



MESPOM  
Masters in  
Environmental  
Sciences, Policy  
and Management



*University of the Aegean*  
*Department of Environment*  
**Departmental Student Handbook**



**MESPOM**  
Masters in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management



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of the European Union

**Academic Year 2025 -2026**

**University of the Aegean**  
**Department of Environment**  
**University Hill, 81100 Mytilene**  
**Greece**

e-mail: [hkaragianni@aegean.gr](mailto:hkaragianni@aegean.gr)

Department E-Learning Site: <https://aegeanmoodle.aegean.gr/>

URL: <http://www.env.aegean.gr/studies/masters-degrees/mespom2/>

Dear Mespom Student:

*This document describes the MESPOM program (Spring Semester) in the Department of Environment of the University of the Aegean for the academic year 2025-2026.*

*In most cases, the UAegean-Department of Environment rules are identical or close to those of the CEU or MESPOM-wide policies and procedures, however, in specific cases, those rules may vary. MESPOM students are advised to carefully study applicable policies and procedures detailed below.*

*Every effort has been made to keep the information as accurate as possible. However, changes may occur due to unavoidable circumstances or when deemed in the best interests of delivering a better program. Staff and faculty will do our best to effectively communicate any changes and update to this document accordingly.*

*Please, do not hesitate to contact us for further clarifications or to notify us of any inaccuracies.*

*We are looking forward to working with you and wish you a pleasant and exciting academic semester at the University of the Aegean!*

*Sincerely,*


*Petros Gaganis, Professor  
UAegean MESPOM coordinator*







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## Mespom Tutors and Departmental Staff - Contact Details

<p><b>Christos Matsoukas</b></p>  <p><b>Associate Professor- Environmental Engineering and Science Sector Head of Department</b> <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 212 <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36289 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:matsoukas@aegean.gr">matsoukas@aegean.gr</a></p>	<p><b>Petros Gaganis</b></p>  <p><b>Professor – Environmental Engineering and Science Section MESPOM Coordinator</b> <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 211 <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36293 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gaganis@aegean.gr">gaganis@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p><b>Panayiotis G. Dimitrakopoulos</b></p>  <p><b>Professor – Ecosystems Management Sector Dean, School of Environment</b> <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 205 <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36236 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:pdimi@aegean.gr">pdimi@aegean.gr</a></p>	<p><b>Iosif Botetzagias</b></p>  <p><b>Professor – Social and Humanistic Environmental Sciences</b> <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 303 <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36294 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:iosif@aegean.gr">iosif@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p><b>Olga-Ioanna Kalantzi</b></p>  <p><b>Professor – Environmental Engineering and Science Sector</b> <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 206 <b>Phone:</b> 22510 36204 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:kalantzi@aegean.gr">kalantzi@aegean.gr</a></p>	<p><b>Christodoulos Pilinis</b></p>  <p><b>Professor – Environmental Engineering and Science Sector</b> <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 209 <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36233 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:xpil@aegean.gr">xpil@aegean.gr</a></p>

<p><b>Athanasios Stasinakis</b></p>	<p><b>Thanasis Kizos</b></p>
 <p><b>Professor – Environmental Engineering and Science Sector</b>  <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 210  <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36257  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:astas@env.aegean.gr">astas@env.aegean.gr</a></p>	 <p><b>Professor – Department of Geography Rural Geography</b>  <b>Head of Department</b>  <b>Office:</b> Geography Building - ground floor  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36447  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:akizos@aegean.gr">akizos@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p><b>Nikolaos Zouros</b></p>	<p><b>Ourania (Rania) Tzoraki</b></p>
 <p><b>Professor – Department of Geography</b>  <b>President of Unesco GlobalGeoparks Network</b>  <b>Director, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest</b>  <b>Office:</b> Geography Building – 1st floor  <b>Phone number:</b> 22510 36431  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:nzour@aegean.gr">nzour@aegean.gr</a></p>	 <p><b>Associate Professor - Department of Marine Sciences</b>  <b>Office:</b> Marine Sciences Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  <b>Tel.:</b> 22510 36840  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rania.tzoraki@aegean.gr">rania.tzoraki@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p><b>Themistoklis Kontos</b></p>	<p><b>Georgios Vasios</b></p>
 <p><b>Teaching Staff - Applied Environmental Geoinformation</b>  <b>Office:</b> 311 – Xenia A Building</p>	 <p><b>Assistant Professor of Biodiversity Management in Agri-Food</b>  <b>Department of Food Science and</b></p>

