



**UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS**

**DEPARTMENT OF MARITIME STUDIES  
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMME**

**"Sustainable Blue Economy"**

**STUDY GUIDE FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026**

**PIRAEUS 2025**

## **Object, philosophy & purpose**

The purpose of the MSc is to offer its students specialized knowledge in new trends concerning current practice for the development of the marine industry. Namely, the program aims to provide students with academic and practical knowledge and experience on issues such as the international shift to management models that follow quality principles and the need for clean choices, the growing trend to achieve sustainable development as well as the European recognition of the significant potential of seas and oceans for innovation and development that will facilitate economic recovery. Our students will become familiar both with the vision of European Union initiatives related to maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal management and marine strategy as well as with the implementation of these initiatives utilizing all the tools of modern digital technology, such as geographic information systems and integrated databases. Knowing the great importance of the sea and the shipping industry for our country, the proposed MSc will give two specializations concerning blue growth and quality in shipping, respectively. Seminar courses offered by accredited certification bodies directly related to the subject of the MSc, such as classification societies, will give a special professional boost to our graduates.

## **Learning outcomes**

The Postgraduate Program "Sustainable Blue Economy" focuses on and is guided by the imperative need of both individual and collective commitment to improve life on the planet. It offers the necessary postgraduate specialization to meet the challenge of providing scientific expertise for the proper exploitation of marine resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The MSc concerns the sustainable management of a wide range of both well-developed and innovative and emerging marine industrial sectors that are interconnected and all correspond to the Blue Economy from shipping, coastal and maritime

tourism and fisheries to the extraction of underwater metal and rare earth deposits, energy systems and marine biotechnology. Furthermore, the Postgraduate Program offers certified training in environmental management systems by internationally accredited educational institutions, which gives its graduates a unique and competitive advantage. This Master's Programme is a fundamental driving force to fulfil the commitments for the sustainable development of economic activities related to the oceans, seas and coastal zones, both globally and on a European scale.

Upon completion of the Postgraduate Program, graduates:

- Will have an in-depth knowledge of the objectives and feasibility of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), the areas of sustainable blue economy, current and emerging alternative marine fuel and energy systems.
- Will be able to implement the environmental management of ports.
- Will be able to understand the value of the Ocean, the importance of maritime spatial planning (MSP), the need to improve the environmental performance of shipping, the institutional framework of sustainability.
- Will be able to apply the ecosystem services methodology and identify the types of marine pollutants.
- Will be familiar with issues of maritime governance, remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS).

Overall, graduates will be well qualified to successfully embark on an academic or professional career related to Sustainable Blue Economy issues anywhere in the world. The Master Program "Sustainable Blue Economy" creates new job profiles and offers new job opportunities in the "blue" professions.

### **Categories of graduates accepted:**

Holders of a first cycle degree from domestic or equivalent foreign institutions are admitted to the Postgraduate Program in accordance with the provisions of Law 4957/2022.

The Postgraduate Program accepts up to eighty (80) students per academic year and is scheduled to employ ten (10) instructors in total.

### **Duration**

The duration of studies in the Postgraduate Program leading to the receipt of a Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) is set at three (3) four-month terms, which include the time of preparation of a dissertation. The maximum time allowed for completion of studies is set at two calendar years. For working postgraduate students, the possibility of part-time study is accommodated. Students of this category must demonstrably work at least twenty-five (25) hours per week and provide a relevant employment contract or employer's certificate. Part-time attendance is also available for non-working students who are unable to meet the requirements of full-time study for reasons of health, family, military service, etc. The postgraduate student, upon request, may justifiably request a temporary suspension of studies which does not exceed two consecutive semesters. The semesters of suspension of student status are not counted in the maximum duration of regular studies.

### **Tuition Cost**

The cost of attendance for the Postgraduate Program is set at 5,000 Euros in total and is prepaid to a special account of the Research Center of the University of Piraeus, divided into 1000 euros advance of tuition fees, as well as in 2 equal installments of 2000 euros.

### **Selection of students – registration requirements**

The selection of the students admitted to the Postgraduate Program is made in accordance with the provisions of Law 4485/2017 and the provisions of the present Regulation of Postgraduate Studies.

By decision of the Assembly, a notice for the admission of postgraduate students to the Postgraduate Program is published and posted on the website of the Department and the Institution. The announcement includes all relevant details (dates and place of submission of the application, necessary supporting documents that must accompany it, etc.). The relevant applications along with the necessary supporting documents are submitted and/or submitted electronically to the Secretariat of the Department, within a deadline specified in the announcement and may be extended by decision of the Assembly of the Department.

