NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The provision of **free education to all citizens and at all levels** of the state education system is a constitutional principle of the Greek State.

The Greek educational system is **centralised**. National laws, presidential decrees and ministerial acts are prevalent within it.

Central Level

The central administrative agency for the education system across all fields, agencies and levels is the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

It takes the key decisions related to long-term objectives. It also regulates various issues, such as curricula content, staff recruitment and funding.

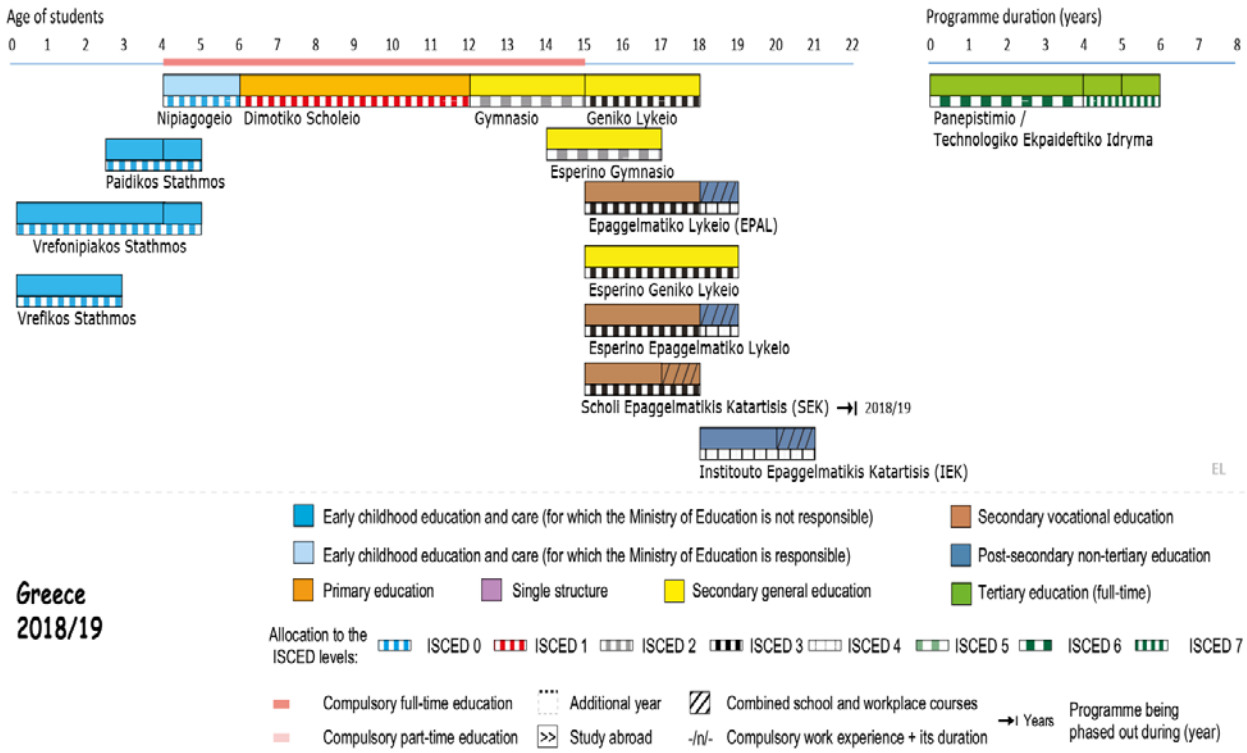
Regional and Local Levels

At regional level, the Regional Education Directorates oversee the implementation of the national educational policy.

At local level, the Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education supervise all schools in their area. In their turn, school units make sure they run smoothly.

Teachers

Educational officials of the country are Higher Education graduates. The main route into teaching in primary schools is to take a 4-year degree in a pedagogical department. In secondary schools, most teachers follow a 4 or 5-year subject-based degree at a teacher education faculty.



Stages of the Education System

Compulsory education in Greece lasts 11 years and extends from the ages of 4 to 15. Compulsory education in Greece includes:

- One-year compulsory attendance of 5-year-old children and the gradual two-year compulsory Pre-primary School for 4-year-olds in Pre-primary School (*Nipiagogeio*)
- Six-year attendance of pupils in Primary School (*Dimotiko Scholeio*)
- Three-year attendance of students in Lower Secondary Education Schools.

Curricula are centrally developed and nationally implemented for all schools at all levels of Greek education.

The stages of the Greek education are mainly three:

1. Primary Education

Primary Education includes Pre-primary and Primary schools.

Pre-primary School

Pre-primary Eeducation in Greece has become compulsory for all 4-year-old children, since school year 2018-2019. Over the span of 3 years, the two-year pre-school education will become compulsory in all municipalities of the country and children will enroll in Pre-primary Schools (*Nipiagogeia*) at the age of 4.

Infant Centres (*Vrefikoi Stathmoi*), Infant/Child Centres (*Vrefonipiakoi Stathmoi*) and Child Centres (*Paidikoi Stathmoi*) represent early childhood care. They are run under the remit of the Municipal Authorities. They cater for children between the ages of 2 months and up to 4 years old.

Pre-primary School's purpose, as stipulated in the legal framework, is to help children develop physically, emotionally, mentally and socially and in particular:

- Develop their senses and organise their actions, motor and mental ones
- Enrich and organise their experiences from the physical and social environment and acquire the skill to differentiate the relations and their interactions therein
- Develop the ability to comprehend and express themselves with symbols and particularly in the fields of language, mathematics and aesthetics
- Forge interpersonal relations boosting their gradual and harmonious social inclusion
- Develop initiatives freely and effortlessly in an organised environment and adjust in the two-way relation between an individual and a group.

Primary School

Primary Education is the next stage. Primary School (*Dimotiko Scholeio*) spans 6 years. It concerns children in the age range of 6-12 years.

Since school year 2016-2017, there is a Single Type of All-day Primary School with a new revised daily timetable. In the Single Type of All-day Pre-primary and Primary School, an **optional all-day programme** operates.

