

Akkreditierungsagentur
im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales
Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences



Assessment Report

**for the Application of
Eastern Mediterranean University, Northern Cyprus
for the Accreditation of the Study Program “Pharmaceutical Sciences”,
Doctor of Philosophy**

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Decision

July 23, 2026

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains such as medicine or psychology. By conducting accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for implementing the quality assurance recommendations made by the AHPGS.

The AHPGS is listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) since 2009. Since 2004, the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS joined the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). In 2009, the AHPGS also became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and since 2012 a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). In 2023, the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) recognized the AHPGS as an agency with recognition status for 10 years.

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria:

1. Program aims and their implementation
2. Structure of the study program
3. Admission and Feasibility
4. Examination System and Transparency
5. Teaching Staff and Material Equipment
6. Quality Assurance
7. Gender equality and equal opportunities

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the Self-Evaluation Report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfil the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. With this information, the AHPGS produces a summary, which is to be approved by the University and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS. This is done in order to verify the compliance of the study program with the applicable accreditation criteria. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out a site visit at the University. During this visit, discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers, and students. These discussions provide the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies, methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the site visit, the expert group evaluates the fulfilment of the criteria based on the results of the visit and the documents submitted by the HEI. This Assessment Report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the Assessment Report is made available to the University for the opportunity to issue a response opinion.

The Assessment Report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the Assessment Report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents lay basis for the decision of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Overview

2.1 Procedure-related documents

The University delegated the task of accrediting the following Bachelor study programs to AHPGS “Pharmacy (MPharm)” and “Pharmacy (PharmD)” and the doctoral program “Pharmaceutical Sciences”.

The Self-Evaluation Report for accreditation of the above-mentioned study programs (hereinafter the SER) of the Eastern Mediterranean University (hereinafter the University) was submitted to the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) in electronic format on February 20, 2026. The decision regarding the accreditation of a study program is carried out by the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS. The contract between the Eastern Mediterranean University and the AHPGS was signed on November 18, 2025.

On April 22, 2026, the AHPGS forwarded the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter OQ) pertaining to the application for accreditation for the study programs to the University. On April 28, 2026, the University submitted the answers to the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter AOQ) to the AHPGS in electronic format.

The application documentation submitted by the Eastern Mediterranean University follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Along with the application request towards accreditation of the doctoral study program “Pharmaceutical Sciences”, the following additional documents can be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the University are numbered in the following order for easier referencing):

Specific documents for the study program “Pharmaceutical Sciences”

Annex	Description
1	Module Description
2	Short Teachers’ CVs
3	Teaching Matrix
4	Program Specifications
5	Program Specifications in Turkish
6	Student Handbook
7	Annual Program Report
8	Statistics and Evaluation Results

9	Thesis Topics
10	Program Revision in Turkish
11	Course Outline Example
12	Quiz Example
13	Research Paper Example

Alongside the study-program-specific documents, the following documents pertain to all study program submitted for external evaluation:

Annex	Description
A	Student Handbook
B	Examination and Admission Regulations
C	Quality Manual
D	Action Plan
E	Strategic Plan
F	Vision 2030 Strategic Planning
G	Regulations for Exemptions and Equivalency
H	Academic Staff Regulations
I	Academic Evaluation Criteria
J	Scholarship Regulations
K	Grading System
L	Instructional Policies for Staff
M	Staff Survey for Curriculum Evaluation
N	University Statistics – Number of Students
O	Articles Published in Peer-reviewed Journals
P	Application for Publication Reward
Q	Application Requirements for Associate Professor Position
R	Application for Financial Support for Academic Conferences
S	Rewarded Diploma Example
T	Cooperation Protocol in Turkish
U	Customer Satisfaction Management System Certificate

The application, the open questions (OQ) and the answers to the open questions (AOQ) as well as the additional documents build the basis for the present summary. The layout bears no significance, as it solely reflects the agreed standard between the AHPGS and the University.

2.2 Information about the University

The foundation for the Eastern Mediterranean University was established in 1979 by the Institute of Higher Technology, which provided education in departments of civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. In an agreement between Türkiye and Northern Cyprus in 1985, the Institute of Higher Technology transformed into the Eastern Mediterranean University becoming the first university in Northern Cyprus.

Nowadays, the University is located in the city of Famagusta. The campus lies three kilometers away from the city center and accommodates faculties, dormitories, sports facilities, University management buildings, alongside additional services. The University counts 13 faculties and 5 schools, offering a range of study programs. 47 programs have been accredited by 12 international accrediting bodies. Master's and doctoral degrees are administered by the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research whose goal is to maintain academic principles and quality in graduate education.

In the 2025-2026 academic year, the University enrolled 959 students in Preparatory School, 13,086 students in undergraduate degrees, and 1,171 in postgraduate degrees (SER 1.1).

The Faculty of Pharmacy was established in March 2011 and is located on the south campus. In the academic year 2022-2023, the professional degree "Bachelor of Pharmacy" (BPharm) changed its name to "Pharmacy (MPharm)". Currently, the Faculty offers three study programs: two Bachelor programs "Pharmacy (MPharm)", "Pharmacy (PharmD)", and the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Sciences". In the academic year 2025-2026, 434 MPharm students, 97 PharmD students, and 17 PhD students in Pharmaceutical Sciences are enrolled (SER 1.2.3).

