Introduction

The Department of Law was founded in 2006. Its mission is to provide high-quality legal education to its students and to the legal world of Cyprus and beyond.

The Department of Law aims at the promotion and dissemination of legal knowledge. In this context, Cypriot law -examined from a historical, comparative and international/European perspective- serves as a key reference point (Cyprus law in context). The programme promotes the deep understanding of legal methodology, not just the mere application of legal rules. This way, students acquire the knowledge and develop the skills required to practice the legal profession in a modern and ever-evolving society.

At the Department of Law, we pride ourselves in the high standard of legal studies and in the quality of the legal knowledge of our graduates. Both are the result of the emphasis placed on the in-depth study of high-quality legal materials, as well as the small number of our students. As a public, non-profit University, we exercise our mission to the fullest, by training jurists to acquire the necessary knowledge and methodological skills and develop a solid legal reasoning.

The Department's study programmes allow our students to successfully apply for the following:

- **Admission to postgraduate and doctoral programmes in leading universities abroad** - Our graduates have been admitted to study programmes of the London School of Economics, the University College London, the Oxford University and the University of Cambridge.

- **Attractive positions in the workplace** - Many of our graduates choose to exercise the legal profession, some prefer to work as legal consultants in private or public organizations, while others choose to pursue a career in the diplomatic corps, in criminology, politics, journalism or in public administration.
The Department of Law offers a postgraduate programme in Legal Science (L.LM. – Master of Laws). The main objective of this postgraduate Programme is to provide specialized knowledge to students, so as to enhance their legal training, their competitiveness and, ultimately, their ability to enter the job market. The Programme lasts three academic semesters and is organized in two stages. During the first two semesters, students attend four courses (each corresponding to 15 ECTS), while the third semester is dedicated to the preparation of a Master’s thesis (30 ECTS).


Law Degree
The curriculum of the Department is one of the most demanding undergraduate study programmes in Cyprus: It includes thirty-four (34) law courses, which correspond to a total of 210 ECTS, as well as additional courses provided by other departments of the University, which are tailored to the needs of law students. During their studies, students are taught courses corresponding to the different areas of Cypriot (substantive and procedural) public and private law, criminal law, European and international law (and their various subdivisions).

Studies at the Department of Law last eight semesters in total. The L.LB. programme is composed of a basic core of twenty-four (24) compulsory law courses, that cover all basic legal fields. The legal studies of L.LB. students are solidified through the selection of ten (10) more courses of the Department of Law (Elective Specialization Courses). The development of students’ writing and research skills through written exercises and assignments is an important feature of both core and specialization courses. Furthermore, students who meet certain academic criteria may qualify for the preparation of an L.LB. thesis.

Proficiency in foreign languages and familiarisation with the basic principles of social, economic and political sciences, are of crucial importance for a modern European jurist. In conformity with the University of Cyprus regulations, the LL.B. Programme is, thus, complemented with courses in two foreign languages, as well as three elective courses from other departments of the University.

Master of Laws Programme (LL.M.)

Doctorate in Law (Ph.D.)
The Doctoral programme of studies of the Department of Law attracts excellent and highly talented Cypriot and foreign students, offering them the possibility to obtain a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in almost all areas of Law. The Programme aims at the scientific training of high-level researchers, allowing them to acquire a wide range of skills and guiding them through in their research activity. It also aims to provide students with the opportunity to start their own specialized research, as well as to analyze and critically discuss legal issues pertaining to Cypriot, European and International law. The Programme is mainly addressed to students that are interested in pursuing an academic or research career.
The Department of Law is a leader in the study of Cypriot law and of its evolution, in a manner that reflects the demands of the modern society and the challenges arising at international and European level, but does not neglect our roots and the position of Cyprus in the European legal tradition. Legal studies in the Department of Law aim to develop critical legal thinking through a combination of theory, specialized knowledge and problem-solving skills.

**Vision**

The Department is particularly active in scientific research. The participation of its academic staff in international, European, and domestic research activities and programmes – inter alia, in the fields of criminal sciences, international law, European law, European private and private international law, public law, intellectual property law and commercial law- is remarkable. The Department of Law organizes a plethora of research events covering a wide range of disciplines.

**Future Employment**

Law is a multi-faceted field of studies, that provides a strong background for students wishing to pursue their career in a wide range of professions. Graduates of the Department of Law are employed, among others, in:

- Law firms, as lawyers exercising the legal profession in Cyprus, Greece or other European countries.
- The Public Sector, for example in the judicial system and the Legal Service of the Republic.
- Universities and other academic institutions in Cyprus and abroad.
- Public services and local administration bodies.
- The Police.
- Diplomatic corps.
- Audit and accounting firms.
- Banks, financial services companies.
- European organizations in the areas of law, economic development and international relations.

The Department of Law actively supports the ERASMUS+ Programme for Mobility and Cooperation in Higher Education. We are confident that our participation in this Programme offers significant benefits and opportunities to our students, such as:

- Familiarization with the civilization, culture, educational system and language of a foreign country.
- Development of relations with students not only of the host country, but also of other countries.
- Ability to attend courses that are not offered at the University of Cyprus.
- Deepening and broadening of scientific interests. Personal development through the experience of living abroad and becoming autonomous.
- Creation of new perspectives (professional, educational).
The Department of Law is fully adapted to the needs of the modern society, providing students with the skills that are required so that they can become both competent and competitive lawyers. The academic staff of the Department provides high-level legal education, cultivating critical legal thinking as an essential asset for our future careers in Law. In parallel, the Department offers its students the opportunity to participate in international moot courts, which bring them in contact with the object of their studies in a practical manner.

