

**SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS**

Postgraduate Program of Studies

**INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**Program Guide**



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## 1. History and physiognomy of the University and the Department

### 1.1 The University of Patras

The University of Patras was founded in 1964 as a self-governing institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. It began to operate in the academic year 1966-67. Today it is the third largest university in Greece. It enjoys recognition as an academic institution with global appeal, attracting thousands of students and a large number of academics who are actively involved at the cutting edge of science, innovation and excellence.

The University is organised into seven Faculties, comprising departments of related academic fields:

- The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences consists of the Department of Animal Production, Fisheries & Aquaculture (based in Messolonghi), the Department of Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering (based in Messolonghi), the Department of Crop Science (based in Messolonghi), the Department of Food Science (based in Messolonghi), Science & Technology (based in Agrinio), the Department of Agricultural Biotechnology (based in Agrinio) and the Department of Agriculture (based in Amaliada)
- The School of Economics and Business consists of the Department of Business Administration (based in Patras), the Department of Food & Agribusiness Administration (based in Agrinio), the Department of Economics (based in Patras), the Department of Science Administration & Technology (based in Patras), and the Department of Tourism Management (based in Patras), and the Department of Economics, Business Administration (based in Patras).
- The School of Engineering consists of the Department of Architectural Engineering (based in Patras), the Department of Chemical Engineering (based in Patras), the Department of Civil Engineering (based in Patras), the Department of Computer Engineering & Information Technology (based in Patras), the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering (based in Patras), the Department of Environmental Engineering (based in Agrinio), and the Department of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering (based in Patras)
- The School of Rehabilitation Health Sciences consists of the Department of Nursing (based in Patras), the Department of Physiotherapy (based in Aigio) and the Department of Speech and Language Therapy (based in Patras)
- The School of Health Sciences consists of the Faculty of Medicine (based in Patras) and the Department of Pharmacy (based in Patras).
- The School of Humanities & Social Sciences consists of the Department of Education & Early Childhood Education (based in Patras), the Department of Education & Social Work (based in Patras), the Department of History & Archaeology (based in Agrinio), the Department of Museum Studies (based in Pyrgos), the Department of Philology (based in Patras), the Department of Philosophy (based in Patras) and the Department of Theatre Studies (based in Patras).

The University of Patras has gained international prominence for pioneering broad research in various fields, such as Health, Biotechnology, Engineering, Electronics, Computer Science, Environment, Basic Sciences and Social Sciences. Some of its departments have been designated as Centres of Excellence, based on international evaluation. The University publishes a monthly

newsletter, which provides information on the main research activities of its academic staff and other academic events.

The main campus is located in Rio, just 10 km outside the city of Patras and about 200 km west of Athens. The University has a large number of separate buildings, together with a Central Library, a Science & Technology Museum, a Botanical Garden and a Student Centre. The central campus also houses the Student Residence, Conference & Cultural Centre, Restaurant, Bank, Bookstore, Cafes & Pavilions and the University Hospital which functions both as the largest regional medical centre and as a teaching facility for the Faculty of Medicine. Several other facilities are available on campus, including a gym, a post office, a swimming pool, a kindergarten and a primary and secondary school for the children of the academic and administrative staff.

Along with the educational and research work of the University, the rich campus life attracts many students each year as their first choice for their studies. Today, the University of Patras has a total of 30,185 undergraduate and 3,755 postgraduate students, 180 Laboratories, 17 Clinics, 693 Faculty Members, 232 Scientific Staff Members and 438 Administrative Staff Members.

Since its early days, the main objective of the University of Patras has been to interact effectively with the European and international environment. The international policy is achieved through cooperation with universities and research institutions around the world. Cooperation includes activities related to research and teaching, bilateral student/staff exchange agreements and participation in international organisations, networks and associations. The University actively participates in the ERASMUS+ Programmes (LLP Erasmus Studies and LLP Erasmus Placement).

Patras, the capital of the prefecture of Achaia, is known for its past and present. The history of the region dates back long before the Trojan Wars and the city was named, according to tradition, after Patreas, one of the Achaean leaders. The patron saint of Patras, to whom the University is dedicated, is Saint Andrew, the first chosen of the Apostles, who was martyred here. Between the towering Mount Panachaiko and the waters of the Mediterranean Sea, the city of Patras lies beneath the 15th century Venetian castle. With a population of 200,000, Patras is also an important commercial and industrial centre, the "gateway to the west" for Greece and an important entry point for tourists. The city's recently established "Science Park" provides a very good infrastructure for further future industrial and commercial development.

The city of Patras offers a wide variety of cultural opportunities. Many musical and theatrical events and festivals take place throughout the year, culminating in the International Summer Festival, which plays an important role in the cultural life of the city. The city is also famous for its annual carnival, one of the most famous in Europe, which takes place in the pre-Lenten period in February or March.

Along the attractive coastline of Patras, there are many picturesque seaside villages, which can be visited on a day trip. Ancient Olympia and Delphi are among the most important and well-known destinations. There are also many nearby islands to visit, such as Zakynthos, Kefalonia and Ithaca.

## **1.2 The Department of Economics**

The Department of Economics of the University of Patras was founded by the Decree 325/23-5-1985, which designated Agrinio (Aitolokarnania) as its seat. In 1997-1998, the Department of Economics was transferred to the main campus in Rio by Presidential Decree 85/21-4-1998.

The Department of Economics belongs to the School of Economics & Business of the University of Patras. From October 2013 to May 2019, the Faculty, in addition to the Department of Economics, included the Department of Business Administration (established in 1999, based in Patras), the Department of Cultural Heritage Management & New Technologies (established in 2004, based in Agrinio), and the Department of Food & Agribusiness Administration (established in 2006, based in Agrinio). As of June 2019, the School of Economics & Business consists of 5 Departments, the Department of Economics, the Department of Business Administration, the Department of Food & Agribusiness Administration, the Department of Tourism Administration (established in 2019, based in Patras), and the Department of Management Science and Technology (established in 2019, based in Patras).

The Dean of the Faculty for the academic year 2024-2025 is Professor Konstantinos Kounetas, of the Department of Economics. The Head of the Department of Economics for the academic year 2024-2025 is Associate Professor Tzagarakis Emmanouil. The Department of Economics currently has a total of 2,000 students. The curriculum covers a full range of economics topics at the undergraduate level, which equips students with advanced hard and soft skills required for today's economists. The department also already runs a full-time one-year master's programme leading to an MSc in Applied Economics and Data Analysis. The Department also has a PhD programme in Economics, with a maximum intake of around 20 students per year.

The Department of Economics is located northwest of the university's administration building. The new building includes two large and five smaller lecture halls for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, four computer laboratories equipped with all the latest statistical packages and other software, four other smaller lecture halls and a Departmental Library. The department subscribes to all the leading economic journals and to several specialised journals related to the research activities of the faculty members. Students and staff members have access to these materials through the University's Central Library, which, in addition to a large collection of books covering all the courses taught in the various departments, also has a European Documentation Centre.

## **2. Subject - Purpose**

The Postgraduate Studies Programme (MSc) "Innovator and Sustainable Entrepreneurship" of the Department of Economics of the University of Patras aims to:

- To promote theoretical and applied knowledge in the areas of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability, which are mainly rooted in Economic Science
- The promotion of scientific excellence and research in the above mentioned areas of knowledge,
- The creation of scientists capable of pursuing doctoral studies in the relevant scientific areas,
- The creation of managers, in the public and private sectors, with a strong background in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability, capable of meeting the challenges of the modern economic environment,
- To enhance students' ability to set up their own business or to join management teams of enterprises, SMEs or large enterprises, which design and implement innovation and sustainability projects with a strong orientation towards the green economy.



- Both in the development of analytical skills in the above-mentioned areas, as well as in the development of leadership and soft skills, familiarity with the use of modern technologies and dealing with real economic situations in their future careers.

The subject matter of the MSc refers to the integrated provision of the appropriate framework and the cultivation of the skills required for the successful development of innovative and sustainable projects in a dynamic business environment and equips postgraduate students with an understanding of technology-based business management. In this way, the MSc will provide an indispensable tool for postgraduate students of different disciplines and orientations to understand the dynamics of innovation and entrepreneurship through advanced level academic courses on business operations and management, focusing on specific technological and business conditions in selected technology application areas (for example, ICT, Green Economy, Life Sciences, Construction and Water Management).

