Greece

Country Orientation Guide

2009-2010

NOVA Southeastern University
Fischler School of Education and Human Services
Office of International Affairs
DISCLAIMER

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Welcome
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you very much for accepting to teach in Greece!

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services has prepared this country guide to provide you with basic and general information on the country you are about to visit.

This guide is intended to help you prepare for your trip. As you travel in the country, please let us know if you find that there are details that need to be added or changed so that we can keep our guides updated. Although we have tried to make it as comprehensive as possible, all of us know that our world moves very rapidly and changes happen everyday; however, we have tried our best to include all of the details you need to make sure you are comfortable in your new environment.

This information has been compiled with the help of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Global Enterprises for Academic Development (SIGEAD), and the contribution from the OIA team members and our Field Associates and Regional Liaisons around the world. To all of them, and to you, thank you very much for helping these programs become as successful as they are today, and as a result, for making a difference in our students’ lives, wherever they are located.

Have a wonderful experience and please be sure to meet with us upon your return so we can discuss your experience and solicit your input for future cohorts. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be any assistance to your prior to your departure, or while you are teaching.

Bon voyage!

Anthony DeNapoli, Dean of International Affairs
Alejandra Parra, Associate Dean of International Affairs
### NSU Emergency Contact

**Contact at the Office of International Affairs**

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<td>Dr. Anthony DeNapoli, Dean</td>
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### Travel Office Numbers

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Travel Office (ONLY after contacting airline or hotel directly)- 1-800-809-8858

There is a charge of $20 if you contact this number.
Passport Issues
A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue, or verify United States passports.

The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace or change a passport.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of over 9,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver’s license.

Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, and 1 Gateway City Agency, which serve customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You will need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time:

- If your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession;
- If your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago;
- If your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16;
- Or if your current valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

*To obtain more information on obtaining a passport please visit

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_832.html

*To renew an existing passport please visit

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/renew/renew_833.html
Weather Information
For weather information on specific countries please visit:
http://worldweather.wmo.int/

Central Intelligence Agency-The World Factbook

The World Factbook provides valuable geographic and demographic information. For more information on individual countries, please visit:

TSA Travel Tips

Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1

3-1-1 for carry-ons =

- 3 ounce bottle or less (by volume);
- 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag;
- 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin.

One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3 oz. container size is a security measure.

**Consolidate** bottles into one bag and X-ray separately to speed screening.

**Be prepared.** Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

**3-1-1 is for short trips.** If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.

**Declare larger liquids.** Medications, baby formula and food, breast milk, and juice are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint.

**Come early and be patient.** Heavy travel volumes and the enhanced security process may mean longer lines at security checkpoints.

**TSA working with our partners.** TSA works with airlines and airports to anticipate peak traffic and be ready for the traveling public.
Useful Phone Numbers
Sources of information include:

U.S. Dept. of State Travel Advisory: tel. 202-647-5225 (manned 24 hr.)

U.S. Passport Agency: tel. 202-647-0518

U.S. Centers for Disease Control International Traveler's Hotline: tel. 404-332-4559

Lost & Found

Be sure to tell all of your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen, and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss. Most credit card companies have an emergency toll-free number to call if your card is lost or stolen; they may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two. To report a lost or stolen

American Express - To protect your information, you can only report a lost or stolen card by calling American Express Customer Service at 1-800-992-3404. Outside the United States call, collect 336-393-1111.

Diners Club - Call Diners Club Customer Service at 1-800-234-6377. Outside the United States call, collect 702-797-5532.


If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via Western Union. Call tel. 1-800-325-6000 www.westernunion.com.

