thesis (MDT). The time allocated for the dissertation cannot be less than three months.

### Suspension of Studies

Temporary suspension of studies, not exceeding two (2) consecutive semesters, can be granted upon submission of a relevant application. During the suspension, the postgraduate student loses the status of being a student. The time of suspension is not counted towards the maximum duration of regular enrollment. The resumption of studies maintains the student's status as a postgraduate student according to the enrollment time. The suspension is granted by the Assembly, following a recommendation by the Academic Committee.

### Deletion of Postgraduate Students

The right and procedure for re-examination of owed courses should be referenced in the respective study regulations. Deletion matters are decided by the Assembly. Indicative reasons for deletion include: a) insufficient progress of the postgraduate student (evidenced by lack of participation in educational processes: attendance, exams), b) incomplete fulfillment of other specified obligations, c) behavior violating academic ethics according to current legislation and the code of ethics of the institution, d) request by the postgraduate student.

### Part-Time Enrollment

Postgraduate students may be provided, according to paragraph z) of article 79 of law 4957/2022 (Official Gazette 141), the opportunity for part-time enrollment (PTE) for employed students, with a duration not exceeding twice the normal enrollment period. Internal Regulations of the Postgraduate Programs should specify the terms and submitted documentation, e.g., students working demonstrably for 20 hours per week, etc. Part-time enrollment is also provided for non-employed postgraduate students who cannot meet the minimum requirements of full-time programs and for exceptionally serious cases, such as illness, serious family reasons, military service, force majeure, etc.

### Non-Program Students

Within the educational process, the option is given to attend one course per semester, not exceeding two courses overall per individual in the program. These are external participants categorized as non-program students. Non-program students are not considered students of the Postgraduate Program (thus, they are not entitled to a student ID) but, upon successful completion of courses, can obtain a certificate crediting the ECTS of the attended courses (maximum awarded ECTS 14 - 2x7.5). Non-program students can apply (if desired) for enrollment in the Postgraduate Program. If accepted, they can transfer the successfully completed courses into the study program. The categories of non-program student applicants allowed to participate are the same as those for admission to the Postgraduate Program, as is the selection process. Non-program students receive the corresponding certificates upon successful evaluation of the specific courses.

Each Postgraduate Program may include one or more courses from other Postgraduate Programs. In any case, 75%, at least, of the courses in a Postgraduate Program must be organized by the same program. The cost for non-program students attending courses is set at 500 euros per course, with a maximum of 1000 euros overall per individual in the study program.

### Terms of Enrollment

The study duration leading to the acquisition of a Postgraduate Diploma is three (3) semesters and cannot exceed eight (8) semesters. The Postgraduate Program is intensive, lasting a full calendar year. To obtain the

Postgraduate Diploma, the postgraduate student must have attended and successfully examined ten (10) compulsory courses, five (5) in the first semester and five (5) in the second semester. Additionally, the completion of a Master's Dissertation Thesis in the third semester is mandatory. Attendance and examination of courses occur in the A' and B' semesters. The commencement of the Master's Dissertation Thesis (topic selection, protocol preparation-presentation) can take place in the B' semester and is completed (writing-presentation) during the C' semester of studies. Enrollment in the program is considered complete upon reaching the minimum duration of enrollment and upon completion of writing and public presentation of the Master's Dissertation Thesis.

If the postgraduate student fails an exam or exams and is considered, according to the relevant study regulation, to have not successfully completed the program, an appeal can be made by a three-member committee of academic faculty of the department, specializing in the same or related field as the examined course and appointed by the Assembly. The responsible examiner/teaching personnel is excluded from the committee. If the student does not achieve a passing grade before the committee, deletion proceedings are initiated by the competent bodies of the Postgraduate Program. Each department can specify penalties in case of delayed submission of work within a course and/or the Master's Dissertation Thesis.

Postgraduate students enroll and participate in Postgraduate Programs under the terms and conditions outlined in the respective study regulations. Postgraduate students have all the rights, benefits, and facilities provided for undergraduate students except for the right to receive free educational textbooks. The department is obligated to provide facilities for postgraduate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

## 5. Curriculum

The total number of Credit Units (ECTS) required for the acquisition of the Master's degree amounts to 90. For the award of the MSc, mandatory attendance and successful examination in all courses distributed over the first two semesters of study are required (1st semester with 30 ECTS and 2nd semester with 30 ECTS). In the 3rd semester, each student is required to complete the dissertation (30 ECTS), the subject of which may be defined by the end of the 1st semester of studies. The languages of instruction for the program will be the English language.

Each course has a total duration of at least 35 teaching hours, which can be allocated to remote synchronous teaching hours and a mixed/hybrid system with face-to-face sessions for laboratory courses and distance learning for theoretical ones. Each semester includes a unit with laboratory exercises.

The above, based on article 88 of law 4957/2022, allows the organization of the educational process of Postgraduate Programs to be conducted using modern distance learning methods. The decision to establish a Postgraduate Program organized using distance learning methods is accompanied by a report containing an analysis of the methods of organizing the educational process from a distance, such as synchronous, asynchronous, blended learning system, digital educational material, any methods of digital student assessment, digital assessment material, the technical infrastructure of the Higher Education Institution (HEI) to support distance learning programs, and the digital skills of the teaching staff. If the educational process is conducted using asynchronous distance learning methods, these cannot exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the credit units of the Postgraduate Program.

The Department of Biomedical Sciences includes, through contracts of the Educational Software and Applications Development Directorate, the 'Unitron' system, which provides access to the course grades, the creation and submission of applications to the department's secretariat, and a list of courses per semester, as well as the 'Moodle' platform, which provides access to the courses in which the student can enroll and access announcements, notes, or slides uploaded by the instructor. The delivery of courses is carried out through the Zoom modern education platforms, which are provided free of charge to the students via the contracts of the Educational Software and Applications Development Directorate.

Each ECTS corresponds to 26 hours of workload. The curriculum, teaching, and research engagement, practical exercises, and any other educational and research activities are defined as follows:

CODE	COURSE TITLE	TYPE OF COURSE	EXAMINATION PERIOD	TYPE OF EXAMINATION	ECTS
A.1	Clinical Microbiology and Infectious diseases	C, T - P	February	Written examination	6
A.2	Pharmacology - Drug action against pathogens	C, T	February	Written examination	6
A.3	Community acquired infections and public health	C, T	February	Written examination	6
A.4	Infection prevention and control	C, T	February	Written examination	6
A.5	Bioinformatics and study design in infectious diseases - How to write a scientific paper	C, T	February	Written examination	6
<b>Sum of ECTS (1<sup>st</sup> Semester)</b>					<b>30</b>

B.1	Investigation and diagnosis of imported infection-tropical diseases	C, T	June	Written examination	6
B.2	Emerging Infectious Diseases	C, T	June	Written examination	6
B.3	Resistance mechanisms in antibacterial	C, T - P	June	Written examination	6
B.4	Molecular diagnostics and Infectomics	C, T	June	Written examination	6
B.5	Infections in hematologic patients -Central nervous system infections and advances in neurosciences	C, T	June	Written examination	6
<b>Sum of ECTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)</b>					<b>30</b>
C.1	Project-Thesis**			Oral examination	30
<b>Sum of ECTS (3<sup>rd</sup> Semester)</b>					<b>30</b>
<b>Total ECTS credits</b>					<b>90</b>

C =

Compulsory, T = Theoretical, P = Practical course with laboratory exercises

ECTS: European Credit Transfer System

The courses of the first two semesters consist of a total of 10 mandatory modules with a theoretical and laboratory background based on the above table.

1st Semester of Study (Total 30 ECTS): A1 to A5

2nd Semester of Study (Total 30 ECTS): B1 to B5

3rd Semester of Study (Total 30 ECTS): Thesis

Each course is taught by one or more instructors. For each course unit, the program committee appoints a faculty member as the responsible coordinator for that course. This individual is responsible for lectures, laboratory exercises, or tutorials within their unit. Supervision of the Master's Dissertation Thesis is granted to instructors (holders of a doctoral degree), honorary professors, or retired faculty members of the Department or other Departments within the same or another Higher Education Institution (HEI).

Teaching for the courses takes place every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The days and hours of instruction may vary by decision of the Program Committee or the Director of the MSc.

The start and end dates of postgraduate courses for the winter and spring semesters of each academic year, as well as the dates of the respective examinations, may be determined on dates different from those mentioned in the institution's academic calendar. This is done by decision of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Department organizing the MSc, up until the month of June of the previous year.

