About the

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

www.ouc.ac.cy

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC)

CONTENTS

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is an extroverted University, specialised in open and distance education, providing adult learners unrestricted access to quality online undergraduate, masters, PhD and lifelong learning programmes, as well as, short-duration executive and professional education courses.

OUC, established in 2002, welcomed its first students in the academic year 2006-2007. It has grown since then in academic stature and has achieved recognition as a leading university in the Greek-speaking higher education area. The University's near-exponential growth is demonstrated by our approximately 8.000 graduates/alumni and 3.000 students in 50+ countries, the recognition of the work of our renowned academic & teaching staff, and the successful track record of securing external funding for educational and research projects.

The Open University of Cyprus is committed to opening up education to all, and strives for an outstanding, challenging, and transformative teaching and learning experience of high academic standards and unrivalled links with the business world and society. The educational methodology of OUC is based on the use of digital teaching and learning technologies, and the integration of e-learning tools and applications, which offer students a seamless learning experience. OUC's flexible teaching methods respond to the diverse needs of adult learners, and allow them to study from their personal space and in their own time and pace to obtain a useful and accredited degree. Affordable tuition contributes to equal access opportunities, so that anyone interested in studying at the Open University of Cyprus has the opportunity to do so and enrol in any of the four undergraduate and 25+ postgraduate programmes in both classical and cutting-edge fields the University offers, and study without the restrictions of conventional education.

In an era of diverse challenges for higher education, our goal is for OUC to continue to lead, innovate, evolve, and offer higher education, executive education and lifelong learning opportunities to all who choose to invest in their personal and professional development. The University aims to combine its international reach and flexible operations and structure, using them to support the State's vision to establish Cyprus as a regional centre for education, scientific research and innovation, a hub for international scholars and students alike. Towards this direction, OUC expands its network of collaborators and establishes strong partnerships with Universities and research institutions in the broader region and beyond, promoting educational and research cooperation and mobility of students and staff.

On its way to transform into the Edupreneurial University the 21st century needs, OUC's philosophy is simple: there is no 'one size fits all' approach to higher education.

It is your place, your pace, your education!

Sincerely yours,
Professor Petros Pashiardis
Rector of the Open University of Cyprus

The Open University of Cyprus

is a European public University based in Cyprus specialised in open and distance education. OUC offers and delivers online undergraduate, masters, PhD, and lifelong learning programmes, as well as, short-duration executive and professional education courses. We utilise the latest technological tools and applications and apply a variety of online and distant learning approaches. We offer knowledge and training of high academic standards, building up skills and competencies of learners, and provide an inclusive, inspiring, and enjoyable learning experience.

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is a public Higher Education Institution, operating under the effective control of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus. **Established in 2002, OUC is the country's only University specialised in open and distance education and lifelong learning**. OUC offers interdisciplinary, career-oriented and **accredited Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes, as well as stand-alone Modules and Lifelong Learning Programmes**, in both "classical and "cutting-edge" scientific areas. OUC academics are experts in their disciplines and research carried out at OUC has impact well beyond academia, it impacts lives, society, business, and addresses global challenges.

OUC's philosophy is simple: there is no "one size fits all" approach to higher education. The Open University of Cyprus places students at the heart of education, and embraces innovative effective learning methods suitable for adult learners in a motivating digital learning environment, to develop their skills, nurture their interests and expand their horizons, whilst upholding high academic standards. Thanks to the high quality programmes offered by its **three Faculties - Humanities and Social Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences, Economics and Management** - OUC

(1) provides cutting-edge knowledge and employment-ready skills of high calibre for graduates to enhance their professional career;

(2) stimulates personalised, active, and flexible learning, supported by quality teaching from highly experienced and trained academic staff, using appropriate didactic methods and approaches and multi-format educational material; and

(3) leads students to become specialists in their chosen fields, regardless of their age, time availability, and residence or life circumstances. OUC fulfils the personal or professional aspirations of learners and is all about broadening horizons, discovering new experiences, and finding new perspectives.

07

OUC has no borders. More than 53% of its student community is located outside Cyprus, while OUC has more than 8.000 alumni in over 50 countries. Our student community embraces people from diverse backgrounds, people under 21 years old and over 60 years of age, working or unemployed people, people with large families, etc. At OUC, people study from wherever and whenever is convenient for them.

In the context of its internationalisation strategy, OUC fosters strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with Universities and research centres across the world, aiming to achieve long-term cooperation in educational and research projects, joint and/or double degrees, and to promote the mobility of its students and staff.

Through the excellent work of faculty and adjunct faculty, researchers and staff who are at the forefront in their fields, the Open University of Cyprus is reinforcing its position as a quality research institution, with a successful track record of awarded European and local research projects, national and international research teams, and steadily increasing external research funding. Nurturing students' research skills and critical thinking is also an integral part of OUC postgraduate offering providing them valuable assets to success in further study or in the labour market.

