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Table of Contents

Liaison Office	3
Cooperation Agreements	4
Workshops/Events Seminars/Webinars	7
Seminars/Webinars	<u> </u>
Educational Visits	M 1 11
E.U. Staff Training	12
Exhibitions-	5 CA /A
Presentations	
Student Contests	
Representations at Conferences and	
InstitutionsConferencesCareer Pathways	.18
Career Pathways	20
Career Week 2023	21
ERASMUS+ Mobility Office	
Student Affairs and International Student Support	
DepartmentAlumni Office	27
Graduation	29
Alumni Stories	
Interview with the Vice-Rector	and the state of t

#NUP



June 2023

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of the Neapolis University Pafos Career Centre!

This issue covers everything that took place during the **Spring Semester 2023**! Specifically, highlighted are the significant achievements of our students, the activities of the Career Centre (Liaison Office and Alumni Office), the Erasmus+ Mobility Office as well as those of the Student Affairs and International Student Support Department.

We are happy to welcome our new collaborators, institutions and businesses, who we intend to organise joint actions and initiatives, with the aim of promoting knowledge, research and innovation!

Reference is made to **Career Week 2023**, the **workshops**, **events** and **seminars**, as well as the **educational visits** organised throughout this period, in an attempt to better familiarise students with their field of study.

In this issue, the Vice-Rector of Research and Innovation, Professor Savvas Chatzichristofis, answers the questions we put to him so that we can get to know him better. Also, graduate Dr. Andreas Charalambous is interviewed and explains the reasons that led him to choose his thesis topic.

As the beginning of a new academic semester is just around the corner, we have exciting plans and upcoming initiatives in mind. We have taken steps to enhance our digital presence and improve our communication channels to ensure you remain well-informed about the latest news, events and opportunities at the university.

In this spirit of communication, we invite you to share your stories, achievements and experiences with us. Whether you have an exciting research project, a community initiative worth highlighting, or an inspiring story of personal development, we want to hear from you.

Your contributions will not only enrich our university community but also will inspire others to follow their dreams and make a positive impact.

Thank you for your continuous support and dedication.





On behalf of the Career Centre,

Mina Bakavelou
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Executive
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STUDENTS' PLACEMENT

During the Spring Semester 2023, **59 placements** from students at the **School of Economics**, **Business and Computer Science** in companies and organizations, relevant to their field of study, were successfully completed, of which 55 of them were carried out under the European Project "**University Labour Market Liaison Offices**".



Students had the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills for 150 hours in real working conditions, which enabled them to develop a wider understanding of their field of study and further enhance their practical capabilities.







"During my placement, I was able to apply my knowledge in real working conditions and collaborate with professionals in my field. Both the company and the Liaison Office were supportive during my placement, guiding me and answering any questions I had."

-S.T., Department of Economics and Business, 2022



"During my placement, I learned many new and useful things, I put into practice what I was taught at university and I was provided with new experiences and knowledge that will help me to develop in the professional field."

-K. M., Department of Economics and Business, 2022



"During my placement, I gained valuable hands-on experience in my field, collaborated with a diverse team, honed my skills through challenging projects, learned to adapt to new environments, built professional relationships, developed a strong work ethic, faced and overcame obstacles, expanded my knowledge base, and grew both personally and professionally"

-P.K., Department of Civil Engineering, 2022



"Good and enjoyable!"

-A. S., Department of Economics and Business, 2022







<u>Tell us your experience during your placement!</u>

Complete the short questionnaire by scanning the **QR code** or send us an **email** with any questions you may have at

liaisonoffice@nup.ac.cy



COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (M.O.U.)























The **Liaison Office** is pleased to announce that during the **Spring Semester 2023** we welcomed our new partners by signing Partnership Agreements:

- PRIMIQ Solutions
- IFAAcademy
- CHR. MARNEROS & CO. LTD
- MCC & Engineers LLC
- Foundation for Research & Technology Hellas (FORTH)
- Hellenic Educational Robotics Organization H.E.R.O.
- Cyprus Youth Clubs Organization (KOKEN)

These collaborations strengthen the commitment of **Neapolis University Pafos** towards academic excellence, research collaboration and knowledge advancement, as well as tackle challenging situations through interdisciplinary cooperation.

Our new partners cover a wide range of expertise and research, from academia and industry, creating a dynamic ecosystem that promotes collaboration and fosters innovation. This collaborative spirit will allow us to explore new frontiers, expand the boundaries of knowledge and make a meaningful impact on society.



As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, Neapolis University Pafos signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Cyprus (UNHCR Cyprus)** on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 2023).

At the same time, the photography exhibition "Fleeing to Safety" by award-winning photographer/cameraman Sebastian Rich was also inaugurated.

The University campus was decorated with handicrafts created by refugee women in cooperation with volunteer organizations in Paphos.





The Director of Administration and Finance, Dr. Andreas Moleskis, signs the Memorandum of Understanding with Ms. Katja Saha, UNHCR Representative in Cyprus.



The mosaic "Love Conquers Everything", a collective creation of unescorted girls, asylum seekers from Africa living in Paphos and volunteers from Learning Refugee.



Handicraft objects created by refugee women together with volunteer organizations in Paphos.





The exhibition **Fleeing to Safety** was presented for the first time in June 2022 by UNHCR Cyprus and the **Universitas Foundation**. It includes photographs of refugees, asylum seekers and other violently forced displaced people in Cyprus and around the world, as captured through the lens by **Sebastian Rich**.



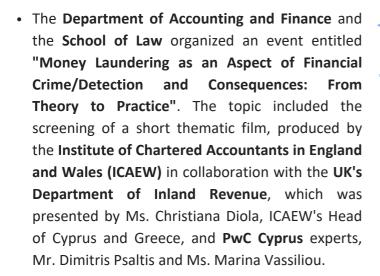




The postgraduate students of Counselling Psychology will have the opportunity to work with HIV-positive people and their families, offering mental health services.

