

NEWSUOC

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INTERNATIONAL



UoC Masters in

- **Forensic Medicine, Anthropology & Medical Imaging**
- **Neurosciences**



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

NEWSUOC

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 The University of Crete welcomes new students
- 5 New strategic partnerships between UoC and Chinese Universities
- 7 University of Crete at EAIE 2024
- 8 Presentation: Postgraduate Program in Forensic Medicine, Anthropology and Imaging
- 9 Presentation: Neurosciences
- 10 UoC Neuroteam Project
- 12 Erasmus+ News
- 16 E-Stories Digital Storytelling Course for international students
- 17 Life on mARTS: Models of Science teaching through Arts
- 19 Honorary Doctorates
- 21 Distinctions
- 23 Upcoming News



The University of Crete welcomes new students

The University of Crete is delighted to welcome its newest students, kicking off an exciting academic year full of promise and new opportunities. In October 2024, the campus came alive with fresh faces and renewed energy, as the university community eagerly embraced this year's newcomers, a diverse group of students from across Greece and the world.

The orientation program included a grand feast with a DJ set and information kiosks by the UoC departments and student societies, free traditional snacks and performances by student groups, giving students the opportunity to have fun and, at the same time, get to know the UoC community and each other, fostering bonds and new friendships. All welcoming activities had been carefully designed to help students settle in, meet their peers, and get acquainted with all that campus life has to offer.

Nestled on the beautiful island of Crete, the University of Crete is renowned for its high academic standards, research excellence, and vibrant international community. Beyond academic life, the University of Crete encourages students to engage in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Whether it's joining a sports team, participating in student societies, or exploring the island's breathtaking landscapes, there are countless ways to make the most of university life. With a focus on collaboration, cultural exchange, and personal development, the University of Crete stands ready to support students as they embark on this transformative journey. Here's to a new year of discovery, learning, and unforgettable experiences!





From left to right: Melina Tamiolaki, Vice-Rector of Development, International Relations, and Outreach, Li Yansong, SISU Rector, and Maria Vamvakaki, Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy

New strategic partnerships between **UoC** and **Chinese Universities**

The University of Crete has developed significant connections with universities in China in recent years through joint projects and bilateral agreements. This has been achieved mainly through exchanges of faculty members and students between the University of Crete and Chinese universities for teaching and studying. Additionally, the University of Crete is a valuable partner of the Center of Greek and Chinese

Civilizations (KELKIP), organizing numerous events (lectures, conferences, winter and summer schools, promoting cultural exchange between Greece and China and different aspects of these two unique ancient civilizations.

Continuing this long tradition, a delegation from the University of Crete visited three prestigious Chinese



Snapshot from the signing ceremony of the memorandum of cooperation between the University of Crete and Shanghai International Studies University (SISU)

universities between October 19th and 26th, 2024, consisting of Professor Maria Vamvakaki, Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy; Professor Melina Tamiolaki, Vice-Rector of Development, International Relations, and Outreach; and Ms. Evgenia Skountaki, Head of the UoC Welcome Office,

During this visit, the University of Crete delegation further strengthened academic ties with Chinese partner Universities and fostered new opportunities for collaboration. The itinerary included meetings at **Tsinghua University** in Beijing with key academic leaders: Professor Tang Xiaoyang, Dean of International Relations; Professor Shi Zhiqin, Director of the BRI Strategy Institute; and Professor Qi Haixia, Director of the China-Europe Cooperation Research Center. The delegation then proceeded to Shanghai, where they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Shanghai International Studies University (SISU)** in a ceremony attended by President Li Yansong. Finally, they visited **Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU)**, a longstanding partner of the University of Crete.

The discussions with university leaders and staff from international relations offices were centered on implementing joint initiatives and academic exchanges. A particularly touching highlight was the warm welcome extended by Greek Studies students in Shanghai and Beijing, who expressed a strong interest in visiting Greece and improving their Greek language skills.

Through this visit, the University of Crete reaffirms its commitment to internationalization, contributing to a dynamic network of partnerships and cultural exchanges with top institutions in China.

The University of Crete will also participate in the 1st World Congress of Classical Studies, in Beijing [November 6 to 8, 2024].

University of Crete at EAIE 2024: Strengthening Global Academic Ties!



The University of Crete participated in the [EAIE](#) (European Association for International Education) [Conference and Exhibition](#) held in Toulouse, France, from September 17th to 20th, 2024. This prestigious event brought together higher education professionals from around the world, and the University of Crete was honored to be part of the Greek delegation, showcasing the excellence of Greek higher education.

Mr. Nikolaos Papaioannou, Secretary-General for Higher Education, represented the Greek Ministry of Education, demonstrating Greece's commitment to promoting international academic cooperation.

