



# ERASMUS+ SUCCESS STORIES



# The Erasmus+ Programme



01

ERASMUS+ is a Programme funded by the European Commission that supports individual mobility and offers opportunities for cooperation across all fields of education, training, youth, and sport for the period 2021-2027. The Programme also fosters transnational partnerships by offering financial assistance, thereby reinforcing collaborations between universities, enterprises, and other governmental or non-governmental organisations, aiming to bridge the gap between education and the business world.

The Erasmus+ Programme supports:

- Opportunities to study, train, gain working experience or volunteer abroad.
- Teaching or learning opportunities abroad for staff involved in the fields of education, training and/or youth.
- Enhancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) uptake in teaching and learning by supporting access to Open Educational Resources (OER).
- Improvement of language teaching and learning, and the promotion of EU's linguistic diversity and intercultural awareness.
- Partnerships among educational institutions and youth organisations to foster quality improvements and innovation.
- Loan guarantees to master's degree students to finance their studies in another country.
- Exchanges, cooperation, and capacity building between higher education institutions and the youth sector worldwide.

For more than 35 years, the EU has funded the Erasmus+ programme, enabling over 15 (fifteen) million European students to spend part of their studies at another higher education institution or with an organisation in Europe. However, Erasmus+ is not only for students, nor is it not just about Europe or Europeans. With Erasmus+, people from all over the world can access the advantages of studying or receiving training abroad. Erasmus+ offers opportunities to everyone – students, staff, trainees, and teachers – in the 33 Programme Countries (i.e. the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey). Although Programme Countries are eligible for all actions of Erasmus+, since 2015, Partner Countries can also participate in mobility actions within the framework of Erasmus+ International Mobility, subject to specific conditions.

**Since 2014, nearly 10 (ten) million people have seized the opportunity to study, receive training, volunteer, and build professional experience abroad through Erasmus+. Since its inception in 1987, more than 15 (fifteen) million people have benefited from the Programme.**

# The Open University of Cyprus in the Erasmus+ programme

OUC has participated in the Erasmus+ programme since the 2010-2011 academic year. The Programme provides OUC students with mobility opportunities to study abroad for one or two academic semesters, gaining new experiences, knowledge, and skills in their field of interest, or to undertake work placements abroad. It also supports the University's academics in developing their professional networks, enhancing their research collaborations, and improving their teaching techniques. Additionally, the Programme helps administrative staff members enrich their knowledge, boost their skills, acquire and share good practices.

Under the Erasmus+ programme, OUC has signed more than 90 bilateral agreements with Universities abroad, and is actively participating in the following 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**

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is a public University in Cyprus, and the only one specialised in open and distance higher education. With a broad educational and research agenda, OUC actively participates in university networks and international organisations. It offers interdisciplinary, career-oriented undergraduate (bachelors) and postgraduate programmes (at the master's and doctoral levels), utilizing new technologies and eLearning tools. OUC fosters students' creative thinking, empowering them to discover far more than just the knowledge they need to thrive in today's competitive environment.

# Incoming Erasmus+ Mobility



Through the Erasmus+ programme, the Open University of Cyprus aims to further develop its cooperation with foreign universities and attract incoming students for studies or internships, as well as staff for teaching or training in their fields of specialization. To this end, OUC organises individualised job-shadowing programmes and organizes an annual Erasmus+ Staff Week, which sees increasing participation from staff members of foreign universities.

03

The tables on the next page provide an overview of incoming mobilities, highlighting the numbers of students and members of academic and administrative staff from partner universities, who have visited the Open University of Cyprus in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme.

INCOMING MOBILITY (KA103 / KA131)					
Mobility Action	Student Mobility for Studies - SMS	Student Mobility for Placements - SMP	Student Mobility for Teaching - STA	Student Mobility for Training - STT	TOTAL
2010-2011	-	1	1	-	2
2011-2012	-	1	2	-	3
2012-2013	-	-	-	8	8
2013-2014	-	-	1	5	6
2014-2015	3	1	4	4	12
2015-2016	-	2	4	2	8
2016-2017	1	1	3	9	14
2017-2018	4	1	11	11	27
2018-2019	-	4	5	4	13
2019-2020	2	2	-	3	7
2020-2021	1	5	1	4	11
2021-2022	1	3	3	-	7
2022-2023	-	2	2	6	10
2023-2024	3	1	1	1	6

INCOMING INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY (KA107 / KA171)					
Mobility Action	Student Mobility for Studies - SMS	Student Mobility for Placements - SMP	Student Mobility for Teaching - STA	Student Mobility for Training - STT	TOTAL
2016-2017	1	-	-	-	1
2017-2018	1	-	5	4	10
2018-2019	-	-	11	22	33
2019-2020	2	-	-	-	2
2020-2021	-	-	-	-	0
2021-2022	-	1	6	10	17
2022-2023	3	2	4	5	14
2023-2024	1	-	6	7	14

\* The mobility figures for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Outgoing Erasmus+ Mobility



04

The Open University of Cyprus aspires to further enhance its academic stature and presence in the European higher education area. In this context, OUC actively encourages and supports the mobility of its students, academic staff, and administrative personnel. In recent years, outgoing mobility has steadily increased, particularly regarding student mobility actions for placements abroad and staff mobility to other European universities. These efforts aim to facilitate the exchange of good practices and promote academic and administrative expertise.

From 2010 to 2024, OUC beneficiaries have successfully completed the following outgoing mobility actions, funded by the Erasmus+ programme:

OUTGOING MOBILITY (European & International   KA103 / KA131 / KA107 / KA171)					
Mobility Action	Student Mobility for Studies - SMS	Student Mobility for Placements - SMP	Student Mobility for Teaching - STA	Student Mobility for Training - STT	TOTAL
2010-2011	-	-	2	2	4
2011-2012	-	2	3	3	8
2012-2013	-	3	3	6	12
2013-2014	-	4	5	6	15
2014-2015	2	7	4	6	19
2015-2016	2	14	6	4	26
2016-2017	1	5	9	4	19
2017-2018	3	9	3	3	18
2018-2019	1	8	6	9	24
2019-2020	-	3	2	3	8
2020-2021	1	3	-	-	4
2021-2022	2	6	3	7	18
2022-2023	4	1	6	5	16
2023-2024	9	4	9	3	25

\* The mobility figures for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Erasmus+ International Mobility



05

Since 2015, the Erasmus+ Programme has been providing mobility opportunities for students, academics, and administrators between European universities (“Programme Countries”) and third countries (“Partner Countries”).

An Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreement between the home and the host universities is a prerequisite for the international mobility of students, academic and administrative staff. Under this Agreement, Erasmus+ Partner Countries Universities commit to adhering to the terms of the Erasmus University Charter and to recognizing credit units (ECTS or other) acquired by students as part of their mobility.

For the 2015-2026 period, the Open University of Cyprus has secured funding, which allows incoming and outgoing mobility between the OUC and Universities located in certain Erasmus+ Partner Countries (e.g. Middle East countries, China, Russia, Canada, Ukraine, etc).

The international scope of Erasmus+



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbPgsC9QI9w>

The Transformative Impact of Erasmus+:  
Celebrating 35 Years of the Erasmus+ Programme



<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/event/66859>

## Beneficiaries of the Programme share their experiences

Erasmus+ Success Stories

- 15 STUDENT MOBILITY FOR STUDIES (SMS)
- 21 STUDENT MOBILITY FOR PLACEMENTS (SMP)
- 29 ACADEMIC STAFF MOBILITY FOR TEACHING (STA)
- 39 STAFF MOBILITY FOR TRAINING (STT)

# Student Mobility



Students and graduates can participate in two mobility actions:

- **SMS – Student Mobility for Studies**
- **SMP – Student Mobility for Placements**

Under these actions, undergraduate and postgraduate students, recent graduates, as well as Ph.D. candidates at the Open University of Cyprus, have the opportunity to travel abroad and complete part of their studies or undertake a traineeship with the financial support of an Erasmus+ scholarship. The duration of the mobility ranges from 2 (two) to 12 (twelve) months for studies or placements (traineeships), per level of study.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Erasmus+ Mobility offers numerous benefits, including:

- **Cultural Immersion:** A unique opportunity to live abroad, immerse oneself in new cultures, and broaden horizons.
- **Academic Growth:** The chance to learn or improve foreign languages, gain international experience, and develop specialized expertise by collaborating with foreign professors and students from diverse backgrounds.
- **Enhanced Career Prospects:** A significant boost to one's CV and professional prospects, as international experience and cross-cultural skills are highly valued by employers.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The ability to build a network of enthusiastic individuals, fostering lifelong friendships and professional relationships within the international community.

# Student Mobility for Studies

(SMS)

STUDENT  
MOBILITY  
FOR  
STUDIES





> SMS

## Konstantinos Papadopoulos

**Postgraduate Programme:** Environmental Conservation and Management

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** University of Siena, Italy

My participation in the Erasmus+ Study Programme at the University of Siena will remain something indelible in my life, not only for the studies that were more than satisfactory but also because it introduced me to a different way of life and culture while exploring Northern Italy. Practical courses, lectures, seminars, workshops, and the University's alternative way of teaching - coming from a distance teaching university - provided me with invaluable opportunities to meet and interact with students from five continents, and enrich my scientific interests. Trips with the University and fellow students in the region of Tuscany were not only extremely constructive but also immensely pleasant. Exploring the region and the surrounding areas allowed me to revise many things I continue to cherish today. Through the Erasmus+ network and various activities in Siena, I had the chance to delve into Italian culture and practised English and Italian at a good level. If given the opportunity to do it again, or if advising someone else to take the leap, I wouldn't hesitate. I would tell even the most reserved individuals to dare it because, in every way, only risk-takers emerge in the end.



> SMS

## Roxani Vlachopoulou

**Undergraduate Programme:** Studies in Hellenic Culture

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** University of Bologna, Italy

I participated in the "ArchLabs2: Archaeological Heritage in Late Antiquity and Byzantine Sicily" programme, through a collaboration between the Open University of Cyprus and the University of Bologna, funded by the Erasmus+ programme. Although of limited duration, the programme offered me multiple benefits. The theoretical classes of the summer school delved into various aspects of the characteristics of the Roman villa in Late Antiquity, and were not only clear and very interesting, but also highly engaging, enriching my knowledge and broadening my academic horizons. As for the practical part of the programme, which included excavation practice through the exploration of storage spaces and buildings south of the villa Romana del Casale in the wider area of Piazza Armerina in Sicily, it provided me with valuable archaeological experience relevant to my studies. The integration of new technologies into archaeological practice was another fascinating and instructive aspect of the programme. Through the study of Late Antiquity remains and interactions with students from across Europe, I gained educational, linguistic, and cultural enrichment. Additionally, the programme facilitated the creation of a network of contacts with individuals from different countries, creating a framework for future collaboration and personal growth. Overall, the experience of the ArchLabs2 programme contributed to deepening my understanding of Late Antiquity, offering unique insights into human history and the culture of the broader region.



> SMS

## Konstantina Anagnosti

**Postgraduate Programme:** PNYX: Political History, Theory and Practice

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** University of Bologna, Italy

The ArchLabs summer Blended Intensive Programme offered an unparalleled opportunity to experience firsthand the archaeological site of Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina, guided by expert professors deeply familiar with the site. The programme offered a high-quality educational and professional experience, which left us feeling spoiled in many ways. The broad spectrum of lectures delivered by professors from different universities, and the combination of theory and practice, provided a unique opportunity to deepen our knowledge and familiarity with late antiquity. Furthermore, we took full advantage of the programme to visit museums, archaeological sites and cultural institutions on top of sites that were included to this programme, and had the unique opportunity to learn from eminent archaeologists at the site of Morgantina. As a dedicated and passionate individual, I was excited to tackle various challenges in the field and develop the attributes that enabled me to navigate difficulties. I realized that I have the ability to adapt and get along with everyone I met in a foreign environment and to deal with different people and mentalities. I had the chance to work in cooperative learning projects and to share knowledge, and I had the chance to improve my proficiency in the Italian language. This amazing two weeks' summer programme was both an educational and emotional fulfilment.



