

# Higher Education



## Creating medics to cope with tomorrow's world

The three medical schools in Cyprus are all unique, and after visiting them **Annette Chrysostomou** is reassured that if she meets a doctor who studied at one in the future she will likely be in capable hands

**T**HEY have been a long time in the making but Cyprus' three medical schools, already turning out graduates, with their robots and virtual cadavers, are offering an education to be proud of. Students at all three institutions will be well prepared before they treat an actual patient due to equipment at their disposal and the teaching methods which are geared towards a medical career with life-long learning as a big part of it.

The University of Nicosia's medical school is the only institution to offer more than one medical degree in Cyprus. In fact it offers four programmes of study, a tra-

ditional six-year undergraduate-entry degree, a four-year graduate-entry British medical degree offered by St George's University of London through a franchise agreement, a Master in Family Medicine and a PhD.

The first cohort of medical students graduated in 2015, as the four-year programme has been offered since 2011. By now three classes of graduates from the St George's programme are already practicing as doctors across the world. The six-year degree was added in 2014 so will not see its first graduates until 2020.

The idea of starting a medical school in Cyprus was in the making for a long time.

"We submitted the first application for a medical school on November 30, 1997, that's when our effort began," the school's Executive Dean Andreas Charalambous said. "We began working on the set-up and started by offering a pre-medicine programme in 1998." The agreement with St George's was signed in 2010.

Unlike the six-year University of Nicosia programme, the four-year course is offered for graduate students. For the first two years, the students, who get a degree from the UK university, study in Cyprus. For the last two years of clinical training, they have a choice of



state-of-the-art hospitals in the United States, Israel or Cyprus.

The principal learning method in Years 1 and 2 is problem based learning (PBL), under which students are divided into groups of eight and presented each week with a

scenario or case history that they explore with the aid of a tutor. The tutor does not act as a teacher, but as a facilitator who guides students through a scenario. During these meetings, the students form learning objectives to which they have to find the answers by the

next time they meet.

During the first two years students are also placed in clinics and hospitals where they observe and interact with patients, using the school's translators when necessary.

# Creating medics for tomorrow's world

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The six-year MD programme also features clinical training during the last two years. Students need to pass the United States Medical License Examination (USMLE) in their fourth year to progress to clinical training at hospitals. This is done voluntarily by the school to ensure the standard is high.

The postgraduate programme in Family Medicine is aimed at doctors who want to specialise in Family Medicine and play a key role in the country's new national health system. Degrees are awarded concurrently by the University of Nicosia and St George's.

Several laboratories feature the latest technology and equipment, and there is also a clinical skills area that resembles a hospital ward. Most unusual in Cyprus is perhaps the anatomy room, where the doctors-to-be have access to cadavers in an environment where the entire volume of air is changed every five minutes.

One of the Medical School's social responsibility initiatives is operating a mobile clinic, staffed by students under the supervision of doctors, which travels around the country twice a month offering free diagnostic tests and examinations to people in need, including residents in remote areas, senior citizens and refugees. "In addition medical students raise awareness among teenagers on specific health issues like eating disorders, sex education and drugs," Director of Communications George Sycallides said. "This way we give back to society and the students get hands-on experience."

At the moment, more than 530 students from 58 countries are enrolled in the Medical School, 95 per cent of whom are from abroad. 120 full-time staff are on the pay roll at the school as are 280 part-time staff.

The European University Cyprus not only awards a medical degree, but will shortly also start to enroll students for a five-year dentistry programme for which they are currently building premises.

The growing medical school

now has students who will start year five after the summer.

As in the University of Nicosia, teaching is innovative. Gone are the days of lengthy lectures aimed at maximum knowledge.

"Knowledge becomes obsolete every seven years, a medical career is constant learning, so we teach our students how to learn," Dean Georgios Petrikkos said. "There are students who have a memory resembling a library, but don't know how to treat a patient. You also need practice."

Lecturers are there mainly to introduce topics, which are then explored through videos, teamwork about problem-related cases, the internet, visual computer programmes and others.

The way the programme is taught is guided by the Laureate Group of which the university is part and which has more than 28 medical schools around the world which tested the best model of education.

There are no corpses at this university, but there are sev-



University of Cyprus medical clinical skills lab

eral robots or, as Petrikkos says, "simulators similar to those used when you learn how to fly."

There are four simulators: a man, a woman, a baby and a pregnant woman. They can be programmed to have a huge number of medical conditions, and students can use them from day one to measure blood pressure for example.

"Unlike the students who usually have a similar blood pressure when they measure each other we can programme a wide range," chemist Andreas Yiallouris said during a tour of the premises.

'Victoria', who is 'pregnant' has four stomachs which can be changed when she 'gives

birth' in four different ways to a plastic doll, also a robot, so students can practice how to deliver a baby in a natural way or by Caesarean section.

Not only can the pregnant robot develop a fever of up to 42C, but she also responds to basic drugs. Naturally she also breathes and blinks her eyes as soon as she 'wakes up'.

There is also a six-bed 'hospital ward' complete with a real ultrasound, another feature which prepares the students in the first three years

a university in other parts of the world.

117 students from Cyprus and Greece are currently enrolled at the University of Cyprus' medical school in which, unlike the other two institutions in Nicosia, the language of instruction is Greek.

"We aim for 30 to 35 students per year as we think this is enough for Cyprus and they can make good use of our facilities," Medical School Coordinator Theodoti Hadjivasilou explained.

In October 2016 the fourth year students commenced their clinical practice in Cyprus' public hospitals, Nicosia general hospital, Archbishop Makarios III hospital, as well as in the Bank of Cyprus oncology centre.

