

UCY ready for medical school students next year

The University of Cyprus will be ready to accept the first students to its medical school next year, Rector Constantinos Christofides said this week.

Speaking to the press, Christofides said that he was hoping to quickly tie up loose ends relating to the University's 2012 budget, the finalisation of the law on the medical school's formation and the handing over of the former nursing school.

Then, he continued, the university would be in a position to ask teaching staff to apply.

Earlier this year, the House Education Committee heard that the first areas of instruction for the medical school would be medical sciences, pathology, surgery, anatomical pathology, and radiotherapy,

with students mainly beginning their studies with courses already taught at the University such as Chemistry and Biology.

The committee also heard that the medical school would operate out of part of the Shiakolio Health Education Centre at Nicosia General Hospital for its first few years, later expanding to use the entire building. Part of Larnaca Hospital may also be used at a later stage and eventually a medical school will be constructed on campus.

Christofides on Wednesday also announced that the University had been awarded more than €2m through an ERC advanced grant given to Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of the KIOS Research Center for Intelligent

Systems and Networks at the University of Cyprus Marios Polycarpou.

"The awarding of this grant is a stamp of quality that places us amongst Europe's best known universities," Christofides said, with Polycarpou underlining the importance of the University winning one of just eight highly competitive grants.

The money will be used to fund innovative research being carried out by a team of 10 University of Cyprus researchers into the designing of smart algorithms.

Christofides also noted that while the University of Cyprus was in 2010 listed at number 1,060 in the Academic Ranking of World Universities, also known as the Shanghai Rankings, by 2012 it had reached 540th place.



WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY: Rector Constantinos Christofides and professor Marios Polycarpou