<p>Phone Number: 22510 -36281  Email: <a href="mailto:kontos@aegean.gr">kontos@aegean.gr</a></p>	<p>Nutrition (D.F.S.N.)  Email: <a href="mailto:vasios@aegean.gr">vasios@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p>Alexandros Galanidis</p>	<p>Dirk Schaelicke</p>
 <p><b>Adjunct Lecturer, PhD Ecology</b>  <b>Office:</b> B5 – Xenia B Building  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36215  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:agal@env.aegean.gr">agal@env.aegean.gr</a></p>	 <p><b>Teaching/technical Staff - Environmental Engineering</b>  <b>Office:</b> Xenia B Building – Room YA1  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36274  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:dschael@aegean.gr">dschael@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p>Anastasia Christopoulou</p>	<p>Dimitra Chondrogianni</p>
 <p><b>Assistant Professor- Ecosystem Management Sector</b>  <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 310  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36222  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:achristop@aegean.gr">achristop@aegean.gr</a></p>	 <p><b>Assistant Professor- Social and Humanistic Environmental Sciences</b>  <b>Office:</b> Xenia A Building – Room 301  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36234  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:dchon@aegean.gr">dchon@aegean.gr</a></p>
<p>Dimitra Syrou</p>	<p>Chrysovalantia (Val) Karagianni</p>
 <p><b>Adjunct Lecturer – Political Sciences, Environmental Governance</b>  <b>Office:</b> Xenia B Building – Room I2  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:syrou@env.aegean.g">syrou@env.aegean.g</a></p>	 <p><b>Teaching Staff - Environmental Science</b>  <b>Mespom chief Facilitator</b>  <b>Office:</b> Xenia B Building – Room I2  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36213</p>

	Email: <a href="mailto:hkaragianni@aegean.gr">hkaragianni@aegean.gr</a>
<b>Michalis Bakas</b>	
 <p> <b>Administration Staff -  Mespom Facilitator</b>  <b>Office:</b> Administration Building - ground floor  <b>Phone Number:</b> 22510 36122  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:mbakas@aegean.gr">mbakas@aegean.gr</a> </p>	

The last five digits of all telephone numbers work as internal extension numbers when you are in the UAegean buildings. Those numbers starting with "22510" can be contacted directly from any place in Greece outside UAegean. The Country code for Greece is "0030".

## Program Details

### ***MESPOM Program Data*** (just a reminder)

**Title of Program:** Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management

The 2-year (120 ECTS credits) MESPOM programme includes three semesters of taught courses followed by a fourth thesis research semester. A detailed and up-to-date description of the MESPOM programme is available on the [MESPOM website](#) and on the CEU/MESPOM e-learning platform.

**Qualification Awarded:** Master of Science (MS)

(24-month program including three teaching periods in different Universities and a 5 month research period)

**Awarding Body:** Consortium of Lund University (Sweden), University of Manchester (UK), CEU (Austria), and the University of the Aegean (Greece)

**External Examiner:** Dr. Sonia Yeh, Professor, Chalmers University of Technology

**Administrative Institution:** Central European University, MESPOM Consortium

### ***Aim and objectives***

The MESPOM program prepares students for identifying, developing and implementing effective solutions to environmental challenges, especially in an international context. They aim to educate future decision-makers in businesses, government and other organizations. MESPOM offer comprehensive inter- and multi-disciplinary curricula in environmental studies that challenge students' ability to integrate theory and practice for systematic analysis, holistic understanding, and management of key environmental issues in various social contexts. MESPOM aim to provide skills for translating environmental knowledge into specific policy and management strategies. In addition to their academic work, students develop research, communication and other professional skills, learn to orient themselves in European and worldwide networks of environmental institutions and elaborate relevant career objectives and strategies.

