ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STUDY GUIDE

Postgraduate Program (MSc)
"Salivary Glands Disorders"

Academic Year: 2025 – 2026

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School of Medicine – Faculty of Health Sciences – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The School of Medicine is one of the four Departments of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). It was established as the Medical School of AUTH in 1942 by Government Gazette No. 28 – 18/2/1942, during the German Occupation of Greece.

The reasons for the delay in its establishment by 17 years, as compared to the initial establishment of the University of Thessaloniki, can be at least partially attributed to the resistance put up, for guild reasons, by the medical status quo of the city at the time. During its first academic year of operation (1942–43), the number of enrolled students reached 385, of whom 274 were men. According to the commemorative volume *"63 Years of the Medical School"*, some of the major issues faced by the school included the inability to recruit elected teachers from Athens, the suspension and re-appointment of teachers after the liberation and the lack of infrastructure. The first professors of the regular academic chairs were: N. Michalakeas, A. Kotsavtis, S. Samaras, N. Kleisionis, K. Iliakis, G. Pangalos, G. Chatzivasileiou, G. Deligiannis, K. Alexandridis, M. Petzetakis, P. Foteinos, and S. Veras.

The Medical School of AUTH was renamed as the **Department of Medicine of the Faculty of Health Sciences** according to Article 30(1) of Law 1268/1982 and Article 6(11) of Law 1351/1983. Presidential Decree 247/2004 (Government Gazette 235/30.11.2004) abolished the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Department of Medicine returned to its previous status as the Medical School.

The official date of the re-establishment of the Medical School was set as **July 11, 2005** (Senate Decision 2770/29.6.2005 and Rector's Council Decision 1205/27.7.2005). Later, Presidential Decree 98/2013 (Government Gazette 134/5.6.2013) renamed the Medical School once again as the **Department of Medicine of the Faculty of Health Sciences**.

The mission of the Department of Medicine at AUTH is to educate students and produce high-level medical professionals for the country. It also aims to generate significant research output—both independently and in collaboration with other research centers in Greece and abroad. There is a strong effort to involve students in research activities from their undergraduate studies, through participation in laboratory and clinical research projects. The results are primarily presented at the **Scientific Congress of the Medical Department (ESISAUTH)**, which is held every two years.

Educational Mission and Structure of the School of Medicine

The primary educational objective of the Department of Medicine is, above all, to

instill in students the ethical values that govern the practice of the medical profession and to ensure the acquisition of scientific knowledge that will enable them to effectively diagnose and manage general medical issues they will face after graduation.

At the same time, the academic staff (faculty members) of the Department are actively involved in staffing hospitals and other public health institutions, thereby offering a significant contribution to society.

The undergraduate program in Medicine lasts six years. The courses for the first five years are structured into semesters. During the early years, students primarily receive instruction in basic medical sciences, while clinical training begins in the third year, allowing for early contact with real-world medical practice.

Upon successful completion of their studies, students are awarded the **Degree in Medicine**, which is fully compliant with **Section 5.1.1 of Annex V of the EU Directive 2005/36/EC**, allowing them to practice medicine both in the **public and private sectors**.

The Department of Medicine also offers a well-structured **portfolio of fifty-four (54) Postgraduate Study Programs**, **fourteen (14)** of which are **interdepartmental or inter-institutional**, coordinated by the Department of Medicine of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH).

Governing Bodies of the Department

According to the provisions of Law 4485/2017 (Government Gazette A' 114), the governing bodies of the Department are:

1. The General Assembly of the Department,
2. The Administrative Board,
3. The Head (Chair) of the Department, and
4. The Deputy Head (Vice Chair) of the Department.

Msc Salivary Glands Disorders

The **Postgraduate Program "Salivary Glands Disorders"** operates at the facilities of the **2nd Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Papageorgiou General Hospital**, and the **School of Medicine of A.U.Th.** The program focuses on the **study, diagnosis, and treatment of salivary gland diseases**.

Salivary gland disorders constitute a significant part of clinical practice across multiple medical specialties, including **Otorhinolaryngology**, **Maxillofacial Surgery**, **General**

Surgery, **Pediatrics**, **Internal Medicine**, **Oncology**, as well as imaging fields such as **Radiology** and **Nuclear Medicine**.
The involvement of multiple specialties highlights both the **breadth and complexity** of modern diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to salivary gland conditions.

The program covers:

- **Surgical anatomy** of the salivary glands, essential for physicians performing surgical interventions,
- **Physiology and pathophysiology**,
- **Pathology in adults and children**,
- **Diagnostic approaches**, and
- **Therapeutic options**, including **surgical**, **minimally invasive**, and **pharmacological treatments**.

A general classification of salivary gland diseases includes:

1. **Oncological diseases**
    - Benign tumors (≈80% of all salivary gland tumors), often challenging due to their proximity to the **facial nerve**, requiring careful preservation of function.
    - Malignant tumors, with diverse histological types, frequently necessitate multidisciplinary **tumor board discussions**.
2. **Non-oncological diseases**
    - **Obstructive diseases**, primarily **sialolithiasis**, which causes most sialadenitis episodes in adults, and other obstructions due to chronic inflammation, congenital anomalies, or trauma.
    - **Non-obstructive diseases**, including **hypofunction (xerostomia)**, **hyperfunction (sialorrhea)**, and systemic autoimmune disorders (e.g., **Sjögren's syndrome**, **rheumatoid arthritis**, **Wegener's granulomatosis**).
    - **Iatrogenic conditions**, such as **radiation-induced sialadenitis** after head and neck cancer therapy or **radioiodine therapy** for thyroid cancer.

The program emphasizes **diagnostic modalities**, including:

- **CT**, **MRI**, **ultrasonography**, **scintigraphy**,
- **Cytology** via fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB),
- **Sialendoscopy** for direct visualization and minimally invasive intervention.

Purpose and Objectives

Purpose

The aim of the MSc program is to cultivate and promote knowledge, particularly the most recent research findings in the aforementioned scientific fields, among young scientists and researchers. Additionally, the program seeks to produce research outcomes in medical science, with a specific focus on Salivary Glands.To train healthcare professionals involved in the **diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment** (surgical or pharmaceutical) of patients with salivary gland diseases, ensuring **scientifically sound, modern, and high-quality clinical practice**.

