

UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

**DISTANCE LEARNING POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME OF STUDY
"M.Sc. Res. IN DIGITAL DEEP TECH DRIVEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY"**

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CHAPTER A: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1. General Principles

The Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the School of Social Sciences of the University of the Aegean establishes and operates, as of the academic year 2026–2027, a Postgraduate Programme of Study (M.Sc.) titled "Digital Circular Economy by Research" (Master of Science by Research (MScRes) in «Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy»), pursuant to the provisions of this Decision and Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette 141/A/21.07.2022), as currently in force.

Article 2. Subject Matter and Purpose of the M.Sc. Programme

The Postgraduate Programme of Study titled "Digital Circular Economy by Research" forms an integral part of the strategic planning of the University of the Aegean. Characterised by scientific coherence, it aims at the further advancement of knowledge, the development of academic research and the arts, and the satisfaction of the educational, research, societal, cultural, and developmental needs of the nation. It provides high-level specialization to graduates across theoretical and applied fields of specific academic disciplines, specialized thematic units, or individual sub-fields within the scope of the Department's first-cycle degree programmes.

The core subject matter of the M.Sc. Programme is the interdisciplinary coupling of advanced digital technologies (Deep Tech) with the fundamental principles of the circular economy. The operation of the M.Sc. Programme is deemed necessary and significant from both a scientific and a societal standpoint, as it actively contributes to addressing contemporary challenges and aligns with strategic priorities at international, European, and national levels. The Programme is specifically structured to equip its graduates with a unique combination of digital and "green" skills. Its primary objective is the reskilling and upskilling of the workforce—encompassing both emerging talent and active professionals—in digital technologies and circular economy practices, thereby narrowing the skills gap and fostering a thriving digital circular economy across the European Union.

The Programme emphasizes applied knowledge, offering a robust bridge between theory and practice: students are trained to design, implement, and evaluate solutions that leverage digital tools to achieve circular economy objectives (e.g., resource utilization optimization, waste reduction, product lifecycle tracking, digital product passports, circular business models). Consequently, the Programme

addresses a critical contemporary academic gap, where knowledge surrounding the circular economy and green policies is rarely integrated with advanced technical methodologies of digital analysis and systems design.

Furthermore, the M.Sc. Programme is professionally oriented: through tailored coursework, laboratory applications, case studies, and corporate/organizational collaborations, it cultivates specialized professional profiles (such as digital transformation managers for circular economy, sustainable production consultants, ESG & sustainability reporting officers, and green innovation specialists). In this manner, theoretical knowledge is translated into transferable skills immediately applicable in the labor market, particularly across industrial sectors such as manufacturing, energy, agriculture, waste management, transport, and construction.

Article 3. Competent Governance Bodies and Committees

The governance, administrative organization, and operation of the M.Sc. Programme are vested in the following statutory bodies and committees:

- The Senate of the Institution.
- The Postgraduate Studies Committee (P.C.C.).
- The Departmental Assembly (General Assembly of the Department).
- The Coordinating Committee (C.C.) of the M.Sc. Programme.
- The Director of the M.Sc. Programme.
- The Candidate Evaluation and Selection Committee.

The specific competencies of these bodies are defined as follows:

3.1. Senate (Para. 1, Article 82, Law 4957/2022)

The Senate is the supreme academic body responsible for academic, administrative, and organizational matters of the M.Sc. Programmes. Specifically, the Senate:

- Approves the establishment or amendment of the founding decision of the M.Sc. Programme.
- Approves extensions to the duration of operation of the M.Sc. Programme.
- Constitutes the Curriculum Committee in cases of inter-departmental, inter-institutional, or joint M.Sc. Programmes.
- Decides upon the termination/abolition of Postgraduate Programmes offered by the HEI.

3.2. Postgraduate Studies Committee (Paras. 1 & 2, Article 79, Law 4957/2022)

Established in every Higher Education Institution (HEI) by decision of the Senate following proposals by the School Deanships, the Postgraduate Studies Committee is responsible for:

- Submitting formal advisory opinions to the Senate regarding the establishment of new postgraduate programmes or the modification of existing ones, following the evaluation of requests submitted by Departmental Assemblies, corresponding feasibility and sustainability reports, and operational costings.
- Formulating draft Regulations for second- and third-cycle studies of the HEI and submitting them to the Senate.
- Drafting model internal operating regulations for postgraduate study programmes.
- Monitoring compliance with the Operating Regulations of postgraduate programmes.
- Overseeing the implementation of applicable legislation, regulations, and decisions of the HEI governance bodies.
- Supervising the application of tuition fee exemption procedures.

3.3. Departmental Assembly (Para. 2, Article 82, Law 4957/2022)

The Assembly of the Department is responsible for the overall organization, administration, and management of the M.Sc. Programme, and specifically:

- Constitutes committees for the evaluation of candidate applications and approves student admissions.
- Assigns teaching responsibilities to the instructional staff of the Programme.
- Submits proposals to the Senate regarding modifications to the establishment decision or extension of the Programme's duration.
- Appoints three-member examination committees for Master's theses and designates supervisors/co-supervisors.
- Verifies the successful completion of studies for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.
- Approves the annual financial and operational report of the Programme, following a proposal by the Coordinating Committee.

