

## **Axis 2: An attractive educational centre for young scientists and responsible citizens**

### 2.1. Education

The rapid pace of technological and socio-economic change impacts not only the graduate labour market, but also the frequency and extent of changes affecting the lives of graduates. Accordingly, the skills required of University graduates differ from those that were desirable or necessary in the 20th century. Aware of these trends, the UoC aims to equip students with the necessary skills and competences to cope with the associated challenges, and to improve their career prospects, by cultivating critical learning, academic breadth, real problem solving, collaborative skills, an understanding of reality in the fields of science, society and the economy as well as a sense of social responsibility.

By 2025 the UoC is committed to

- Updating and accreditation of all degree programmes;
- Expanding the University's scholarship provision to students in all degree cycles as well as to new teaching staff, with better utilization of national and European resources as well as sourcing private funding;
- Significantly increasing the range of internship options and harmonize access procedures across the UoC to enable all students wishing to undertake an internship to do so;
- Significantly increase the mobility of UoC students through ERASMUS+ and other relevant exchange programmes in order to enrich their experience in other academic and educational systems and environments;
- Integrate new technologies in teaching and research
- Introduce courses on academic breadth across the spectrum of studies (history-methodology of science, philosophy, epistemology, ethics, dissemination of research results, research policy, soft science)
- Introduce courses on social responsibility, economy, sustainability
- Introduce new forums and strengthen the channels of extracurricular dialogue in wider areas of science, technology and social development
- Improve student: staff ratios according to international standards
- Training academic staff in new teaching methods and generalizing good practices

### 2.2. Interdisciplinarity and novel study programmes

An interdisciplinary approach and linking research and teaching are high on the list of UoC priorities. Utilization of the scientific / research potential of Crete, the infrastructure and know-how as well as the important capital of its international collaborations in education, has contributed to achieving high quality undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes. The UoC aims to continue in this direction and further strengthen relations between groups with complementary capabilities, facilities and infrastructure.

---

<sup>1</sup> 391/19-07-2018 Senate decision

By 2025 the UoC aims to

- Introduce interdisciplinarity in all educational programmes
- Strengthen cooperation between UoC Departments in the organization and implementation of existing undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes
- Establish the option of elective course combinations that will lead to accredited interdisciplinary study programs; a goal for which the University will seek drastic improvement in the current institutional framework
- Develop course modules on research methodology, competence training in the evaluation of scientific information, and soft skills training in writing presentation techniques
- Develop study programmes (undergraduate and postgraduate) in subjects in high demand from society and the economy that utilize areas of excellence which exist today in the UoC.

### 2.3. Nurturing the professional development of our graduates

Knowledge has independent value, but mass entry into higher education is normally accompanied by expectations for a better professional future. Despite the fact that the professional futures of students vary considerably, even among those who have studied the same subject, and differ significantly over time, the UoC has a duty to nurture the professional development of our graduates. This includes not only equipping students with knowledge and skills, but also familiarizing them with the labor market through organized contacts.

By 2025 the UoC is committed to

- The numerical and thematic expansion of the network of internship opportunities
  - Creating better records of graduates and better communication forums with alumni
  - Research on the professional careers of graduates and survey of their opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of their education at UoC in terms of finding employment
  - Systematically develop links with alumni willing to act as student mentors, internship hosts, or as a source of information for improving study programmes
  - Creating a periodical Newsletter with the aims of highlighting achievements and good practices and promoting communication and dialogue between the wider UoC community
  - Expand job fair type activities for final year students and potential employers
  - Through the UoC Centre of Continuing Education & Lifelong Learning, organize complementary training programmes and knowledge updates in areas that increase the competitiveness of our graduates
-