



**Τμήμα
Δασολογίας και Φυσικού Περιβάλλοντος**

**Ξενόγλωσσο
Προπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα Σπουδών**

Ε.

**Κανονισμός σπουδών, πρακτικής άσκησης,
κινητικότητας, εκπόνησης εργασιών (eng)**

Ιανουάριος / 2026

A. STUDY REGULATION

Study Regulation (Excerpt from Decision No. ... of the Senate/Assembly of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki / School)

Article 1

Subject Matter, Purpose of the EUPS

The School of Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki organizes and operates a Undergraduate Program of Studies in English (hereinafter referred to as EUPS) with the subject of Forestry and Natural Environment Studies, as defined by the Science of Forestry and Natural Environment, which is **a full four-year course of study** and leads to the award of a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry and Natural Environment (**formal title: "Bachelor in Forestry and Natural Environment" (BScFNE)**).

The subject of the Undergraduate Program of Studies in English is the science of forestry and the natural environment. The Programme provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue careers in forestry and, more generally, in natural resource management and protection, as well as any other professional or academic activity that requires training in forestry.

The aim of the programme is to provide high-level forestry education to an international audience, so that upon graduation, students will be able to address the challenges of applying the science of forestry and the natural environment and conduct research. The programme aims to prepare graduates to contribute positively to the development of international forestry with respect to the protection and sustainable management of forests and the natural environment, as well as to the utilization of forest products, strictly adhering to the fundamental principle of sustainability while serving the multiple purposes of forestry. It also aims to prepare graduates for the development of entrepreneurship in the forestry sector, the bioeconomy, the implementation of agroforestry systems, the management and improvement of grassland ecosystems, the establishment and management of wildlife and fish farms, the establishment, administration, and operation of forest industries for the utilization of wood and biomass, as well as the establishment and management of commercial forest plantations. Finally, the Programme aims to strengthen critical thinking and scientific depth, promoting Greek forestry and the sustainable management of complex natural ecosystems, as well as generally strengthening the extroversion of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Learning outcomes and qualifications. Upon successful completion of the EUPS of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment, students will have acquired:

- Comprehensive theoretical knowledge in all key areas of Forestry and Natural Environment.
- Skills in applying theory to forestry practice, management, and protection of the natural environment through practical training in the forest.
- Skills in managing all types of forest ecosystems (natural and artificial), applying new technologies for monitoring and assessing ecosystem productivity, applying optimal methods for monitoring and protecting forest ecosystems, species and genetic resources.
- Skills in establishing and operating forest plantations to produce timber, biomass, woody and non-woody forest products, edible forest fruits, aromatic and medicinal plants, farmed wildlife and fish species, drafting of grazing management plans.

- Skills in forest clearing, natural hazard management, such as hydrological management of catchment basins, flood risks, forest fires, and stress from biotic and abiotic factors, as well as drafting environmental impact studies, taking into account the climate crisis.
- Skills in understanding complex forestry and environmental scientific texts, as well as the ability to analyze and synthesize forestry and environmental issues.
- Application of the principles of sustainability in forestry practice to serve the multiple purposes of forestry.
- Ability to continue studies in the second cycle (Master in Forestry and Natural Environment or related postgraduate programme).

The programme provides students with the academic prerequisites for continuing their studies at postgraduate and then doctoral level and the professional prerequisites for their careers in fields that require documented knowledge of the science of forestry and the natural environment, while the degree awarded is equivalent to Bachelor in Forestry or Bachelor in Forestry and Natural Environment degrees awarded by foreign universities.

Article 2

Categories of Candidates for the EUPS of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment

Foreign candidates who are eligible to apply are:

a) Graduates of high schools or equivalent schools headquartered abroad. Interested parties, provided they have completed the last two (2) years of high school or equivalent school in a foreign country, must submit a high school diploma or other equivalent secondary education qualification that entitles them to the admission to higher education institutions in the country in which they graduated.

b) Graduates of a recognized foreign school in other European Union member states or third countries, which is legally established and operates in Greece, whose qualification entitles them to the admission to higher education institutions located in the country whose educational programme is followed by the foreign school from which they graduated, provided that:

(ba) they and their parents do not have Greek citizenship and

(bb) they have attended at least the last two (2) years of high school in full-time education.

c) Students of Forestry and/or Natural Environment at higher education institutions abroad who hold the certificate referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 314A of Law 4957/2022, in order to continue their studies in the corresponding semester and be awarded a degree by the EUPS of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Foreign schools in Greece must be recognized as legally operating by the local Secondary Education Directorate.

The authenticity of the high school diploma and the candidate's detailed grades can be verified:

1. with an Apostille stamp, provided that the country of origin of the documents is a member of the Hague Apostille Convention,
2. with a notary's certification (notarial act),
3. with certification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or the Ministry of Education of the issuing country,
4. by submitting the diploma and/or detailed transcript and simultaneously informing the foreign school by the interested party. The notification is accompanied by an official email

from the foreign school, enabling the Secretariat of the EUPS to verify the authenticity of the documents in question.

