

special report International Education



The joys of studying in a land with no mountains

ARRIVING at Larnaca airport with two suitcases way over the weight limit and more handbags than allowed but still managing to hold my dad's hand as we made our way towards the check-in desk, I wondered if I'd made the right choice in choosing to study in Amsterdam.

After finishing A-levels I'd been offered a place in all the UK universities I'd applied to, and as all of my friends were discussing the pros and cons of each of their options, I was powering through the long and time-consuming application process for a liberal arts and sciences college in Amsterdam.

I'd been to the UK around a dozen times, and while I didn't find it terrible, bar London's underground stations, I wanted something different, something new, and most of all somewhere with minimal chances

of running into herds of Greek Cypriots. 18 years was quite enough. Although the UK and America remain popular destinations for Cyprus students, Holland is becoming increasingly attractive as many courses are offered in English. **Lizzy Ioannidou** says it is a step into the unknown worth taking

Telling my parents I'd be going to Cannabis Central wasn't quite the struggle I thought it would be. My dad may have been a guitar-carrying hippy in his day, but the only remnant of that is a serious music collection. Oddly enough, they were very proud.

The bottom line was, the UK was the last place my dad wanted me to go for studies, even though he was a UK university graduate himself. He found the tuition fees and cost of life ridiculous, and even more ridiculous that I would have to take out a student loan to go study. On top of that, he believed that continental Europe offered a better future for me, in terms of culture, job opportunities, and simply in 'the way that they do things'.

Here I am though back in this excuse for a country, as he calls it. Sorry pops. The application process was tricky. It's not a general rule of thumb for Dutch universities, most have a pretty straightforward application process. I was just so fascinated by the multidisciplinary of-

fered by a liberal arts programme that I simply accepted the fact that I was running head-on into an excessively intensive academic wormhole.

And it was. One of the first things I was told by local students was that the university has a very high acceptance rate, but they know that not all will make it to the second year, and even fewer will graduate. For three years I dragged myself out of bed in the morning, had the traditional Dutch breakfast of



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LEARNING Motivation is a learning experience that can be compared to the desire of achieving personal goals. The desired education destination results from a long journey that needs firstly to achieve some short-term goals. What students need to begin this exciting journey is to be motivated, try hard and control their decisions. Motivation must be strong enough to encourage the student get to the desired destination.

L.M.C. Educational Services is a Learning Motivation Centre that provides education advice to students to increase the amount of effort they put into their learning in order to reach their goals. L.M.C. Educational Services cooperates with a significant number of educational institutes in Cyprus and abroad to support students motivation. L.M.C. offers academic (Diplomas/Bachelors/Masters/PhDs) and vocational qualifications (Levels 1-8) of learning either On Campus or by Distance learning. L.M.C. offers a variety of different programme types and sector subject areas to meet learners and employers' requirements in collaboration with Schools and Universities from the United Kingdom and Cyprus. The qualifications at different levels indicate the relative demand, complexity, depth of achievement, and the autonomy of the learner. The final choice is always based on the needs and qualifications of each candidate student individually. All courses are quality assured, accredited and recognised globally and they allow students to progress from one level to

another and to provide career progression. The flexible approach allows you to integrate these qualification and training with your professional role.

L.M.C. also offers assistance in writing a short personal statement, and gives advice on how to write a Curriculum Vitae (CV). L.M.C. services also include registration on summer Internship programmes abroad in areas like International Business, Architecture and Law. In addition, students can get information about foreign language programmes (eg English, French, German, Russian, Greek) available for all language levels from two to 52 weeks. Furthermore, students can get information about accommodation in the UK (On or Off Campus).

L.M.C. Educational Services is a Corporate Member of the Cyprus Human Resource Management Association (CyHRMA), and has been trained by British Council (UK) and National Career Development Association (USA). L.M.C. has been awarded the International ICEF Agency Status.

Lefteris M. Colocassides DBA, GCDFI, CCSP
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Neapolis University Pafos is one of the **leading private universities in Cyprus**, with students from all around the world.

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World leader in law and business

THE University of Law is a world leader in legal and business education dating back to 1876. It offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in law and business, as well as an extensive selection of post qualification law and professional development courses in eight fully resourced modern campuses around the UK, each located near thriving commercial hubs, leading law firms and transport links. It is opening two new campuses this year in Hong Kong and Nottingham in the UK, and also has partnerships with the University of Liverpool and the University of Exeter.

Whether your ambition is to work as a lawyer or in another industry, studying at The University of Law will ensure you'll get the best possible start to your career. With a global, alumni group with over 64,000 members in 11,800 businesses and organisations and by working with 90 of the top 100 UK law firms, and with a wide range of barristers' chambers, it aims to give students excellent networking opportunities.

With its national presence and strong connections with the profession, The University of Law is able to offer an extensive range of employer talks, workshops and careers fairs for students to engage and interact with potential employers.

Furthermore, all tutors are qualified solicitors, barristers or judges, many still practicing, ensuring that students will benefit from their insight into today's legal world. It is no surprise therefore that it has been awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework for its



teaching and learning outcomes. Students also have the benefit of gaining access and membership to the Chartered Management Institution (CMI).

