



UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN



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

Regulation

Joint Postgraduate Program
entitled

"Open Data and Collaborative Governance"

Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, School of Engineering,
University of the Aegean and
the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino, Italy

*as approved by the 45th Senate meeting_20.02.2026 and the decision of the meeting of the
Department Assembly No. 6/22.01.2026*

Samos, March 2026

CHAPTER A – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1 – General Principles

The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean, as coordinator of the consortium, in collaboration with the School of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino, is organizing and operating, starting in the 2026-2027 academic year, a Joint Master's Program entitled "Open Data and Collaborative Governance," in accordance with the provisions of this decision and Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette 141/21.07.2022, vol. A), as applicable.

This regulation was approved during the 45th Senate meeting_20.02.2026 and the decision of the meeting of the Department Assembly No. 6/22.01.2026.

The program operates in accordance with Law 4957/2022 (Greece) and the corresponding internal regulations of the University of the Aegean and the special cooperation protocol signed by the two institutions, as well as the principles of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) for joint degrees. The regulations apply to all enrolled students, academic staff, administrative staff, and collaborating institutions.

The Joint Master's Program awards a single Joint Master's Degree in Open Data and Collaborative Governance. The master's degree lists all the collaborating institutions/departments. The master's degree is signed by the Rector, the President/Dean, and the Secretary of the relevant department.

Article 2 – Subject matter and academic purpose

The Joint Master's Program entitled "Open Data and Collaborative Governance is part of the strategic planning of the Universities of the Aegean and Camerino, is governed by scientific coherence and aims to further promote knowledge, the development of research and the arts, the fulfillment of educational, research, social, cultural, and developmental needs of the country, and the high level of specialization of graduates in theoretical and applied areas of specific fields of knowledge, specific thematic areas, or sub-areas of the cognitive subjects of the first cycle of studies of the collaborating Departments.

The aim of the Master's Program in Open Data and Collaborative Governance is to prepare professionals to harness the power of open data in combination with advanced processing and analysis technologies, while addressing challenges related to privacy, security, ethics, and law, with the aim of co-creating innovative digital services for businesses and administrations. Given that open data is a critical asset for innovation, transparency, and social development, the Joint MSc in Open Data and Collaborative Governance is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary joint MSc designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge required for the effective management, regulating, and utilizing open data in various fields. This Joint MSc 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 MSc Open Data and Collaborative Governance is a three-semester full-time program that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills through lectures, workshops, case studies, and a final research project. The specific objectives of the MSc are to educate, train, and equip students to achieve the following:

- A solid understanding of the open data landscape and ecosystem, including the creation, management, sharing, and reuse of data in areas such as government, healthcare, finance, education, and environmental sciences.
- Development of legal and ethical frameworks through exploration of the legal, regulatory, and ethical frameworks governing open data, including data protection laws (e.g., GDPR), copyright, and ethical use of data.
- Implementing and promoting data-driven decision-making: Equipping students with the skills needed to leverage open data in decision-making, policy-making, and innovation within organizations and public institutions.
- Application of collaborative governance and citizen science techniques for the co-creation of innovative digital services.
- Strengthening data management skills by developing expertise in data collection, cleaning, visualization, and management, with an emphasis on tools and technologies for open data platforms and repositories.
- Promoting global collaboration by learning about international and cross-sector collaboration in open data initiatives, understanding different governance models, and global data standards.
- Promoting responsible data governance by promoting the development of fair, inclusive, and sustainable data governance frameworks that protect individuals' privacy while maximizing the public benefit of data.

Graduates of the joint master's program "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" will acquire knowledge and be ready to take on leadership roles in the public and private sectors, with career prospects in:

- Data governance and management: Overseeing open data initiatives in government agencies, international organizations, or companies.
- Open data policy advisor: Developing and advising on policies governing the responsible sharing and use of data.
- Data protection officer: Ensuring that organizations comply with data protection laws and managing data protection issues.