The MSc, upon full and successful completion of the curriculum, leads to the award of a Diploma of Postgraduate Studies (MSc) in "Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship". The degree is awarded by the Department of Economics of the School of Economics & Business Administration of the University of Patras.

More information on the subject of the MSc is available [here](#).

### 3. Introduction to the MSc in "Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship"

The maximum number of admissions per year is set at fifty (50) postgraduate students. Selection will be based on the evaluation of the candidates' supporting documents and interview by the Candidate Evaluation Committee. Upon recommendation of the Steering Committee and decision of the Assembly, the Candidate Evaluation Committee will be appointed each year, consisting of: four (4) faculty members of the same or related field. For the admission of postgraduate students, a call for applications (Call for Expression of Interest) is issued each year, with a recommendation of the Coordinating Committee and a decision of the Assembly of the Department, with a deadline for submission of applications and supporting documents no later than **September 30th**.

Candidates must submit the following supporting documents (Annex 1):

1. Application form
2. Application form. Application form,
3. Certificate of analytical marks (compulsory),
4. Detailed curriculum vitae (detailed reference to studies, teaching and/or professional experience, scientific activity) (compulsory),
5. Evidence of research or professional activity (compulsory),
6. Copy of a copy of a Master's degree (if available) (required),
7. Publications in peer-reviewed journals (if any),
8. Photocopy of two sides of the identity card (obligatory),
9. Copy of a certificate of English language skills (B2 level) as described in Annex 1 (mandatory).
10. At least two letters of recommendation.

Regarding the letters of recommendation, in case the faculty member or the person who will submit the closed letter of recommendation wishes to send it by post to the Department of Economics, or in case the postgraduate student has the closed letter in an envelope, the necessary details of the evaluator are entered in the electronic platform and sent by post to the address:

- Secretariat of the Department of Economics - (Application for the MSc "Innovator and Sustainable Entrepreneurship"), University of Patras, University Campus, Rio, 26504, tel. 2610 - 962590, 962581.

Graduates of English-speaking universities are exempted from the obligation to present a language certificate. In case the above requirements for a good knowledge of English are not met, the Board of the MSc will decide on the way in which the candidates will be examined in order to determine their proficiency in English. Knowledge of a second foreign language will be taken into account in a positive manner.

The MSc does not offer the possibility of part-time study. For further information, please contact the Secretariat of the Department of Economics at 2610 962590 & 2610 962581, working days and hours 08:30 to 15:00 and via e-mail at [econ-secr@upatras.gr](mailto:econ-secr@upatras.gr).

Applications with the necessary supporting documents are accepted only electronically and until the deadline posted in the call for applications for each academic year. In the event that the candidate fails to submit the documents marked as compulsory in the above list, the candidate loses the right to participate in the interview and his/her application will not be evaluated.

Graduates of the Faculties of Economics and Management Sciences, Social Sciences, Science, Health Sciences and Engineering Faculties of universities of the national territory or similar institutions of foreign countries and graduates of Faculties of universities of applied sciences of related subjects are admitted to the MSc in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.

In addition, you may apply for:

- Graduates of the above departments provided that they have submitted a Certificate of Completion of Studies no later than 31 October each year and always before the date of the Assembly meeting for the ratification of the list of successful candidates. In this case, a copy of their diploma or degree shall be submitted before the date of commencement of the programme,
- Graduates under the condition that they have passed by September 30th of each academic year all the courses required for the award of a degree or diploma and the examination in all courses was successful. In all cases, successful candidates will be required to provide all necessary supporting documents by the closing date.
- Graduates of foreign institutions which are not yet included in the National Register of Recognised Foreign Institutions of the IOATAP. In this case, applicants must submit a solemn declaration of possession of a qualification. In all cases, applicants will be required to provide evidence that they have taken the necessary steps to ensure that their qualifications and the institution concerned are included in the IOATF's National Register of Recognised Foreign Institutions by the end of their period of study. Otherwise, the student will be de-registered, without any claim by the student for a refund of the money deposited.
- Members of the categories of R.E.P., as well as R.I.P. and R.T.E.P. may, upon request, be registered as supernumeraries, and only one per year and per MSc, provided that they serve in the relevant Department and the degree and the work they perform in the relevant Department is relevant to the subject of the MSc.

The selection is based on the following criteria:

- The overall degree/diploma grade,
- The general general degree and diploma/Graduate Diploma/Graduate Diploma/Graduate degree,



- The performance in a Thesis/Dissertation, where this is required at undergraduate level; and
- The candidate's research or professional experience, if any, in a relevant field or in a related subject.

Specifically:

No	Short description of criterion	Weight
1	Degree/Diploma Relevance (1.0 for Schools of Business, Management & Engineering, 0.9 for Schools of Science, 0.8 for Schools of Social Sciences, and 0.7 for Other HEI and FEI faculties)	
2	(Degree/Diploma degree or expected degree) * (Degree/Diploma Relevance)	50%
3	Level of English language proficiency where more detailed  (4 for B1 level, 6 for B2 level, 8 for C1/C1 level and 10 for C2/C2 level).	5%
4	Semester of completion of studies (10 for completion in the spring semester in year of study n, 9 for completion in the re-examination in year of study n, 8 for completion in the winter semester in year of study n+1, 7 for completion in the spring semester in year of study n+1, 6 for completion in the re-examination in year of study n+1, 5 for completion in the winter semester in year of study n+2, 4 for completion in the spring semester in year of study n+2 and 0 for completion in the re-examination in year of study n+2 or later).	10%
4	Letters of recommendation (0 if the recommendation states 'Not recommended' or equivalent expression, 5 if the recommendation states 'Recommended with reservations' or equivalent expression, 8 if the recommendation states 'Recommended' or equivalent expression and 10 if the recommendation states 'Recommended without reservations' or equivalent expression)	10%
5	Possession of other postgraduate qualifications	2%
6	Relevant professional experience	2%
7	Publications in scientific journals, Presentations in scientific conferences	1%
8	Interview	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100 %</b>

There are two stages in the evaluation process: In the first, applications are assessed on the basis of the completeness and validity of the required supporting documents submitted, which is a prerequisite for qualification to the next stage. In the second stage of the procedure, candidates are invited to an interview before the N.A.Y. The aim is to determine which candidate(s) are able to respond effectively to the requirements of the MSc, taking into account their motivation and interest, as well as their overall constitution and scientific competence in relation to the subject of the postgraduate programme. Candidates with the highest overall score and up to the maximum number of admissions to the programme will be selected.

Upon completion of the evaluation procedures, the Candidate Evaluation Committee will draw up a complete list of all candidates and, after the relevant check, will reject those who do not meet the criteria set and will invite the shortlisted candidates to an interview. On the basis of the interview and the evaluation of the candidate's/candidate's dossier, it will rank the candidates, make the final selection and draw up the final list of successful candidates, which will be ratified by the Departmental Assembly.

In particular, the Candidate Evaluation Committee:

- Draws up a complete list of those who have already applied.

- It rejects candidates who do not meet the minimum criteria (e.g. insufficient knowledge of English, lack of references, failure to submit a CV, etc.).
- The committee will select an appropriate number of candidates, on the basis of the criteria it has established and according to the overall marks it considers that they can meet the needs of the MSc and will rank them. This number may not exceed (50) fifty candidates. It shall rank the candidates in descending order and make the final selection.
- Send a letter (written or electronic) of acceptance or conditional acceptance or non-acceptance of the applicant.
- In case of acceptance or partial acceptance, applicants must respond within five (5) days whether they accept or not. Failure to reply shall be considered as non-acceptance of the offered position.

In the event that two or more applicants obtain the same total number of points, all tied applicants will be admitted, provided that they do not exceed the maximum number of admissions set out in the Call for Expression of Interest. If the maximum number of admission places is reached, the candidate with the highest number of degrees will be admitted.

A shortlist of successful candidates will be announced according to the recommendation of the Candidate Evaluation Committee until the candidate who is deemed to meet the necessary academic criteria for successful completion of the programme.

The selection process of candidates and the announcement of results is completed no later than September 30th of each year. The registration of successful candidates, where the graduation ceremony is pending, may be finalized no later than the end of October of each academic year, provided they submit a certificate of completion of studies.

Candidates are selected based on the highest score, which the committee, after evaluation, deems sufficient to allow them to successfully complete the program.