3.4. Coordinating Committee (C.C.) (Paras. 1 & 2 Art. 81 & Para. 3 Art. 82, Law 4957/2022)

The Coordinating Committee consists of the Director of the M.Sc. Programme and four (4) members of the Department's Teaching and Research Staff (D.E.P.) who possess relevant academic expertise and undertake teaching duties in the Programme. C.C. members are appointed by decision of the Departmental Assembly for a two-year tenure. The C.C. coordinates operational execution and specifically:

- Drafts the initial annual budget and its amendments, submitting them for approval to the Special Account for Research Grants (E.L.K.E.).
- Prepares the financial report and submits it for approval to the Departmental Assembly.
- Approves Programme expenditures.
- Approves the award of scholarships (reciprocal or non-reciprocal).
- Recommends teaching allocations and assignments to the Departmental Assembly pursuant to Article 83 of Law 4957/2022.
- Recommends invitations to Visiting Professors to meet instructional needs.
- Drafts curriculum modification plans for submission to the Departmental Assembly.

3.5. Director of the M.Sc. Programme (Para. 4 Art. 81 & Para. 4 Art. 82, Law 4957/2022)

The Director is appointed from among the Department's D.E.P. members (prioritizing Full Professors or Associate Professors) by decision of the Departmental Assembly for a renewable two-year term. The Director:

- Chairs the Coordinating Committee, prepares agendas, and convenes meetings.
- Submits proposals concerning Programme organization and operation to the Departmental Assembly.
- Acts as the Scientific Director (Scientific Coordinator) of the Programme pursuant to Article 234 of Law 4957/2022.
- Monitors the implementation of decisions, compliance with regulations, and budget execution.

3.6. Evaluation and Selection Committee (Para. 2a, Article 82, Law 4957/2022)

Composed of at least three (3) D.E.P. members of the Department, this committee evaluates applicant dossiers (checking linguistic competence, conducting interviews, and drafting candidate ranking lists) which are subsequently submitted to the Departmental Assembly for final endorsement.

Article 4. Student Intake Number and Admissible Degree Categories

The maximum annual intake of students is set at two hundred and fifty (250).

Eligible applicants include holders of first-cycle higher education degrees from Greek HEIs (Universities and Technical Educational Institutes) or recognized foreign equivalent institutions. Pursuant to Article 304 of Law 4957/2022, qualification verification relies on the National Registries of Recognized Foreign Higher Education Institutions and Foreign Title Types maintained by DOATAP (Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center).

Graduates from Military Academies (ASEI), the Police Officers Academy, the Fire Academy, and the Hellenic Coast Guard Academy are also eligible. Undergraduate students in their final term may apply conditionally, provided they present proof of degree completion prior to enrollment. All candidates must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English (the language of instruction).

Article 5. Admission and Selection Procedures

5.1. Call for Applications: Published annually at least one (1) month prior to the deadline, detailing entry prerequisites, required documentation, criteria, and selection timelines.

5.2. Submission of Applications: Applications and supporting documentation (CV, degree certificates, transcripts, recommendation letters, English certificate, ID/Passport, research publications/work experience if applicable) are submitted electronically.

5.3. Selection Criteria & Evaluation Phases:

- Phase 1 (Weight: 80%): Preliminary evaluation of documentation. Criteria include Academic Background (30% weight), Skillset (30% weight), and Analytical/Synthetic Ability (20% weight).
- Phase 2 (Weight: 20%): Synchronous or asynchronous remote interview evaluating individual aptitude, academic potential, and overall profile.

5.4. Ranking and Enrollment: The Committee drafts a ranking list for ratification by the Assembly. Successful candidates must enroll within the specified deadline. Tied scores are resolved by admitting all tied candidates.

CHAPTER B: ACQUISITION OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

Article 6. Duration of Study, Suspension, and Deregistration

6.1. Duration of Study

The formal duration is three (3) academic semesters (Full-time). The maximum allowed time for completion is five (5) academic semesters. Specifically, postgraduate students are entitled to one (1) academic semester in addition to the prescribed duration of their studies in order to complete their postgraduate studies. Furthermore, by decision of the Department Assembly upon recommendation of the S.E. of the MSc Program, an extension of the prescribed time limit of (3+1) of these academic semesters may be granted, upon request of the interested parties and only for serious, unexcused reasons, such as professional and health reasons. In any case, the request of the interested party must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documents documenting the request.