- Open data analyst/scientist: Analyzing data sets to draw practical conclusions, particularly in areas such as healthcare, urban development, and environmental monitoring.
- Data science and engineering: Working in technical positions to develop data infrastructures and tools for open data platforms in various fields, such as air quality, agriculture, transport, renewable energy, waste management, etc.

Article 3 – Program Administration

The bodies responsible for the organization and operation of the Joint Master's Program are:

- The Senate of the Institution.
- The Curriculum Committee (C.C.)
- The Steering Committee (SC)
- The Director of the Joint Postgraduate Program.
- The Committee for the Evaluation and Selection of Postgraduate Students

The Senate

The Senate exercises the powers of paragraph 1 of Article 82 of Law 4957/2022

The Curriculum Committee (CC)

The Program Committee consists of faculty members from the collaborating departments and is formed by decision of the Senate, following a recommendation from the assemblies of the collaborating departments. Emeritus professors from the collaborating departments may also participate in the CC, provided that they teach in the Joint Postgraduate Program.

The CC of the Joint Postgraduate Program "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" has a two-year term, consists of five members, and is composed of:

- 3 members of the teaching staff from the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the Polytechnic School of the University of the Aegean
- 2 members of the teaching staff from the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino

Responsibilities of the CC:

1. It sets up committees to evaluate applications from prospective postgraduate students and approves their enrollment in the Joint Postgraduate Program.
2. assigns teaching duties to the instructors of the Joint Postgraduate Program
3. proposes to the Senate amendments to the decision establishing the Joint Postgraduate Program, as well as extensions to the duration of the Joint Postgraduate Program,
4. forms examination committees to examine the theses of postgraduate students and appoints a supervisor for each thesis,
5. verifies the successful completion of studies in order to award the title of the Joint

- Postgraduate Program,
6. approves the report of the Joint Postgraduate Program, following a recommendation by the Steering Committee (SC)

By decision of the CC, the responsibilities of paragraphs 1 and 4 may be transferred to the C.C. of the Joint M.Sc. program.

Steering Committee (SC)

By decision of the Curriculum Committee, a CC is formed for a two-year term, in which the Director of the Joint Postgraduate Program and four (4) members of the Curriculum Committee must participate.

The CC is composed of:

- the Director (Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, School of Engineering, University of the Aegean)
- 2 members of the teaching staff from the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the Polytechnic School of the University of the Aegean
- 2 members of the teaching staff from the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino

The Steering Committee is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the operation of the program.

Responsibilities of the Steering Committee:

1. prepares the initial annual budget of the Joint Postgraduate Program and its amendments and recommends its approval to the Research Committee of the Special Research Fund Account (ELKE)
2. prepares the program's financial report and recommends its approval to the CC
3. approves the expenditure of the Joint Postgraduate Program
4. approves the awarding of scholarships, whether reciprocal or not, in accordance with the provisions of the decision establishing the Joint Postgraduate Program and the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies
5. recommends to the CC the distribution of teaching duties, as well as the assignment of teaching duties to the categories of teachers specified in Article 83
6. recommends to the CC the invitation of Visiting Professors to cover the teaching needs of the Joint Postgraduate Program
7. prepares a draft amendment to the curriculum, which it submits to the CC
8. recommends to the CC the redistribution of courses between academic semesters, as well as issues related to the qualitative upgrading of the curriculum

The Director of the Joint Postgraduate Program

The Curriculum Committee appoints as Director of the Joint Postgraduate Program one (1) of its members for a two-year term, with the possibility of renewal without restriction. The Director comes from the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean.