Alongside Mr. Papaioannou, representatives from 12 prestigious Greek universities and [Study in Greece](#) were present, highlighting Greece as a top study destination.

Professor Maria Vamvakaki, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy, along with Ms. Evgenia Skountaki, Head of the UoC Welcome Office, represented the University of Crete. Their participation aimed to foster international partnerships, promote collaboration, and highlight the unique opportunities offered by the University of Crete to students and researchers worldwide.



The University of Crete is excited to continue building bridges with institutions across the globe, opening doors to international education, and sharing the rich academic and cultural heritage that Greece and the University of Crete have to offer



Presentation:

Postgraduate Program in Forensic Medicine, Anthropology and Imaging

A groundbreaking postgraduate MSc program that combines science, technology, innovation and mystery



On October 22nd, a public event introducing the MSc Program in Forensic Medicine, Anthropology, and Imaging was held at the city center of Heraklion, with physical presence and also livestreamed online. Now in its second year, the program boasts an impressive international presence, with over 80% of students coming from various countries.

During the event, attendees learned about the curriculum and program highlights from Assoc. Prof. Elena Kranioti, Program Director. The event also included presentations on the innovative use of Virtual Reality (VR) in forensic education, presented by A. Leonidis (ICS – FORTH) and by F. Daskalaki (a current FMAI student) from an experiential perspective, as well as an inspiring session on XR technology in medical training by A. Kargopoulou, Vice President of Operations at ORamaVR. The integration of VR for autopsies, a key innovation of the program, stems from a successful partnership between the UoC Medical School and the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH). Furthermore, the Forensic Medicine Unit of the University Hospital is the only service in Greece that uses postmortem computed tomography to more accurately determine the circumstances of each victim's death.

The postgraduate program in "Forensic Medicine, Anthropology, and Imaging" offers a multidisciplinary training experience, paving the way for a fascinating career in Forensic Anthropology or Forensic Imaging.

Over the course of 1.5 years, the program equips students with advanced knowledge and hands-on skills across various domains of Forensic Anthropology, Imaging, Skeletal Pathology and Trauma, Postmortem Taphonomy, and Forensic Identification.

Applicants with diverse academic backgrounds—from Medicine and Biology to Anthropology, Archaeology, Radiography, Forensic Sciences, Law, and beyond—are encouraged to apply, whether or not they have prior experience in human biology or anatomy. The program ensures that all students are thoroughly prepared with foundational knowledge before diving into specialized modules.

The curriculum features engaging lectures, laboratory work, practical osteology and forensic anthropology training, CT anatomy, postmortem imaging (PMCT), and immersive exercises in Forensic Medicine and Anthropology. Students are trained to analyze real forensic cases and tackle forensic scenarios both individually and collaboratively, gaining insights into the legal and ethical aspects of death investigation through practical examples.

Visit the program's official website for more information and explore a fascinating world of forensics that blends science, technology, and real-life application:

<https://mscs.uoc.gr/forensic-med/>

Presentation:

UoC Graduate program in Neurosciences

Graduate Program in Neurosciences
School of Medicine

University of Crete



The 'Neurosciences' graduate program is a two-year program which leads to the award of Master in Science (MSc) degree from the University of Crete. It is an interdepartmental graduate program of the University of Crete with the Faculty of Medicine, Dept of Biology and Dept of Psychology being the participating departments. The Program focuses on Cellular, Molecular, Systems, Translational and Clinical Neurosciences. Students receive strong, interdisciplinary training in neuroscience that will prepare them for careers in research, industry and teaching. The students complete two semesters of courses, one semester of laboratory rotations and one semester of their master's thesis. Therefore, the students receive both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience, very important for their career advancement.

On October 14th, 2024, the Graduate Program "Neurosciences" organized an event at the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce, aiming to present the graduate program to the public. During the event, Prof. Sidiropoulou and Prof. Charalampopoulos informed prospective students who are interested in Neuroscience about the key features of the program, several graduates of the program talked about how it has influenced their careers and two former Directors of the program who have retired were honored for their significant contributions to the graduate program and the field of 'Neurosciences', namely Prof. Kyriaki Thermos and Prof. Domna Karagogeos.

The next call for applications will open in **March 2025**. You can visit the website for updated information: <https://www.neurosciences.med.uoc.gr/index.php/en#section-577>

The UoC *Neuroteam.* Project

The UoC Neuroteam Project is a non-profit team established in 2017 in the University of Crete and operates under the Laboratory of Anatomy and the Neuroanatomy Class. Seven years later, more than 200 members are spread throughout the world with one thing in common: a great interest in Neuroscience.

