

NEWSUOC

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INTERNATIONAL



- **UoC Winter Schools**
- **The UoC Medical School celebrates its 40th Anniversary**



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

NEWSUOC

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The UoC Medical School celebrates its
40th Anniversary

The English Newsletter is partly based
on the [Greek Newsletter of UoC](#)

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Honorary Doctorate to H.E Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic, by the UoC Department of Philosophy



From left to right: the Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Assoc. Prof. Katerina Bantinaki; the Dean of the School of Philosophy, Prof. Angela Kastrinaki; Prof. of the Department of Philosophy, Stavroula Tsinorema; the Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Georgios Kontakis; the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy, Prof. Maria Vamvakaki; H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou; the Vice-Rector for Administrative Affairs and Student Welfare, Prof. Sofia Schiza; the Vice-Rector for Finance and Infrastructure, Assoc. Prof. Georgios Stamatopoulos; and the Vice-Rector for Development, International Relations, and Outreach, Prof. Melina Tamiolaki.

The President of the Hellenic Republic, H.E **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Department of Philosophy, at the School of Philosophy of the University of Crete, in a prestigious ceremony held on November 8, 2024, at the “Hellenic Conservatory” in Rethymnon.

The President of the Republic was addressed by the Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis, while Prof. Stavroula Tsitsorema of the Department of Philosophy presented the work and contributions of the honoree to science and society.

The Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Prof. Angela Kastrinaki, read the texts of the Department’s Decree, the Conferment, and the Doctoral Diploma.

The President of the Republic delivered a speech to conclude the ceremony.

Representatives of the political, religious, military, and state leadership attended the event, along with members of the academic community of the University of Crete and representatives of local organizations and associations.



Snapshot from the speech of H.E. the President of the Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou

In his address, the UoC Rector emphasized the significant contribution of H.E Mrs. Sakelaropoulou in the fields of science, justice and society. In particular, the Rector highlighted her exceptional impact on the science of Law, noting her influential role in advancing constitutional, administrative, and environmental law, further integrating these areas to institutional bioethics. "This accomplishment," the Rector stated, "stands as a benchmark and a source of inspiration for others"



Snapshot from the awarding of the gold medal by the Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis, to H.E. the President of the Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou



HR Excellence in Research award for the University of Crete

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The University of Crete proudly announces the successful completion of its evaluation for the HRS4R (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers) logo, as confirmed by the European Commission and the Euraxess network. This evaluation culminated in a visit from the evaluation team to the university's facilities on May 16, 2024, resulting in exceptionally positive feedback. As a result, the University of Crete has been awarded the **HR Excellence in Research** logo for the next three years, valid until 2027, when a new remote evaluation will occur. Notably, it is the only university in Greece to have received this esteemed certification from the European Commission, which it has maintained continuously since 2012. This distinction brings significant benefits, including international recognition of the University of Crete as an institution that fosters high-level research and provides an excellent research environment for its scholars. In the upcoming period, the university is dedicated to implementing its revised action plan submitted to Euraxess and anticipates ongoing support from its community to enhance its research initiatives.

Furthermore, the **HR Excellence in Research** certification logo can be utilized in research proposals, thereby increasing the visibility and competitiveness of the institution's projects. On this occasion, the

Rectorate of the University of Crete extends heartfelt gratitude to the HRS4R Committee, led by Prof. Dimitrios Anglos, and to all members of the institution who contributed with commitment and diligence to achieve this successful evaluation.

The **HRS4R (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers)** logo is a certification awarded by the European Commission to research institutions that demonstrate a commitment to aligning their human resources policies with the principles outlined in the **European Charter for Researchers** and the **Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**.

Key Aspects of the HRS4R Logo:

Recognition: The logo signifies that an institution has made significant progress in implementing the Charter and Code principles, thereby promoting best practices in research management and recruitment.

Visibility: Institutions awarded the HRS4R logo are encouraged to display it prominently on their websites and in communications, enhancing their visibility and competitiveness in attracting researchers.

Support for Researchers: The HRS4R framework helps create a favorable working environment, which is essential for researchers' career development and satisfaction.



The University of Crete in the **1st World Conference of Classics** in Beijing



The University of Crete participated in the 1st World Congress of Classical Studies, held in Beijing from November 6 to 8, 2024. The event was co-organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Southwest University of China, with the support of the Academy of Athens and the participation of the Greek Ministry of Culture. With the involvement of 485 scholars from over 30 countries, the congress highlighted the international significance and enduring value of classical studies.

