

Resources

Learning Resources

Students embarking upon our BA programmes are expected to acquire all the necessary practical skills and knowledge that will allow them to become independent practitioners and pursue careers in the creative industries. A wide-ranging programme of studio activities will give them the opportunity to develop their own interests, learn to think and work in a creative and critical way, and help them to produce distinctively personal work.

The learning and teaching methods of a programme that creatively integrates and exploits a variety of media and materials, techniques and technologies, are highly resource/infrastructure dependant. The University of Nicosia will offer its Design & Multimedia students all the necessary means to develop their studio practice, equip them with the tools to research and explore, support their learning and enhance their professional awareness.

A well-equipped library, photography studio and dark room, drawing and painting studios, dedicated mac and pc laboratories, a specialized digital unit (Mediazone), a 3D workshop area, classrooms, exhibition spaces, and a printmaking studio are at the students disposal. They may also have timetabled access to the F-LAB, the Architecture Department 3D workshop and equipment, which is located at the architecture new building; the latter is within walking distance of the art and design studios.

Library & IT facilities

The University of Nicosia has a well-equipped library, a short walk from the main campus building, whose resources can be accessed on-line and from home. The Library Information Gateway (www.library.unic.ac.cy) gives access to local, national and international sources including the online catalogue (UniCAT).

The system enables students to search the 95,000 books of the library collection, to reserve material, to view outstanding loans and renew books accordingly. In addition to the main collection, the library has a reserve collection (for short loan) and a reference collection. Access is given to a wide range of networked electronic sources relevant to the subject area of study including on-line databases.

For materials not found in the library, or any other libraries on the island, there is an Interlibrary Loan Service provided through collaboration with a consortium of local libraries, the British Library Document Supply Centre and the University of Utah. The library provides a pleasant atmosphere for individual and group study and library staff are available to provide assistance if required.

Orientation classes are offered at the beginning of each semester to train new students in the use of all available resources. For older students, specialised topic orientations are offered throughout the year on demand.

Library opening hours are 08.00-20.00 Monday-Friday and 09.00-17.00 on Saturdays. Photocopy facilities, TVs and tape recorders are available for materials not loaned out, as well as dedicated terminals with Super Nova, for blind or visually impaired users. Textbooks to support the full range of topics including theory, history and practice of the Arts, Graphic, Multimedia, Interior Design and Production, and Architecture are available in library.

The Library and Information Centre, provides support of all the academic teaching, research and educational pursuits of the students, faculty and researchers.

It has a pleasant environment, conducive to study and learning, with individual study carrels, areas for group work, and Wireless Internet Access throughout the building. It is situated three minutes from the Main Campus, has a seating capacity of 190 users and is open six days a week during the academic year.

The collection consists of more than 95,000 volumes, 800 print journals and thousands of journal articles available electronically through various data banks, a number of e-journals, e-books as well as music scores and audiovisuals –all relevant to the subject areas of study.

On-line access to the Library's collections is made available through Aleph (by Ex-Libris) – an automated state-of-the art new catalog, which can be accessed by Author, Title, Subject and Keyword, from anywhere on campus.

Off-Campus access is provided through the proxy server for all Databases and articles.

For materials unavailable on campus but which might be found in Cyprus, users may check the Open Public Catalog of Cyprus Libraries or the Cyprus Libraries Union Catalog.

For materials unavailable on campus or in Cyprus, there is an Interlibrary Loan Service(ILL) through the British Library and the University of Utah.

We should also take into account that the Intercollege BA students of the Fine Art programme will have immediate electronic access to the University of Hertfordshire library system and to the relevant resources, such as online journals, searchable databases, etc. Accessible through StudyNet, www.studynet.herts.ac.uk.

Laboratory & specialist facilities

Computer Centre

The Computer Centre is equipped with the hardware needed to support teaching and research in the areas of expertise within Intercollege. There are 16 computer laboratories in total equipped with state-of-the-art PC or Mac computers, which are updated every 2 years. All the computers are connected to the Local Area Network (LAN) and there is at least one network printer in each computer laboratory. The total capacity is approximately 483 workstations. All computer laboratories are connected to the Internet and Wi-Fi network is available in public areas. The laboratories are managed by technical specialists and during peak hours trained assistants are on duty. All students are entitled to have their own email account (which is created automatically upon registration) and personal Web site.

