# Highereducation

Why choose Cyprus to study for degree?



ccording the ministry of education the government aims not only to fulfil the needs of the local population in terms of tertiary education but also to establish Cyprus as a regional education and research centre - a hub for international students and scholars. With three public and five private universities, combined with over 40 other public and private tertiary institutions on the island, there is no doubt that the country is going some way to achieving that goal, but are student intake num-

so, from what countries and why?

Statistics published by the ministry confirm student numbers at these institutions have been increasing on an annual basis. A total of 31,965 were enrolled in the academic year of 2012/2013, rising to 48,172 for the academic year of 2017/2018, meaning a 50 per cent increase was seen in just six years. But where do these students come from? Further analysis shows that although the numbers of Cypriot students enrolled at Cyprus institutions have increased slightly, the major growth has been

particularly those from other European countries (rising from 5,178 in 2012/2013 to 15,509 in

2017/2018). "The cost of study and living in Cyprus is low compared to other European countries," said Senior Educational Officer in the Department

Education Yiannis Kasoulides. "Cyprus is a member of the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area, therefore providing education of top quality standards, according to the European standards on higher education.

world reports Nadia Sawyer

the tertiary education sector in Cyprus is

degrees that are well received around the

attracting more and more students for

In addition to the above, Kasoulides listed a catalogue of other reasons why students choose Cyprus for higher education, including the wide range of courses on offer; that qualifications are recognised and accepted worldwide; English is the main language in most of the institutions; the government and the institutions offer financial support to Cypriot and international students by way of grants and scholarships.

Although the figures for the last couple of

academic years show that a third of all university students have been studying via distance learning, the remainder have been physically on the island.

According to Alexandros Antonaras Assistant Professor and Vice President of Student Services at the University of Nicosia (UNic), the largest university in Cyprus, the main reason Cypriots choose to stay on the island is due to the many degree options now available. Indeed. UNic itself currently offers 100 different programmes of study.

"The second reason is due to the quality of education and the third reason is the cost benefit analysis," he said, explaining that it is much cheaper to stay in Cyprus and get a good degree than to go abroad

and incur travel and living expenses on top of the fees.

UNic also

welcomes international students from over 70 countries across the globe and Antonaras believes that the main reason foreigners come to Cyprus to study is for the standard of education. Unsurprisingly, he cited the weather and the safe environment as two other important factors, as well as the cost factor, with Cyprus being cheaper than other European countries and the USA.

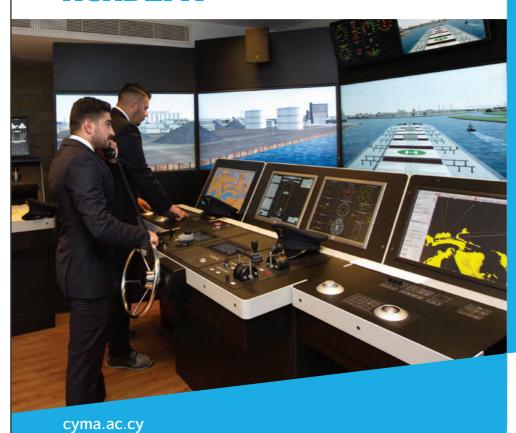
"Cyprus universities offer value for money," he stated. Indeed, fees for medical degrees are notoriously expensive around the world, yet UNic has 700 medical students, 600 of whom are from abroad.

**TURN TO PAGE 24** 



### **Higher**education

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   & Event Management

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     Security, International Business Law, Financial
     & Commercial Law
- LLM Financial & Commercial Law
- LLM International Business Law

#### SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

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- BSc (Hons) Computing
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- BSc (Hons) Web Design & Development
- BSc (Hons) Psychology
- option modules in: Forensic Psychology,
   Sport & Exercise Psychology
- BSc (Hons) Sport & Exercise Science
  - option modules in:Sport Psychology
- BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- option modules in: Telecommunications & Mobile Technologies, Renewable & Sustainable Energy Systems

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- MSc Cybersecurity
- OFFERED ALSO AS DISTANCE LEARNING
- MSc Data Analytics
- MSc Forensic Psychology
- MSc Sport & Exercise Science

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## Why stay in Cyp

contionued from page 21 Regarding third-world nationals, Antonaras believes that they come to Cyprus specifically to get a European degree.

But what do the Cypriot and foreign students themselves think?

