



**ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟΥ**
University of the Peloponnese

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE STUDIES
21 VASSILEOS KONSTANTINOU & TERZAKI STREET,
NAFPLION 21100, GREECE
TEL.: +30 27520 96127/96130
Email: ts-secretary@uop.gr

MA PROGRAMME

Theatre, Education, Society

A18

Regulations for the Implementation of E-Learning



Nafplion, 2025

Contents

1. Suitability of the academic field for distance-learning delivery	3
2. Institutional Services supporting E-Learning	4
2.1 Computing resources.....	4
2.2 Digital Management Unit	4
2.3 Digital Tools and Services.....	5
3. Methodology for Module Development and Implementation.....	7
4. Modes of Delivery, Teaching, and Assessment	8
5. Student Support System	9
5.1 Educational support for students: Digital educational material	10
5.2 Pedagogical framework for distance learning courses	10
6. Teaching Staff Support	10
7. Student Identity Verification System.....	11
7.1 Distance Examination Examples	11
7.2 Student Identification.....	12
7.3 Useful remarks.....	12



MA Programme “Theatre, Education, Society”: Regulations for the Implementation of E-Learning

1. Suitability of the academic field for distance-learning delivery

- The MA Programme “Theatre, Education, Society” is organised through distance-learning methods in line with the University of the Peloponnese E-Learning Strategy. The model demonstrates the University’s commitment to meeting digital-era challenges and to continually improving the learning experience for MA students (MAs).
- The distance-learning design follows five principles:
 - ⇒ 1.2.1. Integration of web platforms and a range of digital tools in every module of the Programme.
 - ⇒ 1.2.2. Adoption of student-centred, active, and inclusive learning approaches.
 - ⇒ 1.2.3. Use of blended-learning pedagogy to connect face-to-face teaching with online interaction and activities.
 - ⇒ 1.2.4. Harmonious combination of traditional and contemporary teaching methods to provide flexible, high-quality education.
 - ⇒ 1.2.5. Dissemination of digital innovation and innovative educational practice.
- Under Article 67(4) of Law 4957/2022, synchronous distance delivery may be used only for modules and activities that can be supported remotely and that do not involve practical, laboratory, or clinical training requiring physical presence.
- Department Assembly Decision 114/13.11.2024 defines the modules and activities that may be offered synchronously online.
- All Programme modules examine the multifaceted relationship between theatre/performing arts and society—both theoretically and artistically—while also providing the knowledge needed to teach these subjects across all educational levels and in community settings.
- Three strands of emphasis:



- ⇒ Advanced training of theatre scholars and promotion of research in theatre and related fields.
- ⇒ Applied research in performance, dance, and related arts, with a focus on teaching methodologies, artistic research, and social applications.
- ⇒ Study of Theatre in Education and applied research in educational sciences for formal and non-formal contexts.
- Delivery model by specialisation:
 - ⇒ Theatre Studies – 100 % distance learning.
 - ⇒ Stage Practice – blended learning (face-to-face plus synchronous distance sessions).
 - ⇒ Theatre in Education – either 100 % distance learning or a blended model (≈ 66 % online / 34 % face-to-face), depending on each student's module choices.
- Distance modules are taught 75 % synchronously and 25 % asynchronously.
- The blended format chosen for Stage Practice provides the face-to-face component needed for its applied subjects while maintaining the advantages of online interaction.
- The fully online delivery of Theatre Studies and Theatre in Education does not compromise learning outcomes and guarantees full accessibility for students with disabilities.

2. Institutional Services supporting E-Learning

2.1 Computing resources

- Central servers for remote connection (cluster of six machines, each with 64 cores and 256 GB RAM; one server with 16 cores and 32 GB RAM).
- Cloud services via GRNET (Greek Research and Technology Network) and Amazon Web Services for virtual machines.

2.2 Digital Management Unit

Since September 2004, the Digital Management Unit has been supporting and planning IT and telecommunications services at the University of Peloponnese. The Digital Management Unit is



a descendant of the Directorate of e-Government Services and the Centre for Networks and Telematics Services of the University of Peloponnese, which has been active since the foundation of the University (September 2002).

