

Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies
Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Internal Operating Regulation

January / 2026

Preface

The first cycle of studies includes the attendance of an Undergraduate Studies Program (P.P.S.) and is completed with the award of an Undergraduate Studies degree. Successful completion of the program leads to the award of a level seven (7) degree, in accordance with the National and European Qualifications Framework, i.e. the diploma.

This Regulation of Undergraduate Studies is drafted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter G' of Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette A', 141/21.07.2022) "New Horizons in Higher Education Institutions: Strengthening the quality, functionality and connection of HEIs with society and other provisions", which concern the organization and operation of study programs, as well as Chapter K' of the same law, which specifically concerns Foreign Language Undergraduate Study Programs. In addition, it is harmonized with the Regulation of Operation of Undergraduate Study Programs of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, ensuring that the regulations herein are in line with the current institutional framework of the institution.

Article 1

Objectives and Purpose of the JUPSE

The Schools of Physics (coordinator), Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki organize and operate an Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies in English (hereinafter referred to as JUPSE) on **Environmental Sciences and Engineering**, which is **a full-time five-year** course and culminates in the award of a *Diploma with Integrated Master in Environmental Sciences and Engineering*».

The objective of the Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies in English is the integrated scientific and technological training in the field of Environmental Sciences and Environmental Engineering, with emphasis on the physical, chemical, biological and mechanical foundations of environmental processes, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change, air and water quality, energy, circular economy and sustainable development. It provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills for access to scientific, technical and technological professions, as well as for any other professional or academic activity that requires a high level of interdisciplinary training in the field of the Environment.

The aim of the Program is to provide a high level of university education in Environmental Sciences and Engineering to an international audience, through a

systematic familiarization with the main theoretical, experimental and computational tools and the basic categories of modern environmental scientific and technological discourse. The Program aims to cultivate skills in the analysis and solution of complex environmental problems, the development of skills in quantitative analysis, modelling, experimental design and the use of modern digital and computational tools, the strengthening of critical thinking and scientific deepening, the promotion of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki abroad, as well as the general strengthening of the extroversion of the Schools of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Learning outcomes and qualifications. Upon successful completion of the JUPSE of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, students will have acquired:

- Solid theoretical knowledge in all key areas of Environmental Sciences and Environmental Engineering, including physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences, engineering, energy, climate change, and sustainable development.
- Skills in quantitative analysis, understanding of complex scientific and technical texts, as well as the ability to analyse and synthesize data, experimental results and models related to environmental systems.
- Familiarization with the multiple linguistic and scientific aspects of environmental scientific discourse, through teaching in English and the ability to attend Greek language courses.
- Established skills of intercultural communication, oral presentation, teamwork and written scientific documentation, in accordance with international academic standards.
- Ability to continue studies in the second and third cycle of studies, as well as access, under the conditions provided by law, to scientific and technical professions in Greece and abroad.

The program provides students with the academic prerequisites for the continuation of their studies at postgraduate and then doctoral level (second and third cycle respectively) and the professional prerequisites for their careers in fields that require documented scientific and technological knowledge. The diploma awarded is equivalent to the diplomas awarded by the Greek-language five-year study programs of the country's HEIs and corresponding five-year study programs of foreign universities.

Article 2

Awarded Title of JUPSE

The Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies in English of the Schools of Physics (coordinator), Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and

Agriculture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki awards a **Diploma with Integrated Master in Environmental Sciences and Engineering.**

The successful completion of studies corresponds to level seven (7) of the National and European Qualifications Framework, in accordance with the provisions of article 47 of Law 4763/2020 (Government Gazette A' 254).

Article 3

Governing Bodies of the JUPSE

The competent bodies for the organization, administration and operation of the Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies in English of the Schools of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture are the following:

- 1.**The Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- 2.**The Steering Committee of the JUPSE of the collaborating Departments
- 3.**The Director of the JUPSE of the Department
- 4.** The Assembly of the School of Physics, which organizes the JUPSE

More specifically:

1. The Senate of the University exercises the following responsibilities:

- Approves the establishment of the JUPSE, following the recommendation of the Assembly of the School, as well as the amendment of the decision for the establishment of the JUPSE, following the recommendation of the Steering Committee.
- Approves the Internal Regulation of the JUPSE, following the recommendation of the Assembly of the School, as well as its amendment, following the recommendation of the Steering Committee.
- Establishes the Steering Committee of the JUPSE and appoints the Director of the JUPSE, following the recommendation of the Assembly of the School.
- Approves the abolition of the JUPSE, following the recommendation of the Assembly of the School.
- Exercises any other responsibility related to issues of academic, administrative, financial and organizational nature of the JUPSE, which are not specifically assigned by the present to other bodies.

