UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY-HELLAS

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN THE SCIENCES

BRAIN & MIND

INTERNAL OPERATING REGULATIONS

FOR THE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN "BRAIN & MIND SCIENCES"

Academic Year 2025-2026

INTERNAL OPERATING REGULATIONS

OF THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

«BRAIN AND MIND SCIENCES»

Article 1

General Provisions

The School of Medicine, the Departments of Computer Science, Philosophy and Social Studies, Physics, and Psychology of the University of Crete as well as the Institutes of Computer Science (ICS), Applied and Computational Mathematics (IACM), and Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (IMBB) of the Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH) organize and operate the Interinstitutional Postgraduate Programme in «Brain and Mind Sciences» (hereinafter Interinstitutional MSc B&M), which is governed by the present regulations, the provisions of the approving Ministerial Decision 88743/B7 (Government Gazette 1537/17−10−2003) as amended by Ministerial Decision 209765/Z1/23.10.2014 (Government Gazette B΄ 3606/2014), its re-establishment by Ministerial Decision no. 5025/26.04.2018 (Government Gazette B' 1659/2018) in implementation of Law 4485/2017 (Government Gazette 114 A΄) and its harmonization (Government Gazette 1079/15−02−2024) with Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette 141 A΄). The duration of the Programme is five (5) years, with the possibility of extension, subject to its non-certification during its periodic evaluation.

The subject of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M is the production and dissemination of knowledge regarding the Brain and the Mind. Its purpose is the promotion of contemporary research, the provision of high-level postgraduate education and the preparation of scientists for an excellent career in academia in research institutions, in public services and in the productive sector. The objective of the programme is comprehensive, integrated education in the interdisciplinary approach to fundamental scientific questions concerning the brain and the emergence of thought, consciousness and behavior. The graduates of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M are expected to

- understand to a great extent the interdisciplinary character of the Brain and Mind Sciences and to have a solid knowledge background extending from nerve cells, to neuronal networks, to regional circuits and the way these interact for the emergence of thought and behavior
- have theoretical and practical knowledge in a broad range of contemporary neuroscientific methods ranging from the investigation of cellular processes at the level of neurons to the recording and analysis of activity of neuronal populations from different brain regions in animal models, the imaging of human brain activity, the study and analysis of behavior, the modeling of brain function at different scales, the development of computational algorithms, tools and systems that simulate functions of the nervous system.
- possess skills in mathematics, statistics and programming, which allow them to measure, analyze and visualize data and results
- be able to examine and evaluate the suitability of experimental approaches and to select the most appropriate methods for a given problem as well as to combine techniques in a prudent manner in order to approach complex scientific questions
- analyze scientific knowledge critically and use existing research as well as databases and tools for the solution of scientific problems

- communicate their findings with competence and persuasiveness, either orally or in writing, discuss with specialists and contribute to discussions on current/contemporary issues in the Brain and the Mind sciences
- have acquired general abilities such as time and conflict management, dealing with stressful situations, as well as social skills

Article 2

Postgraduate Degrees

The Interinstitutional MSc B&M awards a Masters degree in « Brain and Mind Sciences»

Article 3

Personnel

The faculty of the Programme are Professors of all ranks or retired faculty members of the Departments of Medicine, Computer Science, Physics, Psychology and Philosophy and Social Studies of the University of Crete as well as Researchers of all ranks of the Institutes of Computer Science (ICS), Applied and Computational Mathematics (IACM) and Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (IMBB) of FORTH.

The members of the Programme have the right to vote and to be elected to the governing bodies of the programme. Also:

a) undertake the teaching of courses and

b) the supervision of students during laboratory and theoretical exercises and

c) participate in examination committees (diploma theses, final examinations)

The members of the Programme are elected by the Programme Committee of the MSc B&M following application by the interested party. The criteria taken into consideration are: a) teaching and/or research activity in a scientific field dealing with issues related to the brain and the mind, b) funding of research programmes, c) willingness to offer postgraduate teaching work.