Natasa Mavrommati, a 25-year old Cypriot, obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Cyprus (UCY) and followed it up with a master's from the Cyprus International Institute of Management (CIIM). She explained that doing a degree at a public university in Cyprus is free for those Cypriot students whose high school leaving certificate is of a high enough grade to be offered a place and the standard is comparable to institutions elsewhere on the continent.

"The University of Cyprus is a good university. It is ranked quite highly and is one of the best in Europe," she said.

Now a human resourc-

Now a human resources administrator working in a local bank, Mavrommati believes that having a degree from a local university may have worked to her advantage as she has noticed in her current job that candidates with Cypriot degrees are looked upon favourably.

"We even go to exhibitions at the UCY to get CVs and get students interested," she advised.

Antonaras concurred that Cypriot employers view local graduates positively. "The employment rates are high. Despite the increase in the number of graduates, people still find jobs," he said.

While attending the CIIM, a private institution, for her postgraduate degree (which she did while working), Mavrommati recognised the benefits of having lecturers from other countries, who brought with them different perspectives, as well as having lecturers from the business sector. Although

ordinarily she would have had to pay full fees for her postgraduate degree, she was lucky enough to receive a partial scholarship from the CIIM, due to the good grades she achieved in her undergraduate degree.

Gabonese national Cedric Nkoulou, 29, was also motivated by the costs and educational standards when he elected to do his master's degree here in Cyprus, having obtained his bachelor's degree from a university in Cameroon. Currently doing an MBA at the European University Cyprus, Nkoulou said foreign students "are looking for a better education and Cyprus



follows European regulations. Tuition fees are not expensive in comparison with other countries such as Canada, the USA and France."

And what was the university looking for in him?

"They checked to see if my bachelor's was

'The University
of Cyprus is a
good university.
It is ranked quite
highly and is one
of the best in
Europe'

from a good university and that I was proficient in English," said the French speaker, confirming that he had to sit an English exam to prove it. Indeed, one of the frustrations he has experienced is that some Cypriot students ask questions in Greek and the lecturers reply in Greek which leaves the foreign contingent of the class out of the discussion, a problem that Nkoulou believes should be addressed.

Another matter that gives him some concern is that although students can obtain a permit to work a limited number of hours, the jobs available are usually menial – cleaners, gardeners, farm workers etc – and he believes that it would be more beneficial if students obtained

some work experience in their particular field of study.

Despite these two minor issues, Nkoulou believes that a master's degree from a Cypriot institution will stand him in good stead anywhere in the world.

where in the world.

"The degree is of a good standard because Cyprus is in the EU and everything is controlled," he added. "The government makes sure that all the universities follow the rules."

Indeed, Kasoulides confirmed that "the study programmes of higher education institutions in Cyprus are accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, in alignment with the European Standard Guidelines."

## Higher education within your reach!

THE Open University of Cyprus (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-oriented 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 launching of its first programmes in 2006, OUC continues to grow steadily in academic stature and reputation. OUC is a leading institution in promoting open and distance learning, with an enrollment of approximately 4,100 students in the 2018-2019 academic year, and an alumni community reaching nearly 5,850 graduates. Moreover, OUC implements innovative projects, carries 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.

#### Studying at OUC

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Open University of Cyprus offers four Bachelor's and 21 Master's (16 in Greek, 5 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 exams centres 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 establishment of virtual classrooms. eClass is equipped with real-time and asynchronous collaboration tools, and is a comprehensive and constantly evolving e-learning 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,





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guidance, and advice. At the same time, learning experience is complemented by group tutorials scheduled throughout the academic year, which are organised with physical presence, or conducted virtually on eClass.

#### Why choose the 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 learner-centric educational methodology, which allows students to adjust their studies to fit in with professional, family, and other commitments.
- ullet For the range of its afford-

able, 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, stateof-the-art eLearning platform supporting real-time and asynchronous tutor-student interaction, combined with the multi-format educational material used, all of which allow a seamless learning experience.
- For the continuous academic support provided by OUC's experienced and influential teaching staff, making effective use of synchronous and asynchronous communication tools, and online or face-to-face study group tutorials.

## Never too late to get a degree

Time and money to invest in yourself, better chance of promotion: there are lots of reasons why some people go back to learning. Nadia Sawyer speaks to some mature students

he healthy human brain is a continually evolving assimilatorgan, ing new information on a daily basis, not only from the general experiences of living, but also from reading, studying and learning. For most, tertiary education is completed by the mid-twenties, but for others, it might begin or continue much later in life. There are many different reasons for this but they might include the desire to progress an existing career, to start a different one or simply to gain a new life expe-

ture students make up 75 per cent of its current intake. The CIM is the island's oldest business school and has been welcoming mature students on its various programmes for over 40

years.
"One of the primary obment was to give people a second chance and to fill a gap in the market because there was no institution offering the possibility to study and work at the same time," said Deputy Director-General Yangos Hadjiyannis.

