

D. Assignment (Diploma Thesis) writing

According to the Decision of the Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki No. 78656/23.06.2023 "Approval of the Regulation of Postgraduate Studies Programs of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.)" (Government Gazette 4084/B-23.06.2023) the following:

Article 9 – Study Program – Knowledge Test (Diploma Thesis)

For the preparation of a Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (P.D.T.), the Steering Committee following a request from the student on specified dates, in which the proposed title of the diploma thesis, the proposed supervisor and a summary of the proposed work is attached, designates his/her supervisor and sets up a Three-member Examining Committee for the approval of the work, one member of which is the supervisor.

Academic staff of the following categories have the right to supervise diploma theses, as described in article 83 of Law 4957/2022:

- a. members of Teaching and Research Personnel, Special Educational Personnel, Laboratory Personnel and Special Technical Laboratory Staff of the School or other Schools of the same or another Higher Educational Institution (H.E.I.) or Higher Military Educational Institution (H.M.E.I.), with additional salary beyond their legal obligations, if the Programme has tuition fees,
- b. emeritus Professors or retired members of the School or other School of the same or another H.E.I.,
- c. externally hired teaching staff,
- d. visiting professors or visiting researchers,
- e. researchers and scientists according to article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258).

The members of the Three-member Examining Committee must have the same or related research interests as the subject of the diploma Thesis.

The preparation of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis is governed by the Code of Academic Ethics of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Every creator or co-creator of any intellectual work is entitled to be mentioned and recognized as such, enjoying both the property and moral rights deriving from the specific work. Exceptionally, if the original intellectual creation ("work") is the final output of a paid research project, which has been assigned by an entity outside A.U.Th., the property rights of the creator or co-creators may be limited based on of the terms of the contract by which the research

work is assigned, while the ethical rights remain with the creator(s), subject to the necessary - for the exploitation/financial exploitation of the produced intellectual creation - contractual restrictions.

For the presentation of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis, the recommendation of the Three-Member Examining Committee is foreseen. In the event that the defense of the P.D.T. is held in public, a specific date and place is set by the Steering Committee of the programme.

After the defense of the P.D.T. minutes are kept in which the individual grade of each member of the Three-Member Examining Committee, the average score as well as any comments or remarks are mentioned. Following its approval by the Committee, it is compulsorily posted on the website of the School concerned. If the evaluation of P.D.T. is negative, the postgraduate student can submit his/her work incorporating the remarks for its improvement within a period of time set by the Three-Member Examining Committee. Although the second judgment is negative, the postgraduate student loses the right to award the Postgraduate Diploma.

In exceptional cases, if there is weakness or an important reason, it is possible to replace the supervisor or member of the Three-Member Examining Committee as well as change the subject of the P.D.T. after a decision of the Assembly of the relevant School.

In the relevant Postgraduate Studies Regulation, the type of P.D.T. is defined, among other things (theoretical, applied, experimental) the length, the font, the way of writing, the number of copies of the diploma thesis to be submitted and anything else related to its structure as well as its assessment process.

The grade of each course and the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (where provided) is multiplied by the corresponding number of credits (ECTS) and the sum of the products is divided by the minimum number of credits required to receive the Postgraduate Degree.

The mathematical formula is as follows:

$$\text{Grade P.D.T.} = (\text{Course grade 1} \times \text{ECTS of course 1} + \text{Grade of course 2} \times \text{ECTS of course 2} + \dots + \text{Grade of diploma thesis} \times \text{ECTS of diploma thesis}) / \text{Total number of ECTS}$$

Article 28 – Plagiarism

When submitting a postgraduate diploma thesis, the graduate student is required to indicate whether he/she has used the work and views of others. Plagiarism is

considered serious academic misconduct. Plagiarism is considered the copying of another's work, as well as the use of another's published or unpublished work without proper acknowledgement. The quoting of any documentary material, even from the candidate's own studies, without a relevant reference, may justify a decision of the Assembly of the relevant School to delete it. In the above cases - and after a analytic proposal from the supervising professor - the Assembly of the relevant School can decide to expel him/her. Any misconduct or violation of academic ethics is referred to the Steering Committee of the Programme for judgment and recommendation to address the problem at the School's Assembly. Offenses of copying or plagiarism and, in general, any violation of the provisions on intellectual property by a postgraduate student when writing assignments in the context of courses or preparing a postgraduate diploma thesis are also considered infringements.

Postgraduate Diploma Thesis Regulation

Postgraduate Programme Communication Networks & Systems Security School of Informatics

The Diploma Thesis Regulation has been approved by the School of Informatics Assembly .443/20-12-2023 and has been posted on the programme's website.