The Faculty continues to develop itself through new curricula, technology, publishing, and domestic and international scientific events, such as the EMU International Pharmaceutical Sciences Congress or the Faculty of Pharmacy Strategic Plan Workshop. In 2024, the Faculty of Pharmacy has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education of the United States of America (SER 1.2.4).

2.3 Structural data of the study program

University	Eastern Mediterranean University
Faculty/Department	Faculty of Pharmacy
Cooperation partner	- The Ministry of Health - Faculties from external universities
Title of the study program	"Pharmaceutical Sciences"
Degree awarded	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Organizational structure	Full-time Monday to Saturday
Language of Studies	English
Period of education	8 semesters (4 years)
Credit Points (CP) according to the internal credit system	24 CP
Hours per Credit	1 hour/1 theoretical credit
Workload	Total: 5048 hours Contact hours: 368 hours Individual work: 520 hours Practice: 4160 hours
Credits for the final paper/project	24 CP
Launch date of the study program	Fall semester 2023/2024
First accreditation	June 2016
Time of admission	Fall and spring semesters
Number of available places on the program	2-5 per semester
Number of currently enrolled students in the program	17
Number of graduates since launch date of the study program	No graduates yet

Particular enrollment conditions	Master's degree and equivalents (e.g., Bachelor programs with special focus or an accelerated fast-track PhD pathway) English proficiency test Research proposal Three letters of reference (for non-EMU graduates)																																														
Tuition fees	<table><tr><td></td><td>(includes VAT)</td></tr><tr><td>Pharmaceutical Sciences (PhD)</td><td>International Students (USD)</td></tr><tr><td>Registration fee per course ⁴</td><td>\$1.500</td></tr><tr><td>Thesis registration fee (per semester)</td><td>\$1.500</td></tr><tr><td>Term Project (first registration)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Term Project (second registration)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Seminar (first registration)</td><td>Free</td></tr><tr><td>Seminar (second registration)</td><td>\$300</td></tr><tr><td>ENG511 , ENGL509, TUSL501, TUSL503 (20 hour/week) (semester fee) ²</td><td>\$1.050</td></tr><tr><td>ENGL - 513, 515, 521, 523, 525, 528, TUSL 505</td><td>\$75</td></tr><tr><td>Deficiency program course</td><td>\$1.050</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td></td><td>TRNC</td><td>Turkish</td><td>International</td></tr><tr><td>Student Services Funds / per semester</td><td>10.000TL</td><td>13.000TL</td><td>360 USD</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td></td><td>TRNC</td><td>Turkish</td><td>International</td></tr><tr><td>Registration fee (for new registrations)</td><td>13.500TL</td><td>13.500TL</td><td>360 USD</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td></td><td>TRNC</td><td>Turkish</td><td>International</td></tr><tr><td>Book fee for ENG 511 , ENGL509 English Support Courses / per semester</td><td>10.000 TL</td><td>10.000 TL</td><td>250 USD</td></tr></table>		(includes VAT)	Pharmaceutical Sciences (PhD)	International Students (USD)	Registration fee per course ⁴	\$1.500	Thesis registration fee (per semester)	\$1.500	Term Project (first registration)		Term Project (second registration)		Seminar (first registration)	Free	Seminar (second registration)	\$300	ENG511 , ENGL509, TUSL501, TUSL503 (20 hour/week) (semester fee) ²	\$1.050	ENGL - 513, 515, 521, 523, 525, 528, TUSL 505	\$75	Deficiency program course	\$1.050		TRNC	Turkish	International	Student Services Funds / per semester	10.000TL	13.000TL	360 USD		TRNC	Turkish	International	Registration fee (for new registrations)	13.500TL	13.500TL	360 USD		TRNC	Turkish	International	Book fee for ENG 511 , ENGL509 English Support Courses / per semester	10.000 TL	10.000 TL	250 USD
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Chart 1: Structural data of the study program

3 Expert Report

The site visit was carried out on May 11-12, 2026, according to the previously agreed schedule. Representatives from the head office of AHPGS accompanied the expert group.

The expert group met on May 10, 2026, for preliminary talks prior to the site visit. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation as well as questions that had been raised prior. Furthermore, they prepared the plan of the site visit at the University.

During the site visit, experts conducted discussions with the University management, representatives of the Faculty of Pharmacy, the teaching staff of the program “Pharmaceutical Sciences” as well as with students currently studying in the program. Furthermore, they inspected the learning premises, such as lecture halls, classrooms, libraries, and computer classrooms. Moreover, experts had the opportunity to examine the equipment and the capacity of the laboratories.

The Assessment Report is structured in compliance with the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below. The documents submitted by the University, the experts’ feedback to the documents, the observations made during the site visit, the results of discussions with the representatives of the University and the Faculty of Pharmacy serve as the foundation for the statements made in the Assessment Report.

3.1 Program aims and their implementation

In accordance with ESG 1.2 Design and Approval of Programs

The study program focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic or artistic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

Summary

The study program aims at training researchers who can utilize advanced research methods in the laboratory, conduct independent studies, and make new

contributions to the scientific community. The aims correspond with the University's vision to become a higher education institute that is innovative, international, and highly involved in scientific research (SER 3.1.1).