Through its distance learning academic programmes, lifelong learning opportunities, internationally recognised academics, extensive research, international reach and collaborations, as well as social activities to promote sustainable development and growth, the Open University of Cyprus is a modern and vibrant learning community enabling students to advance or change their professional or personal direction.
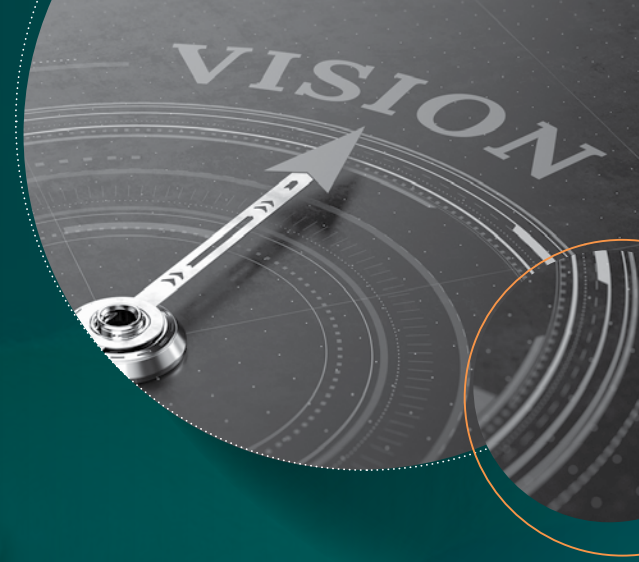
Our Vision

The Open University of Cyprus is committed to opening up education to all, and strives for an outstanding, challenging, and transformative teaching and learning experience of high academic standards and unrivalled links with the business world and society. OUC seeks to grow as an innovative, people-centred University with impact at the global education and research community, as well as to contribute effectively to the State's objective to transform Cyprus into a regional educational and research centre.

Our Mission

The Open University of Cyprus strives for educational excellence that encompasses inclusive access to higher education, providing an equal-opportunity, open education system that fosters learning and teaching. Students are always at the centre of attention and the University facilitates a student-centred learning environment that promotes active self-learning and imparts lifelong learning skills and competences to students useful to start or advance their professional careers and fulfil their personal aspirations and goals. The University aims to combine its international reach and flexible operations and structure, using both to support the State's vision to establish Cyprus as a regional centre for education, scientific research and innovation, a hub for international scholars and students alike. Towards this direction, OUC expands its network of collaborators and establishes strong partnerships with Universities and research institutions in the broader region and beyond, promoting educational and research cooperation and mobility of students and staff.

Key facts about OUC

- A public European University,

- providing open access to higher education and lifelong learning without the restrictions of traditional education,

- offering high quality, interdisciplinary, career-oriented, accredited programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate (Master's and PhD) levels,

- pioneer in combining effective use of technology, academic support and remote teaching and learning methods, all of which enable individualised supportive study, placing students at the heart of educational processes,

- with internationally recognised academics and experienced teaching staff,

- with collaborative research projects and transfer of knowledge within and across disciplines,

- a "global" University with strong international links and cooperation with Universities, research centres and university networks worldwide,

- promoting social responsibility, sustainability and ethics,

- organising programmes tailored to the needs of societies and economies.

Why students choose OUC

- For the opportunity to study whenever and wherever they wish in a European public University, which is specialised in open and distance education.

- For its academically challenging, affordable, high quality Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programmes, which meet the needs of the business world, upskill graduates and enable students to fulfil their personal and professional aspirations.

- For its flexibility, which allows students to adjust their study programme to fit in with job, family and any other commitments.

- For its modern educational methodology, its integrated and user-friendly eLearning Platform supporting real-time and asynchronous tutor-students interaction, combined with the multi-format educational material used, all of which allow a seamless learning experience.

- For the academic support provided by experienced and influential staff (faculty and adjunct tutors, all of whom are PhD holders), making effective use of OUC's synchronous and asynchronous communication tools, online lectures and tutorials.

- For the opportunity to interact with fellow students, peers and academics located anywhere in the world through University forums and social networks. As a student at OUC you will broaden your skills and nurture your talents and your degree will enable you to compete and contribute in the workplace and wider society upon graduation. As an OUC alumni we want you to stand out and proudly share your experiences, knowledge and skills.

Educational Model and Organisation of Studies

The Open University of Cyprus is a higher education institution specialised in open and distance education. Its educational technology, in combination with modern teaching and learning methods supported by multi-format educational materials, respond to the diverse needs of students, allowing them to study wherever and whenever they wish, using any digital device.

Accordingly, OUC's distance education methodology differs from conventional classroom-based education, as it allows students to complete their studies and obtain their degree, breaking down the rigid barriers of traditional education, without physically attending scheduled lectures, and –in case students are already employed– without disrupting work routines or leaving their workplace.

Virtual Learning Environment

The University's main educational tool is the eLearning Platform eClass that facilitates online teaching and learning through the establishment of virtual classrooms, supports lecture capture, live and video on demand lectures and tutorials, and integrates real-time and asynchronous collaboration and collaboration tools. Concisely, OUC's eLearning Platform is a comprehensive and constantly evolving eLearning system facilitating the educational process across all its phases.

Students use eClass to:

- access their course educational materials (multi-format, including book chapters, articles, OERs, podcasts, videos, presentations, etc.),
- attend live online lectures or watch the recorded ones,
- organise their study calendars,
- communicate with their tutors and fellow students,
- submit their formative assignments and coursework, and
- receive feedback on their progress.

In a true digital collaborative environment, eClass also supports live interaction and direct contact with academics, peers and fellow students. The synchronous collaboration (virtual classrooms, instant messaging, live streaming of lectures) and asynchronous (forums, recorded lectures, wikis) communication tools are fully utilised by experienced and dedicated teaching staff, offering effective and interactive academic support, guidance and advice.

Educational Methodology, Assessment and Academic Support

Despite being "distance" in essence, learning is supported by academics-students group tutorials and online lectures that are scheduled throughout the academic year and, while not mandatory, they play a key supporting role in educational processes. These tutorials are organised online using eClass virtual classes, and are academically challenging and rigorous. Tutorials serve to facilitate students in addressing course material in a constructive and critical manner, and constitute an important support and feedback mechanism, which allows students to maximise their learning potential. In addition, tutorials serve as a forum for questions and answers so that students may benefit and share their learning with tutors and fellow students and fully comprehend the content of every Module. Online lectures are always recorded so that students can access videos and study whenever and wherever they find it convenient. Academic support and help are also provided through organised group meetings or personal contact, when requested, during the tutors' contact 'office' hours.