Scope

The purpose of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (Master's Thesis) is for the students to gain experience in multiple essential activities, such as the scientific and technical definition of problems, the research methodology, the design and implementation of scientific methods and/or tools and the writing of a scientific document resulting from research effort, based on rules and guidelines of excellence, as have been reflected by the international scientific community.

The Thesis is targeted at the cutting-edge topics of Communication Networks or Systems Security. The Thesis is of research or technical context that has a sufficient degree of originality or demonstrates good knowledge and in-depth understanding of a special topic of current research or technical interest.

It aims at an analytical contribution validated by experimental results using modern software tools used by companies, universities, or research centers. In addition to specialized knowledge, the student will learn to refer to literature, to implement one or more state-of-the-art techniques in terms of which to compare the performance of the technique he/she proposes. At the same time, students will become familiar with the effective presentation of their work (communication skills, correct use of presentation techniques, familiarity with audience questions).

Postgraduate Diploma Thesis in the Postgraduate Studies Program

1. Preparation of a Postgraduate Diploma Thesis is mandatory. The themes of the diploma theses fall within the academic subjects of the Postgraduate Program.
2. The effort to conclude the Postgraduate Diploma is equivalent to 30 ECTS. The diploma thesis is prepared in the 3rd semester of full-time studies (5th for part-time students). Importance is given to the preparation of quality diploma theses that cultivate essential skills in students, but also inspire innovative solutions while recognizing the potential and dynamics of postgraduate students.

Faculty Responsibilities

1. The supervision of a Postgraduate Diploma Thesis is an obligation of the faculty members who participate in the Postgraduate Course Program. The Diploma Thesis is prepared under the supervision of a faculty member.
2. The topics of diploma theses are proposed by the faculty members teaching in the Postgraduate Course Program and are announced in the dedicated

assignment platform, to which students have access, at the end of the spring semester. The topics must include a title, a brief description of the topic, possibly related prerequisite courses and/or required skills, as well as indicative bibliography.

3. The diploma thesis is a product of collaboration between the student and the supervisor. Copyrights are defined in Law 2121/1993 (Official Gazette A 25) and subsequent provisions. The corresponding regulation has been posted at <https://www.opi.gr/en/library1/law-2121-1993>, which has been updated “up to Law 4996/2022 (Official Gazette A218/24.11.2022)”.
4. Faculty members announce and supervise enough topics, ideally evenly distributed among them, so all students who apply for a diploma are covered. The length of time that will allow the completion of the thesis has been estimated at one semester of full-time employment.

Postgraduate Diploma Thesis Assignment Procedure

1. After the topics are posted, the students are informed by email sent by the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Course Program. Upon entering the platform, students can browse the offered thesis topics (<https://elearning.auth.gr/course/view.php?id=12021>). Also, the faculty members may make individually and/or group presentation of the posted diploma theses' topics following announcements on the platform.
2. Postgraduate students apply to the Postgraduate Studies Coordinating Committee (CC) stating the proposed title of the Postgraduate Thesis and the proposed supervisor. C.C. appoints the supervisor of the diploma thesis and sets up a three-member Examination Committee for thesis approval, one member of which is the supervisor. The members of the Three-member Examining Committee must have the same or related scientific subject to the subjects of the Postgraduate Course Program.

Postgraduate Diploma Thesis Elaboration – Regulatory provisions

1. When preparing their diploma thesis, students must adhere to the rules (e.g., frequency and manner of cooperation with the supervisor, schedule, and deliverables, etc.) set by the faculty members who supervise them at the beginning of the preparation of the thesis.
2. Interruption of the diploma thesis is allowed only for grave reasons, which are documented at the student's request and with the supervisor's consent. Discontinuation of the thesis can also be caused by the supervisor, if the student has documented insufficient performance. The interruption is notified in writing to C.C. by the supervisor, who also mentions the reasons for the interruption.
3. In exceptional cases, if there is an objective weakness or an important reason, it is possible to replace the supervisor or a member of the Three-Member Examining Committee after a decision of the School's Assembly. Replacement is provided in cases of educational leave, retirement, resignation, or other personal reasons. The C.C. recommends to the Assembly of the School the replacement of the supervisor or the examiner. The final decision is made by the Assembly of the School.

4. In exceptional cases (e.g., health issues, students' special skills), the thesis' assignment and preparation is done per the legislation concerning the respective case and with the recommendation of the Student Affairs Committee of the Postgraduate Course Program. to the C.C.