Identity theft and fraud are potential complications of losing your wallet, especially if you have lost your driver's license along with your cash and credit cards. Notify the major credit-reporting bureaus immediately; placing a fraud alert on your records may protect you against liability for criminal activity. The three major U.S. credit-reporting agencies are Equifax (tel. 800-766-0008; www.equifax.com), Experian (tel. 888-397-3742; www.experian.com), and TransUnion (tel. 800-680-7289; www.transunion.com). Finally, if you have lost all forms of photo ID, call your airline and explain the situation; they might allow you to board the plane if you have a copy of your passport or birth certificate and a copy of the police report you have filed.
Here are some quick tips to make your travel easier and safer:

- **Register so the State Department can better assist you in an emergency:** Register your travel plans with the State Department through a free online service at [https://travelregistration.state.gov](https://travelregistration.state.gov). This will help us contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare and whereabouts will not be released to others without your express authorization.

- **Sign passport, and fill in the emergency information:** Make sure you have a signed, valid passport, and a visa, if required, and fill in the emergency information page of your passport.

- **Leave copies of itinerary and passport data page:** Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.

- **Check your overseas medical insurance coverage:** Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas, and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance.

- **Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws:** While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. The State Department web site at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html) has useful safety and other information about the countries you will visit.

- **Take precautions to avoid being a target of crime:** To avoid being a target of crime, do not wear conspicuous clothing or jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money. Also, do not leave unattended luggage in public areas and do not accept packages from strangers.

- **Contact us in an emergency:** Consular personnel at U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad and in the U.S. are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide emergency assistance to U.S. citizens. Contact information for U.S. Embassies and Consulates appears on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at [http://travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Also, note that the Office of Overseas Citizen Services in the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs may be reached for assistance with emergencies at 1-888-407-4747, if calling from the U.S. or Canada, or 202-501-4444, if calling from overseas.
U.S. Customs Restrictions – What You Cannot Bring Back With You

Some items may not be brought into the U.S., or may only be brought in under certain restrictions. For information on U.S. customs regulations and procedures, see the Customs and Border Protection booklet “Know Before You Go,” available at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg.

Customs and Border Patrol Top 10 Travelers Tips

1. Have all required travel documents for the countries you are visiting, as well as identification for re-entry to the U.S.
2. Declare everything you are bringing in from abroad, even if you bought it in a duty-free shop. This merchandise is also subject to U.S. duty fees and other restrictions.
3. Be cautious when buying something from a street vendor. Keep in mind that the merchandise may be counterfeit and/or unsafe and you might have to surrender it to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when you get home.
4. Know that the things bought abroad for personal use or as gifts are eligible for duty exemptions. If you are bringing them back for resale, they are not.
5. Know the difference between prohibited merchandise (such as ivory, tortoise shell products, absinthe, and counterfeit items) and restricted merchandise.
6. Be aware that many foreign-made medications are not FDA-approved, and you cannot bring them into the U.S. Also, when traveling abroad, bring only the amount of medication you will need during the trip.
7. Do not bring any Cuban-made products into the U.S., not matter where you purchased them.
8. Do not bring any food into the U.S. without first checking to see if it is permitted. Also, any and all live birds and bird products, whether for personal or commercial use, may be restricted and/or quarantined.
9. Understand that CBP officers can inspect you and your belongings without a warrant. This may include your luggage, vehicle, and personal searches, and is meant to enforce our laws as well as protect legitimate travelers.
10. Read our helpful brochure, “Know Before You Go,” before traveling. Print copies may be requested online, or view the web version at www.cbp.gov under the Travel section.
Country Overview

Greece is situated in Southeastern Europe, with an area of 131,957 sq.km. and a population of 10,964,020. Athens is the capital of Greece with a population of 3,192,606. Greece is situated in Southeastern Europe, with an area of 131,957 sq.km. and a population of 10,964,020. Greece is, of course, the land of ancient sites and architectural treasures -- the Acropolis in Athens, the amphitheater of Epidaurus, and the reconstructed palace at Knossos among the best known; however, Greece is much more. It offers age-old spectacular natural sights, for instance -- from Santorini's caldera to the gray pinnacles of rock of the Meteora -- and modern diversions ranging from elegant museums to luxury resorts.