WORKSHOPS/ EVENTS

The Department of Civil Engineering in collaboration with the Pafos Regional Committee of E.T.E.K. (Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber) organized under the auspices of Urban Living, a workshop entitled "Presentation of Innovative Materials with Advanced Technology" at the University's premises. The companies NOVAMIX, HELLAS STONES and ROWMAT presented their materials and in addition, practical applications of the materials were carried out.



The Marketing LAB of Neapolis University Pafos and the MSc in Digital Marketing organized a webinar entitled "Discovering the Potential of Communication in the 4th Industrial Revolution". Keynote speaker at the event was Mr. Panagiotis Kakolyris, (Chief Operating Officer & Head of Strategy at Socialdoo, Vice President of ENOP - European Network of Political Foundations).





 The Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences organized an event, which focused on the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre, a large-scale and global project. Speakers at the event were the representatives of the architect Renzo Piano in Athens, Mr. Yannis Ventourakis, Founding Member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of BETAPLAN Ventourakis and Ms. Elli Pagalou, internationally awarded landscape architect.



 The Department of Psychology in the context of the course 'Psychology of Music' and the Student Affairs and International Student Support Department co-organized with the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, a Cultural Workshop on "Roots To Rock" with the two renowned American musicians Mr. Mike Fearson and Mr. Pat O'Neil.



 The Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences held an event on "EARTH ARCHITECTURE" with speakers Ms. Artemis Theodorou, Architect (NAB-B.Arch, Pratt Institute), Centre for Research and Applications of Earth Building (CRAterre), Grenoble School of Architecture, and Mr. Socrates Sokratous, Natural Building Technician.

• The Chief of the Cypriot National Guard, Lieutenant General Demokritos Zervakis, visited Neapolis University Pafos following an invitation by the Department of History, Politics and International Studies and delivered a keynote speech on "The changing geostrategic landscape in the East Mediterranean region and the role of the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus".







 Organisation of "Neapolis University Pafos Beach Water Polo 2023" in cooperation with Cyprus Athletic Tourism. Organisation of "Neapolis University Pafos Cyprus Swim Series" in cooperation with Cyprus Athletic Tourism.



SEMINARS - WEBINARS



The Department of Civil Engineering organized a seminar entitled
"Dry Building Systems, Acoustic and Thermal Insulation" in
cooperation with KNAUF CYPRUS LTD. The seminar was conducted
by the lecturers of the course "Building Technology 2 - Construction
Components", Dr. Anthos Ioannou and Dr. Konstantinos Vassiliadis
with the support of Dr. Salome Papamichael and Dr. Yannis Bellos,
President of the Department of Civil Engineering.



The **Liaison Office** of Neapolis University Pafos in collaboration with Dr. Anastasios Pavlopoulos, Lecturer of the **School of Law**, organized an innovative and pioneering **seminar on acting for young law students.**

The interactive seminar was given by **Dr. Marina Athanasiou-Takis** from the **Paremvasis Theatre Stage** in Paphos and included diaphragmatic breathing, speaking and readiness exercises, posture and performance preparation, and improvisation through legal debate.



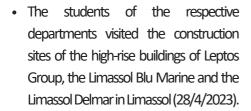
- In the context of the MBA in Tourism, a webinar was organized (13/1/2023) on "Architecture, Tourism and Tourist Accommodation" with Dr.Efthymia Sarantakou, Architectural Engineer, Assistant Professor at the Department of Tourism Management in the University of West Attica, as well as a Panel Discussion (20/1/2023) on tourism and sustainable development, entitled "Exploring the Relationship between Tourism and Sustainable Development" with representatives of institutions actively involved in the development of tourism in Greece and Cyprus.
- A webinar entitled "Enhancing children's psychosocial development at school. The example of the children's book
 'Little Me is Me' " was organized by the Distance Learning Master of Public Administration (MPA) (specialised in
 Educational Administration) and the MSc in Educational Psychology. The speakers were the Emeritus Professor of
 Clinical Psychology at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens and former President of the Institute for
 Research and Treatment of Behaviour, Dr. Anastasia Kalantzi-Azizi and Ms. Panorea Kotrotsou, a qualified teacher in
 Special Education (M.Sc.).
- The Department of History, Politics and International Studies organized an online lecture on "One hundred years since the signing of the Lausanne Peace Treaty and the Convention Concerning the Exchange of Populations" by Mr. Konstantinos Holevas, Political Scientist, Member of the Special Synodical Committee for Cultural Identity of the Church of Greece.

- As part of the Civil Procedure courses, a lecture on "Current trends in procedural law theory" was hosted by Prof. Matthew Shapiro from Rutgers University of New Jersey (USA)
- A lecture on "The Psychology of Nutrition" was given by Dr. Omer Horovitz, Chairman of the Department of Psychology at Tel-Hai University in Israel.
- The Department of History, Politics and International Studies organised a lecture by Dr Kyriakos lakovidis entitled "The refugee wave in Cyprus after the First World War: Refugees of the Russian Civil War and displaced people from the Asia Minor Catastrophe, the response of the British administration".
- An online lecture by Dr. Afentoulis Langidis entitled "Types of Cultural Diplomacy in the Cold War period" was organized in the framework of the course "Contemporary European History (1914-1989)" offered in the Department of History, Politics and International Studies.
- An online lecture on "Gastronomy and Tourism The Restaurant as an Attraction" was organized
 by the MBA in Tourism with guest speaker Mrs.
 Magda Peistiko, Head of Learning & Development
 at the Greek Tourism Confederation Institute
 (INSETE), Head Editor of "Food Service" magazine.
- In the context of the course on Labour Law, Law School organized a webinar on "Current Issues for Equality in Employment Matters" with the participation of Anna Zilli, Associate Professor, University of Udine Italy.