→ The optional all-day school in *Nipiagogeio* aims at the full preparation of children to enter Primary School. It also meets the needs of the working parents. It strengthens the role of state concern with the aim to reduce educational and social discrimination.

→ The optional all-day school in *Dimotiko Scholeio* aims at the pedagogical use of the time pupils spend in the afternoons at school. Hence, it reduces the family's financial burden. Parents do not need to search for extra educational services beyond the school environment.

Pursuant to legal framework, Primary School aims at the multifaceted intellectual and physical development of children. In particular, Primary School helps pupils:

- Broaden and rearrange the relationship between creative activity and things, conditions and phenomena under study
- Build up mechanisms helping them to assimilate knowledge, develop physically, improve their physical and mental health
- Conquer the content of the most basic concepts and gradually acquire the ability to ascend from sense data to the sphere of abstract thinking
- Attain the ability to use correct oral and writing skills
- Familiarise themselves with moral, religious, national, humanitarian and other values and organise them into a system of values
- Cultivate their aesthetic criterion, so as to appreciate works of art and express themselves accordingly, through their own artistic creations.

2. Secondary Education

Secondary Education includes two cycles of study:

<u>Lower Secondary School</u>

The first one is compulsory and corresponds to Lower Secondary School (*Gymnasio*).

- It lasts 3 years
- It provides general education
- It covers ages 12-15
- It is a prerequisite for enrolling at General or Vocational Upper Secondary Schools
- Parallel to *Day Gymnasio*, Evening (*Esperino*) *Gymnasio* operates. Attendance starts at the age of 14.

According to current legislation, the aim of General Compulsory Secondary Education at lower secondary school level is to promote the multifaceted development of pupils depending on their age-related competences and life's demands. In particular, Lower Secondary School (Gymnasio) helps pupils to:

- Broaden their system of values and move towards creative goals and humanitarian actions
- Complete and combine knowledge acquisition with the corresponding social concerns

- Deal successfully with different situations and seek responsible solutions, amid a climate of creative dialogue and collective effort
- Cultivate their linguistic expression, in order to formulate their thoughts clearly and correctly, both orally and in writing
- Realise their competences, inclinations, skills and interests
- Learn about various professions and pursue their improvement in the context of cultural, social and economic life.

Upper Secondary School

The second one is the optional General or Vocational Upper Secondary School (*Geniko* or *Epaggelmatiko Lykeio*).

- It lasts 3 years
- Pupils enrol at the age of 15
- There are two different types:
  a. General (*Geniko*) *Lykeio*. It lasts three years and includes both common core subjects and optional subjects of specialisation
  b. Vocational (*Epaggelmatiko*) *Lykeio*. It offers two cycles of studies:
     - The secondary cycle
     - The optional post-secondary cycle, the so-called "Apprenticeship Class".
- Parallel to day L*ykeia*, there are 4-year *Lykeia*:
  a. Evening General (*Esperina Genika*)
  b. Evening Vocational (*Esperina Epaggelmatika*). The minimum age for enrolment is the age of 16.

The aim of General Non-compulsory Education at General Upper Secondary School (Lykeio), Day and Evening, is the gradual in-depth understanding and specialisation in several cognitive fields, and to:

- Provide general high quality education which contributes to all students' balanced cognitive, emotional, intellectual and physical development
- Encourage students' critical thinking, initiative, creativity, and skills
- Develop the application of knowledge and problem solving skills
- Promote the national, religious and cultural inheritance but also prepare the youth to join the European civil society
- Imbue respect for human rights, diversity and cultural differences in a multicultural context
- Strengthen the values of freedom, democracy, collegiality, and solidarity and raise active citizenship awareness
- Cultivate skills that will facilitate students' access to the labour market.

3. Tertiary Education

Higher education is the last level of the formal education system. Education remains a top priority for the Greek State and is enshrined in the Constitution (article 16). Higher Education is **public**. It is provided only by Legal Entities under Public Law. It enjoys full self-administration and academic freedom. The State supervises and finances Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).

Most undergraduate degree programmes take 4 academic years of full-time study. Postgraduate courses last from one to two years, while doctorates at least 3 years. Higher Education comprises:

The University Sector (Panepistimio):

- Universities
- Polytechnics
- The School of Fine Arts.

The Technological sector:

- Technological Education Institutions (*Technologika Ekpaideftika Idrymata*)
- The School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPETE).

According to the Framework Law (3549/2007), Public higher education "Highest Educational Institutions" (Ανώτατα Εκπαιδευτικά Ιδρύματα, *Anótata Ekpaideytiká Idrýmata*, "AEI") consists of two parallel sectors:

Higher education in Greece consists of two sectors: The **University Sector**, which includes Universities and the **Technological Sector**, which includes Higher Technological Education Institutions (TEI). Currently there are **24 Universities and 16 TEIs**, all of which are considered accredited by Greek state. All the Higher Tertiary state-accredited universities and TEIs in Greece are public. The duration of the undergraduate degree programs for most disciplines is **4 years** but there are programs in engineering, dentistry, pharmacology, agronomics, forestry, and fine arts, with a duration of **5 years** and medicine with a duration of **6 years**. These credits are accumulative and transferable under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

The **University Sector** aims at establishing, producing and developing science and technology, achieving country's future scientists' high level, comprehensive, theoretical and applied training while promoting and developing scientific research. The University (Panepistimio) gives emphasis to high quality education according to the demands of science, technology and arts taking into account the international scientific practice and the corresponding professional fields. The Universities award certificates in the following **fields**:

- Humanities, law and social sciences including theoretical faculties such as literature, law, sociology, art schools etc,
- Science, including faculties of mathematics, physics, chemistry etc,
- Health Science, including medicine, dentistry, pharmaceutics etc,
- Technology, including architecture, polytechnic schools etc,
- Economics and Administration, including economic, financial schools etc,

The **Technological Sector** aims at developing the scientific and technological research and at providing programs of more applied character. The Technological Educational Institute (TEI) (Technologiko Ekpaideftiko Idryma) and the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education/ASPETE (Technological Sector Institutions) give emphasis to high quality education as well as to the applied character of science, technology and arts. In this framework they

promote the development of the appropriate theoretical background together with the development of high standard practice.