Finally, the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.) receives the applications and the necessary supporting documents submitted by the prospective postgraduate students, as stipulated in each call for applications. It then compiles a list of postgraduate candidates, which it forwards to the Evaluation Committee (E.A.Y.). The supporting documents submitted by the candidates must be submitted within the deadline specified in the relevant call. Late applications will not be accepted.

#### **4. Enrolment – Course/Exercise Declarations**

Successful candidates are required to respond in writing or electronically (via email) within five (5) working days to confirm whether they accept or decline their admission to the Postgraduate Program (P.M.S.), by accepting its terms of operation. Failure to respond within this timeframe is considered a refusal of admission. In case of refusals, the Secretariat informs the next candidates in line from the relevant list of successful applicants.

Appeals against the list of successful candidates may be submitted within five (5) working days from the date of the list's publication. The appeal, which must be specific, is judged definitively by the Department Assembly or the Postgraduate Program Committee.

Successful candidates must enroll at the Secretariat of the PG Program by October 31st, within deadlines set by the Department Assembly. In exceptional circumstances, enrollment may take place after the deadline by decision of the Coordinating Committee, following a justified request by the interested party.

Upon enrollment, admitted postgraduate students must submit the following:

- Enrollment application form
- Photocopies of academic degrees or a certificate of graduation (for graduates who have not yet been sworn in) from the originating department
- Proof of English language proficiency

- Photocopy of ID card
- Three (3) passport-size photographs
- A Responsible Declaration stating acceptance of the rules and terms of the Internal Regulations of the MSc.

Admitted postgraduate students (PS) can obtain information through the Department's website, the Department's Secretariat, or the official website of the Postgraduate Program – <https://innovsustent.upatras.gr/en/>.

Postgraduate students are required to renew their enrollment each semester. Failure to meet the enrollment deadline results in the loss of the right to attend classes for the current semester. A student who fails to renew their enrollment and does not attend courses or conduct research for two (2) consecutive semesters automatically loses their student status and is removed from the registry of the Postgraduate Program.

Postgraduate students who did not renew their enrollment and did not attend courses or conduct research for two (2) consecutive semesters are automatically dismissed and deleted from the records of the PG Program. Students who resume their studies are required to attend all courses, laboratories, seminars, practical exercises, etc., in which they had not been successfully evaluated prior to the suspension of their studies. Students who officially suspend their studies will, upon resuming, continue to fall under the study terms of the academic year in which they were originally admitted. The study regulations of the Postgraduate Program are accepted by each candidate upon enrollment. Each applicant is informed of these regulations before completing their registration.

## **5. Educational Structure of the Postgraduate Program in “Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship”**

### **5.1 Duration and Structure of Studies – Academic Calendar**

The duration of studies in the Postgraduate Program is set at two (2) academic semesters, which includes the time required for the completion of the Master's thesis. The maximum period of study may not exceed twice the standard duration. Therefore, the maximum allowable period of attendance is four (4) academic semesters. The Postgraduate Program in “Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship” does not offer the option of part-time study.

Postgraduate students may, upon justified request, apply for a suspension of studies (for reasons such as military service, illness, or residence abroad), provided they submit the relevant supporting documents. The decision is made by the Department Assembly or the Postgraduate Program Committee, following a recommendation from the Coordinating Committee. Suspension periods are not counted toward the maximum duration of study and may not exceed two (2) consecutive semesters. Suspension of studies may be granted only once. Students under suspension lose their student status for the entire period of interruption.

For scholarship holders, suspension of studies may be granted only in exceptional cases (such as illness, serious family issues, or force majeure), and only if the request is substantiated with appropriate evidence. An extension of studies may be granted for up to one (1) academic year, based on a justified decision by the Department Assembly and with the agreement of the Coordinating Committee. If this time limit is exceeded, the postgraduate student will be dismissed, following a recommendation by the Coordinating Committee and a decision by the Department Assembly.

Teaching, exams for the first and second academic semesters, and the September resit exams are scheduled according to the Academic Calendar as approved by the University Senate. The timetable for courses/exercises and exams for each semester is prepared and announced by the Coordinating Committee at least ten (10) days before the beginning of the semester.

## 5.2 Courses – Curriculum

Courses of the PMS begin in the winter semester of each academic year and follow the Academic Calendar of the University of Patras. If the program cannot start in the winter semester, it may be postponed to the spring semester by decision of the Department Assembly. To obtain the Postgraduate Diploma (M.Sc.), a total of sixty (60) ECTS credits is required. Throughout their studies, postgraduate students must:

- Attend and successfully complete postgraduate courses,
- Participate in seminars,
- Prepare a master's thesis.

To be awarded the M.Sc., students must successfully complete six (6) courses and the Master's Thesis. Each semester consists of thirty (30) ECTS credits, totaling sixty (60) ECTS overall. The thesis corresponds to sixteen (16) ECTS credits. During the first semester, students attend three (3) compulsory courses and one (1) elective course. In the second semester, students attend one (1) compulsory course and one (1) out of three offered elective courses. Course descriptions are provided in Appendix 4.

All teaching is conducted exclusively online, in accordance with Article 80, paragraph 3 (id) of Law 4957/2022, and also following Article 64, paragraph 3, and Article 30, paragraph 1 (ia) of the same law. Specifically, the minimum teaching hours per course are set at thirty-nine (39) hours, which apply to compulsory courses of the second cycle of studies in each program. Each semester includes at least thirteen (13) full teaching weeks.

Online teaching is delivered in real-time (synchronous instruction) using a suitable and officially licensed digital platform, provided by the University of Patras. Specifically, the Zoom platform is used. The Zoom service is accessible at <https://upatras-gr.zoom.us> or via the Zoom app using the domain: upatras-gr. Users are authenticated through the University of Patras Central Authentication and Authorization Service. There are two levels of access to the platform: administrator and member. Administrators can manage member information (students and instructors) and oversee video conferencing sessions.

Members of the platform (either instructors or students) can manage their profile information and schedule teleconferences. In teleconferences, there are roles such as host (the one hosting the session), co-host, and participant. The tele-education process incorporates video, audio, and adaptive streaming technologies. The learning approach includes, among other things, the ability to integrate various forms of instructor-learner communication (teaching materials, assignment submission and evaluation, images, whiteboard tools, etc.), active student participation in the educational process (real-time discussion, optional camera use for all participants, and group collaboration), as well as the development of critical thinking, collaboration, and flexibility among all participants during the educational process.

In distance learning, postgraduate students are required to keep their camera on for the entire duration of the lecture. Additionally, asynchronous distance education is also utilized through

the Open eClass platform of the Greek Academic Network (GUnet). The eClass application is accessible via web browser at <https://eclass.upatras.gr/> and is also available as a mobile app. Users are authenticated through the Central Authentication and Authorization Service of the University of Patras, or via local accounts created on the platform.

There are four levels of access:

- Instructor: Responsible for creating and managing online courses.
- Learner: Can enroll in permitted courses, access educational content, and participate in workgroups, discussion areas, and self-assessment activities.
- Administrator: Oversees the entire platform, manages user accounts, courses, and settings.
- Department Administrator: Manages users and courses specifically within their department.

At the beginning of each semester, and before the start of PMS courses, the academic calendar is announced to postgraduate students, including semester start and end dates and exam periods. Based on a proposal from the Department Assembly and approval by the University Senate, the course schedule may be modified, and the distribution of courses across semesters can be rearranged.