The University of Crete was represented by Associate Professor of the Department of Philology, Dr. Athina Kavoulaki, Assistant Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology from the Department of History and Archaeology, Dr. Artemis Karnava and Professor of Ancient Greek Philology from the Department

of Philology and member of the University's Administrative Council, Dr. Konstantinos Spanoudakis.

During the congress, participants delivered presentations and engaged in constructive discussions on various topics, such as the future of classical studies, their role in the digital era, and comparative approaches between ancient Greek and Chinese civilizations. The University of Crete's Summer Schools in Classical Studies, which have already welcomed a significant number of students from Chinese universities, drew particular interest from the attendees.

The University of Crete's presence at the congress underscored its significant contribution to the field of classical studies, further enhancing its international academic reputation.

《安提戈涅》 Antigone
演出单位：中央戏剧学院表演系
古希腊戏剧研究中心
文旅部文化和旅游研究基地



The Greek Minister of Culture, Ms. Lina Mendoni, and the Greek Ambassador to China, Mr. Kalpyris, are guided through the presentation of the joint activities of Southwest University and the University of Crete by the president of Southwest University, Mr. Wang Jinjun, and Prof. Yong Wang, secretary of the Chinese branch of the Center for Chinese and Greek Civilizations (KELKIP)

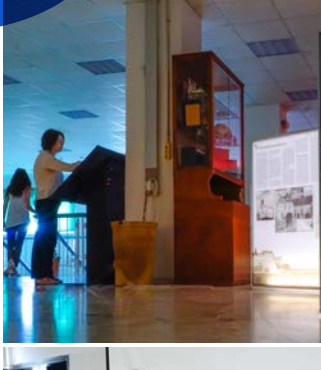


大会
CLASSICS

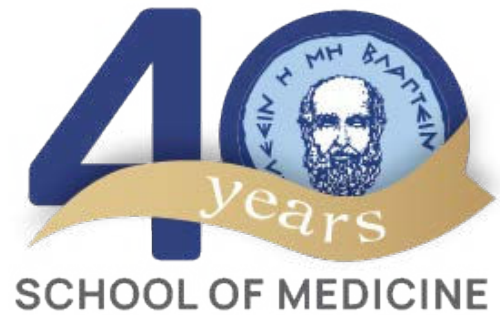
Snapshot from the presentation by Associate Professor of the Department of Philology, Ms. Athina Kavoulaki.



世界古典学大会
WORLD CONFERENCE OF CLASSICS



The UoC Medical School celebrates its 40th Anniversary



On December 18, 2024, the Medical School of the University of Crete marked its 40th anniversary with a formal event at the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce. The celebration highlighted the School's achievements over the past four decades and reaffirmed its dedication to nurturing a new generation of scientists poised to make significant contributions in their fields and to society.

Key speeches were delivered by the Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis, the Dean of the Medical School of Crete, Prof. Eleni Papadaki, and the Director of the Museum of Medicine, Prof. Ioannis Tsiaoussis.

In his address, the **UoC Rector Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis** highlighted the Medical School's dedication to innovation, internationalization and excellence in research and education, alongside its strong societal presence and the collaborative efforts of its staff to provide top-quality medical education, clinical practice and exciting research opportunities to students. He further emphasized the importance of integrating the School's strategic planning into the broader vision of the University, ensuring its dynamic evolution through groundbreaking research and international collaborations, while preserving its human-centered approach.

The Dean of the Medical School, **Prof. Eleni Papadaki**, focused on the importance of achieving excellence in Education, Research, and Health through strategic planning and a future-oriented vision. The UoC Medical School achieves this by developing student-centered undergraduate and postgraduate programs with contemporary subjects and innovative teaching methods. A key initiative will be the establishment of a Clinical Skills and Digital Medicine Center to address educational needs and promote research.

"The ultimate goal," she stated, "is the promotion of public health, the provision of personalized therapies and innovative diagnostic and therapeutic services within and beyond Crete, and the development of innovative research products and connections with the pharmaceutical industry".

The Director of the Museum of Medical School of Crete, **Prof. Ioannis Tsiaoussis**, reflected on the Medical School's four-decade journey, focusing on the development of the University Hospital and the Museum of Medicine's research and educational projects, housed within the Medical School. He highlighted the Museum's role in preserving historical and scientific heritage, while serving as a resource for both students and researchers of the University of Crete.

Guest speaker, **Emeritus Prof. Anastasios Germenis**, emphasized the techno-cultural shift in humanitarian Medicine, highlighting its evolving nature as a technoscience. He remarked on how this transformation integrates advanced technology with the compassionate core of medical practice, reshaping the way medical knowledge is applied and how healthcare is delivered.