Key Objectives of the MSc Program:

i. To provide high-level postgraduate education, both theoretical and practical, given the nature of the subject matter.
ii. To train specialized graduates with solid theoretical knowledge, equipping them to address complex problems in the field of cardiovascular disease.
iii. To promote scientific research through the preparation of high-level postgraduate theses.
iv. To prepare postgraduate students for doctoral studies by cultivating and developing critical thinking and research skills within the framework of the MSc curriculum.

Guiding Principles of the MSc Program:

- Ensure that postgraduate students acquire modern scientific knowledge and appropriate research methodologies and principles that enable continuous education and improvement in daily clinical practice.
- Cultivate the practical skills required for responsible and comprehensive scientific and professional activity.

Another core goal of the MSc Program is to ensure the **quality and continuous improvement** of the program's operation, educational and research processes, as well as to **foster collaboration** with related programs and centers both in Greece and abroad.

Indicative Subjects Covered:

1. Surgical Anatomy – Physiology of Salivary Gland Diseases
2. Imaging of the Salivary Glands
3. Histology / Cytology of the Salivary Glands
4. Oncology of the Salivary Glands
5. Surgical Techniques for Salivary Gland Tumors
6. Reconstructive Surgery after Malignant Neoplasm Resection
7. Obstructive Diseases
8. Hypofunction and Hyperfunction of the Salivary Glands
9. Minimally Invasive Techniques – Sialendoscopy
10. Systemic Diseases Involving Salivary Glands
11. Research Methodology in Salivary Gland Diseases
12. Use of Botulinum Toxin in Salivary Glands

Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Recognize specialized salivary gland diseases.
- Provide high-quality patient care.
- Apply theoretical knowledge in clinical and scientific practice.
- Utilize advanced technological equipment for modern management.
- Collaborate with specialists from other disciplines.
- Integrate new knowledge into research protocols.
- Support and disseminate knowledge and methodological tools.
- Generate new knowledge and prepare for **doctoral research**.

Governing Bodies of the MSc Program

The responsible bodies for the administration and operation of the MSc Program are:

- **The Senate of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)**, which exercises its responsibilities as defined by current legislation.
- **The AUTH Postgraduate Studies Committee**, composed of the Vice-Rector (as Chair) responsible for academic affairs, one (1) faculty member of the Teaching and Research Staff (TRS) from each Faculty, and one member from the categories of Special Educational Personnel (SEP), Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS), and Special Teaching Staff (STS).
- **The Program Studies Committee**, which exercises the responsibilities set out in paragraph 2 of Article 82 of Law 4957/2022.
- **The Coordinating Committee (CC)**, consisting of the Director of the MSc Program and four (4) faculty members (Teaching and Research Staff - TRS) of

the Department with relevant academic expertise and active teaching roles within the program.

- **The Director of the MSc Program** is selected from among the Department's TRS members.

Academic Calendar

The academic year begins on **September 1** and ends on **August 31** of the following year.
Each academic year consists of **three semesters**.

At the beginning of each semester, students must register for the courses of the current semester. The registration deadline is announced by the Secretariat of the MSc Program. Course enrollment and participation declarations are recorded electronically and automatically through the AUTH Electronic Secretariat Services system at sis.auth.gr, in each student's individual profile.

Winter Semester

- **Enrollment**: September 1–15
- **Courses**: Last week of September – Mid-January

- **Exam Period**: Late January – Mid-February

Spring Semester

- **Enrollment**: Late January – Mid-February
- **Courses**: Mid-February – End of May
- **Exam Period**: End of May – Mid-June

- **Holidays**

- Oct 26–28 – National Holiday
- Nov 17 – Polytechnic Uprising Commemoration
- Dec 24 – Jan 6 – Christmas & Epiphany

- Jan 30 – Three Hierarchs
- Mar 25 – National Holiday
- Clean Monday
- Holy Week – Holy Monday to Sunday of Thomas
- May 1 – Labour Day
- Pentecost Monday

Degree Awarded

Degree Awarded

The MSc Program awards a **Postgraduate Diploma (MSc Degree)** entitled: **"Salivary Glands Disorders."**

Successful completion of the program corresponds to **Level 7** of the **National and European Qualifications Framework**, in accordance with Article 47 of Law 4763/2020 (Government Gazette A' 254).

Categories of Candidates for Postgraduate Programs

Eligible for admission to the MSc Program are holders of **first-cycle (undergraduate) degrees** from **HEIs (Higher Education Institutions)** in Greece or recognized equivalent institutions abroad.

Specifically, the program accepts:

- **Graduates of Medical Schools** from Greek universities and from recognized equivalent institutions abroad.
  Applicants from abroad must also submit an equivalency and correspondence certificate from the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (DOATAP) (as per Article 43, paragraph 1 of Law 4485/2017).
- The program is also open to graduates of:

- **Medical doctors** waiting for specialization, residents, or specialists in **Otorhinolaryngology**, **Maxillofacial Surgery**, **Pediatrics**, **Pediatric Surgery**, **General Surgery**, **Internal Medicine**, or **General Medicine**.

Additionally:

- **Members of the categories**:
  - Special Teaching Personnel (SEP),
  - Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS),

- Special Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS),

may be **admitted as supernumeraries** (beyond the regular number of students), *provided they meet the requirements of paragraph 1, Article 34*. Only **one** such person may be admitted **per year and per MSc Program** organized by the Department in which they are employed. The MSc Program must be **related to their degree** and the **work they perform** at the respective institution.

Recognition of Degrees

Even if a degree has already been recognized as equivalent by DOATAP, the candidate **is not required to submit it**. If equivalency is provided, the **Department will handle the process**.

- The **Academic Departments** are responsible only for **academic recognition** of degrees—not for formal equivalency.
- **DOATAP remains solely responsible for equivalency** of degrees.

Candidates who have **already applied to or are currently enrolled** in a postgraduate program are **exempt** from submitting an individual DOATAP equivalency act, **pending its issuance**, and their application or continuation of studies will be evaluated **based on the criteria of the new law**.