Indeed, most of the in-

'They might lack confidence at the beginning and may need an adaptation period. They may need support because they have been out of the class for 20 years or may be a bit behind with technology'

rience. Mature students are welcomed by the majority of colleges and universities worldwide, and indeed, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (Ucas) they make up a quarter of all full-time undergraduate applicants in the UK, but how many older people make the move back into education in Cyprus?

Although the ministry of education has no statistical information on mature students, at the Cyprus Institute of Marketing (CIM) ma-

stitute's classes are held in the late afternoons, evenings and on Saturdays. "The whole structure and design is to facilitate in-career pro-fessionals," Hadjiyannis confirmed.

And are companies actively encouraging their staff to progress their higher education, by helping to pay the fees, for example? "About 10 to 15 per cent of our students have their fees fully covered, and about 10 per

any local cent are partially covered," said Hadjiyannis. year old sitting together,

need support because they have been out of the class for 20 years or may be a bit behind with technology," said Hadjiyannis. "But what we see after a couple of months is that there is a great mix in the class.



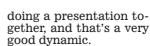


"Companies select a few of their rising stars, or their managers that need further education,

and sponsor the fees."
And for those whose fees are not covered by their employer, mature students are able to apply for a government grant. However, Hadjigrant. However, Hadjayannis warns that means testing means some mature students may be excluded. "Up to 2013, there was no ceiling, but after the crisis kicked in, the government set some financial conditions," he explained.

Indeed, money issues may be the least concern of mature students, who are probably in a better financial position than their younger counterparts and more likely to be able to afford a degree. In fact, older adults have other worries when considering embarking on an undergraduate or post-graduate course with much younger stu-

"They might lack confidence at the beginning and may need an adaptation period. They may An 18-year old and a 50-



"Friendships and business partnerships have developed in this envi-ronment," he added. Two former mature

students that spent four years together while studying at the CIM are Andonis Papadopoulos, a municipality employee, and Zoe Michael, a manager at a metals company. Through the CIM, they undertook a bachelor's degree in business studies with the University of West London and subsequently a master's in business administration with the London South Bank University.

when he commenced his undergraduate degree. "It was going to be an advantage for promotion," Papadopoulos said of why he started his first degree. "It's not easy, especially if you have family and children," he admitted. "My target was to pass every year with high grades, so it was more difficult.' Despite the problems he faced. Papadopoulos nevertheless decided to continue on to a master's degree.

"In Cyprus, a high per-

centage of the population, especially the young people, have a postgraduate degree. In order to have a strong advantage for promo-tion I had to do an MBA," he said. Papado poulos' hard work, dedication and commitment paid off as he eventually

gained his promotion. Zoe Michael was younger than Papadopoulos when she decided to do her three-year bachelor's course. At the age of 26, with a twoyear-old child, and a fulltime job, she took the plunge and began the degree she had wanted to do when she was younger, but could not too found it difficult to balance her home, work and study life, but, like Papadopoulos decided to continue straight on

to a master's. "It was the fear that maybe I would not be able to start the engine again," she laughed, explaining why she went straight from one degree to another. Although obtaining the two degrees had no direct effect on her job or career, she experienced another major henefit.

"Has it had an effect

on my confidence? Absolutely," she stated. "It was the best decision I ever made."

Hadjiyannis that older mature students also benefit in other ways from doing degrees or short courses.

"Education keeps them young, it keeps them going," he said. "They use their brain power in a productive way."

He cited the case of bank employees who lost their jobs after the financial crisis, who did not want to stay at home and who wanted a new challenge in life. He also gave the example of parents whose children have gone off to univervest their spare time on themselves.

"It's like a second youth and gives them the drive to keep going on," he said, explaining how continued education is also important for keeping up to date with modern technology and business development. In fact, the CIM promotes keeping ahead of change and believes that knowledge is the key to success.

"Our motto," he con-cluded, "is that learning never ends?



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reer in the industry.

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• Support for professional guidance-Internship Officer-Job fairs.

#### **Expectations after graduation**

Graduates of the programme are expected to be employed as:

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Supervisors and section heads in hotels or catering companies.

