



Quality Assurance Policy for the Undergraduate Studies Program

Department of Animal Science



Agricultural University of Athens

School of Animal Biosciences

Department of Animal Science

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1 Quality Assurance Statement

The mission of the Department of Animal Science is to provide high-quality education at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels, in line with the latest scientific developments. Its academic focus encompasses the fields of Genetics, Animal Nutrition, Physiology, Molecular Biology, Technology, Hygiene, Biotechnology, Ethology, and the Management of animals and livestock units, as well as other related disciplines. In addition, the Department promotes both basic and applied research and fosters social development, while upholding the independence of science, meritocracy, and the pursuit of societal benefit through the effective utilization of scientific and technological advancements.

In collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit of the Agricultural University of Athens and the relevant institutional services, the Department of Animal Science has aligned its Quality Policy with that of the University. This alignment aims to ensure and continuously improve the quality of its undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral study programs, offered either independently or in partnership with other Departments or Institutions in Greece and abroad.

2 Strategic Objectives of the Undergraduate Studies Program

The Quality Policy of the Department is fully aligned with the overall strategy of the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), ensuring that the Undergraduate Study Program (USP) contributes to the University's strategic goals of excellence in education, research, and social contribution. All quality assurance procedures are implemented in collaboration with the University's Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP).

The Undergraduate Study Program (USP) of the Department of Animal Science is committed to fostering the attainment of high-level learning outcomes, in accordance with the principles of the National and European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education at Level 7. Specifically, the USP is designed and implemented with the aim of:

- **Achieving learning outcomes:** Ensuring that students acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies that meet the requirements of the discipline as well as the needs of society and the labor market.
- **Enhancing teaching quality:** Adopting modern teaching methods and technologies that promote student-centered learning and active student participation in the educational process.
- **Strengthening links with the labor market:** Continuously updating the curriculum to reflect scientific advancements and the challenges of the professional environment.
- **Integrating teaching and research:** Embedding the results of contemporary research into course content, thereby cultivating a research-oriented culture and facilitating the dissemination of knowledge.

Through this strategy, the USP seeks to develop graduates distinguished by their scientific competence, professional suitability, and ability to respond effectively to the challenges of modern society.

In addition, the Department of Animal Science:

- **Participates in mobility programs** by establishing new collaborations with international institutions, thereby strengthening the international dimension of its Undergraduate Study Program.
- **Promotes and continuously enhances its international recognition** through the adoption of international standards in course syllabi and the pursuit of learning outcomes and qualifications aligned with the European and National Qualifications Frameworks for Higher Education.

3 Principles and Guidelines

The Undergraduate Study Program (USP) is guided by a clear framework of principles that ensure quality across all its functions. Specifically:

- **Compliance with Legality:** The USP fully adheres to the applicable legislation and the standards established by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE) and the European Higher Education Area.
- **Transparency:** All procedures of the USP are governed by transparency and objectivity. The management of administrative and academic matters is conducted with respect for the principles of open communication and accountability.
- **Collectivity:** The development and implementation of the USP are based on the active participation of all stakeholders, including academic staff, students, alumni, and external partners.
- **Social Responsibility:** The USP places particular emphasis on the social dimension of education by integrating initiatives that respond to the needs of society and the labor market. In addition, it considers feedback from productive, social, and cultural organizations to improve its activities.

4 Quality Assurance Procedures

The Department of Animal Science is committed to implementing the quality assurance procedures outlined in the Internal Quality Assurance System Manual of the Institution for Undergraduate Study Programs, in collaboration with the University's Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP). The quality assurance procedures of the USP involve the active participation of all members of the Department (academic, research, technical, and administrative staff, as well as students), each with distinct roles. Specifically, they include:

a) **Defining and implementing the Quality Policy.**

b) **Provision and management of resources:** Ensuring the allocation and management of the necessary financial and human resources, as well as infrastructures, to support the smooth operation of the Department's educational, research, administrative activities, and services in support of the USP.

c) **Establishing annual quality objectives:** Setting goals that are clearly defined, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound. These quality objectives are linked to quantitative or qualitative indicators, monitored continuously according to their timetable, and determined in cooperation and agreement with the University's administration, in alignment with the University's overall quality objectives.

d) **Conducting annual review and Internal Evaluation:** Performing an annual review and internal evaluation of the quality assurance system of the USP of the Department of Animal Science, in collaboration with the Department's Internal Evaluation Group (OMEA), the University's Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP), and with the participation of all stakeholders. The aim is to assess the USP's compliance with the Quality Standard, the achievement of quality objectives, and the need for corrective actions to improve educational, research, and administrative performance.

e) **Collection, analysis, and use of quality data:** Collecting and analyzing data on a regular basis, in collaboration with the University's MODIP, through Information Systems and student questionnaires. Data are submitted to the Integrated Quality Information System of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), as well as to the University's internal information systems.

These data are used to calculate performance indicators and to inform quality improvement through goal-setting.

f) **Dissemination of information:** Publishing all USP-related information of the Department of Animal Science. The Department's website constitutes the primary—though not exclusive—information channel, where all USP details are published in accordance with its management regulations, and where content is monitored for completeness, accuracy, and timeliness in both Greek and English. Additional information and the operational aspects of the USP are managed through the University's electronic systems, e-student and e-class.

g) **External Evaluation:** Undergoing external evaluation of the USP of the Department of Animal Science by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education, in accordance with the legislative framework and the guidelines of HAHE.

5 Resources Management

The Department is committed to undertaking all necessary legal procedures to secure appropriate financial, human, and material resources from AUA's central administration to support the Undergraduate Program.

6 Engagement with Society and Labor Market

The Undergraduate Study Program (USP) of the Department of Animal Science interacts directly and continuously with external stakeholders through:

- Establishing collaborations with enterprises and organizations,
- Creating and utilizing internship opportunities, and
- Revising the content of the USP in accordance with developments and the needs of the labor market.

7 Commitment to Continuous Improvement

The continuous improvement of the Undergraduate Study Program (USP) of the Department of Animal Science is achieved through:

- Revisions of the USP and the incorporation of innovative practices,
- Utilization of data from student and alumni evaluations, and
- Feedback from social and productive stakeholders.

8 Publicity and Transparency

The Undergraduate Study Program (USP) is committed to ensuring full and clear communication of all academic, administrative, and research activities to all stakeholders. Specifically:

- **Accessible Information:** All details regarding the structure, operation, content, and learning outcomes of the USP are published through the Department's official website and other approved communication channels. Information is regularly updated to facilitate access for students, alumni, and external stakeholders.
- **Transparency in Processes:** Procedures for the evaluation, revision, and approval of the curriculum are communicated in a clear and understandable manner, fostering trust and encouraging the participation of all stakeholders.

- **Objectivity:** Published information is presented with accuracy and impartiality, in line with the guidelines of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE) and international standards.
- **Supporting Transparency:** The USP makes use of both digital and physical infrastructures to ensure easy access to its information by the academic community and the broader public.