The Digital Management Unit is responsible for:

- the support of the proper functioning of networks, telematic services and information and communication technologies of the University of Peloponnese on a daily basis,
- the technical support of the users of the university community,
- the realisation of the medium and long-term objectives in terms of applications and services of the above technologies,
- the planning and development of the above technological infrastructure of the University of Peloponnese (definition of a strategy for the continuous evolution of the planning of infrastructure and services, development and provision of these services, management of the necessary procurement),
- the coordination of all Information and Communication Technologies (internal network, distance learning platforms and IT laboratories), with the aim of integrating their services and their rapid and full functionality,
- the preparation of the long-term strategy on Information and Communication Technologies, including issues of support, optimisation, upgrading and expansion of the network services and applications provided to the university community,
- the formulation of proposals for finding resources for the uninterrupted operation and continuous support of network infrastructures, through relevant funded actions at national and European level,
- the coordination of all individual actions that take place at the University of Peloponnese regarding the network and information services provided.

2.3 Digital Tools and Services

The University of Peloponnese provides the entire academic community with a set of electronic services that aim to become daily tools in the work of all members of the academic community. In particular, the following electronic services are available:

- E-Mail, Electronic Distribution of Announcements, E-Mail Lists: The Electronic Mail Service provides a University electronic account, in the form ditXXYY cst@go.uop.gr. It also provides the infrastructure for sending messages to other Internet users, storing messages



on the University server via IMAP protocol, accessing mail via webmail (mail.uop.gr) and combating spam.

- Integrated e-course management system in an asynchronous distance education platform (e-class, moodle). The Open e-class platform is an integrated e-course management system and is provided by the Greek Academic Internet to the educational and academic community. It is designed to enhance the educational process, is based on the philosophy of open source software, is actively supported by GUnet and is freely available. The main objective of the platform is the integration of new technologies and the constructive use of the Internet in the educational process. It follows the philosophy of opensource software and supports the Asynchronous Distance Learning service without restrictions. The service can be accessed using a simple web browser without the requirement of specialised technical knowledge.

Through the platform, tutors can:

- ⇒ create and manage online courses
- ⇒ create automated exercises and questionnaires
- ⇒ organise, store and make available educational material

Through the platform, students can:

- ⇒ register on a course they are attending
- ⇒ have access to teaching material
- ⇒ participate in exercises, interactive activities and projects.
- Web-based video conferencing systems for distance learning (Google workspace, Webex, MS-Teams, Big Blue Button, Zoom, e-presence). The videoconferencing systems are available for both student collaboration and meetings of institutional bodies.
- Electronic secretariat system. Students have access to the University Student Information System, which provides Electronic Secretariat to a large number of academic units.
- Course evaluation system. Through the course evaluation system <https://courseeval.uop.gr>, students can evaluate the courses and the tutors of the Postgraduate Study Programme.
- Student care application system (<https://sitisi.uop.gr/>). Through the application system, students can apply for free meals.
- Microsoft Office. Office 365 is available to all students for local installation using their University account through DILOS 365 (<https://delos365.grnet.gr/>). It includes Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Teams etc.
- MS Teams, Google Workspace, as well as other software is available for the familiarisation of students with the use of software systems and technologies and the enrichment of the



teaching work of the teachers with the use of multimedia applications and specialised software.

- Matlab: the University of Peloponnese now offers to all members of the University free access to MATLAB, Simulink and all accompanying toolboxes.
- Statistical Package for the Social Sciences: the University of Peloponnese offers access to the statistical analysis and data processing tool SPSS, a tool particularly useful for research in the field of the Sciences of Education.

3. Methodology for Module Development and Implementation

The “Electronic Classroom” ([https://eclass.uop.gr /](https://eclass.uop.gr/)) is an integrated e-learning management system and supports the service of asynchronous distance education at the University of Peloponnese without restrictions and commitments. The service can be accessed using a simple web browser without the requirement of specialised technical knowledge.

The integration of distance education methods in the educational process of the University of Peloponnese supports and enhances teaching and access to interdisciplinary knowledge, providing combinations of new methods to complement traditional ways of teaching. In this way, students choose their own time frame for communication and access to educational content.