Qualifications developed during the study program are dedicated to the PhD candidate's selected area of study. Scientific qualifications are obtained through elective modules and project preparations. Generally, students are expected to develop skills in finding, using, and inventing new scientific ideas. They should employ literature-based investigations and presentations in their theoretical modules and be able to lead scientific discussions on research. Graduates are expected to gain skills to develop new research projects and consider their scientific, infrastructural, and financial conditions (SER 6.2.2.2).

The information on graduate outcomes is not available as the first cohort has not graduated yet. However, the study program is structured to equip students for academic and research positions in academia, pharmaceutical industry, research and development institutions, healthcare institutions, and regulatory agencies. Additionally, specific market data is not yet available either, but the University anticipates confident career outcomes based on the results of the MPharm and PharmD study programs (SER 3.2).

Judgment

The experts inquire about the vision and mission of EMU. According to the University, the goal is to become a leading and globally recognized university in the Eastern Mediterranean by 2030. International accreditation is part of this strategy. EMU states, that creating an international profile as well as international diversity by increasing the international student body on campus is one of EMU's strategic pillars. Due to the political and geographic situation, EMU cannot be part of the Erasmus Program. Nevertheless, the University manages to send some students abroad through bilateral agreements and personal contacts. The experts see the University's clear ambition to strengthen its international activities and further support them in this cause. The experts gained the impression that the PhD program supports EMU's strategic ambition to strengthen its international research profile and increase its visibility within the international scientific community. The establishment of a doctoral program in Pharmaceutical Sciences is considered an important step in further developing the Faculty's research profile.

From the experts' point of view, the doctoral study program "Pharmaceutical Sciences" focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment, and personal development.

Since the program has not yet produced any graduates, there is currently no data available on career entry. The experts recommend establishing mechanisms to systematically collect graduate data and evaluate the professional and academic career paths of the first cohorts.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.2 Structure of the study program

In accordance with ESG 1.3 Student-centered Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The study program aims to provide students with specialized and interdisciplinary knowledge as well as professional, methodological, and general competences. The study program has a modular structure that is closely linked to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)¹ and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the modules contain all necessary information, as required in the ECTS User's Guide (particularly with regard to the details about learning content and outcomes, methods of learning, prerequisites for the allocation of ECTS credits, workload).

The combination and succession of the modules of the study program are consistent with the specified qualification objectives (described earlier).

It is assured that students receive the support and guidance they need for the organization and accomplishment of assignments and the learning process in general.

The arrangement of internships in the study program allows acquisition of ECTS credits. Provided that the program offers exchange mobility gaps, they will be integrated into students' curriculum.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/docs/ects-guide_en.pdf

Study programs with special profile requirements (e.g. dual, part-time, occupational or distance learning study programs) comply with particular aspects that are considered as appropriate and proportionate. These particular aspects are continuously observed in the study program.

Summary

The program comprises 11 modules, out of which 3 are obligatory, 5 are area-specific elective modules, and 3 are elective modules. Students are not allowed to register for more than 2 modules per semester with credit (non-credit modules can be taken as a third module).

The list of modules offered:

Nr.	Title	Sem.	CP
PHARXXX	Area Elective Module I	1-4	3
PHARXXX	Area Elective Module II	1-4	3
PHARXXX	Area Elective Module III	1-4	3
PHARXXX	Area Elective Module IV	1-4	3
PHARXXX	Area Elective Module V	1-4	3
REQ1	Elective Module I	1-4	3
REQ2	Elective Module II	1-4	3
REQ3	Elective Module III	1-4	3
PHAR600	Ph.D. Thesis	3	0
PHAR698	Seminar	4	0
PHAR6990	Ph.D. Qualifying Exam	5	0
	Total:	8	24

Chart 2: Module overview

The module description/catalogue covers the following aspects: credit hours, language, learning outcomes, content of the module, and examination methods.

The study program is structured to support progressive academic development and enables students to gain expertise and conduct independent research in their specialization area. In the first two years, students complete five compulsory modules, three elective modules in the area of their specialization, and the “Seminar” module. Specialization options include:

- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology
- Toxicology
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Pharmacognosy
- Pharmaceutical Technology
- Pharmaceutical Microbiology
- Pharmaceutical Economics and Management

After the completion of the “Seminar” module and 8 other modules, students are eligible to take the PhD proficiency exam in the following semester. The exam consists of a written and an oral part and is conducted by a jury of five faculty members who hold a PhD in the relevant field. Students can repeat the exam. However, after two failed repetitions, they need to retake all previous coursework.

The PhD qualifying examination comprises both written and oral components. The process is overseen by an eight-member PhD Qualifying Committee composed of faculty members holding a PhD in the relevant field. For each candidate, the Committee appoints a five-member examination jury, including three members from the faculty and two external members from outside the faculty and/or the University, ensuring appropriate expertise and independent evaluation within the relevant academic field.