2. The Steering Committee of the JUPSE consists of seven (7) members of the Teaching and Research Staff (D.E.P.) of the Schools of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture, of which at least two (2) faculty

members are of the rank of Professor or Associate Professor. The Committee has a four-year term of office and is formed by decision of the Senate of the HEI, following the recommendation of the Assemblies of the participating Schools. The members of the Committee are not receiving any allowance for the performance of their administrative duties. The Steering Committee of the JUPSE exercises the following responsibilities:

- Proposes to the Senate the amendment of the decision establishing the JUPSE, as well as any other issue related to its operation, for which the Senate is the competent body
- Distributes the teaching assignments among the teachers of the JUPSE
- Prepares the annual budget of the JUPSE
- Approves all expenses for the operation of the JUPSE
- Ascertains the successful completion of the studies, in order to be awarded the title of JUPSE
- Exercises any other responsibility, which is related to the organization, administration and management of the JUPSE program.

3. The Director of the Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies in English in Environmental Sciences and Engineering is appointed by the Steering Committee for a four-year term. The Director exercises, indicatively, the following responsibilities:

- Chairs the Steering Committee and convenes its meetings
- Proposes to the Steering Committee and the other bodies of the HEI issues related to the effective operation of the JUPSE
- Is the Scientific Coordinator of the JUPSE, in accordance with article 234 of Law 4957/2022.

By decision of the Study Program Committee, the **Coordinator of the Program** may be appointed for a period equal to its term of office. The Coordinator is a faculty member of one of the Schools of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture and works closely with the Program Director and the Committee, undertaking coordinating and organizational duties under their supervision. The Coordinator assigned by the Steering Committee exercises the following responsibilities:

- Monitors the smooth day-to-day operation of the Program and ensures the timely implementation of the decisions of the Committee and the Director.
- Is in charge of the organization of the timetable and the communication with the teachers.
- Collaborates with the Secretariat on issues related to the operation of the Program.

- Ensures that students are informed about the curriculum, evaluation procedures, mobility, scholarship opportunities and any other academic or administrative issue.
- In coordination with the Programme Secretariat, prepares and regularly reports to the Committee and the Director on the operation of the Programme.
- Represents, following a relevant decision of the Committee or the Director, the Program in administrative and/or academic contacts with institutions inside and outside the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- Exercises, upon authorization of the Committee, any other competence assigned to the Director by these Regulations.

Article 10

Teaching Staff of the JUPSE

The teaching work of the Joint Undergraduate Studies Program in English is allocated by decision of the Steering Committee to teachers with a subject related to the subject of the teaching work assigned to them. By decision of the Steering Committee, the teaching of the courses of the Program of the next academic year is assigned on the basis of the teaching staff that will be available, taking into account the retirements at the end of the current one and the beginning of the next. In particular, the following may be employed as teaching staff of the JUPSE:

1. Members of the Teaching and Research Staff (D.E.P.), of the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture or other Departments of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki or other Higher Education Institution (HEI) with additional employment in addition to their legal obligations as defined in article 155 of Law 4957/2022,

2. Emeritus Professors or retired faculty members of the Departments of Physics (accelerated), Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Agriculture or other Departments of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki or another HEI,

3. Members of Special Educational Staff (E.E.P.), Laboratory Teaching Staff (E.DI.P.) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (E.T.E.P.) of HEIs, who hold a doctoral degree and have teaching experience, as well as sufficient scientific, writing or research activity,

4. Lecturers,

5. Visiting professors and visiting researchers,

6. Contract researchers,

7. Researchers and special functional scientists of the research centers of article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research organizations in Greece and abroad, who hold a doctoral degree and have teaching experience and sufficient scientific, writing or research activity,

8. Postdoctoral students and young scientists, holders of at least a doctoral degree, who have specialized knowledge or relevant experience in the subject of the H.P.P.S.,

9. Collaborating professors.

The assignment of the teaching work of the JUPSE is carried out by decision of the Steering Committee, following the recommendation of the Director, who cooperates for this purpose with the Chairs of the participating Departments. The decision of the Steering Committee ensures that the teaching and the educational activities in general assigned to faculty members of the participating Departments within the framework of the JUPSE do not in any way affect their other educational, research and administrative obligations towards the Departments of the Greek-language Undergraduate Programs.