### ***Learning outcomes and acquired competencies***

The learning outcomes of the programs include knowledge and understanding of a range of environmental topics as well as intellectual, practical and transferable skills and competences, as detailed below. We aim to deliver *globally relevant* learning outcomes that equip graduates to work in various local, national and international contexts. We also aim to instill an appreciation of the need for ethical conduct and integrity.

MESPOM graduates should be able to:

(KNOWLEDGE)

- thoroughly understand core concepts and approaches in environmental sciences (include ecosystem management and either pollution and environmental control or preventative environmental strategies), policy and management and their relationship to each other;
- demonstrate advanced understanding of several areas<sup>1</sup> of environmental sciences, policy and management (including awareness of the most important issues, contemporary theories and practices, key uncertainties, and practical complexities and dilemmas);
- understand the process of research and knowledge production in a selected environmental topic (including identifying a suitable problem statement and research questions, relevant academic and professional literature, and appropriate methods);

(SKILLS)

- analyse and critically evaluate contemporary theory and practice in a range of environmental fields;
- contribute to the production of professional and academic knowledge and practical applications in selected fields of environmental science, policy and management;
- communicate complex environmental knowledge effectively in English both orally and in writing to professional and academic audiences, using appropriate communication standards;
- organize effective independent work in environmental sciences, policy and management;
- work effectively in multidisciplinary, multicultural groups to solve environmental problems;

(VALUES/ATTITUDES)

- appreciate the role and the value of rigorous scientific inquiry (including inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches), sound management practices, and democratic policy-making processes in solving environmental problems, with an awareness of the role and the value of culturally appropriate approaches to environmental management in specific societal contexts;
- uphold values that advance a sustainable and open society, self-reflective critical inquiry, research ethics, and environmental and social care;
- appreciate the potential contribution of multidisciplinary and/or multinational networks to meeting environmental and sustainability challenges.

## UAegean Spring semester overview and credit requirements

The duration of the MESPOM Spring Semester 2026 is 14 weeks (from March 31, 2026 to July 3, 2026) in total (including a 2-week Brake -Greek Easter Holidays- from April 6 to April 19).

Overall, students in the MESPOM program must gain a **minimum of 16 ECTS credits** from taught courses during the Spring Semester at UAegean. The courses offered include 1 mandatory (6 ECTS credit courses) and 7 elective (2 & 3 ECTS credit courses). Mespom students have to **select 10 ECTS credits from elective courses** offered.

Courses will generally have 8 to 10 hours classroom contact per ECTS credit. In addition to, or instead of, standard classroom hours, professors may offer other teaching and learning activities (group and individual consultations, field trips, etc). Overall student workload (including required reading, assessment writing and preparation, etc.) is approximately 25-30 hours per ECTS credit.

### **Courses**

#### **A. Mandatory:**

- i. [ENV540] Assessment, Modelling and Scenarios for Ecosystems Management (6 Credits)

#### **B. Elective** (Students have to **select 10 ECTS Credits**):

- ii. [ENV511] Air Pollution and Climate Change (3 Credits)
- iii. [ENV512] Freshwater Resources: Natural systems, Human Impact and Conservation (2 Credits)
- iv. [ENV513] Aquatic Pollution and Wastewater Management (2 Credits)
- v. [ENV531] Environmental Applications of GIS: Spatial Analysis and Modeling (3 Credits) - Prerequisite: "an Introductory GIS course" @ CEU" (or equivalent)
- vi. [ENV571] Resilient cities and communities (Part 2): Sustainable Local Development and Tourism (3 Credits)
- vii. [ENV581] Research Design & Methods in Social Sciences (3 Credits)
- viii. [ENV541] Applied Ecology (2 Credits)

Individual course syllabi, as well as all related information concerning the UAegean semester, are available on the Department web page: <http://www.env.aegean.gr/studies/masters-degrees/mespom2/>

### **Time schedule**

Table1 below graphically illustrates the time schedule of the courses offered during the Mespom Spring Semester from the University of the Aegean, Department of Environment.

