

## Impact at a distance



### George Pavlidis

researching Healthy life expectancy in SEE

**Provides a personal view of the advantages of studying at SEERC Thessaloniki**

Being located in the International Faculty of TUoS for postgraduate studies brought certain challenges and also great advantages for me.

On the one hand, my close interaction with the lecturers and staff located in Thessaloniki (due to the low lecturers / students ratio) supported me greatly throughout my studies.

Most important to me is that this close collaboration permitted me to undertake significant projects with social impact, get involved in a variety of research projects, and these experiences prepare me for teaching.

On the other hand, there are some shortages compared to students located in Sheffield e.g., funding opportunities, laboratory equipment, fewer links to the labour market may be noticeable.

At the initial stages of my studies, the question whether studying in Thessaloniki or in Sheffield would be most appropriate for me was an important decision to make. I was wondering whether it would be different here by comparison to the University of Sheffield.

To date, it is clear to me that the student experience offered at the 2 sites are diverse, although equally good.

As an ex-professional athlete and mature student in Greece, I had limited options and support to study. The International Faculty of TUoS in Thessaloniki gave me a unique chance: to stay home and have a great education.

I noticed early on that the academic culture taught and aspired in the University of Sheffield in Thessaloniki echoes clearly from the principles and the ethics that are aspired in the University of Sheffield in UK. And (oh, boy!), we get reminded of that frequently during our studies.

Each future student of the TUoS should bare this in mind. The values embedded in the British educational system and the research orientations of TUoS are vigorously evident inside the University of Sheffield in Thessaloniki.

It requires a great deal of adjustment for any student to adhere and work according to TUoS principles, as well as to use the English language to the required high standards.

One should bare in mind that TUoS students in Thessaloniki operate under TUoS working ethos constantly, although they are not located in the UK.

No educational system could replace the opportunity to learn English as well as when living in Sheffield per se. Yet, those studying in TUoS Thessaloniki enjoy other benefits.

Primarily, being educated in the International Faculty in Thessaloniki, under the ethos inspired by the University of Sheffield, adds diversity in terms of better understanding cultural differences.

I would welcome the prospect of TUoS and the IF increasing their investment in their joint ventures, this would promote exchanges of students and of academic staff.

I would also welcome anyone to come to Thessaloniki and experience our student life, alongside with the hospitality that our nation is so famous of.

Reading these lines gives you an idea of what it is like to study in the International Faculty of TUoS in Thessaloniki, but you have to see it as well in order to understand it!

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