From 2018 the school is planning to also offer the programme in English to attract students from other countries.

As of September 2016, the Medical School is housed at the Shakolas Educational Center for Clinical Medicine, along with its clinical laboratories, the anatomy laboratories and the Centre of Molecular Medicine Research Centre. The building houses an amphitheatre of 350 places.

A new building, the Nicos K Shakolas Medical School and Health Sciences Building is expected to be completed by 2021 with a total budget of €15 million.

The programme is taught over six years which are broken down in three phases. Phase one is a year of preparatory studies, phase two is

for the last three, the clinical years.

Students have access to private clinics and the state-run hospital in Nicosia but the school mainly works with the Larnaca general hospital.

As the programme is in English and therefore attracts mostly foreign students from Europe and other countries, students have to take free Greek lessons so that they are able to communicate with real life patients by year 4.

To ensure that the students have the broadest education possible the summer is also put to good years. Due to the Laureate connection but also other agreements with top universities abroad they can spend a summer semester in



The pregnancy simulator at the European University of Cyprus and (below) baby simulators in the medical school



comprised of two years of interconnected studies in basic medical and clinical sciences including the study and analysis of behaviour and three years of clinical studies form the last phase.

Some academic staff already support the students who are training in the hospitals but this is not enough, according to Dean of the medical school Nicholas Pavlidis. The university aims to establish university clinics within the general hospitals.

"It is correct that our students are taught in the hospitals by our own faculty members, we should create our own department in the hospitals, as it is in other countries where there are university clinics," he stressed.

For this purpose, the university will employ academics from lecturers to full professors.

This way of teaching has been recommended by a special advisory committee whose members are professors from top universities who twice a year come over from London to advise the state university what their best practices should be.

The purchase of six 'Anatome' tables was also made

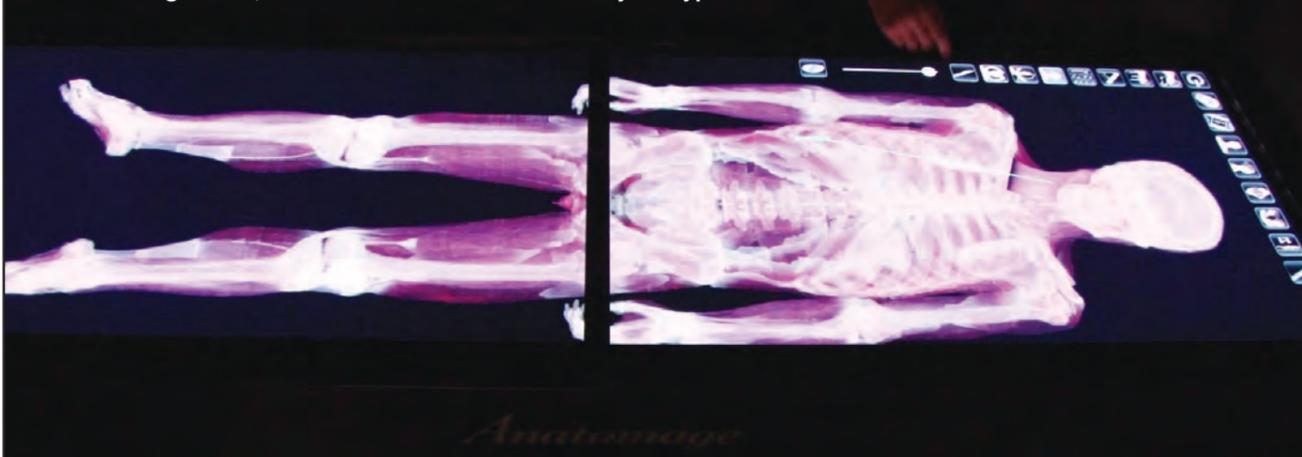
after a recommendation by the committee.

On the tables, the surface of which show a computer screen, users can visualise anatomy exactly as they would on a fresh cadaver. Individual structures are reconstructed in accurate 3D. The tables allow for a learning beyond what any cadaver would offer.

The user can turn the 'cadaver' and can make 'incisions' looking at the inside of each body part. This allows the medical student to see exactly what a healthy human body is like inside with all the organs in relation to each other, but in addition, the images can be programmed to have various diseases. Students have the chance for self-study and can reproduce the anatomic area which they study for as many times as is necessary.

To deal with the detection and treatment one lab among others is equipped with special models which can be set to have various ear and eye diseases. There are a plethora of body parts which can be used for various useful purposes such as CPR, practicing taking blood or inserting urinary catheters.

An anatome table, similar to those at the University of Cyprus



# Open University of Cyprus: Higher education within your reach

**O**PEN University of Cyprus (OUC) is a public university, and the country's only higher education institution dedicated to open and distance education and lifelong learning. OUC opens up a new world of opportunities to those wishing to pursue tertiary-level studies without the limitations of conventional education, offering open access to a wide range of high quality, accredited, and career-oriented Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees.

At Open University of Cyprus, there is no 'one size fits all' approach to higher education. OUC places students at the heart of education, and ideally combines flexible educational methodology, effective use of state-of-the-art eLearning technology and continuous academic support. Thus, OUC creates an innovative learning environment inspiring people to learn and enhance their qualifications, tailoring their own educational path for personal and professional advancement, irrespective of age, time, location or life circumstances.

Since its establishment in 2002 and launching of its first academic programmes in 2006, Open University of Cyprus continues to grow steadily in academic stature and overall reputation, with a current enrolment of approximately 5,000 students, and an alumni community of nearly 3,600 graduates.