Degree Verification Procedures

To verify the general type of first-cycle degrees (e.g., **Bachelor of Arts**, **Master of Arts**, **Doctor of Philosophy**), the following procedures apply:

1. **Authenticity of the degree** is verified by:
   1.1. The **Hague Apostille** stamp, or ,
   1.2. Submission of the degree accompanied by an **official email from the foreign university** (initiated by the applicant), giving the Secretariat of the respective academic department the **ability to verify the degree's authenticity**.
2. If **specialization** granted by the degree is relevant, it is verified via:
   - The **title of the degree**,
   - The **academic transcript**, or
   - The **Diploma Supplement**.

3. If the **grade (GPA)** is relevant, equivalency is determined based on the **conversion process communicated by DOATAP**.
4. **Academic recognition** applies only within this specific process and is **confirmed by a decision of the Department Assembly**.
    - It is **not issued to the applicant**.
    - If the applicant wishes to obtain an official equivalency certificate, they must **contact DOATAP** directly.

Number of Admissions, Selection Criteria, and Admission Process

The maximum number of **students admitted annually** to the MSc program is **30**. The program **cannot operate with fewer than 10** postgraduate students.

The MSc Program announces **available positions through an open call** based on a decision of the **Department Assembly or the Program Committee**. The announcement includes:

- Admission requirements,
- Number of available spots,
- Categories of eligible candidates,
- Admission procedures,
- Selection criteria,
- Application deadlines, and
- Required documents.

The call for applications is published on the Department's **official website**. Applications, along with all required documentation, must be submitted to the Department Secretariat **either in printed or electronic form**.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria may include:

I. A **recognized first-cycle (undergraduate) degree** from a Greek or foreign institution.
II. Transcript of grades, especially in courses related to the MSc subject.
III. Performance on the undergraduate thesis, where applicable.
IV. Proficiency in a foreign language, at a level defined by the Department Assembly or Program Committee:

- B2 (Good),
- C1 (Very Good),
- C2 (Excellent), in English, as accepted by ASEP (Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection).

Alternatively, applicants may submit a **bachelor's or master's degree** from a Greek or foreign university **attended in English**.

V. Recommendation letters.
VI. Interview with a qualified Committee.

VII. In addition, applicants may optionally submit, if available:

- (a) Master's degrees from Greek or equivalent foreign universities.
- (b) Doctoral degrees from Greek or equivalent foreign universities.
- (c) Certificates of proficiency in **other languages** (French, German, Italian, Spanish, or Russian).
    - Foreign applicants may also submit proof of **Greek language knowledge**.
- (d) Documentation of **research/publication activity**, participation in **student mobility programs**, and **relevant professional experience**.

These documents can be submitted as either **certified copies** or **simple photocopies**.

VIII. Foreign applicants must provide proof of Greek language proficiency, **minimum level B2**, as a **mandatory requirement**.

Evaluation Method (Indicative Scoring)

Scoring of applicants is decided by the **Department Assembly** and included in the Postgraduate Program Regulations. An indicative scoring scheme is:

1. Degree grade (15**%**)
2. Certified foreign language proficiency (**10%**)
3. Recommendation letters (**5%**)
4. Interview (3**0%**)
5. Research activity (1**5%**)
6. Conference participation (10**%**)
7. Relevant professional experience (1**5%**)

Candidate Selection Procedure

Based on a decision of the **Department Assembly**, a **three-member Selection Committee** is formed, composed of faculty involved in the postgraduate program.

The Committee:

- Compiles a list of all applicants,
- Reviews each application and **eliminates those who do not meet the minimum criteria**,
- Invites **eligible applicants** to an interview (if applicable).

The **interview is graded from 1 to 10 points**.

Final Admissions & Ties

After evaluation (via exams or document review and interviews), the Committee prepares the **final list of successful candidates**.

In the case of a **tie**, all applicants **with the same score are admitted** as **additional (supernumerary) students**.

If any positions remain **unfilled**, they may be:

- Offered to **next in line** applicants with at least (e.g.) **30 points**, or
- Filled through a **supplementary call**.

The **final list of accepted and alternate candidates**, after being approved by the Department Assembly, is posted on the **Department bulletin board and website**.

Appeals

Appeals against the results may be submitted within **five (5) working days** of the announcement.

Duration and Terms of Study

The duration of studies in the Postgraduate Program (P.G.) leading to the Master's Degree (M.Sc.) is **at least three (3) semesters**, which includes the time for preparing and defending the postgraduate thesis. The **maximum allowed duration** to complete

the studies is **six (6) semesters**.

Part-Time Study

Part-time study is available for students who:

- Are employed for at least **20 hours per week**, or
- Have serious, justified reasons that prevent full-time attendance.

The maximum duration for part-time study cannot exceed **twice** the normal full-time duration.

Suspension and Extension of Studies

- Students may apply for a **suspension of studies** for up to **two (2) consecutive semesters**. During suspension, students lose student status. Suspension time is not counted towards the maximum allowed duration.
- Students may also request an **extension** for completing their studies or thesis, subject to approval before the end of the normal study period. After the extension period ends, students are subject to dismissal from the program if studies are incomplete.

Applications for part-time study, suspension, or extension must be submitted before the start of the academic semester.

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee for the P.G. program is set at **3,000 euros per study cycle**. Payment is made in **three equal installments** on specified dates to the Special Account for Research Funds of the University.

Failure to meet financial obligations may result in denial of diploma issuance or dismissal from the program.

Students with **academic excellence** in their first cycle of studies (minimum grade 7.5/10) may be eligible for tuition fee waiver based on financial or social criteria. Such waivers cannot exceed **30% of the total admitted students** per program and are awarded starting from those with the lowest income.

Rights and Obligations of Students

Postgraduate students have the same rights and benefits as undergraduate students, except the right to free textbooks. The Department provides accommodations for students with disabilities or special educational needs.

Students are required to:

1. Attend all courses and exercises regularly, with absences not exceeding **20%** of total teaching hours per course.
2. Participate in all educational and research activities.
3. Submit course registrations and assignments on time.
4. Take all scheduled exams.
5. Submit a plagiarism-free declaration along with their thesis.
6. Pay tuition fees within deadlines.
7. Settle all financial and other obligations before graduation to be eligible for the diploma.
8. Fulfill any reciprocal duties if awarded a scholarship (e.g., tutoring, library or research support).
9. Not enroll simultaneously in another postgraduate program at the same or another institution.
10. Respect all academic regulations and ethical standards; failure to comply without valid reasons may lead to failure or dismissal.