> SMS

**Emmanouela  
Kartsoli**

**Postgraduate Programme:** Cultural Policy and Development

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** University of Bologna, Italy

My participation in the Erasmus+ mobility programme was undeniably one of the most valuable experiences of my life. Leaving my home and home country to immerse myself in another culture was immensely beneficial, fostering independence and personal growth. As far as the choice of city/country is concerned, I chose Italy due to its rich cultural heritage and artistic offerings, and Bologna proved a lively city full of students and cultural events. The University of Bologna, the oldest one in the world, lived up to its prestigious reputation. I was amazed by the professionalism and genuine interest displayed by the educational staff throughout the whole semester. Most of the professors I happened to interact with went above and beyond to enrich our learning experience: they organised visits to museums, art galleries, and cultural happenings and talks, they coordinated zoom meetings with external experts who talked to us about several issues interconnected with each course. Another element that left me with the best impression was the urge to engage students to work in groups and present their projects, which means a lot not only for learning how to function in a group, but also to effectively deliver a high-quality professional work. The integration of technology into the learning process was another highlight, providing us with practical skills essential for today's job market. Overall, participating in Erasmus+ was really the best life experience I've had so far. It taught me great things and drove me closer to understand myself, and my professional aspirations. I would urge everybody of any age to do it, at any point of his/her educational stage.



> SMS

**Veronika  
Kharytonenko**

**Home University:** Kyiv National Linguistic University, Ukraine

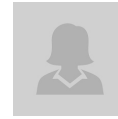
**Study Programme at Home University:** Theory and Practice of Translation from Modern Greek and English

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Undergraduate Programme at Host University:** Studies in Hellenic Culture

Participating in the Erasmus+ academic mobility programme has undeniably been one of the most remarkable opportunities in my life thus far. It granted me the chance to embark on an unforgettable student journey in a country whose language I enthusiastically study. Throughout this period, I was fortunate enough to gain a wealth of valuable experiences and emotions from the vibrant student life. The exchange programme facilitated interactions with students and teachers from various corners of the globe, sharing delightful moments both in the academic and non-academic environments. While the conclusion of the Erasmus+ programme was undoubtedly a bittersweet event, cherished memories and photographs will forever remind me of the incredible four months I spent in Cyprus. I am profoundly grateful to the programme organizers for their financial and administrative support, which has made this opportunity possible for exchange students like myself.



> SMS

**Daria  
Ladatko**

**Home University:** Mariupol State University, Ukraine

**Study Programme at Home University:** Greek Philology and Translation

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Undergraduate Programme at Host University:** Studies in Hellenic Culture

I want to share my experience with the Erasmus+ programme at the Open University of Cyprus because it was truly fulfilling. I thoroughly enjoyed the courses I selected as they were easy to understand, clear and interesting. The teaching and learning processes took place on the OUC's electronic platform, which was very easy to use, with a wealth of available material and useful resources. The teachers are very friendly and supportive, always helping in difficult situations. Beyond academic work, we had a lot of fun with fellow students—we went on trips, picnics, and attended various events together. It was very interesting to see how the local population lives, and to explore the local culture, sights and traditional cuisine. Participating in the Erasmus+ programme in Cyprus was truly enriching. I met wonderful people and gained countless positive experiences and emotions along the way.



> SMS

**Olha  
Hordiienko**

**Home University:** Kyiv National Linguistic University, Ukraine

**Study Programme at Home University:** Modern Greek Philology and Translation and English Language

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Undergraduate Programme at Host University:** Studies in Hellenic Culture

Participating in the Erasmus+ programme has always been a dream of mine. I am very happy to have spent one semester of my studies at the Open University of Cyprus. I have always been interested in communication between different cultures and peoples. Therefore, I was extremely glad that I had the opportunity to study Linguistics and Modern Greek in Cyprus and to participate in intercultural events. Studying was interesting, and extracurricular life was extremely rich. The teachers and coordinators of the university also helped us at all stages of our stay abroad, for which we are very grateful. These three months will forever remain one of the brightest experiences of my life.



# Student Mobility for Placements

(SMP)

STUDENT  
MOBILITY  
FOR  
PLACEMENTS



> SMP

**Paraskevi  
Hadjipieri**

**Postgraduate Programme:** Cultural Policy and Development

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host Institution:** Company Neda Film, Greece

The eight months of internship at the film production company Neda Film, which took place within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, helped me to gain a comprehensive insight into the professional world of cultural production. The diverse range of tasks within a film production company provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the industry and brought positive results both to the company and to myself. At Neda Film, I learned about the operational process of a production company, including budgeting for upcoming films, securing financing, promoting films at various festivals, and navigating state regulations governing film production in Greece. As a student of Cultural Policy and Development, I contributed my knowledge in cultural communication and proposal writing to attract funding from various agencies. I also managed the company's Social Networks, and handled any necessary translations. The only difficulty I faced was the workload in relation to my obligations as a student, and my adaptation to a new country. Overall, this internship had a very positive impact on my personal and professional growth, and instilled in me a sense of confidence as I navigate my future career prospects.



> SMP

**Chrysovalantis  
Hadjimarckou**

**Postgraduate Programme:** Theater Studies

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host institution:** Emycet Viajes, Spain

For a period of 3 months, I chose for my internship Emycet Viajes, a European organization based in Granada, Spain. My role was to organize activities and trips for Erasmus+ students in the city. Throughout the week, we coordinated a variety of events and activities such as theatre workshops, language exchange meetings, thematic seminars, etc. On weekends, we arranged trips to other cities in Spain and abroad, providing students with extensive opportunities for exploration. My role involved actively participating in all organisational activities, particularly focusing on theatre workshops, and preparing trips and excursion. I found great satisfaction in my responsibilities, fostering group dynamics for discussions of upcoming activities, as well as seminars for self-improvement and language exchange meetings provided by the organization. I encountered no difficulties during my internship in Spain. I feel that I have gained a lot by participating in the Erasmus+ programme. I significantly improved my Spanish language skills through daily communication, motivating me to pursue a language certification exam. Meeting people from diverse cultures led to lasting friendships that I intend to maintain. Participating in the Erasmus+ programme at Emycet Viajes was a transformative journey that enhanced my personal and professional growth.



