

## CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AWARD



**KONSTANTINOS DESTOUNIS**  
Royal College of Music

Konstantinos Destounis is a classical pianist and piano professor. Having won many international piano competitions, his performing career has led him to prestigious concert venues, such as the Royal Albert Hall and the Athens Concert Hall. He teaches the piano at the Athens Conservatoire and the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki. Konstantinos believes that the UK proved to be the best place for him to study as his UK education offered him high-quality teaching, as well as performance and networking opportunities for professional development. He plans to familiarise his audiences with lesser-known gems of piano music through his performances and to inspire and transmit his skills to the next generation of pianists in Greece. Konstantinos holds a Doctor of Music in Piano Performance from the Royal College of Music.



**ELIZAMPETTA ILIA GEORGIADOU**  
University College London

Elizampetta Ilia Georgiadou is a screenwriter and content writer. Her films have been screened and have won acclaim at the most prestigious film festivals around the world, such as the Venice Film Festival and the Locarno Film Festival, art venues such as the Forum des Images, Centre Pompidou, and have been distributed on platforms such as Festival Scope and MUBI, promoting the cutting edge of new Greek cinema to an international audience. Elizampetta feels that her UK education offered her an inspiring tailor-made curriculum with tutors from interdepartmental backgrounds, access to an incredible collection of rare documents and a cosmopolitan campus in the heart of a global metropolis, London. She continues to apply her knowledge and skills in her authorial work with the international film industry, as well as working at the Onassis Foundation, developing new forms of narrative and content. Elizampetta holds a Master of Arts in Comparative Literature from University College London.



**Dr SOZITA GOUDOUNA**

London Metropolitan University (former University of North London)  
King's College London, University of London  
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London

Dr Sozita Goudouna is one of the leading Greek curators in New York and Founding Director of Greece in USA, a non-profit organisation for the promotion of Greek culture in the USA. She envisions a new way of practising cultural diplomacy by exploring topics that reflect contemporary concerns and the ways in which Greek artists approach the social and cultural changes that are taking place globally. Sozita believes that it is primarily the diffusion and exchange of ideas and knowledge with unique mentors and art experts at UK universities that has contributed to her successful professional and personal development. As a staunch advocate for the impact that culture and education can have on social engagement and progress, Sozita is committed to projects that demonstrate the crucial links between art and public life. Sozita holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with Theatre Studies from the University of North London (now London Metropolitan University); a Master of Arts in Text and Performance Studies from King's College London, University of London, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Visual and Performing Arts from Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London.

## BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AWARD



### **PANAGIOTIS KYRIAKOPOULOS**

Strathclyde Business School

Panagiotis Kyriakopoulos is the lead international technological park expert in a series of research activities that assist entrepreneurs, at different stages of their journey, to internationalise. Panagiotis' research has been instrumental in generating an enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem in the field of technology parks that fosters networking and innovation. Panagiotis feels that his UK education has provided him with excellent analytical and communication skills, the ability to work well individually and with others, and the ability to seek and critically evaluate material from different sources, showing originality of thought and expression. He is now using his expertise to advise the Hellenic War Museum on how to create an Innovation Museum within the new technological parks in Athens and Thessaloniki. Panagiotis holds a Master of Science in International Management from the Strathclyde Business School.



### **Dr ARISTEA KYRIAKOU**

University of Aberdeen

Aristea Kyriakou leads an outdoor education start-up that aspires to literally bring fresh air to schools in Greece and abroad. Aristeia's project, Greek and Green, was built on the foundations laid during her studies in the UK, Europe and Greece. It has already attracted more than 15,000 followers worldwide. Aristeia feels that her UK education has made her the person she is today. Her day-to-day dealings with her supervisors, colleagues and a vibrant interdisciplinary academic community, as well as the natural campus environment, have essentially determined the way she manages her project today and how she sees the future of education. She is now developing Greek and Green as a proposal of what a more ecocentric education system might look like should society decide to make a positive impact on the environment starting from school communities. Aristeia holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education from the University of Aberdeen.



**MICHAELA PLAKA**  
Lancaster University

Michaela Plaka is the founder of Cordella, the first online wedding gift registry in Greece that allows couples and guests to choose from hundreds of products and experiences, as well as the ability to gift cash. Michaela's postgraduate qualification gained in the UK, combined with her undergraduate studies in Business and Marketing, have helped her understand the extraordinary value of hybrid educational backgrounds and proved to be a cornerstone of her ability to think outside the box and implement impactful solutions in the Greek services industry. She aims to reinspire the wedding gift registry and offer modern couples and their guests a high-quality, seamless gift selection experience that will stand out through excellent service, empathy and innovation. Michaela holds a Master of Arts in Environmental Management and Consultancy from Lancaster University.

## SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



### **MARIA NEFELI CHATZIOANNIDOU**

University of Northampton

Maria Nefeli Chatziioannidou is a social entrepreneur and founder of the social enterprise Great Women. This is the first online women's community in Greece that aims to empower women, raise awareness of society's problems and motivate women to participate in activities that have a positive impact on society. In its third year of operation, it is now a community of more than 145,000 members. Maria Nefeli believes that her UK education experience has helped her reach her full potential by allowing her to explore her strengths and equipping her with the skills and knowledge needed to deal with complicated problems. Her aim is to focus on actions that will create equal opportunities for all women in Greece. Maria Nefeli holds a Master of Arts in Social Innovation from the University of Northampton.



### **PANAYIOTIS CONSTANTINIDES**

University of Glasgow

Panayiotis Constantinides has been teaching English for more than 30 years and has been a licensed dyslexia evaluator since 2012. He is the founder of the online community Dyslexia\_Greece, which now counts more than 1,400 teachers. In recent years, he has delivered presentations and teacher training workshops on Dyslexia in English language teaching, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Learning Difficulties in Greece, Europe and the UK. Panayiotis chose to pursue postgraduate studies in the UK as he considers it to be a country with a track record of developments in the field of dyslexia and learning disability. He believes that the assistance and support he received during his studies, have helped him expand his knowledge and ultimately assist parents, teachers and students in Greece and Europe. He aims to further develop his skills by joining the Dyslexia and Adults project at the Dyslexia Institute UK, and to train teachers to become more confident in the field of dyslexia and dyslexia-friendly methods. Panayiotis holds a Master of Education in Inclusive Education: Research, Policy and Practice, with a Specialism in Dyslexia, from the University of Glasgow.





**VICKY PROTOPAPADAKI**

University of Edinburgh

Vicky Protopapadaki is co-founder and Scientific and Administrative Officer of the MA in Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law (MA AWEL), a postgraduate programme offered jointly by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Hellenic Pasteur Institute. This programme fills a gap in Greek higher education by addressing important aspects of our relationship with animals in an effort to improve the status of animals. Her UK education inspired Vicky and was instrumental in the design of the postgraduate programme as it gave her the opportunity to experience an exemplary educational paradigm in animal welfare, which she tries to implement in her work. She intends to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in animal welfare with the goal of helping to improve people's attitudes towards animals. Vicky holds a Master of Science in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare, from The University of Edinburgh.