## Studies at OUC

For the 2017-2018 academic year, OUC offers 4 Bachelor's and 22 Master's degree programmes, as well as PhD positions in various research areas. All programmes are organised by the University's three faculties:

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

Aiming to expand its international presence and recruit promising students from Cyprus, Greece and beyond, seeking accred-

ited qualifications, OUC offers the following five Master's degree programmes in English:

- MBA
- Cognitive Systems (jointly offered with University of Cyprus)
- Enterprise Risk Management (jointly offered with Hellenic Open University)
- Sustainable Energy Systems (jointly offered with Frederick University)
- Adult Education for Social Change (Erasmus Mundus International Master; thus applications are not received by OUC)

## Educational Methodology

Distance education allows students to complete their studies without physically attending lectures. OUC's main educational tool is a state-of-the-art eLearning Platform – eClass – that facilitates online teaching and learning, allowing the establishment of virtual classrooms, equipped with real-time and asynchronous collaboration tools.

The synchronous collaboration (virtual classrooms, lectures' live streaming), and asynchronous (forums, instant messaging)

communication tools are fully utilised by experienced teaching staff, offering effective and interactive academic support and guidance. At the same time, learning experience is complemented by group tutorials, which are conducted mainly on eClass, and are recorded so that all students can benefit from them at their own time and place. The students' physical presence is only mandatory for the final exams, in dedicated exam centres in Cyprus and Greece.

## Why choose Open University of Cyprus

- For the opportunity to study in a European public University surpassing the limitations of conventional education.
- For its affordable, high quality, distance learning undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
- For its flexible educational methodology, which allows students to adjust their studies to fit in with professional, family, and other personal commitments.
- For its user-friendly, state-of-the-art eLearning Platform, and the multi-format educational material used, which allow a seamless learning experience.
- For the continuous academic support provided by OUC's experienced teaching staff.

## New application period for the 2017-

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

# CUT: promoting excellence in education

**T**HE Cyprus University of Technology is a public university based in Limassol. It was founded in 2004 and welcomed its first students in September 2007.

Currently, 2,005 undergraduates, 580 postgraduates and 219 doctoral students attend the university, registered on 14 undergraduate, 26 postgraduate courses and 13 PhD courses. The university employs 444 academic members of various specialties and 221 members of administrative staff.

The Cyprus University of Technology is a modern and innovative university with international recognition and international rankings, promoting excellence in education and research in key sectors with a view to the scientific, technological, cultural, social and economic upgrading of our country. CUT, as the youngest public university, is by nature a dynamic organisation that interacts with the local community.

The university has received several awards and remarkable distinctions demonstrating the Institution's excellence and commitment to quality at international level, as well as its continuous development.

According to recent international rankings, Cyprus University of Technology is ranked:

- Among the top 401-500

universities in the **Times Higher Education** World University Rankings 2016-17

- 202nd of the top 354 European universities in the *Times Higher Education* Best Universities in Europe 2017

- 52nd in the *Times Higher Education* BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2017. The list includes only institutions in countries classified as "advanced emerging", "secondary emerging" or "frontier" by the FTSE, including the BRICS nations of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

- 16th among the 2017 *Times Higher Education* World's Best Small Universities. The list includes the top 20 universities in the world, which appear in *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings 2016-17, offer study programmes in more than four subjects and have a student population of less than 5,000 (an average of 3,038):

- Ranked 88th in *Times Higher Education* Young University Rankings 2017, previously known as "THE 150 Under 50 Rankings". This list includes the 200 top universities in the world with less than 50 years of operation

- 12th in *Times Higher Education* "Young University Rankings 2017: Millennial Universities". The list includes the 18 top universities in the world that were founded after the year 2000.

It is worth emphasising that CUT represents the second top university internationally.

CUT is involved in research on all subjects covered by the existing departments of the university. Focusing on excellence in research, Cyprus University of Technology has attracted total external funding of €31,330,400.00 for 234 research projects.

The university is a member of 67 international organisations such as HUMANE, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), International Association of Universities (IAU) and European University Association (EUA). The university also participates actively in networks such as Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI). The university supports and encourages the mobility of students to other European universities either for studies or for internships through the Erasmus+ and



IAESTE programmes. Also, the University of Technology yearly welcomes an increasing number of European students who choose it for their studies or internships. In the context of LOCAL networking, the university cooperates

officially with 155 entities in Cyprus. Moreover, the CUT coordinates the Europe Direct Information Centre in Limassol.

As a "green" university with environmental responsibility, the CUT has been following an environmental management programme since 2010, winning awards for the Green Public Agreements policy that has been applied with the participation of the university community.

Being a university of technology that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, the University accommodates Technology, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centers, such as Cutting Edge - An American Space and the Cyprus Interaction

Lab.

The students of CUT are offered various training and career opportunities through the Erasmus Plus and IAESTE programmes as well as direct information on European issues and opportunities in the labour market from Europe Direct Information Centre. Students are offered a wide range of services such as accommodation, food, counseling and psychological support, career services, sports programmes, health care and student support programmes for disabled students. The university also grants awards and scholarships to students who either achieve excellent academic performance or face severe financial difficulties.

