Διεθνές Κοινό ΠΜΣ «Ανοιχτά Δεδομένα και Συνεργατική Διακυβέρνηση»
Joint International Master of Science (MSc) in
Open Data and Collaborative Governance

D3.3. Study Guide

The University of the Aegean

The University of the Aegean was founded in 1984 (Presidential Decree 83/1984) with its first Departments starting their operation from 1985 to 1994. During the first phase of its development, seven Departments were established on four islands, Lesvos, Chios, Samos and Rhodes.

From 1997 to the year 2000, the second phase of development was implemented with the establishment of nine more Departments, reaching the number of sixteen , which was accompanied by the spatial expansion on the island of Syros. In 2009 a new Department was established in Lemnos, with the total number of Departments amounting to seventeen. Today, with 18 Departments, 45 Postgraduate Programs, Summer Schools and Lifelong Learning Courses, the University of the Aegean is ranked among the largest Universities in the country. The administrative headquarters of the University of the Aegean reside at Mytilene, while its Schools and Departments currently operate in the islander cities of Mytilene, Chios, Karlovasi, Rhodes, Ermoupolis and Myrina, forming a university Network that covers all the Prefectures of the Aegean. The mission of the University of the Aegean, a public University in Greece, is defined by three axes: Education, Research and Social Contribution.

The main feature of the departments of the University of the Aegean is the development of new disciplines, usually interdisciplinary, which meet both the needs of modern Greek and global society, as well as the requirements and expectations of its students for studies of high scientific value, combined with excellent prospects for professional development.

The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering

The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering (ICSD) was established in 1997 (Greek Government Gazette Issue 223/A/1997). The Department's mission is to provide a first-class specialist technological education with an aim to produce highly skilled graduates. More specifically, the objectives of the ICSD Department are the following:

- Achieving superior educational standards based on international academic models
- Offering technology-oriented studies
- Keeping up with new developments in research and technology
- Providing students with the skills and knowledge that will enable them to flourish in competitive work environments, conduct research, pursue postgraduate studies, and be constantly up to date with new research and technology developments through lifelong learning

Successful completion of the first stream of studies leads to a level 7 integrated master's degree, based on the Hellenic and European Qualifications Framework (Greek Government Gazette Issue 3524/21.08.2018).

In 2019, 1,188 undergraduate students, 194 postgraduate students and 84 doctoral candidates were studying in the ICSD Department. Until now 628 students completed their bachelor's studies, 508

students were awarded a master's degree and 73 students were awarded a PhD. The department's alumni website is located at https://alumni.icsd.aegean.gr

Currently, the vision of a European information society is becoming a reality in order to eliminate technical, social and economic barriers and establish national and European infrastructures in information technology; therefore, developing functional and up-to-date information and communication systems is becoming an urgent necessity. Within this framework, the main mission of the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering (ICSD) is to produce highly skilled graduates, able to think creatively and critically, and to utilize modern information and communication technologies in the design, management and development of information and communication systems. The Department's educational activities are combined with extensive basic and applied research, aiming at producing new knowledge and spreading it throughout Greece and Europe.

Even since the Department was founded, in 1997, the prevailing view was that the traditional concepts of telecommunications engineering and information technology would cease to be independent entities and would be replaced by a new, integrated scientific field: information and communication systems engineering. The combination of information technologies and communications through integrated systems gave the Department its unique character, a character which is maintained and reinforced until today. The ICSD Department has adopted the aforementioned view about the nature of information and communication systems. An information system is a system that receives, stores, retrieves, transforms and processes information. An information system is made up of an organized set of individual, interdependent components: people, processes, data, software and hardware. This definition covers not only the "Information" part of the Department's title, but also the "Communication" one, since the term "communication system" is not viewed as separate and complementary, but as an inherent dimension of an integrated information system. In this way, the two dimensions of the Department's title reflect the wholeness of its studies, which is necessary for achieving its stated objectives.

The University of Camerino

- https://www.unicam.it/
- https://www.linkedin.com/school/universitacamerino/

The University of Camerino is renowned for its interdisciplinary program and commitment to innovation and academic development, attracting international students and researchers. The University of Camerino (Unicam) has a history dating back to 1336 when the "Studium Generale" was founded. In 1958, it became a state university and is now known as the University of Camerino. The University is equipped with various libraries, a sports center, a planetarium, and a Science Museum.

There are five faculties at the University: the Faculty of Architecture and Design, the Faculty of Law, the

Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Science and Technology, and the Faculty of Biosciences and Veterinary Medicine. Each faculty has a number of departments offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The School of Advanced Postgraduate Studies offers doctoral courses in the following areas: architecture, design and planning, chemical and pharmaceutical sciences and biotechnology, computer science and mathematics, legal and social sciences, life and health sciences, and physics, earth and materials science.

The Department of Computer Science at the University of Camerino

The Department of Computer Science at the University of Camerino is part of the School of Science and Technology, which offers study and research programs in various fields of technology and science. The university is known for its interdisciplinary program and commitment to innovation and academic development, attracting international students and researchers. The University of Camerino (Unicam) has a history dating back to 1336 when the "Studium Generale" was founded. In 1958, it became a state university and is now known as the University of Camerino. The university is located in Camerino in central-eastern Italy. Camerino is located in the province of Macerata in the Marche region of Italy. While its main campus is located in Camerino, the university has three other campuses in Ascoli Piceno, Matelica, and San Benedetto del Tronto.

The university is equipped with various libraries, a sports center, a planetarium, and a Science Museum.

There are five schools at the University: the School of Architecture and Design, the School of Law, the School of Pharmacy, the School of Science and Technology, and the School of Biosciences and veterinary medicine. Each school has a number of departments offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The School of Advanced Studies offers doctoral courses in the following areas: architecture, design and planning, chemical and pharmaceutical sciences and biotechnology, computer science and mathematics, legal and social sciences, life and health sciences, and physics, earth and materials science.

The Computer Science Department at the University of Camerino participates in European and national research programs and has five research laboratories in various fields of computer science, such as Process and Service Reengineering, Data Science, and Quantitative Systems Analysis.

The MSc Open Data and Collaborative Governance

The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering organizes and operates five modern postgraduate programs in the field of Information and Communication Systems, covering a wide range of topics with an emphasis on security, digital governance, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The Information and Communication Systems Security program aims to train scientists and executives in the field of information security and privacy protection technologies, with a duration of three semesters. Similarly, the Internet of Things: Artificial Intelligence and Modern Networks program focuses on the design and development of intelligent environments and next-generation networks, also lasting three semesters.

The e-Government program provides high-level knowledge for the development of information systems in the public sector, promoting e-democracy, transparency, and interoperability, while the Information and Communication Systems program is aimed at graduates without a specialized background in IT, introducing them to the principles of analysis, design, and management of modern IT systems. Both programs last three semesters. The MBA in Digital Innovation and Start-up Entrepreneurship, run in collaboration with the National Technical University of Athens, focuses on start-up management and contemporary issues in e-business, digital marketing, and business models, and lasts one year.

Courses are taught remotely via a modern platform, while final exams, where required, are conducted in person. Overall, the programs aim to train highly specialized scientists with critical thinking skills and the ability to utilize Information and Communication Technologies for the design and management of innovative systems and services.

As part of the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, the **Information Systems Laboratory (ISLab)** is active in a wide range of research areas, including digital transformation using ICT and collaborative governance, system simulation and data visualization, ontologies for organizational collaboration, modeling and engineering of web services, evaluation and validation of information systems, open (and government) data, system and data interoperability, as well as security, identity, and privacy.

As part of the lab's rich research work and in the field of open data, a series of collaborations have been launched through research projects such as [TO-DO - Twinning Open Data Operational](#) and [ODECO - Towards a Sustainable Open Data Ecosystem](#), European HORIZON projects that address various aspects of open data as an ecosystem. Collaborations with international academic institutions include Delft University of Technology, the University of Zagreb, the University of Krems, and many more. The projects have resulted in a series of publications in international conferences and high-level scientific journals, as well as collaborations on scientific books such as [The World of Open Data: Concepts, Methods, Tools and Experiences](#) (Authors: Yannis Charalabidis, Anneke Zuiderwijk, Charalampos Alexopoulos, Marijn Janssen, Thomas Lampoltshammer, Enrico Ferro), a comprehensive and innovative book in the field of open data. In the context of good cooperation with partners in the above projects, such as Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KULeuven) and the University of Camerino, the establishment of a new postgraduate program on open data and collaborative governance was proposed in order to capitalize on the rich research results of the above projects and to disseminate knowledge and experience with a significant impact on society and the scientific community. The MSc "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" is the result of many years of work and fruitful high-level collaboration,

highlighting the contribution of the University of the Aegean to projects of international standing.

The aim of the Joint Postgraduate Program "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" is to prepare students, civil servants, and professionals to harness the power of open data in combination with advanced processing and analysis technologies (TN), while addressing challenges of privacy, security, ethics, and legal issues in the co-creation of new digital services for businesses and administrations. With open data as a critical element for innovation, transparency, and social development, the MSc is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program that equips students with the skills and knowledge to manage, regulate, and leverage open data effectively across a range of sectors. The program combines elements of data science, policy, law, ethics, and digital transformation to create leaders capable of navigating the complexities of open data governance in an increasingly data-driven world.

The international, joint MSc program "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" will be offered by the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean in collaboration with the School of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino and aims to provide students, civil servants, and professionals the necessary knowledge and expertise to leverage the power of open data in combination with cutting-edge technologies such as big data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI). By connecting technology, governance, and administration, the program prepares participants to design and implement innovative, digital, and collaborative solutions that promote transparency, participation, and sustainable development.

Through the MSc, which will be offered online through modern teaching methods, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the open data ecosystem and its application in areas such as governance, health, education, the economy, and the environment. They examine the legal and ethical frameworks governing the use of data, including issues of privacy and copyright. At the same time, they develop skills in data-driven decision-making, citizen science, and collaborative governance, while becoming familiar with modern tools for data collection, curation, visualization, and analysis. Through their choice of internship, the OpenGov summer school, and their thesis, students connect theory with practice and gain comprehensive experience in how data can serve public administration, businesses, and society.

The MSc in Open Data and Collaborative Governance is a three semesters, full-time programme that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills through coursework, workshops, case studies, and a research-based capstone project. The sub-objectives of the MSc is to train, educate and equip the students towards:

● Solid understanding of the open data landscape and ecosystem, including data creation, curation, sharing, and reuse across sectors such as government, healthcare, finance, education, and environmental sciences.
● Developing Legal and Ethical Frameworks through the exploration of the legal, regulatory, and ethical frameworks governing open data, including data protection laws (e.g., GDPR), intellectual property rights, and ethical use of data.

