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Short Bio

I am currently a postgraduate student at the Computer Science Department of the University of Crete (CSD, UoC), which has been ranked first in Greece in Informatics/Computer Science for 2025. I hold a BSc from the same department with a grade of 9.57/10, ranking second among the students of my year of admission.

Since my second year of undergraduate studies, I have been an undergraduate scholar at FORTH-ICS. I have worked on the technological upgrade of the openABEKT system, commissioned by the National Documentation and Electronic Content Centre of Greece (EKT). Over the past two years, I have conducted research on both national and international research projects at the Information Systems Laboratory (ISL) of ICS-FORTH. Currently, I am a graduate researcher working on the research projects of the laboratory as well as on my master's thesis.

I have been awarded two (3) scholarships, along with four (6) other distinctions and awards, including ranking 8th nationwide for the HIAS scholarship (2024) and placing in the top 13% of applicants for EPFL worldwide (2025). Additionally, I held a distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Assistant position in my department, and nowadays, I am a member of the INGENIUM Student Board, representative of the University of Crete.

My primary research interests include Web and Semantic Data Management, Natural Language Processing (NLP), full-stack programming, and the integration of these fields with Large Language Models (LLMs).

Education

MSc **Currently pursuing Master's Degree in Computer Science**
Candidate School: **Computer Science Department, University of Crete (CSD, UoC)**
2025-Present

BSc **Bachelor Degree in Computer Science**
2021-2025 School: **Computer Science Department, University of Crete (CSD, UoC)**
Grade: **9.57/10** (Ranked second)

Honors and Awards

- Nov 2025 **""Evangelos Kastamonitis" Postgraduate Scholarship"**
Issued by: **Rotary Club Corfu**
Scholarship awarded by Rotary Club Corfu to one Corfiot postgraduate student based on their academic performance, economic situation, and activity. It lasts until graduation if the student maintains their performance. This was the very first postgraduate scholarship to be offered by the Rotary Club of Corfu.
- Jul 2025 **"Ranked second among my year's admission students, "Elisabeth Karamit-zou" Award"**
Issued by: **University of Crete (UoC)**
An annual award given to the top three students of each department of the University of Crete who completed their studies within the prescribed period of study, and based on their grades. I was ranked second among my year's admission students with a grade of 9.57/10.
- Jan 2025 **"Top 13%, Summer@EPFL Internship Program"**
Issued by: **Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL)**
I was shortlisted and ranked among the top 13% of all 5900 applicants worldwide in the Summer@EPFL Internship Program of the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, based on academic performance and curriculum vitae (CV). (Final selection not awarded.)
- Sep 2025, **"DEPROFOIT Distinction"**
2024 Issued by: **Computer Science Department, University of Crete**
Praise awarded by the Department of Computer Science, University of Crete for successfully taking on a teaching assistantship during the academic year. The related courses were CS252: Object-Oriented Programming, CS109: English II, and CS209: English IV for both awards.
- Jun 2024 **"Second place, Course Business Plan Presentation event"**
Issued by: **Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, University of Crete**
The business idea Triangle got second place in the open-to-the-public business idea presentation event in the context of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship course. The business ideas presented were evaluated by a five-member jury, with Triangle taking - in a tie - 2nd place.
- Mar 2024 **"Eighth place, Nicholas and Robert Askounes Ashford Educational Scholarship"**
Issued by: **Hellenic Institute of Advanced Studies (HIAS)**
I was ranked 8th in Greece in the Nicholas and Robert Askounes Ashford Educational Scholarship of the Hellenic Institute of Advanced Studies, based on academic performance and research proposal (final selection not awarded).

- Nov 2023 **"Evangelos Kastamonitis" Undergraduate Scholarship"**
Issued by: **Rotary Club Corfu**
Scholarship awarded by Rotary Club Corfu to one Corfiot undergraduate student based on their academic performance, economic situation, and activity. Lasts until graduation if the student maintains their performance.
- Jul 2023 **"FORTH Undergraduate Student Scholarship"**
Issued by: **Institute of Computer Science (ICS), Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH)**
Scholarship awarded by the Information Systems Laboratory (ISL), FORTH to undergraduate students of the lab. Lasts while the student is active and productive on ISL and until graduation.