Failure to comply with these obligations without serious justification may result in dismissal from the program.

Duration and Terms of Study

The minimum duration of studies in the Postgraduate Program (P.G.) leading to the award of the Master's Degree (M.Sc.) is set at **three (3) semesters**, which includes the time required for the preparation and evaluation of the postgraduate thesis. The maximum allowable time to complete the studies is **six (6) semesters**.

Postgraduate students have the option for **part-time study**, the duration of which may not exceed **twice the normal full-time duration**. Part-time study is provided for those who can prove that they work at least **twenty (20) hours per week**, as well as for non-working postgraduate students who are unable to meet the minimum requirements of full-time attendance, or in exceptionally serious cases decided by the Department Assembly, which are included in the Postgraduate Studies Regulation.

Furthermore, postgraduate students who have not exceeded the normal duration of study may be granted, upon submission of a relevant application, a **suspension of studies** for up to **two (2) consecutive semesters**. During suspension, the student loses their student status. The suspension period is not counted towards the maximum normal duration of studies.

Upon resumption of studies, postgraduate students return to regular attendance status with all associated rights and obligations stipulated by the Postgraduate Program.

Additionally, upon justified application submitted before the completion of the normal study period, postgraduate students may request an **extension of studies**, which concerns completing the program or the preparation of the postgraduate thesis. After the extension period ends, students who have not completed their studies will be dismissed from the program by decision of the Department Assembly.

Applications for part-time attendance, suspension, or extension must be submitted before the start of academic semesters.

The Department Assembly, upon proposal from the Coordinating Committee, decides on the terms of retaking owed courses or dismissal, including the reasons for dismissal, which are included in the Postgraduate Studies Regulation.

Postgraduate students enroll and participate in the program under the terms and conditions defined in the Postgraduate Studies Regulation.

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee for the Postgraduate Program is set at **3,000 euros per study cycle**. Postgraduate students are obliged to pay this amount according to the provisions of the Postgraduate Studies Regulation. Payment is made in **three equal installments on specified dates**. Fees are deposited to the Special Account for Research Funds of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.).

Failure to fulfill financial obligations constitutes sufficient grounds for withholding the diploma or dismissal from the program.

Students who meet the academic excellence criterion during their first cycle of studies — at least a grade of **7.5/10** — may be eligible for a tuition fee waiver based on financial or social criteria. The conditions and rules for tuition waivers are described in current legislation and the Minister of Education’s decision. The number of students

granted tuition waivers cannot exceed **30% of the total number admitted** to the program. If eligible candidates exceed this limit, selection is based on income, starting from those with the lowest.

Rights and Obligations of Students

Postgraduate students have all the rights, benefits, and facilities provided to undergraduate students, **except the right to receive free textbooks**. The Department must ensure accommodations for postgraduate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

Postgraduate students admitted to the program are obligated to:

1. Attend all courses and exercises regularly. Attendance is mandatory, with absences not exceeding **20%** of teaching hours per course. Exceptions are allowed only for serious, justified reasons.
2. Participate in all educational and research activities.
3. Submit course registrations on time each semester.
4. Submit assignments required for each course within the deadlines.
5. Attend all examinations.
6. Submit to the Secretariat, along with their thesis, a responsible declaration stating that it does not contain plagiarized material.
7. Pay tuition fees by the specified deadlines.
8. Settle all financial and other obligations to the institution before graduation; failure to do so will prevent participation in the graduation ceremony or receipt of the postgraduate diploma.
9. If awarded a scholarship, perform any reciprocal duties required (e.g., tutoring, library support, research assistance).
10. Not enroll simultaneously in another postgraduate program of the same or any other department or university.
11. Respect and abide by decisions of postgraduate academic bodies and uphold academic ethics. Failure to comply without valid reason may result in failure in a course or exclusion from the program.

Failure to meet the above obligations without serious and substantiated justification constitutes grounds for dismissal from the postgraduate program.

Study Program - Knowledge Assessment

The postgraduate program (PMS) is structured over 3 (three) semesters.
In the 1st semester, 6 (sis) courses are taught.

As part of the courses **"Surgical Anatomy and Physiology of the Salivary Glands"** and **"Surgical Techniques for Salivary Gland Tumors,"** students participate in **clinical laboratory training**.
This training is designed to enable the **practical application of the theoretical and scientific knowledge** acquired through the successful completion of the program and to **familiarize students with potential professional work environments**.
In the 2nd semester, 6 (sis) courses are taught.
At the end of the **second (B) semester**, within the framework of the course **"Minimally Invasive Techniques in Non-Oncological Diseases – Sialendoscopy,"** students participate in **clinical laboratory training**.
This training aims to enable the **practical application of the theoretical and scientific knowledge** acquired during the program and to **familiarize students with potential professional environments** relevant to their field of study.
In the 3rd semester, the postgraduate thesis is conducted.
It is noted that each semester corresponds to 30 ECTS credits.

A) Indicative Study Program
1st Semester (Total ECTS: 30)
(The courses offered are mandatory. From the elective courses, students select one)

First Semester (Total ECTS: 30)

No.	Course Title	Course Type	% Online	ECTS
1	Surgical Anatomy and Physiology of the Salivary Glands	Core	80%	6
2	Histology / Cytology of the Salivary Glands	Core	100%	5
3	Imaging of the Salivary Glands	Core	100%	4
4	Oncology of the Salivary Glands	Core	100%	7
5	Surgical Techniques for Salivary Gland Tumors	Core	80%	6
6	Reconstructive Surgery after Malignant Neoplasm Resection	Core	100%	2

Total ECTS: 30

Second Semester (Total ECTS: 30)

No.	Course Title	Course Type	% Online	ECTS
1	Obstructive Diseases of the Salivary Glands	Core	100%	5
2	Hypofunction and Hyperfunction of the Salivary Glands	Core	100%	6
3	Minimally Invasive Techniques in Non-Oncological Diseases – Sialendoscopy	Core	80%	6
4	Systemic Diseases Involving Salivary Glands	Core	100%	6
5	Research Methodology in Salivary Gland Diseases	Core	100%	3
6	Use of Botulinum Toxin in the Salivary Glands	Core	100%	4

Total ECTS: 30

Third Semester (Total ECTS: 30)

No.	Course Title	Course Type	Teaching Hours	ECTS
1	Master's Thesis	Core	–	30

Total ECTS: 30

The start and end of courses, as well as the duration of exam periods, are determined by the academic calendar or by decision of the Department Assembly.

