



ABOUT THE

# Open University of Cyprus





# The Open University of Cyprus (OUC)

**ABOUT OUC 2023 edition**

**Disclaimer:** Information included in this booklet was correct at the time of publication. Information is to be used as a general guide as changes may occur after publication.



<b>Rector's Message</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>The Open University of Cyprus (OUC)</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Vision and Mission</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Key Facts</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Why Students Choose OUC</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Educational Model and Organisation of Studies</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Accreditation and Quality Assurance</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Faculties and Programmes of Study (2023-2024)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Research</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Internationalisation</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Future Goals</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>The University's Governance</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>OUC in numbers</b>	<b>39</b>

# Contents

---

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is an extroverted international 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.

Since its establishment in 2002, and the enrolment of its first students in the academic year 2006-2007, the OUC has grown in academic stature and has achieved recognition as a leading university in the Greek-speaking higher education area. At the OUC, we are proud of our 8.600+ graduates/alumni, the University's exponential growth with an enrolment of approximately 3.000 students located 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.

OUC's educational methodology is based on the use of digital teaching and learning technologies, and the integration of e-learning tools and applications, designed for flexibility and engagement, which offer students a seamless learning experience. It responds to the diverse needs of adult learners, and it allows everyone to study from their personal space and in their own time and pace to obtain a valuable 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 five undergraduate and 20+ postgraduate programmes in both classical and cutting-edge fields the University offers, and study without the restrictions of conventional education.

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. In an era of diverse challenges for higher education, our goal is for OUC to continue to innovate, evolve, and offer higher education, executive education and lifelong learning opportunities to all who need flexibility to invest in their personal and professional development. Moreover, the University aims to combine its international reach and online programmes 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, the 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.

*At the Open University of Cyprus is  
your place, your pace, your education!*



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

## Rector's Message

---



# The Open University of Cyprus

06 ABOUT OUC

Founded in 2002 as a public higher education institution, the OUC is specialised in open and distance education, dedicated to both the provision of inclusive education and the promotion of lifelong learning. OUC offers high quality and accredited by the Cypriot competent national agency online Undergraduate, Masters, and PhD Programmes, as well as, lifelong learning programmes and short-duration executive and professional education courses.

**OUC is an international community of students, researchers, and faculty from around the world.**

At the OUC, we utilise the latest technologies and eLearning tools and applications to provide a state-of-the-art virtual learning environment. A variety of online and distant learning approaches support the educational processes. Students work across disciplines with OUC renowned academics, who are experts in their subject areas. Research carried out at OUC has impact well beyond “academia”, it influences lives, and addresses global challenges.

At the OUC, 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. **OUC’s philosophy is simple: there is no “one size fits all” approach to higher education.** OUC places **students at the heart of education**, and embraces **innovative and effective learning methods suitable for adult learners** in a **motivating digital learning environment**, to develop their skills, nurture their interests and expand their horizons. With personalised support, and both real-time and asynchronous engagement opportunities with fellow students, academic staff and educational materials, OUC students have the flexibility they need to study their degree in a format that works best for their learning style, and which complements their lifestyle. A strong sense of community, albeit virtual, adds to the transformative learning experiences provided. Thanks to the high quality programmes offered by its **three Faculties - Economics and Management, Humanities and Social Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences - 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, residence or life circumstances.

**The Open University of Cyprus has no borders. Half of our student community is located outside Cyprus, while since 2006; OUC has more than 8.600 alumni in over 50 countries.**

**OUC also has no demographic boundaries** as its student community embraces people from diverse backgrounds and people with fewer opportunities, people under 21 years old and over 60 years of age, working or unemployed people, single parents, people with large families, people with disabilities, etc. At the OUC, people study from wherever and whenever is convenient for them using any digital device (laptop, tablet, smartphone).