**ERIETTA ELEFTHERIA SKYLLOURIOTI**, Undergraduate Student, President of the Group of Legal Education and Member of the Editorial Board of the Law Journal “Nomomacheia”

The programme of studies of the Department of Law is composed of well organised and interactive modules covering a wide range of legal fields. In the context of their studies, undergraduate students have the possibility to attend seminars, participate in international and European moot courts and competitions and internships in governmental and non-governmental organisations during the summer months. Furthermore, the student-run “Legal Education Group” of the University of Cyprus gives students the opportunity to publish on recent case law and legislative reforms in its law journal “Nomomacheia”. Having reached the end of my undergraduate studies at the Law Department of the University of Cyprus, I feel that I am fully qualified and ready to pursue my postgraduate studies at a prominent university abroad and ultimately access the labor market. I am, thus, grateful for having had the opportunity to complete my undergraduate studies in this high standard academic institution.

**ARISTEIDIS KOLETZAKIS**, Former Undergraduate Student

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**STAMATINA STERGIOU**, Ph.D. Student

The experienced guidance regarding both the Doctoral dissertation itself and other aspects of the academic course (including writing academic articles, presenting one’s work in conferences, etc.) is of crucial importance for any doctoral candidate. The highly experienced and well renowned academic staff of the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus guide and support Ph.D. candidates in their research "journey" as of day one. The student-centric approach, followed by both the academic and administrative staff of the Department of Law, ensures the proper conduct of the Doctoral programme.

**PANTELITSA PAPACHRISTOU**, Former Undergraduate Student

My admission to the undergraduate programme of studies of the Department of Law in 2009 was the beginning of a beautiful -legal- journey and was decisive in forming my legal perception, sharpening my critical thinking and in my fully grasping the peculiarities of the Cypriot legal order. The knowledge, skills and set of experiences gained at the University of Cyprus, under the guidance of the academic staff of the Department of Law, were among the strongest assets for my subsequent academic studies and professional career. Upon completion of my undergraduate studies in 2013, I pursued my postgraduate studies at the University of Nottingham, where I obtained a Master’s degree in Human Rights Law. Having successfully completed my legal internship, I continued to work as a lawyer at the law office of Chatzianastasiou, Ioannidis LLC (Deloitte Legal) and, as of 2017, I am a Lawyer at the Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority. Furthermore, I have had the privilege of teaching a course on "Human Rights and Policing" to probationary police officers as a special scientist, on the basis of a memorandum of cooperation between the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Police. As a graduate of the Department of Law, I feel proud and grateful to have been part of such a stimulating academic community, which has been the starting point of my career path in the legal world.

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GEORGIA ATHANASIOU, Former Undergraduate and Postgraduate Student

My studies at the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus had a profound impact on my subsequent career, forming a solid basis as regards the achievement of my personal goals and current professional development. In particular, the undergraduate programme offered me a profound knowledge in various fields of Law. During my undergraduate studies, I was given the opportunity to participate in conferences and seminars, but also in international and domestic moot courts and student competitions. Subsequently, my Master’s degree in Criminal Law and Human Rights gave me the opportunity to deepen my knowledge and further specialize in this field. Undoubtedly, my postgraduate studies at the Department of Law were of crucial importance in my subsequent career, development, and professional recognition. Today I am exercising the legal profession as a practicing lawyer in one of the leading Cypriot law firms. Apart from practicing law, I am actively involved in various non-profit organizations. Moreover, I am the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the independent, non-governmental and non-profit organization “Oxygono”, whose main objective is to enhance the quality of public debate in Cyprus. I am very proud of having graduated from the Department of Law of the leading University of our country and I feel grateful for everything it has offered me.

KONSTANTINOS YIORKAS, Former Undergraduate Student

My studies at the Department of Law have been the starting point of my familiarisation with Law and Legal Science. The multifaceted and comparative teaching approach, the emphasis put both on the peculiarities of the Cypriot legal system and on the EU and international law dimension of the subjects taught, as well as the multiple research opportunities given to students, are some of the distinctive features of the undergraduate studies at the Department. Apart from having set up a solid and perfectly structured curriculum, the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus offers its students the opportunity to participate in international moot court competitions, such as the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, and to undertake apprenticeships and internships in numerous domestic organizations. Both the undergraduate programme of studies and the various research opportunities offered to me in its context have given me the tools to succeed in legal practice and in the Bar examination. Building upon my studies at the Department of Law, I subsequently acquired a postgraduate degree in Civil Law (BCL) at the University of Oxford. I am currently participating in a research-based graduate programme (M.Phil. in Law), aspiring to obtain a Ph.D. at the same university.

GIANNIS POLYCHRONIS, Former Postgraduate Student

Upon my return to the university benches, approximately twelve years after my graduation, in order to pursue a Master’s degree in "Criminal Law and Human Rights", the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus has given me the opportunity to enrich my legal knowledge and to develop problem solving skills that are necessary when exercising the legal profession. My Master’s Degree has also given me the opportunity to further develop critical thinking, through interactive lectures and discussions, and to perfect my writing skills and sense of timeliness, through systematically submitting written assessments and completing a Master’s thesis. I believe that this postgraduate programme of studies provides students with an important legal degree, that offers them the solid theoretical and practical knowledge they will most certainly need in legal practice.

CONTACT DETAILS

http://ucy.ac.cy/law/el/