## 6. Operation of Study Program

To obtain an MSc degree, a total of 90 Credit Units (ECTS) are required. To be eligible for the degree, students must attend all courses during the first and second semesters, and successfully pass all exams. The first semester, A', comprises of 30 ECTS, and the second semester, B', also consists of 30 ECTS. During the third semester, students must complete a dissertation worth 30 ECTS. The topic for the dissertation can be determined by the end of the first semester. The language of instruction for the program is English. Teaching hours can be allocated to remote synchronous teaching and a mixed/hybrid system, with face-to-face sessions for laboratory courses and distance teaching for theoretical courses. Each semester will include a unit of laboratory exercises. Each ECTS corresponds to 26 hours of workload. The course program, teaching and research activities, practical exercises, and any other educational and research activities are defined as follows:

### 6.1 Study Program Attendance

Postgraduate students are required to continuously attend lectures, workshops, and other activities scheduled for each course. The limit for absences in the MSc program is three (3). If a student exceeds this limit, the Coordinating Committee decides on either the completion of a supplementary assignment with the instructor's approval, retaking the course, or excluding the student from the specific program. A postgraduate student may apply for a suspension of studies due to significant reasons (health, professional, etc.). Upon approval by the Coordinating Committee, the student may continue to the next MSc cycle without reapplying or being evaluated. If the request is submitted within the first month, the student attends the courses of the new study cycle from the beginning. If the request is approved after the completion of the first month of courses, the student can join the ongoing courses from the point where the suspension began. Teaching is conducted remotely or in a hybrid format for all or part of the students and instructors, either with physical presence in specifically equipped classrooms for the needs of the postgraduate program or exclusively through modern remote teaching methods. Asynchronous (up to 25% of the total credit units) distance learning may also be implemented as provided by Article 88 of law 4957/2022.

The Department of Biomedical Sciences has all the necessary infrastructure, technical equipment, and expertise to conduct all MSc courses exclusively or in a hybrid manner through modern remote teaching and/or asynchronous teaching or face-to-face teaching, in accordance with the current legislation at any given time. Specifically, the MSc program provides electronic and technical equipment, audiovisual aids, digital educational material, and digital tools for course delivery. Moreover, examinations are conducted either with physical presence or through modern remote examination methods utilizing all the digital tools available to ensure reliability and credibility, as mandated by the prevailing legislation.

### 6.2 Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is exclusively English. Courses will be presented in English, study materials will also be in English, as well as the performance evaluations for the MSc. The language for writing the Master's Thesis is English with an extensive summary in Greek, German, or French. In any case, an abstract of the thesis in English will be included.

### 6.3 Schedule of Course Activities

Teaching for courses takes place every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The days and hours of teaching may vary based on decisions made by the Coordinating Committee or the Director of the MSc program.

### 6.4 Obligations of Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate students accepted into the MSc program are obliged to:

- Attend classes continuously as per the current Study Program, signing attendance sheets. If classes are conducted remotely, attendance will be verified using technical and digital means.
- Submit the required assignments for each course within the specified deadlines.
- Attend the scheduled examinations.
- Respect and adhere to the Regulations of Postgraduate Studies, decisions of the MSc program's authorities, the Department, and the Postgraduate Studies Committee, as well as academic ethics.
- Pay the tuition fees.
- Submit to the Secretary, before the evaluation of their thesis, a declaration that the thesis is not a product of plagiarism, either in whole or in part.

Failure to meet the above obligations may result in penalties, including exclusion from the Program

## 6.5 Responsibilities of Instructors

Instructors in the MSc program are obliged to:

- Adhere faithfully and accurately to the program and schedule of course deliveries. In case a class is not conducted due to a serious reason attributable to the instructor, the postgraduate students are duly informed, and the missed class is rescheduled in consultation with the students and the Director of the MSc program.
- Verify that the present students are the only ones who have signed the relevant attendance sheet.
- Verify the presence of students in the virtual classroom throughout the duration of the class.
- Determine the content of postgraduate courses in a manner that keeps them updated, valid, and in line with current developments, based on scientific, postgraduate-level textbooks and scientific articles, documented in international literature, always within the framework of each course's description.
- Ensure the correlation between the theoretical aspect of teaching and high-level practical applications as applied in modern businesses and organizations.
- Instructors are not allowed to substitute their own prepared deliveries with invited speakers or library work.
- Allocate at least two (2) hours per week for communication with students on matters related to their studies and specific courses.
- Submit to the Secretary, at the beginning of each semester, to be distributed by the MSc Secretariat, the detailed syllabus covering the weekly course material for each course unit, case studies, and the relevant contemporary bibliography and articles.
- Submit to the MSc Secretariat the topics of thesis projects and the evaluation and grading report of the thesis, for approval by the Department Assembly.
- Respect and abide by the decisions of the MSc program bodies, as well as academic ethics.

## 6.6 Examinations and Grading of Postgraduate Students

The examinations for the semester courses take place at the end of each semester. The duration of the examination period for each semester is determined by the relevant body. The Coordinating Committee of each MSc program prepares and announces the examination timetable for each semester well in advance, not later than ten (10 days) before the start of the examinations. Additionally, postgraduate students can sit for examinations in the courses of both (2) semesters before the start of the winter semester (September re-sit). The duration of the examination period is set at two (2) weeks. The aforementioned examination is a re-sit of the courses of the respective semesters. The procedures for conducting examinations are in line with those defined for undergraduate student examinations.

Assessment in individual courses is conducted through written or oral examinations, assignments, or a combination thereof. The grading scale for evaluating the performance of postgraduate students ranges from zero (0) to ten (10), as follows:

Excellent (8.5 to 10)

Very Good (6.5 to 8.5 exclusive)

Good (6 to 6.5 exclusive)  
A passing grade is six (6) and above

The final grade of the MSc is derived from the weighted average of the courses of the MSc program and the Integrated Master's Thesis (where applicable) (weighting is based on the course credits and the Integrated Master's Thesis) and is calculated, with accuracy to the second decimal place, as follows:

The grade of each course and the Integrated Master's Thesis (where applicable) is multiplied by the corresponding number of credit units (ECTS), and the sum of the products is divided by the minimum number of credit units required to obtain the MSc.

$$\text{MSc grade} = \frac{[(\text{sum of (grade of each course} \times \text{ECTS of each course)}) + (\text{grade of Integrated Master's Thesis} \times \text{ECTS})]}{(\text{total ECTS})}$$

### 6.7 Evaluation of Courses and Instructors

After the completion of course deliveries, postgraduate students evaluate the course based on a questionnaire they complete. The form covers the course content, the instructor's teaching method, its relevance to practice, the principles, and the philosophy of the Postgraduate Program. The evaluation of the instructor by postgraduate students is based on criteria such as knowledge, the ability to impart knowledge to students, preparation, the use of contemporary internationally recognized literature, willingness to answer questions, timely assessment of assignments and written examinations, as well as adherence to the class hours of the course. The evaluation of instructors by postgraduate students is the responsibility of the Department's Teaching and Research Staff Evaluation Committee and the MSc Secretariat, following a process established and approved by the Institutional Quality Assurance Unit. The analysis of the evaluation with the observations of the postgraduate students and comparative tables are issued through the Institutional Information System (IIS) of the Institutional Quality Assurance Unit. In cases with serious complaints from postgraduate students, the Department Assembly, upon recommendation from the Coordinating Committee, has the authority to take appropriate measures (recommendation, revocation of teaching privileges) to address the identified issues.

### 6.8 Completion of Postgraduate Dissertation

The completion of the postgraduate dissertation is mandatory. The language of the dissertation is English, with an extensive summary in Greek, German, or French. In any case, the dissertation should include an abstract in English. The topic should fall within the subject of the Postgraduate Program and particularly within the specialization chosen by the postgraduate student, utilizing the knowledge acquired in the courses of the Postgraduate Program and in specific applications.

Regarding the assumption, completion, and support of the Dissertation, the following are defined:

#### a. Application - Submission of Topic

The postgraduate student has the right to submit a topic for the Postgraduate Dissertation once they have successfully completed the courses specified in the internal Regulation of each Postgraduate Program. The postgraduate student submits an application, stating the proposed title of the dissertation, the proposed supervisor, and attaches an abstract of the proposed work to the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program. Postgraduate students who do not submit the application within the time limits set by the internal Regulation postpone, at their own risk, the start of the Postgraduate Dissertation for at least one semester.