**Table 1: UAegean Semester 2026 Time Schedule**

DATES	WEEKS														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
March 31, 2026															
April 06, 2026		Easter Holidays		Applied Ecology (2 ECTS)											
April 19, 2026			Freshwater Resources: Natural systems, Human Impact and Conservation (2 ECTS)									Assessment, Modelling and Scenarios for Ecosystems Management (6 ECTS)			
			Air Pollution and Climate Change (3 ECTS)												
			Research Design & Methods in Social Sciences (3 ECTS)												
			Aquatic Pollution and Wastewater Management (2 ECTS)												
			Resilient cities and communities (Part 2): Sustainable Local Development and Tourism (3 ECTS)												
			Environmental Applications of GIS: Spatial Analysis and Modeling (3 ECTS)												
June 08, 2026															
July 3, 2026															

Students should send their preliminary course selection form until Friday, April 03, 2026 and their final course registration until Wednesday, April 08, 2026.

## Evaluation and Assessment

Individual course syllabi (available on the Department web page: <http://www.env.aegean.gr/studies/masters-degrees/mespom2/> and E-Learning Site: <https://aegeanmoodle.aegean.gr/>) indicates methods of assessment for each course. Normally this involves graded assignments and sit-in exams, although other methods of assessment may also be used in some courses.

### Assignments

Graded assignments could take the form of written essays, oral presentations or reports on field work and/or hypothetical scenarios. Assignments must be submitted by given deadlines, and late submitted work will be penalized by reductions in the grade awarded, as outlined in the section on “penalties for late submission”. Students will be required to work either individually or in groups: in the latter case students may be divided into teams by the instructors or may decide

themselves, depending upon the nature of the course. Most assignments are graded individually, but group grading is also used in some courses. Group grading will not constitute more than 50% of the total marks in any course, unless otherwise indicated depending upon the nature of the course. In some cases, there may be a mechanism for differentiating the grade among members of the group.

## Examinations

Examinations are in the form of written exams. Exam papers may consist of essay-type questions, which require in-depth answers on the topics studied for some courses or shorter and more focused questions may be set for others. No books, papers, etc., can be taken into examinations unless otherwise permitted.

*All students are subject to the terms of the UAegean/Department of Environment related Policy on Plagiarism. For take-home assignments or reports, papers will be checked for plagiarism and penalties for plagiarised work will be imposed, which can include failure of the course and even expulsion from the program in serious cases. A standing departmental committee handles all cases of possible/suspected plagiarism (see Appendix 1).*

## UAegean grading scheme

All assignments and exams will be graded on the percentage scale. UAegean, like all MESPOM partner institutions, applies its own grading scale. In order to translate grades between institutions, the MESPOM Consortium uses the conversion table based on the so-called ECTS grading bands (Table 2)

**Table 2:** Inter-institutional grading scale

Mark	CEU		Aegean	Manchester	Lund	ECTS	
	GPA	% grade				Band	%*
A	4.00	96-100%	85-100%	70-100%	5	A	10
A-	3.67	88-95%	75-84%	65-69%		B	25
B+	3.33	80-87%	65-74%	60-64%	4	C	30
B	3.00	71-79%	55-64%	55-59%		D	25
B-	2.67	63-70%	50-54%	50-54%	3	E	10
C+	2.33	58-62%	40-49%	40-49%		FX	-
F	0.00	50-57%	40-49%	40-49%	2	FX	-
	0.00	< 50%	30-39%	< 40%		1	F

Source: MESPOM Handbook (Annex 9)

\* Share of students who are expected to fall in the band, on average, in a comparable group of graduate students

As a general guide to the basis for assessment, MESPOM students can refer to the criteria explained below.

**(85-100%)** – the paper demonstrates perfect knowledge of the lecture material as well as clear evidence of additional reading and/or insights, data or information. The answer fully covers all aspects of the question. Clear, focused, logical and well-structured presentation, correct usage of

terms, no mistakes or other faults.

**(75-84%)** – same as “A” but with some minor presentational or other technical faults or mistakes.

**(65-74%)** – the paper fully covers lecture and reading material and addresses all aspects of the question, but fails to demonstrate additional knowledge or insights. Presentation is logical, well-structured and free of major faults.

**(55-64%)** – the paper covers most aspects of the question and demonstrates good knowledge of the lecture material. It is focused on answering the question and free of major presentational or technical faults.

