



DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE DEPARTMENT OF
MEDICINE
PMS "Food, Nutrition and Microbiome"
University campus, Dragana-Alexandroupoli, 68100

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Study Guide for the academic year 2022-2023 of the Post Graduate
Program (P.G.P.) "Food, Nutrition and Microbiome".

Alexandroupolis, December 2022

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General information

Alexandroupolis

Since Neolithic era great cities have flourished within the boundaries of the Municipality of Alexandroupolis creating a unique culture .

The area was inhabited by the Ancient tribe of Kikones, which developed and where all the usual types of megalithic monuments are found ,such as fortified citadels, open-air sanctuaries for the worship of the sun and the stars worship, anthropomorphic rock paintings. Then, the area was then inhabited by settlers from Samothrace who founded Samothrace Perea, with the cities such of Mesimvria, Zoni, and Sali.

The city of Sali is identified with today's Alexandroupolis and in Roman times the area was a parking and horse changing area. The area plays a primary role, as it is the immediate neighborhood of Constantinople. Due to unknown reasons, the cities of Sali, Zoni, Drys, and Serrio were at some point destroyed, razed, and also erased from the written texts of the region's descriptions. . The place became a vast forest, mainly of oak trees. This forest, which the inhabitants of the surrounding areas called Dede-Agats, was defended by three Turkish landowners, who had thousands of acres for cultivation and pastures.

Following the Russian-Turkish war, fishermen from Ainos, Makri and Maroneia form a small settlement – the later Alexandroupolis – which develops slowly and grows rapidly with the establishment of the railway. The settlement began in the 1850s and in the following decades, with the arrival of the Russians, a city plan was formed for the coastal area, from the main avenue to the sea. During the Balkan Wars, Dedeagats passed from the hands of the Ottomans to the Bulgarians. However, after the Treaty of Neuilly followed by an interim administration of the Allies, the region was integrated into Greece on May 14, 1920. After the Asia Minor catastrophe and the exchange of populations, many refugees from Northern Thrace (East Romilia), Eastern Thrace and Asia Minor fled to the region. Alexandroupolis remained under Bulgarian occupation during World War II for 3 years (1941-1944). The end of the war marks the beginning of the economic, geographical, and cultural development of the city.

Alexandroupolis is now following rapid rates of economic development driven by Egnatia Odos, the airport, the port and the railway station and today it offers a high quality of life with environmental balance and intense cultural activity.

In 2011 and according to a major administrative reform in Greece ,a new programme called the Kallikratis Program was implemented, which includes the former Municipalities of Alexandroupolis, Traianoupolis and Feros as the new Municipality of Alexandroupolis with an area of 1,217 sq.km., headquarters in Alexandroupolis and historic headquarters in Feros.

Democritus University of Thrace

The Democritus University of Thrace (DPTH) was founded by Legislative Decree No. 87 of July 27, 1973 and began its operation in the academic year 1974-1975 with the admission of students to the Departments of Civil Engineering in Xanthi and Law in Komotini.

It was named "Demokriteio" in honor of the ancient Greek philosopher Democritus, originating from the town of Abdira in the Prefecture of Xanthi. The administrative headquarters of the University is located in the city of Komotini, which is the capital of the Administrative Region of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace, while administrative services are provided in all four cities of its seat.

Since its establishment, the Democritus University of Thrace (DU.Th) was the first Greek regional multi-level university, the necessity of which did not exclusively refer to educational goals.

The university was initially developed as an educational and research center in the cities of Xanthi and Komotini and then in Alexandroupolis and Orestiada but also makes a substantial intervention in the economic development of the region of Thrace.

The University contributed significantly to the strengthening of the national and cultural character of the wider region of Thrace, but also to the upgrading of the living and social level through direct and indirect actions .

The Democritus University of Thrace is among the largest Universities in the country in terms of active student population. It developed geographically throughout the area of Thrace as the only academic university institution in the Region of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace. with 8 Schools, 20 Departments, and a number of Postgraduate Programs, with a student population of approximately 29,000 (undergraduates, postgraduates, and PhD candidates) and with a research and teaching staff exceeding 700 people.

The structure of the Study Programs offered in the different modern scientific fields Faculties of the University are:

- Agricultural and Forestry Sciences in Orestiada
- Health Sciences in Alexandroupoli
- Educational Sciences in Alexandroupolis
- Law in Komotini
- Classics studies & Humanities in Komotini
- Social Political & Economic Sciences in Komotini
- Physical Education & Sports in Komotini
- Polytechnic School in Xanthi

This curriculum shows the multidisciplinary nature of both the education provided and the research conducted. In addition, Democritus university of Thrace reflects an international academic dimension due to the long-standing commitment of its staff to the quality of the educational services creating a dominant impression in the academic current affairs of our country and the wider geographical area.

In a strongly changing environment,–D.U.Th. continues to aim for both educational and research excellence while capitalizing on the challenges and imperatives of the future. It is reorienting its research strategy based on innovation, entrepreneurship, technology, the new digital age, large-scale development as well as attracting funding from both domestic and foreign bodies. The stigma of D.U.Th. today it is given with its innovative postgraduate programs of international scope, but also with initiatives that allow it to transcend modern bureaucracy and geographical exclusion.

D.U.T.H. takes care to strengthen the research profile with collaborations and projects that continue to make it one of the leading research institutions in Greece.

School of Health Sciences - Department of Medicine

School of Health Sciences is situated at Dragana Campus, with new and modern infrastructures, next to the University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis, including two (2) Departments:

1. Department of Medicine (founded in 1985)
2. Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics (founded in 2000)

Department of Medicine of Democritus University of Thrace was founded in 1977 (Law 641/1977) and began operating in the academic year 1984-1985 (PD 573/1982) in Alexandroupolis, Thrace. Dealing with the adversities of remoted University to the maximum, it has up to now demonstrated an impressive development, with a teaching project that fully copes with today's requirements of undergraduate education and high-level postgraduate specialization, internationally recognized research projects with a bulk of scientific publications, and the provision of high-quality health services specifications in the population of the wider area.

With continuous efforts of scientific and technological upgrading, the Department has become a pole of attraction for prestigious scientists from Greece and abroad. Today, collaborations with domestic and foreign research and academic institutions are constantly increasing, as well as its participation in funded research and development programs. The Department also organizes a significant number of conferences and workshops with a contribution to scientific research and education, but also to the cultural life of the local community.

With a strong orientation to new developments and the modernization of the educational process, it must present a particularly attractive program of undergraduate studies for the full training and practice of students in all areas of medical science, while it also organizes Master courses.

The upgraded level of health services provided by the Department of Medicine offers health and safety , with a sense of security to the surrounding population while it has managed to attract patients from other regions of Greece as well. The excellent infrastructure of the new University Hospital in Alexandroupoli, which creates the necessary conditions for offering high-level health services, also contributes to this.

Finally, the contribution of the Department to the cultural and spiritual life of the area should be emphasized, with active participation of its members in cultural clubs and events, which is well received accepted and appreciated by inhabitants and wins the support of the local community.

Structure and Administration of the Department of Medicine

The School of Health Sciences (SHE) aims to promote health education and research in the field of Life Sciences.