- The Department of Psychology hosted a lecture by researcher Dr. Andrea Nadalini (CRN research centre, Pisa, Italy) on "Eye-tracking and fingertracking in language research".
- The Department of History, Politics and International Studies and Strategy International in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair for Threats to the Cultural Heritage and Related Activities and the Laboratory for Geocultural Analyses (GEOLAB) of the Ionian University organized a public telelecture by Prof. Alexis Papadopoulos on "Vincentian Praxis in French State Formation From "Nantes" to the Peace of Utrecht (1598-1715)".
- An online Panel Discussion on "The role of events in the promotion and the development of destinations" was organised by the MBA in Tourism.
- The **Department of Economics and Business**, The Laboratory «Economics of Financial Markets, Risk Management and Corporate Governance» of the Department of Economics of the University of Piraeus and the Laboratory "European Sustainable Development Policies" of the University of Peloponnese co-organized webinar on "Sustainability and ESG: is it here to stay?".
- Lecture on the role and the importance of cultural heritage, as well as on the preservation of dietary habits and local food products by Dr. Chrysalleni Lazarou, founding president of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Food Virtual Museum, in the context of the course "Foreign Policy in the 21st Century" (BSc in International Relations and Security).

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES







 The students of the Department of Civil Engineering visited the Kamaderena Winery in Stroubi, the Kannaviou Dam and the ancient wine presses in Geroskipou (5/5/2023).

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, ARTS AND HUMANITIES



 Graduates and current postgraduate students of the Distance Learning Programme in Modern and Contemporary History visited the Library in the Benaki Museum which is located in the former public tobacco factory in Athens, and the Library of the Hellenic Parliament.

1ST EMERGE STAFF WEEK

Neapolis University Paphos, as a full member of the **eMerge Alliance** of European Universities, organised the 1st eMERGE Staff Week between 24/4/2023 and 1/5/2023.



Academics, administrators and students of the Universities that are members of the Alliance participated in the **eMERGE Staff Week** sessions and had the opportunity to exchange views, ideas and experiences for the further consolidation of the Alliance. In addition, the event aimed to bring together all the Alliance members to participate in various activities, to network and learn from each other and to enhance a sense of community.



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

For the third year in a row, the students of the Department of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences designed and created an object of their choice on a full scale, using actual materials and techniques, and exhibited it, with the support of their Tutor, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Solon Xenopoulos. The **Student Architecture Exhibition** is held as part of the course **"Object and Space"**.



NUP LIBRARY

Our library is currently hosting a Japanese exhibition of books donated by the **Nippon Foundation** in the framework of the "**READ JAPAN PROJECT**". The aim of the project is to promote the study and understanding of Japanese culture worldwide.



If you are curious to discover the world of Japan, the only thing you need to do is to visit the library if Neapolis University Pafos!

More information about the library





The touring exhibition "Women of Mathematics from around the world: a gallery of portraits" was hosted at Neapolis University Pafos during 15-29 June 2023. The touring exhibition aimed to highlight and celebrate the contribution of women in the mathematical sciences. The exhibition was organized by the Women in Mathematical Sciences - WMSC network with the initiative of the Department of Computer Science.

The exhibition was open to the public.





Aspon Consulting Ltd with special reference to the promotion of cultural monuments. On behalf of Neapolis University Pafos, among the participants were Mr. Yakinthos Delernias, Dr. Sotiris Apostolopoulos, Dr. Georgios Deirmentzoglou, Dr. Dikaios Tserkezos and Dr. Marios Psychalis.

If you want to find out about all the happenings in Neapolis University Pafos, you can visit https://www.nup.ac.cy/gr/events/, like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram and LinkedIn.

JA STARTUP 2023 COMPETITION

Parkhomenka Matsvei, Alexandros Tsopozidis, and Gennady Petrishchev, students of the Department of Computer Science were among the 10 finalists with their business proposal "World Historical Treasures" and presented it in the finals pf the JA StartUp 2023 competition, which was organized on June 1, 2023 by Junior Achievement Cyprus (JA Cyprus).









The competing students met with the Rector, Professor Pantelis Sklias and the Vice Rector, Professor Sawas Chatzichristofis and discussed their experiences from participating in the competition as well as their next professional steps.

COMPETITION OF A FICTIONAL CIVIL TRIAL

The **Law School**, in the context of all the courses of Civil Law and Civil Procedure, and with the initiative of the lecturers Dr. Giorgos Georgiadis, Dr. Maria Gerasopoulou and Dr. Elina Asimakopoulou, organised a fictional civil trial competition on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

The topic of the mock trial was a family court case (divorce, child custody and communication, alimony) before the Court of Appeal.

There were 10 students (2nd and 3rd year) who took part in the competition and were divided into three groups:

- A) the applicants who represented the father and appealed against the first instance decision made against him,
- B) the appellants representing the mother and seeking to have the claimants' appeal dismissed; and
- (C) the **judges** of the Court of Appeal, who assessed the submissions of the applicants and the appellants and gave their judgment.

The teams developed their legal arguments in a thoroughly analytical manner and made extremely positive impressions. After their evaluation by the lecturers, the winning team was that of the appellants.

"NEXT GENERATION PROPOSALS FOR A BETTER CYPRUS" COMPETITION

Students of the **Department of Accounting and Finance** participated in the "**Next Generation Proposals for a Better Cyprus**" competition which was held by **Consulco**, one of the largest, independent professional services firms in Cyprus, with investment activities in the UK and the rest of Europe, offering high returns for institutional investors.



The winners Vladislav Mahos, Savva Marios, Gatzios Paraskevas, Patsakas Christos, Aslanidou Diana and Mourantidou Elina conducted a survey in which they essentially proposed fundamental regulatory changes aimed at improving the investment sector in Cyprus.

The awarding ceremony for the students with the prizes by **Consulco** took place on Friday 16 June 2023 at the University premises.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK DONATION DAY (14 FEBRUARY)



The book by the top constitutional expert, Prof. Aristovoulos Manesis, on the democratic and liberal ideology of the Greek Revolution of 1821 (courtesy of Sakkoulas Publications, Athens-Thessaloniki) was awarded to the 6 distinction law students with the highest marks in the courses of Constitutional Law (**Philippos Zompyras, Christos Alexandridis, Apostolis Anagnostakis, Pavlina Papania** - 1st year) and Constitutional Freedoms (**Pavlina Myrillas, Athena Papagianni** - 3rd year)

The lecturer of the courses is Dr. Anastasios Pavlopoulos.

REPRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

CONSIMIUM: A COUNCIL SIMULATION EXPERIENCE

Ifigenia Minga, student of the Faculty of Law, and Kinyras Aquilina, student of the Department of History, Politics and International Studies, participated in the 1st ConSIMium Conference, a Council simulation experience (2-3/2/2023).



EPSO CAREER STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Petros Karseras, a civil engineering student, will represent Neapolis University Pafos for the first time in the EU Careers Student Ambassadors network for the academic year 2023-2024.

Peter's role, as **NUP EU Careers Ambassador**, is to inform students about career opportunities in the EU institutions.

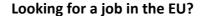


Petros Karseras
NUP EU Careers Ambassadors



Pop-Up event at Neapolis University Pafos by the EU Careers Ambassadors of the University of Nicosia, Marina Andreou and the University of Cyprus, Panagiotis Antoniadis.





HTTPS://EPSO.EUROPA.EU/EN/JOB-OPPORTUNITIES/OPEN-FOR-APPLICATION



In addition, the Liaison Office staff members also act as **EURES Advisers** in the **EURES Cyprus Network** in order to provide information and guidance to students and graduates for a work position in the EU.

STUDENTS' VISIT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Students from the Department of History, Political and International Studies and the Faculty of Law visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of the **International Day of Women in Diplomacy**.

The event enabled the students to learn from esteemed women in the Cypriot diplomatic service about the challenges facing the current generation of diplomats.

CONFERENCES

 SHARE Cyprus 2023 Forum - International Architecture and Technology Innovation Forum (16/5/2023)

Organised by: SHARE Architects

Topics: "Sustainable facades: Design and technology", "Living and Working Architecture" and "Large-scale development projects". Guest speakers will present technical details of their large-scale projects with inspirational insights for the audience.

• Scientific Conference "Contemporary Challenges for Criminal Law" (26-27/5/2023)

Organised by: Law School, NUP Laboratory for Criminal Law and Criminal Procedural Law and the Jean Monnet Chair, in collaboration with the Law School of the Democritus University of Thrace, the Cyprus Bar Association and the Hellenic Criminal Bar Association.



Topics: The Conference was dedicated to the memory of Peter Artemis, former President of the Supreme Court of Cyprus and Stephanos Pavlos, Professor of Criminal Law at the Law School of the Democritus University of Thrace. Both of them are notable figures for Neapolis University Pafos, since the former was a lecturer at the Law School of the University, while the latter laid the foundations for the cooperation between the Law School of Neapolis University Pafos and the Law School of the Democritus University of

Thrace, a cooperation that recently came to fruition with the signing of a memorandum of cooperation for the preparation of joint doctoral degrees. 18 distinguished speakers, professors of Law Schools from Greece and Cyprus, Prosecutors as well as former Judges developed their presentations on issues of Criminal Law.

• 6th International Conference on Tourism Research (ICTR 2023) (8/6/2023)

Organised by: Academic Conference International

Topics: The conference addressed a wide range of issues, reflecting the critical challenges facing the tourism sector today. With the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and the recent economic and political turmoil, there is an urgent need for scientific guidance for the industry.

4th Symposium on Circular Economy and Sustainability (19-21/6/2023)

Organised by: Department of Civil Engineering

Topics: Applications of any level of Circular Economy and Sustainability.



NUP CERTIFICATIONS

DISTINCTIONS OF NEAPOLIS UNIVERSITY PAFOS

- General Services Award in the framework of the Cyprus Export Award 2021
- EURASHE (full member)
- Certification SUREPLUS LABEL LEVEL A (2020-24)





UNESCO CHAIR (2023-27)

 To Dr. George Pavlidis for promoting his lectures and research on "Human development, security and the fight against transnational crime and illicit trafficking in cultural property"

- University of the Peloponnese
- University of Hull
- University of Piraeus
- University of Western Macedonia
- Democritus University of Thrace







RECOGNITIONS

- BSc of Law & Equivalence in the USA
- BSc in Civil Engineering & BSc in EApplied Computer Science by FEANI
- MSc in Landscape Architecture is a full member of ECLAS

CERTIFICATIONS

- · MSc in Digital Marketing by DMI
- MSc in Real Estate by RICS
- The ACCA awarded 9 exemptions in the BSc in Accounting, Banking and Finance





JEAN MONNET CHAIR (2020-22)

 To Dr. George Pavlidis for promoting his lecturing and research on "Targeting Criminal Assets in the European Union"

MEMBERSHIPS

- United Nations Academic Influence Association (UNAI)
- European Distance & E-Learning Network (EDEN)





- Global Forum PRME
- ISBE
- NetWorld2020
- European Foundation for Management Development
- SDSN
- UNIMED

CAREER PATHWAYS

A new initiative was launched this semester, CAREER PATHWAYS!

CAREER PATHWAYS aims to inform students about their future careers in workplaces corresponding to their field of study.

The initiative is about providing insights into the current labour market by employers and professionals, as well as informing students regarding the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their chosen field.



The first corporate presentation was made by **RSM Cyprus** which has extensive experience and knowledge in the field of audit, tax, accounting, and advisory services.



Our guest, Ms. Nicole Stavrinidou, Quality Assurance Director, spoke to the students of the Department of Accounting and Finance about the trends in the financial services industry and discussed with them the opportunities for professional development at RSM Cyprus.







For the 2nd year in a row, the Career **Centre** of Neapolis University Pafos organised with great success the "Career Week 2023" from 6 - 10 March 2023, aiming to connect its students and graduates with representatives from various professional sectors and organisations, providing the opportunity to be informed about different career prospects, network with potential employers and explore employment and internship opportunities.

During the **"Career Week 2023"**, seminars and workshops of professional interest were organised by experienced and qualified professionals on human resources and career issues:ς:



"Boost your employability-Competences and skills required by the current labour market", Marigeorgia Voskaridou, Career Development Counselor.



- "EURES Network in Cyprus", Yiota Panagi, EURES
 Adviser, Paphos District Labour Office.
- "Career Opportunities in Denmark", Nhi Nguyen,
 Recruitment Consultant at Workindenmark.