The detailed semester-wise curriculum is structured as follows:

**Table 1. Courses and ECTS.**

Semester 1			
Course code	Module Title	Type of module	ECTS
KAE-01	Economics of Energy, Environment & Policy	Mandatory	8
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Kounetas Konstantinos* (7 Lectures), Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos (6 Lectures)			
KAE -02	Economics of Strategy and Sustainability	Mandatory	8
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos * (8 Lectures), Κουνετάς Κων/νος (5 Lectures)			
KAE-03	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Mandatory	8
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Gkypali Areti* (4 Lectures), Rafailidis Apostolos (5 Lectures), Myloni Varvara (4 Lectures)			
1 Selection from			
KAE-04	Special Topics on Innovation	Elective	6
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Gkypali Areti* (8 Lectures), Dimakopoulou Andriana (5 Lectures)			
KAE-05	Special Topics on Sustainable Entrepreneurship	Elective	6
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos * (7 Lectures), Dimakopoulou Andriana (6 Lectures)			
KAE-06	Economics of Innovation	Elective	
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Tsekouras Konstantinos* (8 Lectures), Gkypali Areti (3 Lectures), Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos (1 Lectures)			
<b>TOTAL ECTS of SEMESTER 1</b>			<b>30</b>
Semester 2			
Course code	Module Title	Type of module	ECTS
KAE-07	Quantitative Methods for Analysis & Business Decision-Making	Mandatory	8
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Kounetas Konstantinos * (1 Lecture), Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos (3 Lectures), Gkypali Areti (3 Lectures), Venetis Ioannis (3 Lectures), Tzagarakis Emmanouil (2 Lectures)			
KAE-08	Master Thesis	Mandatory	16
1 Selection from			

KAE-09	Project Management	Elective	6
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Nearchou Andreas* (8 Lectures) – Makris Elias (5 Lectures)			
KAE-10	E-entrepreneurship & Digital Marketing	Elective	6
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Livas Christos* (7 Lectures) - Dimakopoulou Andriana (6 Lectures)			
KAE-11	Efficiency and Productivity Analysis	Elective	6
<b>Teaching staff:</b> Tsekouras Konstantinos * (3 Lectures), Kounetas Konstantinos (3 Lectures), Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos (3 Lectures), Papaioannou Sotirios (4 Lectures)			
<b>TOTAL ECTS of SEMESTER 2</b>			<b>30</b>
<b>Note:</b> * denotes the module Coordinator			

### 5.3 Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Innovation processes and sustainability promotion present challenges and opportunities for a wide range of organizations, including established businesses, startups, universities, and government agencies. Therefore, both the economy and society require professionals who not only possess scientific and technological expertise but also deeply understand the innovation process and how it can be managed in a financially viable manner. At the intersection of technology, economics, and management, the main objective of the program is to equip students with the skills needed to analyze and manage innovation and sustainability.

Upon completion of the program, students are expected to be able to:

- Analyze and understand how and why innovations, technical and scientific information, and knowledge interact with the market and economic forces.
- Formulate and solve problems related to innovation and sustainability activities, including technological, economic, organizational, and institutional changes.
- Design and implement strategies and practices for innovation and sustainability, applying modern research and management tools and methods.
- Lead, interact, and communicate effectively with skilled professionals both within and beyond their organizations and field of expertise.

Thus, graduates of the program will be able to:

- Join management teams in small or large businesses that plan and implement innovation and sustainability projects. In particular, they can contribute to high-tech startups or companies with a strong focus on the green economy.
- Contribute to the planning, administration, and oversight of policies and specific projects related to innovation and sustainability at all levels of public administration, including central government and local authorities.
- Manage innovation and sustainability projects implemented by institutions in the higher education and research sector, thereby fulfilling the "third mission" of universities and overcoming the "two-worlds paradox".
- Start or further develop their own entrepreneurial ventures, particularly in the green or social economy sectors, if they have already taken the first steps in entrepreneurship.

The learning outcomes below outline the skills and knowledge students are expected to gain through the curriculum of the *"Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship"* program. The focus is on understanding complex concepts, applying modern methodologies, and developing strategies that promote sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



- **Understanding key concepts and challenges:** Students gain knowledge in Energy Economics, Environmental Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development, as well as in the relationships between Innovation, Project Management, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- **Analysis and application of theory:** Students combine theoretical concepts with practical problems, utilize tools such as the Business Model Canvas, and analyze strategies for sustainable growth and transition.
- **Quantitative and empirical research:** Students develop skills in quantitative analysis, interpret empirical data, apply advanced methods, and evaluate case studies and international best practices.
- **Sustainable development strategy:** Emphasis is placed on integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks and CSR into business strategies, designing solutions for green and digital transitions, and evaluating corporate performance.
- **Communication and critical thinking:** Students assess the economic aspects of climate policies, communicate key issues, and present high-quality research papers.
- **Entrepreneurial action and innovation:** Students understand sources of innovation, internalization strategies, and how to leverage digital technologies for green business ideas.

## 6. Master's Thesis

### 6.1 General Info

In the second semester of the Master's Program, students are required to complete a postgraduate thesis. The official language of instruction and thesis writing is Greek, though students may choose to write their thesis in English.

After the January/February exam period, and during February, students express their preference for a supervising professor from the program's faculty or other academic staff. Supervisors may include instructors involved in the undergraduate or postgraduate programs of the department in the same academic year.

A maximum of five (5) theses per supervisor is allowed. Students can either propose a thesis topic themselves, or agree on a topic proposed by a faculty member. Supervisors and members of the three-person evaluation committee are selected from all eligible teaching staff as defined in Article 83 of Law 4957/2022. In rare cases (e.g., illness, research absence abroad), supervisors or committee members can be replaced by department decision.

Topic changes or committee substitutions can be requested by students or supervisors and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A change in the sense of a minor modification of the title of the thesis without changing the general topic and the basic design of the study, may be made after the submission of a request by the postgraduate student signed by the supervisor to the Secretariat of the programme.

To pass, students must defend their thesis in front of the three-member committee. After the defense, the committee assigns a grade from 0 to 10, recorded in an official evaluation report.

By August 31, the thesis must be completed. In September, the supervisor arranges for the committee to publicly announce the date and time of the student's presentation. The presentation is

mandatory. Immediately afterward, the committee grades the thesis. A decision can be finalized if the supervisor and one other committee member agree on the score.

The committee may require:

- Minor corrections, to be completed within 14 days, after which the grade is submitted without a second defense.
- Major corrections, which require resubmission and reevaluation. If the student doesn't pass, they may be dismissed from the program.

Rules for formatting, structure, referencing, etc., are detailed in Appendix 2 of the program regulations. The Supervising Faculty Member proposes the members of the Three-Party Examining Committee by finalizing the topic of the project at the beginning of the second semester. The committee of three is approved by the Steering Committee. Theses must:

- Be written in the second semester and completed by August 31.
- Be 8,000 to 15,000 words (excluding references, footnotes, tables).
- Be written in Greek or English, depending on student-supervisor agreement.
- Follow proper academic standards for layout, referencing, structure, and formatting.

The postgraduate theses, if approved by the examination committee, must be posted in the University of Patras repository. For the preparation and writing of the thesis, the terms of writing and publication of theses of the University of Patras in Appendix 3 of this document apply. For the preparation and writing of the Diploma Thesis, the terms of writing and publication of diploma theses of the University of Patras apply as stated in Annexes 2 and 3 of this regulation.

## **6.2 Summary Specifications for the Master's Thesis**

The Master's Thesis must adhere to academic writing standards. The exact structure and final specifications are determined by the subject and thematic focus of the thesis. The following guidelines serve as an indicative framework to assist students in the preparation of their work.

The thesis should include distinct sections that outline the rationale for the selected topic. A typical structure may consist of the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Literature Review
3. Theoretical Background and Research Questions
4. Data and Methodology
5. Results
6. Policy Recommendations
7. Conclusions
8. References

The length of the thesis should range between 8,000 and 15,000 words, excluding references, footnotes, and tables. The thesis must include:

- A properly formatted cover page,
- A table of contents,
- Lists of figures, charts, etc., all inserted using the automatic features of MS Word,
- Equations, if any, must be sequentially numbered throughout the thesis.

The language of the thesis may be either Greek or English, to be decided in agreement between the supervising faculty member and the postgraduate student.

Indicative formatting specifications for the text include:

- Font: Times New Roman / Calibri / Georgia
- Font size: 11 pt

- Line spacing: 1.15
- Justified alignment

## 7. Plagiarism

Postgraduate students are required to properly cite any work or ideas derived from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense. This includes:

- Copying someone else's work,
- Using another person's thesis (published or unpublished) without proper citation,
- Even reusing the candidate's own previously written material without citation.

Such actions can result in a decision by the Department Assembly for dismissal of the student from the program. Before such a decision is made, the student will be given the opportunity to present their case, either orally or in writing.

Violations of academic integrity, including copying, plagiarism, or any breach of intellectual property regulations during the writing of coursework or the Master's Thesis, will be referred to the Department Assembly for appropriate disciplinary action.

## 8. Exams & Grading

The evaluation of postgraduate students and their performance in the courses they are required to attend within the MSc program takes place at the end of each semester through written in-person examinations. The performance in each course is assessed by the instructor(s) and graded according to the grading scale applicable to undergraduate students. Specifically, grades range from zero (0) to ten (10), with increments of whole or half points. Passing grades are those greater than or equal to five (5).