## Cyprus University of Technology - Transition to the Future!

For more information:

Website: [www.cut.ac.cy](http://www.cut.ac.cy)

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CyprusUniversityTechnology>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/cyprusuniversitytechnology>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/CyUniTech>

You tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/CyprusUniversityTechnology>



## Innovation starts here!

### Faculties/ Departments

#### Faculty of Communication and Media Studies

- Department of Communications and Internet Studies

#### Faculty of Engineering and Technology

- Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics
- Department of Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Informatics
- Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering

#### Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts

- Department of Fine Arts
- Department of Multimedia and Graphic Arts

#### Faculty of Geotechnical Sciences and Environmental Management

- Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology and Food Science
- Department of Environmental Science and Technology

#### Faculty of Health Sciences

- Department of Nursing
- Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health

#### Faculty of Management and Economics

- Department of Commerce, Finance and Shipping
- Department of Hotel and Tourism Management

Language Centre



## UCLan Cyprus: THE BRITISH UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS.

The University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus), is the first Branch Campus of the University of Central Lancashire and at the same time is a fully licensed and registered University in Cyprus. UCLan Cyprus is a unique and innovative model of a Cypriot and British University Educational Experience, approved and validated by both the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), for Higher Education. Upon completion of their studies, UCLan Cyprus graduates receive a Double Degree (two certificates), from both UCLan Cyprus and UCLan UK, that are recognised not only in Cyprus and United Kingdom, but across Europe and beyond.

### Study at a British University with 189 years of history

Built on strong academic foundations, the University of Central Lancashire, the mother University, counts 189 years of history. Over 2017, UCLan is considered among the top 1000 worldwide Universities by U.S. News & World Report, and among the top 3.7% of all worldwide Universities by the Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR). It is positioned at the first 10 British Universities, in number of students, and was officially recognized by the British Prime Minister David Cameron for the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage in the UK in establishing start-up businesses by its graduates. UCLan is also the only British University which cooperates with NASA Astrophysical Observatory and the Harvard Smithsonian.

### Unique Student Experience - Join #UCLanians

UCLan Cyprus students enjoy a unique student experience. Their adventures can be found on Social Media through #UCLanians. Over the last year, #UCLanians reached the highest edge of Troodos Mountains and the highest pitch of Greece. They dived to the Famous Zenobia Wreck, participated at the Universities Football Championship and won the National Competitions of Judo and University Sambo Championship.

#UCLanians have also joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Cyprus Science Festival of UCLan Cyprus, cleaned Cyprus' beautiful beaches with Let's Do It and accepted the challenge of Cyprus Coastline Hike 2017. They have organised fund raising philanthropic events and got involved at the greatest local and international conferences aiming to expand their networking opportunities with professionals of several industries. Last but not least, the University offers support and advices in all aspects of University life and workshops to enhance study and employability skills.

### Innovative, Award-Winning Campus

UCLan Cyprus, as the most recent, innovative and fully approved University campus in Cyprus, is set in a modern building with state-of-the-art academic and operational facilities. It incorporates all of what Audio Visual (AV) has to offer in higher education, but also in the ever-growing professional communication world, such as distance learning facilities, high-end presentation solutions and innovative multi-use spaces.

Students learn in meticulously designed lecture theatres of 300 and 100 audiences, lecture rooms and specialised labs, including the first Moot Court of the island, technologically advanced Sports Lab and an innovative Cognition and Development Psychology Lab. Our IT infrastructure provides more than 300 software applications, loan of laptops and free Wi-Fi across the campus with all on-line facilities available also off campus and anywhere in the world through the internet.

As recognition to this huge investment, the University triumphed among all the nominations from Europe, Middle East and Africa as the Campus with the most advanced and innovative audio-visual technology. Students also have the opportunity to study in an environment that suits them, whether it is in the new library or in social areas around the campus such as the new lounge bar of the University and the cafeteria.

### Student Nest – Brand New Student Accommodation

The Student Nest is a brand new complex specifically built to complement the UCLan Cyprus state-of-the-art Campus. It aims to provide students a modern, comfortable and safe environment for a pleasant student life with 171 en-suite rooms. The complex is spread over an area of 5,500 square meters and 5 blocks with fully furnished flats. Each flat contains a completely equipped kitchen with cooker, fridge/freezer, microwave and adequate cupboard space. Location is ideal as the Student Nest is situated within the University campus, 5 minutes away from Larnaka City and just 15 – 20 minutes away from Ayia Napa and the Larnaka Airport.

### Admission Criteria & Scholarships

The admission criteria at UCLan Cyprus follow the high educational standards of the mother University. All applicants are assessed on an individual basis based on their country's academic qualifications and standards. Excellent high school students are rewarded with academic scholarships. Athletic Scholarships/Special bursaries are available upon approval by UCLan Cyprus Committees.

**2 DEGREES  
FROM UCLan UK  
AND UCLan Cyprus.**

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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UNIVERSITY *of* NICOSIA

THINK BIG.

## A Vision for International Excellence



The University of Nicosia (UNIC), the largest university in Cyprus in terms of enrolled students, is a future-oriented, Cyprus-based university with global reach, that aims to be a hub for academic and technological excellence in the Mediterranean region.

UNIC has become a regional academic leader, welcoming more than 11,000 students from over 70 countries. It maintains staff, partners or offices in 18 cities worldwide (including New York City, Chicago, London, Tel Aviv and Athens), with over 400 other university partners for student study abroad and exchange or research partnerships.

### Placing Cyprus on the International Education Map

Internationalisation is a central component of the University's strategy. This includes partnerships for degree programmes, student mobility, and opportunities for students post-graduation in academia or industry. UNIC's initiatives in medical and online education have been particularly important in placing Cyprus on the international education map.