The event included a heartfelt presentation with audiovisual material and videos featuring personal stories from students and faculty members who have been part of the School for many years, capturing the journey of its four decades of operation.

The celebration concluded with a performance by the Choir of the University of Crete, directed by Ms. Mariella Vitorou and accompanied by pianist Mr. Giannis Kiagiadakis.

WHY STUDY AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CRETE?

The Medical School of the University of Crete offers a dynamic academic environment dedicated to scientific innovation and a humanistic approach in medicine, providing an exceptional educational journey for future healthcare leaders.

Prospective students can benefit from a variety of English-taught programs, including clinical practice opportunities at the University Hospital and hands-on experience through lab internships and research

projects. The school also offers a variety of annual summer schools and short-term programs.

Studying in Crete means not only receiving world-class education but also enjoying life in the lively city of Heraklion, known for its vibrant student community and rich cultural scene. Finally, the island's stunning natural beauty and Mediterranean climate create an inspiring backdrop for both study and leisure.

DISCOVER THE UOC MEDICAL SCHOOL ENGLISH-TAUGHT PROGRAMS:

International Program in Medicine:

<https://imed.med.uoc.gr/>

Master programs

- Forensic Medicine, Anthropology and Imaging:
<https://mscs.uoc.gr/forensic-med/>
- Biomedical Engineering:
<https://mscs.uoc.gr/bme-crete/>
- Molecular Basis of Human Diseases:
<https://mscs.uoc.gr/mbhd/>
- Neurosciences:
<https://www.neurosciences.med.uoc.gr/index.php/en>
- Exercise and exercise based cardiac rehabilitation in patients with cardiac diseases:
<https://mscs.uoc.gr/cardio/>
- Molecular Biology and Biomedicine:
<https://www.imbb.forth.gr/mbb/index.php/en/>
- Vaccines and Prevention of Infectious Diseases
<http://www.english.med.uoc.gr/?q=postgraduate/master-programs/vaccines-and-prevention/website>
- BRAIN and MIND sciences:
<http://brain-mind.med.uoc.gr/en>





Excerpt from the welcome speech for new medical students



“Study! Diligently, with focus and dedication. . . . Remember that when you get sick, you want the best doctor for yourself and your loved ones. Love your patients. Remember that the doctor-patient relationship is a unique relationship. . . . Approach each patient with respect and sensitivity. Love, respect, and support your classmates. . . . Learn to work as a team. . . . Don't hesitate to voice any concerns or challenges you may face to your professors or the school staff. Be sensitive and aware citizens. . . . React to injustice and inequality. Participate in volunteer, cultural, sports, and social activities to strengthen your ties with society.”

Prof. Helen Papadaki, Dean of the UoC Medical School



SUMMER SCHOOLS

- Basic Electroencephalography Course
- hATTR Amyloidosis: from bench to bedside
- Dementia for Medical Students: Developing Skills to Manage Dementia
- Applied Respiratory Physiology

<https://welcome.uoc.gr/summer-schools/>

WINTER SCHOOLS

- Child and Sport Safety: Basic Cardiac and General Health Evaluation
- Vaccine School & Seminar on Pediatric Infectious Diseases

<https://welcome.uoc.gr/winter-schools/>

UoC WINTER SCHOOLS 2024


In the winter semester of 2024, the University of Crete opened its doors to international students for a series of exciting winter schools. These programs are designed to provide participants with cutting-edge knowledge and hands-on skills in various fields, all within a supportive and vibrant academic community. Each winter school offers a unique opportunity to engage in in-depth learning through lectures, workshops, and practical experiences. Beyond the classroom, students can immerse themselves in the stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage of Crete, making this an educational adventure unlike any other.

Vaccines and Prevention of Infectious Diseases

October 2-5, UoC Medical School, Voutes Campus (Heraklion)

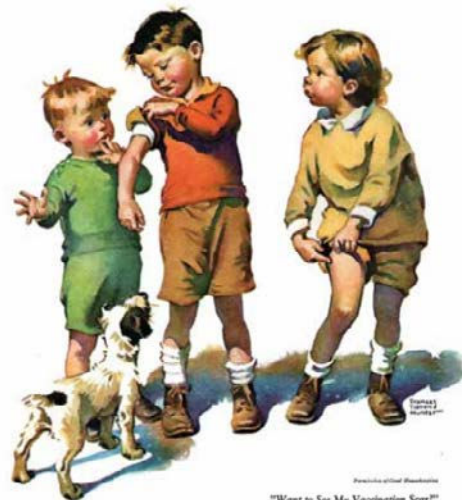
The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Unit of the Pediatric Clinic, University Hospital of Heraklion, and the Division of Mother and Child, UoC School of Medicine, University of Crete, under the auspices of the Hellenic and European Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, organized the 2nd Vaccine School and the 15th Seminar on Pediatric Infectious Diseases. This short-term program focuses on the latest advancements in vaccine research and strategies for preventing infectious diseases, emphasizing the role of immunization in public health.