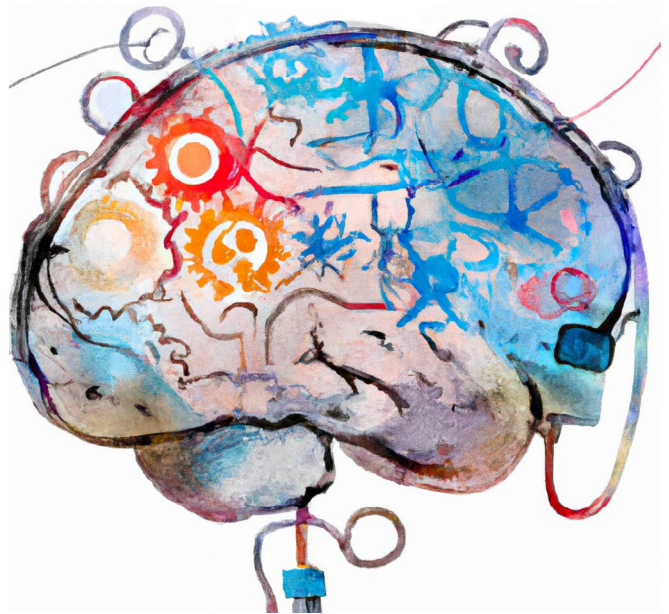
Currently, our members include medical students, residents, physicians and students not related to the medical field such as CSD, Department of Biology, Psychology etc. Our actions and publications are scientifically supervised by Dr. Vakis Antonios (Former Chief of the University Neurosurgery Department of the University Hospital) and Dr. Tsitsipanis Christos (Assistant Professor of Anatomy with emphasis on Neuroanatomy, under appointment).



NeuroTeam is composed of numerous sub-teams that organize and carry out a large number of projects.

Indicatively - the sub-teams of Neuroteam - the NeuroProjects are the following:

- Multimedia Neuroanatomy Workshops
- Neurological examination
- Neuropsychology and music therapy
- Neuroanatomy Workshops
- Algorithm of Neurological Signs and Symptoms
- Brain and Art
- Neuroethics
- Computational Neuroscience
- Philosophy of the Mind
- Molecular Neurosciences
- Summer School of Neuroanatomy
- Laboratory of Unusual Neurological Syndromes
- Popular Science Articles
- Sci-Tech
- NeuroPodcast



Think you have ideas that could contribute to Neuroscience?

Feel free to contact us:



Our scientific NeuroProjects are related to Neuroscience and mainly Neuroanatomy.

We always seek ways to make education more interactive and operate with respect, inclusivity and cooperation among members.

As part of our activities, we have successfully organized:

- The **1st Neuroanatomy Conference on 'The Neuroanatomical Interpretation of Unusual Neurological Syndromes'**, which was held online due to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic.
- The **2nd Neuroanatomy Conference on 'The Neuroanatomical Basis of Human Communication: Language, Art, Emotion: The Human Brain Interconnects with its Peers'**
- The **3rd Neuroanatomy Conference on "The Neuroanatomical Basis of Psychiatric Diseases: when cognition, emotion, perception, behavior are affected"**.
- The **4th Neuroanatomy Conference on "Brain-Computer Interfaces: The Neuroanatomical Basis of Devices Connecting the Human Brain to Computers for Medical Purposes"**

All four conferences were held under the auspices of the University of Crete.

The Panhellenic Neuroanatomy Conference is an event attended by both students and professionals. The Conference includes oral presentations, posters, e-posters, round tables, debates and other activities such as workshops and escape rooms.

This year the **4th Panhellenic Conference of Neuroanatomy** took place at the Medical School of the University of Crete on October 12-13 with over 300 participants. The program included numerous presentations, lectures, workshops and the presentation of the first NeuroEscape.

We have also successfully organized:

The **1st Summer School of Neuroanatomy** titled **"The Brain in Space: Neuroanatomy from Research to Clinical Practice"** in the summer of 2023.

Photos from the first Neuroscape room



Upcoming activities include the **2nd Summer School of Neuroanatomy** titled **"Exploring the human brain: Neuroanatomy from research to clinical practice"** that will take place at the Medical School of the University of Crete in 2025 in English and will be a pole of attraction and an opportunity of connection between the University of Crete and other universities abroad.

The rhyme that sums up the philosophy of our team is the following:



Knowledge is only
valuable when
you share it...

Therefore,

Keep curious keep
walking...



Erasmus orientation day, winter semester 2024

The UoC International Relations Departments in Rethymnon and Heraklion welcomed more than 110 Erasmus students in the winter semester 2024 who chose the University of Crete for a studies or traineeship program. The welcome activities of the International Relations Departments in both campuses are designed to introduce Erasmus students to the academic ecosystem of the UoC and local culture. Students have the opportunity to meet each other, learn about the facilities & services of the UoC and receive their Erasmus souvenirs!