Compared to University studies, TEI studies have a more applied character. Nevertheless, care is taken to ensure that the TEI curricula contain a sufficient number of background theoretical courses, so that graduates are able to adjust easily and efficiently to the ever changing and increasing professional and social life demands. The TEIs cover a total of 95 specializations in the following **fields**:

- Graphic arts and artistic studies
- Administration and economics
- Health and welfare occupations
- Technological applications
- Food and nutrition technology
- Agronomy technology
- Music technology.

Apart from the higher education institutes, a number of private institutions, known as **Colleges**, operate in Greece as well. However, the current Constitution of Greece prohibits private institutions for post-secondary education, from operating as independent universities. Colleges overcome this constraint by establishing collaboration with foreign universities to offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. According to the current legislation, as derived by the incorporation of EC Directive 2005/36, holders of academic degrees by universities in the European Union, including those obtained through studies at a college in Greece, have their professional rights fully recognized.

Additionally, students over twenty-two years old may be admitted to the Hellenic Open University through a form of lottery.

Foreign students can fall into the special categories of candidates that can be admitted to Higher Education in Greece, on condition that neither the candidates themselves nor their parents have the Greek nationality or citizenship. Those candidates submit their documents to the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs and fill in the candidate's application entry form, stating the Faculties and the Departments they prefer.

The application procedure for admission to higher education in Greece of foreigners of non-Greek origin is supported electronically by an information system, which becomes available during the specified dates.

The URL for the information system is https://exams-foreigner.it.minedu.gov.gr

The candidate, after the electronic submission, shall send the following documents (for the academic year 2018-2019):

- one (1) signed copy of Application (PRINTED BY THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM)
- one (1) signed copy of the Official Statement (PRINTED BY THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM)

- one (1) photocopy of the certificate of equivalence and correspondence of the candidate's graduation certificate, issued by the Directorate of Greek studies abroad, intercultural education, foreigner minority schools of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, or by the Directorates of Secondary Education or by the Counsellors at the Education Offices of the Greek Embassies as well as a certificate of his/her total marks average, issued by the Directorate of Greek studies abroad, intercultural education, foreigner minority schools of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, or by the Directorates of Secondary Education or by the Counsellors at the Education Offices of the Greek Embassies. The total marks average should be issued on a 0-20-mark scale, 20 being the top mark and 0 the lowest mark.
- A photocopy of the graduation certificate with his official translation by the official authorities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy or the Consulate of the foreign country in Greece or a Greek Lawyer
- 1 ID card type photograph
- 1 photocopy of passport or ID card or other document with photograph, that certifies the identity of the candidate.

Results are announced in the Ministry of Education website by entering their Candidate Code and their initials (Surname, Name, Father's name and Mother's name).

For up to date information, please visit https://www.studyingreece.edu.gr/ which is the official portal for studies in Greece, run by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism.

Academic Year

The academic year begins on 1 September each year and ends on 31 August of the following year. It includes two semesters:

→ The winter semester. It usually begins in September's second fortnight and lasts until mid-January of the following year

→ The spring semester. It usually begins at the end of the exam period of the winter semester, around mid-February and ends at the beginning of June.

Every semester includes at least 13 weeks of teaching. The end of each semester marks the beginning of the exam period. Students may be reassessed in the modules of both semesters before the end of the winter semester. Throughout the year, there is a total of 4 weeks of Christmas and Easter holidays.

4. Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning policy in Greece is part of a wider development plan. The General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and the General Secretariat for Youth plans the public policy of LLL. Non-formal education can lead to certifications recognised at national level. Lifelong Learning is provided at:

- Vocational Training Institutes (*Institouta Epaggelmatikis Katartisis*)
- Lifelong Learning Centers (*Kentra Dia Viou Mathisis*)

- Vocational Training Schools (*Scholes Epaggelmatikis Katartisis*)
- Colleges (Kollegia).

ORGANISATION OF PRIVATE EDUCATION IN GREECE

All Private Primary and Secondary Education Schools (Greek and International), Private Vocational Training Institutes and Colleges receive full private funding.

Private Primary and Secondary Education

Private Schools

In Greece, besides State Schools, Private Primary and Secondary Education Schools operate. They do not belong to the State. Natural or legal persons establish and maintain them.

A decision of the Minister of Education grants **operation license** for a private school under certain conditions to:

- Natural persons
- Legal persons
- Associations of persons
- Legal entities under public law.

Private schools fall under the competence of the Ministry of Education. The latter exercises supervision and control through regional administration bodies (Primary and Secondary Education Directorates). The same applies to State Schools.

Pursuant to Law 682/1977, private and public education includes the same types of schools.

Private Schools follow the organisation of State Schools. They award certificates equivalent to State Schools. They follow the timetable and the teaching curriculum in force.

Deviations from the timetable and extra-curricular activities are allowed once the competent Education Directorate checks:

- The validity of the curriculum
- The pedagogical content of teaching.

Private International Schools

Private International Schools also operate. Natural persons (non-Greek citizens) or legal persons that do not live in Greece may establish them.

Several of these schools are the outcome of bilateral educational agreements signed between Greece and other states. The existence of a transnational agreement does not substitute operation license.

The Hellenic Ministry of Education supervises their operation via the Primary and Secondary Education Directorates.

According to their curriculum, **International schools are classified in**:

1. International schools following the curriculum of the foreign country. They address mainly foreign nationals living in Greece. Based on Law 3794/2009, schools adhering to the curriculum of an EU-Member State, allow for EU-Member State pupils attendance without restrictions. In schools following the curriculum of a third country, Greek pupils may also attend, after permission by the Ministry of Education, and under certain conditions

2. International schools with a Greek curriculum. They follow the same curriculum as Greek State Schools. They place emphasis on foreign language teaching and cultural elements

3. International schools with a Greek and foreign curriculum. They operate as two independent sections.

It should be noted that teaching of Greek subjects according to the Greek curriculum is **compulsory** for all international schools, even if they follow only a foreign curriculum.