Members of the technical and marketing personnel in commercial importers and distributors of cooking and confectionery raw materials and equipment.

 Cruise ships, pastry shops, bakeries, taverns, theme parks, agro-tourism facili-





## Supporting your journey to success

REDERICK University's mission 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. Frederick 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.

#### **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** Recognition

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. Also, professional bodies (eg technical chambers, pro-fessional associations and government services) in Cyprus, Greece and other European countries recognise the aca-



### work, psychology and more.

Ideal Learning Environment
Frederick University operates in two cities. Its base is in Nicosia, while certain faculties and departments also operate at the university's Limassol branch. Through its continuous pursuit of quality education, the university provides the necessary facilities to support the various programmes of study it offers.

#### 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 to handle social, personal as well as academic challenges, to support students with financial difficulties and also provide graduates with advice about their career goals.

#### **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 recognized programmess are offered at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in various fields, such as Education Science, Management and

#### **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

The School of Engineering is the largest of its kind in Cyprus. It offers courses in engineering, a five-year architecture diploma, as well as postgraduate programmes in cutting edge disciplines. Additionally, it is important to mention the first Naval Engineers graduated from a Cypriot Naval Academy, are that of Frederick University (Naval Technology Academy Cyprus).

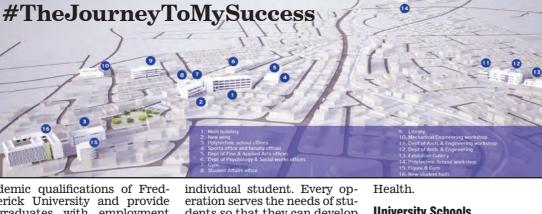
The first Department of Maritime Studies operates in the School of Law and Adminis-

tration 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 recognized in all the EU.

The Education and Social Sciences School, offers programmes for teachers and pre-primary teachers as well as postgraduate programmes, which cover modern trends and needs in education. Programmes are also offered in Social Work and Psychology. Since last September, the university in Limassol offers the pioneering degree Programme in 'Sports Science', which focuses 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.



### Education for the next generation of scientists

THE Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine (CSMM) is the postgraduate school of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING), a leading research centre in the region. The school offers MSc and PhD programmes in Molecular Medicine, Medical Genetics, Neuroscience and Biomedical Research. The CSMM provides an unrivalled educational experience to students, who can expect to be taught and mentored by the leading biomedical scientists and neurologists in

The programmes are suitable for graduates with a background in medicine, biological and related sciences, genetics, neuroscience, biomedicine, chemistry and other related fields who would like to progress to MSc or PhD level. CING has the largest and most technologically developed research infrastructure in Cyprus and the neighbouring area in the sectors of neurology, genetics, biomedical, medical and related sciences.

#### Education in a real work environment

All graduates of the CSMM have handson work experience. Graduates are fully prepared for employment through their daily interaction in a professional work environment, which offers research and services alongside education. Each academic course has been developed based upon both learning objectives and employment objectives. This ensures CSMM delivers fully equipped graduates to the job market, an objective proven through the high employment rates of alumni.

#### **MSc Programmes**

The Masters programmes offered in the fields of Molecular Medicine, Medical Genetics. Neuroscience and Biomedical Research are intensive with a duration of 12 months. During this period, students are immediately inducted into the research departments of CING, while attending core and elective courses.

#### **PhD Programmes**

During year 1, PhD students on the Molecular Medicine, Medical Genetics and Neuroscience programmes attend lectures based on the core topics of each programme in addition to elective courses. The aim is for PhD students to obtain the necessary theoretical knowledge prior to proceeding with their research project, which is carried out within CING laboratories. The duration of all PhD programmes is 4 years.

All programmes are taught in English and CSMM has a vibrant student population including international students.

CSMM programmes are accredited in Cyprus and recognised internationally. For countries requiring their own accreditation procedure, CSMM has achieved accreditation from the Sultanate of Oman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the People's Republic of China.