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

Through the excellent work of faculty and adjunct faculty, researchers and academic 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 record of accomplishment of European and local research projects, national and international research teams, steadily increasing external research funding. Nurturing students' research skills and critical thinking is also an integral part of OUC undergraduate and 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 recognized 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 international learning community dedicated to the discovery and sharing of new knowledge, providing students unrestricted access to higher education, enabling them 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

In accordance with its founding Law (L. 234(I)/2002), the mission of the Open University of Cyprus is: "To provide equal opportunities to all in accessing tertiary education irrespective of age, place and pace of study, and to promote science, knowledge, education, research and lifelong learning with the method of open and distance education".

The three pillars of the University's mission are the following:

- To generate and disseminate scientific knowledge through research and student education.
- To raise the cultural standard of the people of Cyprus, through the promotion of active involvement in the preservation and dissemination of core cultural values.
- To engage with society, the economy and the State, aiming towards the sustainable development and progress of Cyprus.

# Vision and Mission



- A public European University, specialised in open and distance education,
- 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 distance 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 sustainability, responsibility and ethics,
- organising programmes tailored to the needs of societies and economies.

## Key facts about OUC

- For the opportunity to study at their own pace from wherever they wish in a European public University, which is specialised in open and distance education.
- For its academically challenging, affordable, high quality Undergraduate (Bachelor's), Postgraduate (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 create their own learning path, and 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 internationally recognised, experienced and influential staff (faculty and adjunct tutors, all of whom are PhD holders), making effective use of OUC's synchronous and asynchronous collaboration and communication tools, online lectures and tutorials.
- For the opportunity to interact with fellow students, peers and academics located anywhere in the world through the University's platforms and social networks.

**As a student at the OUC, you will broaden your skills and nurture your talents. Your degree will enable you to compete and contribute in the workplace and wider society upon graduation. As an OUC alumnus, we want you to stand out and proudly share your experiences, knowledge and skills.**

## Why students choose OUC



**OUC's 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, the 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.

# Educational Model and Organisation of Studies

## 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 using the eClass discussion forums,
- submit their formative assignments, interactive educational activities and coursework, and
- receive feedback on their progress.

In a true **digital collaborative environment**, the 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 academic staff, offering **effective and interactive academic support**, guidance and advice.

## Cyprus Education Leaders Awards for innovative applications of digital technology in education

2019	GOLD AWARD
2020	
2021	
2022	SILVER AWARD





## 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.

**Self-assessment exercises** and **interactive educational assignments** allow students to **test their understanding and progress, and seek additional academic support** if needed. In addition to general and specialist knowledge in the student's chosen study areas, through case studies and industry-based learning students develop soft, organisational and job-related skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communicating, time and project management, digital skills. All OUC's educational procedures are carried out remotely. For each Module, you will have to **submit assignments, develop interactive learning activities and participate in the final exam**. Exams are conducted **online using electronic means**, i.e. the University's eLearning Platform, and procedures to monitor students' participation in the exams whilst protecting their personal data to ensure the integrity of the examination process.

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.

### 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 people with fewer opportunities (e.g. single parents, people with large families, unemployed, etc.), as well as, students with disabilities** through the provision of tuition fee discounts, and 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.

**10% tuition fee discounts** for postgraduate (Master and PhD) students in case of:

- Two members of the same family studying at the same time
- Students with special needs
- Unemployed students

**20% discount for**

- Single parents with one or two dependent children

**25%** for a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree or **50%** for a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree **tuition fee discounts** to OUC graduates who continue their studies at the OUC

**20-100% discount** for postgraduate students with large families (3 or more children)

**100% discount** for Recipients of minimum guaranteed income <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Applies only to people receiving support from the Republic of Cyprus

**The OUC Industry Liaison Office provides career guidance and assistance.** 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 funded by the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme.

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, the **OUC Counselling and Guidance Office** offers the following services to our 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.



