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**About the
Open University of Cyprus
2016 edition**

ABOUT THE
OUC

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CONTENTS

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

Based on the adaptive distance education methodology, supported by the very latest technology applications and a variety of eLearning tools, Open University of Cyprus offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, with high academic standards, providing every student with an outstanding and inspiring learning experience.

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS is a **public Higher Education Institution**, operating under the effective control of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus. Established in 2002, OUC is the country's only University **devoted entirely to open and distance higher education and lifelong learning**. Open University of Cyprus offers **interdisciplinary, career-oriented, academically rigorous and creatively stimulating Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes** in both 'classical' and 'cutting edge' scientific areas; allowing students to learn and expand their horizons, challenging and inspiring them to think beyond contemporary books, encouraging their potential to build successful careers in today's competitive international environment.

OUC's PHILOSOPHY

OUC's PHILOSOPHY is simple: there is **no "one size fits all" approach to higher education**. Open University of Cyprus places students at the heart of education and opens up a new world of opportunities with the right combination of effective use of educational technology and academic support and human intervention for an inspiring learning environment, upholding high academic standards. With high quality programmes offered by its **three Faculties – Humanities and Social Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences, Economics and Management** - OUC a) equips students with broad and specialized knowledge and 21st century transferable skills, b) stimulates personalized, active learning, supported by quality teaching with expert academic staff, and, multi-format learning material and methods, c) supports students to become specialists in their chosen field, irrespective of age, time, location or life circumstances and meet their personal or professional aspirations.

OUC HAS NO BORDERS.

OUC HAS NO BORDERS. More than 60% of its student community is located outside Cyprus. OUC fosters **strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with universities and research centers both in Cyprus and abroad,** aiming to achieve long-term cooperation in educational and research programmes, joint and/or double degrees, and to promote the mobility of its students and staff, to accomplish its vision to become a renowned and inspiring regional higher education institution. Indication of the University's rapid expansion is also evident in its research standing and reputation. In just ten years of academic operation, Open University of Cyprus is increasingly cementing its position as a **quality research institution**, with awarded research projects, national and international research teams, and steadily increasing external research funding.

VISION & MISSION

Our Vision

Open University of Cyprus is committed to opening up education to all, and strives for an outstanding, challenging, and transformative teaching and learning experience with high academic standards, and unrivalled links with the business world and society. OUC aims to establish itself as a leading distance education University, with international presence and recognition, mainly in the broader area of southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean. A Higher Education Institution, which offers diverse high quality programmes of study in 'classical' and 'cutting edge' scientific fields in both Greek and English, attracting students from across the world.

Our Mission

Open University of Cyprus aspires to provide students lifelong learning opportunities and higher education degrees useful to start or progress with their professional careers and fulfil their personal aspirations and goals. The University aims to combine its international reach and flexible operations and structure, using both to support the State's vision to establish Cyprus as a regional centre for education, scientific research and innovation, a hub for international scholars and students alike. Towards this direction, OUC expands its network of collaborators and establishes strong partnerships with Universities and research institutions in the broader region and beyond, promoting educational and research cooperation and mobility of students and staff.

KEY FACTS ABOUT OUC

1. A public European University,

2. providing open access to higher education and lifelong learning,

3. offering high quality, challenging, carrier-oriented, accredited programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and PhD) levels,

4. pioneer in combining effective use of technology, academic support and distance teaching and learning methods, all of which enable individualized study, placing students at the heart of educational processes,

5. with research programmes, and transfer of knowledge within and across disciplines,

6. a 'global' University with strong international links and cooperation with Universities, research centres, and networks worldwide,

7. promoting social responsibility, corporate ethics, and efficiency,

8. organizing programmes tailored to the needs of society and specific groups,

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THE OUC

1 For the opportunity to study whenever and wherever in a European public University, which is devoted to open and distance education.

2 For its affordable, high quality Bachelor, Master and PhD programmes, which meet the needs of the business world, upskill graduates and enables students to fulfil their personal and professional aspirations.

3 For its flexibility, which allows students to adjust their study programme to fit in with job, family and any other commitments.

4 For its modern educational methodology, its integrated and user-friendly eLearning Platform supporting real-time and asynchronous tutor-students interaction, combined with the multi-format educational material used, all of which allow a seamless learning experience.

5 For the academic support provided by experienced and influential staff (faculty, and adjunct tutors all of which are PhD holders), making effective use of OUC's synchronous and asynchronous communication tools, and online and face-to-face lectures and tutorials.

6 For the opportunity to interact with fellow students, peers and academics located anywhere in the world through university forums and social community.

EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY & ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

Open University of Cyprus is a **dedicated open and distance learning University**. Over the years, it has made every effort to integrate educational technology with contemporary teaching and learning methods, and to ensure it is multi-format in terms of its educational tools and materials, in order to **respond to the diverse needs of its students, allowing them to study wherever, whenever, and using any digital platform**.

More specifically, OUC has implemented an EU-funded technology infrastructure project entitled e-University, which will provide University users with a single sign-on environment and web-based applications for learning, teaching, research, and administrative support activities wherever possible. e-University provides a robust environment that integrates state-of-the-art IT systems, such as Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP), Student Information System (SIS), Library Information System (LIS), as well as eLearning auditoriums.

Accordingly, distance education and **blended learning methodology** that OUC supports differs from conventional classroom-based education, mainly because it allows **students** to **complete their studies and obtain their degree, breaking down the rigid barriers of traditional education**, without physically attending to scheduled lectures, and– in the case students are already employed – without disrupting work routines or leaving their workplace.

E-LEARNING PLATFORM & ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The University's main educational tool is the eLearning Platform –eClass– that facilitates online teaching and learning allowing the establishment of **virtual classrooms**, supports **lecture capture**, l**ive and video on demand lectures and tutorials**, and integrates **real-time and asynchronous collaboration tools**. Concisely, OUC's eLearning Platform is a comprehensive and constantly evolving eLearning system that supports the educational process at all its phases.

eClass

Students use eClass to access their course materials, organize their study calendars, submit their formative assignments and coursework and receive feedback on their progress. Self-assessment exercises allow students to test their understanding and progress and seek additional academic support. In a true collaborative environment, the eLearning platform also supports live interaction and direct contact with academics, peers and fellow students. The synchronous collaboration (virtual classrooms, live streaming) and asynchronous (forums, instant messaging) communication tools are fully utilized by experienced and dedicated academic staff, offering **effective and interactive academic support**, guidance and advice.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Despite being 'distance' in essence, learning experience at OUC is complemented by academics-students group tutorials that are scheduled throughout the academic year, and while not mandatory, they play a key supporting role in educational processes. These **tutorials** are **organized either with physical presence, or are conducted online** using eClass virtual classes, and are academically challenging and rigorous. Tutorials serve to support students to tackle course material in a constructive and critical manner and constitute an important support and feedback mechanism. In addition, tutorials serve as a forum for questions and answers so that students may benefit and share their learning with tutors and fellow students and fully comprehend the content of every course.

VIRTUAL LABS

In the 2015-2016 academic year, the University's virtual laboratory infrastructure was operated for the first time. During the first year of operation, the infrastructure supported the pilot creation and delivery of a number of remotely accessible virtual laboratories for the MSc programmes of 'Computer and Network Security', 'Applied Health Informatics' and 'Wireless Communication Systems'. The infrastructure is capable for remotely delivering any content of a virtual laboratory, including environments with three-dimensional graphics, to any smart device (smart phone/tablet) or computer, and enhances the University's educational capabilities in supporting and offering high quality, innovative programmes, in any subject.

DEGREES

Open University of Cyprus awards undergraduate [Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc)] **and postgraduate degrees** [(Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc)], to students who have successfully completed and fulfilled their degree requirements.

Through its collaborations with partner Universities, OUC also offers **joint and/or dual degrees at Master's level**. Moreover, Open University of Cyprus provides an outstanding environment to undertake **postgraduate research leading to a PhD**.

To ensure the integrity of OUC degrees and examination processes, students are required to attend in person (at exams centers in Cyprus, Greece or elsewhere) the final written exams, which count to a large percentage of their overall grade.

THE UNIVERSITY'S TYPES OF PROGRAMMES ARE DEPICTED BY THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

Programme Type	Duration (FT mode)	ECTS	Degree
Undergraduate	4 years	240	Bachelor (BA, BSc)
Postgraduate (Master)	3 – 4 academic semesters	90-120	Master (MA, MSc)
Doctoral	3 years (assuming previous postgraduate studies)	180	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Open access to higher education entails minimum admission requirements. For a Bachelor degree, a secondary education degree is the basic prerequisite. For a Master's degree, applicants must hold, at least, a Bachelor degree from an accredited university, although some programmes may have other additional requirements (e.g. knowledge of foreign languages). PhD candidates need to hold a Master's degree from an accredited university.

