



EVOLUTIONARY MEDICINE

Democritus University of Thrace
University of Zurich



Quality Policy

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE



ΔΗΜΟΚΡΙΤΕΙΟ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΘΡΑΚΗΣ

DEMOCRITUS
UNIVERSITY
OF THRACE

Department of Humanities

**Quality Policy for the development and the enhancement
of the distance learning PSP
title Evolutionary Medicine**

MAY 2026

QUALITY POLICY OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME: “Evolutionary Medicine”

The Department of Humanities, in cooperation with the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) of Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) and the competent administrative services of the University, has aligned the Quality Policy governing the Postgraduate Programme “Evolutionary Medicine” with the institutional Quality Policy and the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) of DUTH.

The Postgraduate Programme “Evolutionary Medicine” forms part of the strategic planning of DUTH, aiming to advance knowledge, promote research and innovation, and respond to educational, scientific, social, and developmental needs at national and international level. Within this framework, the Programme provides advanced postgraduate education and specialisation in the field of Evolutionary Medicine, building upon the academic foundations of first-cycle studies and responding to contemporary developments in the discipline.

The Programme is delivered entirely or primarily through distance learning methodologies and is committed to implementing a comprehensive Quality Policy that safeguards its academic identity and orientation, supports its academic objectives and learning outcomes, ensures the effective achievement of its strategic goals, and promotes continuous improvement across all aspects of its operation.

The Postgraduate Programme “Evolutionary Medicine”:

Programme Design and Learning Outcomes

- Designs, reviews, and continuously improves its curriculum through transparent procedures and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, ensuring that it:
 - Addresses current scientific, professional, and societal developments in the field of Evolutionary Medicine.

- Achieves clearly defined learning outcomes and qualifications, as specified in the course descriptions, aligned with the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.
- Promotes advanced knowledge, research, and critical thinking in Evolutionary Medicine.
- Provides students with a coherent and comprehensive understanding of evolutionary medicine as an interdisciplinary field, focusing on the relationship between human evolution, biological variation, adaptation, disease processes, host-pathogen interactions, lifestyle and environmental change, bioarchaeology, ancient biomolecules, public health perspectives, and the historical and cultural dimensions of health and disease, appropriate to postgraduate level study.

Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning (Distance Learning)

- Implements quality assurance procedures in full alignment with the Quality Policy of the Department and the University by:
 - Selecting teaching staff in accordance with applicable legislation and academic criteria relevant to Evolutionary Medicine and with proven experience or training in delivering high-quality online and blended learning.
 - Systematically evaluating teaching through semester-based student feedback.
 - Participating in internal evaluation processes coordinated by the QAU-DUTH.
 - Employing a variety of distance learning pedagogical approaches and digital teaching methods, with emphasis on student-centred learning, interaction, and active engagement.
 - Utilizing digital platforms and tools, including learning management systems (LMS), virtual laboratories, collaborative software, simulation tools, and online assessment platforms.
 - Ensuring accessibility of digital resources, supporting students with disabilities, and promoting inclusive learning.
 - Monitoring student progress and providing academic and pedagogical support throughout the duration of studies.

- Encouraging student engagement in research dissemination activities relevant to Evolutionary Medicine, including publications and conference presentations.
- Implementing academic advising mechanisms to support students academically and administratively.
- Promoting a culture of respect, cooperation, transparency, and inclusiveness, while applying established procedures for student complaints and objections management.

Research, Academic Development, and Staff Support

- Supports the quality and impact of academic and research activities by:
 - Encouraging collaboration within the University and with external academic and research organisations in the field of Evolutionary Medicine, nationally and internationally.
 - Supporting participation in national and international conferences, research projects, and academic networks relevant to the Programme.
 - Promoting academic mobility and professional development of teaching staff.
 - Encouraging high-quality research output with international visibility and recognition.
 - Facilitating the integration of research activities into distance learning modules to provide students with hands-on experience and applied knowledge.

Student Services and Learning Support

- Ensures students have equitable access to academic supervision, mentoring, and feedback comparable to on-campus students.
- Provides access to digital libraries, databases, and specialised software tools relevant to the Programme's discipline.
- Promotes student well-being and engagement through online orientation and regular communication from faculty and administrative staff.

Integration, Employability, and Capacity Planning

- Promotes the integration of teaching and research within the academic scope of the

Programme.

- Monitors graduate employability and disseminates career-related information relevant to academic research, doctoral pathways, public health-related work, biomedical and bioarchaeological research, laboratory and museum contexts, and broader interdisciplinary health-related professional fields.
- Determines student intake in accordance with available academic staff, digital infrastructure, and support services, ensuring the provision of high-quality distance education.

Transparency, Information, and Continuous Improvement

- Ensures quality across all levels of Programme operation and undertakes systematic actions for continuous enhancement.
- Publishes the Programme's Quality Policy on its official website and communicates it to all relevant stakeholders.
- Maintains and regularly updates the Programme website as a reliable source of information for current and prospective students.
- Reviews digital tools, teaching practices, and student feedback regularly to improve distance learning effectiveness, engagement, and accessibility.

The Quality Policy of the Postgraduate Programme “Evolutionary Medicine” is publicly available at: <https://evolutionarymedicine.hs.duth.gr/>