#### b. Supervision of the Postgraduate Dissertation

The Coordinating Committee, upon request of the candidate, appoints the supervisor and forms the Three-Member Examination Committee for the approval of the work, one of whose members is the supervisor.



The right to supervise dissertations is held by: a) Members of the Teaching and Research Staff (TRS), Special Teaching Staff (STS), Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS), and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS) of the Department or other Departments of the same or other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Higher Military Educational Institutions (HMEIs), with additional employment beyond their legal obligations, if the Postgraduate Program has tuition fees, b) equivalent Professors or retired TRS members of the Department or other Departments of the same or other HEIs, c) collaborating professors, d) assigned instructors, e) visiting professors or visiting researchers, f) researchers and specialized functional scientists of research and technological bodies according to article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (Government Gazette 258/A) or other research centers and institutes in Greece or abroad, provided that they hold a doctoral degree. By decision of the competent body of the Postgraduate Program, supervision of dissertations may also be assigned to members of the TRS, STS, and LTS of the Department who have not undertaken teaching duties in the Postgraduate Program. Members of the Three-Member Examination Committee must have the same or related scientific expertise as the subject of the Postgraduate Program. In exceptional cases of loss, objective inability to perform supervision duties, or significant reason, the replacement of the supervisor or member of the Three-Member Examination Committee is possible following a decision of the Assembly of the relevant Department or the Academic Committee.

#### c. Presentation and Completion of the Postgraduate Dissertation

Upon completion of the Postgraduate Dissertation, the postgraduate student submits copies of the final work to the Supervisor and the other two members of the Three-Member Examination Committee. If there is a positive evaluation by the Examination Committee, the date of the public presentation/evaluation of the Postgraduate Dissertation is set on a date and place determined by the Department's Assembly or the Academic Committee. The extent and depth of the oral examination during the presentation are proportional to the form of the work presentation. After the presentation and defense of the Postgraduate Dissertation, the Examination Committee draws up and signs the Minutes of the Public Presentation of the Dissertation, including any observations or comments, as well as the final grade. Upon approval by the Committee, it is mandatory to publish it on the website of the relevant Department or the relevant School. In case of a negative evaluation, the postgraduate student has the possibility to resubmit it after two months, having improved the work according to the observations of the Three-Member Examination Committee. In the event of a second failure, the postgraduate student is excluded from the award of the Postgraduate Diploma. The final complete copy of the Postgraduate Dissertation is submitted, after its acceptance, to the library of the HEI and in electronic form to the Department. Intellectual property rights over the Postgraduate Dissertation belong to the candidate, who grants to the HEI for the entire duration of the work's protection, the non-exclusive license for non-commercial use of all property rights on the work, for research and teaching, included.

The Postgraduate Dissertation may be theoretical, applied, or experimental and may contain recognizable elements of originality and contribution to scientific knowledge. The text must meet the specifications and structure of a scientific work, i.e., it should include a description of the dissertation topic, a description of the findings/results of the work, methodology, assumptions, bibliography, and any other necessary supporting or explanatory elements (necessary figures, diagrams, photographs, images, etc.). It is drafted in English and is accompanied by a brief summary of approximately 300 words in English and Greek (or French or German language). The extent of the work should be a minimum of 10,000 words.

#### 6.9 Study Guide

In each student intake cycle, the Study Guide of the Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.) is posted and made available to the students. The Study Guide must include:

The course curriculum, names of instructors, student rights (social benefits, scholarships, loans, textbooks, aids, etc.) for postgraduate students, their obligations, as well as information on the operation of the department's studios, laboratories, clinics, and libraries.

The total number of Credit Units (ECTS) required for obtaining the MSc, in all courses distributed over the study semesters.

The credit units awarded per specialization of the P.M.S., if there are more than one (1) specializations, which cannot be fewer than ninety (90) credit units (ECTS), along with the number of academic semesters of the program, which cannot be fewer than three (3).

The detailed study program per specialization, titles, and brief descriptions (syllabus) of the courses, seminars, laboratories, and clinical exercises of the P.M.S., practical training, dissertation preparation, or the conduct of other educational and research activities defined as mandatory or elective for the successful completion of the P.M.S., specifying the number of credit units (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - ECTS) awarded per case.

The official language of the program and the language of the dissertation.

The Specializations that concern the highest number of courses enrolled per semester, designation of courses as prerequisites, as well as examination rules and assessment of the performance of postgraduate students included in the internal Operating Regulation of the P.M.S.

The Directors issue and deliver academic calendar and schedule drafts. The schedule includes the start and end dates of teaching periods, examination periods, holidays, days, and hours of course instruction, dates of other events or obligations, etc. Academic calendars and schedules are transferred to the Directorate of Academic Affairs and to the E.L.K.E. of the University. After enrollment in a P.M.S. and before the start of each academic year, the student receives the annual Academic Calendar of the Program from the Secretariat. Assessment in courses is carried out through written or oral examinations, work, presentation, report, or a combination of the above. The exact form of assessment is determined by the teaching staff in relation to the nature of each course. The assessment terms in each course are announced at the beginning of the course by the teaching member - responsible/coordinator of the course. Each P.M.S. may adjust the academic calendar of the following academic year, taking into account its specific needs, before the start of the next academic year, stating the dates of courses and examinations. After the examination period, the exercises, written essays, and any other examination evidence are delivered by the instructor for storage in the Secretariat for a period of at least one (1) year. The timing and duration of the examination periods of the P.M.S. are determined by the Department Assembly or the P.M.S. P.G.C. following a proposal from the S.E. Specifically regarding postgraduate study programs provided in executive mode, the setting of the examinations for each course is allowed after the completion of its teaching.

## 6.10 Distance Education

According to the Government Gazette 5958/2023, No. DF 2.1/18853, the Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.) may operate remotely and/or in a hybrid format.

The International Hellenic University (IHU), due to its nature and geographical dispersion, places great emphasis on the internationalization of its study programs and the optimal utilization of digital services to support them. The following Centers have been established and operate within the IHU:

Center for Teaching and Learning Support (CTL, <https://ctl.ihu.gr/>).

Lifelong Learning Center (LLLC, <https://kedivim.ihu.gr/>).

Network Operations Center (NOC IHU).

These Centers collaborate with the IHU's Postgraduate Studies Committee to define specifications and provide a comprehensive set of e-learning support services and practical guidelines for developing electronic courses, leveraging international experience and practices. These services are available to academic staff to integrate new technologies at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels, as blended learning models are widely used within the IHU's academic sphere.

The IHU's philosophy focuses on disseminating technological knowledge and establishing technical infrastructure in its Departments to support academic staff locally through the technical support personnel of each implementing Department that offers the Postgraduate Study Program. The electronic learning support processes at IHU include:

Single Sign-On (SSO) services for easy access to all academic resources/applications.

Content Management and E-Learning Environments (moodle/eclass) to support synchronous and asynchronous distance learning.

Video Conferencing Services (Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Jitsi, etc.).

Streaming Services.

Question Submission/Complaints Management/Academic Counselor Services.

The design and development of comprehensive material for tertiary education are integral to the modern educational process as it creates a framework that allows substantial and effective learning for a wide range of students. The strategic development of inclusive material is crucial for effective education and student development at all levels. A key factor in the successful development of inclusive material is a student-centric approach emphasizing individual student needs and adaptation of materials accordingly. Through interactive activities, examples, exercises, and tools enabling successful integration and inclusion of students with personalized needs, inclusive material promotes engagement in the learning process and collaboration among students.

The development of material should also allow for its assessment and improvement. Through evaluations and feedback from students, educators can adjust the material to meet the needs and challenges of the educational process. The proper use and implementation of principles governing the development of accessible course material at the postgraduate level can offer a rich educational experience that empowers students with different abilities, technical skills, backgrounds, experiences, and needs, providing equal learning opportunities for all and promoting academic success. The detailed steps for developing material are described in the relevant guide of IHU's CTL.

The Postgraduate Program enhances student accessibility and promotes the following benefits:

Participation: Ensuring seamless accessibility.

Better User Experience: An accessible course is designed with the learner in mind, with clear and concise language, descriptive links and headers, and keyboard-accessible content.

Flexibility and Adaptability: Learners can choose the format that suits them best, whether it's audio, video, or text, and customize the course to their individual needs and preferences.