The decision of the Steering Committee on the assignment of teaching work is issued no later than the beginning of each academic semester and It must include the lecturers of the JUPSE, the courses, the educational activities and the total teaching hours assigned per teacher according to the curriculum per academic semester, as well as the total cost of their remuneration, provided that the payment of a fee is provided for and is communicated without delay to the Special Account for Research Funds (E.L.K.E.) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. All categories of teaching staff are paid exclusively from the resources of the JUPSE , provided that their remuneration is provided. The amount of remuneration per category of teaching staff is determined following a decision of the Steering Committee and in accordance with the rules governing the E.L.K.E. A.U.TH. regarding the contracts for the remuneration of the Institution's staff, external collaborators, the exercise of additional teaching work and the total teaching hours assigned on a case-by-case basis.

The obligations of the lecturers include, among other things, the description of the course or lectures, the way the course is examined, as well as the communication with the students necessary for the academic purposes of the program. Teachers are obliged to follow the weekly teaching schedule in accordance with the timetable, as drawn up and determined by the Committee, and to follow the examination and evaluation conditions as described in this Regulation.

Article 11

Tuition Fees

For the study at the JUPSE., a total tuition fee of thirty thousand euros (€30,000), six thousand euros (€6,000) per academic year, is paid. The amount of tuition fees is determined and amended by decision of the Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, while the method and time of payment may be adjusted by decision of the Steering Committee. The payment of the tuition fees is made by the students themselves (or by a third natural or legal person on their behalf) in a bank account held by the E.L.K.E. A.U.TH., in ten (10) equal instalments of three thousand euros (€3,000): The first instalment during the student's enrolment process in the Program and the subsequent instalments before the start of each semester. After the payment of the tuition fees, the corresponding document is issued and the student is informed electronically.

Upon submission of the application, candidates must pay the amount of one hundred and fifty euros (150) € as file management costs. The application is not considered complete and is not forwarded for evaluation if the corresponding amount has not been paid and a relevant transaction receipt has not been sent by the candidate.

Payment is made electronically, according to the instructions sent with the confirmation of receipt of the application. The amount is deposited at the E.L.K.E. A.U.TH. and is not refunded in case of non-acceptance or withdrawal of the application. In case of acceptance of the place in the Program, candidates are required to pay an additional amount of one thousand euros (€1,000) as an advance payment of tuition fees. This amount is also paid to the E.L.K.E. A.U.TH. and is not refunded in case of resignation from studies.

Article 12

Administrative Support - Logistical Infrastructure

The Foreign Student Support Unit is responsible for the support of foreign students of the JUPSE, based on article 212 of Law 4957/2022. The mission of the Foreign Student Support Unit is to support foreign students enrolled in first, second and third cycle study programs of the HEI.

In particular, the responsibilities of the Foreign Student Support Unit are:

1. The support of foreign students for their enrolment in foreign language study programs of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

2. The support of foreign students for the issuance of an entry visa and a residence permit in the country for study purposes and the communication with the competent bodies of the State on these issues.
3. To support the process of concluding contracts for the accelerated granting of residence permits for study purposes, in accordance with article 37 of Law 4251/2014 (A' 80).
4. The support of students during their settlement in the country.
5. The cooperation with the co-competent services of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for the service of foreign students.
6. The care for the organization of courses for the learning of the Greek language or other foreign languages in collaboration with the competent units of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
7. The exercise of any other responsibility specified in the Organization of the HEI and related to the subject of the Foreign Student Support Unit.

Administrative Support of the Program.

The Department of Physics of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, having long experience in the organization and implementation of first, second and third cycle study programs, undertakes the overall administrative and technical support of this Joint Undergraduate Study Program in English. The secretarial support of the Program is provided by the Secretariat of the JUPSE., which may be staffed by staff of the Secretariat of the Department of Physics, constituting a key operational arm of its administration and operates under the supervision of the Steering Committee.

More specifically, the Secretariat of the Program:

1. Administratively supports the Committee and the Director of the JUPSE.
2. Handles the issues of the educational life cycle of students, from enrolment to graduation and the issuance of their degree
3. Maintains the protocol, the printed and digital file of the Program
4. Handles the administrative procedures concerning the teaching staff of the Program (contracts, transfers, etc.)
5. Collaborates with the Special Account for Research Funds of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for the financial management of the Program and the support of the relevant procedures.