In addition, scientists from Greece or abroad whose interests relate to the objectives of the programme and who contribute or have contributed in any way to the Programme participate in the Programme following approval by the Programme Committee.

Article 4

Governing Bodies and Committees of the Programme. Composition and responsibilities.

<u>Director & Deputy Director of the MSc B&M</u>

The Director of the MSc B&M comes from the faculty members of the collaborating Departments and the Researchers of the collaborating Research Institutes with priority given to the rank of Professor (Researcher A) or Associate Professor (Researcher B), is a member of the Programme Committee and is appointed by decision of the Programme Committee for a two-year term, with the possibility of renewal without limitation. The Director of the MSc B&M has the following responsibilities:

a) chairs the Programme Committee and the Steering Committee, draws up the agenda and convenes meetings,

b) submits proposals concerning matters relating to the organization and operation of the MSc B&M to the Programme Committee,

c) submits proposals to the Steering Committee and the other bodies of the MSc B&M and of the Higher Education Institutes (HEI) on matters relating to the effective operation of the MSc B&M,

d) is the Scientific Responsible of the programme in accordance with Article 234 of Law 4957/2022 and exercises the corresponding responsibilities,

e) monitors the implementation of the decisions of the bodies of the MSc B&M and of the Internal Regulations of the MSc B&M, as well as the monitoring of execution of the budget of the MSc B&M,

f) exercises any other responsibility, which is defined in the decision establishing the MSc B&M. Upon the expiration of the term of the Steering Committee, under the responsibility of the outgoing Director, a detailed report of the research and educational work of the MSc B&M, as well as of its other activities, is prepared, with the aim of upgrading studies, better utilization of human resources, optimization of existing infrastructure and the socially beneficial use of the available resources of the MSc B&M. The report is submitted to the Department which undertakes the administrative support of the MSc B&M.

The Programme Committee appoints by its decision the Deputy Director of the MSc B&M. The Deputy Director is a member of the Programme Committee and his/her term is two years. In the event of resignation or loss, for any reason, of the Director of the Programme, the duties of Director are assumed by the Deputy Director until the appointment of a new regular Director, which is carried out within three months from the resignation or loss. In exceptional cases of insurmountable impediment of the Director of the Programme, the responsibilities of the Director may be exercised, for a limited period of time, by the Deputy Director. In the event that a Deputy Scientific Responsible has not been appointed, the duties of Director are assumed by the most senior faculty member with priority given to the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, and if none exists, permanent Assistant Professor. Seniority is determined according to the Government Gazette of appointment to the respective rank. The person exercising the duties of Director has the responsibilities of the Director until the appointment of a regular one.

Programme Committee (PC)

The Programme Committee consists of faculty members of the collaborating Departments and is constituted by decision of the Senate of the HEI which undertakes the administrative support of the MSc B&M, following a recommendation of the Assemblies of the collaborating Departments or competent bodies of the collaborating entities. The exact number of members of the Committee and the representation of each collaborating Department or HEI of Greece or abroad is defined in the cooperation protocol. Entities from Greece or abroad that participate in the MSc B&M and do not provide equivalent education and equivalent degrees with HEIs may be represented in the Programme Committee by one (1) member each, who is designated by the competent body of the entity and participates in the teaching work of the MSc B&M. Emeritus Professors of the Department or of the collaborating Departments may participate in the Programme Committee, provided that they provide teaching work in the MSc B&M.

The main responsibility of the Programme Committee is the organization, administration and management of the MSc B&M. Also, the Programme Committee has the following responsibilities:

a) constitutes Committees for the evaluation of the applications of candidate postgraduate students and approves their enrollment in the MSc B&M,

b) assigns the teaching work to the instructors of the MSc B&M,

c) submits to the Senate a proposal for the amendment of the decision establishing the MSc B&M, as well as the extension of the duration of the MSc B&M,

d) constitutes examination committees for the examination of diploma theses and the final examinations of postgraduate students and appoints the supervisor per thesis,

e) is responsible for the recognition of ECTS from previous studies

f) confirms the successful completion of studies, in order for the MSc B&M title to be awarded,

g) approves the report of the MSc B&M, following a recommendation of the Steering Committee.