Increased Engagement and Mobilization: An accessible course is more attractive to all learners by incorporating interactive learning activities and diverse representation.

Enhanced Learning: An accessible course is designed to be inclusive and responsive to the needs of all students, resulting in improved learning outcomes.

The postgraduate program provides clear guidelines/information on the following topics:

Course Summary.

Aims and Learning Objectives (overall or per module).  
Structure - Course Contents (e.g., number of units, chapters, etc.).  
Course Calendar with an emphasis on important dates (e.g., online meetings, assignment submissions, exams, etc.).  
Grading Scale and Evaluation Rules.  
Assessment Formats, for example, a choice or combination of the following:  
Assignments (individual or collaborative).  
Exams (in-person or remote).  
Interviews (in-person or remote).  
Overall participation presence (e.g., participation in course forums).  
Weight of each assessment format (e.g., 30% for a certain assignment, 15% for participation, etc.).  
Educational Material and potential additional learning resources.  
Determination of the Teleconferencing System (such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc.) and access methods (e.g., via university Single Sign-On, using specific identification, through secure interfaces).  
Methods of feedback/evaluation of the course.  
Relevant Bibliography.

The educational material for each program is described in the corresponding Study Guide and may include a combination of the following sources:

Scientific articles from Greek/International literature in electronic format.  
Course notes.  
Case studies (where applicable).  
Video lectures (live or on-demand).  
Links to useful (and reliable) external sources and websites.  
Comprehension/self-assessment questions.  
Sample exercises.  
Discussion forums.  
Additional files for understanding educational material (PDFs, Word, PPT, XLS, etc.).  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).  
Additional Bibliography.

The student has the ability to communicate with the instructor of the Postgraduate Program they are attending, either by using email or through the online education platform used by the Postgraduate Program, for formulating and addressing queries/questions regarding the curriculum and the entire educational process.

Issues related to ensuring identity, preventing plagiarism, and safeguarding personal data explicitly comply with the policies of the University regarding Personal Data (see NOC) and the Ethics and Deontology Committee of the University.

The support methods for the educational process of all involved parties are listed below:

Administrative support with a communication schedule.  
Technical support with a communication schedule.  
Educational support from the instructor.  
Use of online chat or FAQ forums.  
Online Information sources (e.g., video tutorials, PDF help files, etc.).  
Implementation guides for instructors.  
Course monitoring guides.  
Academic Advisor.

Student Advocate.

Mechanism for raising complaints.

In each case of addressing technical shortcomings during the implementation of the Postgraduate Study Program, especially during exams using real-time technologies (e.g., Zoom), if there's potential failure to resolve the technical issue immediately, the possibility of re-examination or extension of assignment submission time or a repeat of the remote examination is provided.

## 7. Teaching Staff

The teaching work of Postgraduate Programs (P.M.S.) is assigned, following a decision of the competent body of the P.M.S., to the following categories of teachers:

- a) Members of the Teaching and Research Staff (T.R.S.), Special Education Staff (S.E.S.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (L.T.S.), and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (S.T.L.S.) of the Department or other Departments of the same or another Higher Education Institution (H.E.I.) or Higher Military Education Institution (H.M.E.I.), with additional employment beyond their legal obligations, if the P.M.S. charges tuition fees.
- b) Honorary Professors or retired members of the T.R.S. of the Department or other Departments of the same or another H.E.I.
- c) Collaborating professors
- d) Commissioned instructors
- e) Visiting professors or visiting researchers
- f) Researchers and specialized functional scientists of research and technological bodies of Article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (Government Gazette A' 258) or other research centers and institutes in Greece or abroad
- g) Recognized scientists of high caliber, possessing specialized knowledge and relevant experience in the subject matter of the P.M.S.

The assignment of the teaching work of the P.M.S. is carried out by decision of the competent body, upon recommendation of the Coordinating Committee of the P.M.S., if it exists; otherwise, by the Director of the P.M.S. Specific conditions regarding the assignment of the teaching work may be stipulated in the decision founding the P.M.S.

Supervisory rights over dissertations are granted to the teachers from categories a) to f) of paragraph 1, provided they hold a doctoral degree. By decision of the competent body of the P.M.S., supervision of dissertations may also be assigned to members of the T.R.S., S.E.S., and L.T.S. of the Department who have not undertaken teaching work in the P.M.S. All categories of teachers may be remunerated solely from the resources of the P.M.S. No payment or other provision from the state budget or the program of public investments is allowed.

By decision of the competent body of the P.M.S. regarding the assignment of teaching work, the amount of remuneration for each teacher is determined. Specifically, teachers who are members of the T.R.S. may be additionally remunerated for work they provide to the P.M.S., provided they fulfill their minimum statutory obligations as stipulated in paragraph 2 of article 155 of Law 4957/2022. The last paragraph is applicable proportionally to the members of the S.E.S., L.T.S., and S.T.L.S., provided they fulfill their minimum statutory obligations.

The supervision of dissertations may be remunerated if the hours worked exceed the statutory obligations. According to paragraph 5 of article 83 of Law 4957/2022, auxiliary teaching work may be assigned to doctoral candidates of the Department or School. Upon recommendation of the Coordinating Committee of the P.M.S., a call is issued to the doctoral candidates of the Department or School by decision of the Assembly of the respective Department in a subject relevant to the auxiliary teaching work of the P.M.S. Applications are submitted to the Secretariat of the respective Department and are examined by the Coordinating Committee, which recommends to the Department Assembly. The latter, by its decision, assigns the auxiliary

teaching work. The maximum hourly remuneration for the assignment of auxiliary teaching work to doctoral candidates is set at thirty percent (30%) of the remuneration of postdoctoral researchers, as provided in the respective Regulations of remuneration for the provision of teaching work of the P.A.E. Members of the Teaching and Research Staff (T.R.S.), Special Education Staff (S.E.S.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (L.T.S.), and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (S.T.L.S.) of the Department may be employed in P.M.S. only upon fulfillment of their minimum obligations regarding the provision of teaching work. The employment of members of the T.R.S. exclusively in P.M.S. of the Department or School is not permitted.

## 8. Administrative Support

The responsible bodies for the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program are the following:

- a) The Senate of the Department
- b) The Assembly of the Department,
- c) The Coordinating Committee (C.C.), and
- d) The Director of the Postgraduate Program (P.P.).

The C.C. consists of the Director of the P.P. and four (4) members of the Teaching and Research Staff (T.R.S.) of the Department, who have a relevant academic subject to that of the P.P. and undertake teaching work in the P.P. The members of the C.C. are determined by decision of the Department Assembly. The Director of the P.P. comes from the T.R.S. members of the Department, preferably at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor, and is appointed by decision of the Department Assembly for a two-year term, renewable without limitation.

The responsibilities of the above bodies are exercised according to the provisions of the current legislation. More specifically:

- a) A Director is appointed for each P.P. in the Department of the International University of Greece, which is responsible for its organization and operation.
- b) The Director of each P.P. is a member of the C.C. for a two-year term with the possibility of unlimited renewal.
- c) The Director chairs the C.C., is preferably a member of the first-level T.R.S. or the Associate level, having the same or relevant academic subject as that of the P.P. In the case of an interdepartmental, inter-institutional, or joint P.P., one (1) member of the Program Committee is appointed as the Director of the P.P. by the Study Program Committee.
- d) Their duties are defined by law and in the internal Regulation of Postgraduate Studies. The Director recommends to the competent bodies of the Institution on any matter concerning the effective operation of the program. The Director is not entitled to additional remuneration for their administrative work as Director.
- e) Additionally, after the C.C. term ends, the Director of the P.P. is responsible for preparing the Program's report on their research and educational work, as well as other activities, with the aim of upgrading studies, better utilization of human resources, optimizing existing facilities, and socially beneficial use of the available resources of the P.P. The report is submitted to the relevant Department to which the P.P. belongs. For the preparation and implementation of the report, the Director is assisted by the Special Research Funds Account of the International University of Greece.
- f) The Director of the P.P., as the Scientific Supervisor of the respective project, issues and signs payment orders for the relevant expenses and co-signs the contracts for the assignment of work, according to the approved budget. Moreover, the Scientific Supervisor is responsible for the correct implementation and certification of the physical subject of the P.P. and the feasibility of the expenses related to its execution and monitors its financial subject. Specifically for P.P.s that have resources according to Article 84 of Law 4957/2022, the Director of the P.P., who is also the Scientific Supervisor of the program, may request the appointment of an Associate Scientific Supervisor for the financial management needs of the P.P., according to paragraph 4 of Article 234 of Law 4957/2022. The Director's request for evaluation of the need should be accompanied by a decision of the competent body of the P.P. (Department Assembly or Study Program Committee).
- g) The representatives of the Departments in the C.C. are obliged to inform the Department Assemblies, when requested by the President of each Department.



h) The Director of the P.P. or the D.P.P. must be available for information, if requested, to the Assembly or in the case of the D.P.P., to the Assemblies of the Departments collaborating in the Program, for any matter concerning its effective operation. The Director of the P.P. or the D.P.P. proposes to the Assembly or the C.C. matters within its competence and ensures the implementation of its decisions. Secretariat Obligations.

