

Evidence for THE Impact Rankings Questionnaire

University : Cyprus International University
Country : North Cyprus- Türkiye
Web Address : www.ciu.edu.tr

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Providing Public Access to Museums and Cultural Heritage

Cyprus International University (CIU) actively protects and provides universal public access to cultural heritage through its management of and partnership with significant archaeological sites and museums. Our initiatives transform research excavations into dynamic, open-air museums and organize public visits to established institutions, ensuring that cultural artefacts and historical knowledge are accessible to all.

The Tatlısu/Çiftlikdüzü (Akanthou-Arkosykos) Open-Air Museum & Exhibition

This flagship project, supported by CIU, Tatlısu Municipality, and TÜBİTAK, is a prime example of providing direct public access to archaeological treasures and active scientific work.

A. The Excavation Site as an Open-Air Museum:

- **Public Access:** The site itself is designated as an **open-air museum**, open to visitors free of charge during excavation seasons.
- **Interactive Learning:** Visitors have the unique opportunity to **watch active archaeological work** and speak one-on-one with archaeologists, flint specialists, archaeobotanists, and archaeozoologists.
- **Significance:** It is one of the oldest settlements in Northern Cyprus and the largest protected archaeological area in the TRNC, covering a history from 100,000 BC to the 19th century.

B. The On-Site Exhibition House:

- **Free Public Access:** A dedicated exhibition house at the site is **open to visitors of all ages, free of charge**.
- **Collection:** Displays 62 significant findings from the rescue excavations, including a human chin, bone hooks, stone axes, obsidian artifacts, and processed sea shells.
- **Educational Support:** Information is provided both verbally by experts and through supporting posters, creating an enriching educational experience for all visitors.

2. Organized Public Access to National Museums

CIU extends its commitment to public access beyond its own sites by organizing community visits to national heritage institutions.



Example: Guided Visit to the Dr. Fazıl Küçük Museum

- **Event:** A university-organized public visit to the National Struggle and Dr. Fazıl Küçük Museum in Nicosia.
- **Purpose:** To provide students and the public with direct access to important historical narratives and artefacts related to the island's modern history.
- **Accessibility:** Such events lower barriers to cultural engagement by providing structured, educational access.





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Excavation Site

The Tatlısu-Çiftlikdüzü (Akanthou-Arkosykos) is considered to be one of the oldest and first settlements in Northern Cyprus. An invaluable amount of information has been discovered pertaining to Anatolian-Cyprus relations and especially about the Obsidian trade network originating from Central Anatolia, which eventually dispersed from Anatolia into the Mediterranean. The Tatlısu-Çiftlikdüzü (Akanthou-Arkosykos) excavation is the first Turkish Cypriot excavation that has been scientifically initiated in Cyprus.

The Excavation Site is an open-air museum, open to our visitors every year during the excavations. One of our missions is to raise awareness about the science of excavations by talking one-on-one with archaeologists and other experts, flint, archaeobotanists, and archaeozoologists while watching how the work is actively done.

The excavation area, which was gradually taken under protection in 2005, 2009, and 2019, has been declared as a 'cultural, archaeological, and natural value' site within the reports written based on the scientific evidence obtained from this project. The Tatlısu-Çiftlikdüzü (Akanthou-Arkosykos) excavation covers an area of 500 decares, which is declared the largest protected area of the TRNC. In this region lies the history of Cyprus, covering the chronological history from 100,000 BC to the 19th century. The overall goal is to establish a closed archaeological and underwater museum.