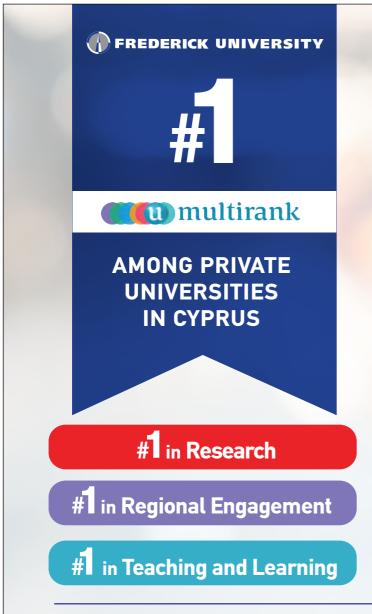
Given that CSMM has received the Erasmus Charter of Higher Education from the European Commission, students also have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus mobility scheme, as do graduates of CSMM within the first year of their graduation.

#### **Application Procedure**

• Begins every January and is advertised online and via the media. To be kept informed of application periods and news, send an email to csmm@cing.ac.cy requesting to be added to the mailing list

Apply online: www.cing.ac.cy/csmm/ • Download prospectus: www.cing.





Frederick University is one of the first private universities established in Cyprus and although just 12 years old, it has as an educational institution more than 55 years of presence.

**Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine** 

P.O.Box 23462, 1683 Nicosia

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics

6 International Airport Avenue, Ayios Dhometios,

The University is particularly proud as in the latest rankings published in the world universities evaluation system U-Multirank, Frederick was ranked first among private universities in Cyprus in the overall rankings of the global university assessment system.

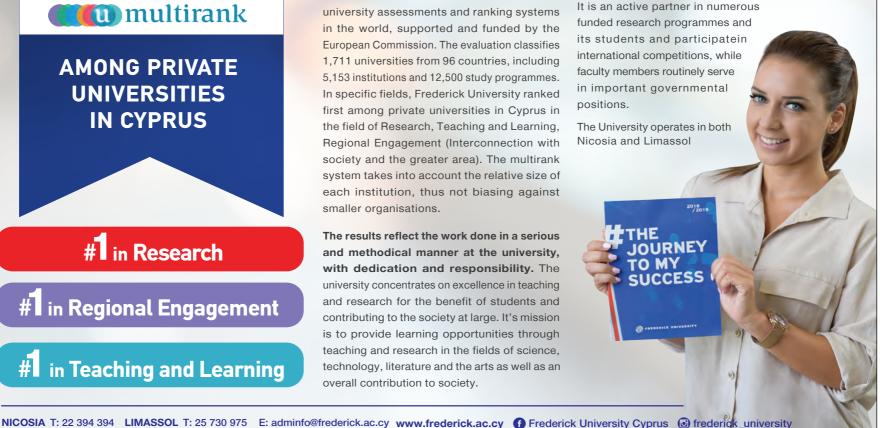
U-Multirank is one of the most valuable university assessments and ranking systems in the world, supported and funded by the European Commission. The evaluation classifies 1,711 universities from 96 countries, including 5,153 institutions and 12,500 study programmes. In specific fields, Frederick University ranked first among private universities in Cyprus in the field of Research, Teaching and Learning, Regional Engagement (Interconnection with society and the greater area). The multirank system takes into account the relative size of each institution, thus not biasing against smaller organisations.

The results reflect the work done in a serious and methodical manner at the university. with dedication and responsibility. The university concentrates on excellence in teaching and research for the benefit of students and contributing to the society at large. It's mission is to provide learning opportunities through teaching and research in the fields of science, technology, literature and the arts as well as an overall contribution to society.

Throughout its history Frederick University systematically leads in higher education and has been recognised at a local and international level. It prides itself that its core principle is to provide of a student-centric educational environment that ensures each student achieves the maximum of his or her abilities.

www.cing.ac.cy/csmm/

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### Highereducation



### RANKED AMONG TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES IN THE EECA REGION

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. It is the most globalised university in the country, welcoming more than 12,000 students from over 70 countries, with a vision to provide a comprehensive and high level student experience, consistent with the standards of other top universities across the globe.

#### INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

UNIC's high-level university education and global outlook have recently been recognized by QS World University Rankings, as it was ranked among the top 100 universities in the Emerging Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Region for 2019. Approximately 1,800 universities operate in this region, 300 of which were ranked, with the University of Nicosia placing number 91 among them. This is notable in a region comprised of more than 26 countries (Russia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Romania, Estonia, Lithuania, Turkey, Ukraine) and characterized by dynamic growth in higher education.

This ranking success is a landmark for our country, as the University of Nicosia is the first university in Cyprus to be ranked on this list and the only private university in the country to be included in key university rankings.

It is worth mentioning that the University of Nicosia is also ranked among the 201-300 universities in Quality Education, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Impact Rankings. This ranking evaluates the success of universities worldwide in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is therefore an acknowledgment of the University's global social and economic impact.