Erasmus students enjoy a tour at Fortezza fortress in Rethymnon





Day trip to the Museum of Eleutherna for International students

On October 12, 2024, the International Relations Department treated UoC international and Erasmus students to an unforgettable day trip to the Museum of Ancient Eleutherna. The highlight of the visit was an exclusive guided tour of the temporary exhibition "The Joy of Life," showcasing 62 original works by the legendary Pablo Picasso. Students were welcomed by Prof. Nikolaos Stampolidis, Director of the Acropolis Museum and curator of the exhibition together with Paloma Picasso, who introduced students to the Picasso exhibits and their connection to the permanent collection of the Museum and by N.Maragoudakis, tourist guide/archaeologist who introduced students to the permanent collection of the Museum.

"The Joy of Life" exhibition beautifully intertwines Cretan mythology with Picasso's artistic vision, depicted in ceramics, paintings, engravings and sculptures. Mythical creatures, such as the Minotaur, fauns and satyrs, engage in a direct dialogue with the artifacts found in the archaeological site of Eleutherna, depicting scenes of natural beauty and the animal world. The day wrapped up with a brunch at a nearby traditional tavern and short but memorable visit to the village of Margarites, a place renowned for its centuries-old tradition in ceramic art. It was a perfect blend of history, art, and Cretan culture that left everyone inspired.



UoC Erasmus Days 2024

Erasmus Days are a vibrant celebration of international exchange, cultural diversity, and shared values across Europe and beyond. This annual event brings together students, educators, and communities to honor the incredible opportunities offered through Erasmus+ programs. This year, the International Relations Departments of the University of Crete focused their activities on the values of athleticism and cultural heritage—two pillars that unite people across borders, fostering a spirit of unity and mutual respect.

Rethymnon, October 14:

Presentation of the UoC Counseling Center

An online event for the Erasmus students of the University of Crete introducing them to the Students' counseling center (<https://skf.uoc.gr/index.php/en/>) was organized on October 14. Students received useful info about the services provided by the Center and how it supports the university and the wider community through several volunteering programs.



3x3 Basketball tournament at the UoC Sports Center (Gallos Campus)

Erasmus students participated in a basketball tournament at the UoC Sports Center in Gallos Campus. An event promoting teamwork, physical activity, and social interaction among participants, while further strengthening the sense of community and camaraderie.



Heraklion

October 16: Campus tournaments at the UoC Sports Center (Voutes Campus)

Erasmus students joined the Greek and International Students of the University of Crete in a celebration of athleticism, camaraderie and unity! Campus tournaments aimed to promote the Olympic ideals of excellence, friendship, and respect, while fostering an environment of multiculturalism and inclusion. Students had the opportunity to participate in a 3-point shots competition and try traditional Greek games.



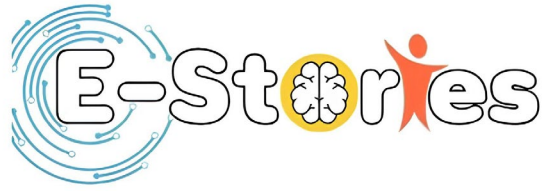
October 19: Heritage Marathon

A Heritage Marathon was organized at the promenade of the Venetian walls of Heraklion, one of the greatest fortification works in the Mediterranean with a long and turbulent history. Together with a tour guide, students learned about secret arcades, incredible battles, and other stories hidden in this magnificent monument.



UNIVERSITY OF CRETE LAUNCHES

E-STORIES DIGITAL STORYTELLING COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



The University of Crete is pleased to announce the launch of the “E-Stories Language Course through Digital Storytelling” for the Winter Semester of the academic year 2024-25. This innovative course is part of the Erasmus+ KA220HED program, “E-Stories – Digital Storytelling for Supporting the Language and Technological Skills of Foreign University Students”, which started in 2023. The course will enhance the educational experience of international students, combining language learning with modern digital literacy.

About the Course: The E-Stories course is designed to help international students improve their proficiency in Modern Greek while simultaneously developing essential digital storytelling skills. By integrating language learning with digital creativity, the course provides students with the tools to express themselves through storytelling, enhancing both their linguistic and technological capabilities.

Teaching Approach: The course employs a dynamic and interactive teaching approach. It includes collaborative group work and practical sessions

where students will create their own digital stories. Using digital platforms students will learn to craft compelling narratives in Greek, reflecting their personal experiences and cultural insights.

Impact and Outreach: The E-Stories course represents a significant step in the University of Crete's commitment to supporting international students. By blending language acquisition with digital innovation, the course not only aids in academic success but also promotes cultural understanding and global competence. We are excited about the potential of this course to enrich the educational journey of our international students and to strengthen the internationalization of our university.

Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the E-Stories course and the stories that emerge from this innovative learning experience.

