

Akkreditierungsagentur
im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales
Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences



Assessment Report

**for the Application of
European University of Lefke, Northern Cyprus
Faculty of Arts & Science,
Department of Psychology
for the Accreditation of the Study Program "Psychology",
Bachelor of Arts**

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master' programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains such as law or economics. By conducting accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for implementing the quality assurance recommendations made by the AHPGS. Since 2004, the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS also joined the ENQA and became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in 2009. Since 2012, the AHPGS has been a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). Furthermore, the AHPGS has been listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) since 2009.

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria¹:

1. Program aims and learning outcomes
2. Curriculum design
3. Personnel
4. Facilities and learning resources
5. Study process and student assessment
6. Program and quality management

¹ Approved by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the Self-Evaluation Report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfil the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. With this information, the AHPGS produces a summary (see Sections 2-5), which is to be approved by the University and subsequently made available to the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the accreditation commission of AHPGS. This is done to verify the compliance of the study program with the applicable accreditation criteria. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out an on-site visit at the University. During this visit, discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers, and students. These discussions provide the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the on-site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies, methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the on-site visit, the expert group writes the expert report. This report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the report is made available to the University for the opportunity to issue a response opinion.

The expert report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the accreditation commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The accreditation commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the summary comprised by the AHPGS, the expert report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents represent the foundation for the commission's decision regarding the recommendation for accreditation of the study program. Consequently, the decision – together with all other documentation – is forwarded to AHPGS Accreditation Commission for it to reach a decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Information about the University

The European University of Lefke was founded in 1989 by the Cyprus Science Foundation and opened its campus in 1990. There are currently 10,532 students from 87 different countries studying at the University. The University provides a broad range of contemporary education and is committed to maintaining international standards of excellence through the accreditation of the degree programs and the recognition by the Higher Education Council of Turkey (YOK) and the Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation, and Coordination Council of Turkey (YODAK). There are eleven faculties and eight schools. In total, 104 associate/undergraduate degree programs and 55 postgraduate/doctoral degree programs are offered. The University is a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU), of the International Universities Council (IUC), and of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW). Many departments have been accredited by specialized international accreditation agencies (SER 3.1.1).

The Arts and Science Faculty was established in 1991. The faculty offers the following programs: Turkish Literature and Language, Psychology (Turkish), and Psychology (English). The Turkish program was established in the academic year 2013-2014. The English program was established in the academic year 2016-2017 and the initial graduation year was in 2020. In total, there are 252 students registered in the Psychology Department (SER 3.2.1)

3 Overview

3.1 Procedure-related documents

The Self-Evaluation Report for accreditation (without the awarding of the official seal of the Accreditation Council of the Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programs in Germany) of the above-mentioned study programs (hereinafter the SER) of the European University of Lefke (hereinafter the EUL) was submitted to the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) in electronic format on August 09, 2022. The contract between the EUL and the AHPGS was signed on October 05, 2022.

On April 03, 2023, the AHPGS forwarded the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter OQ) pertaining to the application for accreditation for the study programs to the University. On April 24, 2023, the University submitted the answers to the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter AOQ) to the AHPGS in electronic format.

The application documentation submitted by the EUL follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Along with the application request towards accreditation of the Bachelor study program "Psychology", the following additional documents can be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the University are numbered in the following order for easier referencing):

Specific documents for the study program "Psychology"

Annex	Description
1	01-Module Overview
2	02-Module Descriptions
3	03-Teachers' CVs
4	04-Internship Manual
5	04.1-Internship Form
6	05-Diploma Supplement
7	06-Course Descriptions
8	07-Cooperation Agreements
9	07.1-Cooperation Agreements
10	08-List of Activities
11	09-Modules & Program Outcomes
12	10-Modules & Learning Outcomes
13	11-Teaching Matrix

Alongside the study-program-specific documents, the following documents pertain to all study programs submitted for external evaluation:

Annex	Description
A	Quality Handbook
B	Code of Ethics
C	Organigram
D	EUL Board
E	Statute
F	Diploma Supplement
G	Regulations Students with Disabilities
H	Academic Calendar 18-19
I	Academic Calendar 19-20
J	Cooperation agreement
K	Declaration of Interest
L	Graduation Exam Evaluation Sample
M	Student & Graduate Surveys
N	Thesis Directives

The application, the open questions (OQ) and the answer to the open questions (AOQ) as well as the additional documents build the basis for the present summary. The layout bears no significance, as it solely reflects the agreed standard within the University.

3.2 Structural data of the study program

University	European University of Lefke
Faculty/Department	Faculty of Arts and Science Department of Psychology
Cooperation partner	-Turkish Psychological Association -KAYAD (Association of Women to Support Living) -CMDS (Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence)

Title of the study program	"Psychology"
Degree awarded	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Form of studies	Full-time, on-campus
Organisational structure	3 hour blocks per week
Language of Studies	English
Period of education	Eight semesters
Credit Points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	127 CP (= 240 ECTS)
Workload	Total: 7,200 hours Contact hours: 3,810 hours Individual work: 3,390 hours
Launch date of the study program	Fall 2016-2017
Time of admission	Fall and Spring Semester
Number of available places on the program	70 (35 in fall and 35 in spring)
Number of enrolled students by now	180
Particular enrollment conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-school graduation diploma or equivalent - English Language Proficiency Test
Tuition fees	5,750 € per year

Chart 1: Structural data of the study program

4 Expert Report

The on-site visit was carried out on June 6th and 7th, 2023 according to the previously agreed schedule. Representatives from the head office of AHPGS accompanied the expert group.

