

Mapping the Student intra-departmental “mobility” on the Department of Philology at the University of Ioannina, Greece: A research approach

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Abstract

This article refers to the intra-departmental development and mobility of the students, as a basis of reference the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the students of the Department of Philology of the University of Ioannina in Greece, in relation to the possibilities given to them by the Department's Study Program. The research presented in the relevant article is original and highlights data on the subject, which can strengthen reflection on the issue of student development during their studies. The research is based on the methodological principles of the case study, from which, however, useful conclusions can be drawn and give reasons for reflection on the quality course and upgrading of students in modern Higher Education, both in Greece and internationally.

Keywords: Higher education, students, attending, studies program, development

1. Cause and Criterion of the present research

The present research studies the intra-departmental mobility of the students of the University of Ioannina Department of Philology in the last five academic years (2017-2021), using as research criterion the year of graduation, which is defined as the academic year 2020-2021. The specific academic year is defined, given that a year has passed since the official evaluation of the Department, in which, although the Department excelled in the certification of the Study Program, certain qualitative indicators were highlighted, which need attention and study, in order to achieve wider qualitative improvement for the benefit of the quality of the level of studies provided at the University of Ioannina Department of Philology.

2. Objective of the research

The main objective of the research is to highlight the individual qualitative characteristics of the academic functionality of the Department, through the “mobility” of its students, as foreseen by the Curriculum.

3. Research method

“Case Study” is used as the research method. It is considered as more appropriate for the research within the context of a Department of Philology and a sample of the graduates of the academic five-year period 2016-2017 to 2020-2021.

4. Selection of academic five-year

The academic five-year period 2016-2017 to 2020-2021 is selected because: a) The range of the five-year period is bibliographically documented to be a research period from which valid conclusions can be drawn. b) It is the period during which the evaluation of the University of Ioannina Department of Philology had already taken place, from which parameters that need wider investigation emerged, so that the Department can further improve the quality level of its studies.

5. Sample of research subjects

The research sample consisted of the graduates from the University of Ioannina Department of Philology, during the research period, i.e. during the academic years: A) 2016-2017, B) 2017-2018, C) 2018-2019, D) 2019-2020, E) 2020-2021. The total number of the research subjects is one thousand and four (1004) graduates, which is a valid set of research subjects in order to obtain generalizable data for the University of Ioannina Department of Philology.

6. Use of the data extracted

The extracted data will be useful for the qualitative improvement of the Department, which determines the level of the studies provided as well as the evaluation outcome, based on the established framework. The extracted data is also combined with other related research, carried out in the Department with the same objective.

7. Frequencies and frequency diagrams

7.1 Gender

Regarding the “gender” (Table 1, Figure 1) of the research subjects, the data shows that an 81.7% belong to the female gender and the 18.3% to the male gender. This result is expected because, as it appears both from other studies, but from empirically confirmed data as well, in general, in the Departments of Philology, the majority of students are women.

Table 1. Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	820	81,7	81,7	81,7
	Male	184	18,3	18,3	100,0
Total		1004	100,0	100,0	

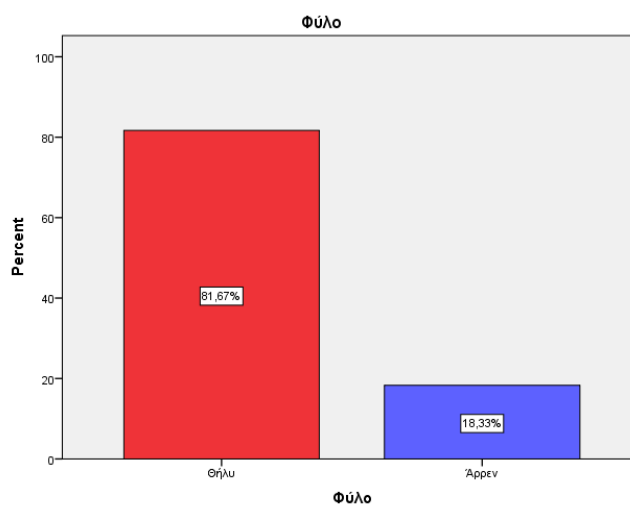


Figure 1. Gender

7.2 Process of admission of the students-research subjects to the University of Ioannina Department of Philology

From the data it appears that almost all of the research subjects (92%) have been admitted to the Department with Panhellenic Exams, which are carried out upon completion of secondary education. From this data it follows that any extracted results will be based on a common criterion of the learning background of the students, who are admitted to study at the Department of Philology of the University of Ioannina (Table 2, Figure 2).