6.2. Suspension of Studies

Postgraduate students, upon their application, may request a justified temporary suspension of studies which does not exceed two (2) consecutive academic semesters. The semesters of suspension of student status are not counted towards the maximum duration of regular studies. The possibility of granting a suspension of studies to a postgraduate student is made following their application, a

proposal by the S.E. of the MSc Programm and a decision by the Department Assembly. In their application, the postgraduate student must state the reasons, the period of the requested suspension of studies and attach any relevant supporting documents.

The suspension procedure is analyzed in the following steps:

1. Application by the interested party, at the beginning of the academic year. semester at the Department Assembly, in which the reasons for requesting the suspension will be stated. The relevant supporting documents (if any) are attached to the application.
2. Relevant reasoned decision of the Department Assembly, stating that during the suspension of studies, the student status is revoked and all relevant rights of the student are suspended.

Those postgraduate students who have received an educational leave from their Employer for their studies at the P.M.S. are not entitled to a suspension of studies during the same period.

6.3. Student Expulsion

The Department Assembly, upon a recommendation from the S.E. and after calling the students to express their opinion within the framework of the right to a prior hearing, may decide to expel postgraduate students if:

- they have exceeded the maximum number of absences
- they have failed the examination of a course or courses and have not successfully completed the program
- they have exceeded the maximum duration of study at the Postgraduate School, as defined in this Regulation, unless there are proven serious and exceptional reasons, which are examined on a case-by-case basis by the Assembly
- they have committed an offense falling under the law on intellectual property (Law 2121/93) during the writing of their theses and/or have violated the current provisions regarding the treatment of disciplinary offenses
- they have not paid the prescribed tuition fee in due time, where and as provided
- they have themselves submitted the students submit a request for deletion to the Department Secretariat (in this case the request is automatically approved by the Assembly).

Article 7. Curriculum and Educational Structure

7.1. Structure & Credit Allocation

The Master of Science (MSc) begins in the winter academic semester of each academic year.

A total of ninety (90) credit units (ECTS) are required to obtain a Postgraduate Diploma. During their studies, postgraduate students are required to attend and successfully pass postgraduate courses, to engage in research, and to prepare a Postgraduate Thesis.

The teaching of courses, within the framework of applicable legislation, is carried out using modern distance learning methods, with the aim of promoting equal opportunities and universal access to categories of postgraduate students with restrictions on participation in face-to-face educational

activities (e.g. employees, parents, permanent residents outside the University headquarters, people with mobility difficulties and others).

Educational activities not guided by teaching staff, individual and/or group study and practice of postgraduate students in individual courses, are carried out through their remote access to appropriate asynchronous distance learning system services.

Courses are organized in academic semesters, are held on a weekly basis and are conducted purely in the English language.

The courses offered per academic semester are described below.

Code	Course Title	Type	ECTS
1st Academic Semester (30 ECTS)			
UA-MC1	Introduction to Digital Circular Economy	Compulsory	8
UA-MC2	Circular Economy and Digital Product Passports	Compulsory	8
UA-MC3	Standardisation and EU Regulatory Compliance in Digital Circular Economy	Compulsory	8
UA-TC1	Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Circular Economy Ecosystems	Compulsory	6
2nd Academic Semester (30 ECTS - 2 Compulsory + 1 Elective)			
UA-RC1	Research Methodology	Compulsory	12
UA-RC2	EU Research Funding & Proposal Development	Compulsory	12
UA-EC1	Deep-Tech Driven Energy Transformation	Elective	6
UA-EC2	Circular Economy and Digital Health	Elective	6
UA-EC3	Sustainable Manufacturing and Industry 4.0	Elective	6
UA-EC4	AI and Blockchain for Circular Supply Chain Management	Elective	6
UA-EC5	Smart, Circular and Resilient Cities and Regions	Elective	6
UA-EC6	Data-driven Circular Economy for Social Economy	Elective	6
UA-EC7	International Conference/Bootcamp on Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy	Elective	6
3rd Academic Semester (30 ECTS)			
UA-DCT	M.Sc. Thesis (Master's Thesis)	Compulsory	30

The above curriculum is indicative. The number, type and content of the courses in the curriculum, as well as their distribution over semesters, may be adjusted by decision of the Department Assembly for reasons of ensuring the smooth operation of the MSc Program. A brief description of the courses in the above indicative curriculum is presented in detail in Annex 1 of these regulations.

7.2. Teaching Language

The courses are conducted entirely in English. Accordingly, the language of writing the postgraduate thesis is English.

7.3 Academic Calendar of the Program

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

7.4. Registration dates and course registrations

At the beginning of each academic semester, before the start of the courses, the registration dates of the students are determined and posted on the website of the MSc Program/Department, as well as the registration procedure for the courses to be selected in each semester.

7.5. Course Days

To assist postgraduate students who have parallel professional employment, courses may be held on all days of the week.

7.6. Course replacements

In the event of an obstacle to the conduct of a course, its timely replacement is provided. The date and time of replenishment are posted on the MSc Program website.