The results of course grading are communicated by the course instructors fifteen (15) days after the examination date. Retakes are not allowed for the purpose of improving a grade in courses that the student has already passed successfully.

To obtain the MSc degree, each postgraduate student must successfully attend and pass all courses offered by the program and complete a master's thesis, accumulating a total of sixty (60) ECTS credits. Students are dismissed by decision of the competent authority if they fail the same course twice or fail two different courses, regardless of the retake examination period.

For the awarding of the MSc degree, a passing grade in all postgraduate courses and the thesis is required. If this condition is not met within the prescribed time, the postgraduate student is entitled to a certificate of successful attendance for the courses where they achieved passing grades and then leaves the program.

Each postgraduate student is assigned by the Coordinating Committee a faculty member as a supervising professor (advisor). The Coordinating Committee and the supervising professor are responsible for monitoring and overseeing the student's academic progress.

## 9. Course Attendance

The academic work of each academic year is divided into two (2) semesters, the winter and the spring, each consisting of at least thirteen (13) weeks of teaching. Courses of the winter semester are examined in the winter examination period, and courses of the spring semester in the spring examination period. During the September retake examination period, courses from both the winter and spring semesters can be examined.

Attendance to courses is mandatory. In case a class cannot be held, a makeup session is scheduled. The date and time of the makeup class are posted on the MSc program's website. The maximum allowed absences per course are 20% of the total number of lectures. Absences exceeding

20% in a course result in the student failing that course. In such a case, the student must retake the course.

Course registration is mandatory each semester. Missing the registration deadline results in the loss of the right to attend courses during that semester. To continue studies in this case, a decision by the Department Assembly is required, following a proposal by the Coordinating Committee.

## 10. Award and Final Grade of the Postgraduate Diploma

### 10.1 Requirements for Awarding the Postgraduate Diploma

Postgraduate students (PGSs) complete their studies and are awarded the Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) when they fulfill all program requirements, in accordance with the Internal Regulations on Postgraduate Studies of the University of Patras. Specifically, the diploma is awarded when the student:

1. Successfully completes the required courses with a passing grade,
2. Successfully defends their thesis in a public presentation, and
3. Fulfills all financial and other obligations.

If these requirements are not met within the maximum allowed duration of studies, the student is withdrawn from the program. This decision is made by the Department Assembly, followed by an official withdrawal notice issued by the program's Secretariat. In this case, the student is only entitled to a certificate of successful completion of the courses for which they received a passing grade.

### 10.2 Calculation of Final Grade

The final grade of the MSc is calculated based on the grades of the postgraduate courses and the Master's thesis, according to the decision of the Department Assembly or the Postgraduate Studies Committee, as follows:

$$\text{Final Grade (FG)} = (8/60) \times Y1 + (8/60) \times Y2 + (8/60) \times Y3 + (6/60) \times E1 + (8/60) \times Y4 + (6/60) \times E2 + (16/60) \times \text{Thesis}$$

The final grade is a weighted average of the grades of the MSc courses and the Master's thesis, with the weighting factors being the ECTS credits of each course and the thesis. The grade is calculated to two decimal places. The grade of each course and the thesis (where applicable) is multiplied by the corresponding number of ECTS, and the sum of these products is divided by the total ECTS required for obtaining the MSc.

The final grade certifies the successful completion of postgraduate studies. The classification printed on the awarded MSc diploma is based on the following scale:

- "Excellent" (Άριστα): 8.50 – 10.00
- "Very Good" (Λίαν Καλώς): 6.50 – 8.49
- "Good" (Καλώς): 5.00 – 6.49

The award of the MSc diplomas is approved by the Department Assembly.

### 10.3 Required Documents

Postgraduate students are informed by the Department Secretariat about the necessary documentation. For more information, postgraduate students may contact the Secretariat of the Department of Economics at the following numbers: +30 2610 962590 and +30 2610 962581 (during business days and hours), or via email at: [econ-secr@upatras.gr](mailto:econ-secr@upatras.gr).

The documents required for the conferral of the Postgraduate Diploma are:

1. Confirmation of submission of the thesis to the Central Library of the University of Patras according to the Nemertes repository procedure (<https://nemertes.library.upatras.gr/home>).
2. Declaration of no outstanding obligations to the University Library, the Student Dining Facility, and the Student Residence (to be submitted electronically).
3. Declaration regarding plagiarism (to be submitted electronically).
4. Electronic submission of the thesis in digital format.
5. Return of the Academic ID card.

#### **10.4 Degree Conferral – Graduation Ceremonies**

Postgraduate students who have successfully completed their studies participate in a public graduation ceremony, conducted before the Rector or the Vice-Rector (as the Rector's representative) and the Chair of the Department. This ceremony takes place after the end of each examination period, on a date and time determined by the Rector in collaboration with the Department Chairs.

While the ceremonial oath is not a formal requirement for the completion of studies, it is a necessary condition for the official conferral of the MSc diploma.

In cases of force majeure (e.g., health issues, residence or employment abroad, military service), graduates may request exemption from attending the ceremony or postpone participation to a future ceremony. The request must be submitted in writing to the Department Secretariat. Exemption is granted by the Department Chair.

Prior to the graduation ceremony or the approval of exemption, graduates may be issued a certificate of successful completion of studies.

#### **10.5 Diploma Supplement**

In addition to the Postgraduate Diploma, a Diploma Supplement is provided. This is an informative document and does not substitute the official degree certificate or the academic transcript of records.

The diploma supplement is attached to the official degree and provides detailed information about the nature, level, educational context, content, and status of the studies successfully completed by the individual named on the original diploma. The supplement does not include evaluative statements, equivalency declarations, or suggestions regarding recognition of the degree abroad.

The diploma supplement is issued automatically and free of charge, in both Greek and English, and must meet the authenticity requirements applicable to the official degree it accompanies. The issuance date of the supplement does not necessarily coincide with the date of award of the degree but can never precede it.

## 11. Student Benefits

### 11.1 General

Postgraduate Students (PS) have access to the existing infrastructure of the University, which includes teaching facilities equipped with modern teaching aids and computers, the Library, and the Department's premises.

Students who do not have other medical and hospital coverage are entitled to full medical and hospital care through the National Health System (E.S.Y.), with expenses covered by the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (E.O.P.Y.Y.), in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of Law 4368/2016 (A' 83).

Students are also eligible for free meals and accommodation, based on their individual and family financial status, place of origin, the location of the institution, and the specific circumstances prevailing at the university. Students are offered discounted transportation throughout the academic year, as well as access to cultural and recreational resources.

### 11.2 Student Scholarships and Awards

The Postgraduate Program (PGP) may award a number of scholarships based on academic criteria to full-time postgraduate students, according to a decision of the Department Assembly. This decision specifies the amount of the scholarships, the required documents, evaluation criteria, the scholarship award process, and the rights and obligations of the recipients. Scholarships are included in the approved budget of the program.

Additionally, the PGP may award special recognition awards to students with exceptional performance, under extraordinary circumstances, according to criteria and procedures defined by the Coordinating Committee. For example, awards may be granted to students with the highest average grade in the first semester or for significant contributions in service to the program.

Scholarships are not granted to students who:

- Already receive scholarships from another source,
- Were admitted without tuition fees,
- Or are currently employed.

Specifically, the PSP grants a monetary excellence award to two students based on their academic performance in the first semester courses. The amount of each award is set by the Coordinating Committee and is €250 per awardee.

Additionally, one monetary award and certificate of excellence is granted to the top-performing student of the PSP in September of the following academic year, with the amount set at €500. Lastly, the PGP grants an award to students whose research papers are published in reputable journals in the field of Economics.

## 12. Other Obligations of Postgraduate Students

### 12.1 General

Postgraduate students (PS) are required to renew their registration at the beginning of each academic semester. Renewal is completed by submitting an application within the deadlines set by the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program (PGP). Students must fulfill the following obligations:

- Attend all classes of the approved curriculum without absences.



- Submit all required assignments within the specified deadlines.
- Participate in the scheduled examinations.
- Submit a Declaration of Academic Integrity to the Secretariat before the evaluation of their thesis, confirming that their thesis is not the result of plagiarism, in whole or in part.
- Pay the tuition fees as required.
- Respect and comply with the Regulation of Postgraduate Studies, the decisions of the PSP's governing bodies, the Department, and the University of Patras, as well as maintain academic integrity.
- Actively participate in research seminars organized by the Department of Economics and other related departmental activities (these responsibilities are considered part of the educational activities of the PGP).
- Engage in departmental duties, including invigilation, support tasks, event and lecture organization, etc.
- Provide auxiliary support in departmental activities (such as invigilation and related work) upon submission of an application and approval by the Coordinating Committee (CC). All students not receiving a scholarship are financially compensated for their contributions.
- Obtain an academic ID card through the Online Academic ID Issuance Service of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.