The expert group met on June 5th, 2023 for preliminary talks prior to the on-site visit. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation, as well as questions that had been raised prior. Furthermore, they prepared the plan of the on-site visit at the University.

During the on-site visit, experts conducted discussions with the University management, representatives of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Department of Psychology, the chair, vice chair and the teaching staff of the program "Psychology," as well as with students currently studying in the program. Furthermore, they inspected the learning premises, such as lecture halls, seminar classrooms, library, and computer classes. Moreover, experts had the opportunity to examine the equipment and the capacity of the laboratories.

During the on-site visit, the University submitted the following additional documents at the request of the experts:

- List of research applications in the year 2021 / 2022

The expert report is structured in compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below. The documents submitted by the University, the Experts' feedback to the documents, the observations made during the on-site visit, the results of discussions with the representatives of the University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the department of Psychology serve as the foundation for the statements made in the expert report.

4.1 Program aims and their implementation

Summary

The students are expected to gain the knowledge and skills determined by the learning outcomes of the Psychology program. The modules description outlines the objective and learning outcomes of each module (SER 1.3.3).

After graduating from the Psychology program, students are expected to:

- Know philosophical and historical development of psychology area, including basic concepts, various theory and practice schools, and to have basic knowledge regarding basic theories and application areas for various subfields of psychology as clinical, experimental, social, developmental, industrial, health, traffic, and educational psychology.
- Know related regulations and/or professional and ethical values regarding domains of psychology. To use theoretical and applied knowledge in accordance with the principles of professional and research ethics of psychology; committed to ethic responsibility and principles of the psychology profession.
- Notice the contributions of the basic approaches and perspectives of psychology to the other disciplines and interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Generate research questions; problem-solving via scientific methods and evaluate data by using knowledge of the psychology domain.
- Acquire knowledge and skill to apply theoretical knowledge into practice in various fields of psychology.
- Acquire skills regarding data collection, analysis via appropriate statistics, and interpretation of handled results.
- Acquire skills regarding reporting research results according to scientific writing format.
- Acquire basic skills regarding prediction, description, formulation and solution of cognitive, emotional and behavioral processes related problems of individuals
- Have a basic level of knowledge/skills regarding observation and interviewing technics.
- Have a basic level of knowledge/skills regarding psychological assessment and measurement tools.
- Develop and study research tools as scale, test or inventories and be able to use them in research studies.
- Have proficiency regarding information and communication technologies to access to the knowledge and to spread knowledge.
- Be able to use acquired knowledge, skills and proficiencies to prepare, and administer field studies and to analyze, have results and to apply these results into practice.
- Possess the understanding that the differences regarding age, sex, race, ethnic group, national identity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and socio-economic status shouldn't cause prejudicing.

- Have knowledge regarding environmental, economic and social sustainability and awareness and ability to interpret the projections of the sustainability to various areas.

After graduating in the Psychology program, the students can work in the following career fields:

- Private and public mental health hospitals,
- Private and public rehabilitation centers for disabilities,
- Schools,
- Counseling centers in universities,
- Forensic settings,
- Sports psychology in sports teams,
- Occupational and work-related setting,
- Health psychology,
- Private clinics as counselors or psychometricians,
- Universities as research assistants (SER 1.4.1).

According to the University, the students are expected to have even more opportunities for employment in the future. This is also due to the growing need for mental health professionals on the global markets (SER 1.4.2).

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Psychology related labor market and employment projected to grow 6% from 2021 to 2031. The same report stated that nearly 14,100 openings for psychologists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. According to the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, Human Resources Office, 7.4% of Psychology graduates join the labor market within 6 months before graduation, 54.1% within 0-6 months, 16.4% within 6-12 months and 22.1% within 24 months after graduation. Sectoral distribution of the labor force is as follows: 37.8% in Education, 24.8% Human Health and Social Work Activities, 7.9% in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 7.3% in Administrative and Support Service Activities, 6.8% Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities, and 15.4% other activities. (<https://www.cbiko.gov.tr/en/projects/uni-veri>).

