

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AWARD



Dr ELENI PASHIA
University of Sheffield

Dr Eleni Pashia's journey from Cyprus to the UK shaped her commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as her interdisciplinary practice that spans architecture, education, and activism. She drives transformative change by designing unique learning experiences across various sectors and age groups nationwide. Studying at a UK university contributed to Eleni's holistic growth, academic excellence and cultural understanding. Nurtured by a supportive community, diverse environment and extracurricular opportunities, Eleni cultivated empathy and critical thinking, and dismantled prejudices – vital for promoting unity and inclusivity in Cyprus. Eleni's interdisciplinary engagement encourages innovative approaches to systemic change, aiming to create a more equitable and peaceful society. Eleni holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Architecture) from the University of Sheffield.



Dr NATASA CHRISTOU
University of Westminster

Dr Natasa's education in architecture ignited her passion for sustainable design and innovation. It provided a fertile ground where her creativity flourished, guided by international standards and an intercultural environment, fostering a global citizen's mindset. Natasa leverages design and creativity to craft sustainable solutions, impacting local communities while envisioning broader expansion. Encouraged by her professor's pivotal question – choosing between the architecture of the past or the future, she embraced the latter, shaping her journey as an innovator and leader committed to societal and environmental progress. Moving forward, Natasa is driven to pioneer initiatives that drive positive change on a larger scale. Natasa holds a BA, an MA and a PhD in Architecture.

Study UK Alumni Awards



RENGIN AKCAN **University of Surrey and University of the Arts London**

Rengin Akcan is a multifaceted professional, excelling as a fashion designer, digital marketer and entrepreneur. Her contributions extend beyond her brand, as she actively participates in her country's heritage research, fostering cultural preservation. Rengin's involvement in the bicultural fashion community, particularly with Fashion Network Heritage Cyprus, bridges divides and promotes collaboration. Notably, her brand's production in Cyprus champions local manufacturing and design, positively impacting the national economy and creative landscape. Rengin holds a BA in Media Studies and an MA in Fashion Design Management.

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



Dr ANTRI KANIKLI
University of York

Dr Antri Kanikli conducts world-leading research that makes a significant contribution to existing knowledge in the area of linguistics and greatly benefits society. Antri's doctoral studies at a leading UK institution provided her with the knowledge, skills and networks required to establish herself as an expert in her field. Antri has a leading role in European and national projects on multilingualism, minority language transmission and language development. Her work on the Erasmus+ project Planting Languages has been awarded with an EPOS quality label by the National Agency in Brussels. Antri holds a PhD in Linguistics.



Dr NASIA HADJIGEORGIOU
University College London (UCL), University of Cambridge and King's College London

Dr Nasia Hadjigeorgiou is one of the leading human rights experts in Cyprus. In addition to training law students at the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus) for more than a decade in the area of human rights issues, Nasia has published a number of reports, academic articles and books on the protection of human rights. Nasia's experience at the three UK universities she attended was fundamental in shaping her belief that a democracy cannot function effectively in the absence of a culture of transparency and a strong civil society. More practically, her own experiences at university convinced her that academics can play a crucial role in developing these crucial components of democracy. Nasia has then taken these lessons and applied them while working as an academic in Cyprus, thus transferring good practices from the UK to Cyprus. Her research has also indirectly shaped and improved human rights practices in Cyprus. Nasia holds an LLB, an LLM and a PhD in Law.



PROFESSOR STEPHANIE LAULHE SHAELOU
University of Leicester

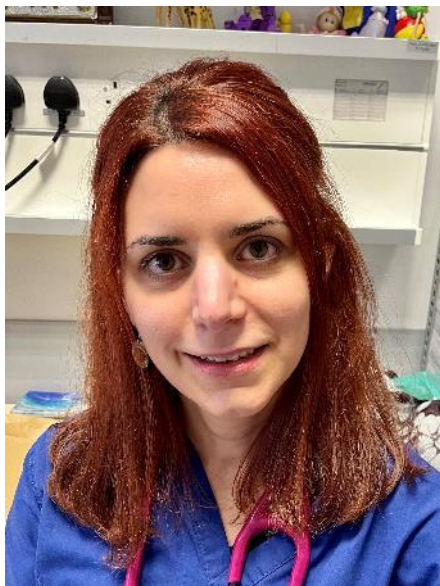
Professor Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou is Professor of European Law and Reform, Head of School of Law, Chair of Research and Innovation at the Cyprus campus of the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus). For her work on fundamental rights, social justice and citizen empowerment in Cyprus and Europe, she received the European Citizen 2020 Prize from the European Parliament on behalf of the non-profit organisation ICLAIM, which she co-founded and for which she also secured UN observer status on transnational organised crime. For Professor Shaelou, away from more traditional study profiles in Europe, the degree of agility in the British education system remains unequalled, building a legacy for personal and professional development. As Director of the EU-funded Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the Rule of Law and European Values CROLEV, Professor Shaelou develops new data on civil society, corruption and transparency for Cyprus/the region to be used in policymaking. Professor Shaelou holds an LLM in European and International Trade Law and a PhD in Law.

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



CHARIS ANGELI
University of Dundee

Charis Angeli, a Satellite Controller at Hellas Sat, was named the world's youngest Spacecrafts Controller, redefining the industry. In 2020, he reached the finals of ClimateLaunchpad with a portable wind turbine called Wind-E, designed as a cleantech product intended to revolutionise the charging of electronic devices during outdoor activities. As a Board Member at Together Cyprus and a jury member at Junior Achievement, he actively addresses community and environmental issues. Recognised with the 20 under 35 by SSPI, Charis is a leader driving both technological and societal change. Charis' UK education at the University of Dundee provided a transformative experience, blending technical excellence with a broader perspective, international friendships in a peaceful environment, laying the foundation for him to seamlessly combine business, technology and sustainability. Charis aspires to harness technology and foster purpose-driven international collaborations to craft a future that is not only greener and healthier but also imbued with a touch of joy. Charis holds a BEng in Mechanical Engineering with Renewables.



Dr HARIS ACHILLEOS
University College London (UCL)

Dr Haris Achilleos is a UK-trained Paediatric Emergency Medicine Doctor and has led the set-up of the first Paediatric Emergency Department in Cyprus. Haris teaches Evidence-Based Child Health in Cyprus and London and works on clinical guidelines and quality indicators within Cyprus' official collaboration with NICE. Haris' postgraduate studies at UCL and paediatric training through RCPCH enabled her to cultivate critical thinking, leadership skills, holistic children's care and a passion for continuous development. Haris is working towards her vision to advance healthcare provision in Cyprus by striving for the improvement of children's services, quality teaching and the development of guidelines, while maintaining UK collaborations. Haris holds an MSc Paediatrics and Child Health: Advanced Paediatrics.



Dr MARGARITA ZACHARIOU
University of Nottingham and Aberystwyth
University (Prifysgol Aberystwyth)

Dr Margarita Zachariou is a leading scientist employing mathematical and computational methods in health and biology, focusing on the brain and its diseases, while also advocating for gender equity in science and academia, contributing to social change in her community. Margarita's learning journey at the University of Nottingham was uniquely enriched by the inclusive academic environment, coupled with cutting-edge interdisciplinary research opportunities, instilling important skills and a profound appreciation of the value of harnessing science to drive social action. Margarita is now employing her skills and expertise towards spearheading transformative initiatives that combine scientific innovation with social progress, driving data-driven policies, advocating for gender equity in science and integrating gender/sex as a research dimension in biomedical sciences. Margarita holds a PhD in Mathematics.