The permanent administrative staff of the I.U.G. supporting the P.P.s outside their working hours at the University, as well as those to whom work related to the P.P.s has been assigned, may be remunerated for additional work (beyond their contractual obligations of their primary employment) they provide. Apart from the permanent administrative staff of the I.U.G., each P.P. may hire contract employees for their support.

## 9. The material infrastructure

The courses will be conducted both remotely and in a hybrid system at the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University, which has the existing material infrastructure that covers the operational needs of the Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.). Indicatively, it consists of: a) classrooms, b) laboratories, c) libraries, d) scientific equipment, e) computers. Additional specialized needs of the program will be met through the procurement of additional equipment and the configuration of additional spaces, depending on the arising needs. The department's classrooms, where the courses take place, are equipped with systems for supplying and extracting fresh air, modern air conditioning units ensuring sufficient heating and cooling, projection screens, overhead projectors, speakers, as well as teleconferencing or distance learning capabilities. Additionally, special attention has been given to people with disabilities (PWD), with the construction of special and secure approaches to classrooms and specially adapted restrooms.

The Department of Biomedical Sciences has all the necessary facilities, technical equipment, and technical knowledge to conduct all P.M.S. courses exclusively or in combination through modern distance, asynchronous teaching, or face-to-face teaching methods, according to the current provisions. Specifically, the P.M.S. includes electronic and technical equipment, audiovisual aids, digital educational material, and digital tools for course delivery. Through collaborations with partnering institutions, electronic conferencing spaces, fully equipped, have been established at the Department of Biomedical Sciences for assisting in live and online teaching for feasible courses. Additionally, examinations are conducted either physically in specially adapted classrooms or through modern remote examination methods utilizing all available digital tools provided by the University to ensure reliability and integrity, as stipulated by the prevailing legislation at the time.

## 10. Other Educational and Research Activities

Apart from teaching courses in the P.M.S., parallel educational and research activities can be carried out using P.M.S. resources or through donations, grants, funding, etc., such as:

- Organizing Conferences.
- Publishing books, notes, monographs, undertaking and conducting special studies.
- Undertaking research programs.
- Collaboration agreements with scientific and productive entities.
- Participants in parallel educational activities of the P.M.S. are granted relevant certification by the Coordinating Committee.

## 11. Financial Resources of the Postgraduate Program

According to Article 84 of Law 4957/2022, the resources of the Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.) may come from: a) tuition fees (the main source of funding for this specific program), b) donations, sponsorships, and all kinds of financial aid, c) bequests, d) resources from research projects or programs, e) the institution's own resources, and f) the state budget or public investment programs. The payment of tuition fees is made by the student themselves or by a third party, whether a natural or legal person, on behalf of the student, if provided for in the decision establishing the P.M.S. The management of the P.M.S. resources is carried out by the Special Account for Research Funds (S.A.R.F.) of the institution.

The distribution of the P.M.S. resources is as follows: a) an amount equivalent to thirty percent (30%) of the total revenue from tuition fees is withheld by the S.A.R.F. This amount includes the percentage retained for the financial management of the P.M.S. By decision of the Board of Directors, taken by the end of March each year, it is decided whether the remaining amount, after the deduction for the S.A.R.F., will be transferred to the regular budget or allocated for the creation of projects/programs through the S.A.R.F., aiming to cover primarily the needs of P.M.S. operating without tuition fees and to cover research, educational, and operational needs of the institution. For revenues of the P.M.S. from paragraphs b) to d) of paragraph 1, the retention for the S.A.R.F. applies to revenues from equivalent funding sources, b) the remaining amount of the total P.M.S. revenue is used to cover the operational expenses of the P.M.S.

The distribution is as follows:

### *EXPENSES Amount in €*

1 Equipment expenses and software expenses 19,000

2 Scholarship grants to postgraduate students 2,600

3 Consumable expenses 16,000

4 Travel expenses for teaching staff 5,000

5 Travel expenses for postgraduate students for educational purposes 1,500

6 Teaching fees for regular staff of universities and research centers participating in the organization of the P.M.S. 16,000

7 Teaching fees for occasional teaching staff of universities participating in the organization of the P.M.S. -

8 Teaching fees for other personnel 15,000

9a Administrative support fees 14,400

9b Technical support fees 4,000

10 Other expenses, such as publicity-promotion expenses, translations, purchase of educational material, conference organization expenses, fieldwork expenses 2,050

PARTIAL TOTAL (70%) 95,550

11 Institutional operating expenses (30%)

Distribution as follows:

S.A.R.F. 40,950

*TOTAL\* 136,500*

The total amount of program expenses is calculated based on the percentage of 30% of students exempt from paying tuition fees according to Article 86 of Law 4957/2022 (Total 58,500). In cases where the beneficiaries of tuition fee exemptions are fewer than 30%, increases will arise, and the institution's S.A.R.F. will be able to collect the additional amounts. If there are more than one (1) Postgraduate Programs (P.M.S.) organized within the same Department or School of the same Higher Education Institution (H.E.I.), financial cooperation is possible between P.M.S. through the establishment of a joint project/program funded by the resources of the P.M.S. aiming to cover common needs and actions of the P.M.S. of the Department or

School. The project/program has no definite end date, has an independent budget, and is annually funded by the revenues of the operating P.M.S. of the Department or School allocated for expenses aimed at covering common needs. Exceptionally, funding for the project/program may be provided by the remaining funds of the same Department's or School's P.M.S., whose objectives have been successfully completed and for which no other financial commitment arises. The maximum percentage of the total annual revenue of each P.M.S. that can be allocated to a project/program under paragraph 1 is determined by the study regulation. Upon the recommendation of the Directors of the same Department or School's P.M.S., the acceptance of the management of a project/program under paragraph 1 and the percentage of the P.M.S. annual revenues with which the project/program is financed is approved by the Research Committee, and the Scientific Responsible of the project, who is one (1) of the Directors of the P.M.S. funding the project. The expenses are incurred following the recommendation of the Directors.

## 12. Tuition Fees - Scholarships - Tuition Exemption

For the entire program, tuition fees amount to 3,900 euros. The amount is divided into three equal installments for each of the three semesters of study. The tuition fees may be modified annually following a proposal by the Coordinating Committee to the General Assembly of the department. The first installment is paid upon registration or at the latest by the end of the third week of the first semester. The second installment is paid no later than before the start of the exams for the first semester, and the third one before the start of the exams for the second semester. In the event that a postgraduate student is unable to meet the aforementioned installment payments of the tuition fees, they can request a rearrangement through a reasoned application to the secretariat of the Postgraduate Program, along with their proposal for installment payments that would facilitate them. The application is reviewed by the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Program, which makes the relevant decision.

Only in cases where tuition fees have been paid is a refund permitted per semester when there is an exceptionally serious reason for discontinuation, following a written request from the postgraduate student and provided they adequately justify the reasons to the Coordinating Committee before the start of the courses. The decision regarding the refund of the tuition fees is made by the Department Assembly, following a proposal by the Coordinating Committee. If a request for discontinuation is submitted after the start of the courses, the tuition fees are not refunded. The remuneration of the professors and instructors is made after the completion of the courses and the delivery of the grades for the examined course they undertook and taught.