ECTS & TEACHING LANGUAGE

OUC operates on a modular degree system, and degrees are obtained through the accumulation of ECTS credits (the 'European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System'). Each Bachelor or Master's degree offers a range of Thematic Units (i.e. modules or courses), mandatory and elective, so that students can choose the appropriate academic route based on their interests. Thematic Units are either semester-long (10 or 15 ECTS, corresponding to 250-450 hours of student workload respectively) or yearlong (24-30 ECTS, corresponding to 600-900 hours of student workload), depending on the programme of study.

The primary **language of instruction** at Open University of Cyprus is **Greek**. Some **Master's degrees**, available not only for foreign students but also for Greek-speaking students targeting international qualifications are offered in the **English** language.

ACCREDITATION &QUALITY ASSURANCE

All OUC programmes bear high quality standards, ensuring that the degrees awarded have the appropriate merit internationally. **Degrees awarded by Open University of Cyprus are fully recognized by the Republic of Cyprus and all European Union countries**. OUC has also been recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Center (Hellenic NARIC – ΔΟΑΤΑΠ), as equivalent to Greek Universities.

Open University of Cyprus emphasizes on evaluation, assessment and enhancement of the quality of teaching, research and administrative work. The University functions a Quality Assurance Committee to ensure commitment to OUC's mission and vision, that education offered to students is of the highest level, and that students welfare and supporting services achieve OUC's aspiration of excellence.

OUC's integrated quality assurance system has two levels: institutional level and Programme level; and supports two-stage evaluation: internal and external evaluation.

The newly established Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education supports OUC's strive from continuous improvement and upgrading of its programmes of study.

LIBRARY

OUC Library provides an open access to knowledge and is gateway to a comprehensive collection of books, journals, and other related publications. Through the Library's electronic resources, University community members have access to international databases, e-journals, e-books, digital collections, and other resources, and "Kipseli", OUC's Institutional Repository, provides access to the University's academic publications, student dissertations and thesis.

OUC LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCES PROVIDE ACCESS TO:

325.302	e-Books
175	databases (via subscriptions)
34.597	e-Journals (via subscriptions)
2.902.000	theses from European and American Universities (via subscriptions)
~ 200.150	general interest free access electronic resources organized in 103 digital collections (via the Library's website)

The Library's website **(http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/ guest/university/department/lib)** hosts 360 useful web links organized in alphabetic indexes, containing open access supportive informational and educational material.

FACULTIES & PROGRAMMES OF STUDY (2016-2017)

Ever since its establishment, Open University of Cyprus has experienced near-exponential growth in student numbers and academic standing. Out of 5.500 students in total enrolled in the 27 programmes offered for the 2016-2017 academic year, 3.500 are attending Master's degree programmes; making OUC the largest university in Cyprus in terms of postgraduate students. More than 3.600 people have already graduated with an OUC degree.

OUC IS ORGANIZED AROUND THREE FACULTIES, EACH OF WHICH OFFERING UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES:

- **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

- **Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences**

- **Faculty of Economics and Management**

The list of **programmes** (and the academic concentrations offered, if any) **offered for the 2016-2017 academic year** is provided in the following table. Any new programmes for the 2017-2018 academic year will be announced on the University's website.

For more information on the structure and contents of each programme of study

http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/university/programme

	Bachelor	Master	Doctorate	ECTS credits [1]
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences				
Communications and new Journalism: • Communications • new Journalism		●	●	120
Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning		●	●	120
Cultural Policy and Development		●		120
Greek Language and Literature		●		120
Social Information Systems: • Analysis of Social Information Systems • Design of Social Information Systems		●	●	120
Studies in Hellenic Culture: • Literature • History - Archaeology - Art • Generic	●		●	240
Theatre Studies: • Reception of Ancient Drama • Theatre in Education • Acting and Directing		●		120
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences				
Applied Health Informatics		●		90
Cognitive Systems [2] (new, offered in English)		●		120
Computer and Network Security		●		90
Environmental Conservation and Management: • Energy and Pollution • Terrestrial Ecosystem Management		●	●	100
Information and Communications Systems			●	
Sustainable Energy Systems [3] (offered in English)		●		90
Wireless Communication Systems		●	●	120

	Bachelor	Master	Doctorate	ECTS credits [1]
Faculty of Economics and Management				
Banking and Finance		●		120
Business Administration	●			240
Business Administration - MBA (offered in Greek and English)		●		120
Criminal Justice [4] (new)		●		90
Educational Studies: • Educational Leadership and Policy • Social Justice Education • Special Education • Continuing Education • Educational Technology and Communication		●	●	120
Enterprise Risk Management [5] (offered in English)		●		120
European Union Law: [6] • European Competition Law • European Business Law		●		120
Healthcare Management		●	●	120
Health Policy and Planning		●	●	120
International Hospitality and Tourism Management [7] (offered in Greek and English)		●		90
Management, Technology and Quality		●		90
Police Studies [8]	●			120

[1] For bachelor or Master's level, respectively.
[2] The programme, which will be offered jointly with University of Cyprus, is currently under external accreditation by the Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education.
[3] Offered jointly with Frederick University.