The required supporting documents submitted by each candidate are the following:

1. Registration form
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Copy of degree or certificate of completion of studies
4. Transcript of records.
5. Two letters of recommendation
6. Copy of Thesis or Diploma Thesis (if prepared)
7. Publications in peer-reviewed journals (if any)
8. Evidence of professional or research activity, if any
9. Good knowledge of English language (can be certified during the interview).
10. Photocopy of two sides of the identity card
11. Two photos
12. Solemn Declaration stating by the candidate that the supporting documents submitted and submitted in his file are true.

Candidates who hold an undergraduate degree first cycle degree from foreign academic institutions must present either an act of recognition from. Foreign diplomas are submitted and accepted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the law.

The selection of the inductees is carried out by a committee of faculty members (Selection Committee), which is formed by decision of the Assembly. The approval of the registration of students is determined by the Assembly of the Department.

The selection criteria as well as the details of the application of these criteria (points, coefficients, etc.) are made known to the candidates with the announcement of the MSc and are the following:

The selection criteria as well as the details of the application of these criteria (points, coefficients, etc.) are made known to the candidates with the announcement of the Postgraduate Program and are the following:

1. 20%-degree(s) grade(s).
2. Average grade of the five most relevant undergraduate courses related to the subject of the Postgraduate Program at a rate of 20%.
3. Performance in a dissertation or diploma thesis at a rate of 5%.
4. Relevance of the Department of origin to the Postgraduate Program at a rate of 20%.
5. Possession of a second degree (undergraduate or postgraduate) at a rate of 2%.
6. Type and range of work and/or research experience at a rate of 5%.
7. Interview at a rate of 25%.
8. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members (at least one) and/or from an employer at a rate of 3%.

. The selection process is carried out by the Selection Committee, which:

- (a) establish a complete list of applicants.
- b) Rejects candidates who do not meet the minimum criteria in case they have been set by the Assembly and are included in the Regulation of the Postgraduate Program or their file is incomplete in terms of a supporting document.
- c) Selects the candidates who are invited for interview. The interview is conducted by the members of the Selection Committee.
- d) Organize any internal examinations for candidates that will be deemed necessary.
- e) Ranks the candidates and submits its proposal for the final selection to the Assembly.

Successful candidates must register with the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program within a time period specified in the announcement of the Postgraduate Program.

In the event of a tie, the candidates who obtain the highest overall marks in criteria 1, 5 and 8 take precedence.

In case of non-registration of one or more students, the runners-up, based on their order in the approved evaluation table, will be invited to enroll in the Program.

Those who accept their inclusion in the program are obliged within 10 days of the acceptance response to pay as a pre-registration fee the amount of 1,000 euros, which is offset against the total tuition fees. If the candidate withdraws, the deposit is not refundable and is available for the purposes of the Postgraduate Program. Students who will leave the Program for any reason, are not entitled to request a refund of the amounts they paid for their participation in the operating costs of the Program.

## **Postgraduate Degrees**

The MSc awards a Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) in "Sustainable Blue Economy".

## **Course Schedule**

The Postgraduate Program begins in the winter semester of each academic year. A total of ninety (90) ECTS credits are required to obtain an MSc. During their studies, postgraduate students are required to attend and successfully examine postgraduate courses, elaboration of a postgraduate dissertation and successful attendance of certified seminars by accredited scientific training providers with which the Postgraduate Program cooperates.

Courses are taught in person and by means of distance learning during the terms. Part of the program may be offered exclusively remotely. Courses are organized in three four-month, take place on a weekly basis and are conducted in English.

**The course schedule is** as follows:

***Fall term***

<b>Compulsory Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Integrated Coastal Zone Management - Marine Spatial Planning	7,5
Quality and safety	7,5
Environmental Pollution	7,5
Remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems	7,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

***Spring term***

<b>Compulsory Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Sectors of Sustainable Blue Economy I	7,5
<b>Elective Courses (3 selected)</b>	
Environmental Management	7,5
Sectors of Sustainable Blue Economy II (	7,5
Marine Governance	7,5
Shipping pollution	7,5
Ship efficiency	7,5

<b>Total</b>	<b>22,5</b>
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***Summer period***

<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Master's thesis	10
Certified Seminars	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total credits of the MSc Program</b>	<b>75</b>

It is possible, by decision of the Assembly of the Department and approval of the Senate, to modify the curriculum and redistribute courses between semesters. The modification of the curriculum is included in the Regulation of the Postgraduate Program.