7.7. Organization of the educational process

The teaching of the MSc courses will be carried out exclusively by means of distance learning. Educational activities not guided by teaching staff, individual and/or group study and practice of postgraduate students in individual courses, are carried out through their remote access to appropriate services of the asynchronous distance learning system. A description of the characteristics and supported functions, regarding the submission and evaluation of applications, the provision of education and the evaluation of students, of the Integrated Distance Learning Information System that will be utilized by the MSc Program is posted on the MSc website.

The student evaluation process per educational activity will be carried out using remote methods such as assigning and submitting assignments, answering electronic questionnaires (quizzes) with open and closed questions, conducting a practical test, participating in asynchronous forums, etc. The technological equipment that each student is required to have for following the program and his/her evaluation is a computer with Internet access, equipped with a microphone, loudspeaker and camera, which can be adjusted based on technological developments. The specific terms and conditions for organizing a MSc Program using synchronous and asynchronous distance learning methods, as well as issues related to the organization of the educational process using distance learning methods, are

referred to in the Regulation of Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies of the University of the Aegean (Appendices 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 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 60% of the teaching hours of the course. In any case, participation and attendance are determined under the responsibility of the course teachers.

In the event that the absence rate of a postgraduate student exceeds 40% per course for each course of the semester, the issue of the postgraduate student being expelled arises. This issue is examined by the Academic Council, which issues an opinion on the matter to the Department Assembly.

Article 8. Lecturers in the Postgraduate Program/Course teaching assignment

Each course is taught by one or more lecturers. In each course, one lecturer is designated by the Assembly as the course coordinator/head of the course.

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

The more specific conditions and the invitation procedure from within Greece or abroad, as well as the more specific terms of employment and any issue related to lecturers belonging to the categories of cases e), f) and g) of par. 1 of article 83 of Law 4957/2022 will be defined by decision of the Assembly and within the framework of applicable legislation.

8.1. Obligations of Teachers

The obligations of teachers include, among others, the description of the course, the summary content and title of the lectures with a citation of relevant bibliography, the method of examination of the course, the supervision of the thesis, and communication with the postgraduate students.

Article 9. Course performance assessment

The student assessment process per educational activity will be carried out using remote methods such as assigning and submitting assignments, answering electronic questionnaires (quizzes) with open and closed questions, conducting a practical test, participating in asynchronous forums, etc. The determination of the method and procedure for evaluating students in a course is the exclusive responsibility of the teacher to whom the Assembly has assigned the teaching of the course.

The evaluation and grading in each course is carried out completely independently of 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 and are communicated at the beginning of the academic year. semester by the instructor/coordinator of the course and are also listed in the description form (outline) of each course that is posted on the MSc website. The final grade of each course results from the total performance of the student in specific areas (e.g.

assignments, exams) 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).

Article 10. Examination periods

There are two examination periods (at the end of the 1st and 2nd Academic semesters) and are harmonized as much as possible with the examination periods of the undergraduate study programs, 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 that he or she did not successfully complete, at a time that will be defined within the framework of the same examination period.

If the student does not successfully complete all the courses of a semester, he or she is deleted from the MSc Program following a decision of the Department Assembly, unless there are special cases of force majeure, in which case a special period for re-examining the courses will be defined.

If the postgraduate student fails the examination of a course or courses in the last examination in which he/she is entitled to participate, based on the Regulation, so that he/she is considered not to have successfully completed the Program, he/she is examined, following his/her application to the President of the Department, in the same examination period, by a three-member committee appointed by decision of the President, which consists of teaching staff of the same or another Department of the University of Athens with a subject area identical to or related to that of the course to be examined, in which the teacher of the course may not participate. If the student does not submit an application within the time limits provided by the Department or fails the examination by the three-member committee, he/she is deleted from the MSc Program following a decision of the Department Assembly.

Article 11. Master's Thesis and Supervisors

In the third semester of the Program, the preparation of the postgraduate diploma thesis is foreseen, which can be individual or group, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation for the preparation of the Master's Thesis. The postgraduate student has the right to submit a topic, provided that he/she has successfully completed all the courses of the first two semesters.

The candidate submits an application to the MSc Secretariat, in which the proposed title of the Master's Thesis and the proposed supervisor are indicated and a summary of the proposed work is attached. The MSc Secretariat forwards the application to the Coordinating Committee. The C.C. proposes to the Assembly the three-member examination committee and the supervisor.

11.1. Supervision of the Thesis

The Assembly of the Department appoints the supervisor and forms the three-member examination committee for the approval of the thesis, one of whose members is the supervisor.

The right to supervise theses is granted to the lecturers of paragraphs a) to f) of paragraph 1 of article 83 of Law 4957/2022, provided that they hold a doctoral degree. By decision of the competent body of the MSc Program, the supervision of theses may also be assigned to members of the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Education. of the Department, who have not undertaken teaching work in the MSc Program (par. 3. Article 83 L. L. 4957/2022).

