

# OVERVIEW OF THE QUALITY POLICY OF DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE (DUTH)

## OUR VISION

Democritus University of Thrace aspires to contribute to the creation of a more just, sustainable, and open world through education, research, and social engagement. Positioned at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, the University serves as a dynamic hub connecting knowledge, cultures, and communities, with a strong presence in the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace and an international outlook through its participation in the EMERGE European University Alliance, as well as in other national, European, and international networks.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

DUTH is undertaking a comprehensive strategic transformation aimed at strengthening its societal role while enhancing its impact at regional, national, and international levels.

The University seeks to evolve into a dynamic regional hub of knowledge, innovation, and collaboration, actively contributing to the European Higher Education and Research Area.

This new direction:

- promotes a decentralised and innovative model of education,
- enhances students' skills, critical thinking, and social responsibility, and
- empowers staff to produce meaningful research and societal impact with clear relevance at local, national, and international levels.

## OUR VALUES

The University operates in accordance with the following values:

- ▶ **Justice and equality**
- ▶ **Solidarity and inclusion**
- ▶ **Social responsibility**

## OUR PRINCIPLES

The governance and operation of the Institution are guided by:

- ▶ **transparency** in processes and outcomes,
- ▶ **accountability** through participatory and evidence-based decision-making,
- ▶ **Continuous** improvement of operations and services.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our vision and commitment to the future are translated into three core strategic priorities and three enabling conditions that constitute the foundation of our strategy.

### Core Strategic Priorities

1. Anchoring the University to its territory by boosting community engagement.
2. Enhancing student experience and campus environment .
3. Developing strategic partnerships with regional and international stakeholders.

### Enabling Conditions for Implementation

1. Leveling internationalisation to advance education and research
2. Diversifying funding sources
3. Improving university communication and outreach

## QUALITY POLICY FOR EDUCATION

- DUTH is committed to providing high-quality education at all levels of study, grounded in research, fostering innovation, supporting professional competence, and addressing students' needs.
- Study programmes are designed with clear learning outcomes, aligned with national and European standards.
- Teaching promotes active participation, critical thinking, and the integration of theory with practice.
- Educational activities are supported by modern infrastructure and qualified staff, ensuring a supportive, accessible, and inclusive learning environment.
- Assessment is characterised by transparency and academic integrity.
- The quality of education is systematically monitored and continuously improved through documented procedures.

## QUALITY POLICY FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

- DUTH is committed to providing high-quality distance education that is academically equivalent to campus-based education.
- Distance education is based on sound pedagogical design, combining synchronous and asynchronous modes of learning, enhancing student participation and autonomy.
- Distance learning programmes (DLPs) comply with national legislation and European and international quality assurance standards.
- DLPs are designed with clear learning outcomes and supported by appropriately qualified teaching staff.

- Teaching and assessment processes are governed by transparency, academic integrity, and equality.
- Digital infrastructure ensures reliable operation and data security, alongside continuous technological upgrading.
- Equal access is ensured for students to support services, resources, and technical and administrative assistance within an accessible and inclusive environment.

## QUALITY POLICY FOR RESEARCH

- Research at DUTH is governed by the principles of integrity, reliability, transparency, and accountability, with zero tolerance for scientific misconduct.
- Research is aligned with societal needs and fosters innovation
- The Policy is aligned with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ALLEA), the regulatory framework of Horizon Europe, the requirements of Open Science, and the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). It also supports responsible data management, adherence to FAIR principles, and compliance with the European Charter for Researchers.
- Scientific excellence is supported by appropriate infrastructure and ensured through methodological rigour, evaluation, and transparency of research processes.

## INTERNATIONALISATION POLICY

- DUTH implements, as part of its strategic planning and Internal Quality Assurance System, an internationalisation policy aligned with the requirements of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education, the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, and the initiatives of the EMERGE Alliance.
- Internationalisation functions as a horizontal dimension that enhances the quality of education, research, and services.
- International activities are governed by the principles of transparency, equality, and academic recognition.
- International collaborations are linked to education and research, strengthening mobility and the development of joint study programmes.
- The development of English-taught programmes and other educational initiatives, utilising modern, innovative, and flexible learning approaches within or beyond the EMERGE Alliance framework, aims to attract international students and researchers.
- The implementation of the internationalisation policy is monitored through indicators and evaluated with a view to continuous improvement.

**The implementation of DUTH's Quality Policy is monitored through performance indicators and continuous evaluation processes.**