Responsibilities of the Director:

1. chairs the S.E. and the Curriculum Committee, drafts the agenda and convenes its meetings,
2. proposes issues concerning the organization and operation of the Joint Postgraduate Program to the Academic Council
3. submits to the Joint Program Committee and other bodies of the Joint Program and the University issues related to the effective operation of the Joint Program,
4. is the scientific director of the program and exercises the corresponding responsibilities,
5. monitors the implementation of the decisions of the bodies of the Joint Postgraduate Program and the Internal Regulations of postgraduate and doctoral programs, as well as the implementation of the budget of the Joint Postgraduate Program,
6. exercises any other responsibility specified in the decision establishing the Joint Postgraduate Program

The Committee for the Evaluation and Selection of Postgraduate Students

The Committee consists of at least three members of the teaching staff and is appointed by decision of the CC

The Committee's responsibilities are as follows:

- Evaluation of all submitted documents, in accordance with current legislation and any academic criteria that may have been set (the completeness of the documents is checked by the secretariat of the Joint Postgraduate Program and the Department).
- Checking language proficiency.
- Conducting personal interviews
- Preparation of evaluation and ranking reports for candidates for admission to the Joint Postgraduate Program.

The final ranking of candidates, based on the admission criteria, and the proposal for the selection of candidates based on this ranking, are submitted to the CC for approval.

The CC may establish additional committees where it deems necessary. All proposals or decisions of the committees are approved by the CC

Article 4 – Number of Admissions – Categories of Graduates

The maximum number of students admitted per year is set at 50 postgraduate students.

In the Joint Postgraduate Program, holders of first-cycle degrees from Greek universities and technological educational institutions or recognised foreign institutions in any scientific field and area related to the analysis and management of open data are admitted, with priority given to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), law, social sciences, and economics. Eligible candidates must:

- hold a recognized bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in fields related to ICT, data science, engineering, law, economics, political science, social sciences, or related fields,
- have certified knowledge of English (level B2 or higher),
- submit all required documents (as published in the annual call).

Article 5 – Selection procedures

5.1. Announcement

Each year, following a decision by the Curriculum Committee, a call for applications for admission to the joint postgraduate program is published in an appropriate medium (including the website of the relevant department and institution).

The call specifies the admission requirements, the categories of graduates, the number of places available, the admission method, the selection criteria, the deadlines for submitting applications, and the required supporting documents.

5.2 Submission of applications

Candidates' applications must be accompanied by the supporting documents specified in the call. The application and electronic copies of the supporting documents are submitted via the digital platform designated by the University of the Aegean.

The required supporting documents are:

1. Application form
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Photocopy of degree/diploma or Certificate of Completion of Studies
4. Photocopy of the transcript of undergraduate courses, indicating the degree/diploma grade
5. Publications in peer-reviewed journals, if any
6. Proof of professional or research activity, if any
7. Photocopy of both sides of your police ID
8. Two letters of recommendation
9. Language proficiency certificate (level B2 or higher)

5.3 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

5.4 Preparation of the Evaluation Table

The Evaluation and Selection Committee for Postgraduate Students appointed by the CC prepares the Evaluation Table for candidates and submits it to the CC for approval.

Specifically:

- a) The Selection Committee first compiles a complete list of all applicants.
- b) It rejects candidates who do not meet the minimum formal criteria.
- c) It invites those candidates who meet the minimum formal criteria to an interview. The interview is conducted by the members of the relevant Selection Committee.
- e) It ranks the candidates according to their scores.
- f) Prepares the final selection list.

The final list of successful candidates is approved and validated by the CC and posted on the Department's website.

The CC decides on selection issues in the event of a tie between candidates.

5.5 Registration of selected candidates

Students who are accepted must complete their registration within the deadline announced by the secretariat.

In the event that one or more students do not register, any alternates will be invited to register for the Program, based on their ranking in the approved evaluation table.

CHAPTER B – OBTAINING A POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

Article 6 – Postgraduate Degree

6.1. 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)

6.2. 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 CC before the start of the Program's courses.

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

6.3. Suspension of studies

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

6.3.1. 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.

6.4. 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).

Article 7 – Study Program

7.1. Course Program

The Joint Postgraduate Program begins in the winter semester of each academic year.