Prof. Eleni Katsarou, Yota Samioti (Writing Center of the School of Philosophy) and Irini Kassotaki (Greek language teacher).



Life on mARTs:

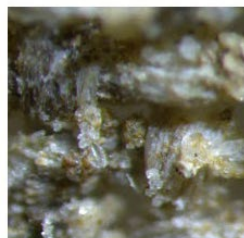
Models of Science teaching through Arts

From April to September 2024, the [Natural History Museum of Crete – University of Crete \(NHMC-UoC\)](#) and the CasermArcheologica Institute, with the support of the UoC's Centre of Training and Lifelong Learning (KEDIVIM-UoC), organized training seminars about specific scientific topics combined with artistic techniques, in the frames of the Erasmus+ project "Life on mARTs". The project aims to create new models of learning science through art and develop educational tools that teachers could use to connect STEM/STEAM educational subjects with art techniques to build inclusive courses.

Life on mARTs is directly addressed to students aged 8 to 17, teachers from primary schools, and teachers of scientific subjects in secondary schools. However, the educational tools that the program will develop could also be used by educational institutions and schools, to utilize the model and implement it within their curricula and/or teaching methods. Training organizations involved in creating professional

development, public administrations responsible for education, and schools could use the material as well, to promote policies supporting the development of innovative STEM/STEAM pathways in the education sector. Finally, these educational tools could be used by the families of the students involved and the public who might find an interest in the STEM/STEAM projects and art.

In April 2024, three webinars took place, combining scientific topics with art. More specifically: a) the biology of the wolf was explained with the creation of an animation movie using the stop animation technique, b) it was shown how the art of embroidery has contributed to understanding the Constellations in the sky, and c) how one may create imaginary organisms, using several artistic techniques, taking into consideration the adaptations of the organisms to their natural environments. The webinars are available on the [NHMC-UoC's YouTube channel](#).



As a follow-up to the webinars, face-to-face workshops were held at the Exhibition Halls of the NHMC-UoC from 11 to 13 September 2024, aiming to continue the training of teachers from all levels of Education, as well as anyone interested in artistic techniques.



The workshops began with the art of embroidery, where the artist [Ilaria Margutti](#) underlined the positive impact of teamwork and how embroidery can be used to strengthen student and non-student community bonds by engaging in an embroidery group, where patterns of nature, like the lichens, can be used as inspiration. Participants embroidered their patterns on a community canvas, where other people had left their artwork before, triggering discussions and exchange of ideas.

After that, two workshops about natural dyes and botanical printing on fabrics took place, where, firstly, the NHMC-UoC botanist, Dr Eleutheria Antaloudaki, presented some basic morphological plant characteristics, toxic and poisonous plants, and natural dye plants. Then, NHMC-UoC collaborator Elina Choudetsanaki conducted the two workshops, where participants followed recipes, cooked plants, extracted pigments, and dyed garments, to make a sample book. They also used the "Hapa Zome" technique to extract pigments by hammering flowers and plants and creating prints on fabrics. Finally, she presented the technique of steaming to print botanical figures on fabrics.

Lastly, the artist Roberto Ghezzi showed the technique of cyanotype, i.e. a photochemical reaction between iron compounds and ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The method was originally used to copy technical drawings onto paper.

Participants had the opportunity to experiment with the technique and print herbs on paper, but also used cyanotype with ice, which involves the use of melting ice to create the artwork. Gel printing was another technique that participants used to create monotypes of plants and flowers, a printing method without a press, only using acrylic colors and paper.

[Roberto Ghezzi](#) also presented his artwork "naturografia", which is research between art and science, where the artist and nature connect deeply. In June 2024, Ghezzi placed canvases in six places with fresh water and one in soil, in various habitats of the prefecture of Heraklion, Crete, which stayed there for three months, allowing nature to "paint a portrait of herself". Then, in collaboration with the Biologist, Dr. Iasmi Stathi, and head of the NHMC-UoC's Education Lab, organisms that had "dwelled" on the canvases were identified and collected. Participants had the opportunity to observe Roberto's naturografies as well as the organisms found on them and discuss with both the scientist and the artist. The natural paintings of the artist Roberto Ghezzi are still exhibited in the NHMC-UoC's Exhibition Halls.



Honory Doctorate Ceremony for Panagiotis Giannoudis



From left to right: Theodoros Tosounidis, Assoc. Professor of the UoC Medical School, Professor Eleni Papadaki, Dean of the Medical School, the honoree Mr. Panagiotis Giannoudis, Professor Georgios M. Kontakis, Rector of the University of Crete, and Professor Maria Vamvakaki, Vice Rector of Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy

With great formality, the ceremony to confer the title of Honorary Doctor of the Medical School of the University of Crete upon the distinguished Professor of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the University of Leeds, Panagiotis Giannoudis, took place on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. The event was held in the packed "Postgraduate Auditorium" of the Medical School, located on the Voutes Campus in Heraklion.