> SMP

**Zina  
Skoufari**

**Postgraduate Programme:** Cultural Policy and Development

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host Institution:** Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, Greece

My mobility with the Erasmus+ programme took place at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki for approximately 6 months. My internship in the Department of Exhibitions, Communication and Educational Programs gave me the opportunity to implement educational programmes with the support and guidance of my supervisor. One of the most impactful experiences was designing and launching an educational programme specifically tailored for visually impaired students. This project not only enriched my knowledge in programme creation, but also deepened my understanding of how museums can be made inclusive and accessible to all visiting. Additionally, I was involved in editing periodical reports, adding another layer to my internship experience in the field of culture I am passionate about, within the city that offers abundant opportunities. I would wholeheartedly recommend the Erasmus+ programme to anyone seeking such transformative experiences, without hesitation.



OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS



> SMP

**Irene  
Kanellou**

**Ph.D. Candidate – Chemical Engineering and Engineering Sustainability**

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Chemistry Department of the University of Helsinki, Finland

Sponsored by Erasmus+ as a visiting student, I completed my internship at the Chemistry Department of the University of Helsinki. During my stay, I experienced significant benefits both scientifically and socially. From the scientific perspective, I had the opportunity to work in an innovative laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art techniques and methods. Engaging in various practices provided valuable academic experience and insights. On a social level, I interacted with colleagues from universities across different countries, and our interaction led to constructive discussions on religious and cultural levels. The environment fostered cultural exchange and mutual learning, enriching my perspective. Moreover, since English was the primary language of communication, my proficiency in the language improved noticeably. Overall, my Erasmus+ sponsored internship at the University of Helsinki was immensely beneficial, and it enhanced my scientific knowledge, while it expanded my social and cultural horizons.



**Irene Kavoura**

> SMP

**Postgraduate Programme:** Cultural Policy and Development

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host Institution:** The Friends of Music Society of Megaron Athens Concert Hall, Greece

Through my Erasmus+ internship, I developed valuable knowledge and skills useful for my future professional career. The programme provided me with a better understanding of my chosen field of study and helped me identify sectors that I am keen to explore further. The programme also expanded my professional network, opening doors to new connections. Participating in the Erasmus+ internship programme, pushed me out of my comfort zone and catalysed opportunities for personal and professional development. It helped me to elevate my career path and enhanced my confidence in my abilities and knowledge. Overall, I am delighted with my Erasmus+ internship experience and would urge anyone interested to participate as well. My journey was informative and enjoyable, at times challenging, but it consistently improved me and introduced me to incredible people whom I hope to stay in contact with. Moreover, the hands-on experience gained during the internship is invaluable and will greatly strengthen my CV for future job applications.



**Eleni Gkouma**

> SMP

**Home University:** Harokopio University of Athens, Greece

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

During the spring semester of the 2021-2022 academic year, I had the privilege of being an intern at the Open University of Cyprus through the Erasmus+ programme. Moving to Nicosia for 6 months allowed me to explore the beautiful island and immerse myself in its unique culture, shaped by its long and rich history. The employees at the Open University of Cyprus welcomed me in the most hospitable way and secured my smooth integration into the community. I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Gregoriou and Mrs. Skotara for the opportunity they provided and for the trust they placed in me. These 6 months were truly unforgettable and contributed significantly to my personal growth.



**Carmela Pardo**

> SMP

**Home University:** International University of Valencia, Spain

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

I completed my traineeship at the Open University of Cyprus (OUC) from March to May 2023. It was a great experience working in such a welcoming environment and being surrounded by wonderful people. The professionals at the International Relations Office and my mentor Ms Erato Ioanna Sarri provided invaluable guidance, and I learned a great deal during my time there. Besides that, I had a great time with the other colleagues who were doing their internships. I really enjoyed my stay in Cyprus. These three months I spent at the OUC have been instrumental in my personal and professional growth. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the OUC team.



**Anzhelika Doncheva**

> SMP

**Home University:** Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

During the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year, I had the invaluable opportunity to participate in an Erasmus+ Traineeship at the Open University of Cyprus in Nicosia. This experience provided me with practical work experience, improved my language skills, enhanced my digital proficiency, and immersed me in an environment surrounded by professors and academics. My main takeaway from the Traineeship at the Open University of Cyprus was gaining a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of distance education, particularly in online learning. I deeply appreciated the EU education initiatives for both students and professors through the Erasmus+ programme, and I witnessed firsthand how it facilitates international collaboration among European universities. I was impressed by the multiculturalism of Cyprus, and the diversity of its culture and society. Thanks to the Erasmus+ programme, my worldview has broadened significantly. It has fostered in me a critical thinking mindset, motivated me to analyse and seek new knowledge, and encouraged me to embrace different cultures and connect with people from diverse backgrounds.





> SMP

**Alina  
Chelpanova**

**Home University:** Mariupol State University, Ukraine

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

From May to July 2023, I had the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus+ Traineeship Student Mobility Programme at the Open University of Cyprus (OUC). Living in a new country and environment greatly impacted my overall knowledge and opened me up to previously unknown experiences. Every day, I learned something new and had intensive speaking practice. There was a good balance between study and leisure, allowing me ample time to explore the culture and natural beauty of Cyprus. Thanks to the Erasmus+ programme, I was able to visit many cities in Cyprus and explore archaeological and cultural sites such as the Troodos Nature Reserve, the village of Kakopetria, and the Botanical Garden. The internship allowed me to apply my knowledge of Greek and English while working with internal documents at OUC, and it significantly improved my practical communication skills. I encourage future participants of educational internships to embrace self-confidence, as studying abroad offers incredible and enriching experiences.