Judgement

The experts ask about the vision and mission of the EUL. The University states that the vision is to create a multi-ethnic cross-cultural student profile on campus,

as well as to create international diversity by increasing the international student body on campus. Therefore, the mission is to offer up-to date and long-lasting quality education at international standards by meeting the needs of all stakeholders. It is explained by the University, that the proportion of international students is now close to 30 % within the University with a 50 % increase in the last five years, which the experts positively acknowledge. Due to the difficult political and geographic situation, the European University of Lefke is not able to be part of the Erasmus Program. Nevertheless, the University manages to send some students abroad through bilateral agreements and joint programs. Some programs in the University have collaboration agreements with institutions from various countries of the world. The percentage of international students in the Faculty of Arts and Science is 10%. All of them are registered in the Psychology program. Most of the international students come from Africa or Asia. According to the University, the goal of the acquisition of the accreditation is to increase the number of international students. Therefore, the University will be able to offer exchange programs in cooperation with different universities. The experts also see the need to further expand international cooperation to enhance the University's reach and promote cross-cultural exchange.

The experts inquire about research grant sources, including the EUL Research Fund based on the application evaluation process and Tubitak (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey). Regarding research funding and support, the following information was stated: Research funding is available annually, and ethical approval is obtained from the University. On-site, the experts were shown peer-review publications, which they positively acknowledge. The provision of a day off for publication purposes is also deemed appropriate. As the University explains, students are also involved in research projects and publications. Research methods are taught within different modules; e.g. "Research Methods in Psychology". In conclusion, the experts note that research activities at the university, as well as within the Psychology program, are more intensive than what the documentation initially suggested. An overarching research concept or framework is advocated for, which can provide a clear direction and cohesion to the University's research activities.

Furthermore, EUL has some structured PhD programs conducted in English, although a clinical Master's program following the Bachelor study program "Psychology" is currently not available. The experts encourage the University to consider implementing a consecutive Master's degree program in order to

strengthen the research component at the University. The students also show interest in this idea during the interview.

The study program "Psychology" focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.2 Structure of the study program

Summary

The Psychology program is a four-year degree program with eight semesters. Each year consists of two semesters. The program has 43 modules in total, of which 37 are compulsory modules and six modules are elective courses. During the first four semesters, the students take 23 compulsory modules and three elective ones, which include basic and advanced modules. During the last four semesters, the students take 20 compulsory and three elective courses, which consist of advanced and interdisciplinary courses.

There are five to six modules provided for each semester. All modules have to be completed in one semester. The Bachelor study program "Psychology" offers between 15 and 18 credit hours (CH) per semester (SER 1.2.1).

The list of modules offered:

Nr.	Title	Sem.	CP
COM100	Introduction to Computers	1	3
COM101	English I	1	3
COM109	Mathematics	1	3
COM113	Biology	1	3
PSY151	Psychology I	1	3
SCI101	Introduction to Social Sciences	1	3

			18
COM110	English II	2	3
COM115	Sociology	2	3
COM204	Ethics in Profession	2	3
ORT106/ COM106	Turkish	2	2
ORT108/ COM108	History	2	2
PSY154	Current Approaches in Psychology	2	3
			16
PSY104	Physiological Psychology	3	3
PSY201	Social Psychology I	3	3
PSY203	Developmental Psychology I	3	3
PSY235	Statistical Methods	3	3
PSY251	Research Methods in Psychology	3	3
PSYXX1	History of Psychology	3	3
			18
LEUXX1	Environment and Sustainable Development	4	3
PSY202	Social Psychology II	4	3
PSY204	Developmental Psychology II	4	3
PSY208	Learning Psychology	4	3
PSY212	Statistics	4	3
			15
LEUXX2	Leadership and Management	5	3
PSY301	Introduction to Clinical Psychology I	5	3
PSY303	Psychological Test and Measurement I	5	3
PSY305	Personality Theories I	5	3
PSY307	Health Psychology	5	3
			15
PSYXX2	Special Issues in Psychology	6	3

PSY302	Introduction to Clinical Psychology II	6	3
PSY304	Psychological Test and Measurement	6	3
PSY306	Personality Theories II	6	3
PSY308	Clinical Observation and Intervention	6	3
			15
PSY401	Group Psychotherapies I	7	3
PSY403	Psychotherapy Theories I	7	3
PSY405	Psychopathology I	7	3
PSYXX3	Eating Disorders and Psychotherapies	7	3
PSYXX4	Forensic Psychology	7	3
			15
PSY402	Group Psychotherapies II	8	3
PSY404	Psychotherapy Theories II	8	3
PSY406	Psychopathology II	8	3
PSY410	Ethics in Psychology	8	3
PSY408	Graduation Project	8	3
			15
	Total:		127

The module description/catalogue covers the following aspects: number of credit hours, teaching language, objectives, learning outcomes, content, and examination.

The first year of the program includes courses outlining basic theoretical knowledge such as mathematics, introduction to social sciences or ethics in profession. There are interdisciplinary courses during the first two years of study which are considered as services courses and are shared with students from other programs. These shared courses are Turkish and History. In the fourth year of study, students can choose elective courses which are mainly in the sub-fields of psychology like forensic psychology. During the fourth and fifth semesters, the students get to choose free elective courses according to their interests. These

courses like leadership and management are shared with other faculties (SER 1.2.2).

The 12 courses taken during the first year of study aim to provide the necessary skills for more advanced courses. The students have the opportunity to improve their oral and written communication skills in English thanks to the English I and English II courses.