■ Publications

- P3 Sophia Sideri, Emmanouil Patronakis, Evangelos Nikiforos, Isidoros Chatzichrysos, Apostolos Baniotis, Valantis Zervos, Stavros Tzormpatzakis, Michalis Saridakis, Iosif Oikonomakis, Michalis Mountantonakis, Pavlos Fafalios and Yannis Tzitzikas
, To Automate or not to Automate the Transcription of Ancient Earthquakes: Toward a Global Knowledge Graph about Ancient Earthquakes (2025, Accepted at IJCKG 2025)
- P2 Iordanis Sapidis, Valantis Zervos, Michalis Mountantonakis, and Yannis Tzitzikas
, Interactive and Provenance-aware Search and QA over Documents using LLMs, RAG and Knowledge Graph Verbalization , TPDL 2025 **Bachelor Thesis**
- P1 Yannis Marketakis, Michalis Mountantonakis, Pavlos Fafalios, Valantis Zervos, Arne Langlet, Anton Ellenbroek, Kim J. Friedman, and Yannis Tzitzikas
, Analysis of Large Numbers of Scientific Papers: A Case Study on Finding the Focus of Ecosystem Restoration Intervention (2024, Under preparation, To submit at Ecological Modelling Journal)

■ Technical Reports

- TR1 Yannis Marketakis, Yannis Tzitzikas, Pavlos Fafalios, Michalis Mountantonakis, and Valantis Zervos
, Analysis of the 'focus' and 'sentiment' of restoration interventions in the aquatic domain, delivered to FAO, Sep 2024

■ Research/Professional Software Projects

GitHub: <https://github.com/VZervos>

SP2 FAO Restoration Analysis: GIS

Duration: Jul 2024 - Sept 2024

Host: FORTH, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO-UN)

My Role: **Full-Stack Developer**

Designed and implemented a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform as an extension of the paper "Valantis Zervos, Iordanis Sapidis, Michalis Mountantonakis, and Yannis Tzitzikas, Evaluation of RAGs over Scientific Literature (case study: FAO Ecosystem Restoration bibliography)" which takes as input a data file (.mra file) from the tool presented in the paper and shows its contents on a live map. Implemented using ReactJS, MaterialUI and ArcGis.

SP1 EKT WorkFun+

Duration: Jul 2023 – Jan 2024

Host: FORTH, National Documentation and Electronic Content Centre of Greece (EKT)

My Role: **Full-Stack Developer**

Designed and implemented a statistics component with data visualization (bars, pies) using ReactJS and MaterialUI. Developed a barcode generation service using Java for PDF outputs.

Hackathon/Contest Software Projects

GitHub: <https://github.com/VZervos>

CP1 5th Place, MentorMind (FuturEd AI Hackathon)

Duration: 2-3 October 2025

Host: Computer Science Department, University of Crete

Designed and implemented an AI Mentor platform in 24 hours during the FuturED AI Hackathon. The Mentor could provide assistance and suggestions to the user for academic issues based on their preferences, ranging from structured options like professors and topics, to unstructured free text, based to the department schedule and study guide. The frontend was implemented in ReactJS and MaterialUI, the backend was a RAG implementation in JavaScript, the communication was based upon services architecture, and the text from the department documents was extracted using AI methods. The project was ranked as 5th out of the 16 projects presented, with a near-tie for 4th place.

Course Projects

GitHub: <https://github.com/VZervos>

- CP7 Analysis, Design, Implementation and Evaluation of an E-Sports Platform**
Duration: Apr 2025 – May 2025
Analyzed and design a platform for hosting E-Sports events and their content, as a CS351: Information Systems Analysis and Design course project. The platform was partly - as requested - implemented, and fully evaluated. The implementation was made using React-TS, Docker, HTML5/CSS, and Material-UI. The evaluation was made using W3 Validator, Wave, Lighthouse and Heuristics.
- CP6 Information Retrieval System (IRS)**
Duration: Apr 2025 – May 2025
Implemented an information retrieval system that can index and answer queries on a corpus of 2.5GB consisting of medical research articles, as a CS463: Information Retrieval Systems course team project. The system was also evaluated using various metrics. The implementation was made using Java and Python.
- CP5 E199**
Duration: Dec 2024 – Jan 2025
Created a web platform for the Fire Department allowing incident submission & management, user sessions, communication, and more, using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, OpenLayers Maps, Bootstrap, JQuery, and other libraries as a CS359: Web Development course project.
- CP4 Alpha Compiler**
Duration: Feb 2024 – Jun 2024
Created a compiler for the Alpha programming language using C, Flex, and Bison. The compiler compiled Alpha code to execute on an Alpha Virtual Machine.
- CP3 Business Plan: Triangle**
Duration: Apr 2024 – Jun 2024
Researched, created, and presented the business plan Triangle during a public pitch event. Ranked second place in a competitive evaluation.
- CP2 Vehicle Rental Management System**
Duration: Dec 2023 – Jan 2024
Built a complete rental management system for businesses using Java and SQL. The system supported client registration, vehicle tracking, and payment management.
- CP1 Stratego: Ice vs Fire**
Duration: Dec 2022
Developed a 2D multiplayer strategy game in Java, featuring various game modes and intuitive user controls.