To obtain the Master's Degree, students must pass all courses in the program, the successful completion of the master's thesis, the successful completion of the internship or summer school, and the accumulation of 90 credit units (ECTS).

The indicative course schedule per semester is as follows:

FIRST SEMESTER OF STUDIES			
CODE	COURSE TITLE	TYPE OF COURSE Y/E	ECTS
<u>8001</u>	<u>Open Data I</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>

<u>8002</u>	<u>Open Data Policy, Regulation and Ethics</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8003</u>	<u>Data Analytics and Visualization</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8004</u>	<u>Open GeoSpatial Data for Smart Cities</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8005</u>	<u>Digital Collaborative Governance</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL CREDIT POINTS FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER			30
SECOND SEMESTER OF STUDIES			
CODE	COURSE TITLE	TYPE OF COURSE Y/N	ECT S
<u>8006</u>	<u>Open Data II</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8007</u>	<u>Research Methods and Thesis Seminar</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8008</u>	<u>Open Data Infrastructures and Interoperability</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8009</u>	<u>Artificial Intelligence and Disruptive Technologies for Open Data</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8010</u>	<u>Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Data Ecosystems</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>8011</u>	<u>Open Data Applications and Case Studies</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER			30
THIRD SEMESTER OF STUDIES			
COURSE	COURSE TITLE	TYPE OF COURSE Y/N	ECTS
<u>8000</u>	<u>Diploma Thesis</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>8012</u>	<u>Internship</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>8013</u>	<u>Summer School on open government</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>5</u>

TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE THIRD SEMESTER	3
GRAND TOTAL	90

The above curriculum is indicative. The number, type, and content of the courses in the Study Program, as well as their distribution across semesters, may be adjusted by decision of the Study Program Committee in order to ensure the smooth operation of the Joint Master's Program.

A brief description of the courses in the above indicative study program is presented in detail in Appendix 1 of these regulations.

7.2. Language of instruction

The language of instruction for the courses and the thesis is English.

7.3 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.

7.4. 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.

7.5. Course days

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

7.6. Course replacements

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.

7.7. 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 CC following 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

7.8. 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.

Article 8 – Lecturers in the Joint Postgraduate Program/Assignment of course teaching

Each course is taught by one or more instructors. For each course, the CC appoints one instructor as the course coordinator.

The assignment of teaching duties in the Joint Postgraduate Program is decided by the Academic Council, following a recommendation by the Special Committee.

The specific conditions and procedure for inviting domestic or foreign lecturers, as well as the specific terms of employment and any matters relating to lecturers belonging to categories (e), f) and g) of paragraph 1 of Article 83 of Law 4957/2022 shall be determined by decision of the CC and within the framework of the legislation in force.

8.1. Obligations of Teachers

The obligations of teachers include, among other things, the description of the course, the summary content and title of the lectures with a list of relevant bibliography, the method of

examination of the course, supervision of the thesis, and communication with postgraduate students.

Article 9 – Assessment methods

The assessment process for students per educational activity may be carried out through written or oral examinations conducted remotely (mainly through e-class and zoom applications and with specific software for the automatic detection of violations during the examination), as well as alternative methods, such as the submission of assignments, the conduct of practical tests, etc.

The determination of the method and procedure for assessing students in a course is the sole responsibility of the instructor assigned by the CC to teach the course.

The assessment and grading of each course is completely independent of other courses and is based on an objective evaluation of the student's performance in that particular course (assignments, exams, etc.). The assessment criteria are clearly defined, communicated at the beginning of the academic semester by the instructor/course coordinator, and also listed in the course description (outline) form for each course posted on the Joint Postgraduate Program website.

The final grade for each course is based on the student's overall performance in specific areas (e.g., assignments, exams) in accordance with the instructions provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The minimum acceptable grade for a course is five (5.00), with ten (10.00) being the highest.

Article 10 – 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.

Article 11 – 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.

11.1. 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 CC validates 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 CC and 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.

11.2 Language of writing

The language of writing for the postgraduate thesis is English.