Proof of English language proficiency

Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English at least at level B2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), in one of the following ways:

1. English as their first language.
2. Possession of a language proficiency certificate of at least level B2 from a recognized examination body, in accordance with the applicable decisions of the Supreme Council for Personnel Selection (ASEP) or the Ministry of Education on recognized language proficiency certificates.
3. Degree from a Department of Foreign Languages and Literature or a Department of Foreign Languages, Translation, and Interpreting in Greece, or an equivalent qualification from a recognized institution abroad.
4. Bachelor's/Master's/Doctorate degree from a recognized foreign university, provided that the programme is conducted entirely in English.
5. High school diploma, provided that the candidate has attended at least the last two (2) years of secondary education at a school where the official language of instruction is English.
6. A foreign language teaching certificate does not constitute proof of knowledge of that language, as it is necessary to submit a certified degree on the basis of which the certificate was issued, as well as an official translation of it, if required.

Article 3

Number of Admissions, Selection Criteria, and Required Documents

The **annual number of students admitted** to the EUPS of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment is set **at a maximum of thirty (30)** undergraduate students, while the minimum number of students admitted is set at twenty (20) undergraduate students. By decision of the Program Steering Committee, the minimum number of admissions may be changed in each cycle of the Programme.

In the event of a tie between candidates, those who are tied with the last successful candidate are admitted to the EUPS, according to their evaluation ranking **and until the maximum number (30) is reached**.

The **selection** of admitted students is based on the candidates' CVs, following evaluation of their files and supporting documents by the Program Steering Committee and the candidates' participation in the selection process. This includes an online interview conducted by members of the Committee, which assesses communication and reasoning skills, academic and personal readiness, and general understanding of issues related to forestry and the natural environment. By decision of the Program Steering Committee, which is referred to in the announcement, an English comprehension test may be conducted prior to the interview, in a form and on topics to be determined each time by the said decision.

Applications are submitted electronically throughout the year and until the available places are filled. Prospective students are invited to submit their applications, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents, to the Secretariat of the EUPS in electronic form. The English language test and interviews are conducted on predetermined dates set by the Program Steering Committee, while the evaluation order follows the chronological order of the receipt of applications. The relevant announcement and the corresponding required supporting documents are published on the Programme's website.

Applicants must submit the following **supporting documents**:

- Application form for participating in the EUPS, available in electronic form on the Programme's website
- Photocopy of both sides **of the ID Card or Passport**
- High school **diploma** (with official translation into English)
- **Detailed transcript** of all courses taken in the final year of high school (with official translation into English)
- Certificate of **English language** proficiency at least at level **B2**
- **Motivation letter** of up to five hundred (500) words, presenting the candidate's interest in forestry and the natural environment, their motivation for studying the programme, and their future goals
- A **brief CV** including information on studies, distinctions, volunteer work, or other activities related to the subject.

The above-described candidate selection criteria and supporting documents may be revised following a proposal by the Program Steering Committee and approval by the Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

In addition, the following optional academic criteria are taken into account positively in the evaluation of the candidate's file:

- Minimum overall high school diploma grade: **sixty-five percent (65%) of the maximum grade** or equivalent
- Possession of admission test certificates for higher education, such as:
 - *International Baccalaureate (IB)*: at least **28/45**,
 - *GCE A-levels*: at least **BBB** in three subjects, with particular emphasis on subjects such as Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English
 - *Advanced Placement (AP)*: Grade 4 or 5 in relevant subjects such as Environmental Science, Biology, Statistics, Physics (Algebra-based), Calculus, Chemistry, Micro-economics, English Language and Composition
 - *SAT / ACT*: **SAT**: $\geq 1000/1600$ **ACT**: $\geq 22/36$
 - *TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment)*: $\geq 65/100$ or raw score $\geq 27/50$

Additional criteria are taken into account for the evaluation and selection of candidates, which are defined and may be revised upon recommendation of the Program Steering Committee and in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

The relevant original documents, if deemed necessary, may be requested from the candidate to be sent by mail or submitted in person to the Secretariat of the EUPS.

The **final selection process for candidates** to the Programme is carried out by the Program Steering Committee, as follows: The Committee compiles a complete list of all candidates and, after the relevant review, it rejects those who do not meet the minimum criteria set by the Law and the Programme and invites the shortlisted candidates who have submitted the required supporting documents to an interview. After completion of the process [evaluation based on the supporting documents, the interview, and the knowledge test (if applicable)], the final list of successful candidates is drafted.

The **final list of successful candidates** and any alternates is validated by the Program Steering Committee. The candidate selection process, the publication of the results, and the registration of successful candidates must be completed by September 30 of each academic year, subject to the filling of vacancies arising from students who voluntarily withdrew from the

Programme by discontinuing their studies. These places are filled in order of priority from the list of alternates compiled by the Program Steering Committee during the evaluation of applications.