Read the full program [here](#).



2nd School of Vaccines
and
15th Pediatric Infections Seminar

October **2-5, 2024**
Postgraduate Studies Auditorium
School of Medicine, University of Crete



Perkins and Gresham
"Want to See My Vaccination Scar?"

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Unit, Pediatric Clinic, Heraklion University Hospital and Maternal and Child Department, University of Crete Medical School
Under the auspices of the Hellenic and European Society of Pediatric Infections

Courtesy of: ESPID, Pfizer, Vianex, MSD

Child and Sport Safety: Basic Cardiac and General Health Evaluation

November 4 – 9, UoC Medical School (online)

The UoC Medical School of the University of Crete is organizing the Winter School Child and Sport Safety: Basic Cardiac and General Health Evaluation. All courses were offered online and participants learned essential methods for evaluating the cardiac and general health of young athletes, promoting safer sports participation and early detection of health issues. The winter school focuses on the principles of basic cardiac (including cardiac auscultation and pediatric electrocardiogram interpretation) as well as general health assessment during preparticipation screening for children participating in school and organized sports.

Who is aimed at:

- Medical students –advanced level (having successfully attended preclinical pediatrics, cardiology, pulmonology, as a minimum).
- Postgraduate level, including master degree, PhD students of medicine or sports fields.
- Primary health care physicians, active in basic preparticipation screening including children (pediatricians, general physicians, cardiologists)

Duration: 6 days

Scientific coordinator: Mr. Ioannis Germanakis, Professor of Pediatrics-Pediatric Cardiology | School of Medicine, University of Crete

Read the program [here](#)

Child and Sport Safety Basic Cardiac and General Health Evaluation Winter School E-learning course



University of Crete, School of Medicine
November 4th-9th 2024
Heraklion Crete

Teaching Climate Change: Drivers, Impacts, and Mitigation Strategies

November 3 – 5, Research and Innovation Hub in Nofalia/Finokalia, Agios Nikolaos

The Laboratory of Environmental and Chemical Processes of the UoC Department of Chemistry and the Regional Directorate of Education of Crete organized an international Autumn School in Agios Nikolaos for training teachers in climate change education, in the frame of the Erasmus+ project CLIMADEMY (Climate Change Teachers' Academy). The school included lectures and hands-on activities for educators of all educational levels and aimed to familiarize participants not only with the scientific concepts of climate change but also with pedagogical practices that will help them convey these concepts in the classroom.

During the school, participants were introduced to the CLIMADEMY program's educational framework for teaching climate change and engaged in activities that demonstrated how to apply this framework in the classroom. Additionally, participants visited the environmental station of the University of Crete in Finokalia to become familiar with climate change measurement practices and to see the research equipment used in studying climate change.

Read the program [here](#)

[School flyer](#)



Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility School

November 12 –21, American College of Greece, Athens

The CSR-School is co-organized by the University of Crete, CSR Hellas and the American College of Greece and provides advanced training, fully updated and renewed based on all new requirements in the field of Sustainable Development (State of the Art), on how to identify business opportunities related to sustainability and how to integrate responsibility at the core of business strategy in order to achieve sustainable value and formulate a more resilient organization. The training program is envisioned as a journey that covers all major identified areas that relate to the responsible management of sustainability, preparing participants to lead corporate initiatives that balance profit with societal and environmental care.

For more information, please visit the [website](#)



The University of Crete welcomes the first INGENIUM Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility School

The 1st winter school on Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility of the [INGENIUM Alliance](#) was organized and hosted by the University of Crete, in November 18-22, 2024

The school was designed for postgraduate students and PhD candidates from INGENIUM partner universities, who traveled to Crete for an interdisciplinary learning experience on contemporary issues related to the growth of sustainable business models.



Mr. Constantinos Manasakis, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Crete, delivered lectures, introducing participants to key aspects of sustainable development and corporate responsibility. He emphasized the need for leaders of public and private organizations to shift from single-discipline approaches to multidisciplinary ones, highlighting the importance of leading with empathy and emotional intelligence.