After successful completion of the PhD qualifying examination, the thesis topic is determined by the student in consultation with the thesis advisor. The PhD thesis proposal is then formally submitted to the Thesis Monitoring Committee and the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research. The proposal is evaluated by the Thesis Monitoring Committee with respect to its originality, scientific quality, feasibility, and suitability for doctoral-level research. Following approval, the student proceeds with the thesis research under the guidance of the advisor and the supervision of the committee.

In the next two years, students work on their thesis and must submit a progress report each semester to the thesis monitoring committee. These reports must be completed and approved prior to graduation. Once the thesis is finished, the student is admitted to their thesis defense examination. If successfully defended, they are awarded a PhD in their respective fields (SER 4.1.3).

The didactic concept of the program is research-oriented and aims at self-directed learning. Lectures and seminars provide theoretical foundations and current research topics, while exercises support the application of theory in practice. Additionally, study groups promote cooperative learning and enable students to strengthen, exchange, and understand gained knowledge (SER 4.1.5).

The curriculum incorporates a variety of electronic and multimedia forms of instruction. These include Moodle (Learning Management System), Microsoft Teams, and area-specific tools like ChemDraw, SPSS, SciFinder and pharmacy application software (SER 4.1.6).

The University emphasizes their students' undergraduate and graduate experiences in research as a foundation for their thesis-related activities. Before students are allowed to defend their thesis, they must publish one scientific article indexed by Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), or Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI). The University also promotes researchers with awards and participation funding to encourage students and faculty to engage in research (SER 4.1.7).

The curriculum of the study program was adapted from international pharmacy programs and is taught in English. Students and faculty are encouraged to participate in international symposiums, international research collaborations with study groups abroad. Exchange periods are not part of the program (SER 4.1.8).

Judgment

The doctoral study program "Pharmaceutical Science" has a course-based structure and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the modules are embedded within the course syllabi. The course syllabus contains information on the module title and number, semester, credit hours, language, learning outcomes, module content, and examination.

The combination of the courses of the study program is consistent with the specified qualification objectives (described earlier). It is assured that students receive the support and guidance they need for the organization and accomplishment of assignments and the learning process in general.

Given the early stage of the doctoral program, the experts strongly recommend continuously evaluating whether the workload, number of assignments, and

overall structure of the coursework are appropriate for doctoral-level education and provide sufficient time for independent research activities.

The experts positively acknowledge that the program combines theoretical and methodological training with extensive independent research activities. The different specialization areas allow doctoral candidates to deepen their expertise in their selected field of pharmaceutical sciences and to conduct research in a focused scientific environment. The PhD qualifying examination, involving internal and external experts, as well as the Thesis Monitoring Committee and regular progress reports provide structured supervision and continuous evaluation of the doctoral candidates' scientific development.

The experts inquire about the research expertise of the Faculty. According to the Faculty, they do not focus on specific areas of research; instead, the Faculty strives to offer students a wide range of research opportunities. Particularly with regard to laboratory equipment, but also due to staffing constraints, the experts believe that it would be preferable for the Faculty to focus on a general research topic in order to make the most of their re-sources and provide students with a productive direction in research.

According to the University, the students have the requirement to publish a scientific article in an internationally recognized indexed journal before the thesis defense. The experts consider this a positive measure to promote scientific quality, international visibility, and the integration of doctoral candidates into the international research community.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.3 Admission and Feasibility

In accordance with ESG 1.4 Student Admission, Progression, Recognition and Certification

The admission requirements and, if applied, student selection procedures are specified. They correspond to the standards of the study program.

Feasibility of the study program is guaranteed. The amount of student workload is appropriate.

Student support services, as well as specialized and general consultations, are provided by the University in a sufficient and appropriate manner.

As a whole, the organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study program.

Summary

Admissions to the study program are regulated by University regulations and coordinated by the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research. The institute announces available graduate programs, deadlines, required documents, and admission quotas.

Applications are reviewed by the relevant academic unit, and final decisions are made by the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research. Applicants are admitted twice a year, during the fall and the spring semester. Applicants must have acquired a Bachelor's degree (comprising of at least 10 semesters) or a master's degree in a relevant study field, submit a research proposal (voluntarily), and have proof of English language proficiency. Students without proof of English language proficiency may take a proficiency exam prepared by the English Preparatory School. Non-EMU graduates can submit three letters of reference (SER 5.1.1).

Candidates for the study program may be admitted directly or go through an exam or an interview. Admission quotas are determined by the number of academic advisors available for each faculty or department. In thesis-based programs, each supervisor may advise a maximum of 14 students (SER 5.1.4).

The University admits students with disabilities and chronic illnesses, striving to provide an accessible and inclusive environment for them. Credit transfers and recognition for prior learning regulations apply to transfer students, recognition of prior didactic learning, and module exemptions. They are reviewed by the Dean's office or a designated committee. These regulations are described in detail in Annex G (SER 5.1.3).

The Institute of Graduate Studies and Research assesses credit transfer, recognition, conversion, and credits earned at other higher education institutions in Northern Cyprus or abroad. Applicants registered at a graduate program from another university may apply for transfer within the announced application period. Applications are evaluated by a relevant committee, which reaches a decision based on

equivalency between study programs, complete documentation, program-specific requirements, and interview or examination (SER 5.1.3).