The other two Members of the Three-Member Examination Committee will come from the categories of teachers who may undertake independent teaching work in the MSc Program according to art. 83 of L. 4957/2022. The Members of the Three-Member Examination Committee must have the same or related scientific specialty as the subject of the MSc Program.

In exceptional cases of objective inability to exercise supervisory duties for a long period of time or the existence of another important reason, the Department Assembly may proceed, after justifying its decision, to replace the supervisor or member of the Three-member Examination Committee, either upon request of the postgraduate student and the opinion of the proposed supervisor or member or upon a proposal of the supervisor or member of the Three-member Examination Committee.

At the end of the period for assigning the Master's Thesis, the Department Assembly ratifies the distribution of topics per supervisor.

The C.C. of the MSc Program draws up and the Assembly approves the Regulation for the Preparation of the Master's Thesis, which is posted on the MSc Program website and includes instructions for writing the Master's Thesis, e.g. cover, logo, font, minimum-maximum number of words, etc.

The design of the Master's Thesis of each student is the responsibility of the Supervisor. It is also noted that under the responsibility of the Supervisor and the Master's student, all Master's Thesis must accept the principles of Academic Ethics and research ethics of the Institution.

11.2 Language of writing

The language of writing the Master's Thesis is English.

11.3 Postgraduate Thesis Examination

In order for the thesis to be approved, the postgraduate student must defend it before the Three-Member Examination Committee. Additional information on the method of submission, presentation, examination and grading of the thesis can be found in the Master's Thesis Preparation Regulation. The approved Postgraduate Thesis, after the completion of any corrections proposed by the Committee, and before the student's admission is deposited in the Library of the University of Athens in electronic form via the Library's online portal and is posted on the website of the relevant School. An electronic copy is deposited in the MSc Secretariat.

Article 12. Final Grade

The grade of the Master of Science in Management is determined by the grades of the Program courses and the grade of the master's thesis, depending on their credit units.

$$\text{Grade} = \Sigma (\text{Grade per course} \times \text{ECTS}) + (\text{Thesis Grade} \times \text{ECTS}) / \text{Total ECTS}$$

Article 13. Evaluation of the MSc Program

At the end of each semester, an evaluation of each course and each lecturer is carried out by the postgraduate students, who, in accordance with the provisions of the internal quality assurance system of the Institution, at the end of each course, evaluate the course as a whole in terms of content, teaching method, recommended textbooks, etc.

At the end of the term of the C.C., under the responsibility of the outgoing Director, an analytical report may be prepared of the research and educational work and other activities of the MSc Program, with the aim of upgrading the studies, better utilization of human resources, the optimization of existing infrastructure and the socially beneficial use of the available resources of the MSc Program, which is deposited in the Department.

Specifically, according to the regular internal and external evaluation process established by the Institution: At the end of each course, students evaluate the course as a whole in terms of content, teaching methods, and recommended textbooks through the quality assurance information system of the Quality Assurance Unit of the University of the Aegean. According to this specific process, 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 implemented in a modern, friendly and secure electronic environment, which ensures the necessary anonymity.

are constantly informed about the results of the electronic evaluation process of their courses.

At regular intervals (e.g. every two or three years) and under the responsibility of the Director of the MSc Program, data is collected to enable a comparison of the course program and their content between the relevant MSc Program and other corresponding MSc Program offered by domestic and foreign institutions known for their pioneering work.

The MSc Program is also evaluated in the context of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE). In this context, the overall assessment of the work carried out by each MSc Program is evaluated. of the Department, the degree of fulfillment of the objectives set at its establishment, its sustainability, the absorption of graduates into the labor market, the degree of its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the feasibility of extending its operation, as well as other information regarding the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education (par. 1. article 87, Law 4957/2022).

Article 14. Resources and Financial Management

14.1 Resources

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

The main funding of the MSc Program during the first three (3) cycles of operation comes from the European project 3D-CIRCULAR (Digital Deep tech Driven Circular Economy) funded by the DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-DIGITAL-07 program (Contract No. 101226256). Specifically, the costs of organizing and operating the MSc Program, including the tuition fees of postgraduate students from Greece and other EU countries, for the first three (3) cycles of operation of the MSc Program are covered by the funding of the specific project, from the registration fees, as well as from the tuition fees of postgraduate students from outside the EU.

The funding of the MSc Program from the fourth (4th) cycle of operation and onwards will come from: donations, benefits, bequests, sponsorships, research programs, programs of the EU or other international organizations, registration and tuition fees of all postgraduate students from Greece,

other EU countries and third countries, as well as from other sources, as provided for by applicable legislation.