The INGENIUM partners Robert Ludgate, Munster Technological University, Ioannis Arzoumanidis, University G. d'Annunzio, Pescara and Ignacio Tascon Amo, University of Oviedo presented their case studies focusing on the role of business and its relationship to environmental, societal and development challenges. Their work addressed the fundamental question: *"How to materialize the transition to an environmentally and socially sustainable economic model?"* using multidisciplinary scientific tools based on the three pillars of sustainable development: environment – society – economy.

This innovative school focused on the need to redefine the relationship between business, society and nature, as sustainable development and corporate responsibility are essential aspects of business operations in today's global economy.

INGENIUM Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility School was hosted in the University Campus in Voutes and in [HUB 2 Business](#), an ecosystem for startup business.

The last day, INGENIUM participants visited the [National History Museum of Crete](#) and had the chance to discover the exhibition for the biodiversity in the Mediterranean basin and the natural environment of Crete. During the visit, Ms. Aggeliki Doxa, UoC Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, gave a lecture on *Climate change and climate-smart conservation management*.

INGENIUM is dedicated to promoting activities towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Green Deal (EGD). Such initiatives contribute to raise awareness regarding sustainable development not only within the INGENIUM universities but also in societies and industries.

INGENIUM Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility School Goals:



- **Awareness:** Foster understanding of corporate responsibility and sustainable development to drive value for business and society, focusing on ESG (Environment, Society, Governance) criteria.
- **Advanced Training:** Equip future leaders with the skills to manage sustainability in business, leveraging ESG opportunities for transformative practices and sustainable growth.



MBHD

Graduate Program Molecular Basis of Human Diseases University of Crete Medical School

Our mission is to promote translational research by bridging the gap between basic scientists and clinical doctors.

We offer both theoretical background on the molecular/cellular basis of human diseases and we provide early direct opportunity to our students to perform high quality original research in top research laboratories of Greece and abroad.

4th External Evaluation of the Program: Ensuring Excellence

The Graduate Program "Molecular Basis of Human Diseases" started its operation in 2003, and it is one of the first graduate programs offered by the UoC Medical School and the first one in a foreign language. Organized according to international standards for graduate education, the program capitalizes on the knowledge gained from the human genome project and recent advancements in the "omics" fields, preparing participants to lead in the evolving landscape of medical science.

Based on high level education and research experience in the field of human diseases' pathogenesis, the Program stands at the forefront of disease-oriented medical research, providing exceptional opportunities for translational research both in Greece and internationally.

Based on its study regulations, an external evaluation is conducted every five years by a group of Academics from Greece and abroad. The "4th External Evaluation" took place on October 11th, 2024. The Committee consisted of the following members: -**Michael Czech** PhD, Professor of Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School, Boston, USA -**Silvia Corvera** MD PhD, Professor of Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School, Boston, USA -**Lars Rönnblom** MD PhD, Professor of Rheumatology, Department of Medical Sciences, University of Uppsala, SWEDEN -**Constantine A. Stratakis** MD PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School, Athens, GREECE & Senior Associate NICHHD, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA -**Iannis Talianidis** PhD, Research Director, Former Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, IMBB-FoRTH Crete, GREECE.

The Committee made a critical evaluation at all levels of the program's operations and suggested actions to be taken for further improvements. The members of the Coordinating Committee of the Program, **P. Sidiropoulos (Director)**, **D. Kardassis**, **P. Verginis**, **C. Tsatsanis** and **G. Chamilos**, are grateful to the Medical School, the Departments of Biology, Materials Science and Engineering as well as Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology - IMBB-FoRTH for their support and invaluable contributions to the quality of the Program.

more info



New telescope and “Astroschool” in Skinakas Observatory

A new, state-of-the-art optical telescope has been operational since November 20, 2024, at the Skinakas Observatory, the joint research infrastructure of the University of Crete and the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH). The observatory is situated on a 15-acre area at the namesake peak of Psiloritis, donated by the Municipality of Anogia.

The acquisition of the 1.0-meter diameter telescope, manufactured by the Austrian company ASA Astrosysteme GbmH, was made possible through a sponsorship of 500,000 euros from the “Greece 2021” Committee, marking the 200th anniversary of the revolution and the establishment of the modern Greek state. The new telescope, named “200+” by the

President of the Committee, Ms. Gianna Angelopoulou-Daskalaki, during the announcement ceremony on June 9, 2022, will not only be used for research and educating the new generation in astronomy but will also serve as a national reference point for the development of innovative technologies and services related to next-generation telecommunications, utilizing satellites that rely on laser technology. Additionally, it will function as a center for monitoring the positions of these satellites, which now number in the thousands and orbit a few hundred kilometers above the Earth’s surface. These activities will lead to the development of expertise in cutting-edge fields, creating new jobs and fostering economic growth in Crete.