- Applying and Promoting Data-Driven Decision-Making: Equip students with the skills to leverage open data for decision-making, policy formulation, and innovation within organizations and public institutions.
- Applying collaborative governance and citizens science techniques towards the co-creation of novel digital services.
- Strengthening their Data Management Skills through developing their expertise in data collection, cleaning, visualization, and management, focusing on tools and technologies for open data platforms and repositories.
- Fostering global collaboration through learning to navigate international and cross-sectoral collaboration on open data initiatives, understanding diverse governance models and global data standards.
- Advancing Responsible Data Governance through promoting the development of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable data governance frameworks that protect individual privacy while maximizing data's public good.

Graduates of the MSc in Open Data and Collaborative Governance will acquire knowledge and be equipped for leadership roles in the public and private sectors, with career paths in:

- Data Governance and Management: Oversee open data initiatives in government agencies, international organizations, or corporations.
- Open Data Policy Advisor: Develop and advise on policies that govern the responsible sharing and use of data.
- Data Privacy Officer: Ensure organizations are compliant with data protection laws and manage data privacy concerns.
- Open Data Analyst/Scientist: Analyze datasets for actionable insights, especially in sectors like healthcare, urban development, and environmental monitoring.
- Data Science and Engineering: Work in technical roles developing data infrastructure and tools for open data platforms in different domains such as air-quality, agriculture, transport, renewable energy, waste management etc.

Program Language

The teaching language for all courses is English. The language of the Master's thesis is English.

Academic calendar of the program

At the beginning of each semester and before the start of courses, the following is posted on the website of the Department or the Joint Postgraduate Program which has been approved by the CCand includes the start and end dates of the teaching periods, the examination periods, public holidays, etc. The Academic Calendar of the postgraduate program is harmonized as much as possible with the Academic Calendar of the undergraduate programs of the Institution. At the beginning of each period, the timetable is announced, which includes the days and hours of teaching, the dates of other events or obligations, etc.

Registration dates and course declarations

At the beginning of each academic semester, before the start of classes, the following are determined and posted on the website of the Department or the Joint Postgraduate Program as well as the procedure for declaring the courses to be selected each semester.

Course days and Replacements

To assist graduate students who are also employed, courses may be held on any day of the week.

In the event that a course cannot be held, it will be rescheduled in a timely manner. The date and time of the rescheduled course will be posted on the Joint Postgraduate Program website.

Organization of the educational process

The courses of the Joint Postgraduate Program may be taught exclusively through synchronous distance learning methods.

If the educational process is carried out using asynchronous distance learning methods, these may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the credit units of the Joint Postgraduate Program (paragraph 1, article 88, Law 4957/2022), and the percentage shall be determined by decision of the CCfollowing a recommendation by the S.E..

The evaluation process for students per educational activity may be carried out through written or oral examinations conducted using distance learning methods, as well as alternative methods, such as the submission of assignments, practical tests, etc.

The technological equipment required for each student to study and be assessed in the program is a desktop or laptop computer with a camera, speakers, and a microphone, with an operating system newer than 2023 and an internet browser that can be adapted to technological developments.

The specific terms and conditions regarding the organization of the educational process using distance learning methods in accordance with Article 4 of Joint Ministerial Decision 18137/Z1/2023 (Government Gazette 1079/B/28.02.2023) are regulated by the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies of the University of the Aegean (Annexes III and V of the Internal Regulations of the Institution – Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12.2025

Absence limits

Postgraduate students are required to attend all activities of the Joint Postgraduate Program. A postgraduate student is considered to have attended a course (and therefore has the right to participate in the exams) only if he or she has attended at least 75% of the course teaching hours.

In any case, participation and attendance are determined by the course instructors.

Teaching Staff

The academic staff of the MSc program consists mainly of faculty members from the collaborating institutions, specifically the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of Patras and the University of Camerino. Additional lecturers will come from the MSc's collaborations with other universities such as KULEUVEN, the University of Gdansk, and the United Nations University.

Yannis Charalabidis, Professor

Education - Studies

- Diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Doctorate (Ph.D.), Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Certified Professional Coach & Mentor, University of the Aegean
- Educator, Berkeley Method of Entrepreneurship, UC Berkeley, US

Research Interests

- E-Business and E-Governance
- Organizational, Semantic, and Technical Interoperability
- Systems and Methodologies for E-Participation of Citizens and Businesses
- Legal Information Systems
- Artificial Intelligence in Governance

Teaching

- "Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship", Undergraduate Program, 3rd Semester
- "Digital Governance", Undergraduate Program, 8th Semester
- "Special Topics and Case Studies in Innovation and Entrepreneurship", Postgraduate Program "Digital Innovation and New Entrepreneurship", 1st Semester
- "E-Government II", Postgraduate Program "E-Government", 2nd Semester
- "Information Systems", Postgraduate Program, 1st Semester
- "Software Technologies", Postgraduate Program, 2nd Semester

Committees - Administrative Work

- Director of the Postgraduate Program "Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship" in collaboration with NTUA (2018 -)
- Director of the Information Systems Laboratory (2022 -)
- Department Representative on the Research Committee (2021 -)
- Member of the Department's Studies Committee and Promotion Committee (2021 -)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the University of the Aegean Property Development Company (2019 -)

Loukis Euripidis, Professor

Education - Studies

- Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- MSc in Computers and Control, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London
- Doctorate (Ph.D.) in the field of Decision Support Systems, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

Research Interests

- Information Systems
- Decision Support Systems
- E-Governance
- E-Commerce & E-Business
- Collaborative Support Systems
- Information Systems Investments

Teaching

- Business Operations and Information Systems
- Information Systems Strategy and Investments
- Decision Support Systems
- E-Business (Postgraduate)

Committees - Administrative Work

- Director of the Information Systems Laboratory

Alexopoulos Charalampos, [Assistant Professor (tenure-track faculty member)](#)

Education - Studies

- Bachelor's degree in computer science and technology from the University of Peloponnese – School of Sciences and Technology.
- Master's Degree of Specialization in Information Systems Technologies and Management, with a concentration in Information Systems Management, from the University of the Aegean – School of Sciences.
- Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Information Management, Collaborative Value Co-creation, and Open Data Information Systems Development from the University of the Aegean – Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering.

Research Interests

- Management of Big, Open, and Linked Data
- Information Management
- E-Governance and Smart Cities
- Decision Support Systems
- Information Systems Interoperability
- New Entrepreneurship

Teaching

Independent teaching:

1. Management of Big, Open, and Linked Data (Theory), Inter-Institutional Postgraduate Program "Digital Innovation and New Entrepreneurship", Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, NTUA
2. E-Governance Technologies and Applications (Theory), Undergraduate, Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean
3. European and National Interoperability Framework (Theory), Postgraduate Program "E-Governance", Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean
4. Digital Innovation and New Entrepreneurship (Theory), Inter-Institutional Postgraduate Program "Digital Innovation and New Entrepreneurship", Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, NTUA
5. Management of Digital Systems and Organizations (Theory), Postgraduate Program "E-Governance", Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean

Supporting work:

6. Co-teaching of the course "Information Systems", University of the Aegean, Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, Postgraduate
7. Co-teaching of the course "Software Technology", University of the Aegean, Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, Postgraduate
8. Teaching in summer schools: (a) Big Data Analysis, (b) Open and Collaborative Governance at the University of the Aegean, and (c) CREA Summer Academy, H2020, Entrepreneurship for Youth in the ICT sector "Strategic Design, Service Design, Design Thinking, Product Service System".

Committees - Administrative Work

Coordination and Management of Conferences

- ICEGOV2020 Conference on E-Government in collaboration with the United Nations University
- Samos Summit Conference on ICT-enabled Governance

Coordination and Management of Scientific Conferences (Track Chair)

- HICSS (Mini-track): Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences
- MCIS: Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems
- ICEGOV: international conference on theory and practice of egovernance
- ICDS: International Conference on Digital Society and eGovernments
- EGOV-CEDEM-EPART
- EMCIS

Coordination and Management of Summer Schools

- Earthbias Summer School: Large-scale Data Analysis for Environmental Sciences
- Opengov Summer School: Open and Collaborative Governance

Andrea Polini, [Professor](#)

Education - Studies

- MSc in Computer Science, University of Pisa, Italy – 21/07/2000
- PhD in Computer Engineering from Scuola di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna – Pisa, Italy – 22/10/2004.

Research Interests

- Software Testing
- Open Data Ecosystem
- Artificial Intelligence
- Service-Oriented Architecture
- Run-time Verification
- Parallel and Distributed systems

Teaching

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Software engineering (computer science for digital communications)
2. Software engineering (computer science)
3. Parallel and distributed programming (mathematics and applications)
4. Enterprise software infrastructures (computer science)
5. Parallel and distributed programming (computer science)
6. Parallel and distributed programming (computer science)
7. Parallel and distributed programming (computer science)
8. Software project management (computer science)
9. Principles and foundations of ai, included in the teaching activity principles and foundations of generative and predictive ai (design for innovation and digital culture)
10. Fundamentals of software testing (computer science)

Academic Year 2024/2025

1. Coding (digital solutions manager)
2. Project management (digital solutions manager)
3. Artificial intelligence and communication (science communication)
4. Web-oriented programming laboratory (computer science and technology laboratory)
5. Software engineering (computer science)
6. Software engineering (computer science for digital communications)
7. Software project management (computer science)
8. Parallel and distributed programming (mathematics and applications)
9. Enterprise software infrastructures (computer science)
10. Parallel and distributed programming (computer science)
11. Fundamentals of software testing (computer science)

Committees - Administrative Work

Coordination and Management of Conferences

- Coordinator for the Doctoral Curriculum in Computer Science and Mathematics – University of Camerino – Italy.
- Now Rector delegate for "Ricerca Industriale e Sviluppo Sperimentale" – University
- of Camerino – Italy.
- Rector delegate for "Sviluppo delle Infrastrutture Digitali" – University of Camerino – Italy.
- Coordinator of the Computer Science Division at School of Science and Technologies – University of Camerino – Italy.
- Course coordinator for the Master of Science in Computer Science (LM-18) – School of Science and Technologies – University of Camerino – Italy.
- Course coordinator for the Bachelor degree in Informatica (L-31) – School of Science and Technologies – University of Camerino – Italy.
- Masters Director "Master di 1o livello", Content Management ed Editoria 2.0 – University of Camerino – A.Y. 2010/2011 and A.Y. 2011/2012

- Director "Master di 1o livello", Digital Solutions Manager – University of Camerino – A.Y. 2019/2020
- CINI Since UNICAM joined the "Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale per l'infomatica" (CINI) in 2016, I have been appointed Director of the local unit. Moreover, I am the local coordinator for the UNICAM node of the Smart Cities and Communities Lab
- Other Coordinator for the UNICAM thematic platform "ICT and Smart Cities and Communities"

Vasiliki Diamantopoulou, [Permanent Assistant Professor](#)

Education - Studies
- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of the Aegean, School of Engineering, Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering.
- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Brighton, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, UK. Research topic « Privacy and Security of Information Systems in Electronic Governance »
- Doctoral Degree, Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean, Doctoral Thesis Title: "The Impact of Technological and Human Capital of Information and Communications on the Innovative Activity of Businesses" , Subject: "Information Systems"
- Postgraduate Diploma in "Information and Communication Systems Technologies and Management" in the direction of "Information Systems Management" , Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean
- Diploma, Department of Product and Systems Design Engineering, University of the Aegean