14.2. Financial management

The management of the resources of the MSc Program is carried out by the Special Account for Research Funds (E.L.K.E.) and is distributed as follows:

a) an amount corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total income derived from tuition fees is withheld by the E.L.K.E. This amount includes the percentage of withholding in favor of the E.L.K.E. for the financial management of the MSc Program. By a decision of the Board of Directors taken by the end of March of each year, it is decided whether the remaining amount after deducting the withholding in favor of the E.L.K.E. is transferred to the regular budget or allocated for the creation of projects/programs through the E.L.K.E. with the aim of covering, as a priority, the needs of the MSc Program that operate without tuition fees and the covering of research, educational and operational needs of the University. The income of the MSc Program of paragraphs b) to d) of section 14.1, the withholding in favor of the Greek National Council of Economic and Social Development is made, which applies to income from corresponding sources of financing,

b) the remaining amount of the total income of the MSc Program is allocated to cover the operating expenses of the MSc Program.

Article 15. Tuition fees – Scholarships and awards

15.1. Tuition fees

For all cycles of operation of the MSc Program, interested candidates who are accepted into the Program after the evaluation process, pay a registration fee of five hundred (500) euros. This fee is not refunded to candidates, even if they ultimately decide not to attend the program.

For the first three (3) cycles of operation of the MSc Program, the tuition fees of postgraduate students from Greece and other EU countries are fully covered by the European 3DCIRCULAR (Digital Deep tech Driven Circular Economy) funded by the DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-DIGITAL-07 program (Contract No.101226256). For postgraduate students coming from countries outside the EU, the tuition fees are five thousand (5,000) euros.

From the fourth (4th) cycle of operation of the MSc Program and onwards, the tuition fees for postgraduate students coming from Greece and other EU countries are five thousand (5,000) euros, while for postgraduate students coming from countries outside the EU, the tuition fees are seven thousand (7,000) euros.

From the fourth (4th) cycle of operation of the MSc Program and from now on, wherever there will be tuition fees for postgraduate students from EU countries, it is recalled that the current legislation (Law 4957, Government Gazette 141/21.07.2022, Part A) provides for an exemption from tuition fees, based on social/economic and excellence criteria, cumulatively, for a percentage of postgraduate students reaching thirty percent (30%) of all those enrolled per academic year. The tuition fees are paid in two equal installments: the first installment with the announcement of those accepted to the MSc Program to secure a place and the second installment at the start of the 2nd academic semester. Selected postgraduate students who will be exempted from tuition fees within the framework of current legislation, the fees paid up to that point are refunded in full. Tuition fees are paid to the Special

Research Funds Account (E.L.K.E.), which is responsible for their management. Postgraduate students must pay all their financial obligations on time. In case of non-compliance with financial obligations, the student may be temporarily suspended from the program or expelled from the program, following a decision by the Department Assembly.

Registered students of the Master of Science (MSc) may study for free if they meet the financial or social criteria of article 86 of Law 4957/2022. A prerequisite for granting the right to free study due to financial or social criteria is the fulfillment of the requirements for excellence during the first cycle of studies, which corresponds at least to the possession of a grade equal to or higher than seven and a half with an excellent grade out of ten (7.5/10), provided that the evaluation of the basic qualification presented for admission to the MSc has been carried out according to the ten-point evaluation scale of a Higher Educational Institution (HEI) of the country, otherwise this criterion is applied proportionally according to the respective evaluation scale, provided that the qualification presented has been granted by a foreign Institution.

The total number of students who study free of charge may not exceed the number corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total number of registered students per academic year. If, during the numerical calculation of the number of beneficiaries of exemption from tuition fees, a decimal number results, it is rounded to the nearest whole unit. If the number of beneficiaries of exemption exceeds the percentage herein, the beneficiaries are selected in descending order of ranking until the number is completed.

The submission of applications for free tuition per M.A.S. in accordance with this is carried out after the completion of the student admission process to the MSc Program. In accordance with article 3 of no. 108990/Z1/08.09.2022.:

- The use of the right to be exempted from the obligation to pay tuition fees is provided exclusively for studying in one (1) MSc Program organized by a higher education institution in the country
- Those who receive a scholarship from another source are not entitled to an exemption
- Third-country citizens are not entitled to submit an application for exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees in MSc Program.

15.2. Scholarships and awards

The MSc Program may provide a number of scholarships based on academic and other criteria to students who pay tuition fees, in accordance with a decision of the Assembly, which determines the

amount and number of scholarships, the criteria and relevant supporting documents, the procedure for granting scholarships, as well as the obligations and rights of the scholarship holders.

The MSc Program may also grant awards to students with exceptional performance, in accordance with criteria and a procedure determined by a decision of the Assembly.

Article 16. Website of the MSc Program

The MSc Program has a website in Greek and English. The official MSc website is constantly updated and provides all the information of the Program. It is the official information site for postgraduate students. The Academic Calendar of the MSc Program is also posted on the website.

Article 17. Oath-taking and Awarding of the Postgraduate Diploma

17.1 Oath-taking

The text of the oath/oath-taking is determined by a decision of the Senate of the University of the Aegean.

17.2 Postgraduate Diploma

The Postgraduate Studies Program (MSc) awards a Master of Science (MSc) in “Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy”, which is a level 7 qualification according to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The Postgraduate Studies Diploma (MSc) is awarded in Greek and English, is a public document and its form is specified in the Internal Regulations of the Institution (Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12.2025). It is signed by the Rector, the President of the Department and the Secretary of the Department or their legal deputies.