The second, third and fourth years involve courses about the basics and then about the sub-field of the psychology sciences. The eighth semester offers the courses Ethics in Psychology and Graduation Project, which give the students important skills for their future work life (SER 1.3.4).

The University underlines the importance of using interactive teaching methods such as class discussions, projects, and presentations. These methods are used to help students gain more knowledge and practical skills. The class sizes are usually kept under 30 students, which allows the teaching staff to use interactive learning methods. During the Covid-19 pandemic, distance learning was used through Moodle and Teams platforms. Moodle is still used for circulating class materials and Teams is used for online lectures. The system also enables video recordings of the lessons so that the students can listen to the lectures whenever they want. The Psychology department holds panels, symposiums, conferences, and workshops on regular bases. These events involve national and international guest speakers from the psychology field. Every year, there is also a departmental board meeting, during which the scientific activities of the year and the main topics are discussed. The department has a psychology club which organizes activities such as charity or awareness activities (SER 1.2.4)

The teaching staff of the program uses electronic and media teaching aids in the courses, including PowerPoint presentations and videos. Some courses are still taught in the form of distance learning. The lecturers have the possibility to upload their course contents on Moodle. Every course has its own page on Moodle where the related content is uploaded. The students can also upload their homework, assignments, and projects on the platform. Under normal conditions, the courses are delivered in classrooms fully equipped with central cooling and heating system, desktop PCs and remote-controlled projectors. Microsoft Teams was still used for hybrid and online courses during fall 2021-2022 (SER 1.2.5).

The Psychology program does not include a compulsory internship module. Students who are willing to take an internship based on voluntarism can apply to

professional institutes in Northern Cyprus or in their home countries. The University will provide the necessary documents if the voluntary internship is accepted (SER 1.2.6). Furthermore, the University coordinates the internship insurance for the given period. Especially in the following courses, the lecturers also provide feedback to the students who did their voluntary internship: PSY 301, PSY302, PSY308, PSY304, PSY405 and PSY406.

The University prioritizes the multicultural aspect and internationality of its programs. Therefore, the Psychology program enrolls students from overseas, allowing the students to interact with different cultures. Especially, the fact that the program is taught in English attracts plenty of international students. This study environment allows the students to network and to improve their communication skills (SER 1.2.8).

A research module named “Graduation Project” is integrated in the fourth year of the program. This course gives the students the opportunity to undertake independent research with the assistance of a supervisor in a specific area of psychology. The students must write their project with respect to the writing rules set out in the “Directive for the Preparation of Thesis”. This project trains the students if they want to continue in the future with writing a thesis (SER 1.2.7). Besides that, the following modules enable the students to gain the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to absolve the graduation project: COM109 Mathematics, COM100 Introduction to Computers, PSY235 Statistical Methods, PSY212 Statistical Application with Computers, PSY251 Research Methods in Psychology, PSY303 Psychological Tests and Measurement I.

Judgement

The Bachelor study program “Psychology” has a course-based structure and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the modules are embedded within the course syllabi for each program. The course syllabus contains information on the course code, the credit hours, prerequisite(s), the semester and year, the instructor's name as well as his or her phone number, mail address and the lecture times. Furthermore, the course objectives, the learning outcomes, and the weekly distribution of course topics/contents are presented. Regarding the assessments, the assessment tools, the assessment plan and the teaching and learning resources are described. The experts value the detailed syllabus, which enables students to prepare adequately for individual lectures as well as scheduled examinations.

The combination of the courses of the study program are consistent with the specified qualification objectives (described earlier). It is assured that students receive the support and guidance they need for the organization and accomplishment of assignments and the learning process in general. During the round of talks, the experts inquire about interdisciplinary taught modules, as the programs involved in this accreditation procedure offer good opportunities for this. The University reports that in the elective modules, students are sometimes taught together. The experts see room for improvement related to interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Increasing cooperation between the different study programs and offering more interdisciplinary elective modules can foster collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange across disciplines. Furthermore, streamlining and harmonizing the curriculum can help alleviate the examination workload and create a more balanced learning experience.

The experts further inquire about the graduation project. The faculty reports that graduation projects are supervised by advisors, providing guidance and mentorship to students. Projects are often presented at conferences within Turkey and are also published, showcasing students' research findings. The university offers a research method course where students collaborate in groups on a common project, fostering teamwork and developing essential research skills. The objective of the graduation project is to provide students with the experience of tackling the challenges associated with undertaking an individual research work. It aims to afford them the opportunity to apply, integrate, and expand upon the research skills they have acquired in previous years. Additionally, it aims to cultivate proficiency in effectively communicating research findings through written presentations, which holds particular significance for those aspiring to pursue further studies in the field of psychology. The experts acknowledge that the graduation project is not visibly integrated across all study programs. This should be adjusted as a matter of priority. Additionally, the experts suggest specifying the module description for the graduation project and possibly considering a title change to clearly indicate that students are required to write a final thesis-like research paper.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.3 Admission and Feasibility

Summary

The process and management of admissions is mainly carried out by the University's Registrar's Office alongside the Faculties and the International Affairs Office. It is necessary to have completed the secondary education to apply for the Psychology program. The candidates must hold a high-school graduation diploma or equivalent and must show their English language ability by taking part in the English Language Proficiency Test. Students can also provide an international accepted English proficiency certificate.