At the same time, the possibility of digital organisation and provision of the educational material is available, as well as a variety of means of communication between tutors and students, which facilitates the smooth and uninterrupted progress of each postgraduate course.

The main objectives of e-class are:

- the integration of new technologies in educational activity
- the electronic organisation and presentation of educational material (notes, assignments, presentations, etc.)
- the constructive educational use of the internet
- the ease of use by tutors and students without requiring specialised technical knowledge
- the structured and uniform presentation of all courses.



- The content of the e-courses hosted by the e-class, as well as the copyright of the material, belongs to the authors.

Along with the e-class, in the context of modern distance education, the University of Peloponnese collaborates with CISCO for the use of the WebEx service. The WebEx service is an online video conferencing medium that supports up to 1,000 participants per session and offers users web conferencing facilities using high quality video. Through WebEx, users have the ability to collaborate remotely in a fully functional manner, increasing their productivity and reducing the loss of time associated with face-to-face meetings. The service supports voice communication between users, as well as the ability to share files with collaborators without requiring complex configuration and customisation of the tool.

The service is linked to the University institutional accounts and can be accessed at <https://uop.webex.com>.

4. Modes of Delivery, Teaching, and Assessment

The courses of the Postgraduate Study Programme are largely delivered through distance learning methods (modern, asynchronous, blended learning), which facilitate the attendance and participation of theatre professionals and education or culture experts, who often face a great shortage of time. In particular,

- the specialisation “Theatre Studies” is offered 100% by distance learning.
- the specialisation “Stage Practice” is offered on the basis of a blended learning system
- the specialisation “Theatre in Education” is offered either entirely by distance learning (100%) in case students choose to attend courses taught exclusively in such a way, or on the basis of a blended learning system (66% distance and 34% face-to-face) in case students choose a mixed model.

75% of distance learning courses is delivered by using synchronous teaching methods and 25% is delivered by using asynchronous distance learning methods.

The Postgraduate Study Programme utilises all innovative teaching methods and fully applies new educational technologies, in accordance with the relevant legislation and the provisions of Article 11 of the Regulations of the University of Peloponnese for the second and third cycle



programmes.

The infrastructure of the University of Peloponnese is sufficient to cover the teaching needs of the Postgraduate Study Programme. The latter has appropriate know-how and equipment for the implementation of distance teaching (when provided), which includes the following electronic services and tools:

- Provision of a University account to students.
- Use of Big Blue Bottom, Google Meet and Cisco WebEx online video conferencing platform to conduct online lectures via virtual classroom.
- Use of the Free Course Management Software E-class / Moodle as an online platform for asynchronous e-learning.
- Office 365 software is offered for free to all students by the University of Peloponnese.
- Students have full access to the electronic collections of the University Library Services, which provide access to a number of electronic books and electronic academic journals of all disciplines.

5. Student Support System

Courses of the Postgraduate Study Programme using the modern distance learning method will be conducted through the WebEx platform or alternatively through the Big Blue Button service. Students will have an institutional e-mail address (...@uop.gr). Through these emails, the E-learning Classroom has the possibility of automatically creating a mailing list, to which the invitation to attend an online course may be sent, so that those who have a valid account can participate.

In addition, students will have at their disposal all the manuals with guidelines for e-class, the electronic platforms Cisco Webex, Google Meet and MS Teams, as well as the continuous assistance of the staff of the Digital Management Unit Helpdesk. It is, therefore, envisaged that any technical problem that arises during the use of the online services will be resolved immediately. As a result of the recent two-year health pandemic and the intensive substitution of face-to-face teaching with methods, platforms and tools of modern distance learning and communication, students are now fully familiar with the relevant concepts, approaches and technical functions of distance education systems.



5.1 Educational support for students: Digital educational material

A prerequisite for the most effective educational support for students is the development of guides for navigating the programme and managing their time, as well as the design of digital educational material.