Students enjoy all rights and benefits provided to undergraduate students, except for the right to free textbooks. The University must ensure accessibility to educational materials and teaching for students with disabilities and/or special needs.

The Department Assembly, following a recommendation from the Coordinating Committee, may dismiss a postgraduate student in the following cases:

- Exceeding the maximum number of permitted absences,
- Failing course examinations as defined by the regulations and not successfully completing the program,
- Exceeding the maximum duration of studies as specified in this Regulation,
- Violating the applicable provisions concerning disciplinary offenses, as judged by the competent disciplinary bodies,
- Failing to renew their registration or attending no courses for two (2) consecutive semesters results in automatic loss of student status and removal from the PSP registry, following submission of a withdrawal application by the student,
- Non-payment of tuition fees (in any case, students who are not up to date with financial obligations are not entitled to receive a certificate of program completion or the Postgraduate Diploma),
- Disregarding decisions made by the competent authorities and violating academic ethics.

### **12.2 Cases of Tuition Fee Exemption**

1. Enrolled postgraduate students may attend the Postgraduate Program free of charge if they meet the financial or social criteria set forth in Article 86 of Law 4957/2022. A prerequisite for this right is that the student has demonstrated academic excellence during their undergraduate studies, which corresponds to at least a grade point average (GPA) of 7.5/10. This applies when the basic degree used for admission to the PSP has been evaluated on the ten-point grading scale of a domestic Higher Education Institution (HEI). Otherwise, this criterion is applied proportionally according to the applicable grading scale of the foreign institution issuing the degree.
2. The total number of students receiving a fee exemption may not exceed 30% of the total number of enrolled students in an academic year. If the calculated number of exempted

students includes a decimal, it is rounded to the nearest whole number. If the number of eligible students exceeds this 30% limit, selection is made in descending order of ranking until the quota is filled.

3. Applications for tuition exemption are submitted after the student admission process and within a period determined by the PSP. Financial status is not a factor in admission decisions.
4. A postgraduate student is eligible for free tuition under paragraph 1, provided that the following criteria are met:
  - I. If the applicant is under 26 years of age and unmarried or not in a civil partnership, the average sum of the taxable incomes of the applicant and their family members (parents and siblings up to age 26, if unmarried and with individual taxable income), for the last two tax years, must not exceed 70% of the national median equivalent disposable income, as reported by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT).
  - II. If the applicant is 26 years or older, the average individual taxable income for the last two tax years must not exceed 100% of the national median equivalent disposable income, per ELSTAT.
  - III. If the applicant is married or in a civil partnership, the average combined taxable income of the applicant and their spouse/partner for the last two tax years must not exceed 100% of the national median equivalent disposable income, regardless of whether a joint or separate tax return is filed.
5. If the applicant is under 26 years old and is a child of a large family (three or more children), a single-parent family, an orphan of at least one parent, a person with a disability, or a household member with a disability, they may apply for a 50% tuition fee reduction provided that the income in paragraph 4(a) exceeds 70% but does not exceed 100% of the national median equivalent disposable income.
6. The Department Assembly is responsible for evaluating applications for tuition fee exemption and issues a reasoned decision approving or rejecting each request.
7. Exemption from tuition fees is granted only once, for a single postgraduate program offered by a domestic Higher Education Institution.
8. Students receiving a scholarship from another source are not eligible for tuition exemption. In this case, an application must still be submitted, serving as a sworn declaration, and the Department may request additional documentation as necessary.
9. This provision does not apply to citizens of third countries (non-EU/EEA).

### 13. Course Evaluation

At the end of each semester, every course and instructor is evaluated by the postgraduate students. The evaluation is carried out using a special evaluation form/questionnaire completed by the students. The questionnaire covers both the course and the instructors.

Courses are evaluated based on:

- Content
- Teaching method
- Educational material
- Relevance to the principles and philosophy of the postgraduate program

Instructors are evaluated based on:

- Knowledge and ability to convey it to students
- Preparation
- Use of up-to-date bibliography
- Willingness to answer questions
- Timely grading and return of assignments and exams
- Adherence to scheduled teaching hours

The Postgraduate Program itself is evaluated as part of the periodic evaluation/accreditation process of the academic unit by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education. This includes:

- An overall assessment of the PSP's performance
- The extent to which initial goals have been achieved
- Its sustainability
- Graduate employability
- Contribution to research
- Internal evaluation by students
- Justification for the continuation of the program
- Additional factors related to the quality of outcomes and contribution to the national higher education strategy (as per paragraph 1 of Article 87 of Law 4957/2022)

If, during this evaluation, a Postgraduate Program is found not to meet the continuation requirements, it will cease to operate after the graduation of the currently enrolled students, in accordance with its founding decision and the regulations governing postgraduate and doctoral programs.

#### **14. Administrative Support – Infrastructure**

The Postgraduate Program (PMS) is supported by a Secretariat, which undertakes the administrative duties and is responsible for ensuring its smooth, effective, and orderly operation. Its responsibilities include managing correspondence, maintaining protocol and archives, recording the minutes of meetings of the program's collective bodies, organizing and maintaining student registries and individual student files, monitoring students' academic progress (e.g., recording grades), issuing certificates, diplomas, and other academic documents for postgraduate students, handling graduation ceremonies, scholarships, student IDs, and more. The Department of Economics provides the necessary infrastructure (classrooms, laboratories, computers, etc.) for the delivery of the program's courses.

#### **15. Alumni Career Prospects**

The training provided by the Department equips graduates with opportunities for professional careers in both the public and private sectors of the economy. These include positions in public administration bodies, regulatory authorities, independent agencies, private enterprises, financial institutions, and research centers—both in Greece and abroad. Overall, through the skills they acquire, graduates are capable of working in organizations that face complex and dynamic challenges.

## 16. Regulation for the Operation of the Complaints & Objections Management Mechanism

### 16.1 Procedure for Managing Student Complaints

The Department of Economics at the University of Patras, aiming to electronically record student complaints, manage them, and keep the Department members and the complaining students informed — a process previously handled exclusively by the Department Chair — decides to establish the following procedure:

#### A. ELECTRONIC COMPLAINTS FORM

1. A dedicated email address, [complaints@upatras.gr](mailto:complaints@upatras.gr), is created where students can send the issues they wish to raise.
2. A three-member Complaints Management Committee is appointed to collect, categorize, and further handle the complaints submitted via the above email address.

#### B. COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The three-member Complaints Management Committee and its Coordinator are appointed by the Department Assembly. The committee's term is set for three years.

#### C. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Complaints Management Committee maintains a special complaints file at the Department Secretariat, containing all submitted complaints and their responses.
2. The Committee examines only signed complaints, informs the Department Chair, and responds within a reasonable timeframe to the students who submitted the complaints.
3. The Committee handles the process with transparency, objectivity, and respect for the personal data of the involved parties. Members take particular care to avoid conflicts of interest.
4. The Committee has an advisory and mediatory role in managing complaints. It does not have authority to conduct administrative investigations or impose sanctions.
5. At the end of each academic year, the Committee prepares an activity report to inform the Department Assembly, including any proposals for improvement.

#### D. IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

1. If complaints require action beyond the authority of (a) the Complaints Committee, (b) the Secretariat, or (c) the Department Chair, and require administrative action, the Chair submits the matter to the Department Assembly to resolve the complaint and prevent similar future complaints.
2. In special cases involving complaints related to institutional, administrative, or ethical obligations of faculty members, the Department Chair forwards the complaint to the competent university bodies and informs the complaining student.
3. In cases under point 2, the Department Chair may request written explanations from involved parties and/or initiate procedures provided in articles 18 paragraph 7 and 51 paragraph 1 of the university's internal regulations (Government Gazette 3899/25-1-2019).

#### E. STUDENT OMBUDSMAN SERVICE

1. Regardless of submitting complaints via the Department's special email, students may also contact the Student Ombudsman at <https://synigorosfoititi.upatras.gr/>, which is an independent central office of the University established under Law 4009/2011.

