# DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
# Special Scientist - PhD Positions on Wireless Networked Control Systems

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| Title: | Special Scientists (Early-Stage Researchers for the ERC CoG MINERVA) |
| No. of Positions: | One (1) |
| Category: | 1 year with an option for extension until the end of the 4-year PhD studies |

## PhD positions

One (1) fully funded Special Scientist - PhD position is available at the Distributed and Networked Control Systems (DNCS) Group, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Cyprus, under the supervision of Professor Themistoklis Charalambous. The Special Scientist position is a fixed-term appointment, initially filled for 1 year with the option for an extension until the end of the 4-year PhD program. It is a full-time position **available from October 2025**.

## Subject

The Special Scientist - PhD positions are part of the highly prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant MINERVA (eMergINg coopERatiVe Autonomous systems - information for control and estimation) and include fundamental and blue-sky research on Wireless Networked Control Systems (WNCSs). Such systems have a wide range of applications in various areas, including flexible factory automation networks and autonomous systems, such as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSs) and Robotics. As a result, we have been witnessing a great surge in both research and industrial interest towards the realization of such systems. That is why this project has external advisors from ABB Corporate Research. The Special Scientist - PhD candidate will be conducting research according to the needs of the research project for the development of control-aware communication strategies and communication-aware control strategies for WNCSs.

## Candidate's profile

The applicant should have:

- A B.Sc. (or equivalent) degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, or any other relevant field. An M.Sc. (or equivalent) degree will be considered as an advantage.
- a strong mathematical background with good knowledge of control theory, excellent programming skills, and proficiency in English. Some knowledge in communication theory, information theory, signal processing, optimization, or other relevant fields will be considered as an advantage.

## Employment Terms

The positions are on a contract basis for one year with the possibility of renewal for three years further. The maximum monthly gross salary is up to €2,250 depending on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate (€0-€19,500 is non-taxable, €19,501-€28,000 has a tax rate of 20%, €28,001-€36,300 has a tax rate of 25%). There is no provision for 13th salary.

## How to apply

Interested applicants should submit the following **as a single PDF file**:
1) Letter of motivation (maximum 1 page in 10pt font size)
2) CV with contact details
3) Degree certificates and Transcripts (if not in Greek or English, a certified English translation)
4) Contact details of at least two referees

Please send your application by **Sunday, 31st of August 2025** via email to the Director of DNCS Group, Professor Themistoklis Charalambous by email (charalambous.themistoklis@ucy.ac.cy) with the subject title: **MINERVA2025-PhD-2 Application**. For more information, please contact Professor Themistoklis Charalambous directly.

At least the best three candidates that satisfy the required qualifications will be interviewed by a 3-member Committee. Candidates shall be informed of the result of their application by the relevant entity.

The University of Cyprus shall collect and process your personal data according to the provisions of the General Regulation on Personal Data 2016/679 (EU).

## University of Cyprus

The University of Cyprus (UCY) is a dynamic hub of education, research, and innovation, driven by passionate students, ambitious young researchers, and esteemed academics. Striving to be a beacon of scientific and creative excellence, UCY envisions a future as a premier institution in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Founded in 1989 and welcoming its first students in 1992, UCY is the island's pioneering university, headquartered in the vibrant capital of Nicosia. With a global network and a strong contribution to European and international scientific advancements, UCY stands at the forefront of academic excellence. Home to around 7,000 students, 146 laboratories, and a dedicated team of 820 faculty, researchers, and administrative staff, UCY is a young and rapidly growing institution. It encompasses 8 faculties, 22 departments, and 14 research units/centers, covering a broad spectrum within life, social, natural, and engineering sciences. It offers a diverse array of 29 undergraduate and 102 postgraduate programmes (at both Master's and PhD levels).

UCY stands as the premier university and the most active research institution in Cyprus. It is actively advancing toward its vision of becoming a "Centre of Excellence" in the Euro-Mediterranean region by focusing on groundbreaking research and innovation. UCY is driving numerous research projects funded by the European Commission, the National Research and Innovation Foundation, and various public and private organizations. In 2023 alone, UCY secured €38 million in research funding from external sources. The university is currently involved in 314 projects, including 197 EU-funded initiatives under programs like Horizon Europe, Horizon 2020, ERC, Erasmus+, Life, Cost Action, and Interreg. The remaining 117 projects receive support from the National Research and Innovation Foundation, US organizations, and various other entities worldwide. UCY is the largest employer of young graduates and researchers in Cyprus, with approximately 750 young scientists supported by external research funds. Under the Horizon Europe program (2021-2027), after the end of the first four years of the programme, UCY ranked 160th among over 26,800 global organizations in securing competitive funding, amassing over €51 million since the beginning of the programme. UCY is currently participating in 58 projects with a total funding of over €31,1 million. During the Horizon 2020 program (2014-2020), UCY led Cyprus with 154 projects (67 as Coordinator and 87 as Partner), securing over €73.4 million, ranking 137th among the nearly 41,200 organizations participating in the Programme and 98th among academic institutions. This is an honorable distinction for UCY since it surpasses other famous and much larger universities in Europe. Since the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC) in 2007, UCY has secured 29 ERC projects, including 8 Starting Grants, 8 Consolidator Grants, 3 Advanced Grants, 9 Proof of Concept Grants, and 1 Synergy Grant. This impressive achievement underscores UCY's commitment to supporting top-tier researchers in pursuing groundbreaking ideas.

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is a part of UCY's School of Engineering. Hosting a multitude of international and world-leading researchers, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering provides a truly inspirational ecosystem, where scientists and engineers from different fields interact and work together by crossing traditional boundaries to solve the most challenging scientific and technological problems, provide an excellent education, and produce greater well-being for society in general. Its main research focus spans areas from control, robotics, autonomous systems, and power systems to photonics and communications. It has been ranked in the top 101-150 ECE Departments in the world according to the Shanghai Rankings.

UCY is committed to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination to provide a fair, safe, and pleasant environment for the entire university community, where students and staff members will feel supported both in their professional and personal development, within and beyond their multiple identities. To this end, UCY seeks to create the necessary conditions that will encourage and respect diversity and ensure dignity both in the workplace and society at large. Moreover, UCY has adopted specific policies to promote equal opportunities, as well as respect and understanding of diversity, while it is committed to promoting and maintaining a working, teaching, and learning environment, free from any form of discrimination, whether direct or indirect.