The 5.3-meter diameter dome at the Skinakas Observatory, which houses the new telescope



The Vice-Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Michalis Pavlidis, Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulou-Daskalaki, and Prof. Vassilis Charmandaris during the ceremony of the sponsorship announcement by the "Greece 2021" Committee on June 9, 2022

Vassilis Charmandaris, Professor at the University of Crete and Director of the Skinakas Observatory and the Institute of Astrophysics of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH), states:

"It is difficult to describe the excitement of all the astronomers in the island's academic ecosystem. After nearly 30 years, a new telescope has begun collecting starlight at Skinakas! Thanks to the new telescope, we can make the best use of the impressive dynamics of the newly established Institute of Astrophysics and continue to attract the best researchers and students from Greece and abroad. New people who, with good ideas and hard work, based on our infrastructure and the well-functioning academic environment of our hospitable island, make their dreams come true and render Crete famous."

By the end of 2025, with the support of the "Greece 2021" Committee, amounting to 1 million euros, the construction of the "Astroschool" will also be completed, a 360 sq.m. building with an 85-seat hall and a vision 15 years in the making by the Municipality of Anogia.

Socrates Kefalogiannis, Mayor of Anogia, stated: *"The Municipality of Anogia has been supporting*



The new 1.0-meter diameter telescope "200+" in Skinakas Observatory

the Observatory since its establishment almost 40 years ago, as it recognizes its importance, not only for our area and Crete, but for the entire country. The "Astroschool" is part of the Municipality's strategic plan for the development of the wider mountainous region and, along with the telescopes of the Skinakas Observatory, will become an attraction and a connecting link between the Municipality of Anogia, the University of Crete, and FORTH. Together, we will organize cultural and educational activities in the field of astro-tourism. The "Astroschool" will help us undertake joint initiatives that will contribute tangibly to the gentle and qualitative development of mountainous Crete, highlighting the history, culture, and bright future of our land."

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION FOR UOC INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

On December 6, 2024, the University of Crete's Welcome Office organized an immersive cultural excursion for international students and researchers. The event offered a deep dive into Crete's heritage, agricultural practices, and culinary delights.

The first stop was at the beautiful Arkadi Monastery, where participants enjoyed a guided tour by Associate Professor Antonis Anastasopoulos and Dr. Maria Vakondiou, illuminating the monastery's enduring role as a symbol of Cretan resistance, its historical importance, and its development as a spiritual and cultural landmark of Crete.

Next, participants visited the family-run Klados Winery and gained insights into Crete's longstanding vinicultural traditions.

They observed the journey from vineyard to bottle and sampled locally produced wines, experiencing firsthand the passion and expertise that underpin the island's celebrated wine-making process.

The highlight of the excursion was an interactive visit to the Shepherd's House, where international students and researchers engaged in traditional Cretan agricultural practices. Participants witnessed the art of cheesemaking and milking, learned how to craft delicate phyllo dough, and harvested fresh produce directly from the garden. This hands-on experience concluded with a farm-to-table feast, allowing visitors to savor the island's gastronomy in its purest form.

Through this experiential learning initiative, the University of Crete aimed to enrich the international academic community's appreciation for local traditions, enhance cross-cultural dialogue, and deepen the overall study experience in Greece. These efforts

reflect the University's commitment to fostering global connections and promoting cultural exchange.





Erasmus+ students experienced local traditions and enjoyed "the most wonderful time of the year" in the University of Crete



ERASMUS CHRISTMAS IN UOC

Gallos Campus (Rethymnon)

Erasmus students celebrated the Christmas spirit with the Cretan music group of Georgios Maridakis, Rafail Palierakis and Thodoris Zafeiropoulos, taking a taste of festive treats and decorating our wooden tree made by Mr Mamalakis Giorgos, we all embraced the true spirit of Christmas!

Voutes Campus (Heraklion)

Erasmus students were invited to a festive Christmas event at the [Natural History Museum of Crete \(NHMC\)](#) and enjoyed a guided tour at the Museum exhibition, shared stories about Christmas traditions and tried local Christmas sweets and treats!



A Delegation from the Birzeit University (Palestine) visited the University of Crete in November 2024

Two members of the academic staff, **Ms. Fardous Salameh** (Chairperson) and **Ms. Mai Albzour** (Director of the M.A in Community Psychology Program) of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the **Birzeit University (Palestine)**, visited the Department of Sociology of the University of Crete for training issues as well as for establishing and further developing educational and research synergies in the framework of the **International Credit Mobility (KA171)** of Erasmus+ program.