For a full list of tuition fee discounts, please visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yynkz2nb>



For a full list of scholarships, please visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/24fxtvjk>

## OUC Alumni

The Open University of Cyprus takes pride in its alumni. The OUC Alumni Office aims at sustaining lifelong relationships between the 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. OUC graduates join an international network of over 8.600 alumni. They also have tuition fee reductions to continue their studies at the OUC, as well as lifelong access to seminars, mentoring, social networking events, and other services.

# 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) or MBA), 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, the OUC also offers joint and/or double degrees.

PROGRAMME TYPE	MINIMUM DURATION (FT MODE)	ECTS	DEGREE
Undergraduate (Bachelor)	4 years	240	Bachelor (BA, BSc)
Postgraduate (Master)	3 - 4 academic semesters	90-120	Master (MA, MSc, MBA)
Doctoral (Doctorate)	3 years	180	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

## Admission Requirements

The Open University of Cyprus has an **open admissions system** with **minimal entry requirements**, as it promotes open education and lifelong learning, and offers programmes to all those interested to study at tertiary level without the restrictions of conventional education. For an Undergraduate (Bachelor's) degree, a secondary education degree is the basic prerequisite. For a Postgraduate (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 Undergraduate (Bachelor's) or Postgraduate (Master's) Programme offers a range of Modules, compulsory and/or elective, so that students can choose the appropriate academic route based on their interests. Modules are semester-long, 10 or 15 ECTS, corresponding to 250-450 hours of student workload respectively, depending on the programme of study.

## Language of Instruction

The University's main teaching language is Greek. **Undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes are offered in Greek, while some of the Master's programmes are offered in English.** OUC provides some flexibility for the students to choose programmes in a language that feel more comfortable for study purposes.

# Academic Calendar<sup>2</sup>

	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 EXAMINATION		ISSUE OF DEGREES	
Fall Semester	December	Fall Semester	End of February
Spring Semester	May	Spring Semester	End of July

STUDENT ADMISSION
Newcomer between February and June (normally)

<sup>2</sup> The University's Academic Calendar is subject to minor changes year-to-year

Whenever and wherever OUC students learn best, the 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 to meet the needs of our students, researchers, and faculty. "Kypseli", OUC's Institutional Repository, provides access to the University's academic publications, student dissertations and thesis.

### PHYSICAL COLLECTION

**24.900**  
book copies

**14.985**  
individual titles

### OUC OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORY\*

**61**  
PhD Theses

**4.061**  
Master Theses

### DIGITAL COLLECTION

**693.000**  
e-books (titles)

**27.000**  
e-journals (via subscriptions)

**167**  
databases (via subscriptions)

**2.800.000**  
Thesis from American and European Universities (via subscriptions)

**14.750**  
Conference Proceedings (via subscriptions)

**42**  
Bachelor Theses

\*Institutional Repository as of vi.2023

### DIGITAL COLLECTIONS INDEXING

**1.084**  
Individual photos and documents



The Library's website (<https://tinyurl.com/edzhwwkw>) hosts 360 useful web links organised in alphabetic indexes, containing open access supportive informational and educational material.

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. All existing Programmes of Study must be externally reviewed and accredited by CyQAA, while before offering any new programme, the University must first submit it to CyQAA for accreditation, and then announce it publicly for enrolments. 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.**

# Accreditation and Quality Assurance

# Library



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 27 programmes offered for the 2023-2024 academic year, roughly 50% are registered in Master's degree programmes. Since 2006, more than 8,600 individuals have already graduated with an OUC degree.

OUC is organised around **three Faculties**:

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

OUC offers many exciting opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate candidates to study online. Students can combine specialist knowledge in their chosen Programme of Study with a unique skillset. The list of **programmes** (and the academic specialisations/tracks, if any) **offered for the 2023-2024 academic year** is provided in the following table.

