**The University of Crete** is a young public educational institution committed to excellence in research and teaching.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Located** centrally on the north shore of the island of Crete, the University has modern campus sites in two towns; the Faculties of **Philosophy**, **Education** and **Social Sciences** are based at the [University Campus in Rethymnon](http://www.en.uoc.gr/university/map/campus-french.html), while the **Physical**, **Technological,** **Mathematical** and **Life Sciences** together with the **Medical School** are based at the [University’s Heraklion Campuses](http://www.en.uoc.gr/university/voytes/town-voytes.html).

Established in **1973**, the University accepted its first students in 1977-78. It now has **16 Departments** in 5 Schools as well as a number of affiliated research-oriented institutions, including the **Skinakas Observatory**, the **Natural History Museum**, and the **University General Hospital**. Currently, over 16,000 undergraduates and 2500 postgraduate students are registered at the University of Crete. They are educated by an outward looking academic faculty of around 500 members, supported by adjunct lecturers, post-doctoral researchers, laboratory support staff and instructors, as well as around 300 technical and administrative support staff.

The University fully participates in quality assurance mechanisms both for its academic and administrative structures, and it is a strategic choice of the University that there will be an ongoing effort to meet quality in all its structures.

**INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION**

The **international orientation** of the University is reflected in its track record of collaborations with many of the leading research and educational institutions in Europe and worldwide as well as active promotion of mobility and exchange programmes.

Significant among these are the educational exchange programmes, most notably the Erasmus mobility [opportunities](http://www.admin.uoc.gr/intrel/index.php/en/) for students and staff. The University currently has over **500 bilateral inter-institutional** exchange agreements. Although the numbers of outgoing students typically exceed the incoming students by a ratio of 3:2, the University was selected by the Commission in **2010** as an **Erasmus Success Story**in recognition of the way the mobility opportunities for staff as well as students have been promoted, as well as the involvement of academic staff in multilateral projects for curriculum development, thematic networks and joint degrees.

Educational provision, curricula and research activities reflect this open international outlook, as does the level of activity on campus in terms of invited lecture series, workshops, summer schools, conferences, and so on.

As Greek is the language of instruction on all taught courses, the international students registered for degree programmes here are a small minority in the student body (6%). There is, nonetheless, an international culture on the campuses which is fostered and developed by various means, and **English** is the **lingua franca**in most of these endeavors.

**EDUCATION & RESEARCH**

Crete currently benefits from an academic and technological environment of international standards, which has been built up over the last 30 years through a cluster of research orientated institutions. Research and research training at all levels benefits also from the close collaboration between many of the University’s research groups with the Institutes of the **Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas** ([**FORTH**](http://www.forth.gr/)) the **Institute of Marine Biology**, **Biotechnology** and **Aquaculture** ([**IMBBC**](http://www.imbbc.hcmr.gr/content/welcome-imbbc-website)) and the recently established **Centre of Research and Studies (C.R.S.)** of the Schools of Philosophy, Education, Social, Economic and Political Sciences of the University.

**THE LIBRARY, THE OBSERVATORY EXCAVATIONS, MUSEUMS**

The [**University Library**](http://www.lib.uoc.gr/?lang=en) is considered a pioneer among Greek academic libraries in the development and exploitation of new information technologies and documentation networking services.  The modern purpose built **central library** in **Rethymnon** and campus library in Heraklion have one of the largest collections in Greece of printed academic titles and journals, including an important collection of [rare books](http://www.lib.uoc.gr/info/absrv/rare/ab/?styl=) on Greek history and civilization, as well as digital information sources (**e-journals**, **databases**, and other materials in **digital format**).

The [**Skinakas Observatory**](http://skinakas.physics.uoc.gr/en/)  was founded jointly by the University, the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas ([FORTH](http://www.forth.gr/)) and the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics ([MPE](http://www.mpe.mpg.de/)), Germany, in time to observe the passage of the Halley comet in 1986.  Today it can be characterized as one of the best sites for high quality astronomical observations in the Mediterranean area.

Crete is a rich environment for research into the material remains of past civilizations, from pre-historic times to the Middle Ages and to modern era:

* The “**Natural History Museum of Crete”** ([NHMC](http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr/en)) explores terrestrial, bio- and geo-diversity of the Easter Mediterranean region.
* In Rethymnon city, the “**Museum of Education**» was founded with the aim of preserving and studying the evidence of the educational past and biography of important personalities of Greek history. It also houses personal collections of Eleni Glykatzi – Arverler.
* The ‘**Museum of ancient Eleutherna - Homer in Crete’** in the nearby region was created to house the results of the excavations carried out for thirty years in the ancient city of Eleutherna.
* Last but not least, **the “Museum of Medicine in Crete”** is a state of the art centre of preservation, research and projection of the history of medicine from the ancient times until this day.