The Diploma grade is characterized as follows: from 5 to 6.49 GOOD, from 6.50 to 8.49 VERY GOOD and from 8.50 to 10 EXCELLENT.

A Diploma Supplement is attached to the Postgraduate Studies Diploma in Greek and English in accordance with the provisions of article 15 of law 3374/2005 (A' 189) and the ministerial decision under reference Φ5/89656/B3/13.8.07 (B' 1466). The graduate of the Postgraduate Studies Program may be granted, prior to the award, a certificate stating that he or she has successfully completed the Program.

The original degree/diploma is kept in the graduate's file.

The graduate is entitled to receive the Postgraduate Studies Diploma in Pergamene, provided that he/she pays the fee determined by the competent bodies.

In order to receive either the Postgraduate Diploma or a certificate of completion of studies, postgraduate students must have successfully met all the academic obligations of the Program, and

have paid all their financial obligations, as well as any obligations they may have towards Student Welfare and the Library of the Institution.

17.3 Awarding of a Postgraduate Diploma

The conferment and awarding of Postgraduate Diplomas takes place in person at a special ceremony in the presence of the Rector, the Dean, and the President of the Department, or their representatives. The names of the graduates are approved by the Department Assembly, which determines the successful completion of the studies in order to award the M.D. In exceptional cases of inability to be physically present for serious reasons (e.g. for health reasons, personal reasons, etc.), upon request of the interested graduate submitted to the Department Secretariat up to one day before the ceremony, the graduate may participate in a remote oath-taking/confession ceremony that takes place on the day of the in-person ceremony or on a subsequent day following a decision by the Dean, in consultation with the President of the Department (Internal Regulations of the Institution - Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12.2025).

Article 18. Revocation of a Title

A Postgraduate Diploma that has been granted may be revoked or cancelled if it is proven that the legal and institutional conditions for its acquisition were not met at the time of its acquisition. The revocation or cancellation is made following a decision of the relevant Assembly which is notified to the Rector of the Institution.

CHAPTER C: OTHER REGULATIONS & SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF THE MASTER PROGRAM

Article 19. Other Regulations

19.1. Material and Technical Infrastructure

In order to meet the teaching and research needs of the Master Program, postgraduate students have access to the material and technical infrastructure of the respective Department and of the University

as a whole in accordance with the applicable Legislation and the Regulations of the Institution (Library, laboratories, etc.).

19.2. Administrative Support of the Program

The administrative support of the Master Program, as well as any technological and financial support, is covered either by existing permanent Department Staff, or through the recruitment process that is charged to the Master Program budget.

The Secretariat of the Master Program is responsible for the secretarial support of the Program, (indicatively) the preparation of the candidate admission process, the maintenance of the Program's financial data, the secretarial support of the C.C., the registration of grades, etc.

Administrative employees who support the Master Program. outside of their working hours at the University, as well as those who have been assigned work related to the Master Program, may be remunerated for the services they provide, charged to the Master Program's budget.

19.3 Excellence Awards

The University of the Aegean has established Excellence Awards for postgraduate students, which are announced periodically and cover all the scientific fields treated by the Institution.

The aim is to encourage research efforts at postgraduate level, which lead either to announcements at recognized international conferences or to publications in reputable scientific journals and which contribute significantly to the promotion of the research character of the Institution.

19.4 Rights and obligations

Postgraduate students have the rights and obligations as defined in the Regulation of the Institution's Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Programs (Annex V of the Institution's Internal Regulations - Government Gazette 6876/B/19.12.2025).

19.5. Ethical Issues

Participants in postgraduate studies programs must know, observe and apply the Code of Ethics and Good Practice of the University of the Aegean as well as any other ethical rules.

The texts of theses must be original. References to works by other authors must be appropriately cited and the established rules for utilizing external sources in writing scientific papers must be followed. It is noted that

any copying of another author's or creator's work is considered a serious academic misconduct, is contrary to intellectual property law and is subject to the provisions on legal protection.

Article 20. 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 1. Brief description of the courses of the Master of Science (MSc)

1st Academic Semester

(UA-MC1) - Introduction to the Digital Circular Economy (Compulsory):

This is a core course that introduces students to the principles of the circular economy and the role of digital technologies in promoting sustainable development. It examines how digital transformation supports circular systems, resource optimization and sustainable development, with an emphasis on the transition from linear to circular systems and the benefits of digital tools in this process.

(UA-MC2) - Circular Economy and Digital Product Passports

(Required): The course explores the concept of Digital Product Passports (DPPs), which are critical for product traceability and facilitating circularity. After the course, students should be able to understand how DPPs provide transparency across the product lifecycle, allowing businesses to track products from design to use and disposal, as well as comply with sustainability regulations. The course also examines the technical and regulatory aspects of DPPs.

