With more than 7,000 students, 104 laboratories and 750 faculty and staff members, the University of Cyprus (UCY) is a young and rapidly expanding university (established in 1989). There are 23 departments and 13 research units and centres, covering a broad spectrum within the life, social, natural and engineering sciences. It is considered to be the leading university and the most active research institution in Cyprus and it currently employs about 550 young scientists using external research funds. UCY has risen three places to rank 52nd worldwide and 1st among the Cypriot and Greek universities in the high-profile Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2017, with the world’s 200 best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

The Educational Effectiveness and Improvement research team of the Department of Education (Faculty of Social Sciences and Education) of the University of Cyprus is concerned with the evaluation of educational effectiveness, whether of teachers, schools or educational systems. The team's major contributions to knowledge in the field are in three distinct but related dimensions. These are the evaluation of teacher effectiveness, the evaluation of school effectiveness, and the development of generic and differential models of educational effectiveness that can be used for establishing links between research and improvement of policy and practice. Currently the team's research agenda is concerned with the development of a dynamic model of educational effectiveness, and the application of effectiveness research to the improvement of educational practice. The team also focuses on studying/measuring the practice of teaching and trying to understand how the integration of generic and content-specific practices can help better explain student learning. Information about the projects of the research team can be found in the following websites: www.ucy.ac.cy/promqe, www.ucy.ac.cy/equality, www.ucy.ac.cy/esf, www.ucy.ac.cy/jls, http://ucy.ac.cy/integratingpractices/en/

The Department of Education, the University of Cyprus, announces one (1) vacancy for a full time Special Scientist position.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Master degree in education science or related disciplines (obtained at latest in July 2017).
- Excellent academic record, testified by the transcript of records and, if relevant, by previous research output (e.g. scientific publications).
- Research interests in a) educational effectiveness research, b) educational evaluation, c) quantitative research methods, d) quality of teaching.
- Excellent English writing and communication skills; knowledge of Greek is not required.
- Mobility rule: Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Cyprus for more than 12 months in the 3 years before the recruitment date (01 August 2018).
- Early-stage researcher status: Applicants must, at the date of recruitment, be in the first 4 years of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The special scientist will have the position of an Early-Stage Researcher (PhD candidate, 100%) and will conduct a research project on “The impact of generic and content-specific teaching practices”. The objectives are the investigation of effects of teaching practices on student cognitive and affective learning outcomes in various subject areas such as language and mathematics by using data from four cycles of international comparative studies such as TIMSS and PIRLS. A further aim is to test the robustness of international country-level trend analysis by collecting national panel data.

The project aims to promote the knowledge about the generalizability and robustness of different sets of teaching skills in promoting quality and equity and to provide suggestions for improving the design and use of international comparative studies.

The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Professor Leonidas Kyriakides and Assistant Professor Charalambos Charalambous. More information on their research interests, projects and publications can be found in the following websites: http://ucy.ac.cy/dir/en/component/comprofiler/userprofile/kyriakid and http://ucy.ac.cy/dir/en/component/comprofiler/userprofile/cycharal.

EMPLOYMENT TERMS
The early-stage researcher will receive a full-time position (currently 140 hours per month) contract for a period of 3 years (36 months) at the University of Cyprus commencing on 01 August 2018. The position will be within the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) European Training Network (ETN) Outcomes and Causal Inference in International Comparative Assessments (OCCAM). OCCAM is a graduate school for 15 early-stage researchers who will investigate the effects of educational policy, focusing on trends and differences in educational achievement, the determinants of educational outcomes, and changes in educational outcomes from an international perspective. Further information on the network can be found on www.etn-occam.eu. Please also note that there are several other projects in the OCCAM network working on closely related issues, and it should be expected that at least one of the studies may be done in cooperation with another PhD-candidate in the network.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Networks offer highly attractive salary and working conditions. The maximum monthly cost of employment for full time employment (140 hrs/month) can be up to 3,955 Euros. This amount consists of living, mobility, and family allowances (depending on the family situation). From this amount employer and employee contributions to the various Government Funds will be deducted. It is important to note that 13th salary and medical coverage are not provided.

The special scientist will also be enrolled during the same period (36 months) in a postgraduate programme leading to Doctoral degree in Educational Administration and Evaluation. For this reason, interested candidates should also complete the relevant application form (see details below).

Interested candidates should submit their Applications in English as a single PDF including the following:

1. Letter of interest for the position
2. OCCAM confirmation on eligibility (see www.etn-occam.eu)
3. Application Form for Admission – Postgraduate Studies
4. Curriculum Vitae
5. Copies of University degrees
6. Transcript of records issued by your university listing the exams/courses taken at university, grades/marks awarded and the final degree result
7. Copies of additional certificates such as exams, awards etc.
8. Copies of publications, if any
9. Additional documents and degrees mentioned in the application
10. Two signed letters of recommendation
11. Research proposal of 2500 words (including bibliography, tables, figures, footnotes) on the topic of “Investigating the impact of generic- and domain- specific teaching factors”. The proposal should include: a) scope and objectives, b) background and state of the art in the field with references to the literature, c) hypotheses/theories, d) description of the empirical methodology and data sources, e) short bibliography.

The applications as a single PDF (all documents in one pdf-file) should be sent via e-mail to Christina Georgiou no later than 15 April 2018 (email: georgiou.christina@ucy.ac.cy , subject: “Application ESR13”).

For more information please contact: Professor Leonidas Kyriakides (kyriakid@ucy.ac.cy, 00357-22892947).

**Note:** Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the deadline for the submission of applications will not be accepted and evaluated.