Tools for navigating the material include study guides and study timetables. Each course's study guide provides a summary of the course content, indicates the key points of interconnection between the individual parts of the syllabus and provides a complete navigation of the asynchronous education material to be studied. The timetable for the study of a course will analyse the indicative study load of a unit of material per unit of time and will specify time milestones, if necessary. More generally, these two guides will be revised at regular intervals on the basis of the results of the internal and external evaluation of the programme and of current developments in the field of the subject concerned.

In addition, e-class is enriched on a weekly basis with educational material developed by tutors, which consists of self-assessment exercises, interactive activities, notes and short extracts from the literature, in accordance with the current legislation concerning copyright protection.

5.2 Pedagogical framework for distance learning courses

The pedagogical framework for the design of the distance learning postgraduate courses follows the specifications of the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 of the University of Peloponnese. Depending on the type of programme and its specific conditions, the use of cameras by all students during the synchronous part of the teaching is mandatory, in order to enable the verification of their presence, but mainly to enhance social presence and to ensure the uninterrupted communication of all participants, elements important for an effective distance education.

The work of students within the context of the Postgraduate Study Programme is subject to the anti-plagiarism regulations of the University of Peloponnese.

6. Teaching Staff Support

Members of the teaching staff will have at their disposal the necessary manuals with the operating specifications of the Electronic Classroom and the electronic platform WebEx as well as the assistance of the staff of the Digital Management Unit Helpdesk, so that any technical



problem that arises during the use of the online education services may be instantly resolved.

As a result of the recent two-year health pandemic and the intensive substitution of face- to-face teaching with methods, platforms and tools of modern distance learning and communication, tutors are now widely familiar with the respective concepts, approaches and technical functions of distance education systems.

At the same time, additional training programmes will be implemented to upgrade the level of digital skills (upskilling) of the teaching staff both through actions of the Centre for Teaching and Learning of the University of Peloponnese, and through initiatives of the Postgraduate Study Programme.

7. Student Identity Verification System

7.1 Distance Examination Examples

- Example 1: Distance Oral Examination
Use of video conferencing tools for the oral remote examination. Identification of the student takes place by using a camera and showing his/her student ID. It is necessary to use one of the CiscoWebex, Google Meet and MS Teams platforms, onto which the student logs with his/her University account.
- Example 2: Distance Written Examination
 - ⇒ Written assignments: Use of the e-class platform (tool “Assignments”) for the distribution of the exam questions or topics for analysis. The tutor may assign different topics to different groups of students and set a specific time for responding to them (serial release of questions is preferable to the simultaneous release of all questions). The answer by the student can be finalised in writing and then posted on the e-class platform. Students’ access to e-class is through their respective university accounts.
 - ⇒ Quizzes and multiple choice exercises: The procedure is the same as A above, except that the e-class tools are used to create multiple choice exercises and a bank of topics, so that the exercises are presented in random order to students. The answers are given electronically, have a time limit and are saved on e-class.



7.2 Student Identification

The identification of students at the beginning and possibly at random points during the examination is possible by using a camera and checking the ID card of some students randomly or all of them, depending on the number of students.

The platforms that will be used are Cisco Webex, Google Meet and MS Teams, which the student must log onto with his/her University account.

7.3 Useful remarks

- **Technical Failure:** Provision should be made to deal with technical failure during the remote examination, such as, for example, by extending the time for submission of papers or by repeating the oral remote examination. More generally, however, the proposed response to such events should be such as to discourage their deliberate exploitation.
- **Student distribution:** With the aim to monitor better large audiences, it is suggested to divide students into smaller groups (e.g., of 25 students) and to distribute them in smaller rooms (use of break- out rooms in Webex, or parallel/independent teleconferences in Google Meet).

In Webex, this feature may be activated during the creation of the video conference and students may be allocated to the individual rooms in advance or this process may take place at a later stage.

Relevant guidelines are provided in the following links:

- <https://help.webex.com/en-us/nroo6fs/Webex-Meetings-Breakout-Sessions>
- <https://help.webex.com/en-us/article/cmaeb4/Preassign-participants-to-breakout-sessions>
- <https://help.webex.com/en-us/t45occ/Webex-Meetings-Change-Breakout-SessionSettings>