Table 2. Admission process

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Panhellenic Examinations	924	92,0	92,0	92,0
	Other ¹	80	8,0	8,0	100,0
Total		1004	100,0	100,0	

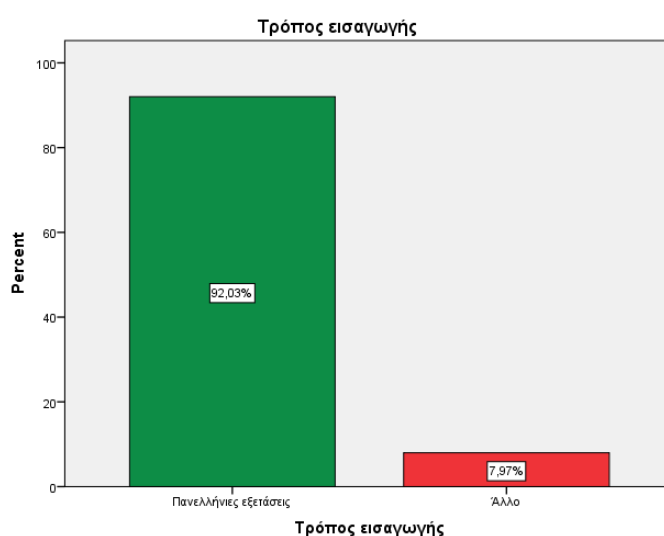


Figure 2. Admission process

7.3 Admission points to the University of Ioannina Department of Philology after Panhellenic examinations of graduates up to the Academic Year 2020-2021

From the data it is established that the majority of the research subjects, who graduated up to the Academic Year 2020-2021, were admitted to the Department with a particularly high number of admission points, ranging between 16001 and 18000 points. The percentage included in this range was 60%, while there was also a significant percentage of 34.1%, which entered the Department with a level of points between 14001 and 16000, with the students entering the Department on the basis of points, ranged mainly around 15000 points. Therefore, it was a student group, which had sufficient conditions for competent attendance and response to the requirements of the Curriculum of the Philology Department of the University of Ioannina (Table 3, Figure 3).

¹ The value of the variable “other” refers to an 8%, who entered the Department through other possibilities, such as: due to having multiple children or three children or graduating from night high schools or they are athletes or come from Cyprus or are expatriates or have health problems.

Table 3. Admission points (Categories)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	under 12.000	15	1,5	1,5	1,5
	12.001-14.000	8	,8	,8	2,3
	14.001-16.000	342	34,1	34,1	36,4
	16.001-18.000	599	59,7	59,7	96,0
	18.001 and more	40	4,0	4,0	100,0
Total		1004	100,0	100,0	

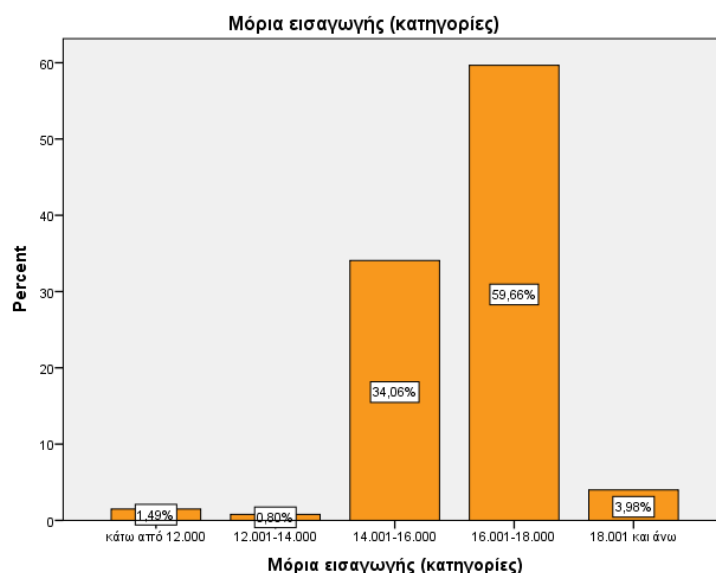


Figure 3. Admission points (Categories)

7.4 “Academic Year of Admission” to the Department of Philology of the University of Ioannina in proportion to the “Academic Year of Graduation” from the University of Ioannina Department of Philology.

