The Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies was established in 1992 for the purpose of promoting both research and teaching, aiming at the learning of the Turkish language not only as a means of communication, but also for evaluating Turkish sources. It is one of the few departments in Europe concentrating on Turkish Studies, and offers a complete programme of studies, covering all disciplines of Turkish Studies, such as Turkish language teaching, Ottoman and Turkish History, and Literature and Linguistics. The Department’s research and teaching emphases are especially determined by the local and regional contexts, i.e. the Turkish Cypriot Community and the wider region, by the interests and orientation of the staff, as well as by the academic and professional prospects of the graduates.

Turkish Studies deal with Turkish and other Turkic languages, history, literatures, and cultures from the first written evidence of Turkish language in the 8th century up to the present. Various sub-disciplines of Turkish Studies have gradually emerged, such as Turcology or Turkic Studies, concerned with the entire spectrum of Turkish languages and literatures, Ottoman Studies, devoted primarily to the languages, history and culture of the Ottoman Empire (13th-20th centuries) or Modern Turkish Studies, dealing with the politics, literature, economy, and society of Turkey in the 20th century. Furthermore, Islamic Studies constitute an integral part of Ottoman Studies and Modern Turkish Studies, serving as a connecting link to Middle Eastern peoples, especially Arab and Iranian, their languages and cultures. Turkish Studies also include the Balkan peoples in relation to the Ottoman and Turkish world.
The Department’s programme leads to a B.A. degree in Turkish Studies, which will emphasise one of the two directions: a) History and Politics, or b) Linguistics and Literature. Also, courses are divided into: Core Courses and Direction Courses.

### Core Courses

#### a) Language Courses

The aim of Language Courses is to teach the Turkish language to a satisfactory degree; in other words, in such a way that students may be able to converse in Turkish, to translate from Turkish to Greek and vice versa, and, above all, to easily read academic literature and other publications written in Modern Turkish. Linguistic training also includes instruction in the reading of Ottoman Turkish. The successful completion of the Turkish language courses of the first four semesters (Turkish I-IV) is a prerequisite for registration in the specialised language courses that follow.

#### b) General Introductory Courses

These provide concise coverage of fundamental subjects in the field of Turkish Studies. Students study the causes and circumstances of the rise and spread of the Islamic religion, as well as the appearance of the Ottomans, the formation and subsequent development of the Ottoman Empire, the formation of the Turkish State and its history up to the present. Courses in Ottoman and Turkish Literature are intended to give students an overview of the most important literary works and authors.

### Direction Courses

Students are obliged to choose a direction at the beginning of the sixth semester. There are eleven Compulsory Courses in each direction and two Restricted Elective Courses. The undergraduate dissertation is considered a restricted elective course, which counts for 12 ECTS (6 ECTS in each of two semesters). Direction courses enable students to deepen their knowledge in one of two fields:

#### a) History and Politics

#### b) Linguistics and Literature
POSTGRADUATE Programmes

MASTER’S Programme

The aim of the Master’s programme is to enable students to use scientific methods and knowledge, in order to work autonomously on the language, history, civilization, literature, and politics of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot community. It is expected that, with the specialisation courses in the scientific fields of Turkish Studies, students will improve, to a great extent, their linguistic skills, while they will specialise in one of those fields and write an original Master’s Thesis. The Master’s programme requires the completion of 120 ECTS and consists of four elements. For the acquisition of the Master’s degree, the successful completion of all four elements of the Programme is necessary:

- Courses
- Attending the Department’s Lectures and Graduate Seminars
- Participation in the Colloquium
- Writing a Master’s Thesis

DOCTORAL Programme

The aim of the Doctoral Programme of Studies is to enable students to use scientific methods and knowledge, in order to work autonomously on a scientific field of Turkish Studies. Students, who already have basic knowledge of a research field, are expected to specialise in one of the Department’s research fields like Linguistics, Literature, the History of the Ottoman Empire or the History/Politics of Modern Turkey, and write an original Doctoral Thesis, under the supervision of one of the academic members of the Department.

ERASMUS+ Programme

The Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies participates in the ERASMUS+ Student Exchange Programme, in the framework of which undergraduate and postgraduate students can study for one or two semesters at a university abroad. The Department has student exchange agreements with universities in Turkey, Greece, Germany, France, France, Italy, and Austria.