Students can also benefit from Student Intranet. Through the Intranet students can pre-register, check academic records and financial information. Part of the Intranet is online course tool that can be used by faculty to provide online course materials and links to various online resources.

E-Learning Environment of the University also includes Moodle Learning Content Management System (LCMS) and more advanced Learning Management System (LMS) LAMS. Training sessions for faculty and students are periodically organized in order to facilitate e-Learning support for traditional learning.

DDM Laboratories and specialist facilities

Laboratories used to support the existing provision within the Department of Design & Multimedia (DDM):

The DDM utilizes laboratories which are fully equipped with sophisticated software packages for image and sound manipulation and editing; these provide a full range of painting, editing and image composition tools, desktop and page layout software, state of the art software for the design and development of advanced applications.

Furthermore, web animation and authoring tools, HTML editors and 3D rendering and animation software are also at the students' disposal. Scanners (paper, film, and slides) for the electronic handling of images, colour & b/w plotters as well as colour and b/w laser printers are also to be found in the labs.

Our students have either full or timetabled access to photographic digital and video cameras and accessories, darkroom facilities, the AVID digital video production lab, as well as the audio and video production/editing labs. A print room, where relief, intaglio, thermal, and silkscreen printing facilities are provided, will also be at their disposal.

The art and design studios are furnished with a number of easels, art horses, and drawing boards. Students may also take advantage of light boxes and xerox machines to be found at the design studios. All studios, labs and classrooms are equipped with a teacher's computer and projector. Overhead projectors and videotape players and recorders are also there to be used when necessary.

Classes like Drawing, Painting, 2 Dimensional Design, Art Materials & Techniques, take place at large studios which may easily accommodate the needs of classes constituted of 18 to 20 students.

History and theory, and, in general, courses which do not incorporate practical project/workshop elements are taught at the university amphitheatres.

F-LAB overview of current operation

Art and Design students have timetabled access to the 3D workshop facilities that are to be found at the new architecture building of the University of Nicosia; this building is within walking distance from their main studios and labs.

Digital Fabrication Lab The Digital Fabrication Lab is a facility that contains various prototyping machines, which individual students or groups of students can use to produce 3D models and prototypes on their request. Since September 2010, the F-lab has moved and is operating in a dedicated space at the new building of A.R.C. The lab organizes induction sessions on how to use the machines or prepare digital files for fabrication. The lab currently contains one laser cutting machine, one CNC milling machine and one 3D printer.

Laser Cutting The laser cutting machine is 100 watts with a bed size of 1200x800 mm, capable of cutting or engraving 2D patterns into sheet materials such as paper, cardboard, MDF, plywood and cast acrylic sheets up to 10mm thickness. To use one of the machines students need to complete a laser induction given by the teaching faculty responsible for the lab. Students are not allowed to use the machines themselves but can deliver a digital file to be produced by the lab assistants on a first-come first served basis. An online booking system will be tested and implemented for the new academic year 2011-2012. The use of the machines is free of charge but students pay for their own material cost.

CNC Milling The lab features one small 3-axis CNC-machine with a working range of 750x458x100 mm. It is used for making models and prototypes and also for moulds used in combination with casting, laminating or vacuum forming techniques. Models can be produced from a range of materials such as MDF, plywood and cast-acrylic. The most common material used is high-density foam (polyurethane).

3D Printing The lab has a Dimension SST768 Rapid Prototyping machine which builds 3d models using an additive process of layers of ABS plastic. The maximum build size of the machine is 203 x 203 x 305 mm and multiple models can be combined in one print session. Models produced using this technology can feature highly complex configurations, curvatures and durability and are usually used as representational models and/or prototypes.