**PARTNERS  
WITH TOP  
GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES:  
ST GEORGE'S  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON,  
ARISTOTELEION, PATRAS,  
HELLENIC OPEN UNIVERSITY**

### The First and Largest Medical School in Cyprus

The University of Nicosia Medical School, the first to be established in Cyprus, delivers two undergraduate degrees and a postgraduate degree to more than 500 students, from over 50 countries (primarily from the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Israel, Greece and Lebanon). This includes the prestigious Graduate Entry MBBS degree, in partnership with St George's, University of London, as well as its own School Leaver MD degree, and a postgraduate degree (MSc) in Family Medicine.

### Dedicated Online Education Initiative

UNIC has developed one of the largest online education initiatives in the Mediterranean. Its Master's programme (MSc) in Digital Currency is regarded by many as the leading academic programme in the world in this innovative technological field. In addition, UNIC offers joint Master's degrees in collaboration with several top global universities: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Patras, Hellenic Open University, Panteion University, University of Padua, University of Zagreb, and Western Sydney University.

### 100+ Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees

UNIC is committed to offering equal opportunity access to higher university education, and to diligently expanding its educational activities. It now offers more than 100 conventional and online/distance learning programmes, at the undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels, to more than 11,000 students worldwide.

Many of the University's degree programmes and departments were the first of their kind in Cyprus. Several programmes such as Medicine, International Relations, Accounting, Law, and Architecture, have developed into some of the most well-regarded in the region. Today, UNIC's new programmes focus on cutting-edge research, making it a global leader in certain fields, such as its very successful initiative in Digital Currency/Blockchain Technology.



### Research at UNIC

Research at UNIC focuses on a variety of global and local issues. Cutting edge research is carried out in the areas of Educational Technology, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Moreover, the University has assisted in the development of several research centres and academically affiliated institutions: the Centre for European and International Affairs (CEIA), the Mass Media and Communication Institute (IMME), the Centre for Therapy, Training and Research (KESY), the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), the Centre for Green Development and Energy Policy (CGD), the Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development Technology (CARDET), and the Institute for the Future (IFF), which was founded to explore the ways in which technological progress will cause rapidly accelerating societal change over the coming decades.



## Accreditation and Recognition

- UNIC programmes are accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (DIPAE)
- UNIC is recognised by the Hellenic NARIC (DOATAP) as equivalent and corresponding to Greek Universities
- UNIC has full professional certification in Cyprus for relevant programmes by the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK)
- "UNIQUe Certification for Quality in e-learning and Excellence in use of ICT in Higher Education", awarded by the European Foundation for Quality in e-Learning (EFQUEL)
- "E-xcellence Associate in Quality", awarded by the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) for the University's high quality in online education
- First university in Cyprus and Greece to achieve the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) "Recognised for Excellence - 5 Star" distinction
- High assessment by the U-Multirank University Ranking System in: teaching/learning; globalisation; community/business links
- European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) Label
- Diploma Supplement (DS) Label
- Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB) "Excellence Award" in Educational Services
- "Business Ethics Excellence (BEE)" Gold Medal in 2012, and again in 2014, awarded by the European Business Ethics Network in Greece (EBEN GR)
- "Investors in People" Certification, in recognition of good practices in the area of HR management
- UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue for a Culture of Peace
- Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



## Institute For the Future (IFF): Pioneers in Blockchain Technology

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**1st COURSE** IN THE WORLD **IN DIGITAL CURRENCY**



**1st UNIVERSITY** TO ACCEPT BITCOIN as a form of tuition fee payment



## Recent Rankings by Blockchain Industry Publication

- #1 University of Nicosia
- #2 New York University
- #3 Stanford University
- #4 Princeton University
- #5 Duke University

*The Merkle, January 2017*

## Dynamic Urban Campus of 18 Buildings

UNIC's modern campus consists of 18 purpose-built and refurbished buildings situated in the bustling suburb of Engomi. Over the last few years, UNIC has invested over €55 million in its campus infrastructure.

The expansive layout of the campus allows for specialised facilities to support each academic department. The entire neighbourhood is oriented towards student life, allowing for a unique social experience, characterised by community interaction, diversity, learning and fun. In addition to the teaching facilities, the campus provides the full set of student amenities and support services.

## UNIC Centres in Europe and the United States

In line with its strategy for global outreach, UNIC has established regional study centres in Athens, Greece; Bucharest, Romania; and New York City, New York, USA. The latter was inaugurated in February 2017, in SoHo in Manhattan, which is a global centre for technology, finance, fashion and media. The centre is housed in a recently constructed tech hub, alongside tech leaders such as IBM's cloud computing group and PwC's startup group.

UNIC aims to support its students globally and to enhance academic, research and industry collaboration with leading universities and companies around the world.

## A Commitment to University Social Responsibility (USR)

Social responsibility is fundamental to the University of Nicosia and is demonstrated by its substantial and varied contribution to society. The preceding year was marked by the University's Refugee/Humanitarian and FIFPro initiatives. USR campaigns and initiatives in general are designed to bring about positive change in six key areas:

1. Access to education
2. Social and environmental sustainability
3. Economic development
4. Investing in people and the community
5. Advancement in research and technology
6. Contributing to informed public debate

## Refugee/Humanitarian Initiative

The initiative is focused on both supporting individual refugees and migrants, while also working with public bodies to improve support services. To this end, UNIC concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), to benefit refugees in Cyprus and elsewhere. The MoU covers a wide range of areas, including a scholarship programme for refugees in Cyprus; distance learning opportunities for refugees in need elsewhere; a UNHCR internship scheme for graduate students; and joint research studies in the areas of refugees and migration.

