



UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALY

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY,
WOOD SCIENCES & DESIGN

QUALITY POLICIES



Approved in accordance with No. 57/24.11.2021 (item 3) decision of the Assembly of the FWSD
Department

KARDITSA, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, WOOD SCIENCES & DESIGN QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

1. Introduction

Quality Assurance in Higher Education is the main objective of the European Single Higher Education Area, in which Greece has also participated since 2005 (Law 3374/2005). The main objective governing quality assurance is the sense of responsibility of each University Institution towards students and society for the provision of high-quality education as well as research.

At the University of Thessaly (hereafter UTH), the Quality Assurance Unit has been established and is operating, in accordance with article 14, Law 4009/2011. MODIP is "the central body for the coordination and support of the quality assurance procedures of the University of Thessaly, through the Internal Quality Assurance System (ICSA). The Quality Assurance System of the University of Thessaly aims to develop a culture of quality in the academic community, so that it can transmit knowledge through efficient teaching and produce high-level expertise through innovative research" (as stated on the website of the MODIP of UTH).

Among other things, MODIP aims to further improve the quality indicators of the academic and administrative units of UTH, to provide incentives for attracting scientists with high training and international recognition, to promote excellence and to improve the position of the individual Academic Units, but also of UTH in general. For this reason, the MODIP has been set up and operates at UTH and the Internal Evaluation Team in each Department, who have undertaken the internal evaluation process and submit the annual evaluation reports to the MODIP of UTH. MODIP then approves the Quadrennial Internal Evaluation Reports of the Departments and submits them to the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education, while at the same time submitting to the Senate of the University of Thessaly the Internal Self-Assessment Report of the University of Thessaly every two years for information.

2. The quality assurance policy of the Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences and Design

The Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences and Design (hereinafter FWSD) is committed to ensuring quality in all academic, educational, administrative and research activities. It will offer modern and competitive study programs (at all levels), focus on innovation, quality culture and applied research. The FWSD Department recognizes the contribution of Quality Assurance for equal access to knowledge, extroversion, international recognition and finally cooperation with productive bodies of local society as well as national bodies. The goal of the FWSD Department is to achieve the highest possible quality of operation and the continuous improvement of the educational and research work, in accordance with international standards and best practices.

The purpose of the Undergraduate Studies Program of the FWSD Department, which is implemented from the Academic Year 2019 - 2020, is to organize studies in an interdisciplinary manner and with the ultimate goal of training scientists who will have well-rounded views on the subject, will have a deep understanding of the field that they will have chosen and have the ability to fully respond to developments in science, the environment, local, national and international society.

The Quality Policy of the FWSD Department harmonizes and follows perfectly the standard of operation of the UTH, as it is formulated by MODIP. In the FWSD Department, since the first year of its operation, the Internal Evaluation Team committee has been established, which consists of three [3] faculty members and is responsible for the preparation of the annual and four-year evaluation reports of the Department. The aim of Internal Evaluation Team is to certify the quality of the educational process provided to the students, the level of the research process and

the administration of the Department.

Students are asked to answer a questionnaire which is divided into two parts (5-point Likert scale). The first part includes five [5] sections and more specifically: the lesson, the tasks, the workshops, the teachers and the assistants of the workshops. The second part consists of a series of questions where the student records their opinions about the courses and the teachers.

The Quality Policy of the FWSD Department is based on the philosophy of interdisciplinary approach and multifaceted quality with a commitment to the progress of science, the optimal satisfaction of the requirements of the participants, scientific excellence, innovation and dedication to the transmission of knowledge. The Laboratories of the FWSD Department contribute to the provision of reliable and specialized services for product development, product testing and diagnostics, and environmental protection both locally and nationally.

The effort to achieve the Quality Policy of the FWSD Department is carried out through the annual evaluation as well as the internal inspection, which is completed by the Internal Evaluation Team members of the FWSD Department, in collaboration with the MODIP of the University of Thessaly. Internal Evaluation Team members contribute to:

- monitoring the implementation of the Department's quality objectives,
- harmonization of the quality policy with the general strategic goals of the Department and the Foundation,
- making decisions for the continuous improvement of the quality of the work offered by the FWSD Department,
- conducting the Internal Evaluation and the constructive cooperation with the Quality Assurance Unit of the University of Thessaly, and
- achieving excellence, but also in meeting the expectations and requirements of all stakeholders.

For this reason, the Quality Policy will be published on the Department's website and all involved bodies will be informed (local society, all staff, external partners, students of all levels, the Academic community in general, the bodies and others) to ensure consent and direct involvement in the processes referred to in the quality system.

The Quality Policy of the FWSD Department will be implemented on the basis of international quality standards – the principles of the Common Assessment Framework for education may also be applied (<https://www.respaweb.eu/files/user/docs/CAF/CAF%20Education%202013.pdf>) – and will be harmonized with the quality policy of the University of Thessaly. It is drawn up with the strategic goals of the FWSD Department, at all levels, is actively supported by all participants in the educational process, is specialized and evaluated through the goal setting.

Therefore, the FWSD Department will implement a series of procedures such as that it will:

- emphasis is placed on student-centered learning and learning outcomes will be sought to be in accordance with the National and European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education,

- apply the principles of the Management and Quality Assurance System,
- the needs of human resources are met, which will actively participate in decision-making,
- the quality but also the general research and writing work of the members of the FWSD Department is promoted,
- connect teaching with research, so that graduates' qualifications are improved and they meet the demands of the labor market,
- an annual evaluation is carried out and there will be the necessary feedback in collaboration with the Department's Internal Evaluation Team and the MODIP of the UTH,
- there is transparency in all actions of the FWSD Department,
- ethical rules are applied and any kind of discrimination will be prevented,
- continuous improvement of the educational activity of the Department is sought,
- all the benefits to the students are improved,
- the formal and substantive qualifications of the Department's teaching staff are evaluated.

Finally, the quality policy of the FWSD Department is made public and disseminated to all involved members (students of all levels, teaching staff, administrative staff, UTH Senate, members of UTH, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education and others) in the context of knowledge management, so that all involved take responsibility for quality assurance.