B) Brief Course Descriptions

1st Semester - Course Content

The curriculum includes twelve (12) courses all mandatory. Below is an indicative description of the subject matter for each semester:

1st Semester

First Semester Courses

1. Surgical Anatomy and Physiology of the Salivary Glands

The aim of this course is to provide a detailed presentation of the surgical anatomy of the major salivary glands, focusing on the parotid, submandibular, and sublingual glands. It also covers the general surgical anatomy of the oropharyngeal region,

where tumors from minor salivary glands can primarily develop.
Students will additionally become familiar with the physiology of the salivary glands, including saliva production, and the intraductal pressure systems of the parotid and submandibular glands, serving as an introduction to saliva production disorders and a better understanding of obstructive diseases.
Practical training includes hands-on exercises with fresh specimens, conducted as part of the clinical laboratory training at the end of the semester.

2. Histology / Cytology of the Salivary Glands

This course introduces students to the histology of the salivary glands, enabling an understanding of the various cell types and their organization into anatomical structures.
Knowledge of cellular structures aids in understanding both gland physiology and the oncology of the region, where multiple histological types of benign and malignant tumors may be involved.

3. Imaging of the Salivary Glands

Students will become familiar with the full range of imaging modalities for the salivary glands.
Ultrasonography is presented for imaging and monitoring salivary gland pathology and adjacent lymph nodes.
CT and MRI techniques are covered, with demonstrations of both normal and pathological findings.
The course also addresses nuclear medicine applications, including PET scans for malignancies and salivary gland scintigraphy, which serves as the only functional examination of the glands.

4. Oncology of the Salivary Glands

This core course focuses on salivary gland tumors, both benign and malignant.
Students will study:

Tumor types and clinical presentation,
Diagnostic approaches, and Therapeutic management.
Special emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary collaboration for selecting the best treatment per patient. The course also examines recurrence patterns and the importance of preserving or sacrificing the facial nerve in malignant tumors, given its critical anatomical role during parotid surgery.

5. Surgical Techniques for Salivary Gland Tumors

Surgery of the major salivary glands involves specific challenges due to their close relationship with critical anatomical structures in the neck.
For parotid surgery, students learn identification and preservation of the facial nerve, use of intraoperative neuromonitoring, and techniques for nerve repair in case of injury.
Submandibular gland surgery is analyzed step-by-step, highlighting preservation of the marginal mandibular branch of the facial nerve and the lingual nerve.
Surgical techniques are demonstrated step-by-step via video, followed by hands-on clinical laboratory training on fresh specimens.

6. Reconstructive Surgery after Malignant Neoplasm Resection

This course covers reconstructive options following surgical resection of major salivary glands.
Techniques for facial nerve reconstruction (static and functional),Methods to prevent Frey's syndrome, and Reconstruction of tissue defects (muscular, cutaneous, or combined) using flaps.
Additionally, students learn surgical approaches for postoperative complications, such as persistent salivary fistulas, sialoceles, and other issues resistant to conservative management.

Second Semester Courses

7. Obstructive Diseases of the Salivary Glands

The aim of this course is to provide a **detailed presentation of obstructive diseases of the salivary glands**, with a focus on **lithiasic (stone-related) and non-lithiasic onditions**.
The course covers:

- **Clinical presentation** and **diagnostic approaches**,
- **Pathophysiology**,
- **Possible complications**, and
- **Long-term effects on patient health and gland function**.

This course also serves as an **introduction to modern therapeutic approaches**, which are further explored in subsequent courses.

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8. Hypofunction and Hyperfunction of the Salivary Glands

Following the physiology course, this class introduces students to the **pathophysiology of salivary gland hypofunction and hyperfunction**. Key topics include:

- Conditions leading to **xerostomia (dry mouth)** and their management,
- Conditions leading to **sialorrhea (excessive saliva production)**, along with **conservative and surgical treatment approaches**.

9. Minimally Invasive Techniques in Non-Oncological Diseases – Sialendoscopy

This course focuses on **minimally invasive techniques** developed over the last decades for treating **mainly obstructive salivary gland diseases**.

- **Sialendoscopy** is presented in detail, covering **equipment, indications, diagnostic and therapeutic applications**, including **LASER techniques** and **combined approaches**.
- **Open intraoral and combined approaches** preserving the gland parenchyma are also covered.

  Students have the opportunity for **hands-on practice with fresh specimens** as part of the **clinical laboratory training** at the end of the semester.

10. Systemic Diseases Involving the Salivary Glands

This course presents all **systemic diseases affecting the major salivary glands** and the **clinical problems they cause**.

- **Autoimmune diseases**: clinical presentation, diagnostic approach, investigation when undiagnosed, long-term monitoring, and symptomatic treatment options.
- **Infectious diseases**: including viral, bacterial, and **granulomatous conditions** affecting the salivary glands.

11. Research Methodology in Salivary Gland Diseases

This course provides essential **biostatistics and clinical epidemiology knowledge**, including:

- **Biostatistics**: data presentation and summarization, population and sample analysis, normal and sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, and parametric vs. non-parametric tests for one or two samples.
- **Clinical epidemiology**: types of medical studies (experimental, observational, descriptive, cross-sectional, retrospective, prospective, randomized, case-control), morbidity and mortality indicators, and clinical trial phases and types.

This knowledge prepares students for the **final stage of the program**, which involves **preparing and writing the master's thesis**.

12. Use of Botulinum Toxin in the Salivary Glands

This course covers all **indications for botulinum toxin use in the salivary glands**, including:

- Control of **sialorrhea**,

- Management of **postoperative fistulas after total laryngectomy**,
- Treatment of **Frey's syndrome**, and
- Management of **facial paralysis consequences** through **intramuscular injections in facial muscles**.