Greek business and office hours take some getting used to, especially in the afternoon, when most English-speaking people are accustomed to getting things done in high gear. Compounding the problem is that it is virtually impossible to pin down the precise hours of opening. Almost all stores and services are closed on Sunday -- except, of course, tourist-oriented shops and services. On Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, hours are usually 9am to 3pm; Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9am to 2pm and 5 to 7pm. The afternoon siesta is generally observed from 3 to 5pm, though many tourist-oriented businesses have a minimal crew on duty during naptime, and they may keep extended hours, often from 8am to 10pm. (In fact, in tourist centers, shops may be open at all kinds of hours.) Most government offices are open Monday through Friday only, from 8am to 3pm. Call ahead to check the hours of businesses you must deal with, and try not to disturb Greek friends during siesta hours.

Greece is endowed with a particularly rich and diversified natural environment as a result of a rare geomorphology, with many striking natural contrasts and areas of great ecological value. The country's abundant natural gifts -- thousands of indented coasts, imposing rocky massifs, caves, gorges, lakes, rivers, biotopes of spectacular beauty and unique natural habitats -- coupled with the mild climate, place it among the ideal destinations for ecotourism and alternative forms of tourism.
Banking

Banking hours - Banks are open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8am to 2pm, Friday from 8am to 1:30pm. Some banks have additional hours for foreign-currency exchange. All banks are closed on the long list of Greek holidays.

Currency - Greece currency as of now is the Euro. Euro in Greece was introduced in January 2002. Drachma, the traditional currency of Greece before January 2002 is not used any longer. 345 Greek Drachma is equal to 1 Euro. The Euro banknotes are of denominations € 5, € 10, € 20, €50, €100, €200, €500. Features of each of these notes are as follows:

- € 5 notes are grey in color and has an illustration of classical architecture
- € 10 notes have a red shade with picture of Roman architecture
- € 20 notes having the picture of Gothic architecture is blue in color
- € 50 notes having an orange shade has the impression of Renaissance architecture
- € 100 notes are green in color and bears the illustration of Baroque and Rococo architecture
- € 200 notes carrying the picture of iron and glass age architecture has a yellow-brown shade
- € 500 notes having a purple shade has a picture of 20th century architecture

Communication

Language -- Language is usually not a problem for English speakers in Greece, as so much of the population has lived abroad, where English is the primary language. Young people learn it in school, from Anglo-American-dominated pop culture, and in special classes meant to prepare them for the contemporary world of business.

Internet - Internet cafes are available in the main towns and resorts and are cheaper than accessing the Internet from hotels.

Postal Service - The mail service of Greece is reliable -- but slow. (Postcards usually arrive weeks after you have arrived home.) You can receive mail addressed to you c/o Poste Restante, General Post Office, City (or Town), Island (or Province), Greece. You will need your passport to collect this mail. Many hotels will accept, hold, and even forward mail for you also; ask first. American Express clients can receive mail at any Amex office in Athens, Corfu, Iraklion, Mykonos, Patras, Rhodes, Santorini, Skiathos, and Thessaloniki, for a nominal fee and with proper identification. If you are in a particular hurry, try FedEx or one of the other major international private carriers; travel agencies can direct you to these. Do not wrap or seal any package -- you must be prepared to show the contents to a postal clerk.
**Telephone** - The international access code for Greece is +30. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom). The city code for Athens is 21. There are often surcharges on calls made from hotels and it is generally cheaper to use OTE (Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation) offices for local and international calls. Calls can also be made from public card phone booths and cards can be bought from kiosks or OTE offices. The local mobile phone operators use GSM networks and have roaming agreements with most international operators. Coverage is exceptional.

**Documents Needed**
A tourist passport with at least three-month’s validity is required, but no visa is needed for tourist or business stays of up to three months. That three-month period begins when one enters any of the Schengen countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. For other entry requirements, travelers should contact the Embassy of Greece at 2221 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008, telephone (202) 939-5800, or Greek consulates in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Tampa, New York, and San Francisco, and Greek embassies and consulates around the world.