In addition to the above, the opportunity of admission to the EUPS of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is provided to Forestry and/or Natural Environment students at higher education institutions abroad who hold a certificate of successfully evaluated periods of study, which have been completed at a recognized higher education institute abroad (paragraph 1 of Article 314A of Law 4957/2022, as amended by Article 128 of Law 5094/2024), in order to continue their studies and be awarded the corresponding degree.

Students must submit an application with the required supporting documents to the Secretariat of the EUPS in printed or electronic form, through the Electronic Registration Information System of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.

Filling vacant positions

In the event of a student's withdrawal or expulsion, the Program Steering Committee may, by a specially justified decision, fill the vacant position, exceeding the number of thirty (30) admissions for the corresponding year, in order to ensure the smooth operation of the Programme by maintaining a stable number of students in each year of study.

The position may be filled by students of Forestry and/or Natural Environment who are studying in the same or higher semester at internationally recognized higher education institutions abroad.

Candidates may be selected either from among those who applied in the initial application cycle or through a separate public call.

Interested parties are requested to submit the following supporting documents:

- Copy of ID or passport,
- High school diploma (original and official translation into English),
- Transcript of all grades from the final year of high school (original and official translation into English),
- Detailed transcript from the school of origin,
- Official curriculum of the school of origin for academic equivalence verification,
- Proof of English language proficiency in accordance with the relevant section of Article 4 of this Regulation,
- Letter of interest, and
- Curriculum vitae.

The Committee evaluates the candidates' files and may invite them to an interview before issuing its final decision.

Appeals against the results may be submitted within five (5) working days of the notification of the results, by written request to the Secretariat of the EUPS.

The registration of successful candidates takes place following a relevant announcement by the Secretariat of the EUPS within fifteen (15) days, with the submission of any necessary supporting documents. If a candidate does not enrol within the specified deadline by paying the relevant advance tuition fees, this will be considered a refusal to accept the place, which will be filled by the next candidate on the reserve list.

It should be noted that applications and the possible acceptance of candidates relate exclusively to the academic year specified in the relevant call for applications. There is no provision for provisional admission for subsequent academic semesters or years, regardless of

the reason, including, but not limited to, military service or personal obligations. Candidates who wish to study in a subsequent year must reapply in the next cycle and the corresponding call for applications.

Exceptionally, the Program Steering Committee may, by reasoned decision, approve the postponement of the start of studies for one academic year, provided that there are serious reasons and they are sufficiently documented by the candidate. The decision on whether to grant the postponement is at the sole discretion of the Committee.

Article 4

Duration and Conditions of Study at the EUPS

The duration of study at the EUPS leading to a degree in Forestry and Natural Environment Science is set at **eight (8) academic semesters** of full-time study.

The program for each semester course lasts thirteen (13) weeks and consists of lectures, assignments, etc., depending on the requirements of the course and the choice of the respective lecturer.

All courses are conducted **in person**, utilizing the infrastructure of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment, including the facilities of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's University Forests in Pertouli, Trikala, and Taxiarchis, Chalkidiki. The use of **synchronous distance learning** methods is provided, on an exceptional basis, for teaching activities carried out with the participation of professors from foreign institutions or collaborating professors, in cases of force majeure or exceptional circumstances, where it is not possible to conduct the educational process in person or to use the infrastructure of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment for educational, research and other activities, as well as for the organization of in-depth courses and tutorial exercises, beyond the compulsory teaching hours per course. Distance learning courses are conducted using ICT, utilizing the material and technical infrastructure of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment and the University Forests, as well as the expertise and support of the Digital Governance Unit (D.G.U.) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The minimum duration of study at the EUPS for awarding the degree is eight (8) academic semesters, while the maximum duration of study is defined as this period plus four (4) academic semesters.

After completing the maximum duration of study [twelve (12) semesters], and subject to the provisions in force at any given time in accordance with the applicable legislation on Higher Education Institutions, a decision to remove the student from the programme is issued by the competent body of the EUPS

Once registration has been completed and all the procedures relating to the formal commencement of studies have been completed, students who have not exceeded the maximum period of study specified in paragraph 1 may apply for a leave of absence for a period not exceeding a total of two (2) academic years. The right to suspend studies may be exercised once or in instalments for a period of at least one (1) academic semester, but the duration of the interruption may not exceed a total of two (2) years if granted in instalments. Student status is suspended during the period of interruption of studies and participation in any educational process is not permitted. The period of interruption of studies is not counted towards the maximum duration of normal studies, and upon resumption of studies, students return to normal study status with all the rights and obligations provided for in the Programme. The relevant procedure is initiated by a written request from the student concerned to the Secretariat of the

EUPS, accompanied by the necessary documents, as appropriate, and is evaluated by the Program Steering Committee.

For serious health reasons relating to the student or a first-degree relative, spouse, or person with whom the student has entered into a cohabitation agreement, an exception may be made to exceed the maximum duration of study, which shall not exceed one (1) year. This extension is approved by the Program Steering Committee, following a fully justified and adequately documented request by the student, and may not exceed two (2) consecutive academic semesters.