# Faculties and Programmes of Study (2023-2024)

	UNDER-GRADUATE (BACHELOR)	POST-GRADUATE (MASTER)	ECTS CREDITS
<b>FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>Banking and Finance</b> <sup>1</sup>		•	120
<b>Business Administration</b>	•		240
<b>Business Administration - The Open MBA</b> (offered in Greek and English)		•	90
<b>Economics:</b>			
• Energy Economics with emphasis on Oil and Gas Economics	•		240
• Business Economics			
• Banking and Finance			
<b>Educational Leadership and Policy</b> (offered in English)		•	90
<b>Educational Sciences :</b>			
• Educational Leadership and Policy		•	90
• Social Justice Education			
• Special Education			
• Instructional Technology			
<b>Enterprise Risk Management</b> <sup>2</sup> (offered in English)		•	120
<b>European Union Law</b>		•	90
<b>Healthcare Management</b> <sup>3</sup>		•	120
<b>Law</b>	•		240
<b>Management, Technology and Quality</b>		•	90
<b>Police Studies</b> <sup>4</sup>	•		120

<sup>1</sup> The restructured MSc Programme in "Accounting and Finance" is subject to external evaluation by the Cyprus Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and once accredited it will confer 90 ECTS.

<sup>2</sup> The MSc Programme in "Enterprise Risk Management" is offered jointly with the Hellenic Open University.

<sup>3</sup> The MSc Programme in "Healthcare Management" is subject to external evaluation by the Cyprus Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and once accredited it will confer 90 ECTS.

<sup>4</sup> The BA Programme in "Police Studies" is offered exclusively for the Cyprus Police Academy graduates. As of the 2023/24 academic year it will not accept newcomer students.

	UNDER-GRADUATE (BACHELOR)	POST-GRADUATE (MASTER)	ECTS CREDITS
<b>FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>			
<b>Adult Education for Social Change</b> <sup>5</sup>		•	120
<b>Bioethics – Medical Ethics:</b>		•	120
• Bioethics			
• Medical Ethics			
<b>Communications and New Journalism:</b>		•	90
• Communications			
• New Journalism			
<b>Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning</b>		•	90
<b>Cultural Policy and Development</b>		•	120
<b>Digital Drama and Theatre in the Study of Ancient Greek Culture</b>		•	90
<b>Greek Linguistics and Literature:</b>		•	90
• Applied - Educational Linguistics			
• Literature and Literary Literacy			
<b>Media in Contemporary Schools</b>		•	90
<b>PNYX: Political History, Theory and Practice</b>		•	120
<b>Studies in Hellenic Culture:</b>		•	240
• Literature			
• History-Archaeology-Art			
• General			
<b>Theatre Studies:</b>		•	120
• Reception of Ancient Drama			
• Theatre in Education			
• Acting and Directing			

<sup>5</sup> The MA Programme in “Adult Education for Social Change” is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s degree offered by the following Universities: University of Glasgow (UK, coordinator), Open University of Cyprus (Cyprus), Tallinn University (Estonia), University of Malta (Malta), Maynooth University (Ireland).

	UNDER-GRADUATE (BACHELOR)	POST-GRADUATE (MASTER)	ECTS CREDITS
<b>FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES</b>			
<b>Applied Health Informatics and Telemedicine</b>		•	100
<b>Cognitive Systems</b> <sup>6</sup> (offered in English)		•	120
<b>Computer and Network Security</b>		•	90
<b>Environmental Conservation and Management:</b>		•	120
• Energy and Pollution			
• Terrestrial Ecosystem Conservation and Management			



For more information on the structure and contents of each programme of study: <https://tinyurl.com/ys9fthpy>



By decision of the Rector’s Council of the University, **all the Modules of the Programmes of Studies can be offered as Independent** without their pre-requisites being valid. Find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4zh3vk>

<sup>6</sup> The MSc Programme in “Cognitive Systems” is offered jointly with the University of Cyprus.