By decision of the Programme Committee, the responsibilities under items a) and d) may be transferred to the Steering Committee of the MSc B&M. It exercises any other responsibility provided for by the provisions of Chapter Th of Law 4957/2022.

Steering Committee (StC)

By decision of the Programme Committee, a StC may be constituted, with a two-year term, in which the Director of the MSc B&M and four (4) of the members of the Programme Committee participate obligatorily. The StC is competent for monitoring and coordinating the operation of the programme and in particular:

a) draws up the initial annual budget of the MSc B&M and its amendments, provided that the MSc B&M has resources in accordance with Article 84 of Law 4957/2022, and submits a proposal for its approval to the Research Committee of the Special Account for Research Funds (S.A.R.F.),

b) draws up the report of the programme and submits a proposal for its approval to the Programme Committee,

c) approves the carrying out of expenditures of the MSc B&M,

d) approves the granting of scholarships, with or without compensation, in accordance with what is defined in the decision establishing the MSc B&M and the Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral studies,

e) submits to the Programme Committee a proposal for the distribution of teaching work, as well as the assignment of teaching work to the categories of instructors of Article 83,

f) submits to the Programme Committee a proposal for the invitation of Visiting Professors to cover teaching needs of the MSc B&M,

g) draws up a plan for the amendment of the curriculum, which it submits to the Programme Studies Committee,

h) submits to the Programme Committee a proposal for the redistribution of courses among the academic semesters, as well as matters related to the qualitative upgrading of the curriculum. Emeritus Professors of the Department or of the collaborating Departments may participate in the StC, if they provide teaching work in the MSc B&M.

Selection Committee

It consists of as many members (faculty members and Researchers) as the number of the collaborating Departments/Schools and Research Institutes which organize and operate the Interinstitutional MSc B&M and are appointed for a two-year term by the Programme Committee. The Selection Committee is responsible for (a) the announcement of the application submission period and (b) the selection of new postgraduate students.

The Director and the Deputy Scientific Responsible of the MSc B&M, as well as the members of the StC, the Programme Committee and the Selection Committee 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.

Article 5

Admitted students and selection procedure of Postgraduate Students

In the Interinstitutional MSc B&M, graduates of HEIs of Greece or equivalent recognized institutions abroad are admitted. The ascertainment of the recognition of the institution abroad and of the awarded title of the institution abroad is carried out by the University of Crete in accordance with the provisions of Article 304 of Law 4957/2022. The number of admitted students is set at a maximum of 25. In the Interinstitutional MSc B&M, students with disabilities and/or special educational needs may also be admitted. Both the central building and the postgraduate studies wing of the School of Medicine which is charged with the administrative support of the programme are accessible to Persons with Special Needs and in the teaching rooms positions suitable for wheelchairs have been provided.

The selection of admitted students is carried out by the Selection Committee. This may be preceded by pre-selection if this is deemed necessary due to the number of applications. During the interviews of candidate postgraduate students (PGSt), instructors of the programme outside the Selection Committee may be present without voting right. The Selection Committee takes into consideration the previous degrees of the candidate, the degree grade, the detailed transcript during undergraduate studies and especially the grade in relevant courses, letters of recommendation, the personal interview which may be accompanied by a written statement of interests and the knowledge of the English language (at a level corresponding at least to level B2 of the state certificate of language proficiency) in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 34 of Law 4485/2017. If there is a need for additional documentation of knowledge of the English language, part of the personal interview may take place in English. Also taken into consideration are scientific works that the candidate may have already authored and previous research experience that he/she has (e.g., for the preparation of a Diploma Thesis).