"Being in Demand: Upskilling the Future of Work",
Natassa Fotinakopoulou, HR Generalist INTERSPORT
Greece & Cyprus, Anastasia Lyssandrou, HR
Generalist IKEA & INTERSPORT Cyprus.

"Difficulties and challenges that a lawyer faces in his or her career. How a Greek Lawyer can practice law in Cyprus and vice versa", Savvas Zannoupas, President of the Paphos Bar Association.





"Computer Science: The modern career path", Ioannis Chrysanthou, IT Executive/IT Director, Transalis Ltd.

"Cultivating a Growth Mindset in the Working Environment", Irini Pavlou, Trainee in Counselling Mindset.





"Managing Tomorrow's People - The Soft
Skills needed to be Successful", Marios
Melanides, Cyprus Country Partner at
Evalion-SHL Greece & Cyprus (former
Human Capital Director at PwC Cyprus).

#improveyourskills

#softskills

NUP CAREER WEEK 2023

A total of **24 enterprises and other businesses** participated in the "**Open Career Day 2023**", announcing the available vacancies in fields related to the cutting-edge knowledge and innovation Programmes of Studies of Neapolis University Pafos.







#careerdevelopment

#careergoals

NUP CAREER WEEK 2023

ERASMUS+ MOBILITY OFFICE

The Erasmus+ Mobility Office provides learning mobility opportunities aiming to encourage the in research areas.

mobility of students, administrative staff, and academics of the University, as well as to promote further cooperation between Neapolis **University Pafos** and the associated Universities The main role of the Office through the Erasmus Coordinator and the Erasmus Committee is to organise the mobilities and provide all necessary information to the interested parties.

The Erasmus+ Mobility Office is at your disposal to answer any questions and assist you with the process of participating in the Programme.





Iliana Keli, Erasmus Coordinator erasmus@nup.ac.cy_



40 incoming Erasmus students

from European and non-European countries, during the Spring Semester 2023



BIP, 8-12 May 2023, Warsaw







Blended Intensive Programme (BiP)



#NUPerasmus #mobility

Thematic Seminar «Blended mobility for Higher Education: challenges, opportunities and concrete implementation», participation of Erasmus Coordinator (June 2023).



STUDENT AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

The **Student Affairs and International Student Support Department** provides services and informs students on matters of education, student life, regulations and generally on anything else they may need during their studies at Neapolis University Pafos. Some of its activities during the Spring Semester 2023 included:



Guided tour for freshmen students on the "Induction Day 2023" at the premises of Neapolis University Pafos.



Career Day at the private English school ASPIRE in collaboration with Dr. Eleni Gavriel, Lecturer at the Department of History, Politics and International Relations.



Setting up the **Joint Advanced Student School** (JASS) 2023 Conference in collaboration with Leptos Group and JetBrains at the private English school ASPIRE in collaboration with Dr. Eleni Gavriel, Lecturer at the Department of History, Politics and International Relations.



Voluntary blood donation on the occasion of the Tempi train crash in Greece in cooperation with the Students' Board (EFOPAN) (21 March 2023).

Participation in the parade for the National

Day of Independence on March 25, 1821.





2nd inter-university football tournament



Hosting 12 senior students and their escorts from the Ambetio School of Cairo.

- Festive Christmas and New Year lunch for International and ERASMUS students and presents for International students who stayed away from their families.
- Coordination for the organisation of a lunch on "Tsiknopempti" (16/02/2023) in collaboration with the Students' Board (EFOPAN).



Tel. +357 26843515 / 3382

student.affairs@nup.ac.cy

ALUMNI OFFICE



On the initiative of the **Alumni Office**, Neapolis University Pafos launched a collaboration with **ReGeneration**, the largest and most multi-stakeholder education and employment programme for young graduates, aiming to provide career development opportunities for recent graduates in Greece.

• **63 informational emails** with employment opportunities have been sent during the Spring Semester 2023 to NUP graduates !!!



Our goals:

- Connection and communication with our alumni community
- Establishing an Alumni Registry with many benefits
- Promoting and supporting professional and social connections between our alumni
- Information on educational programmes
- Information about available work positions



• QUESTIONNAIRE

We would love to hear your news!

Please complete the short NUP ALUMNI questionnaire





Your opinion matters!





If you wish to enjoy the benefits as an NUP Alumni you must be **registered in the Alumni Register!**

This is the only way you can keep up to date with everything that is relevant to your professional development!





• JOB VACANCIES

You can check out the NUP Career Centre page and find out the jobs available by field.

Job vacancies for students and graduates







Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

The Alumni Office staff can advise you on your professional development!



DO YOU KNOW THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE ALUMNI REGISTER?

- Information on professional opportunities and connection to the labour market.
- Reduced tuition fees for obtaining a new bachelor's/master's degree.
- Networking with successful professionals, corporate members, academic institutions and other organisations.
- Acquisition of a specific Alumni card, with which the holders have free use of the Neapolis University Pafos library for the first year, as well as offers and discounts on various products and services.





GRADUATION

Congratulations to the 1122 fresh graduates of Neapolis University in Paphos!

You have successfully reached an important stage in your academic career, and we are excited to officially welcome you to our alumni community!

This momentous occasion marks the beginning of a new chapter in your life, and we are honored to have played a role in your journey! After years of dedication, hard work and determination, you should all be proud of yourselves!

Now that you have completed your studies, we encourage you to continue your relationship with Neapolis University Pafos. The NUP Alumni community brings together individuals from different parts of the world with a common goal, a shared experience at our University, and is a valuable resource that can provide guidance, professional connections and long-lasting friendships.

In the coming months, the Alumni Office will be organising various **events and initiatives just for you!** These gatherings will provide opportunities to reconnect with fellow alumni, engage with faculty members, and network with successful alumni who have made their mark in their respective fields.

We encourage you to take advantage of these events and stay connected to the university and your fellow alumni.

Thank you very much for choosing Neapolis University Pafos as your educational institute. Once again, congratulations on your graduation!

Welcome to the **NUP Alumni** community, where you will forever be part of a network of remarkable individuals shaping the future!