11.3 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.

Article 12. 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.

Article 13. Final Grade

The final grade is determined by the grades of the program courses and the grade of the master's thesis, depending on their credit units.

M.Sc. grade = [Course grade (i) x ECTS of course (i)] / TOTAL ECTS

Article 14. Evaluation of the Joint M.Sc. Program

At the end of each semester, each course and each instructor is evaluated by the graduate students, who, in accordance with the provisions of the Institution's internal quality assurance system, evaluate the course as a whole in terms of content, teaching methods, recommended reading, etc. at the end of each course.

The following regular internal and external evaluation procedure has been established at the Institution: At the end of each course, students evaluate the course as a whole in terms of content,

teaching methods, recommended textbooks, etc. through the quality assurance information system of the Quality Assurance Unit of the P.A. According to this procedure, students receive an e-mail with the list of courses they have registered for in the current semester. Each course is a link to the course evaluation questionnaire. The collection and management of student questionnaires is carried out in a modern, user-friendly, and secure electronic environment, which ensures the necessary anonymity.

The Director and all lecturers of the University of the Aegean's Postgraduate Programs have access to the information system, as it provides them with constant updates on the results of the electronic evaluation process for their courses.

At regular intervals (e.g., every two or three years) and under the responsibility of the Director of the Joint Postgraduate Program data is collected to enable comparison of the curriculum and content between the relevant Joint Postgraduate Program and other corresponding Postgraduate Programs offered by institutions in Greece and abroad that are known for their innovation.

The Joint Postgraduate Program is also evaluated as part of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit by the National Authority for Higher Education. In this context, the overall assessment of the work carried out by each Joint Postgraduate Program of the Department, the degree to which the objectives set at its establishment have been achieved, its sustainability, the absorption of graduates into the labor market, the degree of its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the advisability of extending its operation, as well as other information relating to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education (paragraph 1, Article 87, Law 4957/2022).

Article 15. Resources and Financial Management

15.1 Resources (par. 1, Article 84, Law 4957/2022)

The resources of the Joint Postgraduate Program may come from: a) tuition fees, b) donations, sponsorships, and financial support of any kind, c) bequests, d) resources from research projects or programs, e) own resources of the Higher Education Institution (HEI), and f) the state budget or public investment program.

15.2. Financial management (paras. 3 and 4, Article 84, Law 4957/2022)

The resources of the Joint Postgraduate Program are managed by the Special Account for Research Grants (ELKE) of the University of the Aegean and are allocated as follows:

a) an amount corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total revenue from tuition fees is retained by the ELKE. This amount includes the percentage retained by the Special Account for the financial management of the Postgraduate Programs. By decision of the Administrative Council taken by the end of March each year, it is decided whether the remaining amount after deduction of the withholding in favor of the ELKE is transferred to the regular budget or made available for the creation of projects/programs through the ELKE in order to cover, as a priority,

the needs of postgraduate programs that operate without tuition fees and to cover research, programs through the ELKE, with the aim of covering, as a priority, the needs of postgraduate programs that operate without tuition fees and the research, educational, and operational needs of the HEL. The income of the Joint Postgraduate Programmes referred to in points (b) to (d) of paragraph 1 is subject to the withholding in favour of ELKE that applies to income from corresponding sources of funding.

b) the remaining amount of the total revenues of the P.M.S. is allocated to cover the operating expenses of the P.M.S.

Article 16 – Tuition fees -Scholarships and Awards

16.1. Tuition fees

Postgraduate students are required to pay tuition fees.

The total tuition fees for the entire program are set at €6,000.

Tuition fees may be paid in installments: the first installment is paid upon enrollment and the second installment at the beginning of ^{the second} semester, on dates specified by the secretariat.

Tuition fees are paid into the Special Research Fund Account (ELKE), which is responsible for their management.

Postgraduate students are required to pay all their financial obligations on time.

