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special report Highereducation



Housing the students

n the past, student accommodation mostly meant college student affairs' offices dishing out a list of names and addresses of available rooms and flats in the area and leaving students to find themselves somewhere to live.

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The number of students has mushroomed in recent years but so have rents. The universities have risen to the challenge of building them places to live



The creation of the new

residences is the result of

an investment of €60 mil-

lion, the largest investment

ever in university infrastructure in Cyprus. The UNic residences consist of

three buildings occupying

an area of 40,000 square me-

tres. They have 858 studios,

No longer. Universities, both private and public, now strive to build accommodation for students on their campuses. And some of them are nothing short of luxurious.

Reasons are the growing numbers of students coupled with rising rents on the island, plus the need for universities to supply facilities offering much more than a bed to sleep in.

"We had our first residences in 1991, double and single rooms, this was the first student accommodation in Cyprus," head of student affairs at the European Cyprus University Eleni Markantoni said.

The university is about to open new accommodation on September 17.

"Every so often, they have to be remodeled. Students are more demanding and

By Annette Chrysostomou

we have to supply an enhanced product. Now they want to stay alone and they want studios and apartments with smart technology not just share a room."

ogy, not just share a room." The brand new Unihalls Trinity complex at the European University Cyprus will provide housing for 228 students in studios and one-bedroom flats, all fully furnished with large wardrobes, kitchens, en-suite bathrooms and balconies with views of the city.

The facilities and services include laundry rooms with washing machines, dryers, high speed internet, car parking, bike storage and

an arrival package with essential housewares, all at the cost of €112 to €139 weekly depending on the choice of flat. "We are the first in Europe to provide such equipment

"We are the first in Europe to provide such equipment for student accommodation, along with 24 hour service and reception," the university announced.

They are – for the time being – the only residences in Europe with smart TVs and intercoms.

The same company who is in charge of the new building, Rotos developers, opened the doors of the first student accommodation in Engomi, Unihalls Premier,

in 2014.

Its 289 rooms are open for students from all universities. Like the Unihalls Trinity, it has 24/7 security, its own fitness centre and restaurant.

At the University of Nicosia, another ambitious project is close to finishing.

"UNic residences will be the largest student hub in Cyprus and one of the most functional and complete hubs in Europe, with innovative architecture and modern aesthetics, enriching the modern campus of the University of Nicosia," the university said of the nearly completed buildings.

six restaurants and cafés, three gyms, a swimming pool, study and leisure areas, and six bungalows with private gardens.

Accommodation at Frederick University, scheduled to open in 2019, will also

TURN TO PAGE 20

Highereducation

Open University of Cyprus: Higher education that's within your reach!

pen University of Cy-prus (OUC) is a public University, and the country's only university dedicated to open and distance education. OUC broadens horizons in higher education and opens up new possibilities to prospective students wishing to study in an innovative environment that enables them to choose from a range of accredited, interdisciplinary, career-ori-ented Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees, and complete their studies at their own pace and place.

At Open University of Cyprus, there is no "one size fits all" approach to higher education. OUC's flexible educational methodology supports people's need for continuous enhancement of their qualifications apropos of personal development and career advancement, allowing students to tailor their own educational path, irrespective of age, time, location or life circumstances.

Since its establishment in 2002 and the launch of its first programmes in 2006, OUC has continued to grow steadily in academic stature and reputation. OUC is a leading institution in promoting open and distance learning, with an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students in the 2017-2018 academic year, and an alumni community of nearly 4,800 graduates. Moreover, OUC is implementing innovative projects, is carrying out



basic and applied research funded by national, European and international programmes, and is a member of some of the most renowned international university networks, such as EUA, EADTU and ICDE.

Studies at OUC

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Open University of Cyprus offers four Bachelor's and 22 Master's (17 in Greek, five in English) degree programmes, as well as positions for PhD students. All programmes are organised by the University's three faculties:

• Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

• Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

• Faculty of Economics and Management

Distance learning methods

Distance education differs from conventional classroombased education, mainly



because it allows students to complete their studies without physically attending scheduled lectures. Students only need to be present at the exam centres organised in Cyprus, Greece, and in other countries under certain conditions, for their final exams. OUC's main educational tool is a state-of-the-art eLearning Platform (eClass) that facilitates online teaching and learning, allowing the estab-lishment of virtual classrooms. eClass is equipped with realtime and asynchronous collaboration tools, and is a comprehensive and constantly evolving elearning system that supports the educational process in all its phases.