(UA-MC3) - Standardization and Compliance with the EU Regulatory Framework in the Digital Circular Economy (Compulsory): The course covers the standards and regulatory framework within the European Union regarding digital technologies and sustainability. Students will study the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (EU AI Act), the regulations and standards for Digital Product Passports, as well as other key policies and guidelines that guide the transition to a circular economy.

The course focuses on how businesses must comply with these laws and adapt their strategies to meet regulatory requirements.

(UA-TC1) - Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Circular Economy Ecosystems (Compulsory):

The course explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics are leveraged to optimize processes within circular ecosystems. Students will examine applications such as automated waste separation, material recovery, and advanced industrial/manufacturing processes. The course highlights the role of AI and robotics in improving the efficiency and scalability of circular economy systems.

2nd Academic Semester

(UA-RC1) - Research Methodology (Compulsory): The course aims to introduce students to the principles, stages and practices of scientific research, with particular emphasis on their application in the field of the digital circular economy. Its aim is to cultivate the ability of students to design, implement and document research projects of high academic quality, whether theoretical or applied in nature. The course serves as a basis for the preparation of the postgraduate thesis, enhancing the understanding of scientific ethics, data analysis and the critical approach to the literature.

(UA-RC2) - Research Funding & Research Proposal Writing (Compulsory): The course equips postgraduate students with the knowledge and practical skills required for successful participation in

European research programmes. Students will learn how to identify appropriate calls for funding from the European Union, understand the eligibility and evaluation criteria, design competitive research ideas, set up and manage consortia, and prepare all the key parts of a research proposal up to submission. Through lectures, case studies and practical group work, participants will draft and refine a proposal based on real European funding opportunities.

(UA-EC1) - Energy Transformation with Deep-Tech Technologies (Elective): The course examines how deep-tech innovations, such as AI, IoT, and blockchain, can be applied to transform the energy sector in a green and sustainable direction. Students will learn how to optimize energy systems, integrate renewable energy solutions, and manage energy resources more efficiently, in accordance with the principles of the circular economy.

(UA-EC2) - Circular Economy and Digital Health (Elective): Students will learn how circular economy principles can be applied to the healthcare sector to enhance sustainability. The course explores digital tools for life cycle management of medical devices, improving resource use in healthcare systems and reducing waste. The emphasis is on sustainable healthcare practices and innovative solutions for the reuse and recycling of healthcare products.

(UA-EC3) - Sustainable Production and Industry 4.0 (Elective): The course examines how Industry 4.0 technologies, such as AI, robotics and IoT, can be integrated into industrial/production processes to promote sustainability. Students will explore how these digital technologies contribute to a more efficient and sustainable production system that aligns with the principles of the circular economy, focusing on reducing waste and optimizing resource use.

(UA-EC4) - Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain for Circular Supply Chain Management (Elective): The course covers how Artificial Intelligence and blockchain technologies can improve the efficiency, traceability and transparency of circular supply chains. Students will learn how these technologies are applied to optimize material flows, monitor resource usage and reduce waste, while ensuring compliance with the principles of the circular economy.

(UA-EC5) - Smart, Circular and Resilient Cities and Regions (Elective): The course examines how digital technologies can be used to develop smart, circular and resilient urban and regional environments. Students will learn about the role of IoT, AI and data analytics in optimizing urban resources, improving waste management and strengthening the resilience of cities to future challenges such as climate change and resource depletion.

(UA-EC6) - Data-Driven Circular Economy for the Social Economy (Elective): The course focuses on how data analytics and digital technologies can support circular economy initiatives in the social economy sector. Students will learn how to leverage data-driven insights to optimize resource use, enhance sustainability and promote social impact through circular models in cooperatives, social enterprises and grassroots organizations.

(UA-EC7) - International Conference/Bootcamp on Digital Circular Economy (Elective): The course provides students with structured academic recognition (ECTS) for their participation in an international conference on digital deep-tech innovations driving the transition to a circular and sustainable economy. Through lectures, research presentations and workshops, students explore how technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain, robotics and advanced materials enable circular business models, resource efficiency and system resilience.

3rd Academic Semester

(UA-DCT) - Postgraduate Thesis (Compulsory): The course allows students to design and implement an original research or innovation project at the intersection of digital technologies and the circular economy. Building on the knowledge acquired during the master's degree, students will identify a real sustainability challenge, formulate a research or innovation question, and apply rigorous methodologies to produce actionable findings, prototypes, or policy/strategy proposals. Under academic supervision and, where appropriate, in collaboration with industrial, public or social actors, students will combine advanced digital tools (e.g. AI, data analytics, IoT, digital twins, blockchain) with circular economy principles (e.g. resource efficiency, product life extension, industrial symbiosis, regenerative models). The thesis may be theoretical, empirical, design or practically oriented, but must demonstrate critical engagement with the literature, methodological integrity, ethical awareness and a clear contribution to a digital, circular and climate resilient economy.