In case of non-compliance with financial obligations, the student may be temporarily suspended or expelled from the Program, following a decision by the CC.

Enrolled students of the Joint Postgraduate Program may be exempted from paying tuition fees, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

16.2. Scholarships and awards

The Joint Postgraduate Program may award a number of scholarships based on academic and other criteria to full-time students, following a decision by the Academic Council, which determines the amount and number of scholarships, the criteria and relevant supporting documents, the procedure for awarding scholarships, and the obligations and rights of scholarship recipients.

The Joint Postgraduate Program may also award prizes to students with exceptional performance, in accordance with criteria and procedures determined by decision of the CC

Article 17. Website of the Joint Postgraduate Program

The Joint Postgraduate Program has a website in English. The official website of the Joint Postgraduate Program is constantly updated and provides all the information about the Program. It is the official information source for postgraduate students. The Academic Calendar of the Joint Postgraduate Program is also posted on the website.

Article 18. Certification and Awarding of Master's Degrees

18.1 Certification

The text of the oath/confirmation is determined by decision of the Senate of the University of the Aegean.

18.2 Master's Degree

Within the framework of the Joint Master's Program, a single Master's Degree (Joint Master's Degree) is awarded in "Open Data and Collaborative Governance."

The Master's Degree is a public document. Its format is specified in the Internal Regulations of the Institution (Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12.2025) . The master's degree lists all the collaborating Institutions/Departments.

Graduates of the Postgraduate Studies Program may be awarded, prior to graduation, a Certificate confirming that they have successfully completed the Program.

Graduates are awarded a copy of their diploma accompanied by the diploma supplement and the transcript of records. The original degree/diploma is kept in the graduate's file.

The diploma and the transcript of grades may also be issued in English.

The graduate is entitled to receive the M.Sc. on parchment, provided that he/she pays the fee set by the competent authorities.

In order to receive either the Master's Degree or a certificate of completion, graduate students must have successfully completed all academic requirements of the Program and paid all financial obligations, as well as any obligations to the Student Welfare Service and the Library of the Institution.

18.3 Diploma Supplement

In accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of Law 3374/2005 and Ministerial Decision F5/89656/B3/13-8-07 (Government Gazette 1466/13-8-2007 vol. B), postgraduate programs must be organized on the basis of a system of credit transfer and accumulation.

Therefore, the Diploma Supplement, which is an explanatory document providing information on the cooperating institutions for the award of the diploma, its nature, and the conditions for its award, must be attached to the Master's Degrees awarded by the University of the Aegean. which

is an explanatory document providing information on the partner institutions for the award of the degree, the nature, level, general educational context, content, and status of the studies that have been successfully completed, and does not replace the official degree or detailed course grades awarded by the institutions. This document is issued automatically and free of charge in Greek and English.

18.4 Awarding of Postgraduate Diplomas

The certification and awarding of Master's Degrees takes place in person at a special ceremony in the presence of the Rector, the Dean, and the Chair of the Department, or their representatives. The names of the graduates are approved by the Academic Council, which verifies the successful completion of their studies in order to award the Master's Degree (paragraph 2, article 82, Law 4957/2022).

In exceptional cases of inability to attend in person for serious reasons (e.g., health reasons, personal reasons, etc.), upon request by the graduate concerned, submitted to the Department Secretariat up to one day before the ceremony, the graduate may participate in the swearing-in/remote confirmation ceremony held on the day of the in-person ceremony or on the following day following a decision by the Dean, in consultation with the Chair of the Department (Internal Regulations of the Institution - Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12.2025).

Article 19. Revocation of Title

A Master's Degree that has been awarded may be revoked or canceled if it is proven that the legal and institutional requirements for its acquisition were not met at the time of its acquisition. Revocation or cancellation is decided by the Study Program Committee, which notifies the Rector of the Institution.

CHAPTER C – OTHER REGULATIONS & SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 20 – Other Regulations.