Regarding the students’ graduation rates, the research time period in relation to the "Year of Admission" to the University of Ioannina Philology Department, the data shows that in this variable there is a range of dispersion, ranging from the academic year 2008 to the academic year 2020-2021, which is also the final academic year of the five-year research.

Also, based on the yearly data by the Greek Ministry of Education, from the academic year 2008-2009 to 2016-2017, the average number of student admission is two hundred and thirty (230) students.

Analyzing the data of the graduates-subjects of the research, during the five-year research

period it is found that:

A 8.4% (out of all those enrolled in the 2008-2009 Academic Year) graduated during the five-year research period. That is, a longer to a much longer time range (ranging from nine to fourteen years after graduation) of six years, which is considered a relatively acceptable graduation period. However, this percentage cannot be considered negative for the overall graduation of the students, referring only to the five-year investigation period.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2009-2010, a 10% graduate during the five-year investigation period. That is, in a range of more than six years, which is considered a relatively acceptable graduation period. In this case also, this percentage cannot be considered negative for the overall graduation of the students, referring only to the five-year research period.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2010-2011, a 22.1% graduated during the five-year research period. Of this percentage, a 76.5% of the students graduated in their 7th and 8th year of study, that is, a range of more than six years, which is considered a relatively acceptable period of time for graduation.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2011-2012, a 51.3% graduate during the five-year research period. Of this percentage, 51.7% of students graduate in their 6th year of study. So, about half of the students graduate in a time span longer than six years, which is considered a relatively acceptable graduation period.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2012-2013, a 90% graduate during the five-year research period. Out of this percentage, a 73.5% graduate up to their 6th year of study. That is, from the data it is found that there is an acceptable time period for their graduation.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2013-2014, during the five-year research period, an 83.4% graduate and out of this percentage, approximately 70% graduate by the 6th year of their studies. That is, the data shows that there is an acceptable time period for graduation.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2014-2015, during the five-year research period, a 50.8% graduate and out of this percentage, an 82.9% graduate by the 6th year of their studies. That is, from the data it is established that the students, with Admission Year 2014-2015, graduated within the acceptable graduation time period.

Regarding all the students admitted in the 2015-2016 Academic Year, during the five-year research period, a 59.5% graduated, and out of this percentage as a whole, they graduated up to their 6th year of study, i.e. within the acceptable six-year graduation period.

Regarding all the students admitted in the Academic Year 2016-2017, 50% graduate during the five-year research period, and out of this percentage as a whole, they graduate during their 5th year of study, i.e. within the acceptable graduation period.

Regarding all the students admitted in the 2017-2018 Academic Year, only a 9.1% graduated

exactly after completing the required four-year period, which is the required time to obtain a degree.

From the above data, it is established that within the acceptable period of six years' study, approximately the 50% of the students who were admitted in the relative period graduate each year. From this it follows that the remaining 50% of students, if they graduate, will graduate in a period of time longer than six years, which can vary beyond a decade. And in this case, the Department should investigate whether intra-departmental factors are the ones that influence the delay in attendance and look for the most appropriate measures to deal with this situation (Table 4).

Table 4. Academic Year of Admittance * Academic Year of Graduation Crosstabulation

		Academic Year of Graduation					
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Year of 2008 Admittance	Count	10	4	3	0	2	19
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	52,6%	21,1%	15,8%	0,0%	10,5%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	4,3%	1,7%	1,8%	0,0%	0,9%	1,9%
2009	Count	10	2	3	0	8	23
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	43,5%	8,7%	13,0%	0,0%	34,8%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	4,3%	0,9%	1,8%	0,0%	3,4%	2,3%
2010	Count	26	13	7	3	2	51
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	51,0%	25,5%	13,7%	5,9%	3,9%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	11,3%	5,7%	4,1%	2,2%	0,9%	5,1%
2011	Count	61	36	6	8	7	118
	% within Academic	51,7%	30,5%	5,1%	6,8%	5,9%	100,0%