The University provides a variety of academic and non-academic support services. The Registrar's Office handles general academic counseling, such as enrollment and academic records. Department-level academic counseling consists of academic advisors. Each student is assigned one and can seek guidance on academic and personal matters, including academic progress or probation status. Academic advisors monitor students' academic performance through an online portal. Academic staff must hold at least one hour per week of office hours. Students can attend office hours in person or through MS Teams (SER 5.2.1.3).

The University offers psychological counseling to help students manage stress and anxiety. The Health Center provides health services to all students. The Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Support Unit assures an environment free of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination. Other support services are the Student Social Aid Commission, and the Social and Cultural Activities Directorate (SER 5.2.1.4).

Judgment

The admission policies and procedures along with the requirements are properly documented and made publicly available. The experts determine the admission procedures and requirements to be appropriate as they correspond to the standards of the study program.

The possibility of admitting students from different academic backgrounds may contribute to interdisciplinary research; however, the Faculty should ensure that all candidates possess the required disciplinary knowledge or receive appropriate additional preparation where necessary.

The experts confirm that the University takes good measures to guarantee the feasibility of the study program despite the high workload. The organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study program. The experts appreciate the fact that students with disabilities or chronic illness are offered compensatory measures when writing exams, such as extra time or writing the exam in another room.

On site, it became obvious that the teaching staff follows an "open-door-policy". The experts commend the favorable student-to-faculty ratio. Due to the currently

low number of doctoral candidates and the available academic staff, students benefit from close interaction with their supervisors and individualized academic guidance.

As another support mechanism, an academic advisor is responsible for a small number of students from the beginning of each semester. Students are supported through advisors, course coordinators, or personal tutors with their registration process, selecting a study program, financial and personal issues and their performance during the semester. If the students have problems besides academic issues, a social support unit is installed at the University. However, support for students should also be explicitly directed toward international students. The University should encourage networking among national and international students and break down language barriers. Given the large number of international students and the universities' continued mission to strive for international exposure, greater attention should be paid to organizing activities like university events, conferences or key speakers in English. Furthermore, the experts recommend supporting students (national and international) also in international job opportunities.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.4 Examination system and transparency

In accordance with ESG 1.8 Public Information

Examinations serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge and competences. The requirements to students' performance in examinations are regulated and published. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organization, is appropriate.

The University guarantees that students with disabilities or chronic illnesses receive compensation with regard to time limits and formal requirements of the study process, as well as all final and course-related performance records.

Information concerning the study program, process of education, admission requirements and the compensation regulations for students with disabilities are documented and published.

Summary

The Faculty of Pharmacy follows an assessment framework described in the Examination and Admission Regulations (Annex B). Examinations follow the academic calendar, with mid-term and final exams held in specific weeks in the middle and at the end of the semester respectively. At the beginning of each academic year, the Institute of Graduate Studies publishes the academic calendar outlining general examination periods for midterm and final exams, alongside specific application and submission deadlines for presentations, qualification exams, thesis proposals, and thesis evaluations.

Types of assessment include midterm and final examinations, presentations, laboratory work, assignments, and quizzes. Midterm and final exams can include multiple-choice questions, matching, and structured essay questions. For PhD candidates, evaluations also include thesis progress evaluations and research reports (SER 6.1.1.2).

The grading scale ranges from A (4.0 GPA) to F (0.00 GPA). The NG grade classifies as F in students' GPA, indicating poor attendance or lack of data on examinations (Annex K). The grading system is applied in accordance with the University regulations. For graduate program courses, the minimum passing grade is B. Students who receive a grade below B in a compulsory course are required to repeat the course when it is offered again. For elective courses, students may either repeat the failed course or, with the approval of their academic advisor or thesis advisor, take another course in its place. In line with the relevant graduate regulations, failure in the same credited program course twice, failure in a replacement course, or failure in any two courses during the program results in termination of the student's registration with the Institute. Students who received an "NG" grade are not allowed to participate in the re-sit exam and must repeat the module in the next available semester (SER 6.1.1.3).

The curriculum for the PhD study program is supervised by the University's Curriculum Committee. It was structured in accordance with the TRNC Higher Education Framework and is regulated by the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research (SER 6.1.1.5).

Information on study plans, module outlines, staff information, laboratory teaching and academic integrity are published in the student's portal and in the Student Handbook. Information on admission requirements and examination regulations is

available on the University and Faculty websites, social media or newspapers. Compensation measures for students with disabilities and disadvantages are available at the general university websites and the “EMU without Barriers” website (SER 6.2.1).

The Pharmacy Student Society represents pharmacy students and organizes academic, social, and international events to help engage the community. Alongside the Student Council, the society is active in University decision-making and participates in board and committee meetings (SER 6.2.1.5).

Judgment

The University uses a continuous assessment process to ensure the quality of education for its students. The study programs have a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations, repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students. From the experts’ point of view, the examination serves to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students’ knowledge and competences. The experts particularly appreciate the structured doctoral assessment process, which includes the PhD qualifying examination, the evaluation of the thesis proposal, regular monitoring of the research progress by the Thesis Monitoring Committee, and the final thesis defense. The involvement of external experts in the qualifying examination process is considered a valuable mechanism to ensure independent evaluation and maintain the scientific quality of the doctoral program.