Turkish students must take the Turkish University Entrance Examination (LYS) which is conducted by the Office of Student Selection and Placements (OSYM). The students are then placed depending on their examination scores.

International students must have a high school level diploma/certificate with a minimum average diploma grade of "C" (SER 1.5.1).

There are special requirements about the English language skills for the direct admission into the degree program. If the students don't have an IELTS examination certificate with a minimum score of 5.5 or similar, they have to take the EUL English Preparatory School program which lasts for a year. (SER 1.5.4)

The University offers different support services for their students.

Judgement

The admission policies and procedures along with the requirements are properly documented and made publicly available. The experts determine the admission procedure and requirements to be appropriate.

The University prioritizes social support and provides a range of services, including a kindergarten and support for pregnant individuals. To foster a vibrant community, the University encourages the formation of social clubs and organizes various social events, providing opportunities for students to connect and engage with each other. Additionally, students have access to an advisor who offers guidance and support throughout their academic journey. On-site, it became obvious that the teaching staff follows an "open-door-policy". As another support mechanism, an academic advisor is responsible for a small number of students

from the beginning of each semester. Students are supported through advisors with their registration process, financial and personal issues, and their performance during the semester. The university offers scholarships to every international student, including academic scholarships. Additionally, tuition fees can be paid in installments, and sibling scholarships are available. For first-year students, dormitories are provided to ensure a safe living environment. Furthermore, the university offers free rent to victims of earthquakes, demonstrating its commitment to supporting those in need. The workload and examination requirements are deemed feasible, enabling students to manage their studies effectively. The experts find the support services at the University to be exemplary and conducive to the health and success of the student body.

To prepare students for the level of difficulty and volume of exams, the type as well as the time of the different examinations is defined and communicated to the students transparently through the course syllabus at the beginning of each course. The experts confirm that the University takes good measures to guarantee the feasibility of the study program despite the high workload. The organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study programs.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.4 Examination system and transparency

Summary

The number of examinations per semester depends on the module. The lecturers are responsible for the preparation of examinations in accordance with the learning outcomes of the Psychology program. The lecturer may choose to evaluate an assignment, a project, a laboratory report, or similar work as a midterm exam. The final exam aims to test whether the students have achieved the learning outcomes of the course. Apart from courses which are research-oriented or based on case analyses, the courses are structured to measure students' performance with one written midterm examination in the seventh week of the semester and one written final examination at the end of the fourteenth week. The midterm exams generally last for 45 to 60 minutes, whereas the final exams last for 60 to 75 minutes. The

contribution of exams and other evaluations to the final score also depends on the module. Students who are unable to take exams on the planned schedule are required to provide a valid excuse. If the excuse is accepted, they can take a make-up examination during the week following the end of the semester. Students who failed may redo the examination within the two weeks following the end of the semester by applying to the Dean's Office. The re-sit examination then substitutes the final examination. Graduating students are entitled to take graduation make-up examinations up to three modules if needed.

Students with a grade from A to C are successful and pass the exam. Students with a grade from C- to D imply a "Conditional Pass", meaning that the students are successful given that the CGPA is above or equal to 2.00. Grades D- and F indicate "Failure" which means the students must repeat the course. Students who do not fulfill the requirements for the evaluations of the course are given the "FA" grade by the lecturer. The grades "S" (satisfactory) and "U" (unsatisfactory) are given to students who are registered for non-credit courses. "I" is given to students who have not written the exam or who did not complete some of the course components because of a valid reason. The grade "W" is given to students who are allowed to withdraw from a registered course. At the end of each semester, the students can retake exams on defined days (SER 1.2.3).

The grading system is as follows:

MARK	GRADE	EQUIVALENT SCORES AND EXPLANATIONS
90-100	A	4.00
85-89	A-	3.70
80-84	B+	3.30
75-79	B	3.00
70-74	B-	2.70
66-69	C+	2.30
62-65	C	2.00
58-61	C-	1.70
54-57	D+	1.30
50-53	D	1.00
40-49	D-	0.70
0-39	F	0.00
Failing from Absenteeism	F	0.00
	I	Incomplete
	S	Satisfactory (Pass in a non-credit-course)
	U	Unsatisfactory (Failure in a non-credit-course)
	W	Withdrawal

The students transferring from another HEI or registrations following the Vertical Transfer Examination may be entitled to conversion of credits acquired from other HEIs. The students are required to submit their transcripts of records and the list of the courses taken at the other HEI. This information will then be evaluated by the exemption commission of the concerned department and a list of exempted courses will be provided. The following rules must be followed:

- In case of a compatible course content, the number of National or ECTS credits must be at least equal with the EUL course credits,
- If the number of credits is inferior to one of the EUL course, then no exemption will be given for that course,
- For a course to be exempted, the grad must be at least equivalent to a C (2.00) in the EUL grading system (SER 1.5.3).