Such printers (as well as the milling machines) are now used throughout the world at educational institutes that teach Visual Arts. Students can produce physical models of their creations gaining indispensable feedback. Furthermore, through their own experimental work, they may actively participate in the ongoing discussion about the tactile and physical nature of the art, conventional or digital.

MEDIAZONE

Mediaworld was created in 1997 with the name TV and Radio Unit. Its main objective was to create state of the art facilities, equipment and support in order to fulfil course requirements for the practical courses of the Communications and Design programmes. As the desire to introduce a greater number of practical courses grew, so did the evolution of the Unit.

In the fall of 2007 and in the light of additional services offered (the Design unit operated by the Design department, moved under the umbrella of the TV and Radio Unit) the name changed to Mediaworld in order to better represent the range of services offered. Nevertheless the core function remained the same: to provide the organization and administration of facilities and equipment to the Communications and Design departments practical courses.

Alongside and in order to take advantage of the given infrastructure, Mediaworld operates a small commercial section which produces solutions covering almost the whole multimedia spectrum-- from print designs to websites and from training videos to documentaries.

Some Main Activities:

1. Mediaworld is a service entity that assumes the responsibility for all of the facilities and equipment utilized by the Communications and Design Departments academic practical courses.
2. Mediaworld cooperates closely with the departments in order to schedule the practical courses to be offered every semester. The aim is to fairly dispense the available resources to all of the students and instructors.
3. Over the years equipment & facilities evolved in accordance to the needs of the academic programme. This investment requires protection, care, maintenance, updating and daily troubleshooting due to high volume usage. All of the equipment is cared for, catalogued, cleaned, maintained and updated in order to get the maximum use and value over time.

4. Mediazone creates and updates every semester 'step by step handbooks' for every course and each facility and equipment used by students. These handbooks may be found conveniently available in electronic form.
5. Every semester, according to the needs of their courses for equipment and facilities, instructors state their requirements for technical support, in the way of trained lab assistants.
6. Mediazone prepares highly organized schedules in order for all of the students to fairly share all of the equipment & facilities. 'Check in' and 'check out' policies for all equipment are applied and facilities remain open and accessible during class time and lab hours.

Our facilities include: Onsite multiple camera live to tape & ENG video cameras & equipment, sizable studio floor with blue screen, 4 camera set up with control room, Final cut editing post production, transferring and packaging facility, audio recording booth and audio editing facilities, Avid based training facility with 16 stations - One of the largest in the Mediteranean region, and a Multimedia design section with multiple computers and software.

FACILITY	EQUIPMENT	CAPABILITIES
VIDEO PRODUCTION (Television production studio & control room)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Studio 3 camera live to tape recording with a control room for live to tape editing & directing 2. ON LOAN: Digital Sony ENG cameras with tripods 3. ON LOAN: Different types of Microphones 	Behaves like a tv station – could create a regular show & record it Use equipment to create a video outside the university
AVID DIGITAL LAB (16 separate editing units)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of the art Avid Media Composer Editing Hardware / Software - Editing of video / audio (Non Linear Editing) MOVIES EDITED ON AVID MEDIA COMPOSER INCLUDE: <i>IRON MAN 2/ AVATAR</i> (90% of the films in Hollywood and around the world, while handling 85% of today's broadcast television seen and 80% of the commercials.) 	Can create anything from a small video to a feature film – by editing in these facilities. Can also Author dvds.
AUDIO LAB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audio Mixer 2. Wavelab audio editing software 3. Voice recording booth with professional microphone 	Can record voice audio / edit audio and burn cds.
RADIO LAB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audio Mixer 2. Wavelab audio editing software 3. Voice recording booth with professional microphone 4. Cd player 	Can record voice audio / edit audio and burn cds. Can also create a radio show.

Physical Resources

The campus offers a range of appropriately equipped teaching accommodation for both small and large group activity. There are also conference and meeting facilities supplemented by audio-visual equipment for training and professional servicing of meetings and conferences. The buildings are modern and well maintained.

The premises include a 150–200 seat restaurant which serves staff, students and others. There is also a student cafeteria which is open during normal hours and offers soft drinks, snacks and recreational facilities. The gym centre is located on campus and is free of charge to all students, faculty and staff and there is a bookshop.

