

# B

BUSINESS

professional studies

# INTERCOLLEGE GLOBALTRAINING

THE CYPRUS-BASED ORGANISATION IS NOW EXPANDING ABROAD, AS CEO ODYSSEAS CHRISTODOULOU TELLS GOLD.

**Gold: When was the Intercollege Professional Studies Department founded? Odysseas Christodoulou:** The Intercollege Professional Studies Department has its roots in Accountancy Tutors which began in Cyprus in 1991. This pioneering organisation by Cyprus standards was founded by Christos Vlachos and myself, Odysseas Christodoulou, and we are now the core of the Intercollege Globaltraining management team, together with Avraam Hadjihannas, Odysseus Tavros, Stelios Ntotsias (Greece) and Radu Radut (Romania).

In 1993, Accountancy Tutors became an integral part of Intercollege and was named Intercollege Professional Studies. In 1997, we decided to expand our operations in Greece and for the next fourteen years we operated in Athens under the name of Global Training. Romania was our next expansion destination, where we have been operating in Bucharest as the Intercollege Institute of Business Studies (IntercollegeIBS) since 2007.

An ambitious plan which involved merging our operations in the three countries where we had been operating started to take shape in January 2012. Today we are in a position to unveil our new logo and announce our new name Intercollege Globaltraining. This represents the evolution of the acclaimed Intercollege/University of Nicosia professional courses into a global organisation

OUR NEW VISION  
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of professional studies with four operating centres (Nicosia, Limassol, Athens and Bucharest).

**Gold: What study programmes does it offer?**

**O.C.:** Intercollege Globaltraining offers a wide range of programmes aiming to satisfy the training needs of, amongst others, the accountancy/auditing, banking and financial services sectors. Our main programmes of study are the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and the ACA/ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales), with over 2,800 students at our four study centres (Nicosia, Limassol, Athens and Bucharest).

We also offer the following qualifications:

- Certified Internal Auditors (CIA)
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
- Cost and Management Accountants (CMA)
- Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR)

- KEPEY (Professional Competence Certificates for executives and employees of Investment Services firms (KEITEY), and
- A large range of Continuing Professional Development courses for professional bankers, accountants, traders and business analysts.

**Gold: Why were Greece and Romania selected as expansion destinations? How does the cooperation between the institutes abroad and the ones in Cyprus work exactly?**

**O.C.:** The rapid growth in the field of Financial Studies in the last fifteen years, in Cyprus and Greece first and later in the Balkans, drove us to focus initially on these markets. Greece was chosen as the first and natural destination for expansion and has been very successful with rapid growth rates. Romania was selected as the next location for expanding our operations due to the large number of Greek and Cypriot companies operating in Bucharest, but also due to the historical and religious ties between Romania, Greece and Cyprus.

The study centres in Greece and Romania initially operated under the close monitoring of the Intercollege Professional Studies Department in Cyprus. Our prime concern was to maintain the high standards of teaching and training we had obtained in Cyprus. Naturally, these centres have gradually become



## Facts and Figures

**M**ore than 80 teachers are employed by Intercollege Globaltraining. They are members of professional accountancy bodies, such as ICAEW and ACCA, holders of the internationally acclaimed professional title Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA), or members of the Institute of Financial Services (IFS), and graduates of British and American Universities with Masters and Doctorate degrees in the area of Banking/Financial Studies.

In 2011, Intercollege Globaltraining offered 308 open seminars for the general public, 52 tailored or in-house seminars and 47,350 teaching hours on our study programmes (ACCA, ACA, CIA, CIPR, CFA, KEPEY) to more than 3,965 students and professionals from accounting and auditing firms, banks, financial and investment firms, and government and semi-government organisations.

Our students have obtained excellent results in the international ACCA and ACA exams. In the past three years, Intercollege Globaltraining's ACA students have won 7 world prizes in the ICAEW exams.

more autonomous while remaining an integral part of the larger Intercollege Globaltraining organisation.

**Gold: What does the change of name to Intercollege Globaltraining mean for Cyprus and the Intercollege/University of Nicosia?**

**O.C.:** The change of name underlines the international nature of the organisation. We already have a presence in three countries with our own study centres and we offer seminars and training in many other countries such as Russia, in the Balkans and the Middle East. Our new vision symbolises our past and our successful course so far, but at the same time it points to the new course we have consciously chosen to pursue: that of global expansion and the delivery of our services, experience and expertise abroad.

**Gold: Online learning has recently been introduced. Could you tell us**

**more about this and about its efficiency as a teaching tool?**

**O.C.:** As a result of the global expansion of our operations, in the last two years we have adopted Live-On-Line, a new, innovative method of teaching. Students can use Live-On-Line to watch a lecture live from the comfort of their home or office. The lecture is carried out in the same way as if it was taking place at the teaching location and the student can ask and receive answers immediately. With the use of advanced technology the lecture is also video recorded, enabling students to watch the lecture again in their own time. I would point our students, clients and other interested parties to our new website [www.globaltraining.org](http://www.globaltraining.org). We have given emphasis to eLearning and Live-On-Line courses in order to give choice and flexibility to our students and clients with regard to different modes of teaching and offered programmes. **G**