An objection to the selection decision of successful and reserve PGSt may be made within ten days from the date of announcement. The objection is judged finally by the Programme Studies Committee of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M.

Article 6

Academic obligations of Postgraduate Students

For each PGSt of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M, the Director appoints a member of the programme as “advisor”. The Programme Committee and the advisor have the responsibility for monitoring and checking the progress of the studies of the PGSt. They advise PGSt in the selection of appropriate courses and exercises depending on their interests, and support them during their studies. Advisory support extends also after the completion of studies of PGSt in matters such as the selection of topic and laboratory for continuation to the third cycle of studies with the commencement of preparation of a Doctoral Dissertation as well as other professional prospects. Special effort is made to strengthen the sense of autonomy of PGSt, while ensuring sufficient guidance and their support. If they face problems in their communication either with instructors or with the advisor, they have the possibility to proceed to corrective actions.

Attendance in the Interinstitutional MSc B&M is full-time and exclusive, lasts 4 semesters and begins in the winter semester. The possibility of part-time attendance is not provided to PGSt. In exceptional cases, by decision of the Programme Committee, the attendance of a PGSt may be suspended for a

period not exceeding one year, following an application by the PGSt and a reasoned recommendation of the advisor. The resumption of postgraduate studies is likewise approved by the Programme Committee following an application by the PGSt.

Each PGSt is required to attend postgraduate courses and specialized laboratory/theoretical exercises to accumulate at least 120 ECTS credits. PGSt are required to select by declaration at the beginning of each semester the elective compulsory courses and specialized laboratory/theoretical exercises that they will attend.

The language of instruction and writing of the diploma thesis is English.

The courses, teaching and research occupation, the specialized laboratory/theoretical exercises and any other type of educational and research activities are defined as follows:

a) Postgraduate courses. The assignment of teaching postgraduate courses of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M is made by the Programme Committee following a recommendation of the Steering Committee of the MSc B&M, if it exists, otherwise of the Director of the MSc B&M, as defined by the applicable legislation. Attendance of both the compulsory core course and of the elective compulsory courses that PGSt have selected is mandatory and their make-up is not provided. Systematic absence from educational activities leads to deletion of the PGSt from the Interinstitutional MSc B&M following a decision of the Programme Committee.

During the first year of attendance in the Interinstitutional MSc B&M, PGSt are required to attend the core course which aims for them to acquire background in all fields of the sciences of B&M, supplementing and deepening the knowledge they have from their first cycle of studies and preparing them for the elective compulsory postgraduate courses. The compulsory core course corresponds to 36 ECTS credits and is organized into 6 modules. At the end of each module, the performance of each PGSt is assessed by the instructor(s) of the module on a 1-10 scale (5-10: sufficient, 0-4: insufficient). The assessment is made by examinations or another method determined by the person responsible for the module. In case of failure in module(s) of the core course, the PGSt is given the opportunity to be examined again in these in a resit examination in September. In case of a new failure, even in one module, the PGSt is deleted from the Interinstitutional MSc B&M.

During the second year of attendance in the Interinstitutional MSc B&M, PGSt select and attend the elective compulsory courses. These courses reflect the research interests and scientific specialization of the instructors and aim at deepening in contemporary research questions and methods of the Sciences dealing with the Brain and the Mind. Each PGSt is required to successfully complete elective compulsory courses corresponding to at least 48 ECTS. The maximum number of elective compulsory courses in which each PGSt may enroll per semester is five (5). For a course to be taught, at least 3 students must select it. It is noted that courses of undergraduate curricula that the programme may recommend as elective compulsory are not recognized for graduates of the corresponding Departments. In any case, courses from previous studies that a PGSt may recognize as elective courses cannot exceed 12 ECTS (25% of the required credits from elective compulsory courses). The elective compulsory courses belong to 3 general directions: a) Biological/System Neurosciences, b) Computational Neurosciences, c) Social and Cognitive Neurosciences. At the end of each course, the performance of PGSt is assessed by the instructor(s) of each course on a 1-10 scale (5-10: sufficient, 0-4: insufficient). The assessment is made by examinations or another method determined by the person responsible for the course. Also, in case of failure (0-4) in three or more courses, the right is removed from the PGSt to continue his/her studies in the Interinstitutional MSc B&M.

