According to 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 numbers increasing, and if 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 from foreign students, 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 of Higher and Tertiary 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.”

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.
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• Secured and Remunerated Onboard/Practical Placement, subsidized by the Deputy of Ministry of Shipping
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Higher education within your reach!

THe Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is a leading higher education institution in Cyprus, Europe, and the region. The university's only university dedicated to open and distance education, OUC offers in-need students—such as those with young children, older college students, working professionals, and the physically disabled—a way to pursue education in their own time and place. With the OUC's flexible educational methodology, students who choose to use the Open University of Cyprus can tailor their own educational path to fit their individual needs and career aspirations, allowing them to continue on with their studies while working full-time or part-time.

Since its establishment in 2002, OUC has seen a significant increase in the number of mature students, with a threefold increase in the annual intake. The majority of these students are over 30 years old, and many have young children. In addition, the number of regular students has also increased, with a two-fold increase since 2000.

The OUC offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs in various fields, including Business Administration, Management, Technology, International Relations, and Law. The university's distance learning system allows students to work at their own pace and place, and the university's e-learning platform, eClass, provides students with access to all the materials and resources they need to succeed in their studies.

For more information about the Open University of Cyprus, please visit www.oouc.ac.cy or contact the university at info@oouc.ac.cy or +357 22 411600.
Continued from page 21

Higher education within your reach!

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is a leading institution in the field of open and distance education in Cyprus. OUC was established in 2006, and since then, it has been successfully providing quality educational opportunities to people of all ages and backgrounds. OUC is the only university in Cyprus offering full-service distance education, allowing students to study from anywhere in the world.

The University of Cyprus is a good university. It is ranked quite highly and is one of the best in Europe. The Open University of Cyprus provides higher education within your reach! OUC offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in various fields, including Business Administration, Education, Science, Technology, and many more. OUC is recognized by the Cyprus Ministry of Education and is accredited by the Cyprus University Council (CUC).

Distance learning methods

Distance education differs from conventional classroom education in that it allows students to complete their studies without physically attending classroom sessions. Students only need to be present at the eClass platform, which offers interactive academic support, teaching materials, and access to a community of learners. EClass is equipped with state-of-the-art technology that facilitates online teaching and learning, allowing students to choose from a variety of classes and programmes.

Studying at OUC

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Open University of Cyprus offers four Bachelor's and three Master's programmes, as well as positions for PhD students. All programmes are offered by the University's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Education and Management.

Why choose the Open University of Cyprus?

The Open University of Cyprus is a leader in distance education in Cyprus. It offers high-quality education and comprehensive academic support. OUC is recognized by the Cyprus Ministry of Education and is accredited by the Cyprus University Council (CUC), giving students access to a variety of degree programmes. OUC provides flexible learning opportunities, allowing students to study from anywhere in the world.

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**Study the Culinary Arts**

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Study at the Best Culinary School in southern Europe and become a professional chef.

**Study in 2 Cities**

Frederick University operates in two cities. Its base is in Nicosia and the neighbouring area in the provinces of Limassol, Paphos and the surrounding area. The dual city campus offers students a convenient and comprehensive approach to learning.

**Recognition**

All of Frederick University’s programmes are internationally accredited. The university has been granted the status of Erasmus Charter University, which allows students to study throughout the European Union.

**Job Opportunities**

Frederick University graduates are highly sought after by employers in the private and public sectors, both within Cyprus and internationally.

**Student Life**

The university provides a wide range of extracurricular activities to complement academic life, including sports clubs, student societies, and cultural events.

**To Apply**

Interested students can apply online through the university’s official website. The application process is straightforward and includes necessary documentation.

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**Education for the next generation of scientists**

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

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

The University's School of Arts, Communication and Cultural Studies offers an MSc in Molecular Medicine, a programme focusing on the various programmes of study in the world, supported by the European Union.

The School of Health Sciences created the first Department of Pharmacy in Cyprus. It has more than 120 staff and more than 1,711 students from 96 countries, including 5,154 undergraduate and 12,012 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 more.

Student support includes a wide range of services alongside education and the university is continuously looking for ways to improve the student experience.

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**Frederick University**

Frederick University is an internationally renowned institution with a rich tradition in education and research. It is accepted as a key player in the European higher education landscape and is continuously seeking to expand its horizons.

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**Contact Frederick University**

**Website**: www.frederick.ac.cy
**Email**: info@frederick.ac.cy
**Address**: 6 Markou Drakou Street, Engomi, 2409 Nicosia. Tel: 22942487

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**Website**: www.intercollege.ac.cy
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"More than 18 million euro. The initiative is one of the main research programmes participating in European research programmes and only in the last 10 years research projects in which the University participated have been funded with a total budget of more than 18 million euro.

Study Options
Frederick University operates free flexi-systems and offers over 80 evaluated and recognized programmes at undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate and PhD levels. These programmes are accredited in important governmental positions, the University operates in both Nicosia and Limassol.

Supporting your journey to success
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INTERNATIONAL 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 2016. Approximately 350 universities operate in this region, 300 of which were ranked, with the University of Nicosia placing number 81 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 in this list and the only private university in the country to be included in key university rankings.

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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 Intelligence Unit has the largest database of educational information, and this recognition is testament to the University's commitment to delivering quality distance learning and 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 recognized 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 Excellent 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 UNICQA Certification for Quality in e-Learning and Excellence in use of ICT in Higher Education (2016), awarded by the European Foundation for Quality in e-Learning (EFQEL).

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 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 employed, 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 recognized 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 (MiS) 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 orientated towards student needs, with over 70 restaurants, cafes, bars, supermarkets and the Mall of Engomi.

UNIC Residence UNIC Residence are the latest addition to the modern and vibrant UNIC campus. They consist of three separate complexes: SIK, U and TRIANGLE (the TRIANGLE residence will operate in September 2019). UNIC is the first university in the world to offer a Master degree (MiS) in Digital Currency. It is also worth noting that UNIC is the first
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More recently, the University of Nicosia received the highest rating for its International Orientation from the UI Multinom University Ranking System, while also receiving high assessment in several other important categories: Engagement with Society; Research; Teaching/Learning; and Knowledge Transfer.

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UNIC City has modern living spaces, elegant and comfortable out"