The Department of Student Affairs assists students in finding suitable accommodation within reasonable distance. A range of options are available, including a number of student hostels. These are only a few minutes walk from the main campus building. There is a cinema theatre on campus as part of its overall cultural contribution.

Creative Digital Technologies & Photography

Mediazone staff will provide introductions for first and second year students to their range of specialized digital imaging hardware, tools, and equipment. Information about online reservations as well as descriptions and equipment specifications may be found on the internet, at <http://mz.unic.ac.cy/lending.php>.

Mediazone Student Section

ONLINE RESERVATIONS, HANDBOOKS, TUTORIALS, ...

mediazone

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YOU HAVE TO START FROM SOMEWHERE.
HOW ELSE WILL YOU KNOW WHAT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE?



Reservations

book a seat in our facilities

Mediazone provides you with all of the necessary facilities to complete your practical courses in the Communications Department. All students are **required** to book a date and time to use Mediazone



Facilities

navigate in our facilities...

Mediazone rules & regulations can be found here, as well as a full description of our facilities, equipment, and software. Here you can browse all of the practical courses in the Communications Department that are



Blog

updates and news

Find out the latest news about Mediazone! Learn about events and announcements. Watch tutorials, and student made audio & video productions. Read about interesting facts from students, faculty and industry

The **photography studio** and the **dark room** are located nearby the studios and workshops. The film based photography facilities, that are to be found at the dark room, are mainly related to b&w processes. Our photography class students are greatly benefited by an educated combination of conventional and electronic techniques.



Photography Studio / Dark room.



Art & Design Computer Labs The ADCLs are located on the ground (B17) and minus one (GDS) level of the Europa Building. They are available to all Design & Multimedia Department students, access is bookable, and run as flexibly as possible to accommodate individual needs.

There are fifteen (15) Apple Macintosh computers at the GDS lab, equipped with a comprehensive range of graphics software packages and accessories.

Twenty (20) more dedicated (visual/sound) PCs are to be found at the ground level lab, which is used by the Applied Multimedia programme students; this programme is run by the Department as well and the computers here are equipped with proper hardware and software to satisfy teaching requirements and students's needs in the areas of moving image, sound and video editing.

The above mentioned systems are used only for creative visual, video and sound editing work; the Lab Assistants ensure that this is complied with. Internet, email and word processing facilities are provided elsewhere in the building where wifi hot spots are also available and free.

Courses which have theoretical components, such as critical and cultural studies, are usually taught at the university amphitheatres, which are nearby the Fine Art ADS studios and the GDS building. Group critiques, seminars, video presentations or any other flexible forms of teaching may take place either at the Fine Art Studios or at the classrooms of the GDS building.



GDS Computer Lab and Classroom.



Drawing & Painting

In two separate studios our students can work to satisfy the needs of their 2D & 3D workshops as well as of the drawing classes. The studios have large windows for best natural lighting; rolls of overhead track lights may also be used to optimise painting conditions.





ADS Drawing Studio



Printmaking and 3D works

The Department operates a “Hohner” hand driven platen printing press for students to print from relief surfaces, such as woodcuts, linocuts, or metal clichés in sizes up to 250x170mm. Type cases with metal printing types and auxiliary printing material are also to be found at our workshop.

A thermal printing press is also used by the students of the department to produce their own designs. Colour printers, and a recently acquired heavy duty colour copier are also used to reproduce students’ designs to get printed by the thermal press.



Intaglio presses.

Our future plans include a papermaking lab, which will consist of water vats, drying cabinets and electric paper dryers. We also look at the enhancement of our relief printing ability.

The printmaking, as well as the 3D workshops available to students, are staffed by experienced technicians, exactly as the digital technologies and the photography workshops are. Similarly, technical staff support our students when using the workshop facilities at the architecture building. Before starting work, process and materials will be thoroughly reviewed by faculty and the appropriate studio assistant; then, access to students will be granted. Guidelines of state environmental policy and practice are enforced by the University’s Environment, Health, and Safety unit.