Judgement

The University uses a continuous assessment process to ensure the quality of education for its students. The study program has a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations, repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students. Furthermore, information concerning the study program, process of education, admission requirements and tuition fees are documented and published.

From the experts' point of view, the examinations serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge and competences. The transparent information of examination methods and of the examination schedule at the beginning of each term makes the high number of assessments during and at the end of each semester manageable. Nevertheless, in the experts' opinion, the study program includes a very high number of exams which causes a high workload not only for students but also for the teaching staff. Therefore, the experts recommend combining courses into larger modules.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

Summary

In the Psychology program, the total number of credit hours is 127 of which 87 credit hours are mainly Psychology subjects. Therefore, the total staff demand for the Psychology program is 43,5 Week hours/semester. In the Psychology Department, all modules are taught by the full-time academics except for a few modules which require faculty members with specialization like Statistics, Mathematics, Biology and Sociology. When considering a teaching load of 15 hours/week, three full-time staff are required.

In the Psychology program, the modules are taught by full-time and part-time academics. Considering the members who are teaching only in the Psychology program, there are one professor, one associate professor, five assistant professors and three lecturers teaching in the program. Under these members of the teaching staff, nine are full-time employees and one is a part-time employee. Moreover, there are six adjunct professors who are full-time staff from other faculties contributing to the study program (SER 2.1.1)

The ratio of full-time teaching loads of the full time instructors to the total number of all students in the study program with full enrollment capacity utilization is 1:4.

The faculty members are well-qualified with PhD degrees from accredited universities. The transfer of knowledge between colleagues contributes to the intellectual capacity of the instructors and improves their teaching effectiveness. The faculty members have several occasions to exchange their expertise and knowledge through conferences, seminars, round table discussions and panels. The cooperation between them is institutionalized through departmental meetings, joint committees or group works on specific topics. The primary aim of the development and career planning program is to identify strategies to maintain the faculty member's credential field and to enhance the overall performance and reputation of the Psychology department. To do so, the University encourages the teaching staff to co-operate in research programs with other universities or to do post-doc in abroad universities to broaden their knowledge. The titles of assistant professors, associate professor and professor are given to the faculty members who satisfy the University promotion and regulation criteria for the given title. The faculty members are asked to prepare a report about the courses that they have been teaching, their publications and collaborations every year. The University also

organizes pedagogical Career Development training at the beginning of every academic year (SER 2.1.3).

The Faculty of Psychology employs a secretary who is also the Dean's Secretary. The Dean's Secretary takes care of all the administrative matters. There is also a program coordinator responsible for the coordination of the lecture programs and exam schedules of all departments (SER 2.2.1).

The lectures take place on-campus in different buildings of the University. There is the Arts and Sciences Building, which contains 48 classrooms and four computer labs. The Central Lecture Hall has 9 classrooms, lecture theaters and numerous smaller seminar rooms. The Faculty of Pharmacy Buildings contains two amphitheatres and five classrooms. The faculty of Law building has seven large auditoriums. Audiovisual equipment is available in most classrooms and seminar rooms, as well as in the meeting room (SER 2.3.1).

The library opened and expanded parallelly to the University. The 2500m² library building has 65 computers available for the students. It also has reading areas and private study rooms, which can be reserved by the students. Concerning the staff, the library has eight full time members and 15 assistants. The library is open from Monday to Friday from 08:30am until 11pm and Saturday-Sunday from 09:30am until 11pm. During the midterm and final exam periods, it is open 7/24.

The library has a collection of 48,500 printed publications, 161,000 digital books or sources, and thousands of audiovisuals and periodical subscriptions. It also has a membership in more than 15 online databases that allow access to full-text journals, reports, abstracts, e-books, reviews, etc. (SER 2.3.2).

The following table shows the books and databases available for the Psychology program:

Type	Numbers in Collection 2021/2022 Academic Year
Printed Books	63165
Total printed Books of Psychology	1570
Periodical Electronic Journals (Total)	38142
Periodical Electronic Journals of Psychology	2197
E-Books	281509
Psychology E-Books	5879

The University provides extra funding for research to promote the publication of articles and conference papers. There are three categories of funding:

- BAP Projects: funding for a project approved by the commission organized by the Rectorate,
- Publication in SCI-Indexed/SSCI-Indexed Journal: the University rewards the publication with a fund of 1,500\$ per paper,
- Attending of conferences: the amount of the funding depends on the type and location of the conference (SER 2.3.4).

Judgement

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the program and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Students evaluate the performance of all teaching and staff periodically. Overall, the teaching and academic staff of the Psychology program at the European University of Lefke shows a very high level of commitment and potential for the execution as well as further development of the study programs they are responsible for. The expert group concludes that there is a strong corporate identity and positive group dynamics among the University and the administration staff. As a motivation to work at European University of Lefke, the faculty cites the good reputation, the working atmosphere, the safe working environment as well as support mechanisms related to research and academic development. Work-life balance is also emphasized, with one regular work-from-home day, along with generous annual leave of 30 days and 14 days of sick leave. Promotion criteria from assistant to associate professor are clear and fair, ensuring transparency in career progression.