**Electricity**
Electric current in Greece is 220 volts AC, alternating at 50 cycles. (Some larger hotels have 110-volt low-wattage outlets for electric shavers, but they are not good for hair dryers and most other appliances.) Electrical outlets require Continental-type plugs with two round prongs. U.S. travelers will need an adapter plug and a transformer/converter, unless their appliances are dual-voltage. (Such transformers can be bought in stores like Radio Shack.) Laptop computer users will want to check their requirements; a transformer may be necessary, and surge protectors are recommended.

**Emergencies**
**Emergencies** -- If there is no tourist police officer available (tel. **171**), contact the local police, tel. **100**. For fire, call tel. **199**. For medical emergencies and/or first aid and/or an ambulance, call tel. **166**. For hospitals, call tel. **106**. For automobile emergencies, put out a triangular danger sign and call tel. **104** or 154. Embassies, consulates, and many hotels can recommend an English-speaking doctor.
**Embassies & Consulates** - Americans living or traveling in Greece are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department’s travel registration web site and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Greece. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy in Athens is located at 91 Vasilissis Sophias Boulevard, tel: (30) (210) 721-2951. The U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki is located at Plateia Commercial Center, 43 Tsimiski Street, 7th floor, tel: (30) (2310) 242-905. The Embassy's web site is [http://athens.usembassy.gov/](http://athens.usembassy.gov/). The e-mail address for the Consular Section is athensamericanconsulservices@state.gov. The web site for the U.S. Consulate General Thessaloniki is [http://thessaloniki.usconsulate.gov/](http://thessaloniki.usconsulate.gov/). The Consulate’s e-mail address is info@usconsulate.gr.

**Hospitals** - Medical facilities are adequate, and some, particularly the private clinics and hospitals in Athens and Thessaloniki, are quite good. Some private hospitals have affiliations with U.S. facilities, and generally their staff doctors have been trained in U.S. or other international teaching institutions. Public medical clinics, especially on the islands, may lack resources; care there can be inadequate by American standards, and often, little English is spoken. Many patients, Greeks and visitors alike, are transferred from the provinces and islands to Athens hospitals for more sophisticated care. Others may choose to transfer from a public to a private hospital within Athens or Thessaloniki. Americans choosing to do so would arrange for an ambulance belonging to the private hospital to transport them from the public hospital to the private one. The cost of the ambulance for this transfer, as well as all expenses in a private hospital, must be borne by the patient.

Nursing care, particularly in public hospitals, may be less than adequate. For special or through-the-night nursing care, it is suggested that a private nurse be hired or a family member or friend be available to assist. One parent or a private nurse should always plan to stay with a hospitalized child on a 24-hour basis, as even the best hospitals generally maintain only a minimal nursing staff from midnight to dawn on non-emergency floors or wards.

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC’s web site at [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx). For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization’s (WHO) web site at [http://www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en). Further health information for travelers is available at [http://www.who.int/ith/en](http://www.who.int/ith/en).
Pharmacies/Drug Stores -- These are called *pharmikon* in Greek; aside from the obvious indications in windows and interiors, they are identified by a green cross. For minor medical problems, go first to the nearest pharmacy. Pharmacists usually speak English, and many medications can be dispensed without prescription. In the larger cities, if it is closed, there should be a sign in the window directing you to the nearest open one. Newspapers also list the pharmacies that are open late or all night.

**Police** - To report a crime or medical emergency, or for information or other assistance, first contact the local **tourist police** where an English-speaking officer is more likely to be found. If there is no tourist police officer available (tel. 171), contact the **local police** at tel. 100.

**Holidays**
The following are official holidays in Greece

- January 1 – New Year’s Day
- January 6 – Epiphany Day
- March 25 – Greek Independence Day
- March and/or April Clean Monday and Good Friday
- May 1 – Labor Day
- August 15 – Assumption of Mary
- October