

University of Ioannina
Department of History and Archaeology
D6.5 Published policy and projects for the support and development of the teaching staff
with regard to distance learning
[Faculty Board Decision, No 542, 27/5/2026]

The Postgraduate Study Programme (PSP) is committed to supporting the continuous professional development of its teaching staff in the areas of digital pedagogy, distance learning, and educational technology, with the objective of ensuring the effective delivery of high-quality online and blended learning experiences.

The collaborating Departments ensure the quality and effectiveness of the teaching staff through established monitoring and evaluation procedures, in accordance with the applicable legislation, codes of ethics, internal regulations, and quality assurance policies of the University of Ioannina. The evaluation of academic staff forms part of a structured quality assurance framework that considers teaching effectiveness, research activity, contribution to curriculum development, and student feedback, with the aim of continuously improving the educational process. Particular attention is given to the ability of academic staff to effectively support students and deliver teaching within digital and distance-learning environments.

Within this framework, faculty members are encouraged and supported to participate in national and international conferences, scientific seminars, workshops, and other professional development activities that strengthen their digital literacy and pedagogical competences in online and blended learning. Particular emphasis is placed on the continuous enhancement of staff expertise in best practices for distance education, the pedagogically sound use of educational technologies, and the integration of innovative teaching methods into the learning process.

Academic staff are further encouraged to participate in specialized training initiatives organized by the Institution, aimed at enhancing their capacity to design, deliver, and evaluate high-quality online and blended courses. These activities support the effective use of synchronous and asynchronous learning environments, the development of student-centred teaching approaches, and the creation of accessible and inclusive educational materials that facilitate the participation of students with disabilities and diverse learning needs.

The educational process is supported by the systematic use of the University's asynchronous learning management system (e-course), which serves as the primary platform for communication between instructors and students and provides access to learning resources, course materials, assignments, announcements, and other educational content. Where appropriate, synchronous online teaching tools are also utilized to promote interaction, collaboration, and active student engagement.

To further strengthen staff preparedness for digitally enhanced teaching, the PSP plans and supports targeted training seminars for faculty members, including initiatives focused on the effective use of contemporary digital teaching tools and technologies. These activities aim to familiarize instructors with emerging educational technologies and support the implementation of innovative and effective teaching practices in distance-learning environments.

The effectiveness of teaching in digital and distance-learning contexts is regularly monitored through the Programme's quality assurance procedures. Evaluation outcomes are utilized to identify professional development needs and to support targeted improvement initiatives that enhance teaching quality, student learning, and the overall effectiveness of online and blended education.

Through these measures, the PSP ensures that its teaching staff receive continuous support and opportunities for professional development in distance education, in accordance with institutional quality assurance policies and international best practices in digitally enhanced higher education.

The Staff Support, Development, Evaluation and Research Enhancement Policy, which provides the framework for the continuous professional development of academic staff, including support for teaching in digital and distance-learning environments, is publicly available through the Department's website. The public availability of the policy promotes transparency and demonstrates the Programme's commitment to quality assurance, continuous improvement, and the systematic support of academic staff.