According to the Special Cooperation Protocol:

- The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean participates in 70% of the development of material, teaching courses, supervising dissertations, and providing equipment and software for the successful implementation of the assigned courses.
- The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean is responsible for the secretarial and administrative support (including technical infrastructure) of the joint Master's Program.
- The Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino participates with 30% of teaching staff, material development, course teaching, thesis supervision, as well as equipment and software for the successful implementation of the assigned courses.

20.1. Material and Technical Infrastructure

In order to meet the teaching and research needs of the postgraduate program, postgraduate students have access to the material and technical infrastructure of the respective department and the University as a whole, in accordance with the applicable legislation and regulations of the two Institutions (library, laboratories, etc.).

20.2. Administrative support for the program

The secretarial coverage of the Joint Postgraduate Program, as well as any technological and financial support, is provided either by existing staff of the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean, or through a recruitment process funded by the budget of the Joint Postgraduate Program.

The secretariat of the Joint Postgraduate Program is responsible for providing secretarial support for the Program, preparing the admission process for candidates, keeping the Program's financial records, providing secretarial support for the Special Committee, recording grades, etc.

20.3. Awards of Excellence

The University of the Aegean has established Awards of Excellence for postgraduate students, which are announced periodically and cover all the scientific fields covered by the Institution. The aim is to encourage research efforts at the postgraduate level that lead either to presentations at recognized international conferences or publications in reputable scientific journals and which contribute significantly to promoting the research character of the Foundation.

20.4. Rights and obligations

Postgraduate students have the rights and corresponding obligations arising from the applicable legislation, the provisions of the Institution's Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Regulations (Annex V of the Institution's Internal Regulations – Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12) and the decisions of the competent administrative bodies.

20.5. Ethics

Participants in postgraduate programs must be familiar with, comply with, and apply the Code of Ethics and Good Practice of the University of the Aegean, as well as any other rules of ethics.

Theses must be original works. References to the works of other authors must be appropriately cited, and the established rules for the use of external sources in scientific writing must be followed. It should be noted that any copying of another author's or creator's work is considered a serious academic offense, is contrary to copyright law, and is subject to the provisions of legal protection.

Article 21. Special Provisions

Any issue that arises in the future that is not covered by the relevant legislation or these Postgraduate Studies Regulations will be addressed by decisions of the competent bodies and, where necessary, by amending the Regulations.

Appendix I: Description of courses (Curriculum)

COMPULSORY COURSES

8001. Open Data I

The Open Data I course provides a comprehensive introduction to the foundations and governance of open data ecosystems. It examines the evolution and key drivers of the open data movement, as well as the FAIR and CARE principles, the 5-star model, and the use of data portals and directories. 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.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group work (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8002. Policies, Regulations, and Ethical Aspects of Open Data

The course "Policies, Regulations, and Ethical Issues for Open Data" offers an in-depth understanding of the legal, regulatory, and ethical dimensions of open data. It examines copyright, licensing models, and key data protection frameworks such as the GDPR and HIPAA, alongside emerging regulations such as the Data Governance Act, the Data Act, PSI Directives, and the Artificial Intelligence Act. Students explore how data policy frameworks and comparative legal systems shape open data practices at the international, regional, and national levels. The course also examines key ethical issues such as privacy by design, anonymization, fairness, and algorithmic accountability, enabling students to address legal compliance requirements and ethical challenges in open data management and reuse.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8003. Data Analysis and Visualization

The Data Analysis and Visualization course equips students with the necessary skills to process, analyze, and communicate information from open data. It covers data curation, cleaning, transformation, and structuring, as well as practical analysis and visualization techniques using tools such as R and Python. Students gain practical experience working with datasets from open data portals, developing dashboards, and applying data storytelling methods to effectively communicate their findings.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8004. Open geospatial data for smart cities