Research Interests

- Information Systems Privacy and Security Issues
- Information Systems
- Electronic Government
- Integrated Enterprise Resource Management Systems (ERPs)
- Information Systems Administration

Teaching

- Security and Privacy issues of Information Systems
- Electronic Government
- Information Systems
- Enterprise Resource Planning Systems
- Interoperability of Information Systems
- Information Systems Management and Strategy

Joep Crompvoets, Professor

Education - Studies

- MSc. Soil Science, Wageningen University, The Netherlands (1993)Specialisations in Geology, Hydro(geo)logy, and Land evaluationTheses: Quantification of hydrogeological flow routes of the river Hof catchment, Belgium (1993), Description of the formation of fluvial terraces of the river Rio Guadalhorce, Álora, Andalucía, Spain (1992), Implementation of a bio-physical sunflower suitability expert system by using decision trees (1992), Description of the most representative soils of Andalucía according to FAO/ISRIC Soil Database and design (1992)
- MSc. Geo-Information Science for Rural Applications, Wageningen Universityand ITC Twente University, The Netherlands (1997)Thesis: "Method to assess the Spatial Suitability of SOTER-Units to WaterErosion Modelling applied for Kiambu District, Kenya"
- PhD, Wageningen University, The Netherlands (2006)Thesis: "National Spatial Data Clearinghouses, Worldwide Development and Impact"

Research Interests

- e-Government
- Digital transformation in the government
- Public Sector innovation
- GIS
- Spatial Data Infrastructures

Teaching

The Public Governance Institute aims to improve public management, public organisation and public policy. Main tasks:
- Managing fundamental and applied research projects in the domains of
- Digital transformation in the public sector, E-government, data science and (spatial) data infrastructures.
- Conducting research in the domains of E-government, Public Sector Innovation, digital transformation and Spatial Data Infrastructures
- Lecturing and supervising courses Information Management in the Public Sector, Digital Public Governance and Integrated Research Seminar at university level, and giving classes for professionals (in particular civil servants)
- Supervising and implementing the Erasmus+ Mundus Master of Science in
- Public Sector Innovation and eGovernance (PIONEER). Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (with Münster University and Tallinn University of Technology)
- from 2017, ± 25 students per year- Developing, lecturing and supervising the online course Public SectorInnovation & E-Governance based on EdX-platform- Developing, lecturing and supervising the Postgraduate program Data use
- and Management in the Government (2022 – present)- Publishing research results in books, and (non-)scientific journals,
- consultancy reports, etc.- Supervising PhD-theses in the domains of E-government, Digital transformation in the public sector, and Spatial Data Infrastructures from multiple disciplinary perspectives (e.g. public administration science, law, sociology, economics and geomatics)- Supervising MSc-theses in the domains of E-government- Providing (inter)national project. consultancy (see below)
- Submitting and executing (inter)national project proposals- Delivering services by means of in-company trainings, participation in panel discussions or giving lectures to professionals

Committees - Administrative Work

- Vice-President EuroSDR – European Spatial Data Research network (2023 – 2025) en Secretaris-Generaal EuroSDR (2011 – 2023)
- Member of Leuven Institute for Mobility (2024 – present)
- Member of International Conference Programme Committee on Resilient and Sustainable Cities in Africa (2024 – present)
- Member of Scientific Committee of International Conference for an Inclusive Digital Society (2024 – present)
- Team member of RESPIRA – Transdisciplinary action-research to prevent, combat and research Chronic Respiratory Diseases on the African content (2024 – present)
- International expert of USAID National Governance project at Grigol Robakidze University (2024 – present)
- Member of Program Committee of IFIP EGOV Conferences (2023-2025)
- Vice-President Research of EuroSDR (2023 – present)
- Chairing PhD-thesis ceremonies at KU Leuven (2023 – present)
- UN-GGIM: Europe IGIF Working Group (2022 – present)
- Editorial board member of Journal of Geography and Cartography (2022 – present)
- Conference committee member from Europe, Africa, & Middle East of Data for Policy (2022 – present)
- Jury member of e-invoicing award 2022
- Member of Leuven Urban Studies Institute (2022 – present)
- Member of Program Committee of the IFIP EGOV Conferences on smart cities (2022 – present)
- Chair of Transversal Working Group on Technological and Societal Trends of KU Leuven Digital Society Institute (2021 – present)
- Member of Leuven AI Institute (2021 – present)
- Member of International Federation for Information Processing WG 8.5: Information Systems in Public Administration (2021 – present)
- Scientific member of SEMIC Conferences (2020 – present)
- Member of Scientific Committee of Climate Change and Disaster Management Conference (2020 – present)
- Program committee member of International Cybersecurity Congress 2019 (2019 – present)
- Editorial board member of journal Geodetski Vestnik (2019 – present)
- Member of programme committee of the International Conferences on Digital Government Research (2019 – present)
- Belgian Delegate of United Nations (UN) Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management sessions (2017 – present)
- Member of ERCIS – European Research Centre for Information Systems (2016 - present)
- Member of the SDI and Standards Commission of the International Cartographic Association (2016 – present)
- Advisory Board Member of the Land Policy and Governance Journal (2016 – present)
- EuroSDR Commission chair: Business Models and Operation (2015 – present)
- Member of the following Area Groups of the United Nations initiative of the Global Geospatial Information Management: Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda; Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management; and Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes (2015 – present)
- Member of Working Group 'Trends in National Institutional arrangements in Geospatial Management' of United Nations initiative of Global Geospatial Information Management (2014 – present)
- Member of Editorial Board of Journal of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering (2014 – present)
- Member of Editorial Board of International Scientific Journal: Micro Macro & Mezzo Geo Information (2014 – present)

Demetrios Sarantis, [Senior Research Analyst](#)

Education - Studies

- Diploma (School of Electrical and Computer Engineering) Education, National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- MSc in Operational Research, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, England
- PhD in Computer Engineering from Scuola di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna – Pisa, Italy – 22/10/2004.

Research Interests

- Business Information Systems
- Information Systems
- Ontology Engineering
- Data Modelling
- Semantic Web

Teaching

1. Digital Business Management
2. Information Systems in Public Administration
3. e-Government I (Services and Infrastructures)
4. Information Systems Security
5. European and Greek Interoperability Framework
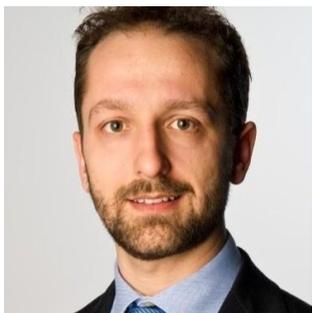
Enrico Ferro, [C-level Strategist and Innovation Advisor.](#)

Education - Studies

- BSc (HONS), European Business with Technology (EBT), 1996-2000, University of Brighton.
- Master, Management in the Network Economy (MiNE), 2000 – 2001¸ Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore,
- Ph. D., Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering, Politecnico di Milano, – 22/10/2004.

Research Interests

- Innovation Management
- Tokenomics
- Business Models
- Strategy
- Impact Assessment

Teaching & Other Experiences

- Adjunct Professor at Politecnico di Torino, Italy, (Feb 2003 - Jun 2012 · 9 yrs 5 months) Postgraduate courses taught to international students: "Innovation Management in the Public Sector" and "Economics of Information"
- ISMB, (17 yrs 10 months)
  - o Head of Innovation Development (Jul 2013 - Oct 2019)
  - o Head of Business Model and Policy Innovation Unit (Jan 2011 - Jul)
  - o Researcher at Technology to Business Intelligence Lab (Jan 2002 - Mar 2011)
- Member of Italian Node's Strategic Committee at EIT Digital (Jan 2017 – 2022), Trento Area, Italy
- Head of Strategic AdvisoryHead of Strategic Advisory, LINKS Foundation – Leading Innovation & Knowledge for Society·
- Member of Expert Group on Blockchain, United Nations (Nov 2018 – Present)

Barbara Re, [Associate Professor](#)

Education - Studies

- March 2010: PhD in Information Sciences and Complex Systems, University of Camerino.
- October 2006: Master's Degree in Computer Science with honors (110/110 cum laude), University of Camerino.
- October 2004: Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science with honors (110/110 cum laude), University of Camerino.
- July 2001: Diploma as a Commercial and Programming Technical Expert with a score of 100/100, A. Gentili Technical Commercial Institute of Macerata.

Research Interests

- Applied Formal Methods.
- Business Process Management: Modeling, Analysis, Implementation, Monitoring and Controlling.
- Flexibility in Process Aware Information Systems.
- Methodologies and Technologies for Smart Government and Smart Living.

Teaching & Other Experiences

Research Projects on European Funding
- Member of the UniCam unit and WP leader of the project "Learn PAd - Model-Based Social Learning for Public Administrations" in response to the EU FP7-ICT-2013.8.2 Technology-enhanced learning call.

Research Projects on National Funding
- Head of the UniCam unit for the project "Fluidware - A Novel Approach for Large-Scale IoT Systems" funded in response to the MIUR - PRIN 2017 call, D.D. No. 3728 of 27 December 2017.
- Member of the UniCam unit for the project "S.A.F.E. - Sustainable Design of Intelligent Furniture Systems with a Life-Saving Function During Seismic Events" funded under the MIUR call for proposals for Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects in the 12 specialization areas identified by the PNR 2015-2020, as per the Directorial Decree of 13 July 2017, No. 1735.
- Member of the UniCam unit and member of the management committee for the project "OCP - Open City Platform" funded under the MIUR - Smart Cities and Communities D.D. 391/Ric of 5 July 2012 call.
- Member of the UniCam unit for the project "CINA - Composizionality, Interaction, Negotiation, Autonomy" funded in response to the MIUR - PRIN 2012 call, D.M. 2/ric of 12/01/2012.

Research Projects with Companies on Regional Funding

- Scientific Coordinator of the UniCam working group as a project partner for "MIRACLE - Marche Innovation and Research fAcilities for Connected and sustainable Living Environments - Marche Laboratory for research and innovation for sustainable and interconnected living environments" funded in response to the Marche Region call POR MARCHE FESR 2014/2020 - AXIS 1 - OS 2 - ACTION 2.1.1
- Member of the UniCam working group as a project consultant for "PROBIOSENIOR - Development of new functional probiotic and nutraceutical foods to improve the quality of life of seniors" funded under the Marche Region - POR MARCHE FESR 2014 - 2020 - AXIS 1 CALL - Promoting innovative solutions to address the challenges of local communities in the field of health and well-being through collaborative research and experimentation projects between companies and public/private structures providing services to citizens.
- Head of the UniCam research contract as a consultant for the project "CREMU - system for the Remote Control of Human Movement" funded under the Marche Region - POR MARCHE 2007-2013, Measure 1.1.1.04.02 - "Promotion of industrial research and experimental development in technological-productive sectors" 2012 call.
- Head of the UniCam research contract as a consultant for the project "EcoSmartLight - Illumination commanded and controlled through a cellular network" funded under the Marche Region - POR MARCHE 2007-2013, Measure 1.1.1.04.02 - "Promotion of industrial research and experimental development in technological-productive sectors" 2012 call.
- Member of the UniCam working group that participated as a research body and scientific coordinator of the project "S2CRM - Semantic-Social Customer Relationship Management" submitted in response to the Lazio Region - Coresearch call, Research and Development projects.
- Member of the UniCam working group that participated as a research body and scientific coordinator of the project "Scrivania" submitted in response to the Lazio Region - Coresearch call, Research and Development projects.
- Member of the UniCam working group and Project Manager appointed by the project partnership for "PAss - Private Assisted House for active and independent aging of the elderly" after having coordinated and contributed to its technical-scientific definition.

