OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

www.ouc.ac.cy

About

Open University of Cyprus

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The University

In a versatile world and in spite of all the uncertainties, there are some obvious educational requirements. Firstly, university graduates need to be competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. Secondly, they need the kind of education that enables them to engage articulately as committed citizens with active thinking, global vision as well as economic plan in the sustainable development of our societies. Thirdly, they need to have access to an unparalleled selection of experiential learning opportunities and curricula that allow them to acquire and apply knowledge, to develop skills, to produce innovative ideas and put them into practice.

With the advancement of technology new forms of delivering education are constantly evolving so that acquiring knowledge, skills and competences are no longer bound to space and time. ICT is transforming, modernizing and internationalizing universities and national education systems and creates new learning environment and communities.

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

Founded in 2002, the Open University of Cyprus (OUC) was established as a response to the growing need for open access to higher education and lifelong learning and it is **the country's dedicated distance learning university, developing a "blended and online learning" system with a student-centered learning model**.

OUC offers a **comprehensive range of academic programmes at all levels** (undergraduate, master and doctorate) with teaching and research conducted over three Faculties. Already the largest university in Cyprus in terms of postgraduate students, it has experienced near-exponential growth in student numbers. In the 2006-2007 academic year OUC enrolled its first 162 students; now approximately 4.600 students are enrolled in the 17 programmes offered for the 2013-2014 academic year and over 1.200 people have already graduated with an OUC degree.
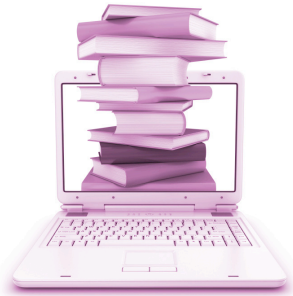
The University's mission is to promote education and lifelong learning through teaching and research, enrich the cultural, social and economic development of Cyprus and promote the island as a regional educational and research centre, serving as a hub for international scholars and students alike in the Eastern Mediterranean basin. OUC's strategic vision is thus dually oriented towards both the domestic and international student communities. The academic programmes offered are international, well planned and career-oriented to correspond to the needs of the knowledge economy, the labor market and the public's demand.

In parallel, OUC emphasizes research and innovation in various scientific fields and actively supports its faculty members in participating in knowledge transfer activities and disseminating their research outcome. Finally, through its social endeavors and its commitment to connect and to interact with society, OUC envisions its role as an inspiring educational institution and an innovative open university, offering a stimulating environment for students, staff and alumni, with a special interest to promote culture and cooperation with neighboring countries and beyond.

Discover more about OUC
www.ouc.ac.cy

Open access to higher education

Quality academic programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and PhD) levels

Distance teaching and learning methods, enabling individualized study

Research, dissemination and transfer of knowledge within and across disciplines

Social responsibility, ethics, efficiency

Educational Model

Distance education differs from conventional classroom-based education in that it allows students to complete a degree without physically attending scheduled lectures in a central location, using a variety of information technologies to access course material, carry out assignments and receive instructions and feedback from their tutors, at their own time and convenience.

OUC's **dedicated distance learning model** has been its distinctive feature since its establishment. It is based on a **flexible educational methodology**, using the **latest technology**, which provides students with the opportunity to study online and collaborate effectively with fellow students, faculty and administrative staff, with no restrictions on time and location.

Over the past few years OUC has made every effort to ensure that the University is even **more open and accessible, flexible and adaptable** to society's needs, and **multi-format** in order to respond to the diverse needs of its students. OUC faculty and tutors provide high quality teaching, making use of technological means of synchronous and asynchronous communications for student support and monitoring of students' progress. Course material may include printed study, audio and video material, multimedia and online resources which students work through on a week-by-week basis with the support of their Tutors. Physical presence at study centers is only required for the final examinations.

The main educational tool is **OUC's eLearning platform**, **eClass**, a complete and continuously evolving e-learning management system that supports all phases of the educational process.

eClass eLearning Platform is the online space where students :

> can manage all electronic content, study material and organise their study calendars,
> submit their coursework and receive feedback on their progress,
> interact with their tutors and fellow students in synchronous and asynchronous forms,
> attend lectures online at specific time intervals, scheduled by their tutors, or watch video lectures at their own convenience using eClass's audio/video conferencing capacities.