On behalf of the Alumni Office

Have a great career!



Congratulations

• NUP Alumni Insta-Photo Competition



The Alumni Office recognised the effort you made for the achievement of your studies and wanted to reward you!

For the first time, a photo contest was organized on graduation day with the capture and posting of the graduates' photos on the Neapolis University Pafos (@neapolis_university) profile on Instagram.

The lucky winners were awarded after a draw:

- 1 one-night stay for 2 persons at Coral Beach Hotel & Resort
- 1 meal for 2 including wine at the Armonia Restaurant of Coral Beach Hotel & Resort
- 1 relaxing back and neck massage (20 minutes) at Esthisis Spa

To watch the footage of the 12th graduation









<u>StudentLife</u> visited us on the Graduation Day and did its own story:

" What is your dream job?" See what our graduates said.

















ALUMNI STORIES



Interview with Brigadier General Dr. Andreas P.Charalambous, Cypriot National Guard, holder of a Ph.D. in the Department of History, Politics and International Studies of Neapolis University Pafos and the University of Peloponnese (Greece), 2023 graduate

• What motivated you to do a Ph.D. in Neapolis University Pafos?

"The whole thing has a little story, which I have to mention: Encouragement, in order to undertake this project, but also in the choice of this particular topic, was provided to me by Prof. Athanasopoulos, former President of the Law School of Neapolis University Pafos, my Professor at the School of National Defence, and Associate Professor George Maris, whom I must thank warmly. Collaborating with them has been a privilege and an expression of deep appreciation for me.

By nature, I am motivated by a spirit of dedication, experience, and knowledge. The enhancement and development of my academic and professional qualifications and skills were provided as an opportunity through Neapolis University Pafos, which I immediately took advantage of."

What is the focus of your PhD research and why did you choose it?

"The subject of my doctoral research is "History and International Relations", entitled "National Sovereignty, National Armed Forces and Military Formations of Common Defence, the case of Greece (NATO and EU Member State)." The main reason for undertaking the specific topic of the research effort arises through my academic and professional training, with regard to the field of study of International Relations Theory, a topic that has been dealt with in detail during my Postgraduate Studies at the Supreme Joint War College [(SJWC), 2002-2003] and at the School of National Defence [(SND), 2015-2016]. My involvement in the field of international relations studies at the graduate level provided me with the necessary research tools and skills to understand the international environment as a process in constant motion and interdependent on many factors. Therefore, qualitatively I fulfilled the necessary requirements of the scientific-academic background in order to understand international reality in contemporary terms.

· What are your future goals and ambitions?

"At this stage, my professional career does not allow me to be actively involved in the academic sector. I appreciate that, at a later time, I will do so. At this point, I would like to mention that, as part of my writing activity, I have published articles in academic and scientific journals relevant to my Research. Here, I would like to stress that I have published two books (one of which is a collective volume). "

What would be your message to young people who are just starting their studies?

"Gain the skills, knowledge, and experience to be able to move forward, look to the future with optimism, be competitive, assertive, and demanding.

Don't settle for a 'cushion' that provides you with a living. Undoubtedly, at some point, the 'excellent and the capable' will have to stand out."

• Finally, is there anything else you would like to share with our readers about your journey, your research, and your experience at the University?

"I would agree with you that, my research and experience at the University has been a journey, difficult and demanding, with challenges and obstacles, sometimes with frustrations, in that the undertaking was not a simple one. However, fortunately, I had people (Academic and non-academic) by my side, who supported me, provided me with valuable observations and comments, sound guidance and reflections, and immediate response in order to help me with anything that arose during my Ph.D. study, as well as for their methodical support and valuable contribution, which they generously provided throughout my research effort. I am truly impressed !!!"

Read the full interview







We would love to hear your story too!

Become a member of the **Alumni Registry** and send us your story!

INTERVIEW WITH THE VICE - RECTOR

Each volume will host an academic from the Faculties of Neapolis University Pafos aiming to find out more about him/her and his/her research.

On this issue, we are excited to welcome the Vice - Rector for Research and Innovation, Savvas Chatzichristofis, Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Head of the Department of Computer Science.



More information on the Vice - Rector and his research:

https://chatzichristofis.info/

Who is Savvas and when did you begin your time at NUP?

Even before I laid my hands on a keyboard, I was captivated by the emerging field of computing through the pages of magazines of that time. I knew deep within that this field would become my professional calling. Following my passion, I pursued an Electrical and Computer Engineering degree at Democritus University.

During my academic journey, while working on my thesis, I had the incredible opportunity to delve into the realm of research. Despite the ideal time to embark on professional endeavors with my degree, I consciously decided to further my studies. Thus, I set my sights on a Ph.D. in artificial intelligence and computer vision, still at the same university.

Over the following years, I had the privilege of working as a postdoctoral researcher at renowned institutions such as the National Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Alpen-Adria-Universität, and the Cyprus University of Technology. These experiences broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of the field.

In 2017, I returned to Cyprus, my beloved home, to take on the exciting role of leading the Department of Computer Science at Neapolis University Pafos. It has been a fulfilling journey to share my knowledge and passion with the students at the university, guiding them toward their own paths of success in the world of computer science.

I am grateful for the opportunities that have shaped my career, and I am committed to fostering an environment of innovation, research, and academic excellence at Neapolis University. Together, we strive to push the boundaries of computer science and empower our students to become future leaders in this ever-evolving field.

How would you describe the impact of AI on various industries, and what potential do you see for its future applications?

Al has profoundly impacted various industries, transforming how businesses operate and interact with their customers. Al has revolutionized diagnostics, treatment, and patient care in healthcare by analyzing medical data and assisting in accurate diagnoses. Retail and e-commerce sectors have utilized Al to personalize customer experiences, provide targeted product recommendations, and enhance supply chain management. The food tech industry has witnessed Al's potential in process automation, quality control, and precision agriculture. Banking and financial services have embraced Al for tasks automation, risk assessment, and fraud detection. Logistics and transportation have benefited from Al's optimization of supply chain management and the development of self-driving vehicles. Al has improved customer service in the travel industry through chatbots and predictive analytics. Real estate has seen Al applications in property valuation, document management, and customer engagement. Entertainment and gaming have utilized Al to enhance user experiences and improve content recommendations.