The Dean's Office of SEY constitutes a collective body and administrative institution, with the aim of coordinating the wider work of the Departments that make up the School. The goals established by the Dean's Office, in addition to carrying out its coordinating and controlling role, extend to:

the continuous upgrading of the study programs of its departments

the consolidation of national and international collaborations for the development of science and research finding and managing financial resources for the upgrade and maintenance of both its building facilities and scientific equipment

Attracting young scientists

To improve the quality of education (at undergraduate and postgraduate level) which contributes to the upgrading of studies and the excellent training of young scientists.

the support and promotion of scientific research focusing on the development of infrastructure and technology with the aim of its scientific competitiveness internationally.

Dean of the School of Health Sciences
Alexandra Giatromanolaki Professor of Medicine

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Educational and Research Infrastructure

The structure of the Department of Medicine is divided into Sectors. Today the Department has 8 Sectors which include the Department's clinics and laboratories.

The organizational chart found on the website of the Department (www.med.duth.gr) shows depicts the established clinics & laboratories of the Department of Medicine by sector.

University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis

University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis Hospital was founded in 1939 under the name "Alexandroupoli State Hospital". His first "organization" was published in EtK in FEK.344/29-8-1939, issue A'.

According to the first organization, the Hospital was divided into two departments, Medical and Administrative. The Medical one included the clinics, the outpatient clinics, the nursing service and the pharmacy. The Administrative service included the secretariat and the financial service. The staff of the Hospital at that time amounted to 26 people, 13 of them were administrative employees, 5 scientific and 8 nursing staff.

From then until 1990 there were a total of 19 modifications of the original organization.

– With the publication of PD.225 in September 2002, the merger of the University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis and the General Hospital of Alexandroupoli into one unit with the name "University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis" was completed.

The purpose of the Hospital is:

1. The provision of health care of all levels and mainly tertiary to the population of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace, as well as to patients referred from all over the 4th Health Region of Macedonia and Thrace. Health care is provided equally to every person regardless of their economic, social and professional status, according to the rules of the National Health System.
2. The education of students of the medical departments of the Democritus University of Thrace, as well as the students of other related departments.
3. The specialization, continuous education and training of doctors, nurses, and operators of other health professions, with the development and implementation of similar educational programs.
4. The development and promotion of research in the health sector. In this direction, it implements and develops research programs and cooperates with other similar and related bodies– as well as with

international organizations, scientific and research centers.

5. The cooperation with the nursing institutions and other health units of the health region for the overall development and upgrading of the provision of health care and in particular with regard to the implementation of educational programs, as well as special programs of study and evaluation of issues related to the field of health , in the 4th Health Region of Macedonia and Thrace, in accordance with the provisions of article 5 par. 2b of Law 2889/01 "Improvement and Modernization of the National Health System and other provisions", which define the way of nursing, scientific, educational and functional interface.

6. Implementation of new methods and forms of care, with the aim of effectively promoting the health of citizens.

7. The development of procedures that facilitate the strategic goals set by the Ministry of Health, the 4th Health Region of Macedonia & Thrace and the Board of Directors of the Hospital.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM

Inception of P.G.P. Food, Nutrition and the Microbiome

The Postgraduate Program (P.G.P.) "Food, Nutrition and Microbiome" was established on 28.04.2020 with the No. 25/25 Decision of the Senate (Official Gazette 1620/B/28-04-2020)

"Approval of the establishment of the Postgraduate Studies Program entitled: "Msc in FOOD, NUTRITION AND MICROBIOME" of the Department of Medicine of the School of Health Sciences of the Democritus University of Thrace.

Program Objective

The Post Graduate Program (P.G.P.) "Food, Nutrition and Microbiome" is part of the strategic planning of D.U.TH. aimed at the further promotion of knowledge, the development of research and the arts, the satisfaction of the educational, research, social, cultural and development needs of the country, the high-level specialization of graduates in theoretical and applied areas of specific fields of knowledge, special thematic modules or individual branches of the academic subjects of the first study cycle of the relevant Department.

Learning outcomes of P.G.P.

Upon completion of their studies, postgraduate students will be able to: a) have a comprehensive picture of the prevention and primary care of the functionality of the microbiome in normal and pathogenic conditions, b) be equipped with skills for planning and carrying out programs for the screening, diagnosis, and monitoring of diseases, c) create professionals and policymakers who will be able to implement or formulate holistic disease management policies with a significant social and economic impact in our

country, d) attain scientific training – specialization, ability and effectiveness in medicine and research methodology, they will have a broader and more complete approach to clinical and diagnostic practice, and will be able to develop new diagnostic and therapeutic methods, e) training in the research methodology of Microbiology and Dietetics

More information: <http://www.med.duth.gr/>

The administrative structure of P.G.P.

Competent Bodies for the establishment or modification, organization, and operation of the P.G.P are:

The Senate of the Foundation

It is the competent body for the academic, administrative, organizational, and financial matters of the P.G.P., and exercises all the powers related to the P.G.P. they are not specifically assigned by law to other bodies.

The Senate of D.U.TH. has the following powers:

- a) approves the establishment of a Postgraduate Studies Program (P.G.P.) or the amendment of the decision to establish the P.G.P.,
- b) approves the extension of the duration of the operation of the P.G.P.,
- c) sets up the Study Program Committee, in case of inter-departmental or inter-institutional or joint P.G.P.,
- d) decides the abolition of P.G.P. offered by D.U.TH.

The Graduate Studies Committee (M.S.)

By the decision of the Senate following the proposal of the Deans of the Schools of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI, in Greek AEI), a Coordinating Committee CC is established. The Committee consists of one (1) member of the Teaching Research Staff (TRS in Greek D.E.P.) from each Faculty of TRI, one (1) member from the categories of members of Special Educational Staff (S.E.S.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS in Greek E.D.I.P.), and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (in Greek E.T.E.P.) of TRS and the Vice-Chancellor, who is responsible for academic matters, as President. Committee members have experience in organizing and participating in Postgraduate study programs. The incumbency of the CC is two (2) academic years. Especially in the A.E.I. where only one (1) Faculty operates, they are exempt from the obligation to form a Postgraduate Studies Committee.

The Committee's responsibilities are:

- a) submitting an opinion to the Senate of A.E.I. for the establishment of new graduate study programs or the modification of existing graduate study programs, after evaluating the requests of the Assemblies of Departments for the establishment of new graduate study programs, the relevant reports on their feasibility and sustainability and the costing of the operation of the P.G.P., as well and the possibility of

- recalling them, if the proposal is not sufficiently justified or the accompanying reports are not complete,
- b) the preparation of draft Regulations for second and third-cycle programs of A.E.I. and its submission to the Senate,
 - c) the preparation of a model draft Regulation for the operation of postgraduate study programs,
 - d) the control of compliance with the Operating Regulations of postgraduate study programs,
 - e) the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation, the Regulation, and the decisions of the administrative bodies of A.E.I. from postgraduate study programs,
 - f) the monitoring of the implementation of the process of exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees,
 - g) any other authority defined by the Internal Regulation.

The Assembly of the Department, which has its main responsibility to recommend to the Senate through the Graduate Studies Committee at least paragraphs a) to p) of par. 3 and 4 of article 80 of Law 4957/2022 (A '141) accompanying the internal Regulation of P.G.P. as well as the Diploma Appendix models in Greek and English.

