



The Open University of Cyprus in brief

- Founded in 2002, **admitted its first students in 2006** and had its **first graduates in 2008**.
- The second, **state-founded university** of the Republic of Cyprus.
- Established **to fill an important gap for open and distance education** in the Cypriot higher education system, in response to the growing demand for continuing education and lifelong learning.
- **Offers Bachelor, Master and PhD programs** and awards accredited and recognized degrees.
- **Promotes scientific research**, technology development and methodology for **Open and Distance Education**.
- **Expands its international presence** by forging alliances with universities and research centres for the promotion of education, lifelong learning, research, as well as student and staff exchanges.
- **Member of various European and international organizations and networks** (e.g. EADTU, EDEN, ICDE and EURASHE).



Mission

The mission of the Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is the **promotion of education and lifelong learning** through teaching and research, the enrichment of the cultural, social and economic development of Cyprus and its promotion as a center of education and research in the neighboring region.

OUC aspires to become a leading university in the Cypriot and broader European system of higher education, by **offering students the most advanced technological infrastructure and educational methods** for distance teaching, **enabling learning without borders.**

Vision

The strategic objective of OUC is to become a prestigious university of regional distinction and scale. A Higher Education Institution, which develops educational materials and **offers high quality academic programmes in languages other than Greek.**

Furthermore, the OUC creates **strong partnerships with universities in the region and Europe**, promotes **international cooperation**, designs and develops new programmes of study in **pioneering scientific fields** and areas of the economy, as well as continuously develops new **e-Learning infrastructure.**



Strategic Plan 2012-2015 (cntd)

- OUC is adapting to the modern needs of education and society in Cyprus, develops new opportunities and **cooperates with all the public and private universities of the island, as well as with national research centers, institutes and public organizations.**
- **Expands its programmes offering and designs new, quality programmes, offered in the English language,** aiming to attract international students.
- Aims to develop and **enhance international teaching and research partnerships.** At the educational level, the main objective is to cooperate with universities abroad to offer joint programmes of study and develop other collaborative initiatives, such as joint research projects and exchange of know-how.
- OUC aims to enhance **support for international mobility of students and staff.**
- OUC allocates its resources in the best possible way to offer programmes of study that will satisfy the needs of **7000 students, a target for the year 2015.**



Strategic Plan 2012-2015

- OUC establishes **close links with the industry and the business sector** and invests in the development and offering of professional programmes OUC fosters research, carried out by its academic research personnel and research associates, in all scientific areas cultivated by its programmes of study, but also in areas key for the knowledge-based society as well as in open and distance education.
- **OUC invests in skilled administrative and academic personnel** that contribute to the fulfillment of the University's strategic objectives and the envisioned progress and future development.
- **Strategic emphasis is placed on the deployment of the latest information and communication technologies for enhancing teaching and learning**, especially by maintaining a robust eLearning Platform, while also accelerating the adoption of digital information resources.



OUC Educational Methodology explained

OUC provides students with **full access to university education and knowledge, regardless of age and background and above and beyond the usual time and place constraints of a conventional university.**

Distance learning at OUC is based on the use of:

- **modern educational methodology** and
- **educational technology** for e-Learning.

Four key elements reinforce the OUC's success in delivering high quality distance learning:

- quality teaching materials;
- locally-based learning support;
- advanced e-Learning platform;
- and, commitment to and from our students.

OUC Educational Methodology explained

Teaching and Learning at OUC:

- Faculty members and tutors provide high quality teaching making use of the OUC **e-Learning platform: “eClass”**.
- Face-to-face interaction with students is also possible in regular time intervals throughout the academic year.

Students at OUC:

- Attend lectures over the Internet at specific times determined by their Tutors.
- Make use of the eClass to:
 - find all relevant information on the programmes of study and modules and access printed and digital educational materials
 - contact their Tutors, utilizing the **synchronous and asynchronous communication tools** provided (chat, video chat, forum),
 - exchange ideas with other students studying the same Modules,
 - email and get in direct contact with their Tutors.

High Teaching Standards

Accredited academic programmes at all levels:

- Undergraduate,
- Master,
- Doctorate, as well as
- Short Courses

Language of Instruction: Greek & English

OUC has 3 Faculties that cover various disciplines and combine academic input and research:

- Humanities and Social Sciences,
- Pure and Applied Sciences and
- Economics and Management.



Programmes of Study as of 2013-2014

• Education Studies	• Greek Language & Literature
• Communications & Journalism	• Information & Communication Systems
• Environment Conservation & Management	• Management of Health Units
• Business Administration	• Banking & Finance
• Hellenic Civilization Studies	• Theatre Studies
• Police Studies	• Applied Health Informatics
• European Union Law	• Health Policy & Planning

- ❖ A number of postgraduate programmes are offered in English
- ❖ Most programmes are at PG level (Master & PhD)

The OUC in numbers:

As of December 2012:

- ❑ **20 Academic Research Personnel & 135 Tutors**
- ❑ **79 Administrative Personnel**
- ❑ **3700 Students**, the vast majority are master students, located outside Cyprus. For 2013-2014, appx. 5000 students
- ❑ **13 internally funded and 13 externally funded research projects** currently under implementation



OUC Student Profile

- **65%** students live in **Greece**, **34%** in **Cyprus**, while **1%** of students live **outside Europe**
- **63%** are **female** and **37%** men
- **Average** student **age** : **36** years old
- Undergraduate Students that already have a degree: **16%**
- Postgraduate Students that already have a master degree: **9%**
- **The majority, working people**

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