	Year of Admittance	26,4%	15,7%	3,5%	5,8%	3,0%	11,8%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation						
2012	Count	105	50	30	11	15	211
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	49,8%	23,7%	14,2%	5,2%	7,1%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	45,5%	21,7%	17,5%	7,9%	6,4%	21,0%
2013	Count	19	116	37	10	10	192
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	9,9%	60,4%	19,3%	5,2%	5,2%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	8,2%	50,4%	21,6%	7,2%	4,3%	19,1%
2014	Count	0	9	67	21	20	117
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	0,0%	7,7%	57,3%	17,9%	17,1%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	0,0%	3,9%	39,2%	15,1%	8,6%	11,7%
2015	Count	0	0	18	71	48	137
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	0,0%	0,0%	13,1%	51,8%	35,0%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	0,0%	0,0%	10,5%	51,1%	20,6%	13,6%
2016	Count	0	0	0	15	100	115

	% within Academic Year of Admittance	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	13,0%	87,0%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	10,8%	42,9%	11,5%
2017	Count	0	0	0	0	21	21
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	9,0%	2,1%
Total	Count	231	230	171	139	233	1004
	% within Academic Year of Admittance	23,0%	22,9%	17,0%	13,8%	23,2%	100,0%
	% within Academic Year of Graduation	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

7.5 Graduation Level by “Year of Admission”

From the data it appears that the subjects of the sample who graduated from the Department of Philology of the University of Ioannina from the Academic Year 2016-2017 to the Academic Year 2019-2020, i.e. in four out of five Academic Years under research, a continuous decrease in the graduation rate is found, which is also evolutionary decreasing, in the first three “Academic Years” (2016-2017, 2017-2018 & 2018-2019, with respective percentages of 23%, 22.8% & 17%), with a small deviation in the number of graduates, but with an “explosive” reduction in the Academic Year 2019-2020 to the percentage order of 9.5%. While, in other words, in 2016-2017, 231 students graduated in absolute numbers, with varying degrees of admission to the Department, in 2019-2020 only 95 students graduated (Table 5, Figure 4).

However, it is extremely noteworthy that the Academic Year 2020-2021 presents a significant recovery of graduates from the Department in the percentage range of 27.7%. This finding is particularly important because it is combined with the period of remote academic operation due to the covid-19 pandemic. The interpretation of this finding lies in the fact that students

seem to have been facilitated by distance learning either due to a reduction in travel costs or due to the nature of distance learning itself. This extract needs further investigation, regarding the causes that possibly caused this development, with the possible prospect of utilizing similar functionality in the future.

Table 5. Year of graduation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	2016-2017	231	23,0	23,0	23,0
	2017-2018	229	22,8	22,8	45,8
	2018-2019	171	17,0	17,0	62,8
	2019-2020	95	9,5	9,5	72,3
	2020-2021	278	27,7	27,7	100,0
Total		1004	100,0	100,0	

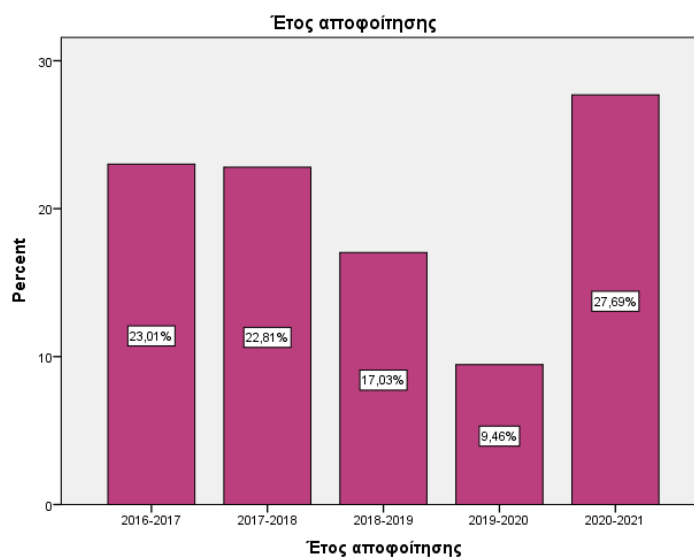


Figure 4. Year of graduation

7.6 Graduation age of sample subjects

The data shows that the vast majority (87.5%) of the sample's graduating subjects are aged up to the age of twenty-five. That is, the research subjects are of a similar age for extending either their studies or for their professional activation in the field of their studies, which they completed at the Department of Philology of the University of Ioannina (Table 6, Figure 5).