The synchronous collaboration (virtual classrooms, live streaming lectures), and asynchronous (forums, instant messaging) communication tools are fully utilised by OUC's experienced teaching staff, offering effective and interactive academic support, guidance, and advice. At the same time, the learning experience is complemented by group tutorials scheduled, throughout the academic year. These are organised with physical presence, or conducted virtually via eClass.

Why choose Open University of Cyprus

• For the opportunity to study in a **European public University**, with strong links and cooperation with Universities, research centres, and networks worldwide.

• For its flexible learnercentric educational methodology, which allows students to adjust their studies to fit in with professional, family and other commitments.

• For the range of its affordable, high quality, distance learning undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, which meet the needs of the business world, upskill graduates and enable them to fulfil personal and professional aspirations.



• For its user-friendly, state-

tutors-stu-

of-the-art eLearning Platform

supporting real-time and

dents interaction, combined

with the multi-format edu-

cational material used, all of

which allow a seamless learn-

demic support provided by

OUC's experienced and influ-

ential teaching staff, making

For the continuous aca-

asynchronous

ing experience.



effective use of synchronous and asynchronous communication tools, and online or face-to-face study group tutorials.

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Academic Year 2018-19



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- 4 Bachelors, 22 Masters (5 in English), PhD studies.
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- Scholarships & Reduced tuition fees.

FREDERICK UNIVERSITY

We support the Journey to your Success #TheJourneyToMySuccess

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

he mission of Frederick University is to provide learning opportunities through teaching and research in the areas of science, technology, literature and the arts, as well as the general contribution to society.

an educational organisa-Ås tion, the university has a history dating back more than 50 years, during which it has systematically taken a leading role in the higher and highest education of the country, winning recognition locally and internationally. It is one of the main research organisations participating in European research programmes and only in the last year, 30 research projects in which the University participates have been externally funded with a total budget of more than 18 million euro. Students and graduates participate and dis-tinguish themselves in international competitions, while members of its academic community have been invited to serve the state as ministers and other top posts.

STUDY OPTIONS

Today Frederick University operates five schools and offers over 80 evaluated and recognised programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate levels, which cover a broad spectrum of studies in different fields.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL

IDEAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Frederick University operates in two cities, Nicosia and Limassol. Its base is in Nicosia,

while certain faculties and departments also operate at the university's Limassol branch. Through its continuous pursuit of

2018

THE JOURNEY TO MY SUCCESS

STUDENT SUPPORT

A central pillar of the university's steady success is its human approach. The planning and philosophy - the way Frederick University understands its mission - all focus on the individual student. Every operation serves the needs of students so that they can develop their talents and skills and realise their dreams. Through the university's experience, it has developed the necessary structures to be able to assist students with academic difficulties, to handle social and personal problems, to support students with financial difficulties and also provide graduates with advice about their career goals.

At Frederick University, students know that throughout their academic journey their lecturers and administrative staff will be by their side every step of the way to help them overcome any difficulties and participate in a creative student life.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Frederick University has developed a modern and innovative educational framework, which is at the forefront of educational innovation, in order to deliver quality distance study programmes. Today, more than 10 such recognised programmess are offered at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in various fields, such as Education Science, Management and Health.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

Frederick University focuses on developing programmes that address the needs of society and the economy, and which can subsequently support graduates in their career path.

The School of Engineering is the largest of its kind in Cyprus. It offers courses in engineering, a fiveyear architecture diploma, as well as postgraduate programmes in cutting edge disciplines. All the School's programmes are recog-



nised by the Technical Chamber of Cyprus.

Additionally, it is important to mention that this year, the first Naval Engineers graduated from a Cypriot Naval Academy, that of Frederick University (Naval Technology Academy Cyprus).