An important pillar of the operation of OUC is to drive basic and applied research, related to the scientific areas of its academic personnel and Faculties.

**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 internationalization strategy, the OUC develops strong and effective partnerships with foreign research teams, which provide opportunities for international collaboration and active involvement in multidisciplinary projects, tackling national and global challenges, covering various different research areas:

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

**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+, COST, LIFE+, and Interreg.

During the 2006-2022 period, OUC academics and researchers have successfully implemented more than 110 internally and externally funded research projects. Research results are disseminated at international scientific conferences and workshops and are published in reputable scientific journals for the benefit of the academic community and society.



For the EU funded high-calibre Research Projects under implementation scan the QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/48kpprm3>

# Research

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

### 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.

Lab Director: Dr Loizos Michael

### 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.

Lab Director: Dr. Stavros Stavrou

### 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.

# Research Labs

### 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, Circular 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.

Lab Director: Dr. Antonis Zorpas



### 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:

- Mediterranean Ecosystems with emphasis on islands and mountains
- Landscape-based approach to conservation
- Spatial Analysis for species and habitats modeling and ecosystem services

Lab Director: Dr. Ioannis Vogiatzakis

### 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.

CyCAT Director: Dr. Jahna Otterbacher

### OUC & 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). CYENS' Fairness and Ethics in AI - Human Interaction Multidisciplinary Research Group (MRG) is led by Associate Professor Jahna Otterbacher, head of the Cyprus Center for Algorithmic Transparency, while the Socially-Competent Robotic and Agent Technologies MRG is led by Professor Loizos Michael, head of the OUC Computational Cognition Lab.

# Research Labs

# Teaching and Research Chairs

Teaching and Research Chairs established at the Open University of Cyprus boost its scientific environment by enabling OUC to undertake ambitious research work on innovative themes, making it possible to combine research activities at the highest level of excellence and the dissemination of knowledge among society.

The University currently has established the following three (3) Chairs:

The **OUC UNESCO Chair on “Visual Anticipation and Futures Literacy towards Visual Literacy”**, which was awarded by UNESCO to Associate Professor Vayia Karaïskou.

**Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Chair** awarded to Professor Michalinos Zembylas.

**Jean Monnet Chair on “European Union Institutions, Rights and Judicial Completion”**, which was awarded by the European Commission to the Associate Professor of EU Administrative Law, Alexandros Tsadiras.

**OUC is #2 national, and in the 434<sup>th</sup> and 714<sup>th</sup> position worldwide in the fields of Social Sciences & Humanities and Computer Science respectively**  
*2023 Research.com rankings*

**Professors Michalinos Zembylas and Yannis Manolopoulos listed in the list of the top scientists in the fields of Social Sciences & Humanities and Computer Science respectively**  
*2023 Research.com rankings*

**Professors Michalinos Zembylas (Education) and Yannis Manolopoulos (Computer Science), and Associate Professors Antonis Zorpas (Environmental Sciences) and Jahna Otterbacher (Artificial Intelligence) are amongst the world’s top scientists**  
*2022 “Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators” published by Professor John Ioannides, Stanford University*

**Professor Yannis Manolopoulos elected Member of the Informatics Section, Academia Europaea, London (2022-)**

**Professor Stavros Stavrou is the 1st elected Chairman of the Cyber group configuration (EAB. Cyber) of the European Defence and Security College (ESDC)**

## OUC 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 Industry 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, the 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.

The operation of the OUC Industry-Liaison Office is supported by the EU-funded project “University Liaison Offices with the Business World”.





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.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is an agreement in which the Open University of Cyprus and the prospective partner university declare that they wish to collaborate with one another, now and in the future. MOUs are often facilitated for joint activities that are non-binding and not legally enforceable.