Also, the Assembly of the Department has the following responsibilities:

- a) sets up Committees to evaluate the applications of potential graduate students and approves their registration in the P.G.P.,
- b) assigns the teaching work to the teachers of the P.G.P.,
- c) recommends to the Senate the amendment of the decision establishing the P.G.P., as well as the extension of the duration of the P.G.P.,
- d) sets up examination committees for the examination of postgraduate students' theses and designates the supervisor for each thesis,
- e) verifies the successful completion of the studies, to award the title of P.G.P.,
- f) approves the report of the P.G.P., following the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee (S.E.).

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the responsibilities of para. a) and d) may be transferred to S.E. of P.G.P.

The Coordinating Committee (C.C)

It consists of the Director of P.G.P. and four (4) members of the Teaching Research Staff (D.E.P.) of the Department, who have a related subject to that of the P.G.P. and undertake teaching work at P.G.P. The members of CC determined by decision of the Department Assembly.

C.C. is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the program and in particular:

- a) draws up the initial annual budget of the P.G.P. and its amendments, since the P.G.P. allocates resources in accordance with article 84, and recommends its approval to the Research Committee of the Special Research Funds Account (SRFA),
- b) draws up the report of the program and recommends its approval to the Assembly of the Department,
- c) approves the expenditure of the P.G.P.,
- d) approves the granting of scholarships, remunerative or non-remunerative, in accordance with what is defined in the founding decision of the P.G.P. and the Regulations for postgraduate and doctoral studies,
- e) recommends to the Assembly of the Department the distribution of the teaching work, as well as the assignment of teaching work to the categories of teachers in Article 83,
- f) recommends to the Assembly of the Department invitations of Visiting Professors to meet the teaching needs of the P.G.P.,
- g) creates a plan for the amendment of the curriculum, which is submitted to the Assembly of the Department,
- h) recommends to the Assembly of the Department the redistribution of courses between academic semesters, as well as issues related to the quality upgrade of the curriculum.

Emeritus Professors of the Department or collaborating Departments may participate in the CC, as long as they provide teaching work at the P.G.P.

The Director of P.G.P.

Derives from the TRS. of the Department by priority at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor and is appointed by the decision of the Department's Assembly for a two-year service, with the possibility of renewal without any limitation.

The director of the P.G.P., as well as the members of the CC. are not entitled to remuneration or any compensation for the performance of the responsibilities assigned to them and related to the performance of their duties.

The Director of P.G.P. has the following responsibilities:

- a) chairs the CC., as well as the Study Program Committee, in the case of an interdepartmental or inter-institutional or joint P.G.P., draws up the agenda and carries out its meetings,
- b) advises the issues concerning the organization and operation of the P.G.P. to the Assembly of the Department, in the case of a single-departmental P.G.P.,
- c) recommends to the CC. and the other organs of the P.G.P. matters relating to the effective operation of the P.G.P.,

- d) is the Scientific Manager of the program in accordance with Article 234 and performs the corresponding responsibilities,
- e) monitors the implementation of the decisions of the bodies of the P.G.P. and of the Internal Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral study programs, as well as the monitoring of adherence of the P.G.P. budget,
- f) asserts any other authority, which is defined in the decision establishing the P.G.P.

At the end of the tenure of the CC a final detailed report is conducted under the responsibility of the outgoing Director, depicting the research and educational work of the P.G.P., as well as its other activities, with the aim of upgrading the studies, better utilization of human resources, the optimization of the existing infrastructure and the socially beneficial use of the available resources of the P.G.P. The report is submitted to the relevant Department, to which the P.G.P. belongs.

Teachers of P.G.P.

The teaching work of the Postgraduate Studies Programs (P.G.P.) is assigned, following a decision of the CC of the P.G.P. in the following categories of teachers:

- a) members of Teaching Research Staff (D.E.P.), Special Educational Staff (E.E.P.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (E.D.I.P.) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (E.T.E. P.) of the Department or other Departments of the same or another Higher Educational Institution (HEI, A.E.I.) or Higher Military Educational Institution (A.S.E.I.), with additional employment beyond their legal obligations, if the P.G.P. has tuition fees,
- b) emeritus Professors or retired members of the Faculty of Education. of the Department or other Departments of the same or another HEI.,
- c) collaborating professors,
- d) visiting professors or visiting researchers,
- e) researchers and specialist of research and technological institutes of article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centers and institutes, from Greece or abroad
- f) scientists of recognized prestige, who have deep knowledge and relevant experience in the field of knowledge of the P.G.P.

The assignment of the teaching work of P.G.P. is carried out by decision and the recommendation of the Coordination Committee of the P.G.P., if it exists, otherwise by the Director of the P.G.P.

The lecturers of par. a) to f) of par. 1 have the right to supervise diploma theses, if they hold a doctoral degree.

By decision of the CC of the P.G.P. the supervision of diploma theses may also be assigned to members of TRS., E.E.P. and E.D.I.P. of the Department, who have not undertaken a teaching project in the P.G.P.

All categories of teachers may participate in the teaching work without pay or may be paid exclusively from the resources of the P.G.P. Payment of remuneration or other benefits from the state budget or public investment program is not permitted. By the decision of the competent body of the P.G.P. on the assignment of the teaching work, the amount of each teacher's fee is determined. In particular, teachers who have the status of D.E.P. membership may be paid additionally for work they offer to the P.G.P., as long as they fulfill their minimum legal obligations, as defined in paragraph 2 of article 155 of law 4957 /2022. The last paragraph is applied proportionally to the members of E.E.P., E.D.I.P., and E.T.E.P., as long as they fulfill their minimum legal obligations. The supervision of diplomatic theses may be remunerated subject to the relevant provision in the Internal Regulations of the P.G.P., as long as the hours employed exceed the legal obligations. According to par. 5 of article 83 of Law 4957/2022, an auxiliary teaching project may be assigned to doctoral candidates of the Department or School.

After a suggestion by CC of P.G.P. an invitation is issued to the doctoral candidates of the Department or School by decision of the Assembly of the relevant Department in a subject related to the provided auxiliary teaching work of the P.G.P. The applications are submitted to the Secretariat of the relevant Department and are examined by the Coordinating Committee, which makes recommendations to the Assembly of the Department. CC, by decision, assigns the auxiliary teaching work.

The maximum hourly remuneration for the assignment of adjunct teaching work to doctoral candidates is set at thirty percent (30%) of the remuneration of postdoctoral fellows.

The members of Teaching Research Staff, Special Educational Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff and Special Technical Laboratory Staff of the Department may be employed in P.G.P., only under the condition of fulfilling their minimum obligations regarding teaching work. The employment of D.E.P. members is not allowed. exclusively in P.G.P. of the Department or School.