The first **Department of Maritime Studies** operates in the School of Law and Administration and is a leader in this very important field in Cyprus. The university also runs a Law programme, focussing on the various forms of law within the European Union.

The University's School of Arts, Communication and Cultural Studies is also at the forefront, having won more than 150 awards and distinctions while also running the first Journalism programme in Cyprus. The School of Health Sciences created the first Department of Pharmacy in Cyprus. It has modern labs and experienced staff, while also providing a nursing programme that is professionally recognised in all the EU.

The Education and Social Sciences School, offers programmes for teachers and nursery teachers as well as postgraduate programmes, which cover modern trends and needs in education. Programmes are also offered in Social Work and Psychology. From September, the university in Limassol will offer the pioneering degree course in 'Sports Science and Sports', which will focus on sports tourism and leisure sports, offering specialisation in sports training – sea sports, athletics, team sports, gymnastics, combat sports as well as health and fitness.

RECOGNITION

students in September 2019.

quality education, the university

support the various programmes

of study it offers both in Nicosia

work has already begun on the

close to the University's Nicosia

construction of student halls

and Limassol. Additionally,

provides the necessary facilities to

All of Frederick University's programmes of study have been evaluated by state agencies and external committees and are fully recognised by the Republic of Cyprus and the countries of the European Union.

Ås important as academic recognition is professional recognition, which is achieved through the university's degrees. Specifically, professional bodies (eg technical chambers, professional associations and government services) in Cyprus, Greece and other European countries recognise the academic qualifications of Frederick University and provide graduates with employment opportunities in engineering, architecture, pharmaceuticals, nursing, law, education, social work, psychology and more.



Highereducation



A VISION FOR GLOBAL ACADEMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is the largest university in Cyprus in terms of enrolled students, and the largest university in Southern Europe that teaches primarily in English, welcoming more than 11,500 students from over 70 countries across the globe. In line with its strategy for internationalisation and global outreach, UNIC maintains teams in numerous cities worldwide (including New York City, Chicago, London, Tel Aviv and Athens), and has over 400 other university partners for student study abroad and exchange or research partnerships.

Academics

The University of Nicosia has been instrumental in the internationalisation of higher education in Cyprus and the wider region.

COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

UNIC is a comprehensive university with over 100 conventional on-campus and online/distance learning programmes of study, and particular strengths in medicine, health sciences, law, accounting, architecture, international relations, education sciences, computer science, and engineering. This is enhanced through joint or dual degrees with leading partner universities with complementary expertise.

EUROPEAN LEADERS IN ONLINE/DISTANCE EDUCATION

UNIC has been a pioneer in online/distance learning education in Europe, supporting both its own degree programmes, as well as those of its joint degree partners. UNIC is the first university in the EU to be awarded 5 QS Stars for Online/Distance Learning.

1st AND LARGEST MEDICAL SCHOOL

UNIC founded the first and largest Medical School in Cyprus in 2011 by offering the St George's, University of London Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme. The School has since added an undergraduate-entry medical programme and a number of postgraduate degrees, and offers fully integrated clinical training programmes spanning three continents.





Research

's research focus for 2020 is oriented towards larger, interdisciplinary research projects, which primarily address areas of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

25 RESEARCH CENTRES

UNIC has contributed to the creation of 25 research centres and related academic institutions, focused on exploring new technological and scientific advancements, as well as the humanities and social sciences. Among them is the newly established Institute For the Future, which focuses on three major areas of research and study: Enhanced and Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence, and Blockchain/Digital Currency Technologies.



HORIZON2020 PROJECTS

UNIC is currently a coordinator or partner in 4 active Horizon2020 research consortiums, the EU's flagship research projects. These entail tackling contemporary



UNIC CIT

UNIC CITY, our vibrant university campus, is one of the most dynamic and attractive residential urban campuses in the Mediterranean.

20 MODERN UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

UNIC's modern campus is made up of 20 purpose-built and refurbished buildings situated amid the bustling suburb of Engomi in Nicosia. Over the last few years, UNIC has invested over €100 million in campus infrastructure.