Table 6. Graduation Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	22	210	20,9	20,9	20,9
	23	355	35,4	35,4	56,3
	24	198	19,7	19,7	76,0
	25	115	11,5	11,5	87,5
	26	45	4,5	4,5	91,9
	27	40	4,0	4,0	95,9
	28	17	1,7	1,7	97,6
	29	12	1,2	1,2	98,8
	30	4	,4	,4	99,2
	31	3	,3	,3	99,5
	32	2	,2	,2	99,7
	39	1	,1	,1	99,8
	42	1	,1	,1	99,9
	56	1	,1	,1	100,0
Total		1004	100,0	100,0	

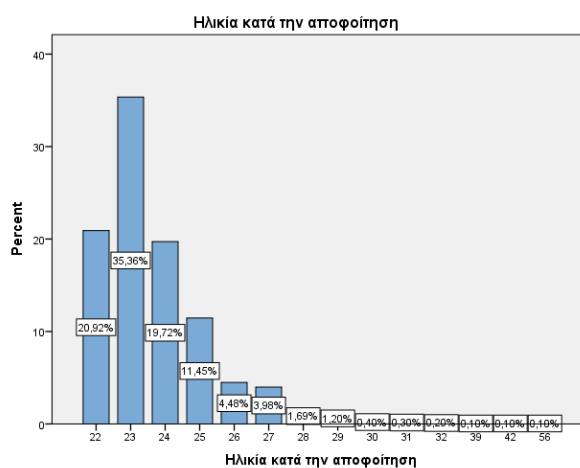


Figure 5. Graduation Age

7.7 Orientation of Studies of the graduates within the research time range

From the data of the research it appears that the majority (54.6%) of the graduates of the five-year research chose the “Division of Classical Philology”. A significant percentage (45.2%) chose “Medieval & Modern Greek Literature Division”. The “Division of Linguistics” was chosen by only 0.2% of the subjects of the sample, i.e. 2 students out of a

total of 1004 students, who were the sample of the present research² (Table 7, Figure 6).

Table 7. Orientation of Studies

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Division of Medieval & Modern Greek Literature	454	45,2	45,2	45,2
	Division of Classical Philology	548	54,6	54,6	99,8
	Division of Linguistics	2	,2	,2	100,0
	Total	1004	100,0	100,0	

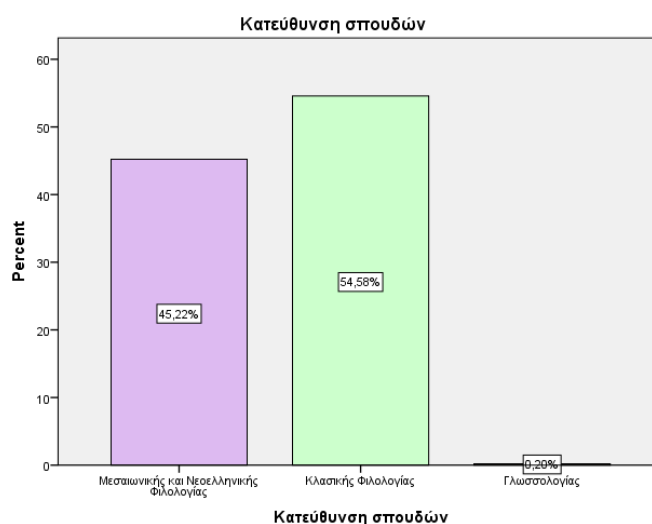


Figure 6. Orientation of Studies

7.8 Classifications of Degree Average Grade

The data shows that the graduates of the Philology Department of the University of Ioannina graduate with a low score. In particular, a 37.7% of the subjects receive a designation in the degree of “Good”, i.e. an average from “5” to “6.49”. Also, a 61% move to the “Very Good” designation, that is an average from “6.50” to “8.49”, showing a range between “6” and “7”. It is notable that there are very few graduates between “7.5” and “8.5”. This is derived from

² It should be pointed out that during the investigation period, the Linguistics Division in the Department of Philology, due to understaffing, was not functioning adequately, with the consequence that it was not chosen by students.

the mean, median, standard deviation and range. Although it is quite well the vast majority of the subjects of the research obtain a degree grade between “6.5” to “7.4” (Table 8 and Figure 7).

Table 8. Grade of Degree Average

N	Valid	1004
	Missing	0
Mean		6,7851
Median		6,7100
Mode		6,47
Std. Deviation		,64803
Variance		,420
Range		4,04
Minimum		5,41
Maximum		9,45

This parameter is important, because from the statistical correlation of the variables "Entry points" and "Degree average grade", the data shows that the correlation is statistically significant, which means that the more admission points entered in the Department, the higher the average grade degree are graduating.