#### OUC's international MoU partners:

Al Quds Open University	Palestinian Authority
Amman Arab University	Jordan
An-Najah National University	Palestinian Authority
Bar Ilan University	Israel
Communication University of Zhejiang	China
Democritus University of Thrace	Greece
Donau Universität Krems	Austria
Hellenic Air Force Academy	Greece
Hellenic Open University	Greece
Kazan Federal University	Russia
Kuban State University	Russia
Kyiv National Linguistic University	Ukraine
Mariupol State University	Ukraine
Maria Grzegorzewska University	Poland
Open University of Israel	Israel
Open University of Mauritius	Mauritius
Saint-Joseph University of Beirut	Lebanon
Transilvania University of Braşov	Romania
Universidade Aberta	Portugal
Universidad a Distancia de Madrid	Spain
University of the Aegean	Greece
University of Haifa	Israel
University of Peloponnese	Greece

The Open University of Cyprus also cooperates with national universities, both public and private, such as the University of Cyprus, the Cyprus University of Technology, UCLan Cyprus, etc. Moreover, OUC 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.



<https://tinyurl.com/yc8mxrpk>

#### OUC membership in high profile European and international networks:

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



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 that facilitate student and staff exchanges, and participates in all 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 life-enhancing 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 train abroad, 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 the OUC.



For more information on OUC mobility programmes:  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdepv7tz>

and to partner with OUC in the context of the Erasmus+ Programme:  
 ✉ [erasmus@ouc.ac.cy](mailto:erasmus@ouc.ac.cy)

The Open University of Cyprus operates in accordance with the following key principles:

Innovation

Mutual Respect

Quality

Extroversion

Social Responsibility

OUC's **Equality, Diversity and Inclusiveness (EDI) plan** is transversal by character and supports structures, procedures and efforts across our community as the University seeks to become more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The University's Equality Committee ensures the implementation of Equal Opportunities Policies in relation to hiring and supporting the career development of all people. 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.

# Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility

## 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, strategic partners or third-country nationals in cooperation with the Cypriot Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth.
- Ensuring continuous professional development to its entire 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.
- Producing and disseminating research related to corporate sustainability and responsibility.

## 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.



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.

# Future Goals

Over the last three years, the University made great strides toward reaching the Strategic Goals set forth in the University's Strategic Plan, launched in 2021, which covers the 2021-2024 period. These Strategic Goals are the following:

## **Sustainable development, optimal organisation**

process automation and activities redesign, construction of an owned campus, improvement of eLearning infrastructure, financial sustainability and new sources of income.

## **Excellence in teaching and learning**

design and offering of new study programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including programmes to be offered in English, quality assurance processes, re-design of the OUC teaching and learning strategy.

## **Research and innovation development**

improvement of the administrative support offered for research activities, securing funding for the establishment of academic and research chairs, increase of external funding secured for research projects, improvement of the links with the business world and industrial sectors for applied research.

## **Internationalisation**

increasing the number of foreign students and the number of English-taught programmes, new bilateral agreements with renowned foreign Universities for education and research cooperation, further promotion of 'internationalisation at home', inclusion of the OUC in international rankings.

## **Public awareness and reinforcement of the OUC brand**

improvement of communication with external stakeholders, implementation of a new corporate communications strategy, improvement of the University's brand, establishment of the OUC Centre for Vocational and Lifelong Learning, further expansion of the operations of the OUC Alumni Office, social responsibility activities, improvement of the links with the expatriates.

## **Holistic quality culture, focus on the UN SDGs**

reinforcement of a holistic quality culture, accreditation of academic and administrative services with the ISO9001 quality standard, mapping and better alignment of the University processes and programmes of study with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and more specifically SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10, 12.