List of teaching staff

Prof. E. Bezirzoglou , Microbiology, DUTH

Prof. Th. Konstantinidis , Hygiene, DUTH

Assoc.Prof. Ch. Tsigalou , Microbiology-Immunology, DUTH

Prof. A. Tsakris , Microbiology, Kapodistrian University of Athens KUA

Assoc.Prof. F. Boufidou , Microbiology , KUA

E. Stavropoulou , CHUV, University of Lausanne

- Stergios Vradelis, Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Konstantinos Arvanitidis , Biologist – Physician EBRD/EDIP, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Nicholas Dobrolis , PhD Postdoctoral fellow, Researcher, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Ioannis Kourkoutas, Professor of Applied Biotechnology, Department of Molecular Biology & Genetics, Democritus University of Thrace
- Peter Soukoulis, Director of Regional Council Research & Innovation, Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
- Ioannis Bakouros, Professor of Technology and Innovation Management, University of Western Macedonia
- Kyriaki Bakirtzis M.Sc , Ph.D. Coordinator of Academic Programs, Panhellenic Join of Pharmaceutical industry
- Konstantinos Anagnostopoulos, Professor of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Dimitris Papazoglou, Professor of Pathology, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Evangelia Nena, Associate Professor of Public Health - Social Medicine – Medicine at work, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Paschalis Steiropoulos, Associate Professor of Pulmonology, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Christos Kontogiorgis , Assistant Professor of Hygiene, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Chrysoula Voidarou , Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture, University of Ioannina, Greece
- Avgi Tsolou , PhD Biologist
- George Anastasopoulos, Professor of IT, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Aristides Iliopoulos, Professor of Biology and Genetics, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Emmanouil Kontomanolis , Associate Professor of Gynecology, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Andrew Bruce Onderdonk, Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School
- Catherine Hatzaki, Professor of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Georgios Rozos, Supervisor in the Department of Veterinary, Public Health of Cyclades Region

- Christos Tsalikidis, Assistant Professor of General surgery, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Spyros Arsenis, NBG Business Program Coordinator - Business Client Banking , National Bank Greece
- Spyridon Douyas, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Engineers, Democritus University of Thrace
- Christos Tsatsanis, Professor of Clinical Chemistry, School of Medicine, University of Crete
- Ilias Mamalakis, Economist
- Evangelos Giamarellos , Professor of Pathology and Infections, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Shigeru Kamiya , Professor, Division of Medical Microbiology, Department of Infectious Diseases, Kyorin University School of Medicine
- Theoharis Konstantinidis, PhD, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Peter Rafaelides, Associate Professor of Pathology with emphasis on infections, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Vassiliki Pitiriga , Assistant Professor of Medical Microbiology, School of Medicine National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Periklis Panagopoulos, Professor of Pathology with an emphasis on infections, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Georgia Bryoni, Professor of Medical Microbiology, School of Medicine National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Petros Kolovos, Assistant Professor of Systems Biology, Department of Molecular Biology & Genetics, Democritus University of Thrace
- Athanasius Tselebonis, PhD, EDP, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Petros Ypsilantis, Professor of Experimental Surgery School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Tore Midtvedt, Professor Emeritus laboratory of Microbial ecology, Karolinska Institutet
- Grigoria Mitropoulou, PhD Postdoc researcher, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Pipitsa Valsamaki, Assistant Professor of Nuclear Medicine, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Athanasius Zisimopoulos , Professor of Nuclear Medicine, School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Charalambos Papagoras , Assistant Professor of Rheumatology School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace
- Maria Grigoriou, Professor of Molecular and Developmental Biology, Department of Molecular Biology & Genetics, Democritus University of Thrace
- Amalia Gianni, PhD EDP, Harokopio University
- Amalia Hatzigianni, Professor of Microbiology, School of Medicine National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Mattheos Papadimitriou- Olivgeris , CHUV, University of Lausanne

Course structure of the P.G.P

The total of Credit Units (ECTS) required to obtain the D.M.S. amount to 90.

To obtain the D.M.S. compulsory attendance and successful examination in all compulsory courses, as they are distributed over the two study semesters (A, B) are required.

The program includes compulsory courses which are carried out online or as defined by the written provisions. The thesis is prepared in the 3rd semester.

The detailed study program with the description of the courses and Credit Units (ECTS)/course is structured as follows:

1st SEMESTER - A' ΕΞΑΜΗΝΟ			
CODE No	LESSON	LESSON TYPE	ECTS
A1	Microbiome in Health (Μικροβίωμα και Υγεία)	COMPULSORY	5
A2	Nutrition in Health (Διατροφή και Υγεία)	COMPULSORY	5
A3	Nutrition in Disease (Διατροφή και Νόσος)	COMPULSORY	5
A4	Nutritional Epidemiology - Food and Drug Interactions (Διατροφική Επιδημιολογία - Αλληλεπίδραση Τροφίμων και Φαρμάκων)	COMPULSORY	5
A5	Specific Nutritional Aspects (Ειδικά Θέματα Διατροφής)	COMPULSORY	5
A6	Strategies in Novel Products Development (Στρατηγικές Ανάπτυξης Καινοτόμων Προϊόντων)	COMPULSORY	5
TOTAL OF ECTS FOR THE A SEMESTER			30
2nd SEMESTER - B' ΕΞΑΜΗΝΟ			
CODE No	LESSON	LESSON TYPE	ECTS
B1	Food-Borne Infections (Τροφογενείς Λοιμώξεις)	COMPULSORY	6
B2	Epidemiology and Surveillance of Food-Borne Infections (Επιδημιολογία και Επιτήρηση Τροφογενών Λοιμώξεων)	COMPULSORY	6
B3	Food and History of Nutrition - Natural Products and Nutrition (Τρόφιμα και	COMPULSORY	6

	Ιστορία της Διατροφής - Φυσικά Προϊόντα και Διατροφή)		
B4	Nutrition and Sustainability (Διατροφή και Αειφορία)	COMPULSORY	6
B5	Molecular Nutrition (Μοριακή Διατροφή)	COMPULSORY	6
TOTAL OF ECTS FOR THE B SEMESTER			30
3rd SEMESTER - Γ' ΕΞΑΜΗΝΟ			
Γ1	Master Thesis (Theoretical or Research) - Μεταπτυχιακή Διπλωματική Εργασία (Θεωρητική ή Ερευνητική)	COMPULSORY	30
TOTAL OF ECTS FOR THE C SEMESTER			30
TOTAL OF ECTS			90

ECTS: European Credit Transfer System

Postgraduate title

The title of D.M.S. is a public document. Its form is defined by a decision of the Senate and is signed by the Rector, the President of the Department and the Secretary of the Department or their legal deputies.

To the graduate of P.G.P. may be granted, prior to the award, a certificate of successful completion of the Program.

A Diploma Supplement in Greek and English is attached to the Graduate Diploma, in relation to which the provisions of article 15 of Law 3374/2005 and of the YA apply. Φ5/89656/BE/13-8-2007 (B' 1466) and which is an explanatory document that provides information about the nature, level, general educational context, content and status of the studies, which were completed successfully and is not a substitute for the official degree or course grade awarded by the Institutions.

Upon completion of their studies, postgraduate students receive

1. Diploma of Postgraduate Studies (D.M.S.).
2. Certificate of Completion of Studies.
3. Post Graduate Diploma Annex in GREEK
4. Post Graduate Diploma Annex in English

European Credit Transfer System

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a student-centered system based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. It aims to facilitate the planning, delivery, assessment, recognition, and validation of degrees and learning units, as well as student mobility. ECTS is widely used in formal higher education and can be applied to other lifelong learning activities.

The transfer and accumulation of credits is facilitated using the ECTS core documents (course list, student application form, learning agreement, grade certificate) as well as the Diploma Supplement.

Democritus University of Thrace organizes study programs based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), so that they can be described by the assignment of credits to all the independent educational components and activities that compose them, and it is also possible the transfer and accumulation of successful achievements in other corresponding study programs of the same or another HEI. at national and European level.