Private Post-secondary Education

Private Vocational Education Institutes (IIEK)

Private Vocational Training Institutes (IIEK), just like State IEK, offer initial vocational training to graduates of formal non-compulsory secondary education of:

- General Upper Secondary Schools
- Vocational Upper Secondary Schools.

The curricula and specialisations are common to the ones of State IEK. Whether state or private, IEKs lead to the acquisition of a certificate recognised at national level.

Under certain conditions and by decision of the Secretary General of Lifelong Learning, operation license for a Private Vocational Training Institute (IIEK) is given to:

- Natural persons
- Legal persons
- Associations of persons
- Legal entities under public law.

Colleges

In Greece, Colleges_provide **non-formal post-secondary education** and training to graduates of:

- General Upper Secondary Schools
- Vocational Upper Secondary Schools.

Colleges provide study programmes based on **validation** and **franchising** agreements with international HEIs, recognised by the competent authorities in their country.

Three-year study programmes lead to bachelor degrees. In addition, they lead to Master's degrees, as long as the study programmes have accreditation by international accreditation organisations.

The degrees, awards, certifications may be deemed equivalent to HEI of the formal Greek education system under certain conditions.

Under certain conditions and by decision of the Minister of Education, operation license for a College is given to:

- Natural persons
- Legal persons
- Associations of persons
- Legal persons under public law.

Higher education is provided only by Institutions that are legal entities under public law with full self-administration. The establishment of Higher Education Institutes by individuals is prohibited.

INCLUSION POLICY IN THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The inclusion policy is promoted for all vulnerable groups of student population. **Intercultural Education** concerns the structuring of relations of different cultural groups with the aim to lift inequality and social exclusion. It sets the framework for harmonious and effective integration in the general education system of students with educational, social and cultural particularities. The objectives of Intercultural Education are pursued by means of the following:

- the registration of children from different cultural backgrounds in schools along with native children,
- the reinforcement of the school's democratic function based on the respect for democratic principles and children's rights,
- the drafting of suitable school programmes, school books and teaching material,
- tackling the discriminations caused by cultural differences, xenophobia and racism,
- supporting measures and structures in favor of the educational and social inclusion of children of migrant background in a framework of equity and respect for their cultural identity and finally
- suitable educational programmes and actions of intercultural aspects which address all members of the educational community.

Furthermore, the education of refugees' children and their smooth inclusion in school structures is a key priority for the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs already from school year 2016-2017. Generally, the objective of Compensatory education is the re-integrating of pupils in the learning process, the limitation of early school leaving, as well as raising the percentage of accessibility in upper secondary education with the prospect of higher education.

A number of compensatory and supporting structures are put in place for this purpose, such as:

Intercultural Schools (Scholeia Diapolitismikis Ekpaidefsis) - operate in selected areas to facilitate inclusion in the education system of students coming from abroad (immigrants,

repatriate Greeks) and presenting educational, social, cultural particularities. They operate at Primary, Lower and Upper Secondary Education level.

Minority Schools (Meionotika Scholeia) - operate to cover the educational needs of Muslims residing in the geographical region of Thrace (Pomak, Roma and Turkish origin). There are 173 Minority Schools, 169 of which are primary education schools. The curriculum is bilingual and is carried out both in the Greek and Turkish language.

Reception Classes (Taxeis Ypodochis) - are addressed to foreigners and repatriated pupils and take place respectively within and outside the school timetable. They are embedded in the Institution of ZEP. This scheme allows school units in the country to provide additional teaching support to students who do not possess the necessary knowledge of the Greek language.

Remedial Teaching (Enischytiki Didaskalia) - is applied in Primary Schools and in Lower Secondary Schools (*Gymnasia*). The institution is available for pupils lagging behind in school performance, not being able to follow and participate effectively in the educational process or for any pupil wishing to improve his performance. In Primary School (*Dimotiko Scholeio*), remedial teaching covers the subjects of Language and Mathematics. In Lower Secondary School (*Gymnasio*), the subjects covered are Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Foreign Languages.

Additional Teaching Support (Prostheti Didaktiki Stirixi) - is applied in Upper Secondary School (*Lykeio*). This institution is available to any pupil lagging behind in school performance, not being able to follow and participate effectively in the educational process or for any pupil wishing to improve his / her performance.

Educational Priority Zones (Zones Ekpaideftikis Proteraiotitas - ZEP) - cover primary and secondary education schools operating in areas with low basic indicators of school inclusion (e.g. composite indicator of prosperity and development, total education indicator). These zones also include school networks with a significant participation of special groups of pupils (e.g foreigners, Roma, or minority populations etc.). The overall purpose of ZEP is to create and test in practice alternative and flexible educational approaches, ensuring equal inclusion in the educational system of pupils from areas with low educational and socio-economic indicators.

Education for refugees' children is provided by school units of Primary and Secondary Education integrated in the mainstream educational system. However, taking into consideration the particular needs of the refugee population as a result of mobility, the time of arrival, the duration of their stay in hosting structures, as well as the size of the population of pupils, Reception School Facilities for Refugee Education (DYEP) may be created for educating refugee children, which will function in the framework of mainstream education and apply specific study programmes of a limited duration. Attendance in Hosting Structures lasts for one (1) instruction year with the possibility of extension for one (1) more year. The duration of attendance in a Reception School Facility for Refugee Education (DYEP) is certified upon completion with a certificate of attendance.

Nursery schools are run under the compulsory programme of all-day mainstream nursery schools. Concerning Primary education schools, refugee students attend classes as follows:

- Greek Language (6 hours per week)

- English Language (4 hours per week)
- Maths (3 hours per week)
- Physical Education (3 hours per week)
- Computer Science (2 hours per week)
- Arts (2 hours per week)

Concerning Secondary Education schools, refugee students attend classes as follows:

- Greek Language (6 hours per week)
- English (4 hours per week)
- Maths (4 hours per week)
- Physical Education (2 hours per week)
- Computer Science (2 hours per week)
- Culture (2 hours per week)

In every Accommodation Centre or Reception Structure there is a Coordinator for Refugee Education.