Journal (Guest) Editor
- Special Issue on Methodologies, Technologies and Tools enabling e-Government - International Journal of Electronic Governance (IJEG), Inderscience Publisher, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2016.

Journal Editorial Committee Member

- International Journal of Internet of Things and its Applications.

- Journal of Quality, Process, Performance and Technology.

Program (Co-)Chair

- IFIP EGOV-CEDEM-EPART Conference, San Benedetto, Italy, 1 - 5 September 2019.
- Collective Adaptive Systems (CAS) track at ACM SAC, Pau, France, April 9 - 13, 2018.
- 8th International Conference on Methodologies, Technologies and Tools enabling e-Government, Udine, Italy, 18-19 September 2014.

Orientation of the Postgraduate Program

The Master's Degree Program awards a Master's Degree (MSc) level 7 in "Open Data and Collaborative Governance".

The specific objectives of the MSc program are to educate, train, and equip students with the necessary knowledge so that they:
- Gain an understanding of the landscape and ecosystem of open data, including the creation, curation, sharing, and reuse of data in areas such as governance, health and healthcare, the economy, education, and environmental sciences.
- Understand the legal and ethical frameworks by exploring the regulatory and ethical dilemmas surrounding the use of open data (e.g., Data Act, Data Governance Act), artificial intelligence (e.g., AI Act), and their combination, including data protection laws (e.g., GDPR), intellectual property rights, and ethical use of data.
- Apply and promote data-driven decision-making techniques through advanced analytical techniques (e.g., data mining, machine learning, natural language processing, and large language models), equipping students with skills for policy design and innovation in organizations and public bodies.
- Apply collaborative governance and citizen science techniques to co-create new digital services using artificial intelligence.
- Enhance their data management skills by acquiring expertise in data collection, cleaning, visualisation and management, focusing on tools and technologies for open data platforms and repositories, using conventional and advanced (artificial intelligence-based) methods.
- Promote global collaboration by learning to manage international and cross-sector collaborations in open data initiatives, understanding different governance models and global data standards.
- Promote responsible data management by creating fair, inclusive, and sustainable governance frameworks that ensure the protection of individuals' privacy while leveraging data for public benefit.

Graduates of the MSc program will acquire knowledge and be prepared for leadership positions in the public and private sectors, with career paths in the following areas:
- Data Governance and Management: Management of open data initiatives in government agencies, international organizations, or businesses.
- Open Data Policy Advisor: Developing and advising on policies governing the responsible sharing and use of data.
- Data Privacy Officer: Ensuring organizations comply with data protection laws and managing data privacy concerns.
- Open Data Analyst/Scientist: Analyzing data to draw useful conclusions, especially in areas such as healthcare, urban development, and environmental monitoring.

- Data Science and Engineering: Developing technical infrastructure and tools for open data platforms in various fields, such as air quality, agriculture, transportation, renewable energy, waste management, etc.
- Design and development of original solutions and innovative services for the public and private sectors.

Research topics of the MSc program

The MSc in Open Data and Collaborative Governance offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines theoretical foundations, technological expertise, and practical experience in the fields of Open Data, Governance, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Innovation. To cover general (horizontal) knowledge and skills, the MSc program emphasizes practical experience and academic rigor, and prepares students to design and conduct research, participate in professional practice, and integrate their learning through their final thesis. These horizontal courses are as follows:

- Seminar on Research Methods and Thesis
- Internship
- Summer School
- Thesis

In addition, the staff of the MSc program, beyond participating in international conferences, participates in the work of scientific groups of special interest, as well as in the work of related professional organizations, organizes international summer schools and international scientific conferences in the field, and works closely with public and private sector bodies to develop practical training positions in real professional environments.

The MSc covers three research areas (RA), with the aim of equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills to design, manage, and implement data-driven solutions that support transparency, collaboration, and sustainable digital transformation in all sectors.

TR1. Fundamental Concepts and Infrastructures of Open Data

This thematic area introduces the principles, standards, and infrastructures that support the open data ecosystem. Students explore how data is produced, shared, and made interoperable across systems and sectors, with a particular focus on geospatial data and smart city applications.

Courses:

- Open Data I
- Open Data II
- Open Data Infrastructures and Interoperability
- Open Geospatial Data for Smart Cities

THP2. Data Analysis, Artificial Intelligence, and New Technologies

This thematic area focuses on knowledge and innovation production, as well as data-driven decision-making. It covers advanced analytical methods, visualization techniques, and the application of Artificial Intelligence in open data environments. New techniques for enhancing the quality of the

data provided are identified, studied, and applied. It also examines the ethical, regulatory, and political challenges of Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies.

Courses:

- Data Analysis and Visualization
- Artificial Intelligence and Disruptive Technologies for Open Data
- Open Data and Policy, Regulation, and Ethical Aspects

THP3. Governance, Policy Making, and Innovation Issues

This thematic area explores how open data supports digital transformation, collaborative governance, and entrepreneurship. It connects policy design with real-world applications and promotes innovation in public services and data-driven business ecosystems.

Courses:

- Digital Collaborative Governance
- Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Data Ecosystems
- Open Data Applications and Case Studies

Design and assessment of level 7 learning outcomes

Faculty members of partner institutions and collaborating research instructors participate in committees, teams, and councils in the thematic areas of the MSc program, which ensures that they are constantly informed of work results and broader information related to emerging professional skills and prospects, which shaped the design of the learning outcomes of the MSc program, while providing useful feedback for their future suggestions for updates to the MSc program.

In addition, the Steering Committee, in collaboration with the MSc Advisory Committee, will continuously monitor the international curriculum in the field, international conferences, the study programs of other national and international universities, and will collaborate with national and international bodies in the field of Open Data, Technologies, and Digital Governance.

With regard to the evaluation and monitoring of learning outcomes, key feedback will be provided by the performance of students in the courses offered and their responses to the evaluation questionnaires they are asked to complete for each course they enroll in and attend, through the integrated information system of MODIP.

Distribution of credit units (ECTS)

The MSc program takes into account current legislation and the course material is rationally distributed and in accordance with the provisions of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Each course is assigned a number of ECTS credits. To obtain the Master's Degree, students must successfully complete all courses in the Master's Program, which total 30 ECTS credits per semester. There are five compulsory courses in the first semester, each worth 6 ECTS credits. In the second semester, there are six (6) compulsory and elective courses, each worth 6 ECTS credits, with a

requirement to accumulate 30 ECTS credits. In the third semester, there are two elective courses (practical and summer school) worth 5 ECTS credits each and a thesis worth 25 ECTS credits. The MSc program awards a total of 90 ECTS credits. The minimum workload of 90 ECTS credits is the recommended workload for three (3) semester programs for a Master of Science, according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System.

Linking teaching with research and work experience opportunities Master Students

Teaching in the MSc "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" is inextricably linked to the research activities of faculty members and collaborating researchers, who are actively involved in international research projects, scientific teams, and professional organizations in the fields of Open Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Governance. Students have the opportunity to join research teams and participate in innovative projects, gaining direct experience in data collection, analysis, and utilization, as well as in the development of solutions based on the real needs of public administration and businesses. The research dimension runs through all courses in the program, encouraging critical thinking, exploration, and the connection between theory and practice.

At the same time, the MSc program emphasizes professional extroversion and the connection between academic education and the job market. Through the Internship course, the organization of the Summer School, and collaboration with public bodies, businesses, and research centers, students gain valuable work experience in real-world environments. These activities offer opportunities to apply the knowledge acquired during the program, cultivate problem-solving skills, and enhance the professional absorption of graduates into highly specialized positions in the public and private sectors, as well as in research organizations.

Duration of Study

The duration of study for the acquisition of the Postgraduate Diploma is set at three (3) academic semesters.

The program comprises 90 ECTS credits over three academic semesters:

• First Semester (30 ECTS) – Compulsory courses

• Second Semester (30 ECTS) – Compulsory + Elective courses

• Third Semester (30 ECTS) – Master's thesis (25 ECTS) + Internship or Summer school (5 ECTS)

Part-time study

Working master's students have the option of part-time study. Students in this category must prove that they work at least 20 hours per week and submit a relevant employment contract or employer's certificate.

Part-time study is also available for non-working students who are unable to meet the requirements of full-time study for health, family, military service, force majeure, or other reasons.

Those interested should submit a request to the CCbefore the start of the Program's courses.

The duration of part-time study may not exceed twice the normal duration of the program.

Suspension of studies

Postgraduate students may submit a request for a justified suspension of studies, which may not exceed two consecutive semesters.

Suspension procedure

The suspension procedure is broken down into the following steps:

1. Application by the interested party, at the beginning of the academic semester, to the CC, stating the reasons for requesting the suspension. The relevant supporting documents (if any) are attached to the application.

2. Relevant reasoned decision of the CC, stating that during the suspension of studies, student status is revoked and all relevant rights of the student are suspended.

Student status is automatically regained after the suspension ends. Postgraduate students who have received educational leave from their employer to study in a postgraduate program are not entitled to a suspension of studies during the same period.

Semesters of suspension of student status are not counted towards the maximum duration of normal study.

Student Expulsion

The CC, following the recommendation of the S.E., may decide to expel postgraduate students if:

- they have exceeded the maximum number of absences

- they have failed a course or courses and have not successfully completed the program

- they have exceeded the maximum duration of study in the Joint Postgraduate Program, as defined in these Regulations, unless there are proven serious and exceptional reasons, which are examined on a case-by-case basis by the CC

- have committed an offense under copyright law (Law 2121/93) in the writing of their assignments

- have not paid the required tuition fees

- have submitted a request for withdrawal to the Department Secretariat (in which case the request is automatically approved by the CC).

Examination periods

There are two examination periods: February and June, which are aligned as far as possible with the examination periods of the undergraduate programs, as defined each time in the Academic Calendar of the Institution.

The deadlines for the submission of course examination results by the teaching staff are as specified in the Institution's Academic Calendar.

If a student fails a course, they may retake the course in a repeat examination.

In case of failure, the student is either removed from the Joint Master's Program or given the opportunity to retake the course (or courses) in which they failed, in which case they are required to pay the amount of 600 euros (for each course). In case of failure in the exam, after retaking the course, the student is expelled.