More recently, the University of Nicosia received the highest rating for its International Orientation from the U-Multirank University Ranking System, while it also received high assessment in several other important categories: Engagement with Society; Research; Teaching/Learning; and Knowledge Transfer.

#### LEADER IN ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING

UNIC is also the first university in the European Union to be awarded a 5-Star QS rating for Online/Distance Learning by the QS Intelligence Unit. The QS Stars rating is the latest testament to the University's commitment to delivering quality distance learning/online programmes, by investing heavily in the requisite people and infrastructure for a world class offering. Indeed, only 12 other universities in the world have been recognised in this way by the QS Intelligence Unit. With this recognition, UNIC reaches a triple certification milestone in Online/ Distance Learning Education, having also been awarded the premier European quality assessment awards in this domain. This includes being labeled as an E-xcellence Associate in Quality (2015), by the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU), Europe's leading body in lifelong open and flexible learning. UNIC had also achieved the UNIQUe Certification for Quality in e-Learning and Excellence in use of ICT in Higher Education (2014), awarded by the European Foundation for Quality in e-Learning (EFQUEL).

#### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH TOP UNIVERSITIES

With the aim of providing quality education and research, the University of Nicosia partners with top universities such as St George's, University of London, University of Padova, University of Zagreb, University of Western Sydney, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Patras, Hellenic Open University and MGIMO University, for the provision of joint or dual degrees. In line with its strategy for internationalization, the University has also established regional offices around the world, including New York, London, Tel Aviv and Athens, while it has over 400 other university partners for student abroad and exchange or research partnerships.







#### ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

The University of Nicosia comprises six schools: Business; Education; Humanities & Social Sciences; Law; Medical and Science & Engineering. The University offers more than 100 conventional on-campus and online programmes of study, at the Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels, with particular strengths in Medicine, Health Sciences, Education Sciences, Blockchain, Law, Accounting, Architecture, and International Relations. An important part of the University's mission is to engage in interdisciplinary research, which it actively pursues through participation in research consortia, as well as its 25 research centres and related academic institutions.

The state-of-the-art facilities of the University, as well as its innovative e-learning platform, which provides access to extensive online learning resources for thousands of online/distance learning students around the world, combines a modern, student-centred multicultural learning environment.

As a leading digital educational institution, the University responds to the needs of today's knowledge society, contributing at the same time to shaping them. Both in the field of education and in the field of administrative support, the most advanced communication and information technology is implemented, offering the members of the University community an integrated digital and interactive educational framework, which supports both teaching and research innovation.

#### LEADER IN BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL CURRENCY

UNIC is recognised internationally for its dynamic and pioneering contribution to digital currency research and Blockchain technology. It also offers a leading international academic degree in Blockchain technology, and is the first university in the world to offer a Master degree (MSc) in Digital Currency. It is also worth noting that UNIC is the first

university in the world to publish all diplomas of its graduating students (Bachelors, Masters, doctoral degrees) on the Bitcoin Blockchain, as well as to offer instant online verification of degree authenticity.

As part of its wider Blockchain Initiative, UNIC established Decentralized, a series of global business and academic conferences relating to the technical and societal implications of decentralization, cryptocurrency and Blockchain technology. The flagship conference repeats annually and features hundreds of speakers from academia, industry and government, and thousands of participants. In this way, it aims to provide a platform to collectively work towards harnessing the latest innovations and tackling the challenges that lay ahead in this expanding ecosystem. More information regarding the Decentralized conferences and chapters can be found at: www.decentralized.com.

#### UNIC CITY

Over the last few years, the University of Nicosia has invested more than €100 million in campus infrastructure for the creation of UNIC CITY, the most rapidly developing campus in Cyprus, consisting of 20 purpose-built or renovated buildings. Moreover, the entire neighborhood is oriented towards student needs, with over 70 restaurants, cafes, bars, supermarkets and the Mall of Engomi.

UNIC Residences UNIC Residences are the latest addition to the modern and vibrant UNIC campus. They consist of three separate complexes, SIX, U and TRIANGLE (the TRIANGLE residence will operate in September 2019), and are among the most stunning and innovative student accommodations ever constructed in Europe. In fact, SIX Residence has been nominated for the European Architecture Prize for Contemporary Architecture "Mies van der Rohe" Award, which is granted every two years to acknowledge and reward quality architectural work in Europe.

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