Part-time study is not available in the EUPS

For issues of re-examination of courses in outstanding courses or withdrawal for reasons such as:

a) insufficient progress by the student (as evidenced by lack of participation in the educational process: attendance, exams),

b) behaviour that violates academic ethics, and

c) the student's own request,

the Program Steering Committee shall decide on the conditions for re-examination and the reasons for expulsion.

Article 5

Student Rights and Obligations

Within the framework of the social policy of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment, in collaboration with the Equal Access Unit of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, full, equal and meaningful participation of all students with disabilities or special educational needs in all educational, research, and administrative activities of the Faculty in general and the EUPS in particular.

Access to the teaching and examination areas of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment is facilitated by appropriate infrastructure, such as ramps, special bars, and elevators. Students who, due to disability or learning difficulties, are unable to participate in written examinations are given the opportunity to take an oral examination either in person in an accessible room or remotely via a digital teleconferencing platform.

Students enrol and participate in the EUPS under the terms and conditions set out in this Regulation. Students in the programme have **all the rights**, benefits, and facilities provided for students in the Greek-language programme, **except for** the right to free textbooks.

Students admitted to the EUPS **are required to:**

1. Attend all courses of the Curriculum, regardless of whether they are conducted in person or, exceptionally, remotely, provided that the latter has been approved by the competent bodies of the Programme. Participation in courses, exercises, exams, public lectures, and other educational activities is mandatory. Students are entitled to an absence of up to thirty percent (30%) of the total teaching hours of each course per semester. In the event of a serious and justified impediment, it is possible to make up for the teaching hours, after consultation with the lecturer and with the approval of the Program Steering Committee.

2. Submit the required assignments on time, if these are specified in the course by the lecturer.

3. Select in a timely manner, at the beginning of each semester, any courses from previous years that have not been successfully completed. Selections are registered electronically through the electronic secretarial service and are included in the student's individual file.

4. To purchase or borrow the necessary textbooks, based on the recommendations of the instructor of each course, if deemed necessary.

5. To systematically follow the announcements of the Programme and the Secretariat of the EUPS, regularly checking their electronic mail.

6. Issue an academic ID card through the relevant electronic service of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.

7. Pay tuition fees on time before the winter and spring semesters of each academic year, in accordance with the deadlines set.

8. They must have settled any financial or other outstanding issues with the Programme and the Foundation before their graduation. Otherwise, they are not entitled to participate in the graduation ceremony.

9. In the case of a work-study scholarship, they must provide the required work, which may involve supporting the educational or research activities of the Programme, the library, or other needs of the Faculty.

10. Respect the decisions of the Programme's bodies and adhere to the rules of academic ethics.

Systematic or serious violation of the obligations arising from this Regulation, without sufficient and documented justification, may result in failure of a course or, in serious cases, exclusion from educational activities and/or expulsion of the student from the Programme, following a decision by the Program Steering Committee.

The same penalty may be imposed in cases of disciplinary offenses that offend the academic community and the dignity of its members, such as sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic behaviour, verbal or physical violence, inappropriate behaviour on university premises, as well as any action that is contrary to the principles of respect, equality, and inclusion. Finally, the Committee reserves the right to refer relevant cases to the competent disciplinary bodies of the Institution or, if there are grounds for doing so, to forward them to the competent authorities of the legal system, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Article 6

Curriculum - Assessment

The Undergraduate Program of Studies in English (EUPS) "Bachelor in Forestry and Natural Environment" offers a unified, full-time curriculum lasting four (4) academic years, structured into eight (8) academic semesters. The programme includes a total of forty (40) courses, all of which are mandatory. Specifically, students are required to attend and successfully pass forty (40) mandatory courses, from which they will accumulate two hundred and forty (240) credit units (ECTS) during their studies.

Teaching is conducted in person, with the use of digital support for educational material and communication between students and teachers, provided by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki e-learning platform. Attendance at courses is compulsory, and absences exceeding thirty percent (30%) of the teaching hours of each semester are not permitted, unless there are documented reasons of force majeure.

The academic year is divided into two (2) semesters (winter and spring), each of which consists of thirteen (13) weeks of teaching, with an examination period at the end of each semester. Successful completion of studies requires the accumulation of two hundred and forty (240) ECTS credits.

The language of instruction for all courses is English.

The programme does not include a mandatory internship. However, students will attend lectures and participate in practical training at the two University Forests (Taxiarchis in Chalkidiki and Pertouli in Trikala) during the month of May of the 4th and 6th semesters, as part of specific courses during the spring semester, as well as through educational field trips. In addition, counselling support and opportunities to participate in research projects related to forestry and natural environment management applications are offered.