Moreover, Virtual Labs simulating laboratories have further enhanced the University's educational capabilities in supporting and offering high quality innovative programmes in scientific areas of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences.

Self-assessment exercises and interactive educational assignments allow students to test their understanding and progress, and seek additional academic support if needed. To ensure the integrity of OUC degrees and examination processes, students are required to attend in person (at examination centres in Cyprus, Greece or – under certain conditions – in third countries) the final written exams, which count towards a significant percentage of their overall grade. During the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, examinations have been held online using a meticulous and carefully organised process to ensure the online assessment's integrity whilst safeguarding students' personal data.

Support while you study

In addition to the support students receive from the teaching staff and their Programme's Academic Coordinator they also receive individual support through various University services and departments.

The Open University of Cyprus is committed to ensuring equal access to a quality education for **students with disabilities** through the provision of adequate academic and administrative support. OUC implements Internal Regulations for Students with Disabilities, which facilitate the needs of students with visual, hearing, motor and mental disabilities, as well as students with speech disorders. The main services provided to students with disabilities include examination accommodations, lecture accommodations, individual counselling, liaison with faculty members and other University services, referrals to community services, etc.

Career guidance and assistance is also provided by the **OUC Industry Liaison Office**. The main objective of this office is to provide services to the students related to work placement courses and internships in Cyprus, as well to the faculties and the academic/research personnel concerning their cooperation with the industry and the business world.

The **OUC Mobility Office** supports students interested to carry out mobility for studies or placements in EU or third countries.

Moreover, OUC collaborates with a qualified psychologist to provide **counselling and psychological support** to students in need, and offers a number of seminars and workshops that promote well-being and academic success. In this respect, OUC offers the following services to its students:

- One-to-one sessions to students who have psychological or other issues (face-to-face or online).
- Online seminars and workshops on topics such as stress and time management, depression, academic skills guidance, grief management, etc.
- Educational material on psychology-related topics.

OUC Alumni

The Open University of Cyprus takes pride in its alumni. The OUC Alumni Office aims at sustaining lifelong relationships between OUC and its graduates, provides ways to foster engagement among graduates former students and friends, and offers services and resources to help strengthen their ties to OUC and to one another.

14

Degrees

The Open University of Cyprus awards undergraduate [Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc)] and postgraduate degrees [(Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc)], to students who have successfully completed and fulfilled their degree requirements. Moreover, it provides an outstanding environment to undertake postgraduate research leading to a PhD. Through its collaborations with partner Universities, OUC also offers joint and/or double degrees.

The types of programmes offered by OUC are set out in the following table:

PROGRAMME TYPE	DURATION (FT MODE)	ECTS	Degree
Bachelor	4 years	240	Bachelor (BA, BSc)
Master	3 - 4 academic semesters	90-120	Master (MA, MSc)
Doctorate	3 years (assuming previous relevant postgraduate studies)	180	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Admission Requirements

The Open University of Cyprus has an open admissions system as it promotes lifelong learning and offers programmes to all those interested to study at tertiary level without the restrictions of conventional education. For a Bachelor's degree, a secondary education degree is the basic prerequisite. For a Master's degree, applicants must hold, at least, a Bachelor's degree from an accredited University, although some programmes may have other additional requirements (e.g. knowledge of foreign languages). PhD candidates need to hold a Master's degree related to the scientific field of the PhD programme of their choice from an accredited university. Moreover, admission to doctoral programmes may dictate additional admissions criteria, such as attendance of specific modules/courses of postgraduate level.

ECTS credits

OUC operates on a modular degree system and degrees are obtained through the accumulation of ECTS credits (the "European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System"). Each Bachelor's or Master's degree offers a range of Modules, compulsory and/or elective, so that students can choose the appropriate academic route based on their interests. Modules are either semester-long (10 or 15 ECTS, corresponding to 250-450 hours of student workload respectively) or year-long (24-30 ECTS, corresponding to 600-900 hours of student workload), depending on the programme of study.

Language of Instruction

The Open University of Cyprus provides undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in **Greek** but also in some cases programmes are offered in **English**. It provides some flexibility for the students to choose programmes in a language that feel more comfortable for study purposes.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	START DATE	END DATE
Academic Year	September 1	July 31
Fall Semester	1st week of September	3rd week of December
Spring Semester	2nd week of January	End of May

FINAL EXAMINATIONS	
Fall Semester	December
Spring Semester & Year-Long Modules	May

ISSUING OF DEGREES	
Fall Semester	End of February
Spring Semester	End of July

STUDENT ADMISSION
Between February and June (normally)

Accreditation and Quality Assurance

All OUC programmes are of high-quality standard, ensuring that the relevant degrees enjoy international recognition. The degrees awarded by the Open University of Cyprus are fully recognised by the Republic of Cyprus and all European Union countries. OUC has also been recognised by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Center (Hellenic NARIC) as equivalent to Greek Universities.

The Open University of Cyprus and all Programmes of Study offered are subject to the external evaluation of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA), which is the competent independent authority responsible to safeguard quality standards and to support the continuous improvement and upgrading of higher education institutions and their programmes of study. OUC also adheres to the European Standards and guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) and the European policy for mobility and mutual qualification recognition.