The ceremony was attended by the Rector of the University of Crete, Professor Georgios M. Kontakis; the Vice Rector of Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy, Professor Maria Vamvakaki; and the Dean of the Medical School, Professor Eleni Papadaki. Representing the Archbishop of Crete, His Eminence Eugenios, was the Protosyncellus Father Bartholomew. Other distinguished guests included the Regional Governor of Crete, Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis; the Deputy Regional Governor for Research and Academic Affairs, Mr. Georgios Matalliotakis; the Mayor of Hersonissos, Mr. Zacharias Doxastakis; representatives of local government, academic and administrative staff of the University, as well as students.

The event began with an address by the Rector, Professor Georgios M. Kontakis, followed by a greeting from the Dean of the Medical School, Professor Eleni Papadaki. The impressive academic and research contributions of Professor Panagiotis Giannoudis were highlighted in a presentation by Associate Professor Theodoros Tosounidis, who praised his significant achievements and the impact of his work on the scientific community.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt speech by Professor Panagiotis Giannoudis, who expressed his gratitude to the Medical School and the University of Crete for this honor. His address focused extensively on traffic accidents and polytrauma patients, offering a historical overview of approaches in the field and presenting modern methodologies.

The audience's warm applause underscored the deep appreciation and respect for Professor Panagiotis Giannoudis and his outstanding contributions.

Honorary Doctorate for Michael F. Collins from the School of Medicine of the University of Crete



From left to right: Christos Tsatsanis, Professor of the UoC Medical School, Professor Sofia Schiza, Vice Rector of Administrative Affairs and Student Welfare, and the honoree Mr. Michael F. Collins

On October 8, 2024, the ceremony for the conferral of the honorary doctorate to Michael F. Collins, Chancellor of the T.H. Chan Medical School at the University of Massachusetts, was held at the Graduate Auditorium of the UoC Medical School

The Vice-Rector for Administrative Affairs and Student Welfare, Prof. Sofia Schiza and the Dean of the Medical School, Professor Eleni Papadaki opened the ceremony with an address. Next, Prof. Christos Tsatsanis from the Medical School presented the distinguished work of the honoree, focusing on his significant contribution to the advancement of medical education and public health, as well as the organization and administration of the Medical School and the affiliated research centers of the University of Massachusetts. Professor Tsatsanis highlighted Mr. Collins' contribution to the promotion

of basic medical research, which led to this year's Nobel Prize in Medicine being awarded to Professor Victor Ambros of the T.H. Chan Medical School at the University of Massachusetts for the discovery of micro-RNA. Chancellor Collins has been and remains a supporter of research aimed at improving health, a fact reflected in the achievements of the University he leads.

The ceremony concluded with a speech by the honoree, who warmly thanked the University of Crete and its Medical School for the honor bestowed upon him. In his speech, titled "A Leadership Perspective on Academic Medicine: Its Privilege, Purpose, and Promise," he analyzed the importance of leadership and ethics in academic medicine and the role it plays in the development of healthcare and research.

Distinctions



Significant International Distinction for the External Member of the University of Crete's Administrative Council, Vasiliki Kalogera

Professor Vasiliki (Vicky) Kalogera (PI), along with co-PI Professor Angelos Katsaggelos, has secured a \$20 million grant from the National Science Foundation and the Simons Foundation in the USA through a multi-institutional collaboration. This grant will fund the development of cutting-edge technology aimed at analyzing and interpreting astronomical data, as well as transforming physical simulations. The new institute will host 83 members from 25 organizations and is expected to drive groundbreaking advances in astronomy through artificial intelligence.

Ms. Kalogera, who holds the distinguished title of 'Daniel I. Linzer' Professor and serves as the Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics, has received numerous accolades for her pioneering contributions to the study of compact objects in binary systems.

The Rectorate of the University of Crete extends its heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Kalogera for this significant achievement and wishes her continued success as she opens new frontiers in astrophysics.



Another important distinction for the students of the UoC Computer Science Department!

Congratulations to undergraduate student Emmanouil Patronakis and alumnus Iason Konstantinos Manthos for being selected to join the Greek Cybersecurity Team.

The Greek Team, consisting of 10 members, participated in the European Cyber Security Challenge 2024 (ECSC24), held in Italy.

Team members were selected based on their performance in a related preliminary competition. More information is available at <https://ecsc.gr/>

Prof. Charmandaris awarded "Chevallier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques" / "Knight of the Order of the Academic Palms" title by the French Republic



Congratulations to **Mr. Vassilis Charmandaris**, Professor of Astrophysics at the Department of Physics of the University of Crete and Director of the Institute of Astrophysics of FORTH and the Skinakas Observatory, for the title "Chevallier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques" / "Knight of the Order of the Academic Palms" awarded to him by the French Republic.