The staffing of Reception School Facilities for Refugee Education (DYEP) is done by permanent, substitute or part- time working teaching staff. Teachers of DYEP, apart from their usual duties, have to care for: a) the refugee students' integration into the Greek Educational system and their creative interaction with all the other students, b) the special needs of refugee students by practicing differentiated and flexible teaching methods, and c) the promotion of educational activities between the Reception Centres and the neighboring school units.

PARENTS' GUIDE FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION

If your kid attends a Greek school, you may find the following basic info useful on what you need to know, as the Greek school system may work differently from what you're used to:

What school details should I take note of?

You need to have the following information noted (on a piece of paper or your phone), for your reference:

- Name of the school
- School address
- School phone numbers
- School operating hours

What are typical school hours?

School starts in the morning at 8:15 a.m. and ends in the afternoon either at:

- 1:15 p.m. in schools with regular operating hours
- 4:00 p.m. in schools with extended operating hours

Greek public schools do not provide transportation to and from school, so you may need to drop off and pick up your younger children at the relevant times above.

What does the school year calendar look like?

The school year in Greece begins around September 10 and ends on:

- June 15 for kindergartens and primary school
- June 30 for junior high school

During the school year, the schools are closed:

- On Saturday and Sunday
- During Christmas holidays
- During Easter holidays
- On the national holidays of October 28 and March 25; on the previous working day, the school will hold a celebration for the kids in the morning and the kids
- On November 17; there will be a school celebration for the Athens Polytechnic uprising that occurred in November 1973.
- On January 30, the Three Holy Hierarchs school holiday
- On Whit Monday
- On Clean Monday
- On May 1, Labor Day

Are there health requirements for my child to attend school?

You will need a health certificate (in Greek it is called ΑΔΥΜ - Ατομικό Δελτίο Υγείας Μαθητή), which is a paper signed by a doctor who has examined your kid and certifies that he or she can attend gym class.

You will need to bring this health certificate to the school when your kid starts the:

- First year of primary school
- Fourth year of primary school
- First year of junior high school
- First year of lyceum

When you visit a doctor who will examine your kid and provide this health certificate, you also need to have your kid's vaccination card with you.

Should I pack lunch for my child?

Schools with regular operating hours, finish classes at 1:15 p.m., which is lunchtime in Greece, so students will usually eat lunch at home. You can pack a light snack for kids to eat during the breaks such as a sandwich, piece of pie or fruit.

If your kids attend school until 4:00 p.m., you can pack them a regular lunch to eat after 1:15 p.m. Students can also buy snacks at school cafeterias but this is often costly.

Do Greek schools have a dress code?

Greek public schools do not have a dress code.

However, kids are required to wear sports clothes and shoes whenever they have gym class.

How do teachers and parents usually communicate?

Anytime the school principal or teachers have something important to communicate to you, they will place a note for you in your child's school bag. The note could either be a general announcement or something of particular interest to you or your child.

You can call an interpreter at the school if he or she is available, or ask someone who can translate from Greek so you can read the note and respond accordingly.

How do teachers organize school trips?

Schools organize field trips for students almost every month.

The school will send you a note with details a few days before the field trip. In order for your kid to join, you will need to fill in this note and sign it to grant permission.

Some school trips may involve transportation and/or tickets for a theater or an activity. In these cases, you will have to pay an amount of money that ranges from € 3 to € 10.

If you cannot afford to pay but still want your child to join the trip, you can call your kid's teacher. Whenever possible, teachers can arrange free entrance or ticket fees.

When can I meet with the teachers?

Almost every month during the school year, primary school teachers will give you the opportunity to meet to discuss your kid's academic performance.

For junior high schools, lyceums and EPALs, you will receive a detailed schedule with all the dates and times each teacher is available to meet with parents.

You can ask to meet with a teacher anytime you feel it's necessary or whenever you have something important to discuss. All you need to do is to call the school and ask for a meeting with the teacher.

How do I receive my child's grades?

In order to receive your kids' school grades, you will be invited to the school:

- Every 3 months for primary school
- Every 4 months for junior high school and lyceum

Is my child allowed to miss classes?

If your child cannot attend school, you'll need to inform the school principal or the kid's teacher early in the morning, preferably around 8:15 a.m.

Every student is obliged to attend school from the beginning of the school year until the end. Each hour the student is not present in school is counted as one absence.

Each student is allowed to have up to 114 hours or absences during the school year. If a student misses more than this, the student will be asked to repeat the same grade the following school year.

What if my kid is sick?

If your child is sick, teachers advise keeping your kid at home to prevent spreading a virus or flu.

You'll need to inform the school principal or the kid's teacher early in the morning.

If there is an interpreter available at the school, you can call the interpreter to help. If not, you can find someone who speaks Greek and ask him or her to make the phone call for you.

Do Greek schools teach religion?

Yes. The majority of Greece's population are Christian Orthodox, a religion that plays a big role in Greek education. Students typically start the school day with a morning prayer and take 1 to 2 periods a week of religion classes.

Students of a different faith from Christian Orthodox have the right to skip the religion class. You will need to inform the school principal and declare that you do not wish your kid to attend the religion class.

Then the school principal and the teachers will decide what the student can do during the time of the religion classes.

Every once in a while, the whole school goes to church, especially:

- Before the Christmas and Easter holidays
- On the national holidays of October 28 and March 25
- On January 30, the Three Holy Hierarchs school holiday

It's up to the teachers to decide on the exact dates of the church visits.

Students who don't attend the religion class will either stay at school and do a different activity or if the parents approve, they can also join the church visit.

FAQ

Who can study in Greece?

Anyone, no matter the country of origin, can study in Greece.

What is needed to study in Greece?