Given the recent implementation of the study program and the absence of graduates so far, the experts recommend continuously and critically evaluating the suitability and effectiveness of the examination procedures based on the experiences gained from the first cohorts. This includes reviewing whether the different assessment components appropriately support doctoral candidates in achieving the intended qualification objectives and successfully progressing through the doctoral research process.

The requirements to students’ performance in examinations are regulated and published in the course syllabus. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organizations, is appropriate.

The University ensures that information about its activities, particularly the programs it offers, is easily accessible to prospective and current students, graduates,

other stakeholders, and the public. The published information includes detailed insights into the selection criteria for programs, intended learning outcomes, qualifications awarded. Ideally, the procedures employed for teaching, learning, and assessment would also be made available in a summarized overview.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

In accordance with ESG 1.5 Teaching Staff and in line with ESG 1.6 Learning Resources and student support

Professionalism and a sufficient number of human resources assure the successful implementation of the study program. Qualifications of the teaching personnel correspond to the requirements of the study program. Recruitment and appointment of teaching positions are appropriate. Interdisciplinary links to other study programs are taken into consideration.

Measures for the professional and personal development of the teaching personnel are provided.

Qualitative and quantitative sufficiency of the equipment and space resources assures the successful implementation of the study program.

Summary

The Faculty of Pharmacy employs 3 professors, 3 associate professors, and 7 assistant professors to supervise the PhD program. In addition, there are 2 full-time members from the Faculty of Health Sciences, 1 full-time member from the Faculty of Medicine, and 3 adjunct professors from abroad. Full-time lecturers are required to fulfill a teaching load of 12 hours a week.

In the PhD study program, 81.25% of modules are taught by Faculty and University members and 18.75% are taught by adjunct professors from abroad. During the Fall Semester 2025-2026, the student to full-time staff ratio was 1.31:1 (17:13). The student to part-time staff ratio was 5.67:1 (17:3) (SER 7.1.1).

29% of the modules are taught by professors, 29% by associate professors and 42% by assistant professors.

Recruitment for new staff can be requested upon academic staff's retirement, needs in a particular area, or increase in student numbers. The faculty board submits their decision for recruitment to the Rector's office, which evaluates the decision for the Board of Trustees of the University. Afterwards, the Human Resources Directorate publishes job vacancies through newspapers and internet websites (SER 7.1.2.1).

The Continuing Education Center, Human Resources Directorate and Academic Evaluation Committee support staff development through training, mentoring and continuous education. This includes in-service training, participation in conferences, and research support. The University allocates a specific budget for staff development to enhance competence and effectiveness. Faculty members who advise a master or a PhD thesis must hold at least the title of assistant professor.

The University regularly evaluates staff performance through student feedback and efforts to improve professional growth. Academic staff receive support for research, promotions and collaborative initiatives (SER 7.1.3).

The Faculty of Pharmacy has 9 non-academic staff members, which include 1 administrative officer and 2 administrative assistants (SER 7.2).

The University Library provides access to information resources, such as online databases, training for students and staff, seminars or workshops. Students have available remote access to online databases, journals and e-books. The University offers wireless Eduroam connection to all students and staff. The Faculty of Pharmacy provides a study room for students, consisting of 35 study seats and 19 computers (SER 6.2.2.5).

The Faculty of Pharmacy is equipped with student laboratories that contain the technological and educational infrastructure necessary for the study field. Laboratories are equipped with HPLC, GC-MS, FT-IR, UV spectrophotometers, laminar flow, microscopes, etc. All laboratories have a smart board available. There is also a medicinal and romantic plant garden by the faculty building, used in modules Pharmaceutical Botany and Pharmacognosy (SER 3.1.1).

Judgment

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the programs and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Overall, the teaching and academic staff at the Eastern Mediterranean University show a very high level of commitment

and potential for the execution as well as further development of the study program they are responsible for. The experts conclude that there is a strong corporate identity and positive group dynamics among the University and the Faculty administration.

The University explain the concept of “flying professors” to the experts. The Faculty brings in professors from international institutions to teach courses in the doctoral program. The experts see this as a good opportunity to bring new perspectives to the program.

The experts find the amount of human resources allocated to the program to be sufficient to carry out its functions. The teaching staff is well qualified and in possession of academic and technical credentials and experience adequate to their tasks.

The experts encourage the Faculty to further strengthen the conditions for research activities of academic staff. This includes providing sufficient time for research in addition to teaching responsibilities, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration with other faculties and external partners, and increasing the international visibility of research activities.

The experts visited the premises of the Faculty of Pharmacy, where the labs of the doctoral study programs are located. The experts consider the available facilities and learning resources to be generally suitable for the implementation of the study programs. In particular, the laboratories provide students with opportunities to acquire practical skills and to apply theoretical knowledge in a laboratory environment. At the same time, the experts recommend further improving laboratory safety conditions, particularly regarding ventilation systems, fume cupboards, and the storage and handling of chemicals, in order to ensure that laboratory facilities fully meet international safety standards.

As a whole, it was ascertained by the experts that the doctoral study program “Pharmaceutical Sciences” have ample teaching facilities at its disposal.

Decision

From the experts’ point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.6 Quality assurance

In accordance with ESG 1.1. Policy for Quality Assurance and ESG 1.10 Cyclical External Quality Assurance.