## Global FIFPro Initiative

FIFPro, the worldwide representative organisation for all professional footballers, has launched a global initiative in collaboration with UNIC that will allow over 1,000 professional footballers from around the world to study Sports Management and Business Administration, online. The objective is to better prepare the players for a career after their playing career. The collaboration offers a series of benefits to the participating athletes, including scholarships to exceptional active professional players. These total €2 million per year, in order to support players in developing nations who often have limited financial resources.

## Thinking Big with €200m Investment

During the last decade, UNIC has invested or contributed more than 200 million euros in teaching and research infrastructure, new programme development, and student scholarships/financial aid. Over the next decade, the University will continue to invest in high-potential areas that will support the transformation of Cyprus into a fully knowledge-based society: medicine; biotechnology and the health sciences; fourth industrial revolution technologies across all fields (including artificial intelligence and augmented reality); blockchain and financial technologies; and online and blended education.



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# What is it worth?

By Alison Kershaw and Ian Jones

THE proportion of firsts handed out by UK universities has soared, with a third of institutions now grading at least one in four degrees with the top honour.

In some cases, the proportion has more than doubled in five years, according to Press Association analysis of official data.

With students now paying up to £9,250 a year in tuition fees, almost all universities and colleges are giving out a higher proportion of firsts than they were in 2010/11.

The findings are likely to spark fresh debate about grade inflation, and whether the centuries-old degree classification system is still fit for purpose.

One expert said some increase is not unreasonable, but that issues such as university rankings may fuel grade inflation.

The PA analysis shows:  
• At 50 UK universities – roughly a third of the total – at least 25 per cent of degrees awarded in 2015/16 were a first, while at 10 institutions, more than a third were given the highest award. By contrast, in 2010/11 just 12 institutions gave at least one in four degrees a first, and only two gave more than a third the top honour.

## As universities on the island compete with those overseas for students the UK is revealed to be increasingly giving Firsts

- On average, across all institutions there has been around an eight percentage point rise in firsts in the last five years, the analysis of Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data shows.

- Just seven institutions have seen a fall in the proportion of firsts.

- Five universities and colleges have seen the proportion of top honours rise by at least 20 percentage points, while 40 institutions have seen at least a 10-point hike.

The figures, for the academic years 2010/11 and 2015/16, are based on 148 universities and colleges for which there is comparable data, and exclude degrees rated as “unclassified”.

Official figures have previously shown that nationally, almost one in four UK students (24 per cent) graduated with a first last year.

Nick Hillman, director

of the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI), said: “Some rise is not unreasonable, given that schools have got better and some universities have increased their entry tariffs so they’re getting better quality students.”

But he suggested the impact of university league tables could be fuelling grade inflation.

Many institutions now employ staff to compare their results and data with others, he said, and if a university finds itself slipping down the rankings – for example on the proportion of firsts or 2:1s awarded – there is an incentive to improve this.

There are also issues with the external examination system used by many universities, which sees academics from other institutions asked to assess students’ work against a university’s requirements, he said.

“There are people who

think the system isn’t as robust as it might be,” Hillman said. “It can all be a bit cosy – you ask someone you know to be an external examiner.”

At the same time, it is often the university itself that has the ultimate power to decide a student’s grade.

“A comparison would be if schools could decide how many A grades to give in A-levels – it’s a big incentive for grade inflation.”

The rise may also be partly down to students working harder, Hillman said, adding that HEPI data does not show an increase in the number of hours students are working.

“As you wander round universities, the student union bars are empty and the libraries and working environments are full.

“They’re not putting in more hours, but they are more productive in the hours they are doing.”

A spokeswoman for vice-chancellors’ group Universities UK said degree classifications are a matter for individual institutions.

“Every one of our universities is unique, with a different subject mix, student body, faculties and departments and, of course, different course curricula and content, which makes comparison difficult, but this diversity is valued by students and staff and this is a strength of the UK sector,” she said.





## It all starts here

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## Frederick University's

mission is to offer learning opportunities through teaching and research in the fields of science, technology, arts and letters, as well as contribute to society as a whole.

As an educational institution, Frederick boasts a 50-year history, during which it has systematically positioned itself at the forefront of innovation as a major unit in the country's higher education, earning significant local and international distinctions.

It is one of the main research bodies, participating in European research programmes. Its students and graduates participate and distinguish themselves in international competitions, while faculty members are called on to serve the state in senior posts.

**Frederick is the only university that operates in two cities - Nicosia and Limassol.**

### AVAILABLE STUDIES

Today, Frederick University operates five schools, offering over 70 accredited and recognised programmes and undergraduate, post-graduate, and doctoral levels, in a broad range of studies in various fields and cutting-edge sectors.

### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

All programmes of study at Frederick University have been evaluated by state bodies and external committees, and are fully recognized by the Republic of Cyprus and all European Union member states.

Professional recognition is as important as academic recognition, and it is achieved through the University's qualifications. Specifically, all professional bodies (e.g. technical chambers, professional associations, government services) in Cyprus, Greece, and other European countries, recognize Frederick University's academic qualifications and offer professional rights to graduates in the fields of Engineering, Architecture, Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, Teaching, Social Work, Psychology, etc.

### STUDENT SUPPORT

A main pillar of its steadily successful course is the University's student centered

approach. Planning, philosophy, and the way Frederick University perceives its mission, has each student individually at its heart.

Each function serves students' needs so that they can develop their talents and skills, and make their dreams come true. Through long experience, appropriate functions have been developed so that the University can help students deal with academic challenges, social and personal problems, financial hardship, and advise graduates on their professional choices.

At Frederick University, students know that their faculty and administrative staff will stand by their side along the way to help them overcome any challenges and have a creative life as students.