The Open University of Cyprus places emphasis on the evaluation, assessment and enhancement of the quality of teaching, research and administrative work. The University's Quality Assurance Committee aims to ensure commitment to OUC's mission and vision, that education offered to students is of the highest level and that student welfare and supporting services fulfil OUC's aspiration of excellence. Students also take part in the internal quality assurance process of the OUC; students' feedback is gathered via anonymous surveys at the end of each academic semester, and is taken into consideration at the end of the academic year revision of all Programmes.

Overall, OUC's integrated quality assurance system operates at two levels: institutional level and Programme level; and supports a two-stage evaluation: internal and external evaluation.

Library

OUC Library provides open access to knowledge and is a gateway to a comprehensive collection of books, journals and other related publications. Through the Library's electronic resources, University community members have access to international databases, e-journals, e-books, digital collections and other resources, while "Kypseli", OUC's Institutional Repository, provides access to the University's academic publications, student dissertations and thesis.

PHYSICAL COLLECTION

24.903	book copies
14.985	individual titles

DIGITAL COLLECTION

303.000	e-books (titles)
200.000	Journals (via subscriptions)
173	databases (via subscriptions) (167 ful ltext)
2.900.000	Thesis from American and European Universities (via subscriptions)
14.750	Conference Proceedings (via subscriptions)

OUC OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORY

56	PhD Thesis
3.745	Master Thesis
42	Bachelor Thesis

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS INDEXING:

716	Individual photos and documents

The Library's website hosts 360 useful web links organised in alphabetic indexes, containing open access supportive informational and educational material.

Faculties and Programmes of Study (2021-2022)

Since its establishment in 2002, the Open University of Cyprus has experienced near-exponential growth in student numbers and academic standing. Out of approximately 3.000 students in total, enrolled in the 26 programmes offered for the 2021-2022 academic year, roughly 51% are registered in Master's degree programmes, while more than 8.000 individuals have already graduated with an OUC degree.

OUC is organised around three Faculties:

- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Management

and offers many exciting opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate candidates to study online.

The list of programmes (and the academic specialisations/tracks, if any) offered for the 2021-2022 academic year is provided in the following table.

	Bachelor	Master	ECTS credits[1]
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences			
Adult Education for Social Change [1] (offered in English)		•	120
Bioethics – Medical Ethics: • Bioethics • Medical Ethics		•	120
Communications and New Journalism: • Communications • New Journalism		•	90
Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning		•	90
Cultural Policy and Development		•	120
Digital Drama and Theatre in the Study of Ancient Greek Culture		•	90
Greek Linguistics and Literature [2]		•	120
Media in Contemporary Schools		•	90
PNYX: Political History, Theory and Practice		•	120
Studies in Hellenic Culture: • Literature • History-Archaeology-Art • General	•		240
Theatre Studies: • Reception of Ancient Drama • Theatre in Education • Acting and Directing		•	120

[1] The MA Programme in "Adult Education for Social Change" is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's degree offered by the following Universities: The University of Glasgow (UK, coordinator), The Open University of Cyprus (Cyprus), The Tallinn University (Estonia), The University of Malta (Malta), The Maynooth University (Ireland).

[2] The MA Programme in "Greek Linguistics and Literature" is currently subject to external evaluation by the Cyprus Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and once it is accredited it will be offered with semester modules conferring 90 ECTS. It will offer two academic specialisations: a) Applied – Educational Linguistics, and b) Literature – Literary Literacy.

	Bachelor	Master	ECTS credits
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences			
Applied Health Informatics and Telemedicine		•	100
Cognitive Systems [3] (offered in English)		•	120
Computer and Network Security		•	90
Environmental Conservation and Management [4]: • Energy and Pollution • Terrestrial Ecosystem Conservation and Management		•	100

[3] The MSc Programme in "Cognitive Systems" is offered jointly with the University of Cyprus.

[4] The MSc Programme in "Environmental Conservation and Management" has been accredited by the Cyprus Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CyQAA) and as of the academic year 2022-2023 it will confer 120 ECTS.

	Bachelor	Master	ECTS credits
Faculty of Economics and Management			
Banking and Finance [5]		•	120
Business Administration	•		240
Economics: • Energy Economics with emphasis on Oil and Gas Economics • Business Economics • Banking and Finance	•		240
Business Administration - MBA (offered in Greek and English)		•	120
Educational Sciences [6]: • Educational Leadership and Policy • Social Justice Education • Special Education • Instructional Technology		•	90
Educational Leadership and Policy [7] (offered in English) [NEW]		•	90
Enterprise Risk Management [8] (offered in English)		•	120
European Union Law [9]: • European Competition Law • European Business Law		•	120
Healthcare Management		•	120
Management, Technology and Quality		•	90
Police Studies [10]	•		120

[5] The restructured Programme in "Accounting and Finance" is subject to external evaluation by the CyQAA and once accredited it will confer 90 ECTS.

[6] The restructured MA Programme in "Educational Sciences" has been accredited by the CyQAA and it will confer 90 ECTS as of the academic year 2022-2023.

[7] The New MA Programme in "Educational Leadership and Policy" has been accredited by the CyQAA and it will be offered as of the academic year 2022-2023.

[8] The MSc Programme in "Enterprise Risk Management" is offered jointly with the Hellenic Open University.

[9] The restructured MA Programme in "European Union Law" is subject to external evaluation by the CyQAA and once accredited it will confer 90 ECTS and it will no longer offer academic specialisations.

[10] The BA Programme in "Police Studies" is offered exclusively for the Cyprus Police Academy graduates.