Writing – Examination of Postgraduate Diploma Thesis

1. The diploma thesis must be at least 50 A4 pages with 4cm top/bottom margin and 3cm left/right margin in double spacing and 12pt font size excluding the bibliography. On the website of Postgraduate Course Program, a prototype is posted that must be followed when writing the thesis so that there is uniformity among the theses. The writing language of the diploma thesis can be Greek or English. If the graduate student chooses English, an extended summary of at least four (4) pages in Greek is recommended. The supervisor of the diploma thesis is responsible for correcting it and checking the implementation of the corrections by the postgraduate student. The schedule of corrections cannot exceed one (1) calendar month. The corrected diploma thesis is sent electronically to the Three-Member Examining Committee.
2. The student sends the full text of his/her thesis to the members of the Three-member Examination Committee at least 15 days before the examination date.
3. The student must respond to any suggestions of the members of the Three-Member Examining Committee and then submit the thesis to the library.
4. A necessary condition for the support of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis is the successful examination in eight (8) courses of the Postgraduate Course Program.
5. The diploma theses are examined in February for the fall semester and June, or September for the spring semester according to deadlines set by the C.C. In case of non-timely completion of the diploma thesis in February, the postgraduate students, if they have been successfully examined in eight courses, renew their registration in the fourth semester without payment of tuition fees for "continuing the preparation of the diploma thesis" by submitting a progress report signed by the supervisor. Postgraduate students have the right to extend the preparation of their Postgraduate Diploma Thesis for one (1) semester only upon their application to the Postgraduate Course Program secretariat. Part-time students do the same without exceeding the maximum duration of studies set.
6. The diploma thesis is defended before the Three-Member Examining Committee on a date and place determined by the Three-Member Examining Committee. The Three-member Examining Committee approves and grades the diploma thesis. The diploma thesis is graded with a grade of ten (10) only if a published paper has resulted or an original work has been submitted for publication in recognized international/national scientific journals or conferences. Following its approval by the Committee, the diploma thesis is submitted in electronic format (pdf file) to the library of AUTH and is compulsorily posted on the website of the relevant School.

Intellectual Property – Plagiarism

1. Plagiarism is "the use of the idea and text of another scientist/author without clearly acknowledging the source of the information^{1,2}."
2. Plagiarism and the appropriation of third-party achievements are prohibited, and action is taken in a manner that meets the requirements of the applicable legislation for the protection of intellectual property and patented inventions (Laws 1733/1987, 1883/1990, 2029 /1992, 2128/1993, Presidential Decrees 77/1988, 16/1991, 321/2001, or 8121 /1993).
3. Plagiarism when writing any scientific paper and, of course, when writing the thesis is academically, morally, and legally reprehensible practice.
4. Consequently, any use of the same or directly translated text should be marked by the author of the thesis in an appropriate way (e.g., "quotation marks and italics"), should only concern a small number of words within the permitted limits of the Law and be accompanied by a bibliographic reference of the source.
5. Each thesis must state on the second page that: "Fully aware of the consequences of copyright law, I expressly declare that this master's thesis, as well as the electronic files and source codes developed or modified in context of this work, is exclusively the product of my personal work, does not infringe any form of intellectual property rights, personality and personal data of third parties, does not contain works/contributions of third parties for which the permission of the creators/right holders is required and is not a product of partial or total copying, and the sources used are limited to bibliographic references and only and meet the rules of scientific citation. Where I have used ideas, text, files, and sources of other authors, they are clearly indicated in the text with appropriate citations. The relevant reference is included in the bibliography section with a full description. I fully assume, individually and personally, all the legal and administrative consequences that may arise if it is proven, over time, that this work or part of it does not belong to me because it is a product of plagiarism".
6. In recognition of the importance of the diploma thesis integrity, the final text of the thesis is checked by the supervisor for signs of plagiarism using the electronic software available at AUTH (Turnitin) for this purpose. Any work that overlaps with other sources is revised at the supervisor's suggestion.
7. The explicit statement of the sources by the student is not in itself a sufficient condition for the acceptance of the work, as the latter cannot be a general compilation of recognized references, even within the permitted word limits of the law, but a product of personal understanding, interpretation, analysis and collection of data and ideas.
8. The provisions of Article 13 of the Regulations of the Postgraduate Course Program on "Communication Networks & Systems Security" apply.

¹ <https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/plagiarism.html>

² [Πνευματικά δικαιώματα, Λογοκλοπή | Αριστοτέλειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης Βιβλιοθήκη \(auth.gr\)](#)