The experts find the amount of human resources allocated to the program to be sufficient to carry out its functions. The teaching staff is highly qualified. The teaching staff within the Bachelor study program "Psychology" is in possession of academic and technical credentials and experience adequate to their tasks. The University informs its employees about opportunities for personal and professional development transparently, and actively encourages their participation in workshops, training courses and conferences intended to further their abilities, which is confirmed during the talks with the staff on site.

The university boasts a sufficient library that caters to students' academic needs. Online access to resources and materials further enhances the accessibility and convenience of information. Staff internships are supported, and additional funding is provided for open access publications (approximately \$1,500 per year). Access

to patient data is restricted, but efforts are being made to facilitate its use for research purposes. Research is considered as an addition to teaching hours and does not reduce teaching obligations. During the exam period, the university provides free food and coffee, ensuring students' well-being and support during this critical time.

The experts visited the premises of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, where the "Psychology" program is located. As a whole, it was ascertained by the experts that the program has ample teaching facilities at its disposals.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.6 Quality assurance

Summary

At the EUL, internal quality assessment procedures are carried out semi-annually by the Higher Education Quality Commission. The quality of the program is ensured through the following practices:

- Reliable, fair, and inclusive admission system,
- High quality designed and delivered courses,
- Sufficient, appropriately qualified, and skilled staff,
- Sufficient and appropriate facilities, learning sources, and student support services,
- Fair and transparent procedures for handling complaints and appeals,
- Consideration of external expertise,
- Student's involvement in the development, assurance, and enhancement of the quality of their educational experience (SER 1.6.1).

To assure the continuous development of the study programs, the University organizes semi-annual internal quality assessment procedures for all programs. The rectorate, the faculty and the department have a shared responsibility in the quality assessment, whereas students and other stakeholders take part in the quality assurance process. To collect data from the stakeholders, the University uses several methods like surveys, meetings, or evaluations. The Psychology program has its own Student Experience Survey administered at the end of every semester

and its own Graduate Survey administered at the end of every academic year. The surveys are then evaluated by the academic staff of the Psychology Department and necessary improvements are made (SER 1.6.2).

The student's feedback on the quality of the program is obtained through an online module evaluation survey completed at the end of every semester. The results are then evaluated by the Higher Education Quality Commission and used for necessary improvements. The Arts and Science Faculty also has two subcommittees, namely the Assessment and Evaluation Subcommittee and the Academic Improvement subcommittee. These subcommittees are there to evaluate which courses don't meet the learning outcomes, courses which are considered as underachieved lectures. These lectures are then re-evaluated after the necessary measures were taken (SER 1.6.3).

As mentioned above, the Psychology Department administers graduate experience surveys to improve the quality of teaching and practical relevance of the program (SER 1.6.4).

The workload per semester for the students is equivalent to 30 ECTS. The number of modules taken varies depending on the cumulative GPA. A student with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 can register for an additional module, while the students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or more can register for two additional modules (SER 1.6.5). At the end of every academic semester, questionnaires are shared via moodle to evaluate the feasibility of the workload of the modules.

The Psychology program has been accredited by YÖDAK (Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination council).

The number of enrollments per academic year is limited to 70 students. The program accepts students both in spring and fall semesters. 35 students can be enrolled in the fall semester and 35 in the spring semester (SER 1.6.6).

The following table shows the enrollment statistics:

2018	29
2019	33
2020	34
2021	37
2022	38

All the students enrolled in the program have access to an online system called the OIBS through the Deanship of Admission and Registration. This system provides them with all the details about:

- The academic requirements,
- The complete academic plan,
- The credit hours of the modules,
- The attendance statistics,
- The information about examinations, grades, and cumulative GPA,
- The information on passed and failed modules.

OIBS is also the platform on which the students can select the modules to study, add, and drop of modules with the support of an advisor lecturer from their department. The students can also manage their study plan. The Examination committee follows a transparent procedure to fix the exam schedules, making sure that it fits with the other subjects from the students. The rules and regulations for the exams are communicated in advance to the students. In case of disabled students, the special regulations are communicated to the lecturers (SER 1.6.7).

The counselling support begins with an orientation program specifically designed to inform the newly arrived students about the campus, the faculties, and the facilities available. After the enrollment, every student is assigned to an academic advisor who can help with their progress, registration on courses, career advising, and other academic issues. Every instructor must schedule two office hours per week, during which the students can book an appointment to ask questions or further explore the subjects taught during the lectures. During the rest of the week, the students can use the platform Moodle to contact the lecturers. The Career Center of the University:

- helps the students identify career opportunities,
- organizes job forums on campus,
- assists the students in their job research,
- assists the students in the CV writing and interview skills improvement,
- reaches out to students using social networking sites and leaflets.

The Dean's Office offers psychological counselling services. Moreover, the students have the possibility to get involved in one of the 44 clubs and 35 societies of the University, which can help with developing soft skills, teamwork, leadership, communication, and organizational skills (SER 1.6.8).

