

## > MA Design for Social Innovation

April 9th, 2024

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Curriculum Coordinator

*The MA Design for Social Innovation is a distance-learning postgraduate programme that will be offered by the University of Cyprus in collaboration with the Cyprus University of Technology starting in September 2024.*

## Outline of Presentation

- **Programme Development**
- Programme Content
- Teaching Staff



## Establishment

- The programme has been developed by a joint committee of the University of Cyprus and Cyprus University of Technology in 2019 following a global feasibility report, market research and analysis.
- The academic team working on the programme has a track record of pre-existing collaborations (research & teaching)
- Accredited in February 2024.
- First students in September 2024.
- First graduates in 2026.

The MA Design for Social Innovation is hosted on its dedicated publicly available website: [dsi.education](https://dsi.education)

## About the Programme

The MA in Design for Social Innovation is inter-university and inter-departmental involving 2 institutions and 3 departments:

- Department of Architecture (UCY) / Faculty of Engineering (UCY)
- Department of Business and Public Administration (UCY)/ Faculty of Economics and Management (UCY)
- Department of Multimedia and Graphic Arts (CUT) / Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts (CUT)

The interdisciplinary nature of the programme allows for knowledge that can be applied across a wide range of creative, social and design fields that benefit from critical design thinking, creative practice, human interaction, sustainable development, structure organisation and service systems development.

## About the Programme

The innovative MA programme envisages creating new kinds of social innovation practitioners through key design and leadership education.

- Designed specifically for distance-learning with emphasis on practice-based learning
- Full-time and part-time modes of study
- 3 semesters minimum, 8 semesters maximum study
- Offered in English
- 90 ECTS

## Aims and Objectives

The MA Design for Social Innovation aims to:

- Provide academic and practice-based knowledge in design, social innovation, and entrepreneurship bridging together theoretical and practical knowledge and experience;
- Develop creativity and innovation skills in the domain of Design and Social Innovation;
- Produce graduates ready to effectively enact real social change, lead multi-disciplinary teams and collaborate in the design and development of successful social innovation enterprises and activities.
- Support the development of new kinds of social innovation practitioners, the producers of social innovations as championed by the UN, through providing key design and leadership skills.

## Aims and Objectives

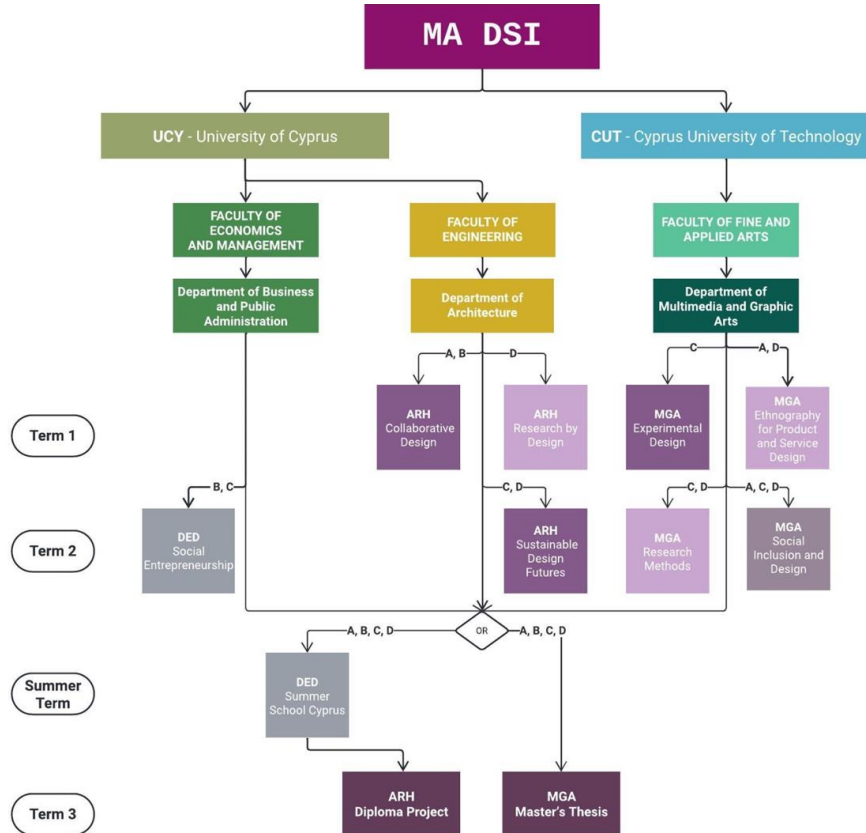
By the end of the MA Design for Social Innovation students will be able to:

Develop advanced knowledge grounded in project -and problem- based pedagogies and constructionism pedagogical approaches that revolve around four learning pillars:

- Observing human experience,
- Understanding challenges & opportunities
- Developing pathways for future possibilities
- Reflecting critically evaluating in context

# Course Structure

- A Observing human experience
- B Understanding challenges & opportunities
- C Developing pathways for future possibilities
- D Reflecting critically evaluating in context
- E Dissertation





## Term 1 courses (September)

- Introduction to Social Innovation (7.5 ECTS - UCY)
- Collaborative Design (8 ECTS - UCY)
- Social Inclusion and Design (7.5 ECTS - CUT)
- Research by Design (8 ECTS - UCY)

## Term 2 courses (January)

- Ethnography for Designing Social Innovation (7.5 ECTS - CUT)
- Sustainable Design Futures (8 ECTS - UCY)
- Social Entrepreneurship (8 ECTS - UCY)
- Experimental Design Practices (7.5 ECTS - CUT)

## Summer Term (elective)

- Summer School Cyprus [elective] (4 ECTS - coordinated by UCY) \*

TOTAL: 4/0 ECTS

## Term 3 courses (offered in September and January)

- Diploma Project 24 ECTS + summer school 4 ECTS [prerequisite] (28 ECTS - coordinated by UCY) OR
- Master's Thesis (28 ECTS - coordinated by CUT)

TOTAL: 24/28 ECTS

## Career Prospects / Employment

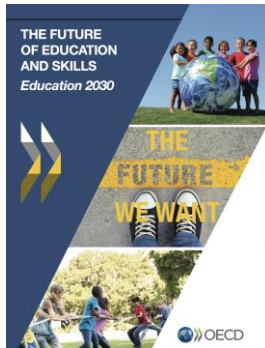
Graduates will be able to enhance their current work in organisations that deal with social issues with a design- oriented, inclusive and contextual process having learned the tools, methods and frameworks to enact real change. Professionally they will be able to pursue careers in a variety of organisations and positions that include roles such as:

- Design strategists
- Social entrepreneurs
- Founders and managers of social enterprises
- Experience designers
- Community managers
- Design researchers
- Project managers
- Systems designers, and more.

## Background - need identification

*“Students who are best prepared for the future are change agents. They can have a positive impact on their surroundings, influence the future, understand others’ intentions, actions and feelings, and anticipate the short and long-term consequences of what they do.”*

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,  
The Future of Education and Skills 2030, 2018



## Background - need identification



The United Nation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development setting out a 15-year plan to achieve goals to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere has encouraged actions across all sectors and levels towards achieving the 17 Goals adopted by UN Member States.

According to a discussion paper from UNDP’s Global Centre for Public Service Excellence, social innovations are “new solutions (products, services, models, markets, processes etc.) that simultaneously meet a social need more effectively than existing solutions and lead to new or improved capabilities and relationships and better use of assets and resources.”

# Faculty Members

## Permanent Staff



**Panayiotis Zaphiris (Professor) [CUT]**

**CUT Coordinator**

PhD, Wayne State University, USA  
Human Computer Interaction, Social Computing and  
Inclusive Design



**Nadia Charalambous (Associate Professor) [UCY]**

**UCY Coordinator**

PhD, National Technical University of Athens, GR  
Social Inclusion, Architecture, Design



**Andri Ioannou (Associate Professor) [CUT]**

PhD, University of Connecticut, US.  
Educational Technology, Research Methods, LX  
Design, Human-Computer Interaction



**Andreas Savvides (Associate Professor) [UCY]**

PhD, Harvard University, US  
Architecture, Urban Planning, Social Sustainability,  
Sustainable Futures



**Marinos Koutsomichalis (Lecturer) [CUT]**

PhD, De Montfort University, UK  
Creative Technologies & Innovation, Interactive Media,  
Experimental/Critical Design, HCI, Artistic Research