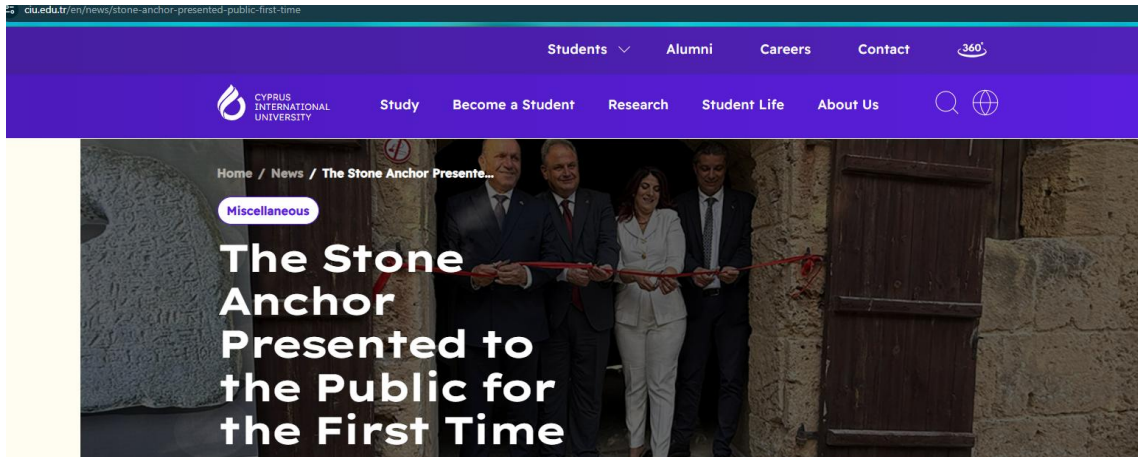
Under the leadership of CIU, with contributions from the Natulius Diving School and the auspices of the Department of Antiquities and Museums, the most significant discovery in Northern Cyprus was made. A rare anchor bearing Egyptian hieroglyphs, estimated to be 3,000 years old, was recovered on the coast of Kyrenia.

The stone Anchor was introduced to the public for the first time in a meaningful event. It was discovered by Tevfik Camgöz off the coast of Kyrenia and recovered from underwater in 2020 with the permission of the Department of Antiquities and Museums and under the supervision of technical staff with scientific contributions from Cyprus International University.

The scientific excavation of the stone anchor was led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Müge Şevketoğlu, a faculty member at Cyprus International University. The desalination process was meticulously carried out over two years by conservator Pembe Özen.

According to its general typology, the one-holed stone anchor, dated to the Late Bronze Age (1479–1100 BC), is classified as a “Syrian type.” It was originally used as a stele (memorial stone) associated with Egypt. The stele, inscribed with 13 lines of hieroglyphs, was later repurposed by sailors as a ship anchor, believed to have talismanic qualities.

Figures such as astragals (ankle bones), dolphins, and the head of Medusa on the stele are thought to symbolize good luck and protection in seafaring. The inscriptions point to the reign of Pharaoh Thutmose II (circa 1493–1479 BC). In this regard, it is the only anchor discovered in the Eastern Mediterranean to contain the longest inscribed text known to date.



<https://ciu.edu.tr/en/news/stone-anchor-presented-public-first-time>



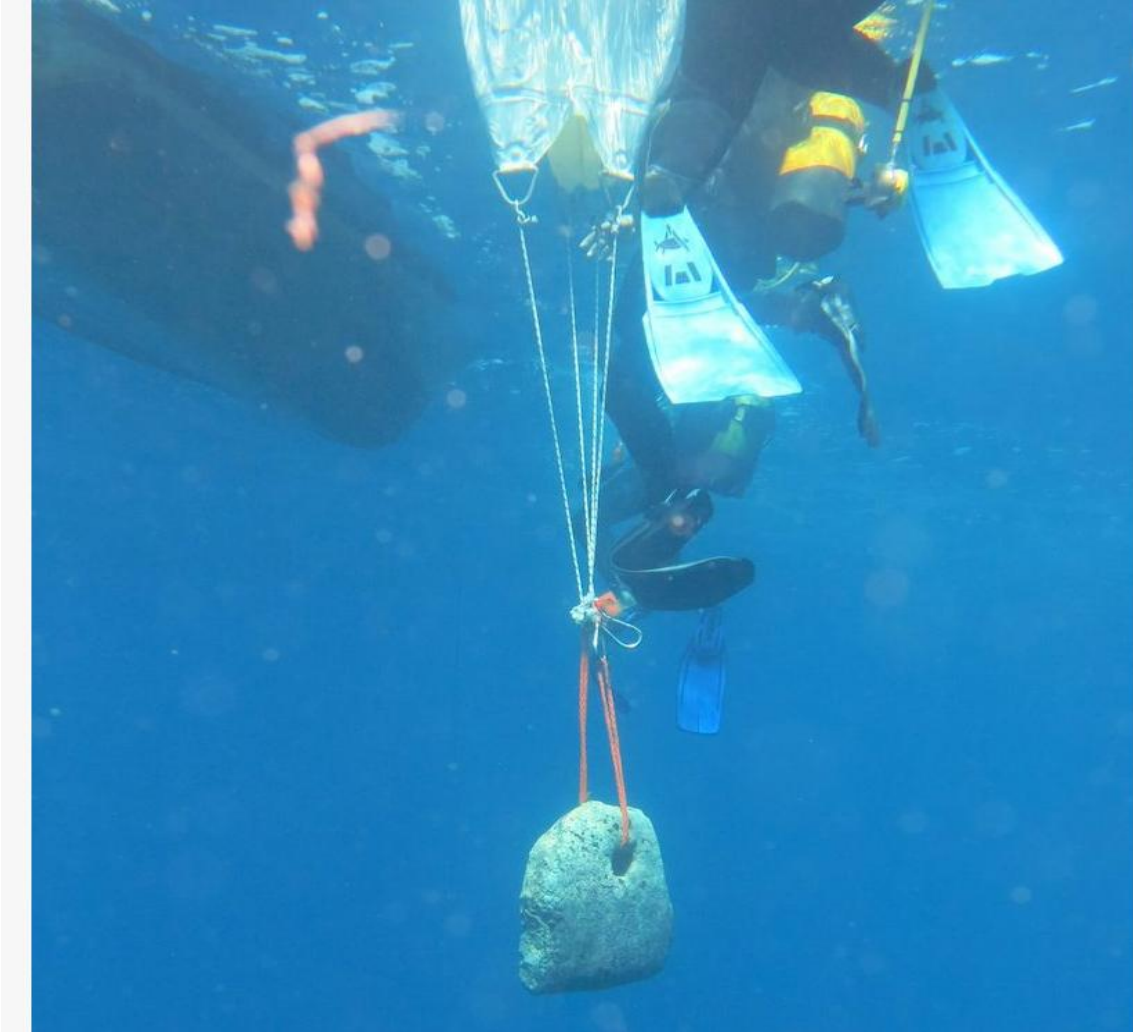
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<https://denizcitoplum.com/sualti-arkeolojisi/kktcnin-kuzey-kiyisinda-sualtinda-bulunan-3000-yillik-antik-misir-capasi-alinan-izinlerin-ardindan-denizden-cikarildi/>