The course "Open geospatial data for smart cities" examines the role of open geospatial data in supporting urban innovation and the development of smart cities. It introduces key concepts such as the INSPIRE directive, spatial data infrastructures (SDI), and voluntary geographic information (VGI), along with geospatial standards and mapping tools. Students learn how geodata is managed, shared, and applied in an urban environment, exploring open data initiatives on a local and global scale that enable data-driven decision-making, sustainability, and smarter urban governance.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (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 examines citizen participation, e-participation, and collaborative innovation methods such as hackathons, living labs, and science policy initiatives. Students learn how to design, manage, and evaluate participatory processes that enhance data ecosystems through crowdsourcing, collective intelligence, and the co-creation of open services. With an emphasis on inclusion and collaboration, the course prepares students to promote transparent, citizen-centered models of governance, with assessment based on participation, assignments, and a final written exam.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. For the final assessment, performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments are taken into account.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8006. Open Data II

The Open Data II course provides an advanced exploration of the open data lifecycle, focusing on data management, sustainability, and quality in broader ecosystems. It covers key concepts such as metadata standards, data quality assurance, storage and archiving 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 various domains.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8007. Research Methodologies

The course "Research Methodologies" provides the methodological and epistemological foundations for conducting research at the postgraduate level. It introduces both quantitative and qualitative research methods, data analysis techniques, and case study design, while emphasizing academic writing and research ethics. Through practical workshops, students develop their thesis proposals and design experiments or policy evaluations based on open data, preparing them to undertake independent, rigorous, and meaningful research.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8000. Thesis

The thesis is the final assignment of the program, which allows students to carry out an independent, research or applied project that demonstrates the interdisciplinary integration of knowledge. Building on the theoretical, technical, and ethical foundations developed during the program, students tackle 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 organizations, demonstrating 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 the sharing and reuse of open data across different platforms and domains. It introduces key frameworks and standards, such as API, DCAT, RDF, and Linked Data, as well as FAIR-compliant best practices for data cataloging 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. The practical assignment involves analyzing interoperability in open data portals, with an emphasis on real-world applications and cross-domain data integration.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly progress throughout the course. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and individual assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (30%)
- Written exam (70%)

8009. Artificial intelligence and new technologies for open data

The course "Artificial Intelligence and New 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 creation, data enrichment, and other advanced methods that improve the management and reuse of open data. The course also examines human-machine collaboration in addressing open data challenges, as well as the role of blockchain and decentralized technologies in ensuring data traceability, transparency, and integrity.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly coursework. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and individual assignments.

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 promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable value creation. It examines business models and governance models that support collaboration between the public and private sectors, highlighting strategies for developing data-driven products and services. Students learn about digital innovation, data-driven decision-making, and business 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.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group assignment (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 in various fields, such as health, the environment, cultural heritage, smart cities, and data journalism. It examines data models, standards, and challenges specific to these sectors, showing how open data can drive innovation, improve services, and inform policy. In this practical course, students actively participate in an existing open data ecosystem—such as a government, political, or sectoral platform—contributing to the publication, curation, or reuse of data. Through this practical experience, they analyze real-world governance models, stakeholder interactions, and practical factors that shape the use of open data.

Assessment is based on student attendance, active participation in discussions, and weekly course progress. The final assessment takes into account performance on the final written exam and performance on individual and group assignments.

Grading

- Individual assignments (20%)
- Group work (20%)
- Written exam (60%)

8012. Practical training

Internship at academic or industrial institutions - partner companies and/or public organizations. The course aims to provide students with practical training in the knowledge and skills they have acquired from the Joint Master's Program through their participation in industrial or public institutions dealing with open data, policies, and technologies in practice.

8013. Summer School

The International Summer School for Digital Governance takes place on the island of Samos and focuses on Technologies and Applications for Governance 3.0, a rapidly growing, diverse, and demanding field. The Summer School for Governance 3.0 is organized by the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean and offers a unique opportunity for participants and graduate students to interact with internationally recognized scientists and researchers in the field of governance using ICT, develop their skills in the areas of open data, artificial intelligence, policy modeling, information management, disruptive technologies in governance, and more.