[4] The programme is currently under external accreditation by the Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education.
[5] Offered jointly with Hellenic Open University.
[6] Offered jointly with European University of Cyprus.
[7] Offered jointly with Cyprus University of Technology.
[8] Offered exclusively for the Cyprus Police Academy graduates.

Academic Calendar

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017		
	Start Date	**End Date**
Academic Year	September 26, 2016	July 31, 2017
Fall Semester	September 26, 2016	January 31, 2017
Spring Semester	February 1, 2017	June 30, 2017
Final Examinations		
Fall Semester	2nd week of January 2017	4th week of January 2017
Spring Semester	3rd week of May 2017	2nd week of June 2017
Issuing of Degrees		
Fall Semester	February 27, 2017	
Spring Semester	July 31, 2017	
Student Admission		
Between March and April		
Graduation Ceremony for the 2015-2016 academic year		
November 18, 2016		

RESEARCH

RESEARCH AT OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS IS WIDE-RANGING AND INTERDISCIPLINARY

and includes both individual projects of its academic and research staff, as well as collaborative efforts that involve local and international universities, research centers and institutions. Under its internationalization strategy, OUC develops strong and effective partnerships with foreign research teams, which provide opportunities for international collaboration and active involvement in multidisciplinary projects, covering emerging developments in various fields:

- arts, theatre, history and archeology,
- communications, journalism and social information systems,
- educational sciences, literature and linguistics,
- health sciences, health economics and applied statistics,
- business administration, economics, and management,
- educational technology, eLearning,
- environment, ecology and climate change,
- information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, telecommunications.

Research activities are financed by the University's state-funded budget, or receive external funding from various national, European and international organizations and programmes, such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, LIFE+, and Interreg. During the 2006-2015 period, OUC academics and researchers have successfully implemented 56 externally and internally funded research projects, while 14 externally funded projects and 5 internally funded ones are currently running.

Research "Success Stories":

JUNIPERCY - *Improving the conservation status of the priority habitat type 9560*.* *(Endemic forests with Juniperus spp.) in Cyprus*: a project financed by the EU LIFE+ Programme, which has been selected as one of the 6 Best of the Best LIFE Nature / Information projects that finished in 2015.

REVIT - *Revitalizing Small Remote Schools for Lifelong Distance e-Learning*: a project included in the showcase of best practice projects, funded under the Transversal EU Programme, KA3 "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Learning".

RISE - *Research centre on Interactive media, Smart systems and Emerging technologies*: a project received funding under the Horizon 2020 - WIDESPREAD-TEAMING EU programme, and was one of the three projects awarded in Cyprus.

ODS - *A socially-powered and multilingual open learning infrastructure to boost the adoption of eLearning resources*: a project implemented by a consortium of 51 partners, financed by the CIP-ICT-PSP programme, aiming to serve as an accelerator of the sharing, adoption, usage, and re-purposing of the already rich existing educational content base.

Research Labs

In addition to independent research, OUC four (4) research labs support collaborative research and engage faculty and students from across the University:

Educational Technology Lab

OUC Laboratory for Educational Technology conducts research and publishing in the areas of open and distance learning methodologies, internet safety, mobile and adaptive learning, human-machine interaction and ICT utilization in school education.

Telecommunication Systems Research Lab

The Telecommunication Systems Research Laboratory (TSRL) mission is to investigate state of the art research areas in wireless communications and to support teaching activities at OUC. Researchers of TSRL have extensive research expertise in the areas related to Radio Network Planning, Terrestrial and Satellite Communications, MIMO Communications, Image Processing for Telecom applications, Localization/Positioning, UWB Communications, RF/Antenna design and large scale Telecommunication network modeling.

Computational Cognition Lab

Research carried out at the Computational Cognition Lab seeks to understand cognitive processes often associated with individual or collective intelligence - such as learning, reasoning, sensing, communication, cooperation - and how these are employed by humans and other organisms in everyday life. Emphasis is placed on the development of formal computational models for various aspects of cognitive processes and the analysis of the formal implications that such models have.

Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab

Work in TemLab is based on traditional approaches to ecosystem management coupled with landscape ecology principles, namely the importance of spatial configuration of ecological processes, and the emphasis on larger spatial extents. TemLab research revolves around three pillars that intertwine: a) Mediterranean Ecosystems with emphasis on islands and mountains, b) Landscape based approach to conservation, c) Spatial Analysis for species and habitats modeling, and ecosystem services.

ACADEMIA - INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE

Across the world, technological breakthroughs, aging populations, urbanization, rising unemployment and the evolution of social structures are accelerating changes in the labor markets and in skill requirements. Tackling shortage of skilled professionals in a wide range of business sectors, and ensuring a better match between the supply of skills and labor market demands are important elements that shape OUC's academic offering and vocational training provisions, aiming to support Cyprus' future growth and productivity and social cohesion.

Embracing the idea to encourage a more structured, result-driven cooperation ventures with the business world, Open University of Cyprus is operating an Academia – Industry Liaison Office. Its mission is to a) promote entrepreneurship and innovation, b) support students and graduates in developing transversal skills and improving their employability, and c) establish mutually beneficial links and synergies with sectors of the economy.

More specifically, OUC Liaison Office:

- develops synergies between the University's academic and student community and the business world,
- promotes the reciprocal transfer of knowledge, know-how and expertise,
- disseminates the University's research results and promotes the exploitation of those results by Cypriot and regional businesses,
- maximizes opportunities and employment potential of OUC's students and graduates through work placement initiatives.

be connected
Industry Liaison Office

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & MOBILITY

Open University of Cyprus has taken a holistic approach to internationalization through a range of measures, including: a) **forging strategic international alliances** with universities, research centers and public and private institutions, b) participating in European and international **educational and research programmes**, and offering **joint degrees**, c) promoting **transnational delivery of degrees** via open and distance learning and teaching, fostering an international dimension of curricula, and d) supporting **mobility** of its students and staff.

OUC'S INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

- Al Quds Open University (Palestinian Authority)
- Donau Universität Krems (Austria)
- Hellenic Open University (Greece)
- Kazan Federal University (Russia)
- Mariupol State University (Ukraine)
- Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (Russia)
- Saint Louis University (United States of America)
- Transilvania University of Braşov (Romania)
- Universidade Aberta (Portugal)
- Universidad a Distancia de Madrid (Spain)
- University of Haifa (Israel)

OUC also actively participates in European university networks and international organizations. Such international linkages are vital to Open University of Cyprus in providing its staff international stance and opportunities for networking, and mobility options and further educational and career opportunities for its students. By participating in these networks, OUC also promotes policy positions relating to lifelong learning and the development of distance education and eLearning.

OUC IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING HIGH PROFILE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS:

- **EADTU:** European Association of Distance Teaching Universities
- **EAEC:** European Association of Erasmus Coordinators
- **EDEN:** European Distance and e-Learning Network
- **EOC:** European Office of Cyprus
- **EUA:** European University Association [9]
- **EURASHE:** European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
- **EU²S²:** European Union Universities of Small States Association
- **HUMANE:** Heads of University Management and Administration Network in Europe
- **ICDE:** International Council for Open and Distance Education
- **RETI:** «Excellence Network Island Territories», ENIT / Reseaux d' Excellence des Territoires Insulaires

[9] OUC participates in EUA through its membership in the Cyprus Rectors' Conference.

MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES

Open University of Cyprus is committed to enhance the mobility of its students and staff, and to build and maintain successful collaborations, both nationally and internationally. Since 2010, OUC has gained a broad experience and has established important bilateral agreements with foreign Universities through its active participation in various European programmes and mobility projects, i.e. Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig and Erasmus, winning awards for successful implementation of mobility projects, and for the continuous increase of its student and staff mobility numbers.

With the award of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for its participation in Erasmus+ for the 2014-2020 period, Open University of Cyprus is aiming to further expand and strengthen cooperation with foreign universities, research centres, and organizations that participate in the Programme. OUC currently has 44 inter-institutional agreements and participates in the following **Erasmus+ mobility actions**:

- **Students mobility for studies**
- **Students mobility for internships**
- **Academic Staff mobility for Teaching**
- **Staff mobility for Training**

As of 2016, Open University of Cyprus also participates in the **Erasmus+ International Mobility programme**, which funds short-term student and staff mobility between European and Partner Countries based on inter-institutional agreements.

Erasmus+ is thus an essential tool for OUC's internationalization strategy as it a) provides mobility opportunities for students to undertake study periods and/or traineeships abroad, and gain new experiences, knowledge and skills, b) supports academic and administrative staff exchanges to develop teaching techniques, acquire and share good practices, c) aims to attract incoming foreign students and staff to study, teach or train at OUC.