The course includes **mechanism of action, administration methods, and potential complications**, with opportunities for students to **observe clinical application in patients** with corresponding conditions.

3rd Semester

- **Postgraduate Thesis:**
  During the final semester, students are required to organize, write, and present their postgraduate thesis. The topic should concern cardiovascular risk factors as well as cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. The thesis can be either a systematic review or original research.

Thesis

B) Knowledge Assessment - Student Evaluation

Assessment of individual courses or other educational activities (e.g., practical/clinical training) takes place at the end of each semester through written or oral exams, assignments, or a combination thereof. The assessment method is determined by each course instructor at the start of the academic semester. The contribution of other educational activities (laboratory exercises, assignments, seminars where applicable) to the final course grade is set by the instructor and approved by the Postgraduate Program Coordinating Committee.

The grading scale for postgraduate student performance ranges from zero (0) to ten (10) as follows:

- Excellent: 8.5 to 10
- Very Good: 6.5 to less than 8.5
- Good: 6 to less than 6.5

The minimum passing grade is six (6).

Attendance at courses or other educational activities is mandatory. A postgraduate student is considered to have attended a course (and thus be eligible to sit exams) only if they have attended at least eighty percent (80%) of theoretical hours and one

hundred percent (100%) of practical training hours, where applicable. Otherwise, the student must retake the course the following academic year.

If a postgraduate student's total absences exceed sixty percent (60%) across all courses, dismissal from the program may be considered. This matter is reviewed by the Coordinating Committee, which advises the Department Assembly or the Study Program Committee.

In exceptional cases or force majeure, examinations may be conducted electronically, provided the integrity of the assessment process is ensured.

In cases of illness, instructors are encouraged to accommodate students as appropriate (e.g., oral or remote examinations). If a student fails the same exam twice and has not completed the program successfully, they may request an examination by a three-member committee of faculty with relevant expertise, appointed by the Department Assembly. The instructor responsible for the course exam is excluded from this committee.

The final postgraduate diploma grade (MSc) is calculated as the weighted average of the courses and the thesis grades (weighted by their ECTS credits), rounded to two decimal places, using the formula:

MSc Grade = (Grade_course1 × ECTS_course1 + Grade_course2 × ECTS_course2 + … + Grade_thesis × ECTS_thesis) / Total ECTS required

Master's Thesis (M.Sc. Thesis)

1. Appointment of Supervisor and Formation of the Three-Member Examination Committee:

- The candidate submits an application on specified dates including the proposed thesis title, proposed supervisor, and a summary of the proposed work.
- The Coordinating Committee appoints the supervisor and forms a three-member Examination Committee for the thesis approval, one of whom is the supervisor.
- Supervisors can be academic staff as defined in Article 83 of Law 4957/2022, including:
    - Faculty members (Teaching and Research Staff), Special Teaching Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff, Technical Laboratory Staff of the Department or other departments of the same or other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Military HEIs, with additional workload beyond their legal duties (if the program charges tuition fees).
    - Emeritus or retired faculty members, collaborating professors, visiting professors or researchers, contracted lecturers, researchers from research centers or technological institutes, etc.

- The Examination Committee members must have the same or related scientific expertise relevant to the program.

2. Intellectual Property Rights:

- The thesis is governed by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) Academic Ethics Code.
- Creators or co-creators have the right to be recognized as such, enjoying moral and economic rights over their intellectual work.
- Exceptionally, if the work is the result of a paid research project assigned by an external body, the economic rights may be limited according to the project contract, while moral rights remain with the creators, subject to necessary contractual limitations for exploitation.

3. Thesis Presentation and Approval:

- The thesis requires a positive recommendation from the three-member Examination Committee.
- If the thesis defense is public, the Coordinating Committee sets a specific date and place.
- After the defense, a report is prepared recording each committee member's grade, the average grade, and any comments.
- Upon approval, the thesis is uploaded to the School's website.
- If the thesis is rejected, the student may revise and resubmit within a deadline set by the Committee. If the second evaluation is also negative, the student loses the right to receive the Master's Degree.

4. Exceptions and Changes:

- In exceptional cases with valid reasons, the supervisor or a committee member may be replaced and/or the thesis topic may be changed following a Department Assembly decision.

5. Teaching Schedule:

- Courses in semesters 1 and 2 are conducted online via Zoom on weekends.
- The thesis is completed in semester 3 in cooperation with the supervisor and the three-member committee.
- Detailed schedules and any changes are provided by the program's Secretariat.
- Course materials and presentations are available on the AUTH e-learning platform.

6. Student Evaluation:

- Each academic year consists of two semesters (winter and spring), each lasting at least 13 weeks.
- Attendance is mandatory. If absences exceed 20%, the student must retake the course.
- Evaluation is done via final written exams, coursework, or oral exams as determined by the course instructor.
- There are two exam periods per course: end of semester and a makeup exam in September.
- If absent from exams, the student may request one makeup exam for valid reasons, approved by the Coordinating Committee.
- To graduate, the student must successfully complete all courses and the thesis, earning a total of 90 ECTS.

7. Thesis Submission and Presentation:

- The thesis is submitted at the end of semester 3. The student must defend it before the Examination Committee.
- Each committee member receives one electronic copy, and a printed copy along with a PowerPoint presentation is submitted to the Secretariat.
- After the defense, the supervisor submits the final grade (0-10) to the Secretariat.
- After successful defense, the student must deposit the thesis electronically to the AUTH Library.
- Required documents include:
  - A signed "Thesis Submission Document" in PDF format .
  - The full thesis in PDF.
  - Thesis summaries in Greek and English (.doc or .docx).
  - A form with thesis details (.doc or .docx).
- More information and support can be obtained from the AUTH Library thesis submission service.