## University Council

Mr. Giorgos Papas	Chairman
Mr. Panikos Pengas	Vice Chairman
Professor Petros Pashiardis	Rector
Professor Vayos Liapis	Vice Rector
Professor Constantinos Leonidou	Member
Professor Eleni Stavrou	Member
Professor Michalinos Zembylas	Member
Dr. Nicolas Yiasoumis	Member
Ms. Christina Nicolaou	Member
Mr. Christopher Christodoulides	Director of Administration and Finance – Secretary (non-voting member)

## University Senate

Professor Petros Pashiardis	Rector – Chairman
Professor Vayos Liapis	Vice Rector
Associate Professor Stavroula Tsiplakou	Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Associate Professor Antonis Petrides	Representative of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Yannis Manolopoulos	Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
Associate Professor Jahna Otterbacher	Representative of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
Professor Michalinos Zembylas	Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management
Professor Constantinos Leonidou	Representative of the Faculty of Economics and Management
Mr. Christopher Christodoulides	Director of Administration and Finance – Secretary (non-voting member)



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.

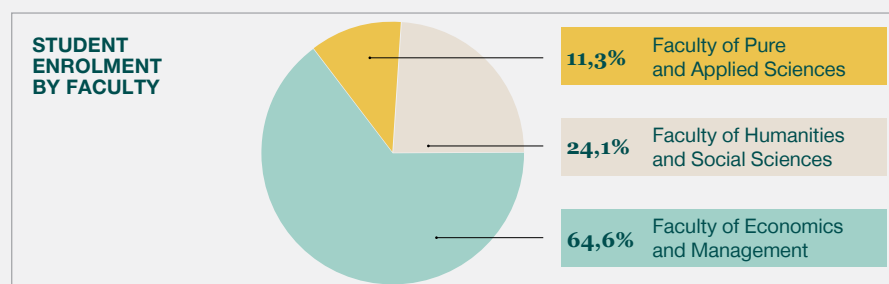
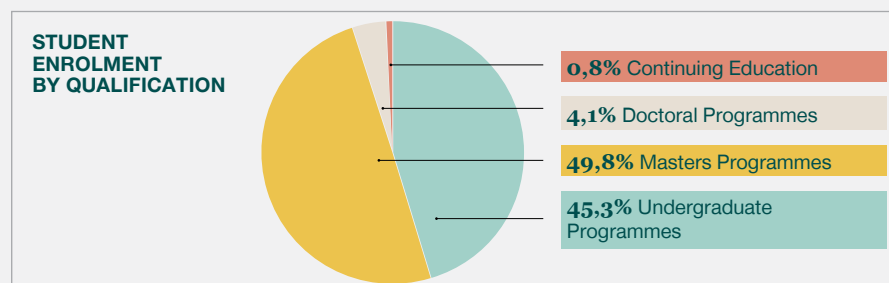
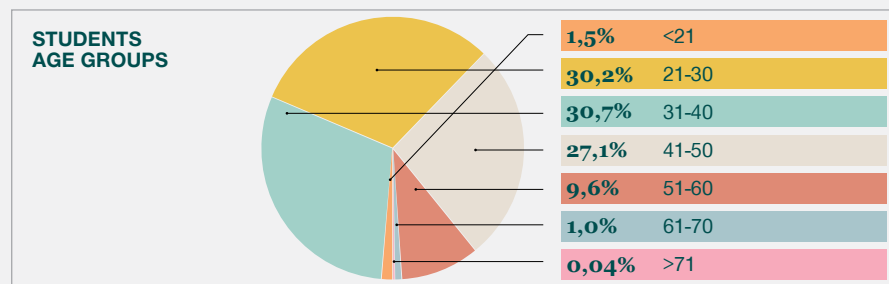
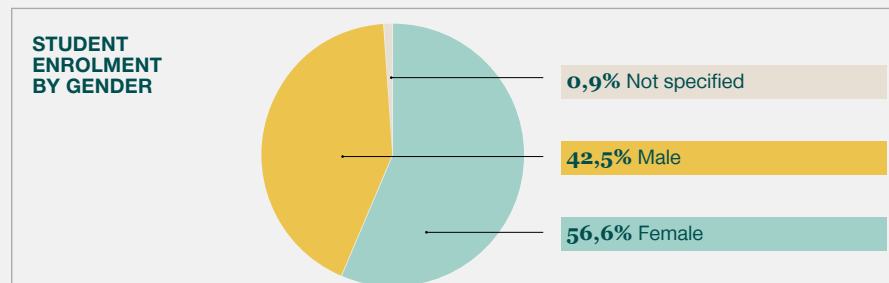
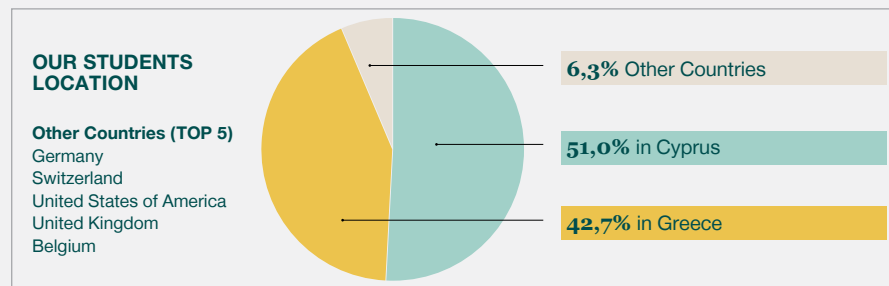
The Council exercises the powers and performs all the duties provided by the Law for the Establishment and Operation of OUC and is essentially responsible for the management and administration of the revenues and property of OUC and, subject to the powers of the Senate, has general control over the conduct 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, and one appointed member of the Academic Research Personnel of each Faculty. 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.