b) At least 2 specialized laboratory or theoretical exercises (rotations) during which the PGSt participates actively in the activities (gatherings/meetings, literature updating, participation in a research programme) of the research groups participating in the Interinstitutional MSc B&M. They aim at familiarizing the PGSt with the research process and help him/her choose the future subject of his/her research, depending on the available research subjects, his/her interests and aptitude. The

selection of laboratory exercises is made by the PGSt in consultation with his/her advisor. The duration of each exercise is at least 3 months and their total duration at least 12 months. One month (120 working hours) corresponds to three (3) ECTS. Consequently, each PGSt accumulates at least 36 ECTS from the compulsory attendance (at least 12 months) of specialized laboratory or theoretical exercises. The performance of PGSt in each of the exercises is graded (on a 0-10 scale) by the persons responsible for the exercise, who draw up a relevant report which they submit to the Programme Committee. In case of failure (0-6) in a laboratory or theoretical exercise, the PGSt is required to select another one.

c) Attendance and participation in seminars of research groups and in literature update discussions or in other scientific events of the Programme (e.g. annual progress presentations of PGSt of the third cycle of studies, research seminars of members of the programme and other invited speakers).

d) Diploma thesis: PGSt of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M are not required to prepare a diploma thesis. However, a PGSt may, instead of attending a six-month specialized laboratory/theoretical exercise (rotation) and 2 elective compulsory courses (6 ECTS each) or 1 of 12 ECTS, and in order to accumulate 30 credits, choose the preparation of a diploma thesis. This includes at least one original question formulated by the PGSt and the complete bibliographic substantiation of the question and of the methodology that must be used to answer it. The PC, following an application by the candidate, where the title and summary of the thesis and the proposed supervisor are stated, appoints the supervisor and the two members of the three-member examination committee. In exceptional cases of loss, objective inability to exercise supervision duties or serious reason, replacement of the supervisor or a member of the Three-member Examination Committee is possible following a decision of the PC. The thesis is defended before the three-member examination committee. The PGSt writes the diploma thesis in the English language. After the completion of the diploma thesis, the PGSt submits to the Supervisor and to the other two members of the Three-member Examination Committee copies of the thesis. Provided that there is a positive judgment by the Three-member Examination Committee, the date of the public support/assessment of the diploma thesis is set on a date and place determined by the PC. The extent and depth of the oral examination during the support is proportional to the form of presentation of the thesis. After the presentation - support of the diploma thesis, the Examination Committee draws up and signs minutes of public presentation of the diploma thesis in which any observations or comments are stated as well as the final grade. In the case of a negative judgment, there is the possibility of resubmission within two months, after the PGSt improves the thesis in accordance with the observations of the Three-member Examination Committee. The final complete copy of the diploma thesis is submitted, after its acceptance, to the library of the University of Crete.

The Interinstitutional MSc B&M applies the highest ethical standards in scientific research as defined in the Research Ethics Regulation of the University of Crete (Government Gazette 5722/B/19.12.2018). All instructors of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M of the University of Crete maintain high standards in the way they guide postgraduate students as they conduct their research. It is recognized that the commission of misconduct in research is an extremely serious matter, which can have serious consequences on the studies and the research/academic career of those involved. Postgraduate theses, publications and patents resulting from research activity within the framework of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M follow the rules of research publication and ethics as summarized in the Research Ethics Regulation of the University of Crete.