In line with ESG 1.7 Information Management and taking into consideration ESG 1.9 On-going Monitoring and periodic review of programs

The University has developed and documented a concept of quality assurance in education process, teaching and research, which serves as the basis for the quality-oriented development and implementation of the study program.

The results of the internal quality assurance management are applied for the continuous development of the study program. In doing so, the University takes into close consideration the quality evaluation results as well as the analyses of students' workload, their academic accomplishments and feedback from graduates.

Summary

University decisions are defined by its legislation and regulations. The Academic Evaluation Commission (AEC) has been established to evaluate appointment and promotion of professors, associate professors, and assistant professors. The AEC works directly for the Rectorate and consists of the Vice Rector and professors appointed for three years for each discipline (SER 8.1.1).

The University's Total Quality Management Center ensures continuous improvement in education and management, aiming to improve education research and development activities through a participatory approach. External assurance is maintained by ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management), ISO 10002:2018 (Student Satisfaction) and ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety) certifications, international accreditation, such as the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and external stakeholders in education, research, and practice. External stakeholders include the Ministry of Health, Turkish Cypriot Pharmacists Association, and mentors from community and hospital pharmacies and industrial companies (SER 8.1.3).

Quality assurance of the study program is managed through the University's integrated system. The PhD program coordinator, Dean's Office, Faculty Board, the Institute of Graduate Studies, and the University Senate are included in its quality assurance process. Students evaluate the lecturer and the modules every term including the Master's and PhD programs via the University portal. The measures

for student involvement in quality assurance for undergraduate programs are conducted for graduate programs too. Quality control and assurance mechanisms cover the whole University.

The curriculum is approved by the Turkish Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (YÖDAK). In the future, the YÖDAK will evaluate the curriculum and other study program elements, in cooperation with the Faculty Quality Inspection, the PhD Program Committee, and the Dean's Office. Possible improvements could include revision of the curriculum, learning outcomes, supervision mechanism, admission and assessment criteria, and research infrastructure.

Module evaluations at the University are usually achieved through student surveys, curricular revisions from students, staff and external stakeholders. However, since the program commenced recently, data from students, staff, and other stakeholders on adaptation of the study program is planned in the upcoming years. (SER 8.1.4).

The University needs a longer time period to effectively evaluate student workload. However, as students are not allowed to register for more than two modules each semester, the University finds that students have adequate time to prepare for their qualification exam and start their research project (SER 8.1.6).

The University provides the following statistics on the study program:

Academic Year	Total Applications	Accepted but Not Enrolled	Enrolled
2023–2024 Total	58	25	7
2024–2025 Total	71	9	7
2025-2026 Total	45	11	2
Total enrolled students	174	45	16

Chart 3: Enrolment status of PhD students within the pharmaceutical sciences program (SER 8.1.7).

Judgment

The experts gained the impression that Eastern Mediterranean University has established a structured quality assurance system involving academic staff, students, graduates, and representatives from the pharmaceutical sector. The Faculty demonstrates a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of the doctoral

program “Pharmaceutical Science” and uses internal evaluation processes as well as external accreditation procedures as opportunities for further development.

The University consistently monitors its programs to ensure alignment with established objectives, responsiveness to the evolving needs of students and society, and the facilitation of continuous program improvement. The University has mechanisms for systematic reviews in place and will initiate the process with the first graduates in the program. The evaluation process will encompass various aspects, including the regular examination of program content in light of the latest research in the discipline, consideration of changing societal needs, assessment of student workload, progression, and completion rates, evaluation of the effectiveness of procedures for student assessment, collection of feedback on student expectations, needs, and satisfaction regarding the program, and examination of the suitability of the learning environment and support services for the program's objectives.

The University possesses a robust data collection system and gathers comprehensive data on its study programs and other activities. The information gathered depends, to some extent, on the type and mission of the institution. Various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are captured by the institution. A range of information regarding study programs and activities is consistently captured by the institution. Student progression, success rates, and dropout rates are inherent considerations in the institution's analytical processes. With an established feedback mechanism, the University regularly measures student satisfaction with their programs, the learning resources, and the available student support. The University also actively tracks and analyzes the career paths of its graduates. The institution seamlessly integrates the collected information into its existing internal quality assurance system. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that the perspectives of students and staff are considered in decision-making processes. Feedback from students, graduates, and external stakeholders contributes to the identification of strengths and areas for improvement. The experts also appreciate the Faculty's openness towards recommendations and its willingness to implement changes based on evaluation results.

Regular program reviews and revisions are conducted, actively involving students and other stakeholders in the process. The information collected from these reviews undergoes analysis, and program adaptations are made to ensure the program is up-to-date. Any actions planned or taken as a result of these reviews are

communicated to all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the University ensures the publication of revised program specifications, fostering transparency and keeping stakeholders informed of changes resulting from the systematic review process. However, during the discussions with students, the experts gained the impression that the existing quality assurance structures and processes are not fully visible to all students. Therefore, the experts recommend increasing students' awareness of relevant quality assurance bodies, regulations, and procedures, clearly outlining opportunities for active student participation and improving communication regarding how student feedback contributes to concrete improvement measures.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

The University's actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner.

