

Good morning to all.

It is with such great pleasure that I must express gratitude for being considered to deliver remarks on behalf of International students and the graduating Class of 2021.

I would like to thank the Dean of the Faculty of Aviation and Space Sciences (Prof. Dr. Suleyman Tolun) for being instrumental as both an instructor and a strong guide throughout this 4 year journey as undergraduate students. I would also like to thank Assistant Prof. Dr. Amir Teimourian, the department chair, for being more than a lecturer, for being a supervisor, mentor and for showing extra care to students and giving much of his time to us even beyond his office hours.

It is here that I would like to personally acknowledge my family; my parents and all my siblings without whom my presence here would not have been possible. Beyond their unconditional love and support throughout the years, one of the greatest gifts they have given me is the fact that they believe in me. That is why I am here.

I would like to thank the University of Kyrenia as a whole for reminding us that we, as students from all parts of the world, are not just citizens of our countries, we are citizens of the world. We have been brought together, to this Island, to this university by a common purpose, a common hope, not just to learn and acquire academic knowledge, but more importantly, to commit to the great purpose of developing ourselves in order to be rightly equipped to contribute to the overall growth and development of the world by applying all that we have learnt.

It is here at the University of Kyrenia that we have met, interacted with and have been taught by the heroes in our respective fields. Men and women who have come before us, shared their experiences with us and have inspired us to build upon the foundations which they have laid. We have been given experiences which we will not forget. A fire has been ignited in our hearts.

The world has recently been befallen by a global pandemic which shook individuals, shook families which stand as the building blocks of society, it has shook our academic institutions globally to the degree that we have had to adapt to the changing environments and assume a continued education via online platforms. In the beginning this brought much doubt upon us as students and even upon our parents. But our academic institution (the University of Kyrenia), all its faculty and staff demonstrated their resilience and commitment to delivering a world class academic experience to their students even via the distance education. We have learned by experience that such forms of academia are not easy, but we have proven they are not impossible. And all that is evidenced on this day upon which we have all gathered.

For this, as students, we say thank you. Thank you to the Rectorate of the University of Kyrenia for ensuring we still receive the best experience possible. Thank you to the Staff working tirelessly in the student affairs department. Thank you to the Deans of all faculties and the Professors in their charge for the contributing to the great cause for which this institution was founded. To our families, thank you for supporting us throughout these incredibly difficult times in which we find ourselves. We know the sacrifices which you have made for us to be here. We are eternally grateful.

To my fellow students; I know everything at this moment seems uncertain. Promises cannot be made by anyone regarding how our journeys henceforth, will be. It is for this reason that I will leave you with these words: “ “Embrace every experience that comes your way as an opportunity to become more than you are. Choose to see the potential for learning in every experience, and do not waste energy or your personal power focusing on the negative. Find comfort in being uncomfortable. Take that opportunity presented to you even if it scares you; you have to leave your comfort zone to grow as an individual. And that way, everything will work out the way it’s supposed to. And always remember to say thank you”.