Curriculum

Code	CURRICULUM Mandatory Courses	Hours/week	ECTS
1st Semester		25	30
FNE11	Applied Statistics and Modeling in Forestry	5	6
FNE12	Ecology, Sustainability and Climate Change	5	6
FNE13	Meteorology and Climatology	5	6
FNE14	Forest and Environmental Informatics	5	6
FNE15	General Soil Science	5	6
2nd Semester		25	30
FNE21	Environmental Pollution	5	6
FNE22	Wood Structure and Properties	5	6
FNE23	Topography	5	6
FNE24	General Hydraulics and Hydrology, Potamology	5	6
FNE25	Forest Botany I (Plant Morphology – Systematics and Taxonomy)	5	6
3rd Semester		25	30
FNE31	Plant Physiology	5	6
FNE32	Forest Soil Science	5	6
FNE33	Forest Protection from Biotic Factors	5	6
FNE34	Forest Road Construction	5	6
FNE35	Forest Botany II (Trees and Shrubs – Geobotany)	5	6
4th Semester		25	30
FNE41	Wildlife Biology	5	6
FNE42	Forest Biometrics and Mensuration	5	6
FNE43	Inland Water Applied Ichthyology	5	6
FNE44	Forest Economics	5	6
FNE45	Wood Chemistry and Chemical Products (Bioenergy and Biofuels)	5	6
5th Semester		25	30
FNE51	Forest Genetics	5	6
FNE52	Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Management	5	6

FNE53	General Silviculture (Forest Ecology)	5	6
FNE54	Wood Technology	5	6
FNE55	Wildland Fire Ecology and Rehabilitation	5	6

6thSemester

25

30

FNE61	Genetic Improvement of Forest Tree Species	5	6
FNE62	Applied Silviculture	5	6
FNE63	Wildland Fire Suppression and Management	5	6
FNE64	Geographic Information Systems – Geospatial Analysis	5	6
FNE65	Mountain Hydronomics	5	6

7th Semester

25

30

FNE71	Rangeland Science	5	6
FNE72	Forest Management Planning	5	6
FNE73	Remote Sensing of Environment	5	6
FNE74	Harvesting of Forest Products	5	6
FNE75	Forest and Environmental Policy	5	6

8th Semester

25

30

FNE81	Nature Conservation, Landscape Planning and Urban Greening	5	6
FNE82	Agroforestry: Climate and Ecosystem Services	5	6
FNE83	Reforestation, Forest Nurseries, and Ecological Restoration	5	6
FNE84	Forest Recreation	5	6
FNE85	Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources	5	6

Teaching - Knowledge assessment - Student evaluation

The EUPS is taught with the physical presence of lecturers and students in the classrooms. By decision of the Program Steering Committee, a weekly online education zone may be established, common to all students of the EUPS students, which will be used for tutorials and/or seminars and, on in exceptional cases, for make-up classes in cases where classrooms are not available for this purpose on other days of the week. In exceptional cases of emergency circumstances that prevent in person teaching, it may be decided, by a specially justified decision of the Head of the School and the EUPS Director, lectures may be conducted online for a limited period of time, which is necessary in order to address the emergency circumstances that justify the transition to distance learning in the short-term.

Similarly, examinations are conducted with students and examiners physically present in the School's classrooms, whether they are written or oral. As an exception, only oral examinations may be conducted remotely, provided that the identity of the examinees is verified and best practices for conducting oral examinations via the internet are followed to ensure their integrity. Remote written examinations are not permitted, except in cases and under conditions that are mandatory under applicable law. By decision of the Program Steering Committee, written examinations may be conducted using tablets, laptops, or PCs, provided that they are conducted in the presence and under the supervision of the examinees in the School's classrooms, under the

guarantees of a comprehensive plan for the conduct of these examinations, which will ensure their integrity and the equal treatment of examinees.

Attendance at lectures, tutorials, and any other organized educational activity of the Undergraduate Program of Studies in English of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment is mandatory. Students may be absent for up to thirty percent (30%) of the total teaching hours of each course per semester, while deviations from this limit are allowed only in exceptional cases, upon approval by the Program Steering Committee. Regular attendance at lectures, tutorials, and exams is considered an essential element of academic excellence for the successful completion of the Programme.

Before the start of each semester, the Secretariat of the EUPS prepares and publishes the detailed timetable for the semester, taking care to ensure that, as far as possible, mandatory courses (a) are distributed evenly throughout the week, (b) are not scheduled at times that are too far apart on the same day on which they happen to be taught, and (c) do not coincide with the teaching of other courses in the same semester.

At the end of the tenth (10th) week of teaching each semester, students are invited to participate in an anonymous online evaluation of the courses taught to them, as well as of the lecturers, for the purpose of improving their level of studies.

Student evaluation

1. Students at the School's EUPS are assessed by written or oral examinations, which are held at the end of the semester for the courses taught in the same semester. All courses are examined during the repeat examination period in September. Participation in an oral exam excludes the student from participating in the written exams for the same course during the same exam period.

2. Lecturers take special care for the oral examination of students with dyslexia, serious mobility problems, or visual impairments that substantially hinder their participation in written examinations, as proven prior to their admission to the Programme, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the provisions in force.

3. The Secretariat of the EUPS publishes the detailed schedule of written examinations for each upcoming examination period in a timely manner. The lecturers, assisted by the Secretariat of the EUPS, is responsible for ensuring that there is a sufficient number of invigilators from among doctoral candidates and postgraduate students. Lecturers must be present at all times in the examination rooms, supervise the smooth and impartial conduct of the examinations, and take the necessary measures for these purposes.