Judgement

From the experts' point of view, the University has well-structured system of quality assurance spread across all of its units. The European University of Lefke has developed and documented a concept of quality assurance in education process, teaching, and research, which serves as the basis for the quality-oriented development and implementation of the study program "Psychology".

Regular evaluation surveys are conducted after every course, allowing students to provide feedback on their learning experience. The University values feedback from students and implements actual changes based on evaluation surveys, addressing content, examination methods, and teaching approaches to enhance the learning experience. The results of the internal quality assurance management are applied for the continuous development of the study program. In doing so, the University takes into close consideration the quality evaluation results as well as the analyses of students' workload, their academic accomplishments and feedback from graduates. The experts appreciate that regularly meetings on different levels are held to improve the study programs.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

Summary

Education and Exam Regulations for Disabled Students have recently been adopted at the University. These regulations guarantee assistance on educational, examination, social, and transportation issues (SER 1.5.2).

According to the University, the equality between all students regardless of gender, age or race is ensured. The program welcomes students from different countries, which is why it can be considered as a multicultural program. The University also welcomes students with disability and provides the necessary assistance. The office of Student's Dean is responsible for the assistance for accommodation, fees, and scholarship. The students also have the opportunity to take part-time jobs on campus such as research assistant (SER 1.6.9).

The students with disabilities or chronic illnesses benefit from various on-campus and out-of-campus facilities and services:

- Each disabled student is provided a Primary Care Provider overseeing their medical care and health,
- The needs for services, support, and treatment are communicated to the medical provider,
- In case of reduced mobility, temporary bus passes and easy access to campus resources are provided,
- The Counselling and Psychological Services provide psychological and guidance services,
- The Office of Transportation provides accessible transportation such as minibuses and taxi services,
- The Health Center provides primary health services and advices (SER 1.6.10).

Judgement

The University demonstrates its commitment to the provision of equal opportunities for all students and shows openness for diversity and social developments. Overall, the experts conclude that the University's actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

5 Conclusion

Overall, the experts gained a positive impression of the European University of Lefke as well as the "Psychology" program. The management of the University seems highly involved and dedicated, demonstrating a strong commitment to the University's success. This commitment is reflected in their active engagement in various aspects of the University's operations. The Psychology program maintains a small student population, allowing for nearly one-on-one teaching and fostering a more personalized educational experience. This close interaction between faculty and students contributes to a supportive learning environment. The working environment is described as familial, suggesting a supportive and friendly atmosphere among staff members.

An overarching research concept or framework is advocated for, which can provide a clear direction and cohesion to the institution's research activities. The experts see room for improvement in terms of documentation and materials. Addressing these areas will ensure that the necessary resources are readily available and of high quality.

The institution places great emphasis on providing intensive support and guidance to students during practical training. This hands-on approach ensures that students receive comprehensive supervision and mentoring to enhance their learning and professional development.

The number of modules and the associated workload are perceived to be too high, resulting in a heavy examination burden for students. Streamlining and harmonizing the curriculum can help alleviate this issue and create a more balanced learning experience. Increasing cooperation between different study programs and offering interdisciplinary elective modules can foster collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange across disciplines.

Based on the information from written documents and the results of the on-site visit, the experts concluded that the study program "Psychology" offered at the European University of Lefke fulfils the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS make a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- International cooperation should be further expanded to enhance the University's reach and promote cross-cultural exchange.
- An overarching research concept or framework should be developed, which can provide a clear direction and cohesion to the University's research activities.
- Interdisciplinary teaching and learning should be increased. Cooperation between the different study programs and offering more interdisciplinary

elective modules can foster collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange across disciplines.

- A consecutive Master's degree program should be implemented.
- The module description for the graduation project should be specified, and possibly a title change to clearly indicate that students are required to write a final thesis-like research paper should be considered.
- Consideration should be given to whether and to what extent courses can be combined into larger modules to reduce workload.

6 Decision of the accreditation commission

Decision of the accreditation commission September 18, 2023

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the University's application, as well as the expert review and the site visit covered in the Assessment Report. The Accreditation Commission has also taken the response opinion of the University regarding the study program into account.

The site visit of the University took place on June 6-7, 2023 according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation procedure is structured according to the Accreditation Criteria developed by the AHPGS. The Accreditation Criteria are developed by the AHPGS in close accordance with the existing criteria and requirements valid in the Federal Republic of Germany and based on the „Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area“ (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group regarding the Assessment Report.

The Bachelor study program requires the obtainment of 127 credit hours (CH) according to the internal credit hour system. The regulated study period in the program "Psychology" is four years (eight semesters). The study program comprises 43 modules in total, out of which six modules are elective ones. The language of instruction is English. The Bachelor study program "Psychology" is completed with awarding of the academic degree "Bachelor of Arts" (B.A.). Admission takes place every fall and spring semester. The first cohort of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2016/2017.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The Bachelor study program "Psychology" is accredited without conditions for the duration of five years until September 30, 2028.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS support the recommendations articulated in the Assessment Report.