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Course Presentation
1st SEMESTER

1. Surgical Anatomy and Physiology of the Salivary Glands

The aim of this course is to provide a detailed presentation of the surgical anatomy of the major salivary glands, focusing on the parotid, submandibular, and sublingual glands. It also covers the general surgical anatomy of the oropharyngeal region, where tumors from minor salivary glands can primarily develop.
Students will additionally become familiar with the physiology of the salivary glands, including saliva production, and the intraductal pressure systems of the parotid and submandibular glands, serving as an introduction to saliva production disorders and a better understanding of obstructive diseases.
Practical training includes hands-on exercises with fresh specimens, conducted as part of the clinical laboratory training at the end of the semester.
Ects:6

2. Histology / Cytology of the Salivary Glands

This course introduces students to the histology of the salivary glands, enabling an understanding of the various cell types and their organization into anatomical structures.
Knowledge of cellular structures aids in understanding both gland physiology and the oncology of the region, where multiple histological types of benign and malignant tumors may be involved.
Ects:5

3. Imaging of the Salivary Glands

Students will become familiar with the full range of imaging modalities for the salivary glands.
Ultrasonography is presented for imaging and monitoring salivary gland pathology and adjacent lymph nodes.
CT and MRI techniques are covered, with demonstrations of both normal and pathological findings.
The course also addresses nuclear medicine applications, including PET scans for malignancies and salivary gland scintigraphy, which serves as the only functional examination of the glands.
Ects:4

4. Oncology of the Salivary Glands

This core course focuses on salivary gland tumors, both benign and malignant.
Students will study:
Tumor types and clinical presentation,
Diagnostic approaches, and Therapeutic management.
Special emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary collaboration for selecting the best treatment per patient. The course also examines recurrence patterns and the importance of preserving or sacrificing the facial nerve in malignant tumors, given its critical anatomical role during parotid surgery.
Ects:7

5. Surgical Techniques for Salivary Gland Tumors

Surgery of the major salivary glands involves specific challenges due to their close relationship with critical anatomical structures in the neck.
For parotid surgery, students learn identification and preservation of the facial nerve, use of intraoperative neuromonitoring, and techniques for nerve repair in case of injury.
Submandibular gland surgery is analyzed step-by-step, highlighting preservation of the marginal mandibular branch of the facial nerve and the lingual nerve.
Surgical techniques are demonstrated step-by-step via video, followed by hands-on

clinical laboratory training on fresh specimens.
Ects:6

6. Reconstructive Surgery after Malignant Neoplasm Resection

This course covers reconstructive options following surgical resection of major salivary glands.
Techniques for facial nerve reconstruction (static and functional),Methods to prevent Frey's syndrome, and Reconstruction of tissue defects (muscular, cutaneous, or combined) using flaps.
Additionally, students learn surgical approaches for postoperative complications, such as persistent salivary fistulas, sialoceles, and other issues resistant to conservative management.
Ects:2

Second Semester Courses

7. Obstructive Diseases of the Salivary Glands

The aim of this course is to provide a **detailed presentation of obstructive diseases of the salivary glands**, with a focus on **lithiasic (stone-related) and non-lithiasic onditions**.
The course covers:

- **Clinical presentation** and **diagnostic approaches**,
- **Pathophysiology**,
- **Possible complications**, and
- **Long-term effects on patient health and gland function**.

This course also serves as an **introduction to modern therapeutic approaches**, which are further explored in subsequent courses.
Ects:5

8. Hypofunction and Hyperfunction of the Salivary Glands

Following the physiology course, this class introduces students to the **pathophysiology of salivary gland hypofunction and hyperfunction**. Key topics include:

- Conditions leading to **xerostomia (dry mouth)** and their management,
- Conditions leading to **sialorrhea (excessive saliva production)**, along with **conservative and surgical treatment approaches**.
  Ects:6

9. Minimally Invasive Techniques in Non-Oncological Diseases – Sialendoscopy

This course focuses on **minimally invasive techniques** developed over the last decades for treating **mainly obstructive salivary gland diseases**.

- **Sialendoscopy** is presented in detail, covering **equipment, indications, diagnostic and therapeutic applications**, including **LASER techniques** and **combined approaches**.
- **Open intraoral and combined approaches** preserving the gland parenchyma are also covered.
  Students have the opportunity for **hands-on practice with fresh specimens** as part of the **clinical laboratory training** at the end of the semester.

Ects:6

10. Systemic Diseases Involving the Salivary Glands

This course presents all **systemic diseases affecting the major salivary glands** and the **clinical problems they cause**.

- **Autoimmune diseases**: clinical presentation, diagnostic approach, investigation when undiagnosed, long-term monitoring, and symptomatic treatment options.
- **Infectious diseases**: including viral, bacterial, and **granulomatous conditions** affecting the salivary glands.
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11. Research Methodology in Salivary Gland Diseases

This course provides essential **biostatistics and clinical epidemiology knowledge**, including:

- **Biostatistics**: data presentation and summarization, population and sample analysis, normal and sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, and parametric vs. non-parametric tests for one or two samples.
- **Clinical epidemiology**: types of medical studies (experimental, observational, descriptive, cross-sectional, retrospective, prospective, randomized, case-control), morbidity and mortality indicators, and clinical trial phases and types.

This knowledge prepares students for the final stage of the program, which involves preparing and writing the master's thesis.

Ects:3

12. Use of Botulinum Toxin in the Salivary Glands

This course covers all **indications for botulinum toxin use in the salivary glands**, including:

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- Management of **facial paralysis consequences** through **intramuscular injections in facial muscles**.

The course includes **mechanism of action, administration methods, and potential complications**, with opportunities for students to **observe clinical application in patients** with corresponding conditions.

Ects:4

3rd Semester

- **Postgraduate Thesis:**
  During the final semester, students are required to organize, write, and present their postgraduate thesis. The topic should concern cardiovascular risk factors as well as cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. The thesis can be either a systematic review or original research.

  Ects:30

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes and qualifications of those who successfully complete the program are:

- To recognize the specialized conditions of Salivary Glands Disorders.
- To provide high-quality healthcare services to patients with Salivary Glands Disorders.
- To apply theoretical knowledge in their respective scientific fields of activity.
- To apply the use of technological advancements and equipment required for the modern management of Salivary Glands Disorders.
- To collaborate with specialists from other disciplines aiming at optimal patient care for these conditions.
- To adapt new knowledge in the development of research protocols.
- To support new knowledge, expertise, and methodological tools in their scientific field of activity, and to generate new knowledge preparing themselves for doctoral dissertation acquisition.