The two members of the delegation were welcomed by **Ms. Stefania Kalogeraki**, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and coordinator of the program.

The training program of Ms. Fardous Salameh and Ms. Mai Albzour included meetings with faculty members of the School of Social Sciences during which constructive discussions took place on issues related to the scientific fields of social and behavioral sciences. At the same time, the possibilities of further collaborations at the educational and research level were explored. In addition, two open lectures were held in which a large number of academic members and



students of the School of Social Sciences participated. The lecture of Ms. Fardous Salameh was titled: *"The Impact of Witnessing Bloody Scenes through Social Media and Lived Reality on the Formation of Secondary Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms in 10–13-Year-Old Children in the West-Bank"*. The lecture of Ms. Mai Albzour was based on two research studies. The first study concerned the concept of normalization and its representations within the political discourse of Arab states. The second study explored Palestinians' attitudes towards resistance and normalization.

The visit of Ms. Fardous Salameh and Ms. Mai Albzour sparked a fruitful academic dialogue and laid the foundation for further research and educational collaborations between the University of Crete and Birzeit University.



Collaboration between the University of Crete and the University of Pretoria, South Africa

Under the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM / KA171 2022) program, initiated by **Mr. Anastasios Matsopoulos**, Director of the School Psychology Unit and Associate Professor in the Department of Preschool Education at the University of Crete, the University of Crete has strengthened its collaboration with the prestigious University of Pretoria in South Africa. This partnership aims to foster academic exchange and research opportunities between the two institutions, contributing to the global advancement of educational practices and psychology.



18th University of Crete Running Race

The 18th University of Crete Running Race was held on November 24, 2024, organized by the University Gym of Heraklion (Voutes Campus).

The race was first held in 2002 and connects the University of Crete's facilities from Knossos to Voutes Campus, passing through the center of Heraklion, covering a distance of 12.6 kilometers. This year, a total of 72 athletes of all ages participated in the race.

Mr. Giorgos Serpetsidakis finished first among the men, with a time of 48' 49", while Irene Fournaraki was the first woman to reach the finishing line, with a time of 59' 14".

Following the 12.6-kilometer race, the "Tour of Voutes Campus" running race took place, covering a distance of 3 kilometers, featuring 50 participants.



[more info](#)



Distinctions



The UoC Department of Physics awarded the annual “Giorgos Grammatikakis” Prize for 2024

The prize was established in honor of Giorgos Grammatikakis (1939 - 2023), Emeritus Professor of the Department and former Rector of the University of Crete. His passion for astronomy and his efforts to popularize science, particularly through his books, are well-known throughout Greece.

In 2023, the Department of Physics and the Grammatikakis family decided to create this annual award to keep his memory and contributions alive for future generations of University of Crete students. The prize is awarded to the best student of the Department of Physics based on academic and research achievements, particularly in astronomy, after completing their second or third year of studies. It includes a commemorative diploma and a monetary prize of €1,000, presented during the November graduation ceremony of the respective year.

For 2024, the second “Giorgos Grammatikakis” Prize was awarded to Ms. Chrysi Koukkouraki, a fourth-year student in the Department of Physics. Ms. Koukkouraki has an average grade of 9.51 and is already conducting research on star formation and the study of the magnetic field of our galaxy using data from the Skinakas Observatory



International distinction for Assoc. Prof. Constantinos Stoumpos



Warm congratulation to [Assoc. Professor Constantinos Stoumpos](#) for his inclusion in the [Most Cited Researchers list published by Clarivate](#) for 2024. The list includes highly influential researchers with significant impact worldwide in the past decade. This year the list includes only three scientists from Greek Institutions, with Prof. Stoumpos being one of them and the only one from the University of Crete.

Dr. Stoumpos receives this honor for a sixth consecutive year in recognition of his influential research in the field of Materials Chemistry.

Dr Stoumpos' research targets the synthesis of innovative materials, focusing on solid state chemistry approaches, and pursues applications revolving around energy and environmental problems.

Best paper award to Professor Panagiota Fatourou



Professor Panagiota Fatourou from the UoC Department of Computer Science received the Best Paper Award at the [38th International Symposium on Distributed Computing \(DISC 2024\)](#), one of the two leading conferences in her research area, for the paper "[Lock-Free Augmented Trees](#)." This work was a collaboration with Eric Ruppert, Associate Professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at York University, during his visit to the Institute of Computer Science at the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH) and the University of Crete.

The International Symposium on Distributed Computing is a global forum focused on the theory, design, analysis, implementation, and application of distributed systems and networks. The symposium co-sponsors the Edsger W. Dijkstra Prize in Distributed Computing (alongside the ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing - PODC), named after the distinguished scientist in the field, Edsger Wybe Dijkstra (1930-2002). The prize is awarded to outstanding research papers whose significance and impact on the field have been evident for at least a decade.