Work Experience

- Nov 2025 - **Member of the INGENIUM Student Board**
Present Representative of the University of Crete
Work with the other student representatives chosen from INGENIUM universities on discussing regulations, projects, and other activities involving students and the partner universities.

Oct 2023 - University Teaching Assistant (DEPROFOIT)

- Present At: Computer Science Department, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece
- Responsibilities: Responsibilities: Corrected and designed assignments, conducted office hours, presented tutorials, organized and managed course (along with Professor), and course platforms for the courses:
- CS252: Object-Oriented Programming (Fall 2023, 2024, 2025) [~360 students]
 - CS109: English II (Spring 2024, Spring 2025) [~200 students]
 - CS209: English IV (Spring 2024, Spring 2025) [~220 students]

Jul 2023 - Graduate Researcher at FORTH

- Present At: FORTH-Institute of Computer Science, Heraklion, Greece
- Previously: Undergraduate Fellow, until July 2025 Indicative work:
- Contributed to various research projects as well as an industrial project
 - Developed tools for:
 - Text extraction from PDF files.
 - Bibliographic analysis on .bib files.
 - Geographic data visualization on a live map platform.
- This work was conducted using Java, PDFBox, ReactJS, MaterialUI, and ArcGIS in the context of a research project for FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), running from November 2023 to September 2024.
- Researched the impact of Knowledge Graphs and Large Language Models (LLMs) on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) systems.
 - And more...

Schools & Seminars

2025 CCI Summer School

CIDOC CRM Interoperability and Applications

21 - 25 Jul 2025, FORTH, Heraklion, Greece

Attended the Summer School on CIDOC CRM (July 2025, FORTH-ICS, Heraklion, Crete), part of the Digital Humanities programme. Received training on conceptual modeling, interoperability, and applications of the CIDOC CRM ontology. Participated in hands-on sessions on data transformation and knowledge graph construction. Explored the use of CIDOC CRM in cultural heritage documentation and AI-supported workflows.

2025 INGENIUM Junior Winter School 2025

From Idea to Disruption: Transforming Visions into Innovations

9 - 14 Feb 2025, Xamk University, Mikkeli, Finland

School on entrepreneurial skills, design thinking, multicultural teamwork, and communication skills by solving real-life stakeholders' challenges and cases. The main project was to solve a real-life case problem provided by the stakeholder and develop and present it as a business idea in a 10-minute pitch.

Academic Volunteering

- 2025 Researcher's Night
26 Sept 2025
Assistant/Guide at FORTH
- 2025 "Developing Faculty members' Pedagogical Acuity" 1st International Faculty Development and Higher Education Conference
23 May - 25 May 2025
Tech Support at Computer Science Department, University of Crete
- 2025, 2024 University Open Week for Schools
29 Jan - 2 Feb 2024, 3-7 Feb 2025
Assistant/Guide at Computer Science Department, University of Crete
- 2025, 2024, Career Fair UoC
2023 Nov 2025, Mar 2023, Apr 2024
Tech Support at Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department (2025, 2023), and Chemistry Department (2024), University of Crete

Other Volunteering

- 2023-2025 Event Organizer: Traditional Dance Performance event
August 2023, 2024, 2025
Fully organized a traditional dance performance event and taught traditional dancing to a group of about 10 students at the central square of Kynopiastes as part of the village's 15th August events
- 2023-2025 Cultural Intervention Program
Nov 2023 - Apr 2024, Nov 2024 - May 2025
Presenter at Directorate of Elementary Education of Heraklion
- 2022-Present Sales Representative
July and August of 2022 - 2025
Promoted the lottery/giveaway, held by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Kynopiastes, face-to-face to stores and people on the street, and sold 100 lottery coupons on average each time.

Languages

- Greek** Native
- English** Proficient (C2, ECPE Certification)

Hobbies and Interests

- Traditional Greek Dancing** Teacher, group leader, and performer in national and local shows.
- Music** Musician (Percussion) of a local Philharmonic band.
- Game Dev** Developed and managed Minecraft game servers.
- Acting** Participant in a local amateur troupe.

References

- Yannis Tzitzikas** Professor at University of Crete,
Affiliated Researcher at ICS-FORTH,
Deputy Chair at Computer Science Department, University of Crete
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- Kostas Magoutis** Associate Professor at University of Crete,
Collaborating Researcher at ICS-FORTH,
Chair at Computer Science Department, University of Crete
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- Noni Rizopoulou** Professor at University of Crete
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- Yannis Marketakis** Senior Research Engineer and Technical Head of CCI at ICS-FORTH
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- Vangelis Kritoakis** Software Engineer at ICS-FORTH
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- Dimitrios Sampsonidis** Career Counsellor at University of Crete,
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