The Coordination of the Secretariat of the JUPSE, as well as the observance of the minutes of the Program Committee, is undertaken by an executive of the Secretariat of the Greek-Language Undergraduate Program of Physics Studies, who has the formal qualifications for the exercise of the duties of Head, in

accordance with article 1 of Law 3839/2010. The relevant assignment is made by decision of the Committee of the JUPSE

In this context, in order to support the needs of the Program, the following may be employed, in accordance with article 104 of Law 4957/2022:

1. Members of the regular administrative staff of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with additional employment beyond their legal obligations, following a decision of the Research Committee of the E.L.K.E., following the recommendation of the Committee of the JUPSE
2. Additional staff, which is selected in accordance with the procedure of article 243 of Law 4957/2022. The cost of the remuneration of all categories of staff is borne exclusively by the budget of the Programme.

The technical support of the operation of the program is centrally ensured by specialized staff of the Digital Governance Unit of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the existing technical staff of the General Directorate of Technical Services and Computer Organization of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the technical staff of the Faculty of Sciences. For the implementation of the teaching of the courses of the JUPSE, the existing building and logistical infrastructure of the participating Departments of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is used

Article 14

Certification – Evaluation of the JUPSE

Following the issuance of the decision for the establishment of the JUPSE and before the commencement of its operation, the certification of the JUPSE by the National Authority for Higher Education (H.A.A.E.) is required, in accordance with par. c) of par. 1 of article 8 of Law 4653/2020 (A' 12). After their establishment, the JUPSE are periodically certified, in accordance with sub. bb) of par. b) of par. 1 of article 8 of Law 4653/2020, in the context of the evaluation of the academic unit in which they belong.

The JUPSE is evaluated in the context of the periodic evaluation/accreditation of the academic unit by the National Authority for Higher Education. In particular, the overall evaluation of the work carried out in the JUPSE, the degree of fulfilment of the objectives set at the time of its establishment, its sustainability, the absorption of graduates into the labour market, the degree of its contribution to research, its internal evaluation by the graduates, the feasibility of extending its operation, as well as other data related to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education are evaluated.

If the JUPSE during its evaluation stage is judged not to meet the conditions for its continued operation, its operation is completed with the graduation of the already enrolled students in accordance with the decision of its establishment.

Internal Evaluation of the Quality Assurance Unit

In order to ensure and improve the quality of the JUPSE, the Quality Assurance Unit of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (MODIP-A.U.Th.) carries out a periodic internal evaluation of the JUPSE within the framework of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System and in accordance with the instructions and directions of the A.H.A.E.

The obligations of the administrative bodies and the teachers of the program also include all the procedures provided, based on the respective instructions and directions of the Quality Assurance Unit – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. for the internal and external evaluation and accreditation of Study Programs and Academic Units.

Evaluation of teachers and courses by students

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

For reasons of uniform keeping of statistical data and the possibility of extracting conclusions that can be used for the educational work of the Faculties, Departments and the Institution as a whole, the evaluation questionnaires are compiled by the MODIP. and can be partially differentiated, based on the specific characteristics and needs of each academic unit and/or each course. They are completed electronically.

The evaluation is carried out under the responsibility of the Internal Evaluation Team (O.M.E.A.) of the JUPSE which consists of four (2) faculty members of the Department of Physics, two (2) faculty members of the Department of Chemistry, one (1) member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, one (1) member of the Department of Biology and one (1) faculty member of the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the MODIP. of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and is carried out through the latter's Quality Management Information System. The Administration and the OMEA. of the Department must take systematic actions for the participation of students in the evaluation, in accordance with the guidelines of the Quality Assurance Unit. and the relevant decisions of the Senate.

The O.M.E.A. of the D.A.P.P.S. monitors, through the Quality Management Information System of the Quality Management Unit (MODIP), the degree of participation of students in the evaluation process, analyses the relevant results

and informs the administrative bodies of the D.A.P.P.S. and the respective academic unit about them. The evaluation questionnaires concern the subject taught and each teacher separately.

The administrative bodies of the JUPSE and the academic unit, in collaboration with the respective O.M.E.A. of the D.A.P.P.S., must study the results of the evaluation, announce their findings, decide to publish the summary results of the evaluation, when deemed necessary and in any case after the announcement of the grades of the semester courses, in accordance with the applicable Legislation on the protection of Personal Data, and take actions to address any problems or improvement of the JUPSE.

Article 16

Transitional arrangements

Any issue that arises during the operation of the JUPSE, which is not covered by the relevant legislation or the present Regulation, is dealt with by decisions of the Program's governing bodies, by amending the relevant Regulation.