Master's Thesis

During the third semester of the program, students are required to complete a master's thesis.

The master's thesis (25 ECTS) demonstrates the student's ability to conduct research in open data, artificial intelligence, governance, or digital innovation.

Master's students are entitled to submit a thesis topic provided they have successfully completed all courses from the previous two (2) semesters. The application, which is submitted to the secretariat of the joint postgraduate program from June to October, before the start of the third semester, must include the proposed title of the thesis, the proposed supervisor, and a summary of the proposed thesis must be attached. The secretariat of the Joint Postgraduate Program forwards the application to the Steering Committee.

Supervision of Thesis

Supervisors may come from either of the two institutions.

Co-supervision is permitted and encouraged for inter-institutional research.

The CC, upon request by the interested party, which includes the proposed title of the thesis, the proposed supervisor, and a summary of the proposed thesis, appoints the supervisor and forms a three-member examination committee for the approval of the thesis, one of whose members is the supervisor (paragraph 2, Article 82 of Law 4957/2022).

The right to supervise dissertations is granted to the teachers listed in paragraphs a) to f) of Article 83(1) of Law 4957/2022 , provided that they hold a doctoral degree. By decision of the competent body of the Joint Postgraduate Program, the supervision of dissertations may also be assigned to members of the teaching staff, EEP, and EDI of the Department who are not teaching in the Joint Postgraduate Program (par. 3, Article 83 of Law 4957/2022).

The other two members of the Three-Member Examination Committee may be any category of teaching staff who are able to undertake independent teaching duties in the Joint Postgraduate Program in accordance with Article 83 of Law 4957/2022. The members of the Three-Member Examination Committee must have the same or a related scientific specialty as the subject area of the Joint Postgraduate Program.

In exceptional cases of objective inability to perform supervisory duties over a long period of time or the existence of another important reason, the CC may, after justifying its decision, replace the supervisor or member of the Three-Member Examination Committee, (either at the request of the postgraduate student and with the opinion of the proposed supervisor or member, or at the proposal of the supervisor or member of the Three-Member Examination Committee).

At the end of the thesis assignment period, the CCvalidates the distribution of topics per supervisor.

The subject of the postgraduate thesis must be research-based and original. The manner of writing the thesis has specific specifications, is included in a decision of the CCand is posted on the website of the Joint Postgraduate Program.

The design of each student's Master's Thesis is the responsibility of the supervisor. It should also be noted that, under the responsibility of the supervisor and the postgraduate student, all postgraduate theses must comply with the principles of academic integrity and research ethics of the Institution.

Language of writing

The language of writing for the postgraduate thesis is English.

Examination of the Master's Thesis

After completing the thesis and obtaining the approval of their supervisor, students submit a copy of their thesis in electronic or printed form to the members of the Examination Committee. Please note that the Master's Thesis must be submitted to the members of the Committee at least 15 days before the start of the examination period. Otherwise, the members of the Examination Committee have the option of postponing the examination to the next examination period.

Master's students are also required to submit to the Joint Postgraduate Program Secretariat, prior to the defense, a solemn declaration stating the following: "*I am the author of this Master's Thesis and any assistance I received in its preparation is fully acknowledged and referenced in the thesis. I have also cited any sources from which I have used data or ideas, whether they are quoted verbatim or paraphrased. I also certify that this thesis was prepared by me personally, specifically for this Master's thesis.*"

Approval of the thesis requires its defense before the Examination Committee. The following procedure is followed:

The Three-Member Examination Committee meets to examine the Thesis. It meets legally only when all three members are present (paragraph 5, section 1, article 14 of Law 2690/1999). On the day of the meeting, the members of the Three-Member Committee exchange views, ask questions to the examinee, then decide on the final grade, fill out the relevant evaluation form, sign it, and submit it to the secretariat the following year. The date of the examination is determined by the Three-Member Committee. For the master's thesis to be approved, the following are required cumulatively: a) the unanimous agreement of 2/3 of the members of the Committee and b) the average grade of the three members of the committee to be equal to or greater than five (5). The Master's Thesis is graded from zero (0.00) to ten (10.00).

The evaluation criteria are:

• Originality

• Scientific methodology

• Relevance to the program topics

• Quality of analysis

• Structure and presentation of the written work

• Performance during the oral defense

The approved Master's Thesis, after the completion of any corrections proposed by the Committee, and before the student's graduation, is submitted to the Library of the University in electronic form via the Library's online portal and posted on the website of the relevant School. An electronic copy is submitted to the Secretariat of the Joint Postgraduate Program.
In the event of a negative decision, it is possible to resubmit the thesis after two months, provided that the postgraduate student improves the thesis in accordance with the Committee's comments.

In the event of a negative decision after the [second] submission, the postgraduate student is excluded from receiving the Master's Degree.

Internship

Postgraduate students may undertake an internship during the third semester, in accordance with their study program and the applicable legislation, under the coordination of the internship coordinator of the Joint Postgraduate Program. The internship is carried out remotely in various private and public spaces and institutions.

In order to participate in the internship, postgraduate students must have completed the courses of the previous semesters.

The internship corresponds to five (5) credit units (E.C.T.S.). The same grading scale used to evaluate graduate students in the courses of the Graduate Program (0-10) also applies to the Internship.

The Director of the Joint Postgraduate Program approves the submission of student applications for participation in Erasmus+ programs in which the institution may participate.

Admission Requirements

Each year, the Master's Program, following a decision by the Coordinating Committee (ΕΠΣ), publishes an announcement at least one (1) month before the application deadline, using an appropriate medium, including the Department's and the University's website. The announcement concerns the Master's Program whose beginning is scheduled for the upcoming academic year or study semester. The announcement specifies the categories of eligible graduates, the number of admitted students, the deadlines for submitting applications and supporting documents, as well as the criteria and procedure for selecting postgraduate students, specifically:

(a) all required supporting documents,

(b) the requirement for candidates to undergo an oral interview before the Committee for the Examination/Selection of Postgraduate Students,

(c) the dates on which the interviews will take place, and

(d) the scoring method.

Telecommunication or online education tools may be used to conduct the candidate interviews. All the above information is clearly stated in the call for applications.

The Coordinating Committee of the MSc Program appoints a Committee for the Examination, Selection, and Evaluation of Postgraduate Students, which, based on the announcement and the established criteria, proceeds as follows:

- Compiles an initial complete list of all applicants.
- Rejects candidates who do not meet the minimum formal requirements (if such requirements have been set).
- Invites selected candidates to an interview. The interview is conducted by the members of the Committee.
- Ranks the candidates based on their scores and recommends the final selection in accordance with the criteria announced in the call.
- Prepares the final list of admitted students. The final list is approved and validated by the Coordinating Committee. Candidates are informed of the results via email.

If there are multiple candidates with the same total score competing for the last available position, those tied candidates are invited to an additional interview to determine the most suitable candidate. In any other tie in the final ranking, the degree grade is taken into account; if a tie still remains, the final ranking is determined based on the average grade of the courses related to the MSc Program or other specific selection criteria. Candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:

Criterion	Weight
A. Degree grade and grade in courses related to the Joint Master's Program	10
B. Certified knowledge of English (level B2 or higher)	10
C. Relevant publications in a subject related to the subject matter of the Joint Master's Program.	10
D. Research activity or professional experience relevant to the field of specialization of the Joint Master's Program	30
E. Oral interview, conducted in person or online, to assess the academic experience, performance, and interests of the candidates.	40

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees of €6,000 in total for the two semesters and the thesis are payable for the MSc program. Recognizing the financial difficulties that some students may face, the PME will offer the option of paying tuition fees in several installments per semester, with a maximum of four installments. In accordance with the institutional framework, the total number of students studying free of charge may not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the total number of students enrolled per academic year.

Courses Structure

Course ID	Course Title	Type	ECTS	Teaching Type and perc.	Semester
8001	Open Data I	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	A
8002	Open Data Policy, Regulation and Ethics	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	A
8003	Data Analytics and Visualization	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	A
8004	Open GeoSpatial Data for Smart Cities	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	A
8005	Digital Collaborative Governance	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	A
8006	Open Data II	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	B
8007	Research Methods and Thesis Seminar	Mandatory	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	B
8008	Open Data Infrastructures and Interoperability	Elective (3 from 4)	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	B
8009	AI and Disruptive Technologies for Open Data	Elective (3 from 4)	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	B
8010	Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Data Ecosystems	Elective (3 from 4)	6	Synchronus e-learning 100%	B

8011	Open Data Applications and Case Studies	Elective (3 from 4)	6 (el)	Synchronus e-learning 100%	B
8012	Internship	Elective (1 of 2)	5	Synchronus e-learning 20% Asynchronus e-learning 80%	C
8013	Summer School	Elective (1 of 2)	5 (el)	Onsite 100%	C
8000	Diploma Thesis	Mandatory	25	Synchronus e-learning 10% Asynchronus e-learning 90%	C

Description of Courses

A. MANDATORY COURSES

8001. Open Data I
The course Open Data I provides a comprehensive introduction to the foundations and governance of open data ecosystems. It explores the evolution and key actors of the open data movement, as well as the FAIR and CARE principles, the 5-star model, and the use of data portals and catalogues. Students learn how open data supports transparency, innovation, and collaboration while examining governance models, institutional frameworks, and stakeholder roles that shape decision-making processes. The course emphasizes the development and evaluation of governance strategies that promote accountability, sustainability, and effective management of open data.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.
Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8002. Open Data Policy, Regulation and Ethics
The course Open Data Policy, Regulation and Ethics offers an in-depth understanding of the legal, regulatory, and ethical dimensions of open data. It examines intellectual property rights, licensing models, and major data protection frameworks such as the GDPR and HIPAA, alongside emerging regulations like the Data Governance Act, Data Act, PSI Directives, and AI Act. Students explore how data policy frameworks and comparative legal systems shape open data practices at international, regional, and national levels. The course also addresses key ethical considerations, including privacy-by-design, anonymisation, fairness, and algorithmic accountability, enabling students to navigate legal compliance and ethical challenges in open data management and reuse.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8003. Data Analytics and Visualisation

The course Data Analytics and Visualisation equips students with the essential skills to process, analyse, and communicate insights from open data. It covers data curation, cleaning, transformation, and structuring, along with practical techniques for analysis and visualisation using tools such as R and Python. Students gain hands-on experience working with datasets from open data portals, developing dashboards, and applying data storytelling methods to convey findings effectively.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8004. Open GeoSpatial Data for Smart Cities

The course Open Geospatial Data for Smart Cities examines the role of geospatial open data in supporting urban innovation and smart city development. It introduces key concepts such as the INSPIRE Directive, spatial data infrastructures (SDIs), and volunteered geographic information (VGI), alongside geospatial standards and mapping tools. Students learn how geodata is managed, shared, and applied in urban contexts, exploring open data initiatives at local and global scales that enable data-driven decision-making, sustainability, and smarter urban governance.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)