The European credit transfer and accumulation system is based on the workload that each student is required to carry out in order to achieve the objectives of a study program, depending on the learning outcomes, knowledge, abilities and skills sought to be acquired after its successful completion.

The learning outcomes are determined by the teachers concerned. Credit points are assigned to each course (lecture, workshop, seminar, etc.), internship, thesis or dissertation and anything else necessary, according to the curriculum, to achieve the learning outcomes intended, depending on subject of every planned educational process.

The workload that each student is required to attend corresponds to ninety (90) credits per academic year and thirty (30) credits per semester. Accordingly, the maximum number of credits that can be attributed to each independent educational component or activity of the study program is defined by a decision of the Department Assembly.

Credit units are recognized to students only after a successful examination and corresponding proof of the degree of success of each objective or the learning outcomes pursued with each independent educational component or activity of the study program.

Tuition fees

In proportion to all kinds of benefits to students, the imposition of tuition fees is deemed imperative for the following reasons:

1. Necessary expenses for the invitation of Professors or renowned scientists from abroad as well as the invitation of specialized Professors from other domestic institutions to meet the educational

needs of the P.G.P.

2. Supply of materials, laboratory and educational equipment, books, electronic manuals, and consumables required to fulfill the teaching objectives of the P.G.P. and the maintenance of the existing equipment for the implementation of the courses and related software
3. To support research activities in the context of the preparation of diploma theses at the P.G.P.
5. For secretarial and technical support

The amount of tuition fees for the entire program is determined since the establishment of the P.G.P. (3,000 Euros in total). It is feasible to pay in installments per semester of study (1000 Euros per semester) initially upon their registration in the P.G.P and then at the beginning of each subsequent semester.

Tuition fees are paid to the Special Research Funds Account (SRA) of D.U.TH. which is responsible for their management.

Postgraduate students must have paid all their financial obligations before the certificate of completion of studies is granted and the awarding of the Postgraduate Diploma.

it is possible to exempt those applicants who fulfill certain criteria in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Infrastructure

The Department of Medicine - DUTH has adequate and modern premises, fully equipped Laboratories for student exercises and at least 8 institutionalized research Laboratories of various specializations related to the P.G.P., a computer laboratory, library, classrooms, a secretariat and canteen, infrastructures absolutely satisfactory in order to meet the needs of the specific P.G.P. It is worth noting that all the Laboratories that will support the Study Program have the basic, but also modern logistical equipment that allows the successful completion of the program and the achievement of the learning objectives.

STUDENT GUIDE

Academic Calendar

The academic year begins on September 1 of each year and ends on August 31 of the following year. The teaching work of each academic year is structured in two semesters, the winter and the spring, lasting at least 13 weeks each. After each semester there is an examination period and in September a repeat examination, all lasting 4 weeks.

The study schedule is defined by the General Assembly at the beginning of each academic year and is published on the Department's website and online platform course support.

For the academic year 2022-2023 the general timetable is shown in the table below. Academic Year 2022-2023

- winter semester
- exams
- spring semester
- exams
- repeat exams

Classes and exams are interrupted on the following dates:

- on October 28,
- on November 17,
- during the Christmas holidays from December 23 to January 6 of the following year
- on January 30th
- on Clean Monday,
- on March 25,
- during the Easter holidays from Holy Monday to St. Thomas Sunday,
- on May 1,
- on May 14 (celebration day of the liberation of Alexandroupolis)
- Monday of the Holy Spirit
- on the day of student elections Κριτήρια εισαγωγής στο P.G.P..

The number admitted to P.G.P. is set at a maximum of one hundred (100) per study cycle and a minimum of five (5) graduate students.

Criteria and Procedure for Selecting Entrants

i. Call for expressions of interest.

The Department of Medicine on dates set by the Assembly calls for expressions of interest by announcing positions with an open procedure for the admission of graduates to the P.G.P. "Food, Nutrition and the Microbiome".

The invitation states the conditions for admission, the categories of graduates and the number of admissions, the method of admission, the selection criteria, the deadlines for submitting applications as well as the supporting documents required.

The applications together with the necessary supporting documents are submitted to the Secretariat of the relevant Department as defined in the relevant announcement.

ii. Admissions Selection Committee.

The selection of entrants to the P.G.P. is done by a three-member Committee of D.E.P. members of the Department who have undertaken a postgraduate project, which is established by decision of the Assembly of the Department of Medicine.

iii. The conditions and selection criteria of the candidates are specific, quantitative and/or qualitative, and are made known to the candidates with the announcement of the P.G.P.

The selection criteria in P.G.P are the following:

1. General grade of Degree/Diploma.
2. Interview by a competent Committee, in which the relevant research or professional activity of the candidate is taken into account.
3. Adequate knowledge of the English language, as a prerequisite, at B2 level. The level of linguistic knowledge of the foreign language is demonstrated in the following ways:
 - a) State Certificate of Law 2740/1999, as replaced by par. 19 of Article 13 of Law 3149/2003,
 - b) degree in Foreign Language and Philology or Degree in Foreign Languages Translation and Interpreting from the country or equivalent and equivalent from schools abroad,
 - c) degree, undergraduate or postgraduate diploma or doctoral degree from any recognized institution of higher education abroad,
 - d) baccalaureate equivalent to Greek Secondary Education schools, provided they have been obtained after regular study of at least six years abroad.
- The foreign language teaching proficiency license does not prove knowledge of a foreign language (p.d. 347/2003). Candidates who hold the relevant license must provide a certified copy and an exact translation of the degree on the basis of which the foreign language teaching proficiency license was issued language.
4. Letters of recommendation (up to 2 letters from D.E.P. members, researchers or employers).
5. Relevant research or professional activity of the candidate related to the subject of the P.G.P. (desirable).
6. Announcements at conferences, Publications and writing activity (desirable).

The minimum standard selection criteria for candidates include a first cycle degree, sufficient knowledge of the English language and the submission of up to 2 letters of recommendation.

The method of evaluation (scoring) of the above criteria belongs to the competence of the

Assembly of the Department and is described in the call for expressions of interest.

iv. Selection process

Those wishing to participate in the selection process are invited to submit a dossier application with the following supporting documents:

1. Application for participation
2. Copy of degree and other qualifications (with the required translations and acknowledgments for foreign titles)
3. Photocopy of ID
4. A recent photograph
5. Proof of knowledge of the English language.
6. Curriculum vitae showing studies, scientific, research and professional experience
7. Copies of publications (the full publication in a journal in a copy or full details of the journal and a copy of the abstract), announcements (a copy of only the abstract from the book of abstracts), optional.
8. Recommendation letter(s) up to 2 optional from faculty members, EEP, EDIP, employers, etc.
9. Certificate of proficiency of foreign candidates in the Greek language (Law 2083/92, art. 12, par. 2a)
10. Evidence of other scientific activities or certificates of other professional experience, optional

Applicants are advised to carefully check the instructions regarding each individual criterion for their scoring so that the complete dossier is submitted by the predetermined dates set out in the call for expressions of interest. Supplementary, incomplete or dated documents are not accepted.