**(50-54%)** – the paper demonstrates partial knowledge or significant gaps in understanding of the lecture material but satisfactorily addresses key aspects of the question. It fails to address the question fully or comprehensively and may contain major presentational faults or demonstrate some gaps in understanding. However, it still shows that the student is familiar with the subject matter. **This is the minimum pass level.**

**(40-49%)** – the paper addresses the question in an unsatisfactory manner, **however can be marginally improved to achieve a “pass” through the “re-sit” process** described below.

**(0-39%)** – the answer is so unsatisfactory that it cannot be marginally improved to achieve a pass.

The results of the assignments, exams, attendance of and participation in classes are combined according to the nature of the course. The principle of grading for each course is at the discretion of the course instructor and it should be clearly communicated to students.

Each course contains either an exam or an assignment or both. At the discretion of the course professor, courses may also include marks for class attendance and participation within the overall course assessment. Where there is more than one means of assessment, the weighting of each assessed element in the final grade will be communicated in writing to the students prior to the start of the course. **The minimum pass mark for all examinations and assignments is 50%.** Marks / grades will be posted by the department within 4 weeks of assignment deadlines and exams, and qualitative feedback will also be communicated to students on all written assignments within this time.

### ***Examination and Assignment Re-sits***

If a student **marginally** fails a course as a result of failing an exam or an assignment he or she will be permitted to take the exam or resubmit the assignment again in a process known as a re-sit.

Students are only permitted to re-sit exams or assignments once; if a student fails a re-sit for a mandatory or an elective course, he/she may not be able to continue to future sections of the program or may not be able to achieve the required credit total for the program. The overall grade that can be obtained for any re-sit (exam or assignment) is the lowest pass grade (50%).

### ***Penalties for Late Submitted Work***

According to the Department’s policy, penalties are imposed for late submitted assignments and reports along the following lines:

***For written assignments/reports*** : In the first two weeks, 2 penalty percentage points will be deducted per day late – including weekends and holidays - (e.g. if the assignment is submitted 3 days late, the mark will be reduced by -6%). If the work is submitted substantially (more than two (2) weeks) late it will be awarded a fail (F – 0%) and, at the discretion of the course director, either

the original assignment or a new assignment and deadline will be set for a retake pass (maximum 50%).

## **Regulations**

### ***Work and Attendance***

- Unless otherwise noted in course descriptions, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes of all courses for which they have registered, and must be familiar with their contents. For those courses which have different attendance policy, professors communicate this to students in advance.
- Students must produce coursework by the specified deadlines as required in the program and attendance at all examinations is compulsory.
- The use of personal computers with keyboards by students in the classroom during lectures and seminars is allowed, **unless explicitly forbidden by the lecturer teaching that class.**

### ***Claims of Mitigating Circumstances***

#### **Mitigating circumstances leading to absence/ late submission/ impaired performance**

Any valid reasons for absence, late submission or impaired performance, should be reported to the Course Director(s) of the affected course(s) and to the MESPOM Chief Facilitator ([hkaragianni@aegean.gr](mailto:hkaragianni@aegean.gr)) as soon as possible, and wherever feasible before the absence takes place, along with appropriate supporting documentation. Generally speaking, in order for circumstances to be considered acceptable for absence or late submission, they must be unforeseeable and unpreventable circumstances that could have a significant adverse effect on academic performance, e.g. illness, bereavement or other serious personal or family problem.

#### **Handling of mitigating circumstances claims**

Whenever the department receives a request claiming mitigating circumstances, those will be reviewed the UAegean MESPOM Coordinator and, if necessary by the mitigating circumstances committee composed of departmental faculty and make an initial judgment. This judgment will be reported to the student as soon as feasible, normally within a week.