The Department of Computer Science at the University of Crete extends its congratulations to Professor Panagiota Fatourou for this notable achievement.

The "Daedalus" (Oxdeada1u5) team wins 1st Prize at the "Hellenic University Hack" Competition



The "Daedalus" (Oxdeada1u5) team of the UoC Department of Computer Science secured the first place in the "Hellenic University Hack" competition for Greek universities. The "[Hellenic University Hack](#)" is a national Capture The Flag (CTF) competition that invites students to explore the world of cybersecurity and collaborate with peers to collectively enhance their digital skills. The competition is organized by the Hellenic Cybersecurity Team in partnership with university groups across Greece.

The University of Crete participated with four teams. Congratulations to all students from the University of Crete who took part, especially to George Goupou, Evangelos Golantas, Theologos Kokkinelis, Emmanouil Patronakis, and Giannis Peioudis, who make up the winning "Daedalus" (Oxdeada1u5) team that claimed first place.



Ioannis Sakellariou



Alexandros Tsouros



Georgios Chatzidrosos

E. N. Economou Awards 2024

The Department of Physics awarded the "E. N. Economou" Prizes for 2024 in a ceremony held at the department on November 21, 2024.

These three annual prizes were established in 2023 in honor of Lefteris Economou, the first chairman of the department and an internationally distinguished scientist. Prof. Economou played a pivotal role in shaping the early stages of the University of Crete and the Department of Physics, contributing tirelessly to research and teaching for over 40 years.

Greetings were delivered by the Chairman of the Department of Physics, Professor Andreas Zezas, and Emeritus Professor Nikolaos Kylafis. The awards presented were:

- Best Academic Performance Award to **Ioannis Sakellariou**
- Research Award to **Alexandros Tsouros**
- Distinguished Alumnus Award to **Dr. Georgios Chatzidrosos**

The ceremony concluded with a lecture by Dr. Georgios Chatzidrosos titled "From Quantum Insight to Industrial Impact: Applications and Innovations with Quantum Systems."



Upcoming News

OPEN CALLS

Applications for Ph.D studies in Biology and Computer Science are now open!

UoC Department of Biology.

Application's deadline 29/8/2025

For more information, please refer to the attached [document](#)

Email: bervan@uoc.gr

The UoC Computer Science Department

Application's deadline 31/3/2025

For more information, please refer to the attached [document](#)

Email: pgram@csd.uoc.gr

Invitation to Submit Abstracts for the International Conference on Inclusive Student-Centered Pedagogies in Higher Education



The upcoming **International Conference on Inclusive Student-Centered Pedagogies in Higher Education** will be held from **May 23 to May 25, 2025**, at the **Department of Computer Science, University of Crete**, in Heraklion, Crete.

This conference aligns closely with the [INGENIUM](#)

values and vision, and it seeks contributions on **innovative teaching and assessment methods, equity and inclusion in education, and the role of technology in enhancing inclusive learning environments.**

Researchers and educators are encouraged to submit abstracts by **January 31, 2025**. More details are available at <https://coalition-erasmusplus.com/conference>.

Submissions are eagerly awaited, with the hope of welcoming participants to a conference that promises to be both rewarding and enriching.

Biophysics Summer School 2025: "Pattern formation and development processes"

7-13 July, 2025, Rethymnon (Xenia)

The second Summer School on Biophysics in Greece invites advanced undergraduate, Master's, and PhD students from diverse backgrounds—Physics, Biology, Materials Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science—to explore the interdisciplinary field of Biophysics. This program is designed to broaden the skillset and perspectives of both newcomers and those already engaged in Biophysics.

The school aims to show how Biophysics is using all the above sciences to advance, making it an exciting and scientifically inclusive field. Student-instructor interaction will be maximized via lectures on theory and experiments, workshops on computational and experimental data analysis tools, and plenty of opportunities for discussions.

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The school showcases how Biophysics integrates various scientific disciplines to drive innovation, making it a dynamic and inclusive field. Participants will benefit from an immersive experience, featuring interactive lectures, hands-on workshops in computational and experimental data analysis, and ample opportunities for in-depth discussions with instructors and peers. Join us to elevate your understanding and engagement in this cutting-edge domain.

TOPICS

Transport (flows) in living systems

Neural and limb development and regeneration

Pattern formation

Cytoskeletal mechanics

Computational and Image Analysis Workshops

For more information, please visit the official [website](#)



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