The selection process is as follows:

- 1) Prepared by the Secretariat of the P.G.P. first a complete list of those who have applied.
- 2) The Admissions Selection Committee:
 - i. rejects candidates who do not meet the requirements.
 - ii. ranks the candidates by graduate category and proceeds with the pre-publication of the temporary selection table and announces the duration of objections.
 - iii. invites to an interview (if provided for) those candidates decided to be invited by the Admissions Selection Committee.
 - iv. after examining the objections and based on the candidate's final score, draws up the final selection board in order of evaluation.
- 3) The final list of successful candidates is validated by the Assembly. It is posted in accordance with the provisions on the protection of personal data on the website of P.G.P. and in the announcements of the Department.

In the event of a tie, all candidates with the same grade are admitted, provided that they do not

exceed the maximum number of applicants defined in the Call for Expressions of Interest. In the event that the maximum number of entrants to the P.G.P. is reached, the candidate with the highest degree will be admitted.

The successful candidates, after being informed by the Secretariat, are invited to respond in writing within 10 (ten) days as to whether they accept their inclusion in the P.G.P. and its operating conditions. The response of the selected candidate not within the above deadline is equivalent to refusal of acceptance and the Secretariat of the P.G.P. informs the next in line of evaluation from the relevant leaderboard.

Registration and Start of Studies

It is announced by the Secretariat of the P.G.P. the duration of the registrations as well as the required supporting documents.

For their registration in the P.G.P. successful candidates should come to the Secretariat in person or send by post or submit the relevant supporting documents electronically. Registration is considered complete when all required supporting documents are submitted.

The places of successful candidates who do not register by the deadline are filled by other successful candidates drawn from the list of runners-up based on the order of success.

In addition, upon completion of registration, the program of the PMS courses is communicated to all postgraduate students as well as any additional information regarding their obligations during their studies.

Academic ID and institutional account

After registration, students receive access information to a personal electronic institutional account (username, password). The details of the personal account are strictly personal and give access to a personal e-mail box at (@med.duth.gr), while they are required for the processing of most services such as:

- issuance of an academic ID
- access to the training support system
- access to the electronic library
- access to the electronic secretariat
- declaration of courses, books and other applications and certificates

All undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students have the right to an academic identity card. The academic ID also has the validity of a Special Ticket (pass), for those who are provided as beneficiaries by the relevant legislation. Applications are made on the website <https://submit-academicid.minedu.gov.gr> after the student's registration in the Department has been completed and an institutional account has been obtained. By showing the academic ID, free transport is provided on special urban transport routes between the University and the city and a 50% discount

on other urban transports, as well as long-distance transport if the student is traveling to and from the place of permanent residence. Department of Medicine DPH Study Guide 2019-2020 DPH 34 A 25% discount is also provided on long-distance transport in the rest of the country. The academic identity card (pass) is strictly personal and is not transferable to other persons.

Attending classes

The Director of P.G.P. issues and delivers draft academic calendar and program timetables; The timetable includes the start and end dates of teaching periods, exam periods, holidays, days and times of teaching courses, dates of other events or obligations, etc. The academic calendars and timetables are forwarded to the Directorate of Academic Affairs and the E.L.K.E. of D.U.TH. By enrolling in P.G.P. the student receives from the Secretariat the annually.

Academic Calendar of the Program.

The organization of the educational process of P.G.P. it can also be carried out using asynchronous distance education methods. Students are informed by the secretariat and the website about the ways to post digital educational material that follows the course delivery. In P.G.P. asynchronous distance learning methods, with the posting of related digital materials and media are used only as reinforcements and do not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the credits of the P.G.P.

The attendance of the courses is compulsory and is determined by the responsibility of the teacher. Every postgraduate student must attend all the courses of the semester. In case of absence in number > 40% of the teaching hours it is considered failed.

In the event that the number of absences is greater than that stated above and the reasons for the absence are serious, then upon his/her request of the graduate student concerned, the case is examined by the P.G.P. Coordinating Committee, which approves or disapproves the request and recommends it to the Department Assembly for final approval. In these cases and after the approval of the S.E. of P.G.P. and the Assembly is allowed to follow a specific program either to the current or in the next cycle of the master's degree without the payment of additional tuition fees, beyond the number of admitted students.

Exams and Course Evaluation

Courses are evaluated by written or oral examination, assignment, presentation, report or a combination of the above. The exact form of the evaluation is determined by the teacher or teachers in relation to the nature of each course.

The evaluation conditions for each course are communicated at the beginning of the teaching of the course by the faculty member - responsible/coordinator of the course.

For the courses in which the evaluation is done by oral and/or final written exam, the following applies:

The courses of the winter semester are examined in February (1st examination) and in September (2nd examination).

The courses of the spring semester are examined in June (1st examination) and in September (2nd examination).

The following applies to the courses in which a paper is to be submitted: For the course of the winter semester:

The subject of the work is given by the teacher until the end of January and the handing in of the work is done by the student until March 31 (1st examination).

For the 2nd exam, the topic is given by the teacher until June and the assignment is handed in until the end of September.

For spring semester courses:

The topic of the paper is given by the teacher until June and the student submits it until September 10 (1st exam).

For the 2nd examination, the topic is given by the teacher until January and the assignment is handed in until March 31.

After the end of the examination, the exercises, written essays and any other examination evidence are handed over by the teacher to the Secretariat for safekeeping.

The implementation time and the duration of the examination periods of the P.MS. are determined by the Assembly of the Department of the P.G.P. after a suggestion by S.E.

Course evaluation can also be done remotely using the digital evaluation method provided by the DUTHNET eClass e-learning platform of the D.U.TH. Department of Medicine. The exact format of the evaluation is determined by the instructor or instructors. /uses in relation to the nature of each course.

The evaluation conditions for each course are communicated at the beginning of the teaching of the course by the faculty member - responsible/coordinator of the course.

The evaluation of the performance in the individual courses is done by written or oral exams, preparation of assignments or a combination of the above.

The rating scale for evaluating the performance of postgraduate students is defined from zero (0) to ten (10):

"Excellent" from eight and fifty (8.50) to ten (10),

"Very well" from six fifty (6.50) to eight (8.00),

"Good" from five (5) to six forty-nine (6.49).

The results of the grading of the courses are communicated under the responsibility of the coordinator responsible for the course to the postgraduate students fifteen (15) days after the examination date or, in the case that the assessment is based on assignments, twenty (20) days

after the date of delivery of the works.

A repeat exam is not allowed in order for the student to improve his score.

The degree of D.M.S. calculated as the sum of a. of 70% of the average score in all the subjects examined and b. of 30% of the grade of the graduate thesis.

The degree of D.M.S. under the responsibility of the Secretariat, it is registered in the individual file of the student.

Post graduate Thesis(PGT)

The postgraduate student is required to prepare and successfully support his postgraduate thesis which is assigned in the 3rd semester of his studies.

The PGT subject should be within the scope of the PGP based on the acquired knowledge gained from the courses .

After successfully completing the courses up to the second (B) semester of studies, the postgraduate student has the right to submit an application for a PGT to the Secretariat of the P.G.P .The application must include the proposed title of the thesis, the proposed supervisor and a summary of the proposed project.

Postgraduate students who do not submit the application within the deadlines set by the internal Regulation, postpone the start of PGT at their own risk. at least one semester.

Supervision of PGT.

Following the candidate's request, the Coordinating Committee (SC) sets up a three-member examination committee for the approval of the work and appoints as supervisor one member of this committee.