Elements of distance education make it a particularly attractive option:

flexibility • choice

individualized learning

accessibility • adaptability

Studies at OUC

With a wide choice of qualifications at the undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and PhD) levels, the Open University of Cyprus offers students **flexibility** and **choice**. The degrees awarded by OUC are equivalent to those of all accredited universities worldwide, regardless of the educational methodology used - conventional or not.

Degree Structure

OUC's degree structure and credit system is based on the concept of Thematic Units (or Modules) adaptable to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The Thematic Unit is the basic component of all programmes of study and covers various subject areas at undergraduate or postgraduate level. Its teaching load corresponds to approximately three (3) semester courses at any conventional university. The duration of each Thematic Unit is ten (10) months; however, some academic programmes are currently offered based on a semester system, where a Thematic Unit consists of one (1) semester course.

Teaching Language

The main language of instruction is **Greek**. A limited number of Master degrees are offered in **English** with additional English-language programmes currently under development.

Application Process

At the beginning of each academic year the University announces enrollment opportunities for all programmes, and applications are then submitted electronically using OUC's **online application system**.

Entry Requirements

Adopting an open-access policy means that **OUC is open to al**l. Each programme has its own minimum entry requirements which are available on the University's website. Programmes administered jointly by OUC and other universities may have specific requirements. Applicants for admission to a postgraduate programme at Master's level must hold a degree from an accredited university. Admission to PhD programmes - research-only programmes - requires the completion of a Master degree.

With over 6.000 applications for 1.500 undergraduate and postgraduate places in September 2013, OUC proves to be a very popular choice for students in enhancing their education and continuing their studies and, for most of them also their professional career.

Academic Programmes

The Open University of Cyprus is committed to providing quality undergraduate and postgraduate programmes benchmarked against high international standards. The vast majority of OUC students are enrolled at the postgraduate level and it is one of the University's strategic aims to increase the number of undergraduate students.

OUC consists of three Faculties:

> Faculty of Economics and Management

> Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

> Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

	Bachelor	Master	Doctorate
Business Administration	●		
Banking and Finance		●	
Master in Business Administration (MBA) & MBA in Agrifood		● *	●
Health Policy and Planning		●	
Healthcare Administration		●	●
Police Studies	●		
European Union Law [1]		●	

[1] Joint degree offered with the European University Cyprus

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

	Bachelor	Master	Doctorate
Communications and Journalism		●	●
Educational Studies		●	●
Greek Language and Linguistics		●	●
Studies in Hellenic Culture	●		●
Theatre Studies		●	●
Educational Leadership [2]		∗	

[2] Joint degree offered with the Saint Louis University, USA

FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

	Bachelor	Master	Doctorate
Environment Conservation and Management		●	●
Information and Communications Systems		●	●
Applied Health Informatics		∗	

New programmes of study for the 2014 - 2015 academic year will be announced.

For more information on the OUC programmes of study scan this code with a smartphone or visit:
http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/university/programme

∗ programmes offered in the English Language

OUC LIBRARY

The role of the OUC Library as a knowledge management center and key contributor to more autonomous and flexible learning is profound. OUC's Library provides open access to knowledge and is a gateway to a comprehensive collection of books, journals, periodicals and other related publications from printed databases. Through the e-Library, the members of the OUC community have access to global electronic sources, such as international databases, e-journals, e-books and digital collections/resources.