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The School of Engineering is the largest school of Engineering in Cyprus and offers programmes in the main areas of Engineering, a five-year Architecture degree, as well as cutting-edge post-graduate programmes. All of the school's programmes are recognized by the Technical Chamber of Cyprus.

The School of Arts, Communication, and Cultural Studies is also a leader, with over 100 awards and distinctions, while offering the first programme of Journalism in Cyprus.

The School of Business and Law operates the first Department of Shipping Studies, which leads this important sector in Cyprus, as well as the Law

programme, which offers the opportunity to focus on various legal systems found in the European Union.

The Health Sciences School has created the first Pharmacy Department in Cyprus, featuring modern labs and experiences faculty, and operates a Nursing programme, which is professionally recognized across the European Union.

Finally, the School of Education and Social Sciences offers programmes in teaching for Primary Education and Pre-primary Education, as well as post-graduate programmes covering all modern trends and needs in the field of education. Programmes are also available in Social Work and Psychology.



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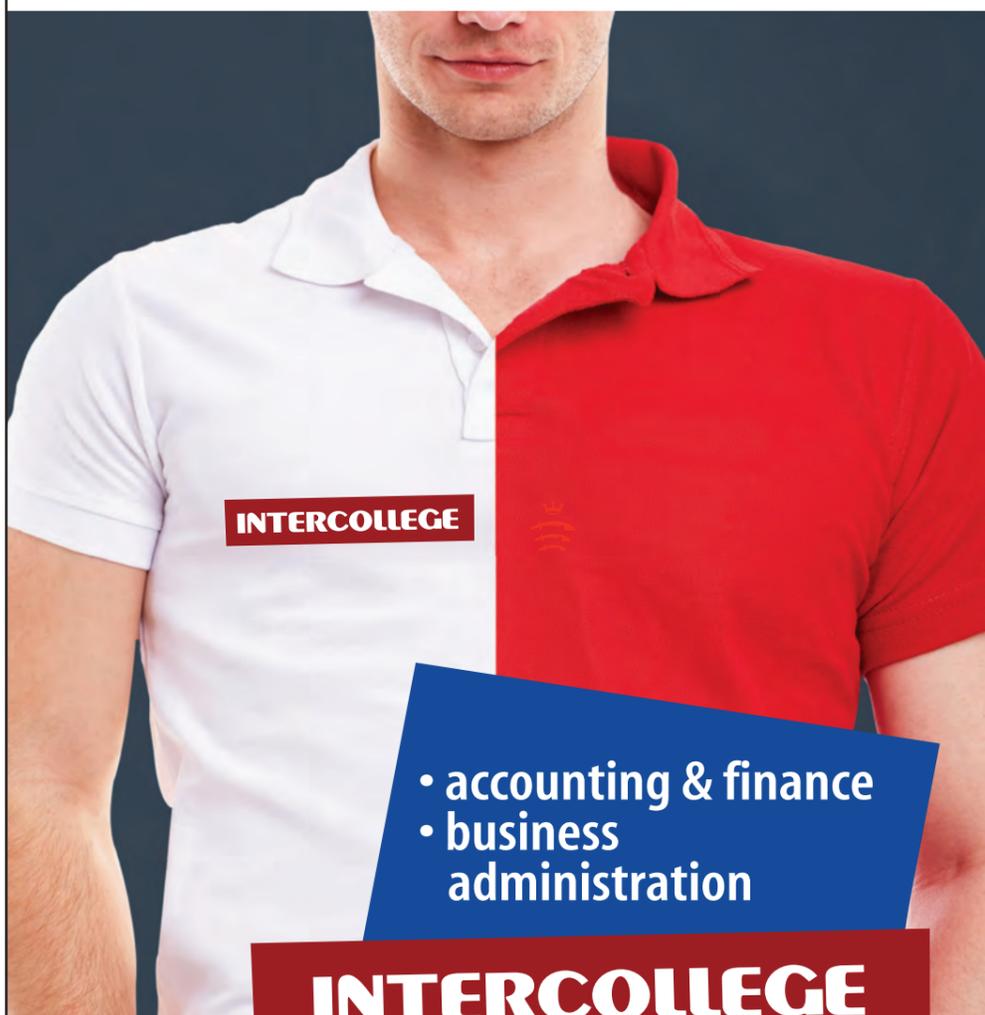
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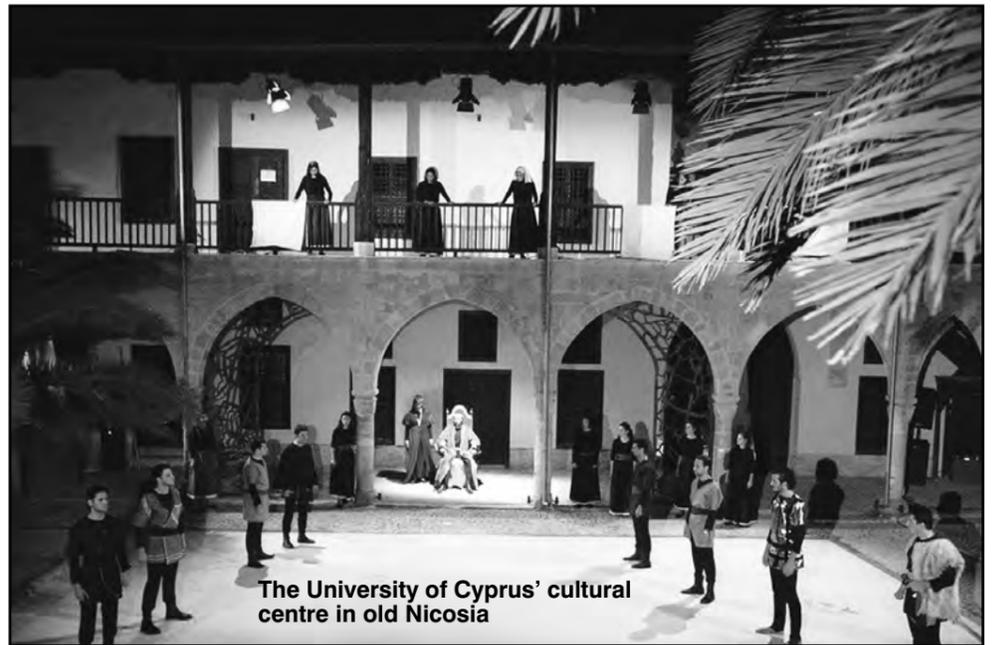
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# Something a little bit different

