UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

MSc by Research in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

A.18

REGULATION ON E-LEARNING
(Synchronous and Asynchronous Distance Teaching and Learning)

Athens-Egaleo, September 2024

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Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of West Attica

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(Synchronous and Asynchronous Distance Teaching and Learning)

Teaching and learning in this MSc Program takes place by blending two of the methods foreseen in Greek Law 4957/2022, the UNIWA Regulation for Graduate Studies (Gov. Gazette 4861/B/02-08-2023, article 9) and the Joint Ministerial Decision 18137/Z1/16-02-2023 (Gov. Gazette 1079/B/28-02-2023), namely,

(a) face-to-face teaching in class, and

(b) synchronous distance learning over teleconferencing technologies.

This type of blended learning is employed both for teaching classes and for student evaluation / examinations.

- *Synchronous Distance Learning* is a technology-mediated education method where teaching occurs in the virtual environment of a teleconferencing session. Teleconferencing employs voice and video streaming and thus allows teachers and students to interact in real time while each of them may physically be present in a different space. Interaction is full-duplex while sharing of multimedia content (images, videos, etc.) is supported in real time.

  In the present MSc Program, synchronous distance learning may be employed for the delivery of up to 75% of the whole course content. Furthermore, the details on the delivery and evaluation of each and every course module of the MSc Program are given in the course module description table, available online in the MSc website; details are announced to students by the beginning of the semester as well.

- *Asynchronous distance learning* is not used for the delivery of the present MSc Program or any of its modules.

Synchronous distance learning is implemented exclusively on the platforms endorsed by UNIWA and making use of the infrastructure of UNIWA.

In parallel with teaching and learning, teachers may use the *Open e-class* and/or the *moodle* e-learning platforms run by UNIWA for the asynchronous support of the students by supplementary digital learning content such as notes, presentations, proposed bibliography and scientific articles, images, diagrams, videos, etc.

Teaching and learning through distance learning technologies takes all measures in order to ensure accessibility of SD/SN to facilities and content.

In particular, the following digital environments are endorsed by UNIWA for distance learning:

MS Teams: MS Teams is a modern teleconferencing system designed to support and facilitate synchronous distance learning and real-time teacher-student interaction. MS Teams currently supports

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- voice and video communication in real time among all parties who may be physically distanced but who take part concurrently in a virtual class using the appropriate equipment (a computer or mobile device with a camera and microphone, speakers and headphones),

- application and document sharing,

- electronic whiteboard sharing,

- chat rooms for real-time communication between teacher(s) and student(s),

- breakout 'rooms' (sessions) for workshops or team collaboration.

Open e-class/moodle: These are the two alternative asynchronous distance learning platforms operated by UNIWA and available to all teachers and students for uploading/downloading supplementary learning content to support studies and learning. Practically all course modules of the UNIWA Study Programs use one or the other of these platforms, depending on the teacher(s)' preferences. In either of these platforms, supplementary material is organized by the respective teacher(s) in chapters or units or activities or other suitable entities and may contain lecture notes, presentations, videos, tests or quizzes, as well as links to the synchronous teleconferencing sessions of the particular course module. Discussion forums and announcement spaces are also available for better support of teacher-student communication, discussions and problem solving. Further functionalities include messaging, surveys and questionnaires, grading and grade announcement and monitoring, as well as a calendar for scheduling learning activities.

Graduate students are given access to MS Teams and Open e-class or moodle when they have enrolled in the MSc Program and obtained their institutional credentials for logging in the platforms. Accessibility and user authentication rules for graduate students are the same as those for undergraduate UNIWA students.

Course contents are designed to implement student-centered learning; this in turn requires that academic staff be digitally literate and have adequate digital skills to make use of these platforms.

In conformance with GDPR (Greek Law 4624/2019, as it holds), the UNIWA Information Systems Security Policy as applied in E-learning systems development, as well as the UNIWA Privacy and Confidentiality Management Policy and Cybersecurity Policy are applicable to all UNIWA Undergraduate and Graduate Study Programs.

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