Physical collection

17.004 book copies **11.501** individual titles

Digital collection

49.358 e-Books (titles) **30.426** journals (via subscriptions) **179** databases (via subscriptions)

OUC Open Access Repository:

Institutional Repository contains:

6 PhD Thesis **616** Master Thesis

Digital Collections indexing:

672 Individual photos and documents

~ 200.090 general interest free access electronic resources organized in **100** collections (via the Library's website)

Visit OUC Library:
http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/libraryapky

Research

New knowledge creation, innovation, scientific impact:

OUC researchers push the boundaries of knowledge

and deliver value-added results

Research at the Open University of Cyprus is **wide-ranging**, **interdisciplinary** and includes both the **individual projects** of its academic staff, as well as **collaborative efforts** which involve local and international universities, research centers and institutes. Under its internationalisation strategy, the University continues to develop strong and effective partnerships which provide researchers, staff and students with opportunities for international collaboration and active involvement in multidisciplinary projects at regional and global basis.

University research activities are realized through funding secured from the University's state funded budget and from various national, European and international organisations and programmes, such as the European Research Framework Programmes, INTERREG and the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Research at OUC is primarily conducted by its Faculty and is currently specialized in the scientific areas of:

> educational sciences, educational technology, e-Learning,
> literature and linguistics language, arts, theatre, history and archeology,
> communications, journalism and social media,
> health sciences, health economics and applied statistics,
> information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, telecommunications,
> environment, ecology and climate change.

The direct outcomes of research are reflected in the Curriculum Vitae of the academic staff of the University, their publications and the research oriented postgraduate programmes of OUC.

Four (4) independent research labs support collaborative research and education and engage faculty and students from across the University:

// Educational Technology Lab

The OUC Lab for Educational Technology conducts research and publishes in the areas of open and distance learning and its methodologies, internet safety, mobile and adaptive learning, human machine interaction and ICT utilization in school education.

Telecommunication Systems Research Lab \\

The Telecommunication Systems Research Laboratory (TSRL) mission is to investigate state of the art research areas in wireless communications and to support teaching activities at OUC. Researchers of TSRL have extensive research expertise in areas related to Radio Network Planning, Terrestrial and Satellite Communications, MIMO Communications, Image Processing for Telecom applications, Localisation/Positioning, UWB Communications, RF/Antenna design and large scale Telecommunication network modelling.

// Computational Cognition Lab

The 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.

Environmental Mapping Lab \\

The Environmental Mapping Lab specializes in research on Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing applications in Terrestrial Ecosystem Management. The main research topics include predictive vegetation and habitat mapping, landscape based approach to nature conservation delivery, the effectiveness of protected areas for biodiversity conservation, the effects of landscape structure and habitat quality on biodiversity and mapping ecosystem services.

Academia - Industry Liaison Office

Across the world, technological breakthroughs, ageing populations, urbanization, rising unemployment and the evolution of social structures are accelerating changes in labor markets and in skills requirements. **Upgrading skills** and **ensuring a better match between the supply of skills and labor market demand** are critically important for Cyprus' future growth and productivity, its capacity to respond to change, and for equity and social cohesion.

Fact | **need to bridge the gap between the worlds of education and labor market**

Higher education and enterprises need to join forces to design innovative, sustainable ways of increasing human capital, promoting entrepreneurship and supporting graduates in developing transversal skills, such as e-skills, real-time problem solving and creative thinking and production. Embracing the idea to **encourage structured, result-driven cooperation ventures with the business world**, the Open University of Cyprus is operating an **Academia – Industry Liaison Office**. The main aim of this Office is to develop and establish mutually beneficial links through research collaborations and partnership opportunities between OUC and the regional business sector.

In a nutshell, the OUC Liaison Office:

> develops and creates 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 and employment potential of OUC's students and graduates through a work placement framework

Bridging the gap:

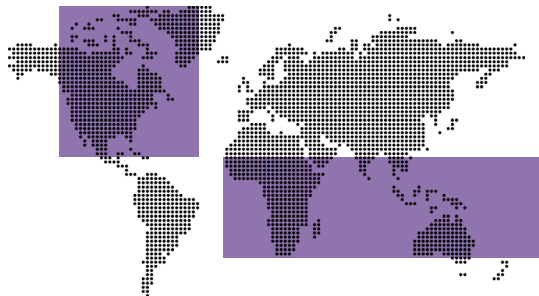*The project is co-financed by the European Social Fund and national funds*

International Cooperation

The Open University of Cyprus is developing a holistic internationalization strategy by forging **strategic international alliances, promoting transnational delivery of degrees** via open and distance teaching and learning, fostering an **international dimension of curricula** and increasing **mobility of students and staff**.