For more information on OUC mobility programmes:
http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/university/diethneis/erasmusplus

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Open University of Cyprus operates in accordance with the following key principles: **openness, excellence, cooperation, sustainability and quality**. OUC maintains open lines of communication with social partners and stakeholders, as well as current and prospective students and alumni. To strengthen its capacity to offer high quality programmes that meet the needs of both the labor market and society, and which provide students the necessary skills and competences to enhance their employability, OUC will continue to work closely with the State, public and non-public institutions, chambers of commerce, federations and the general public.

OUC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) actions reflect the University's commitment to operate in an ethical, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner, maximizing public benefit. Towards this direction, and to improve engagement with local communities OUC's CSR actions focus on two areas: People & Community, and Environmental Sustainability.

People and community:

- Organizing open lectures, conferences, seminars and workshops on scientific and non-scientific topics, with the participation of renowned speakers, to encourage public debate.
- Fostering new partnerships and engaging into international networks, which provide mobility opportunities to OUC students and staff.
- Assisting students coming from vulnerable groups, and reducing social exclusion by providing university education and training opportunities to people whose access to knowledge is hindered by inherent or acquired disabilities.
- Offering discounts on tuition fees for all students during economic recession, as well as scholarships to students that meet certain socioeconomic criteria.
- Organizing community benefit activities, such as the annual voluntary blood donation.
- Offering socially responsible programmes, such as opportunities to Cypriot national guardsmen to enroll in undergraduate modules and training courses and study online during their military service.
- Maintaining high standards of health and safety for OUC staff, students, and visitors.

Environmental Sustainability:

- Reducing paper use by implementing electronic procedures, minimizing paperwork, and promoting electronic data storage.
- Raising academic community's awareness of environmental sustainability.
- Implementing 'waste management policy' to prevent and reduce general wastes and recyclable materials, and promoting recycling (paper, plastic, batteries).
- Implementing 'energy efficiency policy' in all OUC buildings.

FUTURE GOALS

Open University of Cyprus is a leading institution in the Cypriot higher education sector, in terms of diversity, equity and access to education. OUC is committed to academic rigor and excellence, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with high academic standards, promoting upgrading of knowledge, skills and lifelong learning, in response to the changing business, social and technology landscape. OUC is student-centered; placing students at the heart of education, building on their previous experience and skills, supporting them to meet professional and personal aspirations and meet professional and personal aspirations.

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS is looking towards a bright future ahead based on high standards set for open and distance education.

OUC'S SHORT-TERM STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Attain a critical mass of academics to guide the University's autonomous operation and the election of its first Senate.

- Offer new programmes of study in modern and contemporary scientific fields, at both bachelor and master level, in Greek and in English.

- Expand further its international presence, and attract and retain more international students.

- Build on its coordinating role in distance education in Cyprus and offer joint/dual programmes with other public and private national universities.

- Expand outreach activities and offering of short-term training programmes aiming to tackle skills shortages and increase people's employability.