The Order of the Academic Palms is awarded to distinguished academics and professors for their valuable contribution to education and science.

This honor is an important recognition of the high scientific achievements and educational work of Prof. Vassilis Harmandaris.

He will receive the Order of the Knights of Academic Finicians at an official ceremony to be held at the French Embassy in Athens in the first quarter of 2025.



The short documentary film “Ashes” by UoC student Giannis Mathioudakis wins international awards

The short documentary film *Ashes* by Giannis Mathioudakis has won the **Best International Short Documentary Award** at the Alternative Film Festival in Canada. The documentary also received awards for **Best Documentary** and **Best Debut Filmmaker** at the New York International Film Awards (NYIFA). Additionally, it garnered three awards at the New Jersey Film Awards (monthly, September 2024): **Best Short Documentary**, **Best Debut Filmmaker**, and **Best Editing**.

The film focuses on the wildfires that devastated southern Rethymno in July 2022 and their impact on the lives of the residents and the natural environment. It highlights the decision of the villagers in Melabes to defy civil protection evacuation orders and stay behind to fight the fire, compensating for the shortcomings of the state mechanism. It also follows the story of a young oenologist, Iliana Malichin, who returned to the area after her studies and transformed local agricultural practices.

Giannis Mathioudakis is an undergraduate student in the Department of Philology (specializing in “Theatre, Cinema, and Music Studies”) at the University of Crete. The film was created as part of the inter-university DIAPLASIS program by the Hellenic Parliament, under the guidance of Professor Panagiota Mini, UoC Department of Philology.

Dr. Charalampos Fasoulas elected Vice President of the Global Geoparks Council

Dr. Charalampos Fasoulas, Laboratory Teaching Staff at the UoC School of Sciences and Engineering and curator of the Geodiversity and Paleontology Collections at the Natural History Museum of Crete, was elected Vice President of the Global Geoparks Council during the 9th UNESCO Global Geoparks Meeting, held on September 8-9, 2024, in Cao Bang, Vietnam.



A total of 81 members of the UoC academic community (professors, lecturers, and researchers) are included in Stanford University's World's Top 2% Scientists list, which highlights the world's leading scientists. Specifically, 42 members are from the School of Sciences and Technology, 34 from the Medical School, 3 from the School of Social Sciences, 1 from the School of Education, and 1 from the School of Philosophy.

The Stanford's Top 2% Scientists List is an annual ranking that recognizes researchers with the highest citations in their respective fields. The ranking is based on the c-score, which considers the total number of citations, the h-index, the Hm-index (adjusted for the number of authors on a paper), citations to unique authors, and other bibliometric indicators to ensure fair and balanced representation of all researchers.

The Rectorate of the University of Crete congratulates its academic staff for this significant distinction. Their achievement is a clear indication of the excellence and international recognition the University of Crete has attained in the field of scientific research.

The official Elsevier dataset is available [here](#).

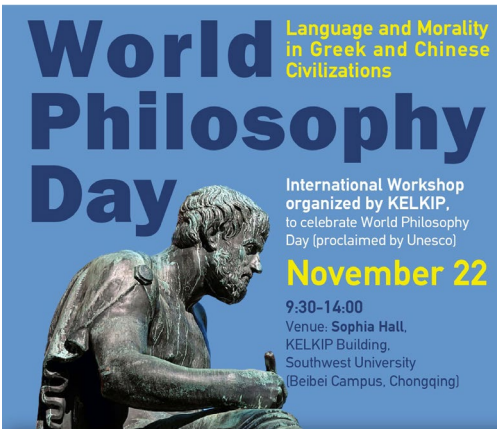


Upcoming News

“Exploring Language and Morality: Greek and Chinese Civilizations in Dialogue”



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE



World Philosophy Day

Language and Morality in Greek and Chinese Civilizations

International Workshop organized by KELKIP, to celebrate World Philosophy Day (proclaimed by Unesco)

November 22

9:30-14:00
Venue: Sophia Hall, KELKIP Building, Southwest University (Beibei Campus, Chongqing)

Organizers:	Speakers and discussants:
Chloe Balla (KELKIP/University of Crete)	Caterina Ludovica Baldini (KELKIP/Southwest University)
Yong Wang (KELKIP/Southwest University)	Chloe Balla (KELKIP/University of Crete)
	Zhonghe Liang (Sichuan University/KELKIP)
	Anastasia Meimari (East China Normal University)
	Jie Tan (Southwest University/KELKIP)
	Jie Tian (Shandong University/KELKIP)
	Jiangao Yu (Shanghai Normal University)
	James Zainaldin (Vanderbilt University)

The third Thursday of November has been proclaimed by UNESCO as World Philosophy Day. On the occasion of its celebration, and as part of its ongoing collaboration with academic institutions in China, the University of Crete is participating in the organization of a workshop titled **“Language and Morality in Greek and Chinese Civilizations.”** The workshop will take place at the KELKIP Center facilities on the Southwest University campus in China.