OUC's collaborations with domestic and foreign universities, research centers and institutions are built on the basis of mutual benefit and reciprocity, and take an array of different forms, ranging from student and personnel exchange, joint degrees and teaching partnerships to joint research and collaboration in various other projects. The development and promotion of agreements of academic cooperation and student, faculty and staff exchanges enable the facilitation of research contacts and mutual assistance at the faculty level, while providing opportunities in international education for both domestic and international students.

OUC's national and international strategic partners are[3]:

> **University of Cyprus**
> **Cyprus University of Technology**
> **European University Cyprus**
> **Hellenic Open University** (Greece)
> **Saint Louis University** (United States of America)
> **Mariupol State University** (Ukraine)
> **Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics** (Russia)
> **Donau Universität Krems** (Austria)
> **University of Haifa** (Israel)
> **Agricultural Research Institute** (Cyprus)
> **The Cyprus Institute**
> **Cyprus International Institute of Management**
> **Universidade Aberta** (Portugal)

[3] Based on information as of October 31st, 2013

OUC actively participates in university networks and international organisations. These international linkages are vital to the University, which strives for academic excellence and to provide its staff and students with mobility options and the best possible 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 e-Learning.

OUC membership in international university networks:

> EU²S²: European Union Universities of Small States Association
> EADTU: European Association of Distance Teaching Universities
> EDEN: European Distance and e-Learning Network
> EFQUEL: European Foundation for Quality in eLearning
> EAEC: European Association of Erasmus Coordinators
> EUA: European University Association
> EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
> ICDE: International Council for Open and Distance Education
> EUC: European Office of Cyprus
> RETI: Reseaux d' Excellence des Territoires Insulaires

MOBILITY OF STUDENTS, GRADUATES AND STAFF

The Open University of Cyprus is strongly committed to international research collaboration and mobility. Agreements range from general student and faculty mobility agreements to very specific research collaboration and joint programming agreements. Regarding student and faculty mobility, OUC actively participates in the **Erasmus** and the **Leonardo da Vinci mobility programmes** and cooperates effectively with higher education institutions in various European countries.

OUC's network of international exchange partners provides opportunities for students to undertake undergraduate or graduate studies and internships in foreign countries, for graduates to carry out work placements abroad and for staff – academic, research and administrative - to gain international experience in the wider global community.
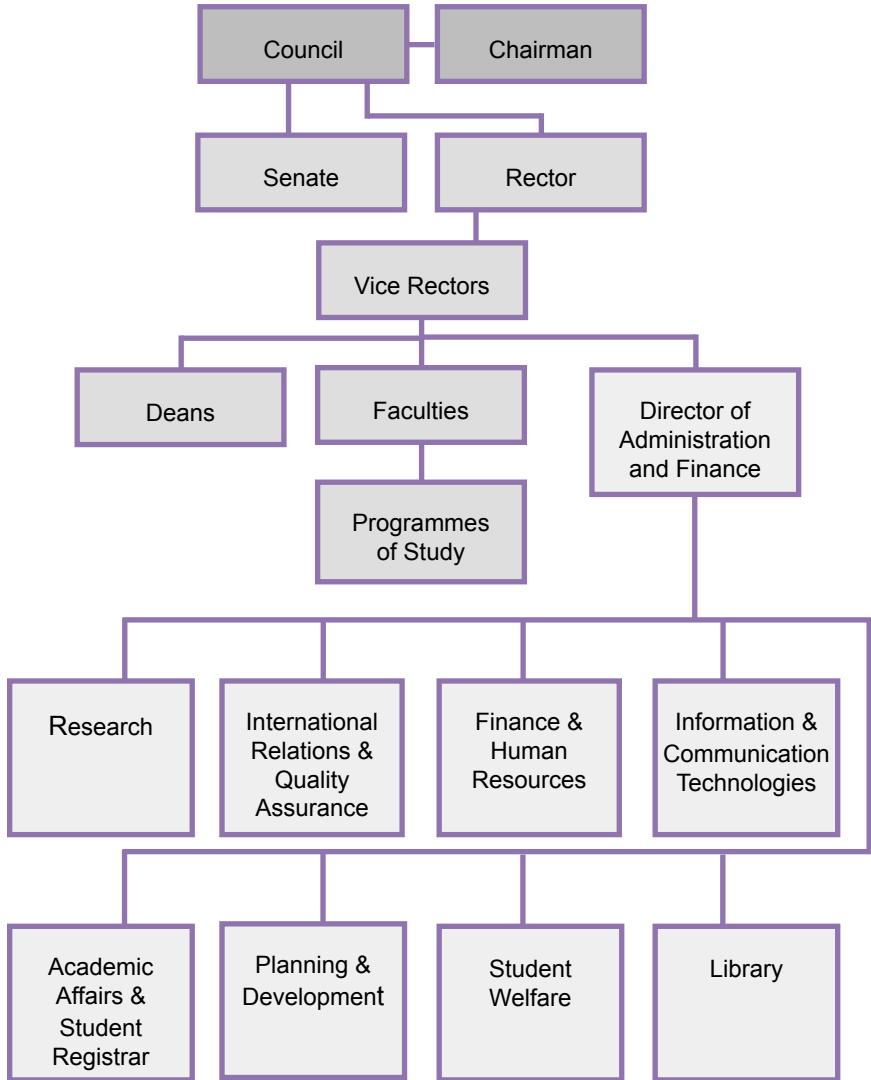