- Written Exam (60%)

8005. Digital Collaborative Governance

The course Digital Collaborative Governance focuses on participatory and inclusive approaches to open data and digital governance. It explores citizen engagement, e-participation, and collaborative innovation methods such as hackathons, living labs, and citizen science initiatives. Students learn how to design, manage, and evaluate participatory processes that enhance data ecosystems through crowdsourcing, collective intelligence, and open service co-creation. Emphasizing inclusiveness and collaboration, the course prepares students to foster transparent, citizen-driven governance models, with assessment based on participation, assignments, and a final written exam.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8006. Open Data II

The course Open Data II provides an advanced exploration of the open data lifecycle, focusing on the management, sustainability, and quality of data within broader ecosystem contexts. It covers key concepts such as metadata standards, data quality assurance, storage and warehousing principles, and the use of APIs for data access and integration. Students learn how to manage open data from creation to long-term preservation and reuse, while examining strategies that support interoperability, scalability, and sustainable data practices across diverse domains.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8007. Research Methods and Thesis Seminar

The course Research Methods and Thesis Seminar provides the methodological and epistemological foundation for conducting MSc-level research. It introduces both quantitative and qualitative research methods, data analytics techniques, and case study design, while emphasizing academic writing and research ethics. Through practical workshops, students develop their thesis proposals and design open-data-based experiments or policy evaluations, preparing them to undertake independent, rigorous, and impactful research.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading

- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8000. Diploma Thesis

The diploma thesis is the final project of the programme, enabling students to conduct an independent, research-paper oriented or applied project that demonstrates interdisciplinary integration of knowledge. Drawing on the theoretical, technical, and ethical foundations developed throughout the programme, students address a complex real-world problem or research question related to open data ecosystems. The project is completed under academic supervision and may involve collaboration with external partners or organisations, showcasing the student's ability to apply open data principles in practice.

B. ELECTIVE COURSES

8008. Open Data Infrastructures and Interoperability

The course Open Data Infrastructures and Interoperability focuses on the technical and semantic foundations that enable open data to be shared and reused across platforms and domains. It introduces key frameworks and standards such as APIs, DCAT, RDF, and Linked Data, as well as FAIR-aligned best practices for data cataloguing and metadata management. Students learn how to design and evaluate interoperable data systems, exploring both technical and semantic interoperability through the use of ontologies, vocabularies, and semantic mapping.

Practical work includes analysing interoperability across open data portals, with a focus on real-world applications and cross-domain data integration.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual assignments are taken into account. Grading

- Individual Assignments (30%)
- Written Exam (70%)

8009. AI and Disruptive Technologies for Open Data

The course AI and Disruptive Technologies for Open Data explores how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and natural language processing (NLP) can improve the quality, discoverability, and interoperability of open data. Students learn about automated metadata generation, data enrichment, and other advanced methods that enhance open data management and reuse. The course also examines human–machine collaboration in addressing open data challenges, as well as the role of blockchain and decentralised technologies in ensuring data traceability, transparency, and integrity.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual assignments are taken into account. Grading

- Individual Assignments (30%)
- Written Exam (70%)

8010. Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Data Ecosystems

The course Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Data Ecosystems explores how open data drives innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable value creation. It examines business and governance models that support collaboration between public and private sectors, highlighting strategies for developing data-driven products and services. Students learn about digital innovation thinking, data-based decision-making, and entrepreneurial approaches that promote transparency, accountability, and social impact. Through case studies and practical assignments, they apply these concepts to real-world challenges in digital and open data ecosystems.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in

the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8011. Open Data Applications and Case Studies

The course Open Data Applications and Case Studies explores how open data is applied across various sectors, including health, environment, cultural heritage, smart cities, and data journalism. It examines domain-specific data models, standards, and challenges, showing how open data can drive innovation, improve services, and inform policy. In this practice-based module, students actively engage with an existing open data ecosystem—such as a governmental, civic, or sectoral platform—by contributing to data publication, curation, or reuse. Through this hands-on experience, they analyse real-world governance models, stakeholder interactions, and the practical factors that shape open data use.

The evaluation results from the student's presence in the course, active participation in discussions and in the weekly course development. For the final evaluation, the performance in the final, written exam and the performance in individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (20%)
- Group Project (20%)
- Written Exam (60%)

8012. Internship

Internship at academia or industry - associated companies and/or public bodies. The course aims to provide the student with practical training in the knowledge and skills acquired from the MSc through their participation in the industry or public bodies working with open data, policy, and technologies in practice.

Grading
- Individual Assignments (100%)

8013. Summer School

The International Summer School on Digital Government takes place on the island of Samos and focuses on Technologies and Applications for Government 3.0, a really growing, diverse

and challenging domain. The Summer School on Government 3.0 is organized by the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean and provides a unique opportunity for participants and students of the MSc programme to interact with internationally acclaimed scientists and researchers in the domain of ICT-enabled Governance, to develop their skills in the areas of open data, AI, policy modeling, information management, disruptive technologies in governance, and more.

Grading

- Individual Assignments (100%)

Services offered to the Students

The Postgraduate Program provides its postgraduate students with a set of electronic services to serve their academic activities.

Websites

The central point of information and posting of announcements is the website of the Postgraduate Program (https://msc.icsd.aegean.gr/en/masters/opendata), the website of the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering (ICSD) (https://www.icsd.aegean.gr/tmima_en) and the website of the University of the Aegean (https://www.aegean.gr/).

E-mail

The University of the Aegean provides students with an e-mail account, which they can use as their personal electronic address. The Department Secretariats and other University Services use this address to communicate with students. E-mail can be managed via the e-mail management website.

In addition, students have access to a wireless network (Eduroam).

Zoom platform

The Zoom teleconferencing application allows up to 100 people to connect simultaneously and exchange images and audio. Participants can access it from any device with an internet connection, such as a computer, tablet, or mobile phone. The services provided through the application include video webinars, Zoom rooms, screen sharing, use of an online whiteboard and chat, and allow for unlimited online meetings for courses or other activities.

Electronic Secretariat (student registry)

The Electronic Secretariat application is the information system through which students can access the services of the Department Secretariat via the web. Through the electronic secretariat, they can:

- · register for each semester at the Department
- · declare their courses for each semester

- · check their course grades

· submit requests to the Secretariat for the issuance of certificates (issuance of study certificates, issuance of detailed grades certificates, certificates for insurance agencies, tax authorities, parents' employers, military service, etc.)

Students use the Uni-Student (UniverSis)

Infrastructure supporting distance learning

Microsoft TEAMS

For supporting synchronous teaching, the University of the Aegean has installed the Microsoft Teams platform, which is the centrally supported solution. The Microsoft Teams platform can support synchronous teaching for an audience of up to 250 people in real time through the Microsoft Teams Meetings feature. In addition, the University has a limited number of shared licenses for the Microsoft Live Events subsystem, through which a lesson can be broadcast to a large audience in near real time.

For the timely preparation and participation of lecturers and postgraduate students in distance synchronous teaching, registration with the DILOS365 service (Section 0) using their institutional account is required.

The Big Blue Button (BBB) platform

The Big Blue Button (BBB) platform is an open-source teleconferencing system designed for online teaching and learning. It can be used for online seminars, courses, group work, etc. Instructions for using the BBB platform are provided by the Electronic Services of the University of the Aegean at https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/tilekpaidefsis/odigies- platformas-bbb.

 eClass Platform

The eClass platform is a comprehensive Electronic Course Management System. It follows the philosophy of open-source software and supports asynchronous and synchronous distance learning without restrictions or commitments. The service can be accessed using a simple web browser without the need for specialized technical knowledge.

The Open eClass platform has a modern and adaptive user interface based on Bootstrap 3X, so it can be adapted to the screens of different devices, including computers, tablets, and smartphones. The platform is compatible with international standards (SCORM, IMSCP), which ensure the reusability, accessibility, and resilience of educational material to technological changes, as well as interoperability between e-learning systems.

The main features of the platform are:

- · Creation and management of e-courses
- · User management
- · Educational content management
- · Information, communication, and collaboration tools
- · Assessment and feedback tools

All students (undergraduate and postgraduate) of the University of the Aegean have access rights, while only faculty members and teaching staff with a permanent position at the institution have the right to create courses (Special Teaching Staff, Special Technical Laboratory Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff).

Moodle distance learning platform

The Moodle platform is a comprehensive e-learning management system. It follows the philosophy of open-source software and supports asynchronous and synchronous distance learning without restrictions or commitments. The service can be accessed using a simple web browser without the need for specialized technical knowledge. The platform, which includes collaboration capabilities via BBB or Zoom, allows courses to be conducted using the synchronous distance learning method. The main features of the platform are:

- Creation and management of online courses
- User management
- Educational content management
- Information, communication, and collaboration tools
- Assessment and feedback tools.

All students (undergraduate and graduate) of the University have access rights, while only Faculty members and teaching staff with permanent positions at the University (Special Teaching Staff, Special Technical Laboratory Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff) have the right to create courses.

Guide for the Activation of Electronic Services of the Postgraduate Program and the Academic Unit

Create and Manage an Institutional Account

The Information Technology and Communications Service (YPE) of the University of the Aegean (UO) provides members of the academic community with access accounts to the University's data network.

Beneficiaries of accounts are lecturers (faculty and 407), students (undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral candidates), University employees (permanent, IDAX, project contractors), employees of the University's research programs.

Requests for the creation of access accounts are forwarded to the Ministry of Health in the following ways only:

- Postgraduate Students – PhD Candidates: At the beginning of each academic year through the Secretariat after the end of the registration period.

Each beneficiary maintains only one access account. Secretariats and agencies do not maintain access accounts. (E-mail accounts that may be maintained by these services are always forwarded to a mailbox of an account belonging to a natural person).

The YPE creates the accounts and communicates to the users all the necessary information required to access the University's data network. The assignment of names to the accounts (decision of the Rector's Council - meeting number 100/24.09.2001), follows specific rules of nomenclature

When creating the accounts, the YPE assigns one-time passwords, consisting of a random sequence of characters that users are asked to change the first time they log in to the system. Passwords must have a specific duration (2 months), after which users must enter a new password, for security reasons

Password rules

As of Tuesday 01.06.2021, the following applies to passwords:

- · The password will have a duration of 180 days from the last change
- · 30 days before the change, a relevant information message will appear when accessing the email via https://webmail.aegean.gr

· After the end of the 180 days and if the user has not changed the password, he/she will not have access to the electronic services of the University of the Aegean network

The new password must meet the following requirements:

- · Minimum length of 11 characters
- · Contain at least 3 of the following character categories

  o At least one lowercase letter of the Latin alphabet **[a-z]** o At least one uppercase letter of the Latin alphabet **[A-Z]** o At least one numeric **digit [0-9]**

  o At least one special character such as the following **()!@#$^&*,.? -+_={}[]**

- · It must not contain characters of the Greek alphabet
- · Not contain part of the user's name
- · It must not contain common words or continuous characters (e.g. test, password, qwerty, 1111, aaaa, etc.)