Right to supervise PGT have:

- a) members of Teaching Research Staff (TRS), Special Educational Staff (SES), Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS) of the Department of Medicine or other Departments of the same or another Higher Educational Institution (HEI) or Higher Military Educational Institution (HMEI), as an additional employment beyond their legal obligations, if the PGP. has tuition fees, b) emeritus Professors or retired members of TRS of the Department of Medicine or other Departments of the same or another HEI,
- c) cooperating teachers, d) authorized teachers,
- e) visiting professors or visiting researchers,
- f) researchers and special scientists working in research or other technological bodies of the article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centers and institutes of the country or abroad, provided that they hold a doctoral degree.

By decision of the competent body of the PGP. the supervision of PGT may also be assigned to members of TRS., SLS,LTS and STLS of the Department, who have not undertaken a teaching duty in the PGP.

The members of the three-member Examining Committee must have the same or related scientific specialty as the subject of the PGT.

In exceptionally justified cases , the supervisor or a member of the three-member examining Committee may be replaced, following a decision of the Assembly of the Department of Medicine.

Writing a Master's Thesis

GENERAL

The subject of PGT is a Research subject (Laboratory or Industry) or a Review with a total number of 50 pages on A4 pages with Times New Roman 12 font. In case of a research subject , the subject's approval is required by the Bioethics Committee of Democritus University of Thrace, while if it concerns a Clinical study, such a bioethical approval will be provided by the Hospital relevant Body and the University. The PGT writing can be done in Greek or English with corresponding summaries of the 2 languages.

You should submit two (2) electronic copies on CD or DVD with a .doc or .docx and .pdf extension and one (1) hard copy to the graduate program secretariat.

WRITING

Structure of PGT

It will be in the form of a scientific paper with the bibliography in parentheses.

1. Cover
2. Copyright
3. Acknowledgments
4. Personal dedications (if any)
5. Summary in Greek
6. Summary in English
7. Contents
8. Introduction
9. Main part
10. Conclusions
11. Bibliography
12. Appendix (Appendix) if any, e.g. Questionnaire, other

COPYRIGHT

I hereby declare that this master's thesis(PGT) has been written by myself based on bibliographic data or research or questionnaires (delete respectively) and is not a product of plagiarism from any source,

but my creation according to academic ethics.

The approval of this PGT by the Department of Medicine of Democritus University of Thrace does not indicate acceptance of the author's views based on Law 5343/32, article 202, paragraph

2.Oral Presentation and completion of PGT

The graduate student submits copies of the final PGT to his Supervisor and the other two members of the Three-member Examining Committee.

Following the positive judgment from the Three-Member Examining Committee, the date of the public support/evaluation of the PGT is set by the Department Assembly.

The extent of the oral examination during public support depends on the form of presentation of the work. After the end of the public presentation, the Examining Committee signs the minutes of the Public Presentation of the PGT with comments and the final grade and it is compulsorily posted on the website of the Department or the School.

In case of a negative evaluation, it is possible to resubmit the improved work based on the comments of the Three-Member Examining Committee after two months.

In the event of a negative judgment after the 2nd submission, the postgraduate student has the right to change the academic subject and supervisor, in the next academic year.

In the event of a second failure, the postgraduate student is excluded from the awarding of the Master's Degree (PGT).

A full copy of the PGT is submitted to the library of D.U.Th., and in the Department of Medicine in electronic form.

The intellectual property of PGT belongs to the candidate. The exclusive license for non-commercial use of all property rights in the work, including its use for research and teaching are granted to D.U.Th. for the entire duration of protection of the work.

Postgraduate students are provided with a guide for the structure of the master's thesis(length, font, style of writing).

The PGT requires an in depth scientific and original knowledge by the postgraduate student . The text must meet the specifications and structure of a scientific paper (introduction ,summary, methodology,results, discussion, bibliography, other supporting or explanatory material ,figures, diagrams, photographs, images, etc.).

The text is written in Greek language with a short summary of approximately 300 words in English.

The text may be drafted in another language (English) with a Greek summary .

Duration of studies, Suspension of studies and deletion

Duration of Studies – Part time Study Program - Suspension of Study

1. Duration of study

The normal duration of a master's study program which leads to the receipt of the Master Graduate Diploma is defined in three (3) semesters. The time regarding the PGT cannot be less than three months.

The minimum study timeframe after completion of the writing and public presentation of the Master's Thesis is defined in three (3) semesters.

2. Part time study program

In accordance with paragraph g) of paragraph 4 of article 79 of Law 4957/2022 (A' 141), there is a part-time study program for working students, the duration of which is not may exceed twice the normal tuition. Part-time study is also provided for non-working postgraduate students who are unable to meet the minimum guidelines of the full-time study program in justified exceptional cases. The student has to submit an application including any relevant supporting document (employment certificates, medical certificates, or other reasons of 'force majeure').

The supporting documents are examined by the Coordinating Committee and the approval are given by the Department Assembly.

3. Suspension of Studies

Post-graduate students could be granted exceptionally after a temporary suspension of studies, which cannot exceed two (2) consecutive semesters. During the suspension, the graduate student loses student status. The time of the suspension is not counted towards the maximum duration of regular studies.

Upon return to the study program, the student is still subject to the study status of the time of his/her previous registration as a postgraduate student.

The suspension is granted by decision of the Department Assembly, following a recommendation by the Coordinating Committee.

4. Delete graduate students.

The Department Assembly decides on the courses review following the request of the postgraduate student-committee and an examination is defined in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of these Regulations.

The Assembly of the Department decides on the deletion of postgraduate students for the

following reasons:

- a) the insufficient progress of the postgraduate student, which is documented by the unjustified non-participation in the educational process, i.e. attendance, examinations in a percentage superior to 60% of the attendance hours and participation in course examinations.
- b) the defective fulfillment of other obligations defined by the relevant Regulation,
- c) behavior that offends academic ethics according to current legislation and according to the code of ethics of D.U.TH.
- d) application by the postgraduate student himself/herself

Quality Assurance Of The Master program

The Department of Medicine in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit (QA) of the D.U.Th has harmonized the Quality Policy of the Undergraduate Studies Program (B.P.S.) and the offered master's and doctoral programs under the auspices of the Quality Policy of the Democritus University of Thrace.

In particular, the MSc in FOOD, NUTRITION AND MICROBIOME program is part of the strategic planning of D.U.T.H. which aims at the promotion of knowledge, the development of research and the arts, the implementation and fulfillment of the educational, research, social, cultural and development requirements of the country. Yet, the high-level education and specialization of the post graduate students in theoretical and applied fields of academic knowledge

The MSc in FOOD, NUTRITION AND MICROBIOME (MSc in FOOD, NUTRITION AND MICROBIOME) is committed to the implementation of a quality policy that supports the academic character and orientation of the curriculum, promotes the purpose and subject implements its strategic objectives, determines the means and ways of achieving them and aims at its continuous improvement.

The MSc in FOOD, NUTRITION AND MICROBIOME plans, modifies and improves its Curriculum with transparency and participation of all the involved bodies and teaching staff, so that it:

- To respond to the modern scientific requirements and teaching needs.
- To achieve the learning outcomes and qualifications as described in the Curriculum course outlines and to offer qualifications in accordance with the European Higher Education Qualifications Framework.
- To promote scientific knowledge and research on the study of food and nutrition.
- To promote scientific knowledge and research on the study of the microbiome in relation to health and disease.
- To give graduate students a comprehensive picture of health in relation to nutrition, food and the microbiome.