The university's expert legal careers and employability service is one of the largest in the UK, with over 30 experts across the country providing one to one support. The University of Law runs probably the largest and most varied legal pro bono programme in UK legal education, each year offering 3,700 opportunities for you to put your skills into practice. It runs a wide range of programmes and was at the forefront of pioneering pro bono opportunities for law students as its programmes have been nominated for a number of awards.

The University of Law is the ideal place for an international student to study as it has a very diverse student demographic and there is



an abundance of opportunities to join different societies and engage with other students. You will have many opportunities to get involved in a rich social and sporting life at The University of Law – at which-

ever campus you choose to study. You are automatically a member of the University's Student Association, which is tasked to enhance and improve your student and academic experience, by having a

strong representation structure, extra-curricular activities, clubs and societies and much more.

The University of Law's international team makes regular visits to Cyprus to participate in fairs and exhibitions and is always very keen to talk to prospective Cypriot students. As the Cypriot Apolytition is accepted for entry requirements, it has a growing number of Cypriot students studying on Undergraduate courses and a significant number of Cypriot students studying on Postgraduate courses.

It is at the heart of legal education as the acknowledged leader in innovative, professional legal education for prospective lawyers and professional development training for those already qualified.

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Student life in Holland

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bread covered with chocolate sprinkles (hagelslag in Dutch, meaning hail storm) – it's better in taste than in thought – coupled with coffee and then more coffee before making my way to university through the insufferable winds of a land without mountains.

A point on travelling here. A road without a bicycle lane in Amsterdam is as rare as a sunny day, and for those who can get their hands on a good racing bike that can storm through the winds, their transportation costs are zero and you'd be amazed at how easily you can go from one end to the other without breaking a sweat. Plus, going to bars with friends at night by bike can leave you with more stories about the way back than a bus ride could ever do.

I tried the bike thing for the first two years, but my student budget meant I could only afford a mediocre bike, and I wasn't lucky enough to run into someone wandering the streets selling a stolen thousand

euro racing bike for €10. So after two bikes had been stolen, one broke and the other I just left outside a friend's house for months because I couldn't be bothered, I moved onto trams, trains and buses, which worked out just fine.

In my Uni we had class sizes of no more than 15 students, with tables arranged in a horse-shoe shape ready for discussion rather than lectures, an attendance policy of no more than five absences per course, daily reading assignments, four essays per course plus discussion leading sessions, group projects and seemingly never-ending presentations – it was a lot, but it was worth it.

In the UK I'd have graduated with an English Literature degree, in Amsterdam University College I'm a Humanities graduate with a specialisation in Literature and Culture with a minor in the Social Sciences.

In one semester, for example, my five courses were Political Shakespeare, Contemporary Sociologi-



cal Thought, Moral Dilemmas in Medical Practice, History of Philosophy, and French B1. And as a Lit student, you'd be amazed at how everything just comes together in an understanding of knowledge.

I was free to tackle quantum physics alongside postcolonial literary theory and Tocqueville's ideas on democracy if I wanted to, as long as I'd completed a certain number of courses in the track I wanted to

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specialise in.

Beyond the university walls, science majors had the Amsterdam Science Park, the largest hub in Europe for science research, education and entrepreneurship just across the road; social science majors had the International Institute of Social History five minutes away by bike, while for them, along with Humanities majors, Amsterdam was our oyster.

The city is brimming with arts and culture, from dozens of museum exhibitions and performances every week, to underground scenes, to pop-up street artists making grey days unexpectedly bright.

But for every student, right behind the university,

and just about in any area you live in Amsterdam, there are enormous parks where people wind down, have barbecues, play games, and simply lie away from the bustle of the city. And with canals painted in the view of every window, even staying indoors can be a pleasant experience.

The longer you live in Amsterdam, the less often you visit the tourist hot-spots, like the centre of the city and the Red Light District, which is the closest thing to King's Cross station you'll find in terms of the density of people. You stray as far away from tourists as possible, and it always seems like it's a special bunch that end up in Amsterdam.



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Study arts in a creative environment

AIGAIA School of Art and Design is an officially accredited, private Institution of Higher Education, specialising in art and design in Cyprus. Aigaia is registered with and accredited by the Ministry of Education in Cyprus and with Pearson Education in the UK, offering accredited programmes of study.

Studying in this creative and unique educational environment, Aigaia's students are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to experiment, develop and apply ideas and creative concerns through practical, experiential and creative teaching methods. Students understand the various and different applications of fine and applied arts as well as the opportunities for career choices and future development. One of the major aims of Aigaia is to create distinct artistic personalities so students can apply their knowledge and their creative thinking in any field or chosen career.

Programmes of Study

Diploma in Visual Arts, 2year (accredited by Cyprus Authorities) offers specialisations in Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Ceramics, Photography, Multidimensional Approach to the Visual Arts, Performance, Video art, Graphic design, Illustration, Jewellery design, Theatre and Costume design, Interior design, Fashion design, Textile design, Film and Animation, etc.