4. Before taking the exam, each examinee must check that their name is listed in the Secretariat's computerized list of those eligible to take the exam for that particular course. Candidates are prohibited from copying or falsifying in any other way the results of the examination process, as well as from bringing books, aids, notes, or electronic means of communication into the examination rooms. Any attempt to use electronic means of communication during the examination process is considered a particularly aggravating circumstance against the examinee. Furthermore, examinees are prohibited from using a separate sheet of paper as a draft. For this purpose, they are allowed to use the last page of their written paper. In the event of a violation of these terms, the written paper will be marked as zero as an internal measure to ensure the integrity of the examination process, without prejudice to any other penalty that may be imposed under the provisions in force.

5. The designated invigilators must check the academic ID card proving the student's status and certifying the identity of the examinee, verify that the student's full name and special registration number are written on their paper, initial each paper, supervise the examinees so that they do not copy or talk to each other, constantly monitor the entrances and exits of the room, especially at the end of the examination time and when the papers are handed in, and ensure that no examinee leaves or departs from the examination room before thirty minutes (30') have elapsed since the distribution of the examination papers. The invigilators shall ensure that no fewer than two students remain in the examination room.

6. The written examination for each course lasts a maximum of two (2) hours for all courses.

7. After the papers have been handed in, the invigilators count the papers they have received and one of them certifies the number of papers received. The papers are then handed over to the lecturer, who counts them and certifies the number of papers received by signing in front of the invigilator.

8. Lecturers are required to submit the results of the final written and/or oral examinations to the Secretariat of the EUPS, written and/or oral, in a single grade sheet for each course, no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of each exam. In the case of oral examinations, the lecturer is not allowed to announce the results of the examination to the students who have been examined, but only collectively for all those examined, in writing and/or orally, at the end.

9. In all EUPS courses, the result of the student's knowledge assessment is expressed numerically with grades from zero (0) to ten (10). In the grade book, failure is marked with grades from zero (0) to four (4) and success with grades from five (5) to ten (10).

10. The publication of exam results with the names of the examinees is not permitted in any way, except by listing their Special Registration Number (SRN).

11. It is not permitted to transfer a student's grade from one examination period to the next. Clauses that may be included in the examinees' written work and concern their desire to be expelled if they are assessed with a grade lower than the desired one, or references to how many courses one owes in order to obtain a degree, are not permitted and, if included, they will not be taken into account.

12. The answers to the written exam questions, both practical and theoretical, are discussed after the results are released by the lecturers with the students concerned at specially designated times, and examinees have the right to see their written exam—for the current examination period—and request explanations on how it was evaluated.

13. For the calculation of the degree grade and the composition of the courses listed on it, the forty (40) mandatory courses required to accumulate two hundred and forty (240) ECTS are taken into account.

Article 7

Type of Degree Awarded

The degree awarded by EUPS of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment is a public document and is awarded to graduates of the programme.

The degree is issued by the School's Secretariat. It bears the name of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment and the Institution, the emblem of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the date of completion of studies, the date of issue of the degree, the graduation protocol number, the title of the EUPS, the degree grade, the student's details, and the evaluation rating: Good (5.00–6.49), Very Good (6.50–8.49), Excellent (8.50–10.00).

Graduates may be awarded a certificate of successful attendance and completion of the Programme prior to graduation.

In addition to the degree, a Diploma Supplement is also awarded, in accordance with Article 15 of Law 3374/2005 and Ministerial Decision Φ5/89656/B3/13-8-2007 (Government Gazette 1466/B'). The Diploma Supplement is an explanatory document that provides detailed information on the nature, level, content, educational context, and legal status of the studies successfully completed. It does not replace the official degree or the detailed transcript issued by the Institution.

Article 8

Certification - Evaluation of EUPS

Following the issuance of the decision to establish the EUPS and prior to its commencement of operation, the EUPS must be certified by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), in accordance with paragraph c) of Article 8(1) of Law 4653/2020 (A' 12). After its establishment, the EUPS is periodically certified, in accordance with subparagraph bb) of paragraph b) of Article 8(1) of Law 4653/2020, as part of the evaluation of the academic unit to which they belong.

The EUPS is evaluated in the context of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit by the HAHE. In particular, the overall assessment of the work carried out at the EUPS is evaluated, the degree to which the objectives set at its establishment have been achieved, its sustainability, the absorption of graduates into the labour market, the degree of its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by graduates, the advisability of extending its operation, as well as other information relating to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education.

If, during the evaluation stage, the EUPS is deemed not to meet the conditions for continuing its operation, its operation shall be terminated upon the graduation of the students already enrolled, in accordance with the decision establishing it.

Internal Evaluation of MODIP

In order to ensure and improve the quality of the EUPS, the Quality Assurance Unit of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (MODIP-AUTh) conducts periodic internal evaluations of the EUPS within the framework of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System and in accordance with the instructions and guidelines of HAHE.