For more information on the structure and contents of each programme of study:
https://www.ouc.ac.cy/index.php/en/studies

Research

Research at the Open University of Cyprus is wide-ranging and interdisciplinary, pushing the frontiers of discovery and knowledge. Research work includes both individual projects of its academic and research staff as well as collaborative efforts that involve local and international Universities, research centres and institutions. Under its internationalisation strategy, OUC develops strong and effective partnerships with foreign research teams, which provide opportunities for collaboration and active involvement in multidisciplinary projects, tackling national and global challenges, covering various different research areas:

- arts, theatre, history and archaeology,
- communication, journalism and media literacy,
- social information systems, algorithmic transparency,
- literature and linguistics,
- educational leadership and policy, educational theory and curriculum studies,
- health sciences, health economics and applied statistics,
- business administration, economics, management, banking and finance,
- educational technology, eLearning,
- ecosystems management, ecology and climate change, engineering sustainability,
- information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, telecommunications and cybersecurity.

Research activities are financed by the University's state-funded budget or receive external funding from various national, European and international organisations and programmes, such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, LIFE+, and Interreg. During the 2006-2020 period, OUC academics and researchers have successfully implemented more than 90 internally and externally funded research projects. For the current year (2021), 31 research projects are implemented at the Open University of Cyprus (of which 28 are externally funded and 3 are internally funded), while the University employs 23 research associates.

Externally-funded high-calibre Research Projects under implementation

Research Project	Funding Programme	Duration
CYENS Centre of Excellence (formerly known as RISE) Research Center on Innovative Media, Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies	Horizon2020 - Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation. Teaming Phase 2	2017 - 2024
CyCAT Cyprus Centre for Algorithmic Transparency	Horizon2020 - Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation. Twinning	2018 - 2021
GYPWorld A Global Initiative to Understand Gypsum Ecosystem Ecology	Horizon2020 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	2018 - 2021
EU_CUL Exploring European Cultural Heritage for Fostering Academic Teaching and Social Responsibility in Higher Education	Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnerships	2018 - 2021
Switch Simultaneous Wireless Information and Energy Transfer for Low-powered Technologies	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation – Restart 2016-2020 – Excellence Hubs	2018- 2021
WaSec Innovations in Water Education Programs: Enhancing Water Security and Socioeconomic Development in Eastern Mediterranean under Climate Change	Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnerships	2018- 2021

Research Project	Funding Programme	Duration
WeNET The Internet of Us	Horizon2020 – Future Emerging Technologies (FET) Proactive	2019-2022
RF-META Advanced RF Electronics Centre for Adaptive Metamaterials	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation – Restart 2016-2020 – New Strategic Infrastructure Units – New Scientists	2019-2023
EcoWinery Eco-innovation for the production of low environmental footprint wine	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation – Restart 2016-2020 – Excellence Hubs	2019-2021
Converges Knowledge Conversion for Enhancing Management of European Riparian Ecosystems and Services	Cost Programme - European Cooperation in Science & Technology	2017-2021
Polidico Politicization of Identities in Diaspora: Cosmopolitanism & Conflict Discourses	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation – Restart 2016-2020 – Excellence Hubs	2019-2021
PULCHRA Science in the City: Building Participatory Urban Learning Community Hubs through Research and Activation	Horizon2020 – Science with and for Society	2019-2022
Foresight Advanced cyber-security simulation platform for preparedness training in Aviation, Naval and Power-grid environments	Horizon2020 – Security	2019-2022
PLAY Play, Learn, fight back AnxietY	Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnerships	2019-2021

Research Project	Funding Programme	Duration
PeRIAMAR PEsticide RIsk AssessMent for Amphibians and Reptiles	Cost Programme	2019-2021
Life IP Physis Managing the Natura 2000 Network in Cyprus and Shaping a Sustainable Future	LiFe+ Integrated Projects	2019-2029
ADHD Care Exchanging Good Practices for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and their caregivers	Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnerships	2019-2021
DESCANT DEtecting Stereotypes in human ComputAtioN Tasks	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation - Restart 2016-2020 – Excellence Hubs	2019-2021
MARI-Sense Maritime Cognitive Decision Support System	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation – Restart 2016-2020 – Integrated Projects	2020-2022
YNSPEED Youth new personal & employable skills development	Erasmus+	2020-2022
INSTANT INtelligent platform for providing STaffing ANd Training in the Hotel Industry	Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation – Restart 2016-2020 – Integrated Projects	2020-2023

Research Project	Funding Programme	Duration
CY SENTINEL Cyber Sensors for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Large Scale Cyber Range Training Environment	Digital Security Authority of Cyprus	2020-2024
Misinfo Antibodies Antibodies to Misinformation	Cyprus University of Technology under the "Combating Misinformation through Media Literacy" grants through a USA Embassy award	2020-2021
I AM Inclusive Education using Animation and Multimedia	Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnerships	2020-2022
TeaSpils Teaching Environmental Awareness with Smart IoT Planters in Learning Spaces	Erasmus+	2020-2023
ImTech4Ed Immersive Technologies for Education	Erasmus+	2020-2023
CYberSafety III	Connecting Europe Facility	2021-2022
Drone Eye Drone Early Warning and Jamming System	Ministry of Defence, Republic of Cyprus	2021-2024

Research Labs

In addition to promoting independent research, OUC's six (6) research labs support collaborative research and engage faculty and students from across the University:

Educational Technology Lab

The OUC Laboratory for Educational Technology conducts research and publishing in the areas of open and distance learning methodologies, technology enhanced learning, internet safety, mobile and adaptive learning, human-machine interaction, geoinformatics, and ICT utilisation in school education.

Cybersecurity and Telecommunications Research Lab

The mission of the Cybersecurity and Telecommunications Research Laboratory (CTRL) is to investigate cutting-edge research areas in cybersecurity and telecommunications, and support teaching activities at OUC. CTRL's researchers have extensive expertise in areas related to cybersecurity, critical infrastructures, wireless communications and networks, and localization of wireless systems.