> SMP

**Romanna  
Hasyn**

**Home University:** Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

During the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year, I had the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus+ Traineeship Student Mobility Programme at the Open University of Cyprus in Nicosia. I can confidently say that Erasmus+ is a programme that can transform your life and provide you with invaluable experience. I am convinced that the skills, knowledge, and practical experience gained during the internship will be highly beneficial for my future career. Beyond the academic and cultural aspects, Erasmus+ also emphasized personal growth and independence. Living in a foreign country, away from my familiar surroundings, challenged me to adapt to new situations, overcome language barriers, and develop a sense of self-reliance. These experiences have undoubtedly made me a more confident and resilient individual, prepared to face future challenges with an open mind. Overall, my participation in the Erasmus+ Traineeship programme at the Open University of Cyprus has been an exceptional journey. The programme not only broadened my academic horizons but also deepened my appreciation for cultural diversity, personal development, and international cooperation.



> SMP

**Maria  
Kasinidou**

**Ph.D. Candidate – Human Computer Interaction**

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** University of Groningen, The Netherlands

During my Erasmus+ visit to the Centre of Learning and Teaching at the University of Groningen, I had the invaluable opportunity to present my research on promoting AI literacy to an engaged and knowledgeable audience. This experience allowed me to effectively communicate the significance of my work and receive constructive feedback from researchers in relevant fields. The interactions and discussions during my presentation were instrumental in refining my research approach and enhancing the clarity and impact of my work.

Additionally, I participated in numerous meetings with group members, whose expertise greatly contributed to the structuring of the workshops I will conduct in the next phase of my PhD. These interactions provided me with a deeper understanding of educational theories that support teaching AI to diverse audiences, including adults, teachers, and children. I gained practical insights into designing and implementing effective co-design workshops.

Beyond academic and professional growth, this Erasmus mobility allowed me to connect with individuals from various academic backgrounds and cultures. Engaging with a diverse group taught me how to communicate effectively across different disciplines and cultural contexts. I learned to appreciate and integrate various viewpoints, which enriched my approach to research and workshop design. This cultural exchange was enlightening on a personal level and enhanced my ability to create more inclusive and adaptable educational materials.

Overall, this Erasmus mobility has been transformative for my academic and professional development. It provided a rare opportunity to merge my existing knowledge with the unique experiences and insights of a leading research group. The skills and knowledge I gained in user study design, participatory workshop facilitation, and educational theory application will significantly enhance my proficiency in promoting AI literacy. Additionally, the intercultural interactions have improved my ability to communicate and collaborate within a global academic community, further enriching my professional capabilities.



# Academic Staff Mobility for Teaching

## (STA)

STA – Staff Teaching Assignments: A mobility action of particular interest to teaching staff, as it provides opportunities for teaching assignments with a minimum duration of two (2) days at foreign Universities located in countries participating in the Erasmus+ Programme.

This initiative provides several benefits, including:

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Promotes collaboration between the Open University of Cyprus and other higher education institutions.
- **Professional Networking:** Allows faculty members and adjunct faculty to establish relationships with colleagues abroad.
- **Expanded Cooperation:** Enables the expansion of scientific cooperation networks.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitates the exchange of views and experiences on subject areas and new teaching methods.



> STA

**Dr. Cristóbal Torres  
Fernández**

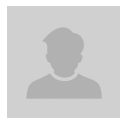
Director Group of Investigation “EducAcción”

**Home University:** Universitat Internacional de València (VIU), Spain

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

During my Erasmus+ mobility at the Open University of Cyprus, I engaged with students through virtual seminars and classes, while also visiting the OUC’s facilities and meeting with academic and administrative staff. The mobility experience has been wonderful in terms of sharing teaching methods and fostering inter-university cooperation, especially in light of the educational network established in 2020 between our education research group at the International University of Valencia and the Open University of Cyprus. Traveling to Cyprus, without a doubt, will revert in my professional career, and inspire continued efforts to internationalize our university. I emphasize the importance for university teachers to develop internationalised curriculum to enhance competitiveness and offer courses that meet the needs of our students. Therefore, I invite the rest of my colleagues to consider future mobility stays to improve their language skills, and educational and methodological competences.



> STA

**Dr. Zsolt  
Szabó**

Associate Professor,  
Department of Constitutional Law

**Home University:** Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

In late October 2021, I had the privilege to deliver lectures on comparative governance issues at the Open University of Cyprus in the framework of the Erasmus+ mobility programme. My topics ranged from the Hungarian political system and parliamentary procedures to the specifics of parliamentary buildings and sessions worldwide. It was fantastic to experience the smooth organisation and hospitality by the OUC staff. Two of my lectures were also uploaded to the OUC’s YouTube channel, which was a great opportunity to reach a wider audience. As a distance university, the OUC is located in the suburbs of Nicosia, Latsia, easily accessible by local bus from the capital. This convenient location allowed me to explore some parts of the beautiful island of Cyprus in addition to delivering the lectures. Overall, I had a wonderful and fulfilling time in Cyprus!



> STA

**Dr. Yaser  
Abunnasr**

Associate Dean of the Faculty  
of Agricultural and Food Sciences

**Home University:** American University of Beirut, Lebanon

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

This was my first mobility experience with the Erasmus+ programme. What can I say? It was simply perfect with no complaints. From the logistics organised by the Erasmus+ Office at the Open University of Cyprus, to the academic activities contacted with competent OUC professors, everything was smooth, engaging, and rewarding at multiple levels. The deep discussions I had with PhD students during two workshops exposed me to new topics in my area of research, while discussions on climate change provided students with a fresh perspective on their research and work. Similarly, the lecture to MSc students in ecosystem management and natural resources sparked fruitful discussions on adapting natural systems to climate change, with students expressing interest in practical and applicable solutions. Networking meetings that were organized during my visit paved the way for potential collaborations post-visit. This successful experience, for which I am deeply grateful, combined Erasmus+ academic and cultural exchange opportunities with the high efficiency of the OUC Erasmus+ Office and the fantastic open-minded and well-natured faculty at the OUC.