The obligations of the programme's administrative bodies and lecturers include all procedures provided for in the relevant instructions and guidelines of MODIP-AUTh for the internal and external evaluation and certification of study programmes and academic units.

Evaluation of lecturers and courses by students

With the sole purpose of improving the level of studies at the EUPS and with absolute assurance of their anonymity, students are invited to evaluate the courses and lecturers each semester.

For reasons of uniformity in the collection of statistical data and the ability to extract information that can be used for the educational work of the Schools, Departments, and the Institution as a whole, the evaluation questionnaires are prepared by MODIP and may vary slightly, based on the specific characteristics and needs of each academic unit and/or each course. They are completed electronically.

The evaluation is conducted under the responsibility of the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment, in collaboration with the MODIP-AUTH, and is carried out through the latter's Quality Management Information System. The School's Administration and IEG are required to take systematic actions to encourage student participation in the evaluation, in accordance with the guidelines of the MODIP and the relevant decisions of the Senate.

The IEG of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment monitors, through MODIP's Quality Management Information System, the degree of student participation in the evaluation process, analyses the relevant results, and informs the administrative bodies of the EUPS and the corresponding academic unit. The evaluation questionnaires concern the course taught and the lecturer separately.

The administrative bodies of the EUPS and the academic unit, in collaboration with the corresponding IEG of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment, are required to study the results of the evaluation, announce their findings, decide on the publication of the summary results of the evaluation, when deemed necessary and in any case after the announcement of the semester course grades, in accordance with the applicable legislation on the protection of personal data, and take action to address any problems or improve the EUPS

Article 9

Transitional provisions

Any issue arising during the operation of the EUPS that is not covered by the relevant legislation or this Regulation shall be dealt with by decisions of the Programme's administrative bodies, with an amendment of the relevant Regulation.

B. PRACTICAL TRAINING REGULATION

The EUPS does not offer internships.

C. MOBILITY REGULATION

The EUPS adopts the Regulation and Good Practices for Mobility of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which are set out below, subject to the specific characteristics of its curriculum (e.g., the curriculum contains only mandatory courses).

Mobility Regulation (Excerpt from Decision No. 2980/20 & 21-2-2019 of the Senate)

The Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), at its meeting No. 2980/20 & 21-2-2019, approved the adoption of good practices for the proper implementation of the ERASMUS+ Programme. These practices apply proportionally to all cycles of study at AUTH, in accordance with the applicable legislation and the regulations of the respective Study Programmes.

The procedures are updated and specified in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the State Scholarships Foundation and are published by the Department of European and Educational Programmes on its website. The decision of the Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is set out below:

A) Outgoing Students

The following provisions aim to ensure the right of outgoing students to automatic and full recognition of their period of study at a partner institution, provided that they successfully complete their academic obligations.

1. When completing the Learning Agreement for Studies, which takes place prior to the commencement of the mobility period, the ECTS Coordinator, acting as the designated representative of the relevant School in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. F.821/2318T/89676/Z1, must ensure that the student's workload at the Host Institution, as declared in the relevant table of the Learning Agreement (Table A), corresponds to 30 ECTS credits for one academic semester. For reasons of flexibility and taking into account the diversity of study programmes, a deviation from this rule is permitted, either positive or negative, corresponding to the credit value of one (1) course in the case of mobility for an academic trimester or semester, and two (2) courses in the case of mobility for a full academic year.
2. At the same stage, the ECTS Coordinator must ensure full recognition of the above workload by recording, in the corresponding table of the Learning Agreement (Table B), the courses and ECTS credits from which the student will be exempted upon successful completion of those listed in Table A. The framework of this procedure must be approved

by the Assembly or the competent body of the School concerned through a relevant decision, which may be adopted once. This decision is recorded in the Application–Declaration form submitted by outgoing students to the Department of European Educational Programmes.

3. Recognition is categorised as follows:

I. **Compulsory courses**, based on the curriculum of the relevant School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, provided that the majority of the content of the course offered at the Host Institution corresponds to that of the course offered by the School.

Recognition: Courses successfully completed abroad are recognised under the title used by the relevant School. The signed consent of the course lecturer is required prior to the completion of the Learning Agreement.

II. **Elective courses** (specialisation or non-specialisation), based on the curriculum of the relevant School, for which strict content correspondence is not required, provided that their relevance to the subject area covered by the School or Section/Specialisation is ensured.

Recognition: Courses successfully completed abroad may be recognised either under their original title at the Host Institution or under the title of a corresponding course in the relevant School, provided that content correspondence exists. For information purposes, it is noted that the Secretariat’s electronic system supports the recognition and inclusion of Exchange Programme Courses (PAN courses) in the Study Programme. These may be declared in the Learning Agreement either by title or as an “elective course” (specialisation or non-specialisation).

It is recommended that a sufficient number of elective courses be included in study programmes relevant to the School’s academic field, as this provides flexibility in course recognition and enriches curricula with subjects not offered internally but relevant to the programme of study.

III. **Free-choice courses**, for which there is no requirement for content correspondence or relevance to the subject area of the School or Section/Specialisation.