· Not previously used as a password in your account at the University of the Aegean (password history check)

On page https://ype.aegean.gr/generatesecurepassword you can find recommended secure passwords that meet the above requirements.

All users who have not recently changed their password should do so, in order not to have problems using the offered electronic services. Below you will find the two ways you can change your password.

Through the **https://password.aegean.gr** page

You will enter https://password.aegean.gr address https://password.aegean.gr/, where you will log in by putting your username in your Username by adding @aegean.gr and the Current Password you are using. Whatever your email is (e.g. username@les.aegean.gr) you will log in as a username@aegean.gr.

You'll then select Change **Password**, and there are options available to set up your account. As you type the New Password, it will show you its security level depending on its complexity. You can see the password you have entered by selecting the button with the symbol 👁 . As soon as you re-enter the new password in the Password Confirmation, as long as you have met all the above conditions, the **Change Password** button will become active and you can press it.

A hold message will appear, followed by a success message.

You can select the **Password Reset Response Settings** to reset the password in case of loss.

You will select a question from the items in the list and type the answer just below in the field with the symbol **".** You can see the answer you have typed by selecting the button with the symbol 👁 . When you have completed all the questions the **Save Answers button** will become active and you can press it. Finally, you will select **Confirm Answers and Continue**.

By e-mail https://webmail.aegean.gr

You will enter https://webmail.aegean.gr addresshttps://webmail.aegean.gr/, where you will log in by entering your username and the Current Password you are using in your Username. On the top right side, you will select the button with the symbol ⚙ and from the **Options menu**.

From the menu on the left, you will select **General** and **My account**. At the bottom right is the option **Change your password**.

You will first need to enter your current password. You will then enter your New password, according to the above conditions and confirm your new password, and then select Save at the top **left**. In case the password requirements are not met, an error message will appear. If the password change is successful, you will log out of the webmail and you will have to log in again with the new password.

Support Services for Postgraduate Students of the University of the Aegean

Online Student Services Website

Free commercial software for educational use is available through https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/eypiresies-student_page, which includes instructions for each available software. Please note that the availability of the software depends on the Department of study.

Wireless Network Services and Virtual Local Area Networks (VPNs)

For some services or the use of software, a connection to the network of the University of the Aegean is required. This is also possible remotely, from a personal computer, using the Virtual Local Area Network VPN Service provided by the Network Center of   the University, following the instructions on https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/vpncon page

Access is available to the pan-European wireless network Eduroam, which operates in a large number of academic and research institutions in Greece and Europe (https://ype.aegean.gr/yphresiesdiktioudedomenwn/wifi/wifi-eduroam).

Support Services for Postgraduate Students from External Bodies

In addition to the services of the University of the Aegean, the institutional account gives access to services provided by external bodies that may be needed during the studies, such as the following:

Other services of the National Infrastructures for Research and Technology: https:/grnet.gr/education/

Services of the Academic Unit

Catering of Postgraduate Students

In all the academic units of the University of the Aegean, on all six islands, there are dining halls, which provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. The halls operate daily and on weekends and holidays, from September 1st to June 30th of each academic year, except for the Christmas and Easter holidays.

The University of the Aegean provides the right to free meals to a certain number of students. This number depends on whether or not the applicants meet the criteria set by the Law but also on the amount of the relevant fund of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

However, students who are not entitled to free meals are also given the opportunity to use the dining halls, regardless of social and economic criteria, by paying the amount of two euros and seventy cents (€2.70) per day for all three (3) meals.

Greek legislation sets conditions on the basis of which potential beneficiaries of free meals are selected, while also setting the criteria for ranking beneficiaries in order of priority. Based on this ranking, free meals are provided to the number of students allowed by the budget.

At the University of the Aegean, in addition, a **process of continuous renewal** (every 15 days) of the list of beneficiaries is applied, so that students who do not make use of their right to free meals are replaced by runners-up students.

Applications for free meals are submitted electronically to the special information system, throughout the academic year. It is not required to submit supporting documents in printed form to the Student Welfare Offices.

Applications for free meals/accommodation as well as the required supporting documents are submitted only electronically. The supporting documents are entered into the system as files in PDF format.

Active students, undergraduates, postgraduates, doctoral candidates are entitled to free meals, as long as they do not already hold a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree respectively and are:

· **Single persons under 25** years of age with a family income of less than €45,000. This limit is increased by €5,000 for each additional child in the family. In addition, it is increased by €3,000 per additional child of the family who is an active student.

· **married** people with an income of less than €45,000. This limit is increased by

€5,000 for each minor child in the family.

· **Single people over 25** years old with an income of less than €25,000.

The case-by-case amounts are reduced by 10% in case the family's permanent residence and the Department of study are located in the same Municipality.

Special cases

Priority is given to students who:

· They or a parent (for unmarried students who have not exceeded the age of 25) or spouses if they are married, receive unemployment benefit.

· are members of a large family or a family with three living children.

· They have a sibling who is an undergraduate student (to obtain a first degree) who is studying in a city other than the family's permanent residence.

· have lost one or both parents and do not exceed the age of 25.

· are children of an unmarried mother with at least one unidentified child under the age of 25.

· suffer from a serious illness or have a family member (parent, sibling, spouse or child) with a disability.

· They are children of victims of terrorism and do not exceed the age of 25.

The supporting documents must be scanned and converted into digital files in .pdf format and attached to the online application, which is submitted to https://merimna.aegean.gr/sitisistegasi/.

Housing

The University of the Aegean has the possibility of accommodating a certain number of students free of charge on each island. This number depends on the available infrastructure or the amount of the relevant envelope available.

Specifically, the University of the Aegean has 672 beds for the accommodation of students, distributed by the University Unit (163 in Lesvos). The application period for free housing begins each year with the start of the submission of income tax returns and ends on a date determined by the Central Directorate of Studies & Student Welfare. The right to free housing applies to the current academic year. Those who have been selected as beneficiaries must submit a new application and supporting documents for the renewal of the right to free housing. The new application submission aims to update the data of each candidate as well as the ranking order of the interested parties, after the departures of graduates and the arrival of freshmen. First-year students apply upon enrollment. The lists of beneficiaries of free housing and runners-up are announced in the first ten days of October, after the completion of the registrations of first-year students. Beneficiaries of free housing retain their right until June 30 of the current academic year and from September 1 to September 30 of the following academic year.

The following have the right to submit an application for free housing:

· Active undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students, as long as they do not already hold a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree respectively.

· The above students who themselves or their family do not own a house or have the usufruct of a house in the city where their school is based and at a distance of less than 40 kilometers

from it and their place of permanent residence (owned or leased) is at a distance of more than 40 kilometers from the headquarters of their Department.

Medical Care

Undergraduate and postgraduate students and doctoral candidates, who do not have other medical and hospital care, are entitled to full medical and hospital care in the National Health System (NHS) with the relevant costs covered by the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (EOPYY), in accordance with article 33 of Law 4368/2016 (A' 83). The terms, conditions and procedure for the provision of care are determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Finance, Education, Research and Religious Affairs and Health.

Student Housing Allowance

Electronic applications for the granting of the housing allowance **are submitted** through the website of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious **Affairs https://stegastiko.minedu.gov.gr**, in the special application for the housing allowance. A prerequisite for submitting the application is that the student for whom the allowance is granted must be a Greek citizen or a citizen of another European Union country, to hold an Academic Identity Card in validity and also be a holder of a Tax Identification Number. It is clarified that citizenship concerns only the person of the student and not the person's parents or guardians.

University of the Aegean Library
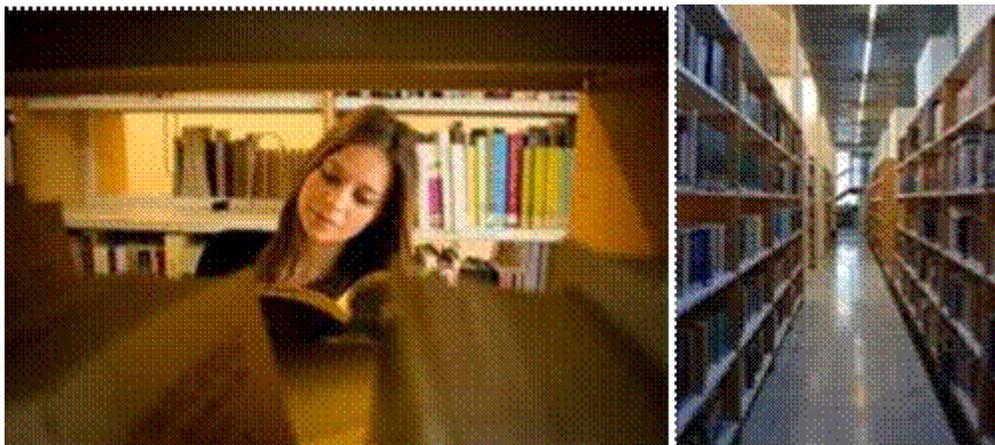
 Since its inception (1986), the Library has successfully responded to the challenge of reconciling the countervailing trends imposed by the geographical dispersion of its Branches and the need for a single Library Service with a common policy on library science and material processing and on issues of strategy, planning and development.

The objectives of the Library are not limited to the classic aspirations of an Academic Library, i.e. to support and treat the educational and research process of the members of the Academic Community,

but, due to the peculiarities of the area in which it operates (rich intellectual and cultural tradition), they also extend to the promotion, promotion and preservation of the intellectual wealth of the Greek archipelago.

At the same time, the Library aspires to remove the geographical isolation of the Aegean islands, providing its users with modern information services in order to become a Library-Information Center, not only of the University of the Aegean, but of the Aegean area as a whole. The Mytilene Library Branch has been operating since 1986 in parallel with the opening of the University of the Aegean in Mytilene and from July 2025 it is housed in the new buildings of the School of Social Sciences on University Hill.

The Library's collection of printed documents consists of approximately 180,000 volumes of books and 58 subscriptions to scientific journals related to the disciplines of the six (6) Faculties and the eighteen (18) Departments of the University of the Aegean. The Library also maintains special collections, such as the Grey Bibliography (i.e. bachelor's and diploma dissertations, postgraduate theses, doctoral dissertations, technical reports), audiovisual media, databases and statistical publications, while in its Branches there are thematic collections that have come from donations.

Material is classified using the DEWEY decimal classification system, cataloged according to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2, and subject indexing is done based on the Library of Congress's Thematic Headings.

The material is placed in open access bookshelves. The search for the material is done from the online Catalog of the Library Automation System (V-Smart 5.0), either at the special terminals that exist for this purpose within the Library, or from the workplace of each user who has access to the Library Portal. Also, through the unified search engine of electronic sources of HEAL-Link, it offers the possibility of a single search to all active subscriptions of HEAL-Link (electronic journals and books), as well as to the archives of electronic journals of previous years. Access is controlled through the institution's declared IP addresses and through users' institutional accounts.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The University of the Aegean provides the possibility of issuing the European Health Insurance Card (E.K.A.A.) for postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Program, who move to European Union countries and do not have other medical and hospital care.