**Dr. Sharon Stein**

> STA

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Educational Studies

**Home University:** University of British Columbia,  
Canada

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

I have to admit that before my visit to the OUC, I knew very little about the social and political context of Cyprus, and therefore, I had limited knowledge on its educational system and the challenges and possibilities within that system. As a scholar whose work focuses on the educational potential of intercultural engagements, I was extremely grateful to my hosts at the OUC, not only for arranging interactions with students and faculty at the university but also for meetings with those involved in intercultural peace education efforts within schools in Cyprus. Additionally, my visit allowed me to strengthen my existing research collaborations with OUC professors. Such connections would have been challenging to establish without the support of Erasmus+ funding for mobility visits. I am very thankful for this opportunity.



**Dr. Rami Saddeh**

> STA

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health  
& Community Medicine

**Home University:** Jordan University of Science  
and Technology, Jordan

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

My mobility experience at the Open University of Cyprus was truly exceptional. It provided me with the opportunity to engage with professors who possess a robust and extensive knowledge in a wide range of health specialties. Furthermore, the programme facilitated meaningful exchanges of thoughts and beliefs on different topics, enabled me to update my own knowledge, and offered new academic perspectives. Beyond academia, it was a time to share cultures and traditions, step out of my comfort zone, and adapt to a different pace of life, which definitely enhanced my adaptability and cultural understanding. I cannot adequately express in words the wonderful time I had in Cyprus, the delicious food I tasted, the beautiful places I visited, and the overall impact this mobility had on me.



**Dr. Panos Eliopoulos**

> STA

OUC Adjunct Faculty Member

**Postgraduate Programme:** Bioethics – Medical Ethics

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** University College Cork, Ireland

The whole idea of Erasmus+ was a significant boost for my academic endeavors. In this context, I collaborated with the University College of Cork, in Ireland, during a 7-day visit, facilitated by the Erasmus+ offices at both the Open University of Cyprus and University College Cork. The visit was meticulously organized, with all questions promptly and effectively addressed. My time at the University College of Cork focused on establishing research collaborations on various projects in ancient Western philosophy. I delivered lectures on key concepts and themes such as Plato's theory on Eros and the political implications, Ethics in an epistemological and metaphysical context in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From the Presocratics to the Neoplatonists, etc. The Erasmus visit provided mutual benefits: I taught and advanced my ongoing research in their rigorous academic environment, while their students and faculty gained insights into an understudied field at their university. Overall, the visit was invaluable for disseminating research results and exploring innovative teaching methods. It expanded our academic networks, laid groundwork for further projects, and fostered ongoing communication - an essential aspect of modern academia.



**Dr. Pandelis Ipsiandis**

> STA

OUC Adjunct Faculty Member

**Postgraduate Programme:** Enterprise Risk Management

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** University of West Timisoara,  
Romania

The Erasmus+ staff mobility opportunity was an invaluable and inspiring journey for me! I received the funding to visit the University of West Timisoara, Romania, where I taught a course on Managing Risk in Business Decision Making for undergraduate students. This posed a challenge for me as I typically teach this topic at the postgraduate level. Professor Ioana Vadasan, Vice Dean overseeing of Erasmus+ programme, warmly welcomed me and helped adjust the course to the bachelor-level studies. I was very excited to see the positive response from students and the interest of teaching staff in integrating this topic into the curriculum of their business-related degrees. The Erasmus+ experience has been immensely beneficial to me. It has improved my networking, increased awareness of teaching and research interests, and expanded opportunities for future collaboration. Teaching a different audience of students brought me great joy, and I hope I can repeat this experience in the future!





> STA

**Dr. Eleni Gkini**

OUC Adjunct Faculty Member

**Postgraduate Programme:** Theatre Studies

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** RESAD – Real Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático, Spain

During my Erasmus+ mobility, I received positive feedback and suggestions from both the students and the professors of the school where I taught. I was inspired to conduct research on dramaturgy and directing, topics that were discussed and framed by the professors' theoretical interests. Additionally, I had the opportunity to practice these topics with the students, collaborate on developing common methodological tools, and gain insights into enhancing communication among faculty members.



> STA

**Dr. Judy Kohan**

**Member of the Council for the Advancement of Women in Science and Technology of the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology**

**Home University:** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

My participation in the Erasmus+ Programme facilitated by the OUC has been a profoundly important experience for me. As someone who values mobility and cross-cultural exchange, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to teach in a different country. The support and guidance provided by OUC throughout the programme made the transition seamless, and the academic and cultural opportunities were extremely valuable. I have gained skills and knowledge that will be applicable to both my personal and professional life. I highly recommend the Erasmus+ Programme and OUC's involvement in it to anyone who is seeking a transformative mobility experience.



> STA

**Dr. Ra'fat Al Jallad**

Assistant Professor of Finance

**Home University:** An-Najah National University, Palestine

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

I had the opportunity to participate in a teaching mobility programme at the Open University of Cyprus under the Erasmus+ programme and it was truly a remarkable experience. The faculty and staff members were extremely welcoming and supportive, which made it easy to deliver engaging and interactive lessons to students. The students were eager to learn, which made teaching a pleasure. Overall, my teaching mobility experience at the OUC was enriching and one that I will cherish for a long time. I would highly recommend it to any educator looking to broaden their horizons and gain valuable international teaching experience.



> STA

**Dr. Iman Rabah**

Dean of Quality Assurance at the Faculty of International School of Business Doctorate of Education: Management, Leadership, & Policy

**Home University:** Modern University for Business and Science, Lebanon

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

This teaching mobility within the Erasmus+ Programme, from the Modern University of Business and Science in Lebanon to the Open University of Cyprus, was both rich and engaging. The visit included exchange of knowledge and expertise with professionals and students on Total Quality Management (TQM), its implementation, and the challenges faced in industry and education. It contributed to embracing transformative pedagogies, supporting the cross-cultural learning of higher education students, and connecting personal understanding about education to wider

debates. This mobility encouraged and supported a disposition that values connectedness, nurturing students to develop a global sense of responsibility and acquire skills and knowledge that contribute to a better world. The exposure to a new student body context allowed me to explore new pedagogical methods that meet students' learning needs, positively impacting my professional development. The visit also led to a greater appreciation of diversity and cross-cultural awareness practices. The mobility provided valuable opportunities for research collaboration between students and faculty from both universities.