Manufacturing has experienced increased efficiency and quality control through Al-driven predictive maintenance and robotics. The potential for Al's future applications is vast. Advancements in machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision will enable Al to tackle more complex tasks and provide accurate insights. Al-powered virtual assistants, smart homes, and smart cities hold great potential.

What are the main challenges or ethical considerations in the development and deployment of AI technologies?

The development and deployment of AI technologies present challenges and ethical considerations that must be addressed for responsible and beneficial implementation. Here are some of the main challenges and ethical considerations:

Bias and Fairness: Al systems are trained on large datasets, and if these datasets contain biases, the Al
algorithms can perpetuate and amplify them. This can lead to biased outcomes, such as
discriminatory decisions in hiring or lending practices. Ensuring fairness and mitigating bias in Al
algorithms is a critical challenge.

- Privacy and Security: Al technologies often require access to vast amounts of data, including personal
 information. Protecting user privacy and ensuring data security from unauthorized access or breaches
 is a significant concern. Striking a balance between data collection for Al development and protecting
 individual privacy is challenging.
- Accountability and Transparency: All systems can make decisions with significant consequences, but
 their decision-making processes can be opaque and difficult to interpret. Ensuring accountability for
 All systems and providing transparency in operations and decision-making is crucial for building trust
 and addressing concerns about biases or errors.
- Ethical Use of AI: AI technologies raise ethical questions regarding their potential impact on society. Questions around job displacement, algorithmic fairness, and the social implications of AI require careful consideration. Balancing the benefits of AI with its potential negative consequences is a challenge that requires ethical frameworks and guidelines.
- Robustness and Reliability: All systems can be vulnerable to adversarial attacks or unintended consequences. Ensuring that All systems are robust, reliable, and perform as expected in different situations is a challenge that requires rigorous testing and validation.
- Human-Al Collaboration: As Al systems become more advanced, the interaction between humans and
 Al becomes increasingly important. Designing Al systems that effectively collaborate with humans,
 complementing their skills and decision-making, is a challenge that requires understanding human
 factors and user-centered design.
- Regulatory and Legal Frameworks: The rapid advancement of AI technologies has outpaced the
 development of comprehensive regulatory and legal frameworks. Establishing regulations and
 guidelines that govern AI development, deployment, and use while fostering innovation and
 addressing ethical concerns is a complex challenge.

Addressing these challenges and ethical considerations requires collaboration between technology developers, policymakers, researchers, and society. It involves incorporating ethical principles, promoting transparency and accountability, conducting responsible AI research, and engaging in ongoing dialogue and debate to ensure that AI technologies are developed and deployed to benefit humanity while minimizing potential risks.

Ethical considerations, privacy concerns, and establishing guidelines will be crucial for responsible Al development. Collaborations between industry, academia, and regulatory bodies will shape Al's future, bringing transformative changes, improving quality of life, and driving innovation across industries.

Is the education system threatened by AI?

There is a global concern regarding the impact of AI tools on the quality of education. It is widely acknowledged that students are increasingly relying on tools like ChatGPT to complete their assignments. As a result, the output generated by these AI systems is becoming so advanced that plagiarism detection tools struggle to differentiate between texts produced by humans and machines.

A This shift from the information search process raises questions about the value of critical thinking and synthesis in acquiring knowledge. These concerns are not limited to conservative critics of technological progress but are shared by progressive educators who strive to design modern learning environments. However, is this apprehension justified?

A careful analysis of Al's potential reveals that we may be on the brink of the most transformative reform in education. Integrating these tools into educational systems thoughtfully can provide students with exceptional personalized guidance and teachers with highly trained teaching assistants. Research from the 1980s confirms that personal tutor education systems are more effective than traditional teaching models and can even outperform reinforcement learning systems. Every day, new AI tools are being developed to serve as personal advisors for learners. These systems analyze student performance data and adapt teaching content and strategies to cater to individual needs. By leveraging artificial intelligence, they can identify areas of strength and weakness, offer targeted practice exercises, and provide real-time feedback. This personalized approach enhances student engagement and motivation and improves learning outcomes. Al-based teaching systems also enable teachers to monitor student progress more effectively, allowing for timely and customized interventions. The scalability of AI-based teaching systems has the potential to revolutionize education, making learning accessible and effective for all students simultaneously. An exemplary case is Carnegie Learning's MATHia, a recent study conducted by Saga Education, a leading nonprofit organization in personalized instruction, identified as one of the best forms of customized instruction. Factors such as ease of use, learning utility, conceptual understanding of mathematics, support provided, and students' sense of belonging were considered in the research. Students expressed that they felt the software was tailored specifically to their needs.

In conclusion, while there are concerns about the impact of AI tools on education, a closer examination reveals that if integrated appropriately, AI can bring about positive reform in the field. By leveraging AI as a personal advisor for students and a teaching assistant for teachers, personalized learning experiences can be enhanced, leading to improved outcomes. With the ability to analyze student data, adapt instruction, and provide real-time feedback, AI-based teaching systems can transform education and make it more accessible and effective for all learners.

How are the new AI tools being used at the University?

Our university wholeheartedly embraces the transformative power of AI and its potential to revolutionize education. We have adopted a multifaceted approach to integrating AI into our educational programs to ensure that our students are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge in this rapidly evolving field.

Firstly, we actively design new programs that are specifically focused on AI. These programs aim to give our students a comprehensive understanding of AI concepts, algorithms, and applications. By offering dedicated AI courses, we enable our students to delve deep into AI's theoretical foundations and practical aspects, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

In addition to designing Al-focused programs, we recognize the value of adaptive learning tools that leverage Al techniques. These tools have the potential to enrich the educational process by personalizing learning experiences for each student. By analyzing student data and adapting the content and delivery of instruction, these tools cater to individual needs and promote effective learning outcomes. We actively incorporate these adaptive learning tools, powered by Al, into our curriculum, providing our students with a dynamic and tailored learning environment.