Table 9. Correlations

		Admittance Points	Average grade of Degree
Admittance points	Pearson Correlation	1	,177**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000
	N	1004	1004
Average grade of Degree	Pearson Correlation	,177**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	
	N	1004	1004

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 10. Admittance points (categories) * Designation of Degree Grade Crosstabulation

		Designation of Degree Grade				
			Very Excellent (8,50-10)	Good (6,50-8,49)	Good (5-6,49)	Total
Admittance points (categories)	under 12.000	Count	0	9	6	15
		% within Admittance points (categories)	0,0%	60,0%	40,0%	100,0%
		% within Designation of Degre Grade	0,0%	1,5%	1,6%	1,5%
	12.001-14.000	Count	0	3	5	8
		% within Admittance points (categories)	0,0%	37,5%	62,5%	100,0%
		% within Designation of Degre Grade	0,0%	0,5%	1,3%	0,8%
	14.001-16.000	Count	3	226	113	342
		% within Admittance points (categories)	0,9%	66,1%	33,0%	100,0%
		% within Designation of Degre Grade	23,1%	36,9%	29,8%	34,1%
	16.001-18.000	Count	5	341	253	599
		% within Admittance points (categories)	0,8%	56,9%	42,2%	100,0%
		% within Designation of Degre Grade	38,5%	55,7%	66,8%	59,7%
	18.00 & more	Count	5	33	2	40

	% within Admittance points (categories)	12,5%	82,5%	5,0%	100,0%
	% within Designation of Degre Grade	38,5%	5,4%	0,5%	4,0%
Total	Count	13	612	379	1004
	% within Admittance points (categories)	1,3%	61,0%	37,7%	100,0%
	% within Designation of Degre Grade	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

The above finding is not affected by the “gender” or the “age” of the graduates of the research sample. The striking thing is that only a 1.3% of the research subjects excelled in the degree score. It is important to also mention the absolute number of honors, which is thirteen (13) graduates out of a total of one thousand four (1004) research subjects. In any case, the subject of the ratings raises an important research question, regarding the average to low performances of the graduates, which should concern the Department in finding the causes that cause this situation and how it could be dealt with (Table 9,10,11).

Table 11. Degree Designations

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Excellent (8,50-10)	13	1,3	1,3	1,3
	VeryGood (6,50-8,49)	612	61,0	61,0	62,3
	Good (5-6,49)	379	37,7	37,7	100,0
Total		1004	100,0	100,0	

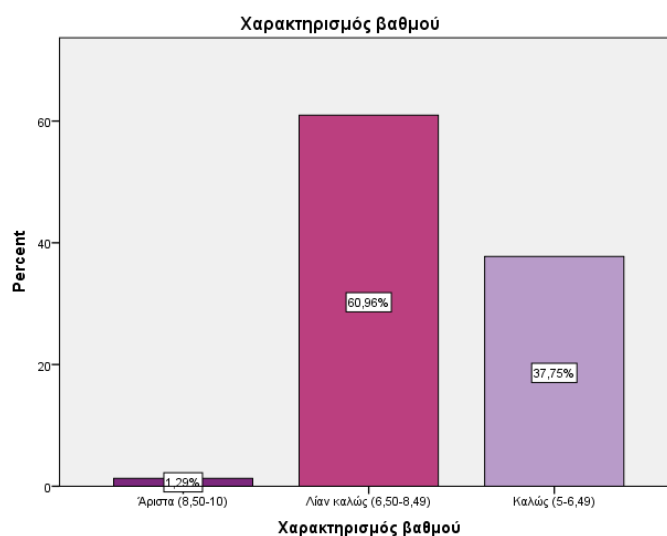


Figure 7. Degree Designations

8. Conclusions

The main conclusions drawn from this research with the potential of generalizability for the Philology Department of the University of Ioannina, because of the valid number of research subjects and a valid study period, are the following:

- The “gender” of the students does not affect the intra-departmental academic mobility of the students who graduate from the Department.
- It is gradually established that half of the Department's students graduate within a reasonable period of study, which is defined as six years of study.
- Graduates graduate with a relatively low degree, while those who excel are overwhelmingly few.
- The conclusions drawn above need further research, in order to establish the reasons why half of the students of the Philology Department of the University of Ioannina delay their graduation, as well as the reasons for the low grades of their degree.

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