Lifelong Learning Programme

Find out more :
http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/erasmus

**http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/
university/diethneis/davinci**

University Governance

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┌──────────────┐  ┌──────────────┐
│   Council    │──│   Chairman   │
└──────────────┘  └──────────────┘
   ┌──────────────┐  ┌──────────────┐
   │   Senate     │  │   Rector     │
   └──────────────┘  └──────────────┘
          ┌──────────────┐
          │ Vice Rectors │
          └──────────────┘
┌──────────┐  ┌──────────┐  ┌──────────────────┐
│  Deans   │  │Faculties │  │   Director of    │
└──────────┘  └──────────┘  │ Administration   │
                            │   and Finance    │
              ┌──────────┐  └──────────────────┘
              │Programmes│
              │ of Study │
              └──────────┘
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| Research | International Relations & Quality Assurance | Finance & Human Resources | Information & Communication Technologies |

| Academic Affairs & Student Registrar | Planning & Development | Student Welfare | Library |

The Open University of Cyprus is a public corporate body.
Until it reaches autonomy, the University's governing body is a state appointed
Governing Board, which assumes the role and responsibilities of both the University
Council and the Senate.

Corporate Social Responsibility

As a public institution, the Open University of Cyprus is acutely aware of its social responsibilities and maintains lines of communication with social partners and stakeholders.

From the first year of its operation (2006), OUC worked on important improvements in the handling and presentation of its progress, focusing on transparency. The University:
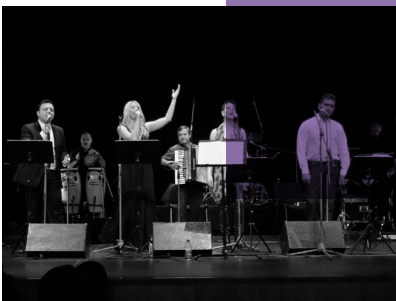
> published its strategy plan for development for the years 2012-2015
> publishes Annual Reports, including financial reviews
> has state-approved regulations governing its operation

OUC always seeks for an open, transparent and fertile two-way dialogue with all those interested for studies in the academic programmes offered by the University. To strengthen its capacity to offer programmes that meet the needs of the labour market and that provide students with relevant skills that enhance their employability, OUC works closely with public and non-public institutions and organisations.

