

ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MR. THEODOSIS TSIOLAS
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF UCLAN CYPRUS
UCLAN Cyprus
11 July 2019, 7.45 pm

Dear faculty and guests
Dear students

It is both an honour and a privilege to address the graduation ceremony of UCLAN Cyprus.

The University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus), is the first Branch Campus of the University of Central Lancashire and at the same time is a fully licensed and registered University in Cyprus, approved and validated by both the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), for Higher Education.

Being in its sixth year of operation, UCLAN's three schools - the School of Business and Management, the School of Law and the School of Sciences - offer various academic programmes that address the challenges and the demands of modern society, in fields such as Business Administration, Management, Accounting and Finance, Educational Leadership, Tourism Hospitality, Language Studies, Law, Mathematics, Computers, Psychology, Engineering and Sports science.

Its evident success is most aptly manifested by the fact that it has students from more than 45 different countries, with the latest survey identifying that 92% of UCLan students are very satisfied with their experience, while 98.6% of the University's graduates are currently employed in Cyprus and abroad or pursuing further studies.

At the same time, UCLAN contributes significantly to the development of research and science in Cyprus, thus demonstrating its dynamic presence in the Higher Education Sector.

The student body of the university, a growing mix of local and international students, indicates that the university has already established itself in Cyprus and in the region.

Dear Friends,

One of the most important priorities of the Government, is upgrading university education through an integrated policy strategy which focuses on offering quality opportunities for university education and lifelong learning in cutting edge sectors. This will make Higher Education in Cyprus known abroad and the country as a regional center of education, research and innovation.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that out of the 32,000 students attending the Higher Education Institutions of Cyprus during the academic year 2012-2013, eight thousand

were citizens of other European and third countries, while in the academic year 2017-2018 the total number of students rose to 48 thousand of which 24 thousand came from European and third countries.

At the same time, the recently established Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Cyprus has a key role in this process and I am confident that the University will expand and develop even more, following the new procedures of the foresaid Agency.

Dear Graduates,

Today is an important milestone for all you as you receive your degrees following your hard work, commitment and determination.

Your degrees may constitute a solid basis for a possible continuation of your future studies at a higher level, or the key to a successful career, taking into account our strongly growing economy at a rate of 4% which in turn creates new job opportunities and prospects for all of you in the fields you have chosen.

In congratulating you for your achievements, I have no doubt that you will continue working hard for your personal and professional development.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the governing board for the continuing cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the teaching and administration staff of UCLAN Cyprus for their excellent work and all those who organised this beautiful ceremony tonight.