Computational Cognition Lab

Research carried out at the Computational Cognition Lab seeks to understand cognitive processes often associated with individual or collective intelligence - such as learning, reasoning, sensing, communication, cooperation - and how these are employed by humans and other organisms in everyday life. Emphasis is placed on the development of formal computational models for various aspects of cognitive processes and the analysis of the formal implications that such models have.

Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab (TemLab)

Work in TemLab is based on traditional approaches to ecosystem management coupled with landscape ecology principles, namely the importance of spatial configuration of ecological processes and the emphasis on larger spatial extents. TemLab research revolves around three pillars that intertwine: a) Mediterranean Ecosystems with emphasis on islands and mountains, b) a Landscape-based approach to conservation and c) Spatial Analysis for species and habitats modeling and ecosystem services.

Laboratory of Chemical Engineering and Engineering Sustainability

The Laboratory combines new scientific areas of Sustainable Development, Environmental Management and Engineering as well as Chemical Engineering. Its main research areas are the following:

- Cities Metabolism, Smart Cities, Strategic Development Plans, Sustainable
- Development Programmes, Cyclical Economy and Industrial Co-habitation Strategy, etc.
- Development of Strategies and field research to implement Waste Prevention practices and Development of Sustainability Indicators (Economic, Social,
- Environmental) and implementation of environmental management systems in various sectors, zero waste generation programmes, etc.
- Environmental Impact Studies and Environmental Analysis / Risk Assessment / Multi-criteria and Life Cycle Analysis Models.
- Development of Techniques - Technologies for the treatment of solid and liquid waste, bio-systems, hazardous waste, composting, etc.

The Cyprus Centre for Algorithmic Transparency (CyCAT)

The Cyprus Centre for Algorithmic Transparency was established in 2018 and is hosted at the OUC, which received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Twinning Programme. CyCAT's international partners are The University of Sheffield and The University of Edinburgh (UK), The University of Haifa (Israel) and The University of Trento (Italy). CyCAT offers significant added value to the research capacity of Cyprus, and its goals are to cultivate a cultural of innovation, to promote digital literacy and to conduct interdisciplinary research to understand the nature of social and cultural prejudices (algorithmic biases) in information access systems. The Centre's research team holds key expertise in the algorithmic processes involved in information access, user interactions with algorithmic systems, user-system interaction, as well as the social and cultural implications of algorithmic processes.

OUC also participates in the Research and Innovation Centre on Interactive Media, Smart System and Emerging Technologies – CYENS Centre of Excellence.

CYENS aims to undertake world-class research in order to drive innovation across multiple industrial sectors creating social and economic benefit. In CYENS's approach this will move beyond research driven purely by technical challenges, and consider the central role of humans within technology development, deployment and adoption along with the societal challenges and impact of technology innovation. CYENS is a joint venture of the Municipality of Nicosia and the three state universities of the Republic of Cyprus, i.e. Open University of Cyprus, University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology, and two international partners (Max Planck Institute of Germany and University College London in the United Kingdom). OUC's project team is led by Associate Professor Loizos Michael, head of the University's Computational Cognition Lab. Dr. Jahna Otterbacher is also team leader at CYENS.

Industry Liaison Office

Aiming to accelerate efforts to bring academia and the business world closer together and address important international developments and issues in labour markets and skill requirements, such as technological breakthroughs, aging populations, urbanisation and rising unemployment, the OUC Liaison Office's mission is to:

- promote entrepreneurship and innovation, support students and graduates in developing transversal skills and improving their employability,
- establish mutually beneficial links and synergies with sectors of the economy.

More specifically, OUC ILO:

- develops synergies between the University's academic and student community and the business world,
- promotes the reciprocal transfer of knowledge, know-how and expertise, disseminates the University's research results and promotes the exploitation of those results by Cypriot and regional businesses,
- maximizes opportunities an elements that shape OUC's academic offering and vocational training provisions, aiming to support Cyprus' future growth and productivity and social cohesion.

Internationalisation

The Open University of Cyprus has taken a holistic approach to internationalisation and seeks international collaboration to maximise global impact. OUC's connection to the global community is at the heart of its Strategic Plan and the University is a) forging strategic international alliances with Universities, research centres and public and private institutions, b) participating in European and international educational and research projects and offerings of joint degrees, c) promoting transnational delivery of degrees via open and distance learning and teaching, fostering an international dimension of curricula across disciplines, and d) supporting mobility of its students, researchers, teaching and administrative staff.

OUC's international partners:

- Al Quds Open University (Palestinian Authority)
- Amman Arab University (Jordan)
- Communication University of Zhejiang (China)
- Open University of Israel (Israel)
- University of Haifa (Israel)
- Donau Universität Krems (Austria)
- Hellenic Open University (Greece)
- Kazan Federal University (Russia)
- Kuban State University (Russia)
- Mariupol State University (Ukraine)
- Kyiv National Linguistic University (Ukraine)
- Open University of Mauritius (Mauritius)
- Transilvania University of Bra ov (Romania)
- Universidade Aberta (Portugal)
- Universidad a Distancia de Madrid (Spain)
- University of the Aegean (Greece)
- University of Peloponnese (Greece)
- Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)
- Hellenic Open University (Greece)
- Hellenic Air Force Academy (Greece)

OUC also actively participates as a member in various important international University Networks and Consortia. Such international links are vital to the Open University of Cyprus in providing its staff international contacts and opportunities for networking, as well as offering its students mobility options and further educational and career opportunities. By participating in these networks, OUC also promotes policy positions relating to lifelong learning and the development of distance education and eLearning.