THE UNIVERSITY'S GOVERNANCE

Until it reaches the stage of its autonomous operation, Open University of Cyprus is governed by a state appointed Governing Board, which assumes all responsibilities and executes all duties of the University's Council and Senate.
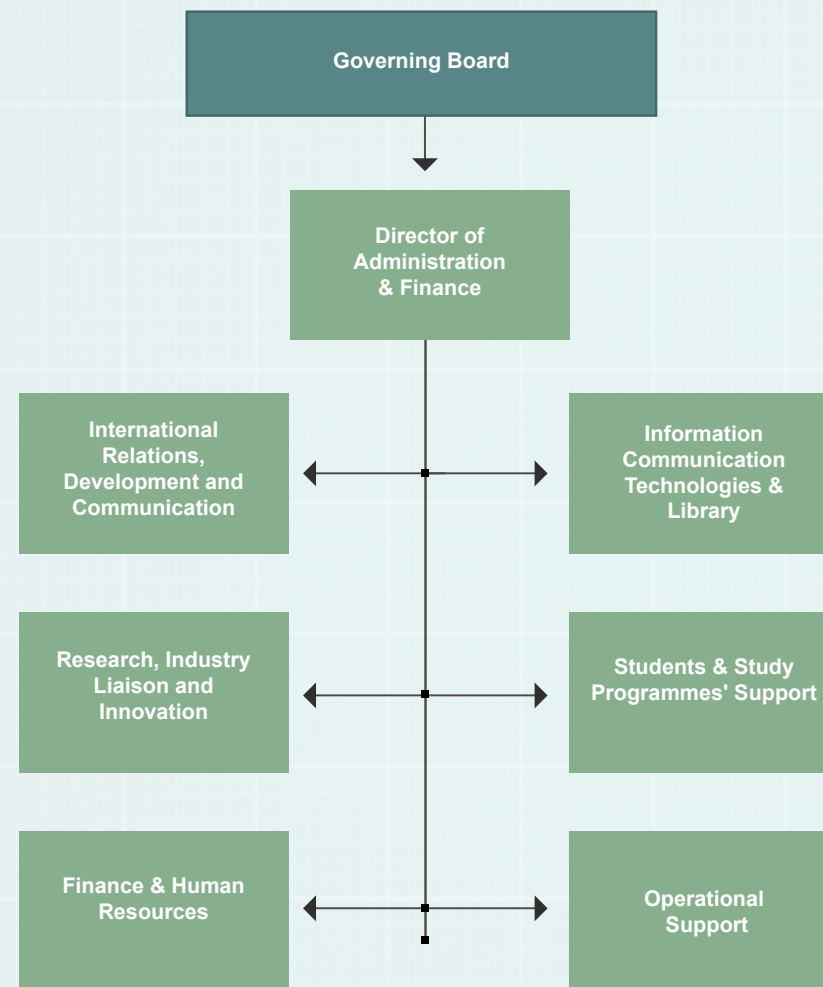
GOVERNING BOARD

Professor Costas Christou (Chairman)
Professor Agis Papadopoulos (Vice-chairman for Academic Affairs)
Mr. Charalambos Prountzos (Vice-chairman for Finance and Administration)
Professor Stephanos Efthymiadis
Professor Yiannis Ioannou
Professor Petros Pashiardis
Associate Professor Panayiotis Thanassas
Associate Professor Stavros Stavrou
Ms. Despina Chapoupi
Mr. Andreas Panayides
Dr. Nicolas Yiasoumis

Director of Administration and Finance: Mr. Christopher Christodoulides

OUC ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

University Administrative Services aims to deliver excellent services and continuous support to faculty, staff, and students, striving to fulfil the mission of OUC. OUC aims to create an environment that attracts and retains highly qualified administrative personnel, which assumes responsibility, delivers exceptional customer care, and takes initiatives based on professional ethics.

Governing Board

Director of Administration & Finance

International Relations, Development and Communication

Information Communication Technologies & Library

Research, Industry Liaison and Innovation

Students & Study Programmes' Support

Finance & Human Resources

Operational Support

OUC IN NUMBERS

3 FACULTIES

22 FACULTY MEMBERS

400 PART TIME TUTORS (ALL PHD HOLDERS)

75 ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

27 UNDERGRADUATE (UG) AND POSTGRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES,

10 PHD RESEARCH THEMATIC AREAS

5.691 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UG, PG AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

2.627 GRADUATES (**+1.027** FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016)

€15.2 MLN 2016 TOTAL BUDGET **€5.74** MLN IS GOVERNMENT GRANT

14 EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

5 INTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

56 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS (2006-2015)

> 80 LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

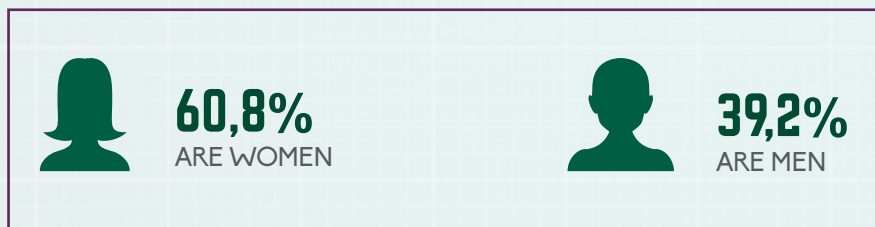**11** MEMBERSHIPS IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS

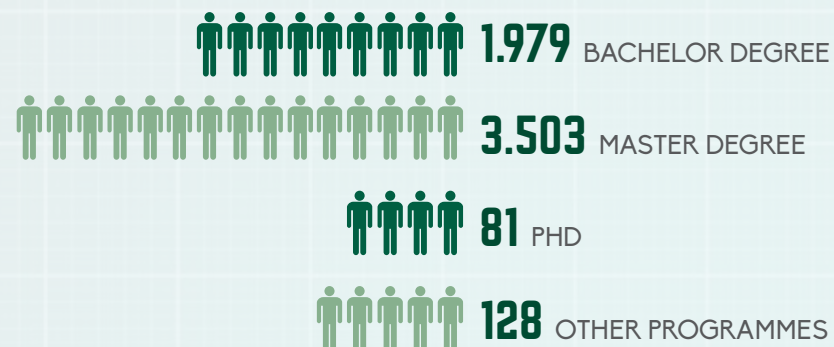# OUC STUDENT PROFILE (2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR)