The intellectual property rights from the produced research work within the framework of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M (laboratory/theoretical exercise, diploma thesis) belong to the student and to the Responsible Professor in the laboratory in which the research work was carried out under his/her supervision. For the protection of the moral part of intellectual property rights (moral rights), in the case of publication of part or all of the results of the research work in any form, the names of all students, professors or researchers who took part in the creative process as well as the entities to

which they belong must be mentioned. The student may agree to grant free of charge a license to the University of Crete, so that the latter reproduces and distributes copies of the produced forms of publication of the research work to the public for non-commercial uses. It is noted that the holder of intellectual property rights on postgraduate diploma theses that is based on research funded in whole or in part, in the form of salary, fee or subsidy, by funds managed by the University of Crete or FORTH, or another Institution, is determined according to the terms of the respective contract or other agreement that has been signed between the student, the University of Crete, FORTH and possibly another Institution. If there is no relevant agreement, the intellectual property rights pass into the ownership of the University of Crete. The collaborating Departments of the University of Crete and the Institutes of FORTH as well as the students are obliged to take into account and mutually respect their rights and obligations arising from the relevant contracts, as regards the terms of management, use, access, publication, dissemination, ownership and exploitation of intellectual property rights which exist or are created during postgraduate studies. The economic rights from intellectual property rights on the postgraduate diploma thesis are transferred to the University, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 8 and 40 of Law 2121/1993, and the Regulation of Postgraduate Studies of the University of Crete, unless there is a contrary agreement between the University of Crete and FORTH. In the case of scientific publications in journals or announcements in conferences arising from postgraduate work, the professors and the students who drafted them may assign exploitation to the publishing house or the organization organizing the conference, if requested. In case the postgraduate work may lead to the granting of a patent, supplementary application is also made of the provisions on university inventions/patents/procedure of participation in spin-off companies, in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions in combination with the Regulation for the Exploitation of Intellectual Property - Management of Patents and other intellectual property rights of the University of Crete, as in force.

e) Final examinations (comprehensive examinations): After successful examination in the courses and completion of the required laboratory/theoretical exercises, each PGSt is examined orally in 3 research topics determined by a three-member Examination Committee in consultation with the PGSt. Within one month from the completion of his/her obligations, in cooperation with his/her “advisor”, the PGSt must propose, to the Director, members of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M for the constitution of the Examination Committee. The Examination Committee cannot consist exclusively of the persons responsible for the laboratory/theoretical exercises that the PGSt carried out during his/her studies. In case the PGSt prepared a Diploma Thesis, the Examination Committee cannot include the Responsible person of the Diploma Thesis. The Director, considering the proposal of the PGSt and the availability of members of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M, proposes to the Programme Committee the composition of the Examination Committee for the PGSt. The final examinations must be completed at the latest within 6 months from the date of appointment of the Three-member Examination Committee. Extension is granted only in exceptional cases by decision of the Programme Committee. Inability to complete the examination within the predetermined time leads to deletion of the PGSt. The performance of the PGSt in the 3 research topics is graded separately on a 0-10 scale and to be considered successful he/she must be graded at least 7 in each research topic. In case of failure, even in one of the three topics, the examination is repeated in its entirety. In case of a new failure, even in one of the three topics, the PGSt is deleted from the Interinstitutional MSc B&M.

In summary, for a MSc Diploma to be awarded by the Interinstitutional MSc B&M the PGSt must:

i) Have successfully attended the core course.

ii) Have attended at least 2 specialized laboratory/theoretical exercises (rotations) of 12 months duration, or have attended one of the specialized laboratory/theoretical exercises (rotations) and have prepared a Diploma Thesis.

iii) Have accumulated at least 120 ECTS.

iv) Have participated successfully in the final examinations (comprehensive examinations).

For the final grade of the Master diploma, the average grade of the core course and of the elective compulsory courses that each PGSt has successfully completed is considered (multiplied by the weighting factor reflecting the ECTS credits of each course). The Diploma Thesis is taken into account with a weighting factor of a course of 12 ECTS credits.