OUC is a member of the following high profile European and international networks:

BSEMAN	Black Sea & Eastern Mediterranean Academic Network
CSR Cyprus	Cyprus Network for Corporate Social Responsibility
EADTU	European Association of Distance Teaching Universities
EAEC	European Association of Erasmus Coordinators
EDEN	European Distance and e-Learning Network
EJTA	European Journalism Training Association
ENIT/RETI	Excellence Network of Island Territories / Réseau d'Excellence des Territoires Insulaires
EOC	European Office of Cyprus
ESREA	European Society for Research on the Education of Adults
EUA	European University Association
HUMANE	Heads of University Management and Administration Network in Europe
IAESTE	International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience
ICDE	International Council for Open and Distance Education
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
UNAI	United Nations Academic Impact

Mobility opportunities

The Open University of Cyprus is committed to enhance the mobility of its students and staff and to build and maintain successful international partnerships. OUC participates in the Erasmus+ Programme since the 2010-2011 academic year. With the award of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) for the 2021-2027 period, the Open University of Cyprus is aiming to further expand and strengthen cooperation with foreign Universities, research centres and organisations that participate in the Programme. OUC currently has 80+ inter-institutional agreements and participates in the following Erasmus+ mobility actions:

- Students Mobility for Studies (SMS)
- Students Mobility for Placements (SMP)
- Academic Staff mobility for Teaching (STA)
- Staff mobility for Training (STT)
- International Mobility programme (from/to third countries)

The Erasmus+ Programme is an essential tool for OUC's internationalisation strategy as it a) provides mobility opportunities for students to undertake study periods and/or traineeships abroad and gain new experiences, knowledge and skills, b) supports academic and administrative staff exchanges to develop professional network, enhance their research collaborations and further improve their teaching techniques, c) encourages administrative staff members to enrich their knowledge, boost their skills, acquire and share good practices, and d) aims to attract incoming foreign students and staff to study, teach or to be trained at OUC.

For more information on OUC mobility programmes:
https://tinyurl.com/2p8h2bv3

Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility

The Open University of Cyprus operates in accordance with the following key principles: Innovation, Mutual Respect, Quality, Extroversion, and Social Responsibility. OUC maintains open lines of communication with social partners and stakeholders, as well as current and prospective students and alumni. To strengthen its capacity to offer high quality programmes that meet the needs of both the labour market and societies, and which provide students the necessary skills and competences to enhance their employability, OUC works closely with the State, public and non-public institutions, chambers of commerce, federations and the general public.

OUC's Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (CSR) actions reflect the University's commitment to operate in an ethical, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner, maximising public benefit. The University's Strategic Plan is also emphasizing the need to take an active role in tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its research, learning and students, public engagement activities and responsible campus operations. Towards this direction, and in order to improve engagement with local communities OUC's CSR actions focus on two areas: People & Community and Environmental Sustainability.

36

People and Community:

- Committing to embedding considerations of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in all areas of OUC's operation as a Higher Education Institution.

- Organising open lectures, conferences, seminars and workshops on scientific and non-scientific topics, with the participation of renowned speakers, to encourage public debate.

- Fostering new partnerships and engaging with international networks, which provide mobility opportunities to OUC students and staff.

- Assisting students coming from vulnerable groups and reducing social exclusion by providing unrestricted access to University education and training opportunities to people whose access to knowledge is hindered by inherent or acquired disabilities.

- Offering tuition fee discounts to eligible groups of students (e.g. students with disabilities, unemployment status, single parents or students with large families, etc.), as well as scholarships to expatriate Cypriots, children of enclaved persons,

- Archbishopric and strategic partners or third-country nationals in cooperation with the Cypriot Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth.

- Ensuring continuous professional development to all its staff.

- Promoting corporate volunteering with activities such as voluntary blood donations, afforestation, etc.

- Maintaining high standards of health and safety for OUC staff, students, and visitors.

Environmental Sustainability:

- Reducing paper use by implementing electronic procedures, minimising paperwork, and promoting electronic data storage.

- Raising the academic community's awareness of environmental sustainability.

- Implementing "waste management policy" to prevent and reduce general waste and recyclable materials and promote recycling (paper, plastic, batteries).

- Implementing "energy efficiency policy" in all OUC buildings.

- Committing to responsible and sustainable procurement.

Future Goals

The Open University of Cyprus is a leading institution in the Cypriot higher education system in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion in education. OUC is committed to academic rigor and excellence, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of high academic standard and promoting the upgrading of knowledge, skills and lifelong learning in response to the changing business, social and technology landscape. OUC is student-centred; placing students at the heart of education, building on their previous experience and skills and supporting them to meet professional and personal aspirations. The Open University of Cyprus is looking towards a bright future ahead based on high standards for open and distance education.

OUC's short-term strategic goals:

- To improve the University's operating environment (i.e. internal rules and regulations, restructuring of the administrative services, improvement of internal communication, etc.).

- To support excellence in teaching, empower students' employability and attract high-level students to all study programmes. OUC is committed to offering new programmes of study in contemporary scientific fields at both bachelor's and master's level, in Greek and in English, and to further enhance PhD offerings.

- To strengthen, develop and support research activities carried out within the University, in order to establish OUC as a leading research University, securing national, European and international funding.

- To transform into a truly global University with impact and reach in all continents through internationally relevant programmes of study and work-changing research work.

- To improve communication and marketing efforts to strengthen OUC's positive reputation and to increase awareness nationally and internationally.