Outside course schedules, universities are offering students something more.

**Annette Chrysostomou** looks at what these are



**A**LL universities have clubs and societies which are aimed at enriching student life beyond the classroom. While many are similar, such as music and sports clubs, some are unique and offer a different spin on student life.

At the University of Cyprus many of its extra curricular activities are a result of one of its central missions, the enhancement of the cultural development of Cyprus. The cultural centre which operates in the old town of Nicosia and is run by the philosophy and classical department of the institution helps to fulfill this mission in two ways.

The university has a nature conservation unit (NCU) which focuses on biodiversity conservation and environmental education. In the framework of its activities, the NCU has created two small gardens in the area of Frederick University, one botanical and one for cultivation, and has constructed a plant ecophysiology and genetics laboratory.

Currently it is engaged in a project with the agricultural research institute. The Global Tree Seed Bank Project is a global initiative, which will secure the future of more than 2,000 of the world's rarest, most threatened and most useful trees. In Europe, the project will

university aims for societally beneficial outcomes, working across schools and departments to support academic programmes, research, training and conferences.

According to the IFF "We aim to ask and study provocative questions like 'How does Bitcoin compare to Fedwire?', 'What do self-driving cars mean for zoning requirements, insurance companies and public transportation?' and 'When will robots acquire legal rights?'"

The University of Lancashire looks to offer its students more than mere lectures while simultaneously reaching out to the public.

One of the University of Lancashire's (UCLan) special features is its moot court room, which, according to assistant law professor Klearchos Kyriakides is the focal point of activities of the law school.

In it, the school conducts a plethora of activities, both in the framework of the syllabus and extracurricular ones.

An entire module is devoted to Mooting and Legal Debating in the third year of study, but students are already thrown in at the deep end in the first year, where they have two moots or mock judicial proceedings in the court room.

"We are preparing students

by arbitration, mediation, debating, public lectures, academic conferences and the Model United Nations," Kyriakides said, adding that the moot court room looks like the United Nations on a small scale.

There are two law societies in this university, a generic one and a mooting society, both of which organise events centred around the court room to ensure students get the practical experience they need.

"Here they can experience the pressure which lawyers face in courts. By practicing and competing in the Moot Court Room, it is only a matter of time for our students to become naturals in public speaking," president of the mooting society Dennis Georgiou explained.

The university frequently invites people from outside the university to 'become a lawyer for a day', that is to experience what it is like to be a law professional, and the authentic environment of the moot court room adds to the success of these events.

At the European University of Cyprus students are involved in a number of programmes that support society such as offering free English classes to needy persons via the literature department, but there is also one outstanding innovative project for hearing impaired students that is run only at this university. 'Motion Vibes' is the only education project of its kind through which hearing impaired students can add sound to the

moving image.

The project began with an idea by instructor Demetra Englezou who developed and implemented it with volunteer students from the university. All participating students were deaf or hard-of-hearing.

"We did it the other way round instead of listening to instructions first," Englezou told the *Cyprus Mail*, "the students had an app with the vibrations that they matched with another app with animation so they could feel and follow the vibrations as they can't listen."

The project started in the Graphics and Animation course but can now be used in any classes at the university where hearing impaired students are present.

There are two law societies in this university, a generic one and a mooting society, both of which organise events centred around the court room to ensure students get the practical experience they need

The centre runs the Cyprus University Theatrical Workshop which complements academic education and literacy. "It involves students in stage presentations of known and lesser known masterpieces of Greek literature," Michalis Pieris, director of the centre, explained. "It brings together students, but also members of the academic and administrative staff, alumni, friends of the arts, artists and others."

The mansion in the old town is also the venue for the cultural festival of the University of Cyprus, an international event which is organised twice a year and focuses on Mediterranean culture, dance and music. Students also participate in the festival as part-time staff and gain experience in how to organise such an event.

While this is meant to keep culture alive, students at Frederick University learn more about conserving the earth.

collect and conserve in seed banks at least 200 native European tree species.

The goal of the University of Nicosia's Institute for the Future (IFF) is to look at today's and tomorrow's technological challenges.

It is to push students, faculty, policy-makers and business leaders to prepare for a variety of technology-related changes which they believe will start reaching commercial viability by 2020. For 2017 to 2018 the IFF has three main focal areas of study, blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, and augmented and virtual reality.

"Each one of these technologies would be individually disruptive. In aggregate, these technologies will have a compounding effect on the economy, social structures, legal systems, income distribution, governance, education, and warfare — and ask fundamental questions on how society is organised," the institute announced.

With this in mind the uni-

