

Quality Policy of the School of Physics, AUTH

(approved by General Assembly No 18/8-4-2020)

The quality policy of the School of Physics is in accordance with the quality manual of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Its primary objective is the optimal implementation of the graduate program of studies and is accomplished by setting specific objectives and verifying their fulfillment. Feedback from students and personnel is used to amend the objectives in regular time intervals in order to achieve a continuous improvement of the graduate program of studies.

In particular, the School of Physics follows a quality policy which ensures the academic profile of the graduate program of studies, the scientific orientation (taking into account the fact that Physics is one of the fundamental sciences) and the strategic development of the School, while specific actions are implied to achieve the main objectives which are:

- 1) Graduates should acquire a high level of scientific knowledge and skills compared to the international standards.
- 2) Graduates should acquire skills both in laboratory and theoretical aspects and should be introduced to research procedures.
- 3) The implementation of scientific methods as a toll for the development of new knowledge in Physics.
- 4) Specialization in distinct scientific fields of interest as an introduction for future post graduate studies and/or future employment opportunities. Alternatively, to give it's graduates the opportunity to be specialized in the didactics of Physics, as preparation for teaching Physics in all educational levels.

The actions taken towards the implementation of the School's objectives for its graduate program of studies are:

- Regarding the structure of the program:

The structure of the graduate program of studies is revised after extended evaluation by the Graduate Program Committee of the School. All faculty members practically participate in the procedure through 15 specialized committees.

- Regarding the results and qualifications in accordance with the European and the National Qualifications' Framework for Higher Education:

Specific learning outcomes are taken into account in the graduate program structure according to the European and the National Qualifications' Framework for Higher Education. ECTS units are assigned accordingly in all courses.

- Regarding the promotion of the educational quality and effectiveness:

An amount of data such as exams, average grades, failure rate, mean graduation time, dropout rate and others are regularly collected. The respective committees of the School (Graduate Program Committee, Physics Committee, Mathematics Committee, Laboratory Courses Committee, Students' Subjects Committee) process the data and introduce initiatives to the General Assembly. Corrective actions are applied by the Assembly or the Head of the Department when any issues are detected.

- Regarding the faculty personnel:

All ratings regarding the academic personnel's careers are monitored and processed. These data are taken into account when a new recruitment is planned in order to expand the research subjects within the School and to replace retired scholars in basic subjects. The research subject of every new recruitment is as wide as possible in order to attract a large number of candidates and select

the scientist with the best prospects and suitability for the School. Prior employment and working experience in other Institutions within Greece or overseas is regarded as an important criterion. This policy is followed in all new recruitments.

- Regarding the amount and the quality of the research output of the faculty personnel:

The School encourages the participation of the research personnel in research collaborations and other joint actions by providing flexible leaves. Research equipment is purchased or maintained with its annual budget. Well-known researchers are invited regularly for lectures. International conferences, summer schools and workshops are organized under the auspices of the School. Important events and awarded prizes are publicly announced in the School's website and by personal e-mail to the staff, encouraging excellence in research.

- Regarding the connection between research and teaching:

In the program of elective courses the most up-to-date research developments are included. Students are encouraged to attend research seminars organized by the School or its Research Laboratories. An optional bachelor thesis is included in the program of studies, as an introduction to research methodology. A significant number of students complete it and present it publicly and evaluated by a three person committee. The School supports an annual conference for pre-graduate research organized by the students union P.A.T.H. and encourages the participation of its students in research groups and activities. In this context, in 2020 eleven students of the Department participated in A.S.A.T. team of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which constructed a nano-satellite for an ESA program.

- Regarding the graduates' professional qualifications:

The graduate program of studies is continuously revised, so that graduates acquire the necessary qualifications for their future professional employment and/or post-graduate studies.

- Regarding the quality of administrative and supportive services like libraries and students' assistance facilities:

The School adapts in every new development introduced by the University, like the digitalization of administrative and students' secretariat services. It operates its own library and computer facilities, which are continuously improved. Students' assistance services are provided by Aristotle University.

- Regarding the annual internal evaluation of the quality system of the graduate program:

The Internal Evaluation Committee (OMEA) of the School monitors the evaluation of educational activities by the students and informs the Head of the School about the results, in order to trigger corrective actions when necessary. These data are taken into account whenever the graduate program is revised. In cooperation with the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of the Institution, the School's OMEA reviews and annually updates these data and the educational personnel is encouraged to present in the beginning of each course the results to the students. Finally, a public presentation of the course evaluation results in all faculty members and students through the School's website is under preparation.