Depending on the country of origin, it is required to obtain a VISA, residence permission, and in case you do not speak Greek you will need to spend 8 months in Greece to learn the language and pass the corresponding examinations.

What is the cost of the lessons of Greek language?

The cost of the lessons is about 500 euro. And it is required to pass a test in the end certifying the adequate level of your Greek.

What is the cost of studying in Greece?

There are no university fees for the undergraduate programs neither any cost for subscription. Books are also provided for free.

In which language are the lessons being taught?

All the undergraduate programs lessons are taught in Greek, but there are some post-graduate and master programs which are taught in the English language, either fully or partially.

Are there any benefits for the students in Greece?

Once you become a student, you are granted free restauration and in some cases free housing, granted by the state.

How do I choose in which university to study?

You complete a list with your top 20 choices of university departments and the decision is issued by the Ministry, according to the competition for the particular departments.

Is the procedure the same for the post-graduate programs (masters, doctorate)?

No you will need to contact the university specific master you want to go. In most cases the master's degree requires fees.

Is there the possibility to work as a foreign student in Greece?

The state permits you to work only as part-time during your studies.

Is there any medical insurance for the students?

Yes, once a student you are granted medical insurance by the state, but for the first 8 months (Greek language study) you will need to go for a private company (the average cost is 130 euro/year).

Are there any scholarship programs available?

For the undergraduate programs there are no state scholarships currently, but there are other institutes granting scholarships depending on the case. For the post-graduate programs there are also scholarships granted by the state.

LIFE LONG LEARNING FRAMEWORK IN GREECE

In Greece there is a solid legislative framework in place, aiming to develop lifelong learning, by identifying alternative paths, networking lifelong learning institutions and ensuring transparency and quality, so as to achieve the interconnection of lifelong learning to employment, to form an integrated personality of the people and the wider social and economic development. In this framework please find below some definitions of terms in place, so that you get familiar with them:

“Lifelong learning”: All forms of learning activities during a person’s life that are aimed at the acquisition or development of knowledge, skills and abilities, which contribute to the formation of an integrated personality; the individual’s vocational integration and development; social cohesion; the development of the ability of active citizenship and social, economic and cultural development. It includes formal education, informal education and informal learning.

“Formal education”: The education that is provided within the formal educational system, leads to the acquisition of nationally recognized certificates by the government and is a part of the scheduled educational range. Formal education also includes the general adult formal education.

“Formal educational system”: The primary, secondary and tertiary education system.

“Informal education”: The education that is provided within the organized education framework outside the formal educational system and can lead to the acquisition of recognised certificates at a national level. It includes the original vocational training, continuing vocational training and general adult education.

“Informal learning”: The learning activities taking place outside the organized educational framework, throughout a person’s life, within the leisure or professional, social and cultural activities. It includes all types of self-education activities, such as self-training with printed material, over the Internet, using a PC or a variety of educational infrastructure, as well as the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired by people from their professional experience.

“Initial vocational training”: The training that provides basic professional knowledge, abilities and skills in specialized disciplines for the integration, reintegration, vocational mobility and

the advancement of human resources in the labour market, as well as professional and personal development.

“Continuing vocational training”: The human resources training that complements, updates or upgrades knowledge, abilities and skills, gained from the vocational education systems and initial vocational training, or professional experience for the integration or reintegration in the labour market, ensuring employment and the professional and personal development.

“General adult education”: Includes all the organized learning activities that are addressed at adults and seek to enrich knowledge; developing and improving abilities and skills; developing an individual’s personality and active citizenship, as well as the mitigating education and social inequalities. It is provided by formal education and non-formal education institutions.

“Lifelong counselling”: The scientific assistance, support and empowerment provided to people within the context of lifelong learning, in order to specify and achieve their personal professional goals.

“Career guidance”: The information, investigation and preparation process that helps the individual choose its educational path and profession, according to its particular interests and abilities.

“Training or education structure”: The entity that provides training or education services with its organizational structure, functions, manpower and logistics.

What documents are required in general?

Please note that exceptionally, according to paragraph 8, article 21 of law 4251/2014, minor third-country citizens (specifically, a) recognized refugees, b) people coming from places where there is a turbulent situation, c) asylum seekers and d) third-country citizens who reside in Greece but their legal residence in the country has not been regulated yet) can submit insufficient documents for registration to public schools of all levels.

In general, the following documents are at least needed:

- proof of address
- a solemn declaration stating years of attending school abroad
- a photocopy of residence permit.

FOREIGN DEGREES’ (HIGHER EDUCATION) ACCREDITATION IN GREECE

If you are graduate of a University OR Technical University or Technological Educational Institute desiring to get accreditation for your degree you need to contact NARIC (DOATAP / ΔΟΑΤΑΠ).

Hellenic NARIC (DOATAP) is supervised by the Hellenic Ministry of Education and it is responsible for the recognition of university or technological degrees that are awarded by foreign Higher Education Institutions. The Hellenic NARIC is also responsible for providing information about educational systems and accreditation of Institutions in Greece and abroad. The procedure entails an application form submitted with several documents certifying the applicant’s statements, the actual application form and the list of documents

required depending on the country of origin can be found at the official site (http://www.doatap.gr/en/index.php)

Contact details: Address 54 Agiou Konstantinou str. (Near metro station Metaxourgeio), Tel. 210 5233312

What documents are required?

1. APPLICATION FORM (provided by DOATAP)

2. FEE to the Bank of Greece

3. COPY OF PASSPORT/IDENTITY CARD certified by Greek Official Embassies/Consulates/ Lawyer

4. OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF LAW (N. 1599/86): a) that all submitted documents are original, b) that there has been no other application to DOATAP or any other Public Authority, c) stating the place of study (for all years of study), d) that all studies required for the award of this title have been completed

5. CERTIFIED COPY OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA by a qualified authority of the country (e.g. Embassy in Greece) stating that holder is eligible to enter higher education

6. CERTIFIED COPY OF DEGREE from the respective authority in the country of issue according to Hague Convention (APOSTILLE). For countries not participating in The Hague Convention: DEGREE + OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT (= grades of all subjects, signed and stamped by foreign institute, with date of award) need to be certified by Consular Authorities of Greece at the country where degree was obtained.

7. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT If not stamped according to Hague Convention or verified by Consular Authorities, it must come directly from INSTITUTE to DOATAP.

8. CERTIFICATE FOR LOCATION OF STUDIES stamped according to Hague Convention by INSTITUTION directly to DOATAP & verifying that all applicant's studies, from … to …, took place and were completed in … (country, city, campus) and nowhere else.

9. SYLLABUS/BULLETIN (courses and hours of teaching per subject) of Institutions or Faculties that have not been accredited by DOATAP.

10. DISSERTATION/THESIS (for postgraduate degrees) with a Greek summary in the case of a doctorate thesis

Are there any additional requirements?

- all documents must be officially translated if not in English or French
- translation must be done at the ministry of foreign affairs or Greek consular authorities in Greece or by authorized lawyer
- for medical degrees, a professional license is required
- DOATAP is free to ask for further evidence concerning studies
- no application is examined unless all required documents are submitted
- academic titles lacking more than 6 subjects corresponding to the local title are not recognised
- the majority of professors at the foreign university (51%) should have a PhD title (necessary for recognition).

FOREIGN DEGREES' (VOCATIONAL TRAINING) ACCREDITATION IN GREECE

If you are graduate of a Vocational Training Institute desiring to get accreditation for your degree you need to contact NARIC (ΕΟΡΡΕΡ /ΕΟΠΠΕΠ).

EOPPEP develops and implements the National Accreditation & Certification System for non-formal education, including initial and continuing vocational training and adult education, and provides scientific support to Vocational Guidance & Counseling services in Greece.

https://www.eoppep.gr/index.php/en/

Contact details: National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance, Address: 41 Ethnikis Antistaseos Avenue, 142 34 Athens, GREECE, Tel. 210 2709000, Fax: 210 2709142, E-mail: info@eoppep.gr

What documents are required?

1. PHOTOCOPY OF FOREIGN DIPLOMA authenticated as original

2. FEE to NATIONAL BANK

3. PHOTOCOPY OF RESIDENCE PERMIT if from NON-EU countries

4. OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF LAW (N. 1599/86) AND A QUESTIONNAIRE

5. PHOTOCOPY OF CURRICULUM OF FOREIGN DIPLOMA authenticated as original (Including courses and hours of teaching per subject for all years of studies)

6. PHOTOCOPY OF BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE authenticated as original

7. OFFICIAL TRANSLATION IN GREEK of a) FOREIGN DIPLOMA, b) CURRICULUM and c) CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION (e.g. High school diploma). Translations must state that documents are authenticated.

8. CERTIFICATE FROM A COMPETENT STATE BODY (when an equivalence of title is asked) like Embassy of foreign country, educational institution, Ministry of Education of the foreign country, indicating: a) lower entry qualifications for admission & b) educational outputs of this title to higher levels of educations, if any.

Are there any additional requirements?

• Mail the folder containing the necessary documents to EOPPEP

• EOPPEP Committee has the right to request supplementary/clarification data

• Documents submitted are not returned, however they remain archived.

How to authenticate documents for general use?

• Original title stamped by foreign State with a stamp APOSTILLE (of Hague), or

• Original title assessed by competent authority of foreign State for its authenticity & the authenticity of the signing of the person is to be authenticated by Greek diplomatic authorities in the foreign state, or

• Original title assessed in Greece by diplomatic authorities of the foreign country in Greece (embassy /consulate of the foreign state) that is approved as authentic by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

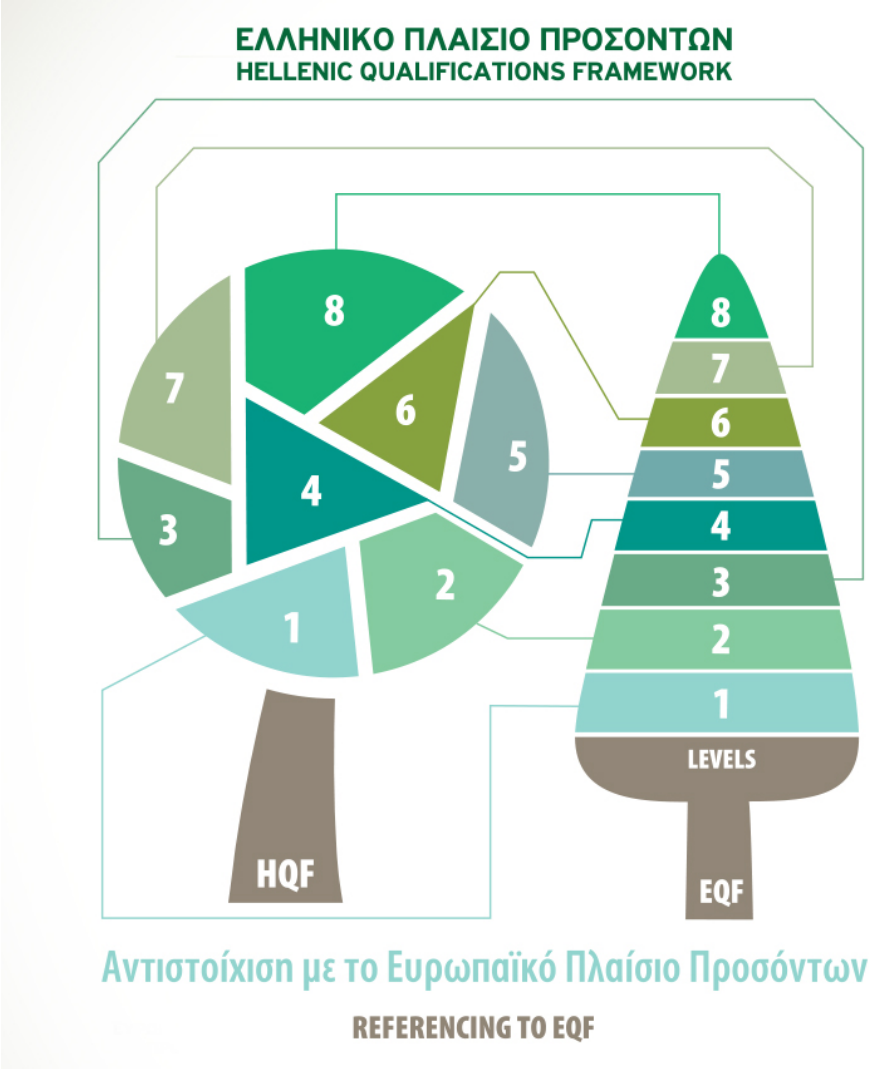
Do you know the level of your qualification?