STUDENTS' LOCATION:

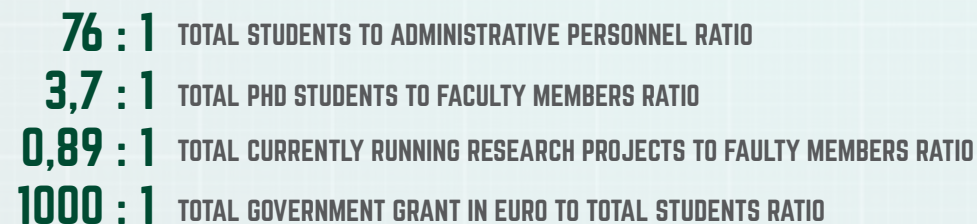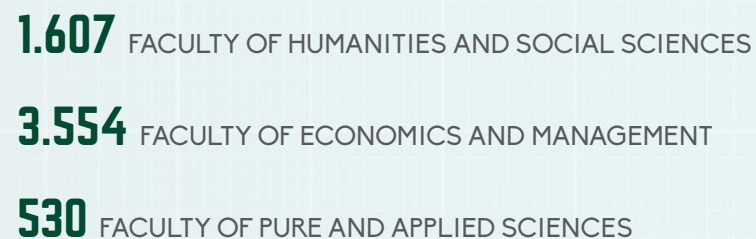**1,6%** IN THIRD COUNTRIES

35% IN CYPRUS

63,4% IN GREECE

STUDENTS' GENDER:

60,8% ARE WOMEN

39,2% ARE MEN
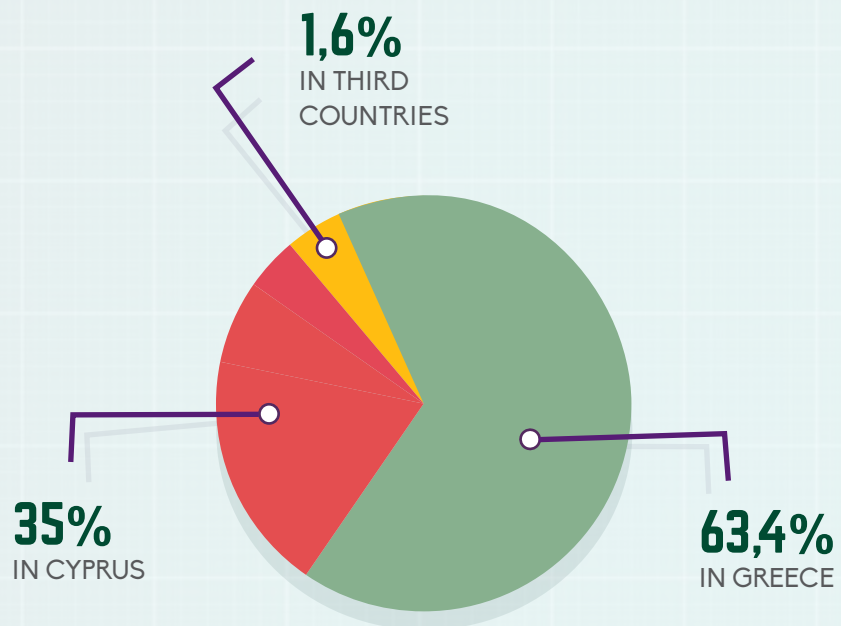
AVERAGE STUDENT AGE: **35** YEARS OLD

2016-2017 STUDENT ENROLMENT BY QUALIFICATION:

1.979 BACHELOR DEGREE

3.503 MASTER DEGREE

81 PHD

128 OTHER PROGRAMMES

2016-2017 STUDENT ENROLMENT BY FACULTY:

1.607 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

3.554 FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

530 FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

76 : 1 TOTAL STUDENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL RATIO

3,7 : 1 TOTAL PHD STUDENTS TO FACULTY MEMBERS RATIO

0,89 : 1 TOTAL CURRENTLY RUNNING RESEARCH PROJECTS TO FAULTY MEMBERS RATIO

1000 : 1 TOTAL GOVERNMENT GRANT IN EURO TO TOTAL STUDENTS RATIO

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