> STA

**Dr. Nino Tabeshadze**

Professor in the School of Social Sciences

**Home University:** Georgian Institute of Public Administration (GIPA), Georgia

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

At the Open University of Cyprus, I found an exceptional learning environment that prioritizes both flexibility and excellence. The faculty's dedication to delivering high-quality education, coupled with innovative teaching methods, ensured that I not only acquired knowledge but also developed critical thinking skills vital for success in today's dynamic world. The personalized support and interactive online platform fostered a sense of community among students, making the learning experience truly enriching. I highly recommend the Open University of Cyprus to anyone seeking a transformative educational journey.



> STA

**Dr. Vayia Karaiskou**

OUC Associate Professor

**Postgraduate Programme:** Cultural Development and Policy

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** University of Amsterdam - Institute of Advanced Study, The Netherlands

Visiting another country and another educational institution carries benefits for both professors and students. Watching how the students' thought evolve; how their life experiences inflict upon their understanding of the own identity and the world around them; and witnessing new methods of supporting their challenges and creativity is the big merit of Erasmus+ teaching grants.



# Staff Mobility for Training

(STT)

Within the framework of the “Staff Mobility for Training – STT” action, staff members at the Open University of Cyprus (OUC) have the possibility to participate in training programmes hosted by educational institutions, organisations, or companies abroad. This initiative enables staff to attend additional training, enrich their knowledge, and gain specialised know-how and skills, drawing upon the best practices and experiences of international counterparts on matters relevant to their current position. These opportunities significantly contribute to their professional development.

Under the same action, members of the academic and administrative staff from foreign Universities can secure Erasmus+ grants from their home university and visit OUC for their own professional training. During their visits, they may engage in customized training programs or participate in the annual Erasmus+ Training Week organized by OUC. This exchange promotes the sharing of perspectives and best practices, fostering collaborative growth and the development of new knowledge and skills across institutions.

STAFF  
MOBILITY  
FOR  
TRAINING



> STT

**Chrysanthi Danou**

Head of the OUC Human Resources Services

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2021-2022

**Host University:** Universidad a Distancia de Madrid (UDIMA), Spain

My mobility within the Erasmus+ programme was a milestone in my career at the Open University of Cyprus. My visit to the Universidad a Distancia de Madrid was an invaluable opportunity to gain insights into the operation of other open universities in Europe and gather ideas that can enhance my work. The cooperative relations established during the visit lay a solid foundation for future cooperation between the two Universities.



> STT

**Rami Inbar**

Data and Business Intelligence Center

**Home University:** The Open University of Israel, Israel

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

I am delighted to share my extraordinary mobility experience through the Erasmus+ Programme at the OUC. The programme provided me with an incredible opportunity to immerse myself in a new culture, interact with diverse higher education institutions, and enhance my professional knowledge. The supportive environment of the OUC enabled me to engage in enriching discussions, collaborate on innovative projects, and broaden my global perspective. The Erasmus+ Programme at the OUC has truly been a transformative journey, fostering personal growth, cultural understanding, and lifelong connections. I am immensely grateful for the invaluable experience and the lasting impact it has had on my education and future endeavors.



> STT

**Mary Katsman**

Teaching and Learning Department

**Home University:** The Open University of Israel, Israel

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

During my participation in the Erasmus+ staff mobility programme, I had the privilege to visit the Open University of Cyprus, and it was an incredibly enriching experience. The diverse sessions offered at the university broadened my perspective and inspired me to think innovatively about my own institution. The passionate personnel from the OUC demonstrated their expertise and dedication, creating a vibrant learning environment. Interacting with fellow participants allowed me to exchange knowledge and ideas, fostering a sense of collaboration. It was also comforting to learn that different institutions share the same challenges. I am excited about the opportunities for future cooperation that emerged from this mobility programme, and I am grateful for the invaluable experiences and connections made during the programme.



> STT

**Jiali Zhou**

Director of the International Office

**Home University:** Communication University of Zhejiang, China

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

My trip to Cyprus to participate in the 8th OUC Erasmus+ International Staff Week programme was a very valuable journey and experience for me. Although I live far away from Cyprus, and it took me at least 15 hours by plane to reach the island, being involved in this programme allowed me to learn about various aspects of the OUC, such as teaching methods, research, library resources, and the use of artificial intelligence. It also gave me an opportunity to communicate with various people. I developed a better understanding of different countries and regions of Europe, and immersed myself in the local culture of Cyprus. It was a wonderful trip and experience, thanks again to the organizers. I am looking forward to similar opportunities in the future.





**Jie Huang**

> STT

Postgraduate Students Affairs Office

**Home University:** Communication University of Zhejiang, China

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

It was a pleasure to participate in OUC 8th Erasmus+ International Staff Week. The OUC, enthusiastically, carefully planned and arranged the programme, which was rich with fruitful results. The programme was positively affirmed and praised by the representatives from the participating countries. First, there were abundant activities, including special trainings, round tables, group discussions, and on-site tours of the Nicosia old city centre. Second, there were many interesting speakers. During the programme, the Rector of the Open University of Cyprus personally presided over the round table and had cordial exchanges with the participants. Third, the variety of topics covered was truly impressive, ranging from human resources management, education and teaching reforms, to quality evaluation, student management, and employment. Fourth, the special value of this programme lies in its people, who came to Cyprus from all around the world: China, Greece, Germany, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Israel, and Poland. It gave us a chance to get to know the peculiarities of higher education in various countries. Thank you to the organizers for providing an opportunity for universities to meet, exchange ideas, made connections, and establish new collaborations.



**Ofer Dahan**

> STT

Director of the International School

**Home University:** Bar-Ilan University, Israel

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

I have the best impression from the International Mobility Staff Training at the Open University of Cyprus. Being warmly welcomed, we were immersed in a diverse programme covering the most relevant topics on higher education, such as recruitment of international students, AI implementation in the academic life, the OUC eLearning platform. I got very inspired by the workshop about Traineeship in Erasmus+. Overall, it was a great opportunity to build new connections with other universities!