### ***Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism***

#### **Definitions**

Academic dishonesty involves acts which may subvert or compromise the integrity of the

educational process at University of the Aegean. This includes any act by which a student succeeds or attempts to gain an academic advantage for himself or herself or another person by misrepresenting his or her or another person's work or by interfering with the completion, submission or evaluation of work. These include, but are not limited to, accomplishing or attempting any of the following acts:

1. Altering of grades or official records.
2. Using any materials that are not authorised by the instructor for use during an examination.
3. Copying from another student's paper during an examination.
4. Collaborating during an examination with any other person by giving or receiving information without the specific permission of the instructor.
5. Stealing, buying or otherwise obtaining restricted information about an examination to be administered.
6. Collaborating on laboratory work, take-home examinations, homework or other assigned work when instructed to work independently.
7. Substituting for another person or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself in taking an examination.
8. Submitting as one's own any theme, report, term paper, essay, other written work, speech, totally or in part by another author.
9. Submitting work that has been previously offered for credit in another course, except with prior written permission of the instructors of both courses.
10. Plagiarising, that is, the offering as one's own work of the words, ideas, or arguments of another person without appropriate attribution by quotation, reference or footnote. Plagiarism occurs both when the words of another are reproduced without acknowledgement or when the ideas or arguments of another are paraphrased in such a way as to lead the reader to believe that they originated by the writer. It is the responsibility of all university students to understand the methods of proper attribution and to apply those principles in all materials submitted.
11. Sabotaging of another student's work.
12. Falsifying or committing forgery on any university form or document.
13. Submitting altered or falsified data as experimental data from laboratory projects, survey research, or other field research.
14. Committing any willful act of dishonesty that interferes with the operation of the academic process.
15. Facilitating or aiding in any act of academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty may be a reason for disciplinary action as specified in relevant University of the Aegean policies. Such action can include failure of the course, a warning appearing on the student's record, and even immediate expulsion from the program in serious cases.

***The Department uses 'Turnitin' plagiarism prevention software to detect plagiarism in all written papers including Masters Theses.***

## **Departmental Policy on Plagiarism**

This policy outlines the department's procedures for handling cases of suspected plagiarism.

1. The department has a standing plagiarism committee, which will review all cases of suspected plagiarism in assessed written work submitted towards any of the department's degree programs. The committee's decisions and any penalties they choose to impose will be considered the department's final decision on the case. The student does however have the right to appeal against the decision to the University Disciplinary Committee.
2. The committee shall normally consist of 3 members, of whom two will be the Head (or vice-Head) of Department and the UAegean MESPOM coordinator. The Head of Department appoints the third member of the committee, for a period of one year.
3. The Head (or vice-Head) of Department will chair the committee and the UAegean MESPOM coordinator will communicate its results to students.
4. Individual professors, including visiting professors, are responsible for ensuring that their own graded assignments and take-home exams are checked via the Turnitin software and for conducting a preliminary screening of Turnitin reports. The Turnitin reports can be generated automatically via the e-learning site when students upload their work; instructions on how to do this are available for both professors and students.
5. The screening professor should screen at least all turnitin reports with a score above 25%, and may choose to screen all reports. In case there is any suspicion of plagiarism, the professor should refer the case to the committee for review, which can be done by forwarding the report to the UAegean MESPOM coordinator with a recommendation for review. Reports with a score of 25% or above should automatically be reported to the committee chair, even if the screening professor does not believe that the work involves plagiarism.
6. Professors should screen Turnitin reports and make recommendations for committee review within 1 week of an assignment or take-home examination deadline, to ensure that the committee review procedure can be concluded without delaying the feedback process.
7. A professor may also choose to recommend for committee review any paper where he/she strongly suspects "ideas only" plagiarism, i.e. use of original data (but not words) from other authors without acknowledgement. In this case he/she should inform the committee that the suspicion is based on other grounds than the Turnitin report, and indicate what those grounds are.
9. The committee will judge the case as soon as possible, and at any rate prior to the deadline for grades and feedback on the exam/assignment to be returned to students, and if it is deemed serious enough that a grade penalty or more is likely to be imposed, the student and course professor/supervisor will be informed immediately by the chair, and given details of the case. The student has the right to make a written submission to the committee or request a personal hearing with the chair (and other committee members, if available). Such a submission or request should be made within 48 hours of the student receiving notification that he or she may be penalised.
11. The committee may recommend that serious cases of malpractice be referred upwards to the

University Disciplinary Committee or MESPOM special circumstances committee.