In the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the School of Health Sciences of the University, the existing spaces as well as the equipment cover the requirements of the Postgraduate Program to a very satisfactory extent. Additionally, part of the income from the Postgraduate Program will be used each academic year to improve the infrastructure so that the postgraduate courses can be conducted in more modern and suitable spaces for teaching, with state-of-the-art technical equipment and audiovisual material (projection screens, projectors, sound systems, etc.), covered by the income of the Postgraduate Program. In proportion to the various benefits for the students, the imposition of a tuition fee is considered necessary for the following reasons: expenses for the transportation of professors and the director between the two departments for on-site theoretical and laboratory courses, expenses for further specialized equipment of laboratory rooms and teaching spaces, significantly increased operational expenses (consumables, mainly expensive molecular and biochemical reagents) especially for the exercises of the students, but even more so for the development of their experimental and research theses. The aforementioned postgraduate program is one of the few in Greece that provides the opportunity for laboratory exercises for postgraduate students throughout their studies. Efforts are also made for all students to have the opportunity to conduct original research work in the scientific field that interests each student. Thus, the expenses are substantial. Finally, the income from the tuition fees covers all additional operational expenses such as: remuneration for regular and occasional teaching staff participating in the educational and organizational processes of the Postgraduate Program, remuneration for research personnel, remuneration for administrative/secretarial and technical support (third parties), expenses for other consumables and miscellaneous expenses.

Registered students can attend tuition-free if they meet financial or social criteria as well as excellence criteria during the first cycle of studies, which corresponds to at least a grade point average of seven and a half out of ten (7.5/10), provided that the assessment in the basic degree presented for admission to the Postgraduate Program has been conducted according to the ten-point scale of assessment of the Greek Higher Education Institution (HEI). Otherwise, this criterion is applied proportionally according to the respective assessment scale if the degree presented has been issued by a foreign institution. The total number of students attending tuition-free cannot exceed thirty percent (30%) of the total number of enrolled students per academic year. If, during the numerical calculation of the number of beneficiaries exempt from tuition fees, a decimal number arises, it is rounded to the nearest whole number. If the number

of beneficiaries exceeds the percentage of the current one, the beneficiaries are selected in descending order until the number is reached.

The submission of applications for tuition-free attendance per Postgraduate Program according to this policy takes place after the completion of the student admission process to the Postgraduate Program. The right to tuition-free attendance is granted to a student of the Postgraduate Program who:

- a) The average sum of taxable incomes of the two (2) last financial years of all members of the applicant's family, including the applicant, parents, and siblings up to twenty-six (26) years old, if unmarried and have the same taxable income within the meaning of Article 7 of Law 4172/2013 (Government Gazette A' 167), does not exceed seventy percent (70%) of the national median disposable income, according to the most recent published data by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), if the applicant has not reached the twenty-sixth (26th) year of age and is unmarried or has not entered into a cohabitation agreement.
- b) The average sum of the individual taxable income of the two (2) last financial years of the applicant does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the national median disposable income, according to the most recent published data by ELSTAT, if the applicant has reached the twenty-sixth (26th) year of age.
- c) The average sum of the taxable income of the two (2) last financial years of the applicant exempt from tuition fees and their spouse or cohabitant, regardless of whether they submit a joint or separate tax declaration, does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the national median disposable income, according to the most recent published data by ELSTAT.

#### Partial Exemption from Tuition Fees:

Applicants below the age of 26, who are children of large families, single-parent families, orphans, individuals with disabilities, or part of households with disabled members, can apply for a 50% exemption from tuition fees if their average income is between 70% and 100% of the national median disposable income.

The Department Assembly assesses the exemption criteria and issues reasoned decisions for acceptance or rejection of applications.

This exemption applies only to domestic postgraduate programs and not to third-country citizens.

#### Scholarships for Personnel and Staff:

The Administrative Council of the institution may decide to grant scholarships (partial exemptions from tuition fees) to its staff and personnel working within the institution.

#### Financial Support and Scholarships for Postgraduate Students:

The institution can grant up to two remunerative scholarships to postgraduate students for up to 120 hours of academic support work, with a maximum amount of 1000 euros per student, based on their academic performance in the first academic semester.

#### Exemptions and Scholarships Criteria:

Various criteria are considered for granting scholarships, including academic performance, financial income, and social circumstances. Examples include academic performance in the previous semester, recent academic achievements, income, disabilities, being from a large family, being orphaned, having siblings as students, among others.

#### Scholarship Application Process:

Students must submit applications for scholarships with the required documents to the Department's Secretariat within specified deadlines.

Applications are evaluated and ranked based on internal regulations, and the list of candidates is presented to the relevant authority for approval.

#### Maximum Number of Scholarships:

The maximum number of scholarships per postgraduate program is set at twelve (12) per semester.



### 13. Duration of Program Operation - Budget

The postgraduate program will operate until the academic year 2030-2031.

A detailed budget breakdown by expenditure categories per year for six (6) consecutive years is provided.

	EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES	€	€	€	€	€	€
		2024-2025*	2025-2026*	2026-2027*	2027-2028*	2028-2029*	2029-2030*
1	Equipment and software expenses	19.000	19.000	19.000	19.000	19.000	19.000
2	Scholarship grants for postgraduate students	2.600	2.600	2.600	2.600	2.600	2.600
3	Consumable expenses	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000
4	Travel expenses for teaching staff	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
5	Travel expenses for postgraduate students for educational purposes	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
6	Teaching fees for regular staff of universities and research centers and institutes participating in the organization of the Postgraduate Program	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000
7	Teaching fees for occasional teaching staff of universities participating in the organization of the Postgraduate Program	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Teaching fees for staff according to article 36, paragraph 5 of Law 4485/2017	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
9α	Administrative support fees	14.400	14.400	14.400	14.400	14.400	14.400
9β	Technical support fees	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
10	Other expenses, particularly publicity-promotion costs, translations, purchase of educational material, conference organization, fieldwork expenses	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050
PARTIAL TOTAL (70%) SIX YEARS (573,300)		95.550	95.550	95.550	95.550	95.550	95.550
11	Operational expenses of Institutions (30%) SIX YEARS (245,700)	40.950	40.950	40.950	40.950	40.950	40.950
<b>SUM</b> SIX YEARS ( <b>819.000</b> )		<b>136.500</b>	<b>136.500</b>	<b>136.500</b>	<b>136.500</b>	<b>136.500</b>	<b>136.500</b>

## 14. Ceremony

The ceremony is organized as a public open event after the completion of the three academic semesters of the Master's program, in the presence of the Rector and Vice-Rectors of the University, the Director of the Master's program, the President, the faculty members of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and the instructors within the Master's program. The Master's Diploma is printed on a special, aesthetically pleasing parchment, for which the postgraduate students can make a financial payment to the Treasury of the University (Research Committee), an amount decided by the General Assembly of the Department upon recommendation from the Steering Committee or the Director of the Master's program. This amount should cover the cost of purchasing the parchment and the expenses for its printing. Upon payment, postgraduate students receive, besides the parchment of the Master's Diploma, two (2) copies of it. Graduates are also granted an Appendix to the Master's Diploma

## 15. Periodic Evaluation of Postgraduate Programs

The annual internal evaluation of the postgraduate program is conducted in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit of the Institution within which it operates, following the respective procedures of the internal Quality Assurance System.

External evaluation of the postgraduate programs is carried out in collaboration with the External Evaluation Team as part of their accreditation according to the process outlined by the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (HQA).

According to article 87 of law 4957/2022, all Postgraduate Programs (P.M.S.) of each Department, including interdepartmental, interinstitutional, and joint P.M.S., where the Department provides administrative support, are evaluated as part of the periodic evaluation/accreditation of the academic unit by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education. This evaluation encompasses an overall assessment of the program's performance, its compliance with the initial goals upon establishment, sustainability, graduates' employability, contribution to research, internal evaluation by postgraduate students, justification for its continuation, and other aspects related to the quality of the produced work and its contribution to the national higher education strategy.

If a postgraduate program is deemed not to meet the conditions for its continuation during the evaluation outlined above, its operation concludes upon the graduation of the already enrolled students, in accordance with the founding decision and the regulations of postgraduate and doctoral study programs.

Under the responsibility of the Program Director, seminars are organized for the discussion and review of the program's courses and content, aiming to assess, among other things, the program's alignment with scientific progress, job market demands, and societal needs at large. Upon the conclusion of the term of the Evaluation Committee, an in-depth report of the research and educational work of the program, along with other activities, is prepared by the outgoing Director. The purpose is to enhance the quality of studies, optimize human resources utilization, improve existing infrastructure, and ensure the socially beneficial use of the program's available resources. The report is submitted to the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

## 16. Plagiarism

Any graduate student, when submitting any postgraduate work, is obliged to disclose whether they have used the work and opinions of others. Departments will conduct checks on postgraduate works through specialized plagiarism detection software like Turnitin. Additionally, the works of postgraduate students will also be subject to textual composition checks by technologically supported software (for example, AI agents/chatbots, ChatGPT, etc.). Copying is considered a serious academic offense. Plagiarism is considered as copying someone else's work, as well as using someone else's work - whether published or not - without proper citation.