- To develop and sustain a quality culture, and commit horizontally to excellence in teaching and research.

38

The University's Governance

The governance of the Open University of Cyprus includes the Council, the Senate, the Rector and the Vice-Rector, the Faculties & Internal Boards and the Deans.

The Council exercises the powers and performs all the duties provided by the Law for the Establishment and Operation of OUC and is essentially responsible for the management and administration of the revenues and property of OUC and, subject to the powers of the Senate, has general control over the conduct of the University's affairs.

The Senate is the supreme academic authority of the University and has the overall responsibility for the teaching and research work conducted at OUC, as well as for the regulation of educational issues and student discipline and conduct. The Senate consists of the Rector, who is the Chairman of the Senate, the Vice-Rector, the Deans of all Faculties, one appointed member of the Academic Research Personnel of each Faculty and the Director of the Laboratory of Educational Material and Educational Methodology.

The Faculties are administered by Internal Boards and the elected Dean is the Head of each Faculty. The Director of Administration and Finance is appointed by the Council and is the Head of the Administrative Services of the Open University of Cyprus.

40

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL	As of 30/11/2021
Mr. Charalambos Prountzos	President
Mr. Panikos Pengas	Vice President
Professor Petros Pashiardis	Rector
Professor Yannis Manolopoulos	Vice Rector
Professor Constantinos Leonidou	Member
Professor Nikolaos Vafeas	Member
Professor Stavros Stavrou	Member
Dr. Nicolas Yiasoumis)	Member
Mr. Yiannis Economides	Member
Mr. Christopher Christodoulides	Director of Administration and Finance – Secretary (non-voting member)

UNIVERSITY SENATE	As of 30/11/2021
Professor Petros Pashiardis	Rector
Professor Yannis Manolopoulos	Vice Rector
Associate Professor Stavroula Tsiplakou	Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Associate Professor Avra Sidiropoulou	Representative of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Stavros Stavrou	Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
Associate Professor Antonis Zorpas	Representative of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
Professor Michalinos Zembylas	Representative of the Faculty of Economics and Management
Associate Professor Alexandros Tsadiras	Representative of the Faculty of Economics and Management
Mr. Christopher Christodoulides	Director of Administration and Finance – Secretary

Director of Administration and Finance: Mr. Christopher Christodoulides

OUC in numbers

(Academic Year 2021-2022)

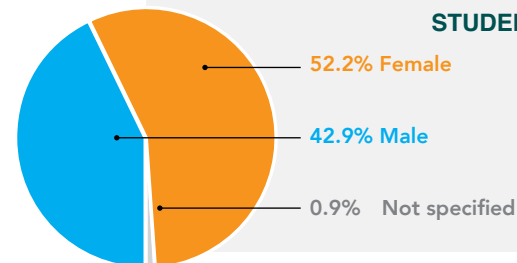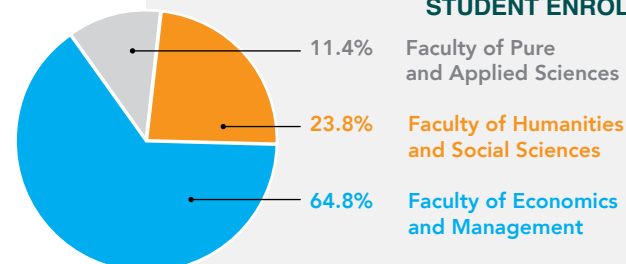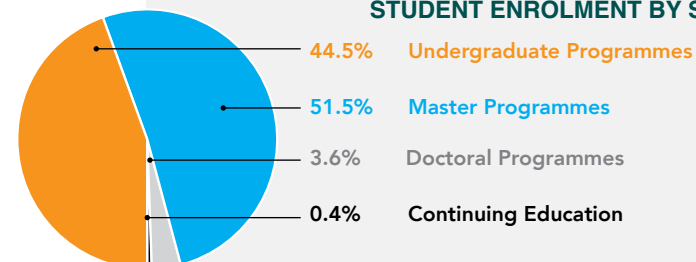|	
3	Faculties
25	Faculty members
~ 260	Adjunct lecturers (all PhD holders)
87	Administrative personnel
26	Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) programmes
17	PhD research thematic areas
~ 3.000	Students enrolled in UG, PG and lifelong learning programmes for the 2021-2022 academic year
8.055	Graduates/alumni (as of the 2020/21 academic year)
€12.2	mln 2021 total budget, including a government grant of €8 mln
6	Research labs
28	Externally funded research projects
3	Internally funded research projects
91	Successfully completed research projects (2006-2020)
>140	local and international partners (MoU and Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreements)
15	Memberships in European and international organisations and networks

OUR STUDENTS' LOCATION

46.5% Cyprus

47.5% Greece

6.0% Other Countries
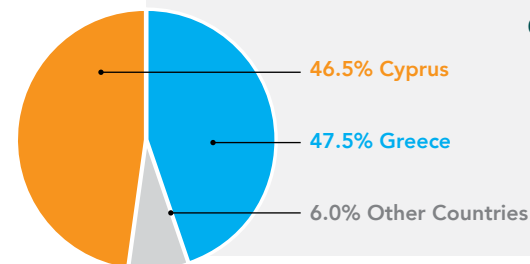
STUDENT ENROLMENT BY GENDER

52.2% Female

42.9% Male

0.9% Not specified

STUDENT ENROLMENT BY FACULTY

11.4% Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

23.8% Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

64.8% Faculty of Economics and Management

STUDENT ENROLMENT BY STUDY LEVEL

44.5% Undergraduate Programmes

51.5% Master Programmes

3.6% Doctoral Programmes

0.4% Continuing Education

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