Scholarships

It is possible, by decision of the Assembly and depending on the income of the postgraduate program, to grant scholarships to postgraduate students. Scholarships are awarded based on academic and objective criteria (such as academic performance according to the average grade of the previous semester) and must be included in the

approved budget of the postgraduate program. The terms of granting, obligations, and rights of scholarship recipients are determined by the decision of the Department Assembly or the Program Studies Committee.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) may grant compensatory scholarships to postgraduate students in exchange for supporting the educational process and providing auxiliary teaching services. The postgraduate program defines the maximum amount granted per student, the maximum number of weekly working hours, and other details regarding the awarding of scholarships. Postgraduate students are informed following announcements from the postgraduate program Secretariat.

Program Revenues – Financial Management Procedure

The resources of the Postgraduate Program may come from:

1. Tuition fees,
2. Donations, sponsorships, and any kind of financial support,
3. Bequests,
4. Funds from research projects or programs, especially from the European Union,
5. Own resources of AUTH,
6. Any other lawful source.

Tuition fees, amounting to three thousand euros (€3000.00), are paid by the student (or by a third party on behalf of the student) to the Research Committee (E.L.K.E.) in three (3) equal installments.

Resources of the postgraduate program are allocated as follows:

1. Thirty percent (30%) of total tuition fee revenues is withheld by E.L.K.E. This amount includes the withholding percentage for E.L.K.E. regarding the financial management of postgraduate programs. By decision of the Administrative Council, taken by the end of March each year, it is determined whether the remaining amount after withholding for E.L.K.E. is transferred to the regular budget or is used for the creation of projects/programs through E.L.K.E., prioritizing postgraduate programs without tuition fees and covering research, educational, and operational needs of the institution. Withholding for E.L.K.E. also applies to income from other funding sources mentioned above.
2. The remaining amount of total revenues is allocated for covering the

operational expenses of the postgraduate program.

The postgraduate program prepares a detailed budget for the five (5) years of operation, which includes all types of resources and operational costs, in accordance with current legislation.

Administrative Support – Material and Technical Infrastructure

Administrative and secretarial support for the postgraduate program is provided by the Department Secretariat. This includes, among others, receiving and formally checking candidate applications, administrative support for exams, registration and processing of student requests, keeping records and archives of the postgraduate program, and handling all administrative and educational matters from registration until graduation and beyond. It also includes support for financial management of the postgraduate program.

For the needs of the postgraduate program, administrative or technical support staff may be hired for a fixed duration through E.L.K.E AUTH, following the rules and hiring procedures of E.L.K.E., funded by postgraduate program resources.

Plagiarism

When submitting any postgraduate thesis, the student is required to declare whether they have used the work and views of others.

Copying is considered a serious academic offense. Plagiarism includes copying another's work, as well as using another's work—published or unpublished—without proper citation. Using any supporting material, even from studies by the candidate themselves, without appropriate referencing, may result in a decision by the Department Assembly for dismissal.

In case of ethical and academic quality violations, the Ethics Committee is responsible. Regarding specific disciplinary sanctions, the AUTH Senate decision (protocol no. A 11508/14-6-1989) authorizes Departments to impose exclusion from all exams in the following exam period on students caught cheating. Such decisions must be communicated to the Senate.

Any academic misconduct is referred to the Postgraduate Program's Coordinating Committee for review and recommendation to the Department Assembly. Violations include plagiarism, copying, and any infringement of intellectual property laws by postgraduate students in coursework or thesis preparation.

The Ethics Committee of the institution handles violations of academic integrity and study quality rules.

Healthcare

- Undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students who do not have other medical insurance are entitled to full medical and hospital care within the National Health System (ESY) using their AMKA number (social security number).
- The University Student Canteen's Health Service offers first aid, clinical examinations (without prescription rights), vaccinations, and health education advice.
- There is also a Counseling and Psychological Support Center (KESYPSY) staffed by psychologists, offering free access to all students, with psychiatric support available by appointment.

Academic ID Card

- All undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students at Greek universities are entitled to an academic ID card.
- The card also serves as a special travel pass (PASO) for eligible students according to legislation.
- Applications are made online after registration and obtaining a university account.
- The same card is issued to foreign students participating in international exchange programs.

Use of University Facilities and Equipment

- Students may use university facilities and equipment for academic purposes with the permission of the responsible department.

University Student Canteen (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

- Provides student welfare services such as meals, housing, healthcare, artistic and sports events.
- Facilities include restaurants, health service, reading rooms, cafeterias, and a student-priced hair salon.

Social Policy Committee (E.K.P.)

- Supports students with special needs and foreign students, promotes cultural

activities, organizes health awareness campaigns, and runs volunteer blood donation drives.
- Offers personal counseling and psychological support services.

Academic Affairs Department

- Collects and coordinates legislation, decisions, and regulations related to undergraduate and postgraduate studies.
- Manages scholarships, foreign student affairs, and maintains a database of student statistics.
- Provides information about student housing options and supports first-year students.
- Handles printed materials for new students and represents the university at educational fairs.
- Offers information services to both Greek and foreign students.

Department of European Educational Programs

- Manages the ERASMUS program and other European cooperation initiatives focused on student and staff mobility, internships, and credit transfer (ECTS).
- Supports students planning to study abroad and foreign students at the university with accommodation, enrollment, and academic record transfers.

University Campsites

The University Campsites have been operating in Poseidi, Halkidiki since 1960. The steadily increasing number of students and university staff necessitated the creation and subsequent improvement of permanent facilities.
In recent years, the site has been upgraded with several important projects: the construction of a peripheral road, the creation of sports and recreational areas, the expansion of sanitary facilities, the enhancement and multiplication of electrical installations, the construction of additional cabins, the renewal of kitchen equipment, and the refurbishment of the restaurant and cabins — all of which make the living conditions for campers more comfortable and pleasant.

Participation in University Bodies

Throughout their undergraduate and postgraduate studies, students have the right to participate in university bodies through their elected representatives, according to the law.
Students of all departments have the right to register as members of their

department's student association, which must be established as a legal private-law entity. All students of a department can be members, except those who have been legally deregistered.
The student associations of all departments at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.) fall under the Aristotle University Student Union (F.E.A.P.Th.), which was founded in 1960 to coordinate the student associations of the university's departments.

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