In order to improve the connection of the University with the labour market and the local community and OUC's corporate social responsibility, every year:
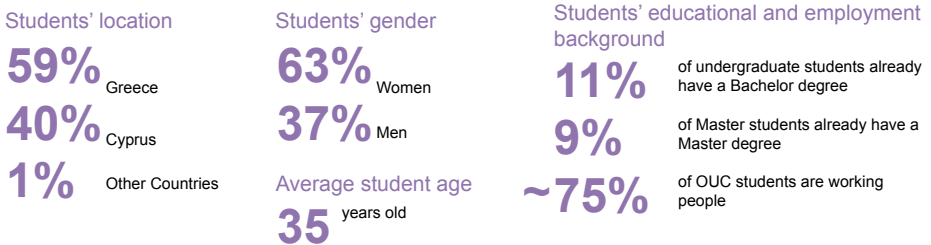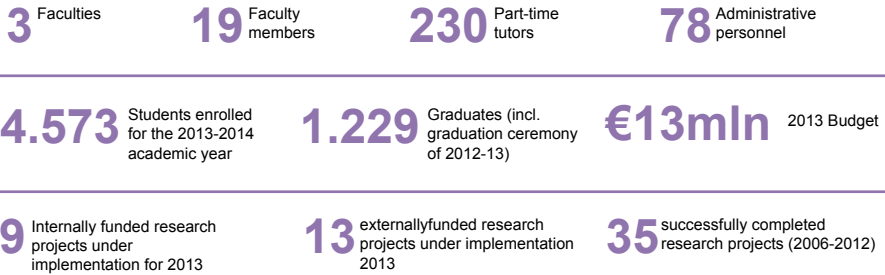
> the University implements various vocational programs with the participation of excellent students, which take place in various companies located in Cyprus, Greece and beyond
> OUC organizes public events, lectures and workshops, with the participation of important personalities from the scientific fields taught in the relevant study programs of the University

With a focus on lifelong learning, the Open University of Cyprus is already considered a leader in the Cypriot higher education sector in terms of diversity, equity and access to education.
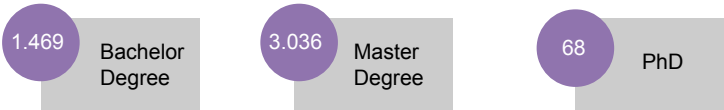
Key Facts and Figures
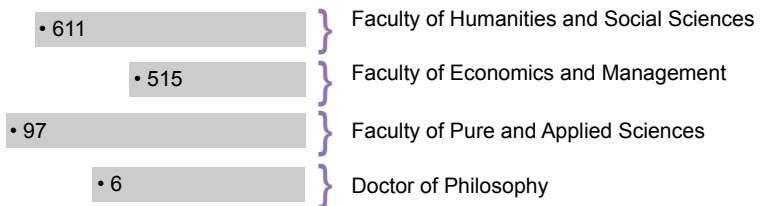
The Open University of Cyprus in numbers[4]

3 Faculties **19** Faculty members **230** Part-time tutors **78** Administrative personnel

4.573 Students enrolled for the 2013-2014 academic year **1.229** Graduates (incl. graduation ceremony of 2012-13) **€13mln** 2013 Budget

9 Internally funded research projects under implementation for 2013 **13** externallyfunded research projects under implementation 2013 **35** successfully completed research projects (2006-2012)

Students' location
59% Greece
40% Cyprus
1% Other Countries

Students' gender
63% Women
37% Men

Average student age
35 years old

Students' educational and employment background
11% of undergraduate students already have a Bachelor degree
9% of Master students already have a Master degree
~75% of OUC students are working people

2013-2014 student enrolment by qualification:

1.469 Bachelor Degree

3.036 Master Degree

68 PhD

2013-2014 student enrolment by faculty:

1.583 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

2.500 Faculty of Economics and Management

490 Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

Qualifications awarded by faculty (as of October 31st, 2013):

• 611 } Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

• 515 } Faculty of Economics and Management

• 97 } Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

• 6 } Doctor of Philosophy

[4] Based on information for the 2013 - 2014 academic year

This publication is also available online on the OUC website at:
http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/university/news/versions

Lifelong
Learning
Programme

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