**Constantinos Avramidis (Lecturer) [UCY]**

PhD, University of Edinburgh, UK  
Architecture, Design Research Methods, Communicating  
Research



**Antigoni Parmaxi (Special Teaching Staff) [CUT]**

PhD, Cyprus University of Technology, CY  
Social Technologies, Social Computing, Constructionism,  
Equality, Inclusive Design



**Daina Nicolaou (Special Teaching Staff) [UCY]**

PhD, Warwick Business School, UK  
Marketing, Business, Entrepreneurship, Innovation

# Faculty Members

## Adjunct Staff



**Andreas Papallas (Administrative Coordinator CUT)**

MPhil, University of Cambridge, UK  
Design Thinking, Design Theory and Methodology,  
Architecture, Sustainable Urban Development



**Marina Pasia (Administrative Coordinator UCY)**

EMJMD ALA, Sapienza University of Rome, IT  
Design, Collaborative Design, Interdisciplinary Design,  
Social Engagement Methods



**Sonia Andreou (Teaching Adjunct)**

PhD, Cyprus University of Technology, CY  
Visual communication, Graphic design, Semiotics,  
Advertising

## Resources

*Students have access to the resources offered by both institutions as they are matriculated members at the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus University of Technology. Their institutional accounts provide access to library resources, VPN access, Microsoft 365 and a range of software. In addition, they receive a dsi.education account that provides access to GSuite, our tailored learning environment:*

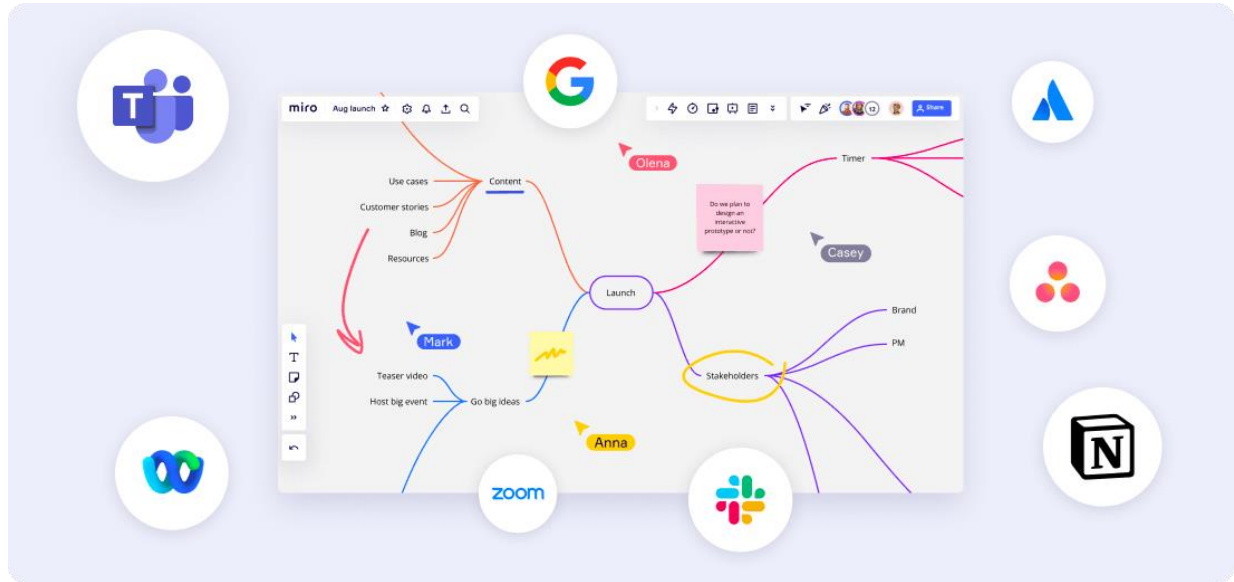
- Google Suite for Education
  - **Google Classroom**
  - Google Slides, Google Docs, Google Sheets
  - Google Meet
- **Miro** / Mural collaboration infinite whiteboard environments
- Prototyping: Azure, Adobe XD, Figma, InVision, Proto.io
- We have educational accounts in all of the above.

*Teaching staff has access and uses turnitin for plagiarism detection.*





# Resources



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Thank you for your patience.

Questions?

[dsi.education](https://dsi.education) for more information

Contact us at: [info@dsi.education](mailto:info@dsi.education)