

# **Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies**

## **Environmental Sciences and Engineering**

### Regulation of mobility

January 2026

## **MOBILITY REGULATION**

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+ Program. These practices apply proportionally to all cycles of study at AUTH, in accordance with the applicable legislation and the regulations of the respective Study Programs.

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 Programs 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 Programs, 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 Programs.
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 Program Courses (PAN courses) in the Study Program. 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 Programs 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 Program 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 Program. 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 Program 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 Program. 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 Diploma grade, provided that the required number of ECTS credits for the award of the Diploma has been completed.
7. Additional ECTS credits from free-choice courses that exceed the limits provided for by the Study Programs 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 Programs 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+ Program 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+ Program 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.