It applies in full alignment with the quality policy of the Department of medicine and the University quality procedures in the teaching work:

- Selecting the appropriate teachers in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislation.
- Evaluating the teaching work of the students on a six-monthly basis.
- Participating in the internal evaluation process as coordinated by MODIP. of D.U.Th.
- Utilizing a variety of teaching methods and techniques, with an emphasis on student-centered processes and methods.
- Ensuring the progress and development of students during their studies.
- Encouraging every student to write articles, publications in reputable medical journals and

announcements at Panhellenic or International Conferences

- Ensuring useful and accessible learning resources for students
- Participating in the procedures provided for in the Regulations of the Outstanding Teaching Award of DUTH
- Cultivating a climate of respect, cooperation, understanding and participation of all those involved in the Study Program and applying the best practices to resolve any problems that arise, as provided for in the Complaints and Objections Management Regulation.

It takes care of the quality (and quantity) of the research work of the members of the academic unit:

- Strengthening of scientific collaboration both within the institution and with other institutions in Greece and abroad.
- Encouraging the participation of teachers in international and Greek conferences, research programs and international collaborations.
- Supporting their international mobility.
- Looking for alternative sources of funding (participation in programs, sponsorships, donations, etc.)
- Encouraging high quality research that will be published and recognized internationally

It ensures the connection of teaching with research.

It is updated on the level of employment opportunity of its graduates

Based on collected data (teaching staff-logistical infrastructures), it ensures the appropriate annual number of admissions, so that it can offer high-quality education to students.

It improves continuously the quality of the Study Program

It postes the Quality Assurance Policy of the Study Program on its website (<https://www.med-duth-master-fnm.gr>) and communicates it in every way to all parties involved.

It updates the program website .

Results of the educational assessment

In terms of teaching quality, the ratings were very good (average was higher than 4, on a scale from 1 to 5), namely:

- (a) students responded that the teaching was done in a way that helped them understand the course,
- (b) the teaching was done using new IT and communication technologies in a way that allowed the students to participate actively in the courses and
- (c) the teaching included good examples and practical applications.

The lecturers had a good command of their subject, great communicability, and good communication approaches with the students in the course. Yet, they gave clear and informative answers to the asked questions by the students. Additionally, the lectures provided for their courses interesting material and important information.

Conclusions from the educational evaluation

The evaluation results shows that the students who attend the program had a very positive image of the quality of the education and teaching provided.

Complaints management

To process complaints and objections related to academic matters (teaching and course grading), students should first contact the course instructor or contact their academic advisor. If they are not satisfied with the relevant communication, they can address either the Director of the Master's Program or the Scientific Supervisor.

Depending on the subject, they can also address their complaints to other competent bodies of D.U.TH. for further actions such as the Student Affairs and Mentoring Committee, the student's advocate, the Dean of the School, the Ethics and Ethics Committee D.U.TH., the Legal Service D.U.TH., and the Rector's authorities.

Also, for serious issues related to their studies, students can make written requests individually or in groups to the Department Assembly. However, if they consider that they did not receive a satisfactory response to their request, they can refer to the student's advocate or the Dean of the Faculty, or the Rector's authorities.

For complaints and objections, concerning procedures and services, such as the timetable, the rooms, the library, IT systems, etc., the students can refer to the competent administrative services, to the committees appointed by the Department accordingly to these matters: Education Office, Student Affairs Committee, or the student's advocate.

Most of the administrative services of D.U.TH. include procedures for submitting objections following relevant Regulation. The handling of complaints is submitted electronically on the Department's or the Postgraduate Program's website.

1. Complaints received (by the Secretariat) through the form are immediately sent by email or print to the Director of the Program.
2. The Director communicates with the student who complains respecting matters of discretion, privacy,

personal data, and proposes solutions.

3. If deemed necessary, the student's academic advisor could be informed.
4. If no solution is found, the Director may convene a meeting with the academic advisor, or other faculty members based on their experience (according to the decision of the Senate of D.U.TH.).
5. The Director of the program will then suggest ways to solve it.
6. If there is no solution, the Director of the Program may refer the student request to the Department Assembly .
7. In case of serious complaints without resolution, the Director, could address the student complaint to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, Student Advocate, etc.).

The management of the Scientific and Administrative Committee of the Master's Program undertakes to resolve all complaints within 20 working days.

Privacy

D.U.T.H. manages the information concerning the personal data of the students in accordance with the current legislation.

STUDENT CARE

Feeding

The university restaurant (student club) operates in the area of N. Chili. It is also open at the weekend but remains closed on public holidays (Christmas, Easter, summer).

Food is free for the students both undergraduate and postgraduates, the waiver of the fee is however subject to conditions. Students who meet the conditions prescribed by law and the competent bodies are entitled to free meals. The right to free meals extends throughout their studies plus two additional years. Students wishing to eat for free in the Student Club should submit an application accompanied by:

- Settlement note from the Tax Office or certified photocopy of the tax return that has been filed with the Tax Office.
- Marital status certificate from a competent municipal or community authority (of the last semester).
- Certificate from the Secretariat of the Department regarding their registration time and the current year of study.
- Declaration note of Law 1599/86, where the permanent residence of the parents will be declared.
- Certified Photocopy of the Police ID or birth certificate from the Municipality or Community (of the last semester).
- Those of the candidates citing health reasons must provide a certificate from a competent primary health committee documenting these reasons.
- Those candidates who have multiple children must submit a certificate of multiple children from the respective Federation.

Transportations

The movement, from the city to the University Campus in Dragana where the Department's facilities are located, is done by city buses: regular routes from the city to the Hospital, at a cost of 50% of the ticket with the presentation of the student academic ID.

The schedule of special routes is announced on the website of the Department. (www.med.duth.gr)

Student Advisory and Accessibility Structure

At the Democritus University of Thrace, the Student Counseling and Accessibility Structure (DoSyP) operates, with two departments, the Counseling and Psychosocial Support Department as well as the Accessibility Department.

It consists of the Central Service in Komotini as well as Branches in the cities of Orestiada, Alexandroupoli, and Xanthi.

DoSyP supports students in the course of their studies, aiming at equal access to educational activities, their personal development, the improvement of their social life as well as their support in times when they face psychosocial difficulties.

In particular, the Accessibility Department addresses students with disabilities or other access difficulties, supporting the use of electronic media for accessibility to texts and the educational environment as well as accessibility to infrastructures.

The Counseling and Psychosocial Support Department offers services related to:

Individual and group counseling

Organization of experiential seminars and workshops, with the aim of empowering and personal development of students.

Organization of a network of volunteers, with the aim of creating socialization activities and volunteering in the wider university community.

Organization of prevention & awareness events on psychosocial issues.

The staff of DoSyP is bound by confidentiality for the personal details and any other information of the people it supports. Complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The DoSyP branch in Alexandroupoli is housed in the Old Hospital, in the same building and next to the Molecular Biology auditorium, at Dimitras st. 19.

For more information contact the call center that serves the students of all four cities where DUTH Departments are based: 25310-39050 & 25310-39163

Alexandroupoli Branch Telephone: 25510-23478

Email: dosyp@duth.gr

Website: www.dosyp.duth.gr

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dosypduth>