Moreover, we believe in the importance of hands-on experience with AI tools and technologies. We have integrated AI tools into our courses, allowing students to engage with AI algorithms and applications directly. By working on AI-related projects, our students gain practical skills and firsthand experience in applying AI techniques to real-world problems. This practical exposure enhances their understanding of AI concepts and equips them with the skills required to contribute to the AI field.

Lastly, we strongly believe in the power of research to advance the frontiers of AI. We actively engage our students in research activities related to AI, encouraging them to explore cutting-edge AI topics and contribute to ongoing research projects. By involving our students in AI research, we foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, allowing them to develop critical thinking skills and become active participants in shaping the future of AI.

What research topics does the Department of Informatics deal with?

The Department of Computer Science is at the forefront of groundbreaking research across diverse domains, with a particular focus on the application of AI in education and robotics. Our relentless pursuit of knowledge has led to significant contributions, resulting in the publication of our research findings in esteemed journals.

One of our notable research areas centers around enhancing the efficiency of grid-based coverage path planning methodologies for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in real-world operations. Through systematic approaches, we have devised innovative strategies to optimize UAV utilization, thereby elevating their performance in various applications.

In the realm of image analysis and understanding, our Department has made remarkable progress. Our endeavors have been dedicated to exploring universal image embedding techniques, a breakthrough in retaining and expanding knowledge through multi-domain fine-tuning. This cutting-edge research has played a pivotal role in developing more robust and adaptable image analysis methods, unlocking new possibilities for advanced image processing applications.

Our collaboration with the Automatic Control and Robotics Laboratory of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Democritus University of Thrace was a significant achievement in this domain. Together, we participated in the renowned "Google Universal Image Embedding" competition hosted on the Kaggle platform. We take great pride in attaining a gold medal and a cash prize, securing an impressive 6th place out of 1,022 competing teams. This remarkable accomplishment not only underscores our expertise and unwavering dedication but also highlights the value and impact of our research in the field of image analysis.

Another noteworthy area of our research lies in developing novel approaches for training artificial neural networks (ANNs) within AI algorithms and training methodologies. By pushing the boundaries of stochastic optimization techniques, our work sheds light on more efficient training strategies for ANNs, contributing to advancements in this critical aspect of AI.

Education robotics is an additional domain where our Department invests. With the surge of interest in Educational Robotics (ER), we have embraced this momentum and are actively exploring fresh perspectives and concepts to propel the field forward. Our research endeavors in educational robotics are driven by a profound commitment to enhancing educational experiences and empowering learners through innovative technologies. We strive to push the boundaries of knowledge in this field, acting as catalysts for educational transformation. Through our ongoing research efforts, we aim to contribute to advancing educational robotics and advocate for its widespread adoption as a powerful tool for fostering meaningful learning outcomes.

Furthermore, our research initiatives extend to examining adaptive learning systems in education. A comprehensive literature review has identified prominent trends and areas for further research and improvement in adaptive learning systems. We are committed to staying at the forefront of this rapidly evolving field, constantly seeking opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and impact of adaptive learning approaches.

The Department of Computer Science is a dynamic hub of groundbreaking research encompassing AI in education, robotics, image analysis, adaptive learning systems, and more. Our unwavering dedication to knowledge generation and our commitment to innovation drive us to continuously push the boundaries of what is possible, making lasting contributions to the scientific community and society.

The Department of Computer Science has developed a close relationship with schools in Cyprus. What is the reason for your frequent visits?

Every year, alongside my research team, we embark on a mission to visit more than 30 schools spanning all educational levels. Our purpose is to present the latest scientific advancements in our field of expertise, fostering a profound connection between young minds and the captivating realms of computing, artificial intelligence, and robotics. It is an endeavor that holds immense significance for us, as we witness the transformative impact it has on the students we engage with.

As an advocate of this approach, I often emphasize that our strength lies in two key factors: our unwavering passion for the subject matter and the remarkable reactions we witness from the children we interact with. There is a sparkle in the eyes of kindergarten pupils as they encounter robots for the first time in their lives. The sheer excitement radiating from primary school students when they successfully program a machine to think is truly heartwarming. Additionally, witnessing the deep reflection of high school pupils as they contemplate their career choices is a testament to the profound impact our visits have on their lives.

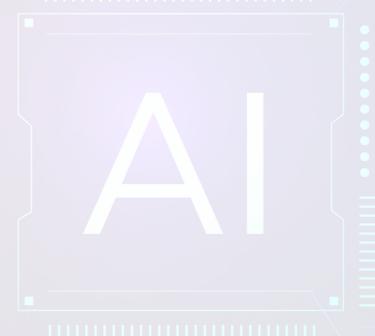
Through these school visits, we aim to instill a love for knowledge within these young minds and introduce them to alternative models of thinking that transcend the barrage of information bombarding them daily through various media channels. By providing them with hands-on experiences and exposure to cutting-edge technologies, we create an environment that nurtures curiosity and sparks a lifelong passion for learning.

Furthermore, these visits serve as a platform for us to engage with students on a personal level, connecting with them beyond the confines of a traditional classroom. We encourage their active participation and empower them to explore the limitless possibilities that lie within the realms of computing, artificial intelligence, and robotics. By fostering a sense of wonder and discovery, we strive to broaden their horizons, enabling them to envision a future filled with endless opportunities.



More information on the Department of Computer Science can be found here:







- 11th International Conference in International Business (ICIB) (15-17 Σεπτεμβρίου 2023)
- 13th Graduation Ceremony 2023 (13 October 2023)
- **Conference** "Human Rights: The Impact of Non-Application on the Humanitarian Issue of the Missing Persons" (4 November 2023)
- New Programmes of Study

The **3rd newsletter** will be published in December 2023. Till then, you can follow us on our social media pages to keep up with our news!













We wish you a prosperous academic semester!



Check the facilities of

Neapolis University Pafos

from home



if you cannot visit us in person,

the 360-degree virtual tour

transports you

On-campus.







www.nup.ac.cy