12. If the case involves a student thesis supervised by one of the committee members, he/she will excuse him-/herself from the review and if possible another faculty member will be found to constitute a third reviewer of the case. If this refusal involves the Head of Department, another member of the committee will act as chair in the case.

13. Students penalised for plagiarism in the first year of a joint program with another university shall be informed that the nature and severity of the offence will be conveyed to the institution hosting the student in year two.

## ***Feedback***

### **Departmental Policy on Feedback**

The policy sets out minimum standards which faculty involved in the MESPOM program are expected to adhere to. Faculty are welcome to do more than the minimum set out here in terms of content, quantity and timing.

The policy will be subject to periodic review and possible amendment at future departmental meetings in the light of practice.

**1. General principles.** Feedback to students is the quantitative (grade) and qualitative (comment) assessment of their work. Feedback should be provided in a timely manner that helps students understand (i) the marks or grades they have received for the work submitted, and (ii) how their performance might be improved in future. Depending on the nature of the work, feedback may be addressed to groups or to the individual students; however, it should be as informative as possible to enable reflection on individual skills and performance. All assessed work should receive comments as well as grades preferably in electronic form. Students should automatically receive these comments except in the case of written examinations (see point 3 below).

**2. Timing of feedback.** Marks and other feedback typically are made available within 3 to 4 weeks of the work being submitted.

**3. Qualitative feedback for examinations.** Qualitative feedback on written examinations is not normally issued to students, though individual professors may choose to do so, at their discretion. However, the student, if he/she wishes, may request qualitative comments and an appointment to discuss them with the professor. The student cannot appeal against the grade on academic grounds.

**4. Qualitative feedback on other assessed work.** Students should automatically be provided with qualitative feedback as well as grades for all assessed work apart from examinations. It is up to the individual professor's discretion whether this feedback is oral or written. Emphasis should be on constructive criticism, with indications wherever possible of how the student can improve his/her performance.

**5. Appeals.** Appeals against a grade are permitted only in the case of failing a re-sit exam or

assignment. Appeals against (re-sit) assessment results are addressed to the UAegean MESPOM Coordinator and are examined by the Examination Board in accordance with relevant procedures of the University of the Aegean. The grades approved by the Examination Board are final and cannot be subject to appeal on academic grounds.

### ***Health and Safety***

In any laboratory classes, field visits and practical research projects students may come across potential hazards. To minimise the risks to themselves and others students must follow the guidelines laid down in the Departmental health and safety requirements. Fieldwork and project work must be carried out according to the particular guidelines for that project.

## **Course and Departmental Management**

### ***Student Representation and Feedback***

Student representatives are elected by the student body to act as spokespersons for giving feedback to the program coordinator or course director on course management and academic content. There are also periodic (ideally weekly) meetings with the program Coordinator and a general face-to-face feedback session where students can voice potential problems, concerns, suggestions and their overall views of the program.

Questionnaires are also used to solicit information / feedback after each semester from the student body on the organisation, delivery and content of individual course units.

### ***Teaching Schedule***

The teaching schedule of the MESPOM courses is available on the Department's web site (<https://msc.env.aegean.gr/en/m-sc-in-environmental-sciences-policy-and-management-mespom/>). The Department aims to keep alterations to the schedule to a minimum, and students will be given as much notice as possible should alterations to the schedule be necessary.

### ***Handouts and Readings***

Electronic copies of handouts and key readings accompanying each unit will be made available for all registered students.

### ***Communication***

Due to the busy nature of the course schedule, it is essential that students make efforts to keep in regular contact with the department and check their mail boxes. The department uses email to distribute urgent notices and so students should login to their accounts at least on a daily basis to check for urgent messages sent to their personal account.

## MESPOM UAegean Semester 2026 - Academic Calendar

### *Academic Calendar*

<b>March 31, Tuesday</b>	<b>Spring Term begins</b>
<b>April 06, Monday to April 19, Sunday</b>	<b>Greek Easter Holidays, UAegean is officially closed</b>
<b>May 01, Friday</b>	<b>May Day, UAegean is officially closed</b>
<b>June 01, Monday</b>	<b>Pentecost Monday, UAegean is officially closed</b>
<b>July 03, Friday</b>	<b>Spring Term ends</b>