Recognition: Courses successfully completed abroad are recognised under their original title at the Host Institution. The maximum number of ECTS credits for free-choice courses declared in the Learning Agreement must not exceed the number permitted by the relevant Study Programme. These courses may also be declared without a title as “free-choice courses”.

It is also recommended, in the context of upcoming curriculum reforms, to introduce a small number of elective courses (e.g., 6–10 ECTS each)."

4. In the case of courses that fall within the subject area of the relevant School (compulsory or elective), detailed examples of recognition are provided in Appendix I (attached). Courses that do not fall within the subject area of the relevant School are recognised as

free-choice courses, as noted above. For the recognition of credits from such courses, the alternative combinations set out in Appendix I apply. When selecting courses and preparing the Learning Agreement, outgoing students are guided by the ECTS Coordinator to ensure that, if courses outside the subject area are selected, they correspond to the maximum number of ECTS credits for free-choice courses permitted by the Study Programme of the relevant School. This ensures their recognition upon return from the Host Institution. The inclusion of such courses fulfils the requirement for full recognition of the mobility period (60 ECTS credits for an academic year, 30 ECTS credits for an academic semester, and 20 ECTS credits for an academic trimester).

5. In cases where there is a discrepancy in the number of ECTS credits between the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Host Institution, maximum flexibility shall be applied and all possible combinations of recognition shall be considered after the student's return, always within the framework of the regulations of the relevant Study Programme. In all cases, every effort must be made to ensure the recognition of all credits obtained by the student at the Host Institution. This process shall take into account the principle of "fair recognition" set out in the ECTS Guide, which allows for a deviation of one (1) or two (2) ECTS credits, always in favour of the student.
6. Upon the students' return, the recognition of all credits earned is MANDATORY, provided that the student has successfully completed the agreed examinations or assessments. Recognition follows the signed Learning Agreement (initial or amended), which is binding on both the School and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Outgoing students may make use of the provision of Article 60 of the Regulation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at the end of their studies, which provides that students are entitled to be examined in two additional elective courses, the grades of which may replace lower grades in other elective courses. On this basis, and only at the end of their studies, students may submit a personal statement requesting that two elective courses — which may include courses successfully completed at the Host Institution — not be included in the calculation of the final degree grade, provided that the required number of ECTS credits for the award of the degree has been completed.
7. Additional ECTS credits from free-choice courses that exceed the limits provided for by the Study Programmes of the Schools of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki usually indicate an inappropriate selection of courses in the Learning Agreement, unless the Host Institution does not offer alternative course options to Erasmus students. In such cases, the ECTS Coordinators must re-examine the curriculum of the partner institution. If it is determined that the curriculum does not meet the requirements for the recognition of courses for undergraduate exchange students, the following options may be considered: (a) limiting the bilateral agreement to second- and third-cycle student mobility (Master's and doctoral level), (b) limiting the bilateral agreement exclusively to staff mobility, or (c) terminating the bilateral agreement with the specific institution. Furthermore, the

Department of European and Educational Programmes annually invites Schools to evaluate their bilateral agreements. Course availability for students constitutes a critical evaluation criterion and may lead to the modification or termination of a bilateral agreement.

8. In view of the above, it is recommended that ECTS Coordinators inform students about mobility opportunities through the Erasmus+ Programme from the early stages of their studies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Timely information enables students to plan effectively with regard to course categories available at Host Institutions and the required number of ECTS credits for the mobility period.
9. The role of the ECTS Coordinator of a School, as defined by Ministerial Decision No. Φ.821/2318Τ/89676/Ζ1, is considered particularly important, as it ensures the proper implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme within the School and, by extension, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. This role is directly linked to the full recognition of the study period completed by outgoing students at the Host Institution. For this reason, it is recommended that the ECTS Coordinator not be replaced frequently, in order to ensure continuity and effective management of student mobility. It is also proposed that the ECTS Coordinator be a member of the Curriculum Committee of the relevant School, given the strong interconnection between mobility issues and curriculum design, as well as a member of the School Assembly, in order to inform its members about Erasmus+ matters. These issues concern a significant number of students (at least 600 students per year), who benefit from the guidance and advisory role of the ECTS Coordinator and are entitled to full recognition of their studies at the Host Institution.

B) Incoming Students

1. It is necessary to ensure that incoming exchange students possess an adequate level of proficiency in the language of instruction, in accordance with the terms of the bilateral agreement. Where required by the School and provided that this obligation is included in the annex to the bilateral agreement, the submission of a recognised language proficiency certificate is recommended.
2. Incoming students' grades (Transcript of Records) must be submitted to their home institutions no later than five (5) weeks after the end of the mobility period. Failure to comply with this obligation may constitute grounds for the termination of cooperation between the two institutions. For this reason, the ECTS Coordinator, in cooperation with the members of the School Secretariat, must ensure that the grades of incoming students are transmitted in a timely manner.

It is noted that the terms "student", "students", "professor", and "professors" refer to all genders.

D. PREPARATIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS

The EUPS does not require the completion of a thesis or dissertation.