Careers

Graduates of the Department can be employed in ministries and public organizations, cultural institutions, and research centres, public and foreign services, in the media or teach in higher education institutions. Some of the services, where graduates of the Department are employed, are:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Press and Information Office
- Cyprus News Agency
- University institutions
- Cyprus Police
- Wider Public Sector
- Media
**Alumni Testimonials**

**MENELAOS MENELAOU, Diplomat, Head of Cyprus and Turkey Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus**

My studies at the Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Cyprus, from which I graduated in 1999, have been an important asset and springboard for me, both for my subsequent postgraduate studies in International Relations and European Studies and for my professional career in the diplomatic service of the Republic of Cyprus, from 2001 until today. The B.A. degree in Turkish Studies provided me with a solid background of knowledge, cultivated my ability for dialectical analysis and understanding of history and international relations, and instilled in me the need for continuous research and inquiry. In my professional engagement with Cypriot and Turkish issues over the past twenty years, I have systematically drawn on the knowledge and analytical tools I gained from my studies at the Department, the advice of my professors and the academic and friendly influences of my fellow students. Any organisation is, first and foremost, the people who make it up. The Department of Turkish Studies, that is, its people, teachers, administrative staff, and students, has been for me a big family which I always recall with feelings of love, honour, and gratitude.

**Dr. ANTONIS DERIZIOTIS, Lecturer, Department of Turkish Studies and Contemporary Asian Studies, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**

A small, dynamic, and well-trained team of academic and administrative staff, under the leadership of the late György Hazai, welcomed the first students of the Department in 1992 and guided them on a journey of knowledge, critical thinking, and love for research. A Department, whose subject matter has a special historical and emotional weight, in a new, promising University, encountering some difficulties – expected at the time due to its young age – but at the same time with a vision for the future, with defined goals and with boldness in the face of challenges. Twenty-eight years later, the outstanding staff of the Department continues to serve the same principles with the same passion, with the same dynamism, to inspire students, to broaden the vision and to raise the bar even higher. I was honoured to be one of those first students and the Department has been the main stimulus for my involvement in Turkish political history and foreign policy, as well as the springboard for my continued studies (M.I.S., Ph.D. University of Birmingham) and professional career (Department of Turkish and Modern Asian Studies, H.C.P.A.).

**Dr. TASOS CHATZIVASILEIOU, Member of Hellenic Parliament, Greece**

Undergraduate studies at the University of Cyprus helped me to better understand the Cyprus problem, the history of Cyprus, as well as Greek-Turkish relations. At the Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies, I was not only taught the Turkish language. Mostly, I learned to evaluate and study Turkish primary and secondary sources. From my work as a Special Adviser at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs to my election as a Member of Parliament and Secretary of the Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, my knowledge of Turkish history, the political scene, and especially the interconnection of the Greece-Cyprus-Turkey triangle is for me the most important basis for a better understanding of the complex issues concerning these three countries. Also, during my doctoral studies on the political discourse of the communities of Cyprus (1959-1963), the Turkish Studies Library of the University of Cyprus served as one of my most important “colleagues”, with its rich and interesting collection of titles. The Department is among the few departments of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies operating in Europe, and offers a comprehensive curriculum, covering the most important research fields of Turkish Studies. Every day I realize that the knowledge it has provided me with is an important tool in dealing with the daily challenges in foreign policy. In fact, it reflects the high research level of the Department.
Dr. YIANNIS IOANNOU, University Officer at UCY, Promotion and Development Section, Head of Publications Office

Through my studies (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.) and my three years of scientific experience as a Postgraduate Research Associate in the Department, I developed skills and gained knowledge and tools in a wide range of disciplines (Turkish Studies, Humanities, etc.). I particularly note the following: Development of critical thinking, historical understanding of the evolution of human societies, ability to find, evaluate, classify, process, and utilise information, linguistic and organisational skills. One of the most important skills is that of mastering new knowledge, with emphasis not on memorising information but on the ability to acquire, use, and produce new knowledge independently, in the context of the scientific research process. At the same time, my academic experience at the Department has contributed catalytically to the acquisition of the interpersonal skills necessary for my personal and professional development, such as effective communication, collaboration, empathy, and knowledge transfer-effective teaching. Equally important were the many opportunities I was offered during my studies, such as travelling, often through scholarships and sponsorships, to various countries abroad in the context of educational programmes and conferences. I gained valuable and enjoyable experiences, became acquainted with cities, cultures, and people with different ways of thinking and attitudes, all contributing to intellectual growth and an open way of thinking. In conclusion, due to the diverse and multicultural nature of the subjects studied by the Department, the focus of which is on human societies, I believe that this is an excellent study option for individuals who seek careers in a wide range of professional options.

CONSTANTIA SOTERIOU, Writer/Press Officer at Cyprus Press and Information Office

I don’t think I would have become the writer I am if I hadn’t attended the Department of Turkish Studies. My studies, in addition to knowledge and training on the subject matter, equipped me most of all with empathy, with a concern to listen to the pain of the “other”, to look beyond words and seek the truth. My years at the University of Cyprus were among the most important of my life, because they defined my worldview and made me realise that the world has many truths, a story many narratives, and people many readings. I have always declared myself a proud graduate of the Department, it is part of my identity. I believe this can be traced in my writing and in the way I see things, not only as a writer, but also as a person, and as a citizen of a country in the state that my own country is in, even today.