You can find out to which level of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework (HQF) your qualifications corresponds to, namely, the degrees that you have acquired from formal education in Greece or from the Initial Vocational Training after certification. https://nqf.gov.gr/en/index.php

The Hellenic Qualifications Framework is a framework with 8 levels, in which the qualifications acquired through the formal educational system and initial vocational training after certification are classified. A classification system of qualifications acquired through non-formal education and informal learning will be developed in due time.

LEVEL	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING	GENERAL EDUCATION	HIGHER EDUCATION
1		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE	
2		LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE	
3	TRAINING SCHOOL (SEK) CERTIFICATE (POST LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL) *VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE (LEVEL 1, I.E.K.)		
4	VOCATIONAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (EPA.S) VOCATIONAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL DEGREE (EPA.L) LEVEL 4 VOCATIONAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (EPA.L)	GENERAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE	
5	VOCATIONAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL DEGREE, APPRENTICESHIP CLASS VOCATIONAL TRAINING DIPLOMA (I.E.K.) (ISSUED TO GRADUATES OF I.E.K. AFTER CERTIFICATION) (POST SECONDARY AND NOT HIGHER EDUCATIONDIPLOMA/ DEGREE		

6			BACHELOR DEGREE
7			MASTER'S DEGREE
8			DOCTORATE



Country Specific Data Resources on Education

- National Database for Learning Opportunities "Ploigos"

http://ploigos.eoppep.gr/ekep/external/index.html

"Ploigos" provides information about studying in Greece at all levels and in all types of education.

- National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (E.O.P.P.E.P.)

https://www.eoppep.gr/index.php/en/

EOPPEP operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs. It develops and implements national systems for the accreditation of non-formal & informal learning and provides scientific and technical support in the vocational guidance national policy. It is a national contact point for EQF, ECVET, EUROPASS, EQAVET, Euroguidance and ELGPN.

- Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

https://www.minedu.gov.gr/

Information about the Greek educational system, scholarships etc.

- General Secretariat of Lifelong Learning (LLL) of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

http://www.gsae.edu.gr/en/

Information on vocational training and adult – non formal and informal education, LLL providers and programs, etc.

- Center for the Greek Language

https://greeklanguage.gr/en/

Information regarding the teaching of Greek as a foreign/second language and the certification of attainment in Modern Greek.

- Studing with a dissability

http://www.odigostoupoliti.eu/category/odigos-tou-politi/amea-atoma-me-anapiria/

- Greek Education system description at Eurypedia

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/greece_en

Information about the Greek education system in eurypedia.

List of Higher Education Institutions

Universities

NATIONAL & KAPODESTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS - Website: http://en.uoa.gr

NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS - Website: http://www.ntua.gr/index_en.html

ATHENS SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS - Website: http://www.asfa.gr

AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS - Website: http://www.aua.gr/index.php

ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS - Website: http://www.aueb.gr/index_en.php

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI - Website: http://www.auth.gr/en

PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES - Website: http://www.panteion.gr

UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS - Website: http://www.unipi.gr/eng_site/panepistimio/istor-panep_en.html

UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA - Website: http://www.uom.gr/index.php?newlang=eng

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS - Website: http://www.upatras.gr/index/index/lang/en

UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA - Website: http://www.uoi.gr/en/

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE - Website: http://www.duth.gr/index.en.shtml

UNIVERSITY OF CRETE - Website: http://www.en.uoc.gr

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE - Website: http://www.tuc.gr/3324.html

UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY - Website: http://www.uth.gr/en/index.php

UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN - Website: http://www.aegean.gr/aegean/en/intro_en.htm

IONIAN UNIVERSITY - Website: http://www.ionio.gr/central/en

HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY - Website: http://www.hua.gr/index.php/en/

UNIVERSITY OF PELOPONNESE - Website: http://www.uop.gr/index.php?lang=en

HELLENIC OPEN UNIVERSITY - Website: http://www.eap.gr/index.php

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA- Website: http://www.uowm.gr/english/index.htm

INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY - Website: http://www.ihu.edu.gr

Technological Educational Institutes - TEIs

TEI OF ATHENS - Website: http://www.teiath.gr

TEI OF WESTERN MACEDONIA - Website: http://www.teiwm.gr/index.php?lang=en

TEI OF EPIRUS - Website: http://www.teiep.gr

TEI OF IONIAN ISLANDS- Website: http://www.teiion.gr/index.php/en.html

TEI OF THESSALONIKI - Website: http://www.teithe.gr/index_en.html

TEI OF EASTERN MACEDONIA & THRACE - Website: http://www.teikav.edu.gr/teikav/index.php?lang=en

TEI OF PELOPONNESE - Website: http://www.teikal.gr/en/

TEI OF CRETE - Website: http://www.teicrete.gr/tei/en/index.php

TEI OF STEREA ELLADA - Website: http://www.teilam.gr

TEI OF THESSALY - Website: http://www.teilar.gr/index_en.php

TEI OF WESTERN GREECE - Website: http://en.teipat.gr

TEI OF PIREAUS - Website: http://www.teipir.gr

TEI OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA - Website: http://www.teiser.gr/index.php?lang=en

SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL & TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION – ASPETE - Website: http://www.aspete.gr/index.php?lang=en