Summary

The University evaluates its education system as gender equal in terms of access, learning, opportunities, and educational content and delivery. Students of different genders and ages take modules together and share the same facilities. To promote gender equality and equal opportunities, the University offers supportive centers for community involvement, psychological counseling, accommodation and financial support, social and cultural activities, and women's studies. The Health Center also has accessible physical and mental health services for all students.

The University provides a variety of scholarships to domestic and international students, based on academic accomplishments, athletic achievements, disabilities, or extraordinary events. Alongside scholarships, students can receive tuition discounts (SER 9.1.1).

The Disabled Students Unit operated under the Rector's office, and its task is to identify and address the academic, physical, and social needs of disabled students.

Its duties include arranging accessible learning environments, providing specialized course materials, and coordinating exam accommodations to ensure equal opportunity. Disabled students also have advisors available at every faculty. The advisors specify requests and recommendations of the disabled students within the academic unit, provide necessary advisory services, monitor problems encountered by disabled students, and actively resolve these problems.

The University provides accommodation on campus for students with limited mobility, and buses with ramps for transportation. The Faculty of Pharmacy provides access to the building with ramps, elevators, and accessible washrooms on every floor (SER 9.1.3).

Judgment

The experts acknowledge that Eastern Mediterranean University has established various structures and services to promote equal opportunities and support student well-being. Students have access to different support mechanisms, including psychological counseling, financial assistance, and services for students with disabilities. The experts gained the impression that the University provides an inclusive and supportive learning environment and demonstrates a commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all students.

However, the experts recommend reconsidering the title and scope of the “Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Support Unit” in order to reflect a broader approach to gender equality, prevention of discrimination, and the promotion of an inclusive academic environment. A more comprehensive designation could contribute to increasing awareness of the services provided and emphasize the University’s commitment to diversity and equal opportunities.

Decision

From the experts’ point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4 Conclusion

The doctoral study program “Pharmaceutical Sciences” at Eastern Mediterranean University is designed to educate independent researchers capable of conducting scientific research and contributing to the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences. The experts gained the impression that the Faculty is committed to research-oriented education and offers a supportive academic environment characterized by close supervision, qualified academic staff, and appropriate research infrastructure. The combination of coursework, the qualifying examination, structured thesis supervision, and the requirement to publish scientific research before graduation contributes to the development of academic competencies and supports the integration of doctoral candidates into the international scientific community.

At the same time, the program is still in an early stage of implementation and has not yet produced graduates. The experts therefore consider it important to further develop and consolidate certain aspects of the program as experience with future cohorts is gained.

Based on the information from written documents and the results of the site visit, the experts came to the conclusion that the study program “Pharmaceutical Sciences” offered at the Eastern Mediterranean University fulfils the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS make a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- Establish mechanisms to systematically collect graduate data and evaluate the academic and professional career paths of future graduates.
- Continuously evaluate whether workload, assignments, and the overall structure of the coursework remain appropriate for doctoral-level education and provide sufficient time for independent research activities.
- Consider further focusing and strategically developing a selected and focused research field in order to strengthen the Faculty’s research profile and make optimal use of available academic and laboratory resources.

- Support internationalization and employability by strengthening networking opportunities among doctoral candidates and by providing additional support regarding international academic and professional career opportunities.
- Continuously evaluate the suitability and effectiveness of examination and assessment procedures as experience with future cohorts is gained.
- Further strengthen the framework conditions for research activities of academic staff, including interdisciplinary collaboration, international cooperation, and the international visibility of research outputs.
- Continue improving laboratory safety conditions, particularly regarding ventilation systems, fume cupboards, and the storage and handling of chemicals, to ensure full compliance with international safety standards.
- Increase students' awareness of quality assurance structures, regulations, and procedures and communicate more clearly how student feedback contributes to quality enhancement measures.
- Reconsider the title and scope of the "Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Support Unit" in order to better reflect a broader commitment to gender equality, diversity, and inclusion.

5 Decision of the Accreditation Commission

Decision of the Accreditation Commission July 23, 2026

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the University's application, as well as the expert review and the site visit covered in the Assessment Report.

The site visit of the University took place on May 11-12, 2026, according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation procedure is structured according to the Accreditation Criteria developed by the AHPGS. The Accreditation Criteria are developed by the AHPGS in close accordance with the existing criteria and requirements valid in the Federal Republic of Germany and based on the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group regarding the Assessment Report.

The doctoral study program requires the obtainment of 24 credit points according to the internal credit system. The regulated study period in the program "Pharmaceutical Sciences" is four years. The study program comprises 11 courses, of which 3 are compulsory, 5 area elective courses and 3 elective courses. The language of instruction is English. The doctoral study program "Pharmaceutical Sciences" is completed with awarding of the academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy". Admission takes place every spring and fall semester. The first cohort of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2023/2024.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The doctoral study program "Pharmaceutical Sciences" is accredited for the duration of five years until September 30, 2031. The accreditation is based on the circumstances described in the Assessment Report.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the Assessment Report.

An appeal against this decision may be filed within two weeks of its notification. The appeal must be submitted in writing or recorded at the office of AHPGS Akkreditierung gGmbH, Sedanstraße 22, 79098 Freiburg, and must include a statement of reasons.