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<https://pio.mfa.gov.ct.tr/kuzey-kibris-kiyi-seridinde-antik-misir-capasi-bulundu/>



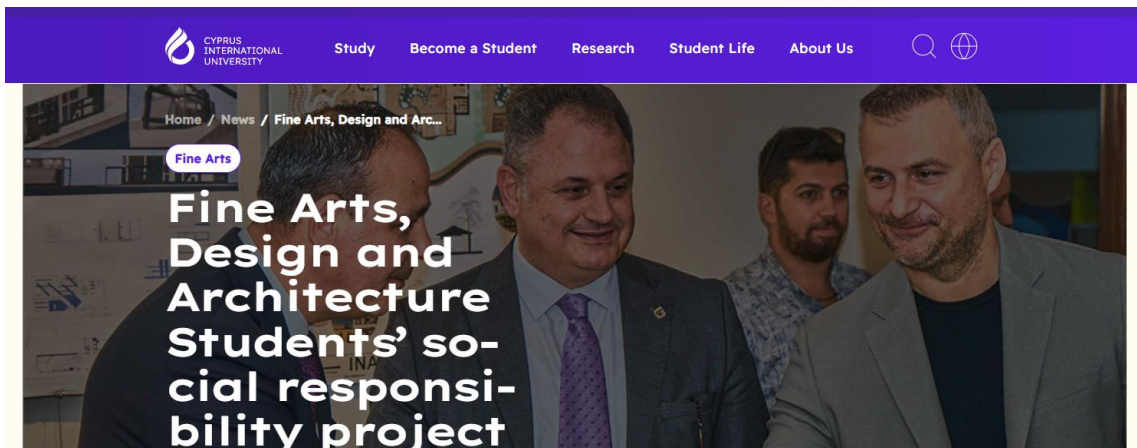
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By acting as a steward of these cultural resources, CIU ensures they are not only preserved for future generations but are actively used to educate and inspire the public today.

In 2024, Cyprus International University's (CIU) Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture organized a student exhibition featuring architectural, interior, graphic, and product design projects aimed at enriching urban life in Nicosia. Held at the CIU Art and Exhibition Gallery, the event was attended by university leadership and Nicosia Turkish Municipality (LTB) officials, including the Mayor. Among the highlights was a proposed park design for the city of Nicosia, created by CIU students as part of a broader community service and urban planning initiative. This event demonstrated CIU's commitment to SDG 11.3 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by encouraging participatory urban design and fostering collaboration between students and municipal stakeholders. It also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by blending academic development with civic responsibility, and supports SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through its strong link with local government.



<https://ciu.edu.tr/en/news/fine-arts-design-and-architecture-students-social-responsibility-project>