**Giorgos Andreou**

> STT

OUC Library

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

My participation in the Staff Week Mobility through the Erasmus+ programme fully met my expectations. It was a very nice and special experience with multiple benefits. On a professional level, it helped me to learn new practices, gain new knowledge, and discuss with people from all over Europe (15 countries) issues related to the new ways of approaching the operations of a modern library. The programme created bonds and relationships that offered professional prospects. On a personal level, engaging with people from different cultures and actively participating in presentations and workshops forced me to be more adaptable and flexible, which definitely improved my language and communication skills. In addition, it contributed to the development of an open mind, critical thinking and creativity. I got to know new cultures, civilizations and histories. Certainly, in such cases, the fun is not absent!



**Athina Skotara**

> STT

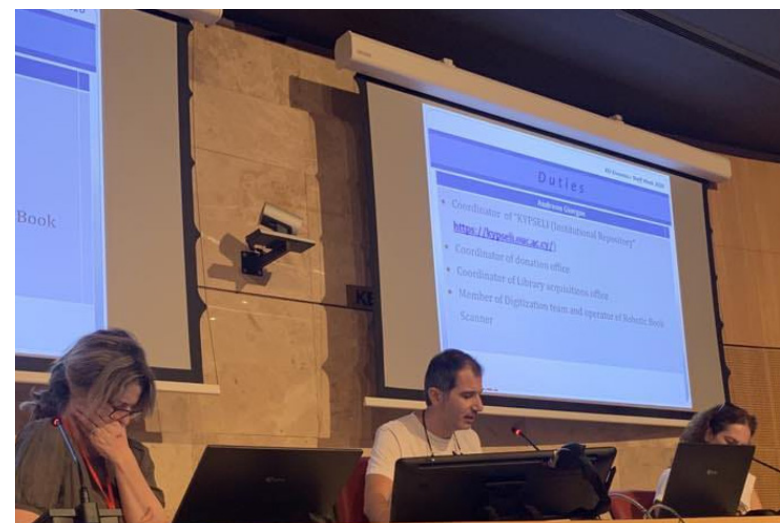
OUC Academic Affairs and Student Welfare Services

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic

My Erasmus+ staff job shadowing visit to Czech Technical University in Prague was a truly transformative experience! The university's innovative pedagogical methods and state-of-the-art facilities provided invaluable insights. I was deeply impressed by their commitment to fostering an interdisciplinary approach and their robust collaboration with industry partners. The warm hospitality and mutual exchange of ideas have enriched my professional perspective. This visit not only strengthened our institutional ties but also inspired new initiatives for enhancing our academic and research programs, as well as our administrative services. I highly recommend such exchanges for professional development and the promotion of international cooperation.





> STT

**Dr. Feng Jianchao**

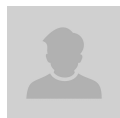
Associate Professor at the Department of Social Sciences

**Home University:** Communication University of Zhejiang, China

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

I was delighted to have the chance to take part in the 9th Erasmus International Staff Week, organised by the Open University of Cyprus. In this event, senior professors from the Open University of Cyprus gave lectures about cutting-edge teaching and artificial intelligence related fields. Nearly 20 universities from Europe, Africa and Asia shared their strategies for carrying out Erasmus+ programmes. This activity is of a great help to university staff, especially international student affairs coordinators to improve their work level.



> STT

**Dr. Jiang Yanbing**

Dean of School of Media Engineering

**Home University:** Communication University of Zhejiang, China

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

During the Erasmus+ Programme Week, we met senior members of higher education institutions from 3 continents. The courses and presentations, organized at the highest level by the Open University of Cyprus, addressed common and forefront issues in the field of international higher education and distance education. The specifics and experiences of various countries on educational issues, especially the Erasmus+ programme, have helped us as a Chinese university to understand the programme better and get more involved in international educational cooperation. I look forward to having another opportunity for similar international mobility.



> STT

**Dr. Mahmoud Smadi**

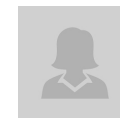
Dean of Academic Development and International Outreach

**Home University:** The Hashemite University, Jordan

**Academic year of mobility:** 2023-2024

**Host University:** Open University of Cyprus

Participating in the staff week at OUC through the Erasmus+ Programme was an incredibly enriching experience. Engaging with colleagues from diverse backgrounds promoted a profound exchange of ideas and best practices, fostering a deeper understanding of international collaboration in higher education. The lectures and networking events were exceptionally well-organized, providing invaluable insights and tools that I am excited to bring back to my home institution. This mobility experience not only broadened my professional horizons but also reinforced the importance of global partnerships in enhancing educational quality and innovation.



> STT

**Dr. Stavroula Tsiplakou**

OUC Associate Professor

**Postgraduate Programme:** Greek Linguistics and Literature

**Home University:** Open University of Cyprus

**Academic year of mobility:** 2022-2023

**Host University:** Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

The Erasmus visit to participate in the 3rd International Week: a five-day BIP "Towards gender inclusive campuses and university curricula" organised by the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) and training were very professionally organized; the academics from DUTH gave a series of very informative lectures and workshops regarding DUTH policies on inclusion, which were very interesting as the student body of the host institution comprises ethnic minorities etc. I very much enjoyed presenting my research findings and giving a workshop on fluid linguistic sexism. The group of participants was rather disappointing. It seems that many held firm views against inclusion and syllabus reform to incorporate inclusion policies. There was lots of "whataboutism" ("What about the rights of men/heterosexuals/nondisabled..."etc.), which made me wonder why these colleagues chose this particular topic for staff training. For me it was very informative as to the fascism lurking in European academia. In that sense, it was useful. Needless to say that this does not apply to our host institution, DUTH. The lectures and workshops delivered by them were excellent and I wonder why they did not generate more involvement.





## ERASMUS+ SUCCESS STORIES

Mobility Office, OUC Rectorate © 2024

Designed by AirBalloon Digital Studio (Stella Nicodemou)  
and printed by PhilWorkZ with Erasmus+ funding

[www.ouc.ac.cy](http://www.ouc.ac.cy) | [erasmus@ouc.ac.cy](mailto:erasmus@ouc.ac.cy)

ISSN 2672-8230 (print) | ISSN 2672-8249 (online)