The above procedure for handling student complaints, consisting of articles 1 to 6, is posted on the Department's website. The Complaints Committee of the Department of Economics for the period 2025-2026 consists of:

1. Konstantinos Tsekouras, Professor – Chair
2. Konstantinos Kounetas, Professor – Member
3. Nikolaos Chatzistamoulou, Assistant Professor – Member

## 16.2 Publication

The regulation and announcements are posted on the Program's website here: <https://innovsustent.upatras.gr/en/student-advoc/>

## 17. Academic Study Advisor

The Regulation of the Academic Advisor was approved by the Department General Assembly based on decision 6/13.1.2023 and will also apply to the newly established MSc program "Innovative & Sustainable Entrepreneurship."

### 17.1 General

The institution of the academic study advisor is based on Article 35 (Law 4009 Government Gazette A 195/6.9.2011), which states: *"The study advisor guides and supports students in their study programs. Each institution's Internal Regulation defines the rotational assignment of study advisor duties to professors and regulates related specific matters."* Matters concerning this institution are regulated in the Internal Regulation of the University of Patras (3889/τΒ'/25-10-2019, Article 45).

The role of academic advisor is undertaken by every faculty member of the Department regardless of rank or position. Academic advisors guide new students and monitor their progress from the beginning until the completion of their studies. This institution is mandatory, considering that academic advising significantly contributes to the success of students' studies.

Student allocation to academic advisors is done as follows: The number of postgraduate students is divided by the number of active academic advisors to determine the number of students per faculty member. Students are assigned alphabetically to faculty members.

### 17.2 Duties of Academic Advisors

#### I. Opening a student file

During the first meeting, the academic advisor fills out a file with the student's personal data (full name, student ID number, place of origin, permanent and temporary address, phone numbers, admission method). Other information may be added if the student wishes, such as family status, special interests, future aspirations, health issues, etc. Each student's file is considered confidential and is the sole responsibility of the academic advisor or their designated substitute.

#### II. General advisory role

The academic advisor meets with the students regularly during each semester. For first-year students, meetings should be at least once per semester, especially: a) at the beginning of the semester before course registration, and/or b) at the end of the semester after exam results are released. The advisor provides guidance but their recommendations are not mandatory.

#### III. Specialized advisory role

The academic advisor guides and supports students in their study program and any personal problems related to their studies. They suggest the best ways for students to achieve their individual goals at every stage of their studies. In the advanced years, the advisor helps the student develop the best possible understanding of their professional life.

### 17.3 Change of Advisor

If an academic advisor is absent for a long period (e.g., due to educational leave, health issues, etc.), the Department Assembly assigns a new advisor to their students. In exceptional cases and for serious reasons, a student may request a change of advisor. Such a student must apply to the Department Secretariat explaining their reasons. The request will be considered by the Department General Assembly.

All related information and the advisor regulation are available on the Department of Economics website at:  
<https://www.econ.upatras.gr/undergraduate/symvoylos-spydon/>

### 17.4 Nominal List of Teaching Staff of the Postgraduate Program

A/A	Surname, Name	Institution - Department	Field of Expertise	Contact
1	Venetis Ioannis Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Economics	Econometrics	Tel: 2610 962582 <a href="mailto:ivenetis@upatras.gr">ivenetis@upatras.gr</a>
2	Gkypali Areti Assistant Professor	Athens University of Economics and Business – Department of Marketing & Communication	Management of Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Tel 210 - 8203 593 <a href="mailto:agkypali@aueb.gr">agkypali@aueb.gr</a>
3	Dimakopoulou Andriana Postdoctoral Fellow	Athens University of Economics and Business – Department of Marketing & Communication	Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship	<a href="mailto:andrianadima@gmail.com">andrianadima@gmail.com</a>
4	Kounetas Konstantinos Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Economics	Applied Industrial Organization	Tel: 2610 962598 <a href="mailto:kounetas@upatras.gr">kounetas@upatras.gr</a>
5	Livas Christos Assistant Professor	University of Piraeus – Department of Business Administration	MARKETING	<a href="mailto:clivas@unipi.gr">clivas@unipi.gr</a>
6	Makris Elias Professor	University of Pelopennese – Department of Finance and Accounting	Financing of innovative Businesses	Tel: 27210-45-159 <a href="mailto:i.makris@uop.gr">i.makris@uop.gr</a>
7	Myloni Varvara Assistant Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of	Business Administration & International Business	Tel: 2610-969836 <a href="mailto:myloni@upatras.gr">myloni@upatras.gr</a>



		Business Administration		
8	Nearchou Andreas Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Business Administration	Production Management	Tel: 2610-969980 <a href="mailto:nearchou@upatras.gr">nearchou@upatras.gr</a>
9	Papaioannou Sotiris Assistant Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Economics	Applied Macroeconomics	Tel: 2610 962589 <a href="mailto:spapaioannou@upatras.gr">spapaioannou@upatras.gr</a>
10	Rafailidis Apostolos Associate Professor	Univeristy of Patras – Department of Tourism Management	Technological learning, innovation, strategic planning	Tel 2610 962883 <a href="mailto:arafail@upatras.gr">arafail@upatras.gr</a>
11	Tzarakis Emmanouil Associate Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Economics	Information Management Systems	Tel: 2610 962588 <a href="mailto:tzagara@upatras.gr">tzagara@upatras.gr</a>
12	Tsekouras Konstantinos Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Economics	Industrial Economics	Tel: 2610 962585 <a href="mailto:tsekour@upatras.gr">tsekour@upatras.gr</a>
13	Chatzistamoulou Nikolaos Assistant Professor	Univeristy of Patras - Department of Economics	Microeconomics	Tel: 2610 962577 <a href="mailto:chatzist@upatras.gr">chatzist@upatras.gr</a>

## 18. Useful Information

### 18.1 Department of Economics Address

Department of Economics  
University of Patras  
University Campus, Rio, Patras  
Postal Code: 265 04

### 18.2 Transportation Options to the University of Patras

Regarding access to the University Campus in Patras (Rio), the following information is provided:

- **From Athens to the University:** If you are traveling from Athens via the Athens–Patras national highway, after the toll station take the first right detour. After 300 meters, where the road forks, follow the left direction which goes under the bridge. After another 500 meters, you will reach the University Hospital, marking the start of the University campus area.
- **From Patras to the University:**
  - **By Suburban Train:** The Patras suburban train runs hourly connections between Patras and Rio. The ticket price is €1.40, and for students, the price is €1 per trip. There is also a monthly student card costing €15. Bicycle transport is also possible. Trains run hourly from 6:30 to 22:30 on the route Agios Andreas – Patras – Agios Vasileios and from 7:00 to 23:00 on the route Agios Vasileios – Patras – Agios Andreas.

For connecting Kastelokampos to the University and the University Hospital, TRAINOSE buses are used.

- **By Car:** The University is about 10 km from the city center of Patras. From the center, follow Korinthou Street to the end, then turn onto Panepistimiou Street. Shortly after the indoor gym "Olympionikis Dim. Tofalos" and before the Haradros stream bridge, turn right. This road leads directly to the University and signs will easily guide you.
- **By Bus:**
  - Urban Bus Line 6 departs from Ermou Street and runs every 10-15 minutes during the academic year. During summer and Christmas and Easter holidays, buses run hourly. Since Line 6 does not exclusively serve the University, ensure the bus sign shows University of Patras as the destination. Students benefit from reduced fares during the academic year.
  - Urban Bus Line 9 connects the Patras city center (via Ellinos Stratiotou Street) with the University, running regularly. Frequency varies but generally runs every 15-20 minutes during the day. For exact schedules, visitors can check the official website of Patras Urban KTEL.

## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1

#### Required Documents for Application to the Postgraduate Program

Applicants must submit the following documents (the Department determines the exact documents required for postgraduate candidates):

1. Application form (submitted electronically and/or in printed form),
2. Copy of degree certificate or certification of study completion (mandatory),
3. Official transcript of grades (mandatory),
4. Detailed CV (including studies, teaching and/or professional experience, scientific activity) (mandatory),
5. Proof of research or professional activity (mandatory),
6. At least two recommendation letters.
  - If the faculty member or the referee prefers to send the sealed recommendation letter by mail to the Department of Economics, or if the applicant holds the sealed letter in an envelope, then the referee's details must be registered on the electronic platform, and the letter sent by mail to the address: **Secretariat of the Department of Economics - (Application for P.G. Program), University of Patras, University Campus, Rio, 26504, Tel: 2610-962590, 962581.**
7. Copy of postgraduate degree (if applicable) (mandatory),
8. Publications in peer-reviewed journals (if applicable),
9. Photocopy of both sides of the identity card (mandatory),
10. Copy of English language proficiency certificate (level B2), as described below (mandatory).
  - a) For participation in the selection process for the postgraduate program, knowledge of English language (at least level B2) is required in addition to Greek. Language proficiency can be proven by the following means:
  - b) State Certificate of Language Proficiency according to Law 2740/1999 as replaced by article 13, paragraph 19 of Law 3149/2003,
  - c) Degree in Foreign Languages and Philology or Degree in Foreign Languages, Translation, and Interpretation from a Greek institution or equivalent from a foreign institution,
  - d) Bachelor, Master, or Doctorate diploma from any recognized foreign higher education institution,
  - e) Secondary education diploma equivalent to Greek secondary schools, provided it was obtained after at least six years of formal study abroad,
  - f) Possession of at least recognized proficiency diplomas at B2 level (First Certificate/Lower).

Examples include:

- First Certificate in English,
- TOEFL certificate with a score of at least 500 (or 300 under the new scoring system),
- IELTS certificate with a score of 6.5 or higher,
- State Certificate of Language Proficiency (level B2).

(Note: The foreign language teaching license does not prove foreign language proficiency (Presidential Decree 347/2003). Applicants holding such a license must submit a certified copy and an exact translation of the diploma based on which the license was issued.)

## APPENDIX 2

### Guidelines for Writing the Master's Thesis (MSc)

In the second semester of the program, students are required to prepare and write a Master's thesis. The terms and conditions for writing and publishing the thesis follow the regulations of the University of Patras as described in Appendices 2 and 3 of the present regulation.

After the January/February examination period, during February, students express their preference for a supervising professor from the teaching staff of the postgraduate program and from the Department faculty members. Supervisors of theses can also be adjunct professors involved in the Department's undergraduate and postgraduate programs during the academic year in which the thesis is undertaken. Students may propose a thesis topic or agree on a topic proposed by the supervisor or the faculty member.

Topics related to thesis writing, such as language, font, instructions for abstract, content, structure, presentation style, bibliography issues, etc., are provided in Appendix 2 of the present regulation.

Specifically, the thesis is written during the second semester and must be completed by August 31. The thesis language can be either Greek or English, with a minimum length of 8,000 words and must not exceed 15,000 words. The supervisor proposes the members of the three-member Examination Committee (TEE) upon finalizing the thesis topic at the start of the 2nd semester. The TEE is approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

Topic modification or replacement of a TEE member may be requested by the student or supervisor to the competent body of the postgraduate program and is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Minor modifications or specification changes in the thesis title, without altering the general topic or the basic study design, can be made after submission of a relevant request by the student, signed by the supervisor, to the program Secretariat.

Members or supervisors of the three-member examination committee are appointed from all categories of teaching staff as defined in article 83 of Law 4957/2022. In exceptional cases of objective inability to perform supervision duties or for serious reasons (illness, absence abroad, etc.), replacement of the supervisor or a member of the examination committee can be made after a decision by the Department Assembly.

The maximum number of theses supervised by one supervisor is set at five (5). To have the thesis approved, the student must defend it before the three-member examination committee. After the defense, the committee evaluates and grades the thesis on a scale from 0 to 10, and a report is signed by the committee.

Specifically, upon completion of thesis writing (by August 31), the supervisor calls the committee to publicly announce the date and time for the thesis defense by the student (within September). The presentation is mandatory. All theses are evaluated according to the criteria listed in Appendix 4. Immediately after the presentation, the thesis is graded by the committee, and the grade is recorded in the examination report.

The decision for grading/approval of the thesis may be made with the unanimous consent of the supervisor and one of the two other committee members, who both give grades.

The examination committee may require:

1. Minor corrections, to be addressed by the candidate within fourteen (14) days. If requested, the committee submits the final grade to the Secretariat without further examination, and
2. Major corrections, which require re-examination of the corrected thesis. If the student fails to respond successfully, they may be dismissed following a reasoned recommendation of the committee and a decision by the Graduate Studies Committee.

Master's theses, once approved by the examination committee, must be uploaded to the University of Patras repository.

The terms for writing and publishing theses follow those in Appendix 3 of this regulation.

- a) The Department considers plagiarism a serious offense. From the University of Patras Library website (<http://www.lis.upatras.gr/>): Plagiarism, also known as "plagiary" (Latin plagiarus = kidnapper, with the specific meaning of plagiarist), refers to "...appropriation of ideas, methods, and text from someone else without appropriate reference to the source and with the clear intention to present them as the intellectual creation of the person" (American Association of University Professors, September/October 1989). It is the process where the author reproduces work that is not theirs and fails to credit the original author. Practically, this means the author tries to appear as the creator of the work and to take credit. Although plagiarism has traditionally been associated with unfair copying of phrases and words, especially in theses, it also refers to the appropriation of ideas. Adopting an idea and presenting it to the public as it is or with minor changes without proper attribution is a significant offense in education and research. Proper use of bibliographic references in texts is an important act to safeguard originality and respect the work of others.
- b) On the website <http://econ.upatras.gr>, detailed thesis preparation guidelines are posted, including instructions about thesis structure, formatting, bibliography, tables, and figures, and electronic templates for thesis writing in Word and LaTeX.

### APPENDIX 3

#### Terms of writing and publishing diploma theses, master's theses, and doctoral dissertations at the University of Patras

Each volume containing the text of the thesis clearly bears on the back of the title page the following:

University of Patras, [Department]  
[Author's Name]  
© [year] - All rights reserved

1. Students through the relevant submission form of the thesis to the Institutional Repository "Nimertis," the postgraduate student grants the University of Patras and the Library and Information Center a non-exclusive right to make it available online for the purposes of systematic and complete collection of the University of Patras's research output, recording, transparency, and promotion of research.
2. Every postgraduate student who prepares their master's thesis in the Department of Economics of the University of Patras is deemed to have read and accepted the following:
  - The entire thesis is original work produced by the author and does not infringe upon the rights of third parties in any way.
  - If the thesis contains material not produced by the author, this must be clearly marked and explicitly cited within the thesis as the work of a third party, with clear identification details, and the author certifies that, in case of using exact graphic representations, images, charts, etc., they have obtained unrestricted permission from the copyright holder for the inclusion and subsequent publication of such material.
  - The postgraduate student bears sole responsibility for the fair use of the material used and is exclusively liable for any consequences arising from such use. It is acknowledged that the University of Patras neither bears nor assumes any responsibility arising from inadequate clearance of intellectual property rights.
  - The drafting, submission, and availability of the thesis is not hindered by any prior transfer of the author's intellectual property rights to third parties, e.g., to monograph publishers or scientific journals, at any time before or after the publication of the thesis, and the author acknowledges that the University of Patras does not waive its rights to make the

content of the diploma or master's thesis or doctoral dissertation available by the means it chooses.

- For the above reasons, upon submission of the master's thesis, the postgraduate student submits a responsible declaration stating that they have taken note of and understand the legal consequences and the provisions set out in the Study Regulations of the Postgraduate Program and the Department, as well as the Internal Operating Regulations of the University of Patras, and that the thesis titled "....." has been prepared under their own responsibility in accordance with the conditions defined by the applicable laws and this current Intellectual Property Rights Regulation.
3. Theses are published in the Institutional Repository no later than twelve (12) months after submission. The Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Program may, upon a sufficiently justified request from the supervising professor and the postgraduate student, request the temporary exclusion of the thesis/dissertation's publication in the Institutional Repository for serious reasons related to the further progress and development of the research activity, if interests of the author or other natural persons, entities, companies, etc. are affected. The exclusion period cannot exceed thirty-six (36) months, provided no other legal impediments exist. It is noted that the submission of the thesis takes place after its successful presentation, according to the applicable regulations, and before the awarding of the degree, while its availability is regulated by the Library depending on the relevant request.

#### **TEXT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LIBRARY AND NIMERTIS**

- The submission of the thesis to the structures of the Library & Information Center (LIC), according to the Internal Regulations of the Library & Information Center (Senate Meeting 382/20.04.05, revision 59/04.06.15), is mandatory for postgraduate students or doctoral candidates of the University of Patras in electronic form, and for doctoral candidates also in printed form. Upon submission of the thesis, the LIC issues the necessary certificates for the secretariats of their departments.