The maximum duration of attendance in the Programme cannot exceed twice the normal duration, i.e. 4 years.

For a small number of PGSt, the granting of scholarships is possible provided that the financial possibilities of the programme allow it. For this purpose, the performance of candidates in the courses and their research experience are taken into account.

Disciplinary offenses may lead to deletion of the PGSt from the Interinstitutional MSc B&M following a decision of the Programme Committee.

Article 7

Award of Degree

The MSc Diploma is awarded to the PGSt in an official ceremony held at the Department/School, which has undertaken the administrative support of the MSc B&M at regular intervals. The diploma is a public document.

Article 8

Evaluation of the Programme

The annual internal evaluation of the MSc B&M is carried out in cooperation with the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of the University of Crete in the context of the internal evaluation of the academic unit which undertakes the administrative support and in accordance with the corresponding process of the internal Quality Assurance System of the Institution.

The quality of the educational work carried out in the programme is evaluated continuously. At the end of each semester each course and each instructor is evaluated by postgraduate students using questionnaires posted on an online platform. PGSt are encouraged to answer anonymously questions aiming at evaluating the content of the course and the transmissibility and in general the teaching adequacy of professors. These questionnaires are collected by the Programme Committee and after study it discusses with the instructors the most important problems identified and seeks their solution.

Upon the expiration of the term of the Studies Committee, under the responsibility of the outgoing Director, a detailed report of the research and educational work of the MSc B&M, as well as of its other activities, is prepared, with the aim of upgrading studies, better utilization of human resources, optimization of existing infrastructure and the socially beneficial use of the available resources of the MSc B&M. The report is submitted to the Department/School, which has undertaken the administrative support of the MSc B&M.

The external evaluation of MSc B&M programme is carried out in cooperation with MODIP in the context of their certification according to the procedure provided by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE).

According to Article 87 of Law 4957/2022, the Postgraduate Study Programmes (MSc) of each Department/School, which include the interdepartmental, interinstitutional MSc, for which the

Department/School undertakes the administrative support, are evaluated within the framework of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit by the HAHE.

Within this framework, the overall assessment of the work performed by the MSc B&M is evaluated, the degree of fulfillment of the objectives set at its establishment, its viability, the absorption of graduates in the labor market, the degree of contribution to research, its internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the expediency of extension of its operation, as well as other data related to the quality of the produced work and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education. If at the stage of its evaluation the MSc B&M, according to the above paragraph, is judged not to meet the conditions for continuation of its operation, its operation is completed with the graduation of the already enrolled students according to the decision of establishment and the regulation of postgraduate and study programmes.

Upon the expiration of the term of the StC, under the responsibility of the outgoing Director, a detailed report of the research and educational work of the MSc B&M, as well as of its other activities, is prepared, with the aim of upgrading studies, better utilization of human resources, optimization of existing infrastructure and the socially beneficial use of the available resources of the MSc B&M. The report is submitted to the relevant Department, to which the MSc B&M belongs.

Article 9

Procedures for resolution of Academic disputes

The University of Crete has established a regulation for the operation of a mechanism for handling complaints and objections of students for undergraduate and postgraduate students (Senate decision 508/23.11.2023). For complaints and objections related to academic matters (teaching and grading of a course), students should initially address the instructor of the course. Then they may address the studies advisor and if not satisfied the Director of the Interinstitutional MSc B&M. For serious matters concerning their attendance, PGSt may address in writing individually or collectively the PC. If they consider that their issue has not been resolved, there are the competent bodies of the University of Crete for further actions (1. The Student Ombudsperson, 2. The Gender Equality Committee, 3. The Data Protection Officer, 4. The Ethics Committee). For complaints and objections concerning support processes and services, such as the state of infrastructure, the library, information systems, etc., students may address the competent administrative services or the student ombudsperson.