# The University's Governance

<b>20</b>	years of experience in open and distance education
<b>3</b>	Faculties
<b>28</b>	programmes of study
<b>21</b>	research areas for PhD studies
<b>30</b>	faculty members
<b>185+</b>	adjunct lecturers (all PhD holders)
<b>95</b>	administrative personnel
<b>3.000</b>	students
<b>8.621</b>	alumni
<b>€15m</b>	2023 total budget, including a government grant of €10m
<b>6</b>	research labs
<b>21</b>	externally funded research projects under implementation
<b>112</b>	successfully completed internally and externally funded research projects (2006-2022)
<b>&gt;140</b>	local and international partners (MoU and Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreements)
<b>15</b>	memberships in European and international organisations and networks

# OUC in numbers

(academic year 2022-2023)



## ABOUT OUC 2023 EDITION



### Prepared by:

OUC Rectorate, International Relations and Communications Division

### Design by:

Stella Nicodemou (Opsis Visual Communication)

### Printed by:

PhilWorkZ

ISSN 2301- 2889 (print)

ISSN 2301- 2897 (online)

### Disclaimer

This booklet is intended as a general introduction guide to the Open University of Cyprus. Information was accurate on the date of publication. The nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and readers should consider the information to be guiding rather than definite. The OUC website is the most up to date source of information regarding programmes of study and research projects, and we strongly recommend that you visit the website before making any commitments. Where there is a difference between the contents of this information booklet and the OUC website, the contents of the website take precedence.

## JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### FACEBOOK

@oucyprus

### LINKEDIN

@Open University of Cyprus

### X

@oucyprus

### YOUTUBE

@openuniversitycy

### INSTAGRAM

@openuniversitycyprus

### FLICKR

@oucyprus



[ouc.ac.cy](http://ouc.ac.cy)



OPEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CYPRUS  
[www.ouc.ac.cy](http://www.ouc.ac.cy)

**ABOUT THE  
OPEN UNIVERSITY  
OF CYPRUS**

**2023 edition**

**TELEPHONE**

+357 22 411 600

**EMAIL**

[info@ouc.ac.cy](mailto:info@ouc.ac.cy)

**[ouc.ac.cy](http://ouc.ac.cy)**

ISSN 2301-2889 (print)  
ISSN 2301-2897 (online)