BTEC HND (Higher National Diploma) in Art & Design, with pathways in Fine Arts Practice, Photography and Fashion &/or Textiles

Students completing their BTEC Higher Nationals in Art and De-



sign will be aiming to go on to employment or progress to a final year at university.

BTECs are work-related qualifications for students taking their first steps into employment, or for those already in employment and seeking career development opportunities. BTECs provide progression into the workplace either directly or via study and are also designed to meet employer's needs.

The HND qualifications were developed in close collaboration with experts from professional bodies to ensure they meet both the above progression aims.

Degree in Visual Arts, a 4year course that offers an exciting and dynamic experience of a con-

stantly evolving area of study. This is for students that want to be innovative and experiment with ideas and practices, enabling them to discover the Visual Arts in any combination of materials and approaches. The course is based on the personal artistic development of each individual student; depending on their individual characteristics, developing self-confidence and ambitions, allowing them to express themselves freely, to produce work and after graduation, work on a wide range of careers related to the arts.

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art & Design in which the emphasis is given to the creation of an extensive portfolio of artwork through



textile design
interior design
graphic design & illustration
jewellery design and accessories
theatre & costume design
animation
product & industrial design

Annual exhibition

The end of year show at Aigaia, gives the opportunity to students to present their artwork in a professional environment.

ERASMUS+

Aigaia students have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus+ European programmes. The mobilities are organised by Aigaia and aim to be about various subjects that are concerned with professional and vocational education, internships at various companies or generally in the industry involved with the arts, culture and art education.

Aigaia Institute

Aigaia Institute offers specialised art and design lessons and preparation for the GCSE and GCE Art & Design examinations. The programmes offered are specially designed and developed based on the philosophy and methods applied by Aigaia's higher education courses. The teaching takes place in specialised workshops in the facilities of our building.

Drama classes & Examinations and Preparation for auditions

Aigaia drama school offers children, teenagers and adults the opportunity to unfold personal qualities, develop and express themselves and feel the excitement of a performance and gain professional qualifications from LAMDA.

EDEXCEL GCSE, AS & A LEVEL /// PORTFOLIO PREPARATION

subjects

Art, Craft and Design

Fine Art

Graphic Communication

Textile Design

Three-Dimensional Design

Photography



BTEC HND /// Higher National Diploma

FINE ART PRACTICE
FASHION & TEXTILES
PHOTOGRAPHY



VISUAL ARTS ///

DIPLOMA, 2 year
BACHELOR, 4 year



BTEC FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART & DESIGN

FINE ART

Painting
Sculpture
Printmaking
Photography
Ceramics
Installation
Video art
Performance
Multidimensional approach to Fine Art

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Which exam should you take?

The benefits of IELTS, IGCSEs, A levels and International A levels to studying abroad

IN TODAY'S globalised world, English language examinations can open doors to young people wishing to study or work in Cyprus and abroad. The vast choice of examinations available can however leave students puzzled and unable to decide which qualification will benefit them most in terms of reaching their goals.

IELTS is an English language qualification recognised by over 9,000 organisations worldwide. In Cyprus, thousands of candidates take the exam each year. Having the option of two modules, the Academic or General Training module, candidates are tested in four skills; reading, writing, listening and speaking. Results are announced according to the IELTS band score scale, where '9' is the highest and represents an expert user.

The IELTS Academic module is designed for students who wish to study in English taught higher education institutions at un-

dergraduate or postgraduate levels as well as for those seeking professional registration. The IELTS General Training module is designed for EU citizens who wish to train or study at below degree level or migrate to an English-speaking country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK) although it is best to check with the countries' authorities before taking an exam for immigration purposes.

The IELTS qualification is valid for two years so it is important that candidates take the examination close to the date of when they are going to provide it.

Another very popular English language qualification in Cyprus is the IGCSE or International GCSE English as a Second language which is also widely recognised in the academic and business world as well as the civil service in Cyprus. The qualification does not expire, and candidates receiving a C grade or above confirm an Eng-



lish language competency level equivalent to B2 on The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale. However, those applying to study in the UK via UCAS will find one that is over five years is counted as no longer valid.

Apart from the English language examinations, students who wish to study abroad may also consider taking A levels or Interna-

tional A levels. These exams are subject-based, requiring about two years of preparation. In Cyprus the most popular A level and International A level exam is Mathematics. A levels or International A levels are equally recognised and can provide a competitive advantage to students hoping to receive an offer from the university of their choice. A levels and International A levels also prepare students

for their first year of study by covering the curriculum needed for the specific subject.

Parents and students should be informed of the various examinations available as early as possible to prepare accordingly. Early preparation avoids stress during the last months of study and better results for students to succeed in reaching their goals.

More information can be

found at the British Council where a wide range of exams is administered, from English tests to school and business qualifications in more than 90 countries worldwide.

For more information contact Natasha Apostolidou, Exams Business Development and Account Relationship Manager, Tel: 22 585265, Natasha.apostolidou@cy.britishcouncil.org

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