28-30/11

International Conference: “Feminisms and Politics in Interwar Balkans and East-Central Europe

The Conference “Feminisms and Politics in Interwar Balkans and East-Central Europe” is part of the research project “Feminisms and Politics in Interwar Balkans (1923-1939)”, which is run by the University of Crete and supported by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) under the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Faculty

Members & Researchers” (Project Number: 03050).

The conference aims to explore feminist movements in the region of Balkans and East - Central Europe in the uneasy interwar historical context, placing emphasis on transnational contacts and collaborations of feminist and women’s organizations, the entanglement of their activity with politics and diplomacy at regional and international scale, and the tensions emerged between national and international agendas.

Read the full description and program [here](#).

21-21/5/2025

Call for Abstracts: Semantic Annotation for the Ancient World - SA4AW

in Rethymnon, Crete (Greece) & online

We are pleased to announce that the Call for Abstracts for the Conference on Semantic Annotation for the Ancient World, scheduled to take place in Rethymnon on May 20-21, 2025, and online is now open.

The deadline is February 1st, 2025.

Please submit an abstract of max. 1,000 words (bibliography excluded) via EasyChair.

The conference is organised by the TALOS AI4SSH Centre of the University of Crete (Horizon ERA Chair TALOS AI4SSH ID: 101087269) in collaboration with the Department of Philology, University of Crete. See the announcement on TALOS AI4SSH website .

Description

This conference will explore the contribution of semantic annotation, along with that of hybrid AI, deep learning, and knowledge graphs to ancient world studies. Semantic annotation is the process of tagging or (manually or automatically) labelling pieces of content—such as words, phrases, or objects in texts or images—with meaningful metadata to provide context and clarify meaning. Semantic

annotation allows machines to process the meaning and relationships of content within a dataset, transforming raw data into structured knowledge. For example, a machine can recognize that "Athens" is a city, distinguish it from the other cities with the same name, and link it to related concepts, which improves ability to perform tasks like searching, or making inferences. By tagging concepts, entities, and relations, semantic annotation enables machines to interpret and process data more accurately, connecting data points across software, allowing for better searchability, advanced queries and further reuse via natural language processing and machine learning.

Through this conference, we hope to foster collaboration and intellectual exchange amongst digital scholars of the ancient world. According to the principles of FAIR and Linked Open Data, we strive to promote openness and accessibility in all of the workflows and methods presented at the conference.

In order to further encourage the open exchange of ideas, the conference will also include a round-table discussion. We welcome accepted participants to suggest topics to discuss.

Conference proceedings will be published in open access online format.

We encourage proposals on the following themes:

- Ontology-driven semantic annotation
- Standardisation
- Multilingual annotation practices
- Automatic and semi-automatic annotation
- Annotation of ancient geography
- FAIR/LOD data
- Semantic Web
- NER for ancient Greek/Latin
- RDF-based digital editions
- Methods, tools, and platforms

Submission details:

We invite proposals from all scholars, junior and senior, working in the topic areas of the conference.

Please submit an abstract of max. **1,000 words** (bibliography excluded, free format). Submissions will be reviewed via double-blind peer review through EasyChair.

Paper presentations will be 20 minutes long, with

extra time for questions and discussion. The working language of the conference is English.

A longer version of accepted papers will be published in an edited volume after the conference. More details about the edited volume are forthcoming.

Important dates:

Deadline for submission

February 1st, 2025

Notification of acceptance to authors

February 20th, 2025

Deadline for confirmation of participation by accepted authors

February 28th, 2025

Conference dates

May 20th-21st, 2025

Submission of camera-ready version

September 25th, 2025

Publication of edited volume

July 2026

21-21/5/2025

International Conference on Inclusive student-centered pedagogy

23-25 May 2025

- Computer Science Department · **University of Crete**
- **Abstract Submission Deadline: January 31, 2025**
- **Online Registration Deadline: April 30, 2025**
- More info: <https://coalition-erasmusplus.com/coference>

Conference Themes

1. Innovative Teaching Methods
 2. Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education
 3. Technology in Education
 4. Students as Equal Partners
 5. Digital Equity
 6. AI in inclusive education
 7. Assessment for learning
 8. Self-development academic tools
 9. Reflective development tools
 10. Global Perspectives on Pedagogy
 11. Teaching Methodology in Higher Education
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