Counseling Center

The University of the Aegean, constantly aiming to support the members of the University community and especially its students to complete their studies smoothly, tries to provide multiple services among them the psychosocial care services. Within this framework, the "Network of Counseling and Psychological Support Centres" with its administrative headquarters in Mytilini, was established by decision of the Senate No. 17 on the date of 04.06.2008. The Network, through the establishment of 6 branches in its respective units, provides the students with counseling services and primary psychosocial support, as well as the employees at the University and the local community and moreover handles educational needs

and research programs in collaboration with other agencies, in matters of psychosocial needs, clinical and counseling psychology.

Teaching and Learning Support Center (KEDIMA)

The purpose of the Support for Teaching & Learning Center of the University of the Aegean is, among other things, to ensure the ongoing support, empowerment and improvement of the teaching and learning process as well as the provision of specialized services, placing the educational and pedagogical work of the academic community, on the basis of the constantly evolving European Higher Education Area

and the principles of the Lifelong Learning Center for the benefit of the student community. Additional details are provided in the website: https://tlso.aegean.gr/office-description.php?lang=gr.

Obligations and Rights of Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate students have the rights and obligations as defined in the Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral programs of the Institution.

Mobility of postgraduate students

Any transfer of postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Program for studies is carried out in accordance with the Erasmus+ Mobility Regulation.

Academic Study Advisor

For the qualitative upgrading of the operation of the postgraduate program, the institution of the Academic Study Advisor has been established and operates, focusing on the postgraduate student and considering that he or she will contribute decisively to his academic and subsequent professional career. For more information on the institution of the Academic Study Advisor see the Institutional Regulation for the Academic Studies Afvisor.

Mechanism for the Management of Complaints and Objections of Postgraduate Students

The adoption of the regulation for the management of requests and/or complaints of postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Programs, aims to upgrade the quality of the operation of postgraduate programs, focusing on the respect of all those involved in the educational process, but even more so of its recipients to whom it must be accountable. Therefore, in the context of the principles of transparency and accountability and in order to

strengthen the student-centered educational process, the University issued internal rules of the "Complaints – Recommendations" service for postgraduate students, which describe in detail the process of managing requests/complaints as well as the parties involved.

Evaluation of postgraduate students

Description of the Learning Outcomes Assessment System

The evaluation of the performance of postgraduate students is an integral part of the educational process, connects teaching with learning and the assessment of the achievement of learning outcomes and takes place throughout the academic semester. Postgraduate students have the opportunity to participate in each academic year in two examination periods (at the end of the first and second academic semesters), as defined each time in the Academic Calendar of the Institution. In each examination period, the student has the opportunity to re-examine any courses he/she has not successfully completed, at a time to be determined in the context of the same examination period.

The Regulation of Operation provides for the path of decision-making by the competent bodies in cases of unsuccessful examination of postgraduate students.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are the formulations of everything that learners know, understand and can do after the completion of the learning process. Essentially, the learning outcomes of a course are:

> · the knowledge, theoretical and/or practical acquired
>
> · skills, understanding and utilization of knowledge
>
> · competences, documented competence in the use of the knowledge and skills acquired, that postgraduate students should know, have, be able to demonstrate, respectively, after the successful completion of the course.

In the context of the student-centered approach to teaching that is followed, learning outcomes are at the heart of the learning process, their achievement is measurable, evaluated and determines the performance of postgraduate students in each educational component. At the beginning of the courses, postgraduate students are informed about the expected learning outcomes of each course, about the evaluation system, as well as the evaluation criteria of each course by the lecturers and are encouraged to be informed further details about the procedure and the type of examinations from the outline of each course which is posted on the website of the Department.

Evaluation System

The process of evaluating students per educational activity will be carried out with distance methods such as:

· Quizzes with short answer questions

· Tests (Quizzes) with extended answer questions

· Evaluation of a written paper/report/project (bibliographic topics, independent case studies, problem solving in hypothetical scenarios, etc.)

· Evaluation of laboratory / practical exercises

· Evaluation of participation in the learning process in the context of theoretical or seminar courses and in forums of the Postgraduate Program.

· A combination of two or more of the above methods.

The determination of the way and procedure for the evaluation of students in a course is the sole responsibility of the instructor, to whom the Assembly has assigned the teaching of the course.

The evaluation and grading in each course are done in complete independence from the other courses and is a derivative of the objective assessment of the student's performance in the specific course (assignments, exams, etc.). The evaluation criteria are clearly defined; they are communicated at the beginning of the academic semester by the instructor in charge/coordinator of the course and are also indicated in the description form (outline) of each course that is posted on the website of the M.Sc.Postgraduate Program.

The final grade of each course results from the student's total performance in specific areas (e.g. assignments, examinations) according to the instructions provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The minimum acceptable course grade is five (5.00), with a maximum of ten (10.00), with the possibility of grading in the form X.5. Each course included in the curriculum, as well as the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis, is graded independently.

Especially for the written papers prepared in the context of each course, these are evaluated on the basis of criteria of the perfect selection of bibliographic sources, the scientific correctness of the analysis of existing knowledge, the deepening of the field, the range of coverage of the subject, the accuracy in the description, the coherent structure and clear depiction of the arguments of the final text, the overall scientific maturity of the work, the conformity of the appearance and contents of the work with the relevant instructions. The evaluation criteria are further specified and analyzed, where necessary, in the presentation of the instructors during the first lecture of the course.

The feedback on the degree of satisfaction of postgraduate students with the criteria and the method of evaluation is obtained from the evaluation questionnaires of postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Program.

The Postgraduate Diploma Theses are evaluated on the basis of the criteria of the perfect selection of bibliographic sources, the scientific correctness of the analysis of existing knowledge, the depth in the field, the range of coverage of the topic, the accuracy in the description, the coherent structure and clear depiction of the arguments, the elements of research contribution and production of new knowledge in the scientific field, the overall

scientific maturity of the work, the compliance of the presentation and the contents of the paper with the relevant instructions, as well as the completeness and maturity of the oral presentation, the consistency in the available time and the scientifically correct response of the postgraduate student to questions of the Examination Committee. The grading criteria of the M.Sc. thesis include:

Grade [9-10]

· Demonstrates an excellent understanding of all major subjects
· The relevant literature has been fully researched and critically evaluated
· Advanced ability to use theory in approaching practical problems (where appropriate)

· Highly informative interpretation of findings with critical awareness of both possibilities and limitations

· Accurate use of tables and shapes

· Well-selected and up-to-date references used in the appropriate places
· Complete and well-formed bibliography
· Highly organized and well-developed thesis within the word limit. Grade

[8-9)

· Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the important issues

· The relevant literature has been satisfactorily researched and evaluated
· Ability to sophisticated use of theory in approaching practical problems
· The important issues arising from the issue are identified and addressed in whole or in part

· Without significant factual or interpretative errors

· Perfect and effective use of tables and shapes
· Well-selected and up-to-date reports used in the right places
· Perfect organization and logical structure throughout the thesis within the word limit.

Grade [7-8)

· Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of important issues with some gaps or inadequacies

· The literature has been researched to an acceptable level, but not beyond that

· Satisfactory ability to use theory in approaching practical problems (where appropriate)

· Some important issues arising from the issue are identified and addressed

· Few factual or interpretative errors that indicate misinterpretation of the literature

· Tables and shapes basically appropriate

· Appropriate citations with some omissions and acceptable use of the bibliography

· Logical structure with occasional contradictions within the word limits. Grade

[5-7)

· Demonstrates a less than satisfactory understanding of the important issues

· He partially researched the literature, but left significant gaps

· Limited ability to relate research to practical problems (where appropriate)

· Important issues arising from the topic are not addressed enough

· Some serious factual or interpretative errors that indicate misunderstandings of the main material

· Improper or incomplete use of tables and shapes

· Inappropriate or incomplete references

· Presentation, pagination, title, margins and paragraphs not as specified in the relevant instructions.

Grade [1-4] (unsuccessful)

· Demonstrates an inability to understand the important issues

· The literature has been insufficiently researched, highlighting knowledge gaps

· Very limited ability to relate research to practical problems (where appropriate)

· Little to none of the important issues arising from the issue are identified and presented

· Serious factual and interpretative errors

· Improper or incomplete use of tables and shapes

· Inappropriate or incomplete references

· Careless presentation, inadequate care for pagination, title, margins and paragraphs.

Grade 0

· No work submitted

Adaptation of the Assessment System for Postgraduate Students with Serious Illnesses and Learning Difficulties

In addition to the above, postgraduate students who submit to the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program diagnostic certificates that prove health problems, such as vision, hearing, mobility problems, dyslexia or other disorders and make it difficult for them to participate in written or oral examinations, special care is taken to facilitate and adapt the examination process in accordance with the respective legislative framework and the support of the instructors:

· provision of additional examination time, as appropriate

· Oral exam for postgraduate students who are unable to write or have difficulty writing or need support during the exam or have difficulty participating in group oral exams

· Differentiation of the visual presentation of the questions by proportionally enlarging the letters, depending on the case of visual impairment

· reading the questions where required

· use inverters when required

· additional facilities for postgraduate students with mobility disabilities, within the framework of the equipment and infrastructure available to the University of the Aegean.

Procedures and Criteria for the Selection of Teaching Staff

Each course is taught by one or more instructors. In each course, the Assembly appoints an instructor as the coordinator of the course.

The teaching assignment to the Postgraduate Program is made in accordance with the provisions of article 83 of Law 4957/2022 and is decided by the Assembly of the Department, following a recommendation of the C.C.

The specific conditions and the procedure for invitation from the country or abroad, as well as the specific terms of employment and any matter related to the instructors who belong to the categories of cases e), f) and g) of par. 1 of article 83 of Law 4957/2022 will be determined by a decision of the Assembly and within the framework of the current legislation.

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, auxiliary teaching work may be assigned to doctoral candidates of the Department or the School, under the supervision of an instructor of the Postgraduate Program.

Graduation ceremony

The recognition and awarding of Postgraduate Diplomas take place in person in a special ceremony before the Rector, the Dean, and the Chair of the Department, or their representatives. The names of the graduates are approved by the Assembly of the Department, which ascertains the successful completion of the studies in order to be awarded the Postgraduate Program Degree.

In exceptional cases of inability to be physically present for serious reasons (e.g. for health reasons, personal reasons, etc.), at the request of the interested graduate submitted to the Secretariat of the Department up to one day before the ceremony, the graduate may participate in an oath-taking/confession ceremony remotely held on the day of the live ceremony or on a subsequent day by decision of the Dean, in consultation with the Head of the Department (decision of the No. 27/07.02.2023 Meeting of the Senate - Government Gazette 1001/B/23.02.2023).

The text of the confession / oath for graduates who obtain a Postgraduate Program Degree is determined by decision of the Senate of the University of the Aegean.