UNIC RESIDENCES

The newly built UNIC Residences consist of three separate complexes - SIX, U and TRIANGLE - and are some of the most stunning and architecturally distinct student residences in the world. They will house a total of 864 students, with first-year incoming students at the University guaranteed accommodation.

NICOSIA: A UNIVERSITY CITY

Nicosia is the top city in Europe for human capital and lifestyle (Financial Times), ahead of Cambridge, Oxford and Geneva, with an approximate population of 500,000. UNIC CITY is an integral part of the capital, offering a terrific student life to a vibrant multicultural community, with a variety of on and off-campus facilities and a wide choice of restaurants, cafes, shops, nightlife, and other entertainment.







(I) universityofnicosia







To us, THINK BIG means more than 11,500 students from over 70 countries worldwide, 100 diverse programmes of study, including 8 master degrees in cooperation with other leading universities, and 25 research centres engaged in cutting-edge research. It means being the first university in Europe to achieve 5 QS Stars for distance learning education, and being recognised as global leaders in blockchain education. It means a leading Medical School in collaboration with St George's, University of London, offering fully integrated clinical training programmes spanning three continents. But it also means an unforgettable student experience, at the most dynamic, vibrant and ever-expanding urban campus in Cyprus.

🛗 UniversityNicosia

Welcome to the largest university in Cyprus.

Welcome to the University of Nicosia.

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UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA

Highereducation

Housing the students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

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have state-of-the-art facilities, its own gym, a restau-

rant and a cafeteria. It will offer 150 rooms which are all within walking distance of the university.

A growing number of students has prompted the

university to opt for erect-ing the new building. "We are already facing se-rious problems with stu-dents that come to Cyprus and find it difficult to find and find it difficult to find affordable accommodation a short distance from the university," press officer Victoria Avraamidou said. Asked what the plans for its campus in Limas-sol are, where high rents are a pressing problem, Avraamidou said that fu-ture plans depend on the strategic plan for the cam-pus which will be finalised pus which will be finalised in the next academic year

but something is being done already. "The majority of interna-tional students are coming to Nicosia so at present this is not a buge problem but is not a huge problem, but it is a growing one. The university is planning for intermediate housing solutions for a small number of students – around 50 – in the next academic year."

At the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the building of student accommodation was a must when it was established in 2012, as unlike other univer-



At the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the building of student accommodation was a must when it was established in 2012

flats.

sities in Nicosia and Limassol, it is located in a rather

small village, Pyla. 'Student's Nest', with its 171 en-suite rooms, is sprawled over an area of 5,500 square metres close to the campus and consists of five blocks with a total of 49

complex near Pyla The

beach is another example of housing tailored for today's students. It has Wi-Fi and on-site launderette. It features an outdoor pool, a games room, a club room, machines vending and



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parking for cars and bicycles.

There is CCTV, 24-hours security service and a controlled entrance to ensure the safety of the students.

The University of Neapolis in Paphos offers accommodation within the premises and has done so from the time the institution opened in 2007.

Student rooms are fully furnished and have a bathroom and offer something unique: a balcony overlooking the sea or indoor gardens.

The University of Cyprus currently has 208 rooms, some of which are with en-suite bathrooms, and nowadays all have air conditioning and Wi-Fi, which was not the case when the residences were first built in 2002-2003.

The state university keeps the rooms for those who have socio-economic issues and thus aims to keep the rent as low as possible while at the same time aiming at upgrading the facilities with the limited resources at their disposal.

As at the private universi-ties, the idea is to expand in future.

'Our problem is the limited number of rooms, but we depend on the state budget and hope we will have the money in 2020 and 2021 to gradually build 1,000 rooms for all the new-comers," said Christina Lambrou, who is head of the housing office.









More students, higher rents

According to the statistical services, during the 2012-2013 academic year, more than 8,300 foreign students were registered in tertiary education institutions, while in 2016 the number

topped 17,600. The RICS Indicator (The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) which registers the cost of rents, apartments and houses

in the central areas of the island's urban districts shows that there have been considerable increases in prices, which create serious financial problems for those, like students, who have a tight budget.

In Nicosia on an annual basis the rents of apart-ments increased by 13.7 per cent.

Rents in Limassol have gone up by around 25 per cent in under two years.

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