Quoting any material for evidence, even from the candidate's own studies, without proper citation, may lead to a decision by the Department's Assembly for the candidate's deletion. In the above cases, following justified recommendation from the supervisor Professor, the Department's Assembly or the EPS (Postgraduate Studies Committee) may decide on the deletion. Any offense or violation of academic ethics is referred to the Program's Coordinating Committee for judgment and recommendation on how to address the issue at the Department's Assembly. Violations include offenses of copying or plagiarism, and generally any breach of provisions on intellectual property by a graduate student during the writing of assignments within the course or the completion of a postgraduate thesis.

## 17. Academic Advisor

The study advisor guides and supports students in their study programs. By decision of the Assembly of each Department, the rotational assignment of study advisors is determined among the permanent members of the Department's Academic Personnel (Faculty), with an annual term starting on September 1st of each academic year, renewable with the consent of the interested party. The assignment can be carried out per student, aligning the list of Department's Faculty members with the corresponding list of first-year students for each academic year. Study advisors counsel and support first-year students to facilitate their transition from secondary to tertiary education. They inform, advise, and guide students on their studies, as well as on matters concerning their progress and successful completion.

Members of the Faculty, Teaching Assistants, Special Teaching Staff, Laboratory Directors, Department Heads, and Department Chairs, as well as relevant administrative and other educational personnel in general, collaborate and support Study Advisors in their work. They take into account information, observations, suggestions, and requests made by the advisors regarding any deficiencies or malfunctions that create issues for the students, and any proposals for addressing them.

## 18. Management of Complaints – Objections

Handling of complaints submitted electronically on the Department's postgraduate program website.

Received complaints (by the postgraduate program's secretariat) through the form are immediately forwarded via email or simple copy to the Director of the postgraduate program. Postgraduate students have the right to submit complaints regarding their studies, and for this reason, a specific mechanism for managing complaints is established and implemented in each postgraduate program. Complaints may relate to the quality of services provided by the Department organizing the postgraduate program, educational, research, and administrative services. The complaint management policy targets active postgraduate students and aims, within the framework of conciliatory conflict resolution, to resolve disputes or problems, including but not limited to:

- i. Disagreements on study and attendance matters,
- ii. Inappropriate behavior by an academic or administrative staff member or fellow student,
- iii. Insufficient information provided to students by an academic or administrative staff member.

Students may file a complaint when the action or decision of a Department member or collective body does not comply with the current legal-regulatory framework, specifically:

The Postgraduate Program Regulation and Study Guide,  
The Code of Ethics and Deontology and/or the prescribed procedures concerning academic teaching and research,  
The rational use of facilities and infrastructure,  
Protection of intellectual property and intellectual rights,  
Compliance with appropriate academic behavior and conduct in the workspace,  
Ensuring equality, respect for diversity, and equality laws concerning harassment and violence in the workplace.

Postgraduate students have the right to file a complaint:

To the Student Advocate for matters requiring mediation between postgraduate students and professors or institutional administrative services. The Student Advocate does not intervene in substantial teaching or grading matters in exams but examines only instances of arbitrariness or breaches of ethical rules during exams (written or oral).

To the Institution's Ethics Committee for violations of ethical rules within their studies.

To the Gender Equality Committee for issues related to gender discrimination.

To the Data Protection Officer (DPO) for matters related to the protection of personal data.

The complaint management mechanism is structured in the following stages:

Stage 1: Direct Conciliatory Resolution. Right to a hearing: examination of a postgraduate student's complaint by a Faculty member of the postgraduate program. The postgraduate student reports the complaint to a Faculty member/Teaching Assistant/Special Teaching Staff member (the responsible professor or the instructor of the course or the academic advisor) or a member of the administrative staff (the head of the secretariat), depending on the nature of the complaint. The Department member examines the complaint in collaboration with the student and proposes a solution. In cases where, after the completion of the direct resolution process, the student objects to the proposed solution or the situation remains problematic, they may, within 15 days from the occurrence of the problem, submit the complaint in writing to their Academic Advisor.

Stage 2: Mediation – Administrative Examination. Mediation: Examination of the student's complaint by the Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor examines the complaint in collaboration with the postgraduate student and proposes a solution. The Academic Advisor may communicate with other Department members to seek their assistance in resolving the problem. Administrative examination: Examination of the student's

complaint by the Coordinating Committee of the postgraduate program. The Coordinating Committee may, depending on the nature of the problem, summon the student for a hearing and seek the assistance of any member or body of the Department or the Institution or refer the complaint to the Department Assembly. The student is duly informed of the decisions made concerning the complaint within a reasonable time frame.

Stage 3: Objection and Final Review of the Complaint. Objection before the Department Assembly. This process can only be activated if the Department Assembly has not already addressed the specific issue within the context of the Administrative Examination. The decision made by the Department Assembly, either within Stage 2 or Stage 3, is final.

## 19. Student Welfare

Postgraduate students who do not have health coverage from any insurance agency are entitled to full medical and hospital care within the National Health System (NHS) according to the current provisions. The issuance of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for the aforementioned student categories, who travel to European Union countries, as well as the coverage of any resulting expenses, continues to be provided by the Institution's services.

Active university students are provided with free meals and accommodation according to the criteria and procedures provided by the prevailing legislation.

The University ensures the accessibility of students with special needs to external spaces (e.g., sidewalks, parking spaces) and internal premises (elevators, offices, event spaces, etc.) of the Institution.

Within its financial capabilities, the International University of Greece, by decision of the Departments or Schools, may grant awards and excellence scholarships to its students.

Sources of funding may include donations, sponsorships, bequests, and other lawful sources. The terms and conditions of their granting, when not specified by the sponsor or donor, are determined by decisions of the Senate.



## 20. Postgraduate Diploma

The title of the Postgraduate Diploma is a public document. Its format is defined by decision of the Senate and signed by the Rector, the President of the Department, and the Secretary of the Department or their authorized substitutes. In the case of an Inter-University Postgraduate Diploma, the universities and departments awarding the diploma, any emblems of the institutions, are mentioned on the title, and it is signed by the respective bodies of the institution providing administrative support to the Postgraduate Program. A certificate indicating successful completion of the Program may be granted to the graduate of the Postgraduate Program before the actual conferment. An Appendix to the Postgraduate Diploma in English is attached, for which the regulations of Article 15 of Law 3374/2005 and Ministerial Decision under serial number  $\Phi$ 5/89656/BE/13-8-2007 (Government Gazette 1466/B/2007) apply. This appendix serves as an explanatory document providing information about the nature, level, general education framework, content, and status of the studies completed successfully, and it does not replace the official academic title or the detailed course grading awarded by the Institutions.

## 21. Feasibility Study - Sustainability

This feasibility study concerns the establishment of the English-language Postgraduate Program titled 'Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics.' Postgraduate students will be trained in modern molecular diagnosis of infectious diseases. Emphasis will be placed on the application of bioinformatics techniques in the diagnosis of infectious diseases. Students will acquire knowledge in pharmacology and drug action against pathogens. Community-acquired infections as well as public health issues, prevention, and surveillance will be thoroughly studied. Students will be trained both theoretically and practically in the use of laboratory methods for diagnosing clinical syndromes and infections. Additionally, there will be a focus on the study and diagnosis of traveler's infections and tropical diseases. Subsequently, emerging infectious diseases and the mechanisms of bacterial resistance to antimicrobial agents will be examined in detail. Finally, students will specialize in contemporary topics in neuroscience from the perspective of central nervous system infections, as well as infections in hematology patients.

Scientific, epistemological, and social reasons making the operation of the English-language Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.) of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the School of Health Sciences of the International Hellenic University of Greece (IHU) necessary and significant, which will be organized and operational from the academic year 2024-2025, leading to the acquisition of a Master's Degree of Specialization (M.D.E.) titled 'Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics.' Scientific and epistemological reasons can focus on the fact that the aforementioned P.M.S. is the only one of its kind in Macedonia and one of the few nationwide that can connect the learning of the technology required in Biomedical Sciences with its application in the Clinical Diagnosis of infectious diseases. This specific P.M.S. focuses on the combination of laboratory biomedical and molecular practices and knowledge in the everyday management and diagnosis of infectious diseases, as well as the development of research strategies for applying laboratory biomedical and molecular technology methods for the evolution of new diagnostic methods for infectious diseases. Additionally, social reasons focus on a) the opportunity provided by the P.M.S. to bring together graduates of Biomedical Sciences with graduates of Medicine and other related Departments, and the significant importance of the collaboration among graduates of different schools and departments, understanding the respective problems of each profession, and b) the opportunity to promote the Department of Biomedical Sciences of IHU. Lastly, the English-language P.M.S. 'Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics' will enhance the interdisciplinary dimension of the Department of Biomedical Sciences as well as its outward orientation both nationally and internationally. The fact that it is an English-language P.M.S. will generally enhance the interdisciplinary nature of the educational policy of IHU. Special emphasis will be placed on acquiring knowledge from Biomedical Sciences and linking this knowledge with subjects from other fields, resulting in the development of professional training activities and lifelong learning. Graduates of the undergraduate program of the Department will be able to expand their knowledge in modern diagnostic topics of infectious diseases and specialize in them. In this way, the Department of Biomedical Sciences will modernize certain knowledge subjects of the postgraduate study program and open up a new field of research.

There is an absolute relevance of the P.M.S. to the subject of the first cycle of studies of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of IHU, a fact confirmed by the simple listing of their respective programs. This relevance further assists in deepening the knowledge gained by graduates of various schools through the P.M.S. The P.M.S. is closely linked to the strategic goals of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of IHU. as it deepens and extends the knowledge offered during the first cycle of studies. There is no overlap in the subjects of the first cycle of studies; on the contrary, by attending the P.M.S., their knowledge in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences is deepened. The courses taught in this P.M.S. are oriented towards the interconnection of the above subjects and offer knowledge beyond what is acquired during the first cycle of studies. The attendance of this P.M.S. by graduates of many different Schools and Departments necessitates the need to teach some basic concepts and sciences, which, however, in no case are considered an overlap of the subjects of the first cycle of studies but rather an introduction and necessary connection of the content of the P.M.S. with the

first cycle of studies of students, which tends to be diverse. As a general assumption, the teaching of this subject is a necessity for a modern Postgraduate Program. At the same time, holding a title from this specific P.M.S. is, beyond the formal aspect, a substantial prerequisite for continuing to the third cycle of studies (i.e., for completing a doctoral dissertation).

The CVs of almost all the instructors, both faculty members and new doctoral candidates, indicate their scientific and linguistic competence regarding the specific subject matter, supported by corresponding research and published work. Most of the professors teaching in the MSc program, both Greek and foreign, have been evaluated and have evolved, presenting rich teaching, research, administrative, and organizational work. Their selection criteria hinge on the relevance of their expertise, experience, and their teaching and research work aligned with the MSc subject. Both for administration and for instructors in the MSc program, adherence to the philosophy and interdisciplinary principles of the Program is essential. In the event of retirement among certain instructors, they will be replaced by renowned scientists, faculty members, and others engaged in the subject matter of the MSc. The competence of the instructors is demonstrated by their academic trajectory thus far and their research work. The participation of instructors with diverse and varied areas of expertise enhances the current MSc program in terms of teaching quality and the knowledge provided. Some published works of the MSc instructors are referenced as evidence of their adequacy regarding the MSc's subject matter through their research and published work. Additionally, it's worth noting that the participating departments have both the personnel and existing technical infrastructure covering the operational needs of the MSc, including classrooms, laboratories, libraries, scientific equipment, and computers. Any additional specific needs of the program will be met through the procurement of extra equipment and the configuration of additional spaces according to arising requirements.

As for the sustainability report related to the feasibility study of paragraph 1 of article 88 of law 4957/2022, the following points are worth mentioning:

a) At this moment, there are currently four (4) Interdepartmental Postgraduate Programs under development at the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University. These programs involve collaboration with departments from other institutions, as specified in the corresponding Annex. These programs represent diverse fields, each carrying its specific importance, operating with distinct academic subjects, laboratories, and faculty members. There is confirmed availability/existence of necessary laboratory and technical infrastructure and the capacity of the teaching staff to engage in an additional program without neglecting their statutory obligations. The new Postgraduate Program 'Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics' provides education in English, emphasizing contemporary laboratory diagnostic techniques for infectious diseases, offering significant scientific work opportunities for all graduates.

b) This academic year, there are currently four (4) programs developed within the Greek academic space, with relevant laboratory content (reference in the respective Annex), although they do not emphasize infectious diseases. Primarily operating in the Greek language, hence the aforementioned program is one of the few English-language programs in Greece, exclusively and specifically focusing on the diagnosis of infectious diseases through modern laboratory methods. The above postgraduate program aims to cover a real gap in the Greek academic community concerning the increasing demand for specialized knowledge in the proposed subjects. The growing global transmission of infectious and emerging diseases, as well as the outbreaks of epidemics and pandemics, necessitate the development of new diagnostic techniques for timely prognosis and prevention of these diseases. Similar programs are offered in Europe, focusing on infectious diseases and biomedical sciences. Beyond the interdepartmental program in Alexandroupolis (Medical School), focusing on biomedical sciences in general in collaboration with our department, there are no equivalent programs in Greece emphasizing infectious diseases and their diagnosis. Finally, education in infectious diseases in the English language is more timely and necessary than ever, given the imperatives of

contemporary data requiring a strong grasp of international English terminology in the field of infectious disease diagnosis for collaboration within the global scientific community.

c) As alternative sources of funding, besides the increase in tuition fees, if the number of students does not meet the expected level to implement the proposed budget, the following could be considered:

- i. Transparent sponsorships from companies dealing with medical, pharmaceutical, and chemical products, medical device companies, and individuals or organizations involved in the fields and subject matters of the Postgraduate Program, such as molecular genetics and biology.
- ii. Compensation from other parallel activities, studies, or research carried out by the personnel within the framework of the Postgraduate Program.
- iii. Personal donations.
- iv. Funds from European Union programs.
- v. Other transparent financial inflows.

Report of the Department regarding the feasibility of the Postgraduate Program:

- i. The report confirms the existence of both specialized personnel and the existing basic infrastructure and necessary equipment in the laboratories of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University to operate the program. The modern lecture halls, laboratories for practical exercises (recently equipped with state-of-the-art scientific instruments and microscopes, as well as the latest molecular devices), libraries, computer rooms, and other teaching supervisory facilities meet all the specifications required for conducting the relevant courses of the aforementioned Postgraduate Program. Additional specialized needs of the program, if required, will be met by procuring additional equipment and configuring additional spaces, according to the emerging needs.
- ii. Regarding the percentage of distance learning, it is noteworthy that postgraduate students continuously attend all activities of the program's courses, conducted using modern distance learning methods, as stated in the program's regulations. There will be the possibility of mixed teaching (a hybrid system) with both face-to-face and distance lectures at the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the University campus in Sindos, Thessaloniki, for laboratory courses (the course hours are scheduled in intensive units to facilitate participation in the postgraduate program by employed individuals residing in other cities).
- iii. The Department of Biomedical Sciences includes, through agreements with the University, the 'Unitron' system, which provides access to course grading, the creation and submission of applications to the department's secretariat, a list of courses per semester, and the 'Moodle' platform, providing access to courses where students can enroll and access announcements, notes, or slides uploaded by the instructors. Course delivery takes place through modern education platforms like 'Zoom,' which is provided free of charge to students through an agreement with the University.

## 22. Website

The postgraduate program (PMS) has a website in English language <https://iacmi.bms.ihu.gr/>

The aim of the program's website is to inform students about program-related issues, provide information to interested parties about the program, and showcase the research activities of the program.

## 23. Amendments to the Regulation and Other Provisions

The provisions of this Regulation of Operation and Studies of the PMS are amended following a decision by the Assembly of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and relevant approval by the Senate of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University.

All matters not provided for in this Regulation of Operation and Studies of the Postgraduate Program "Innovative Approaches in Clinical Microbiology and Infectomics" of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University shall be regulated by the law and by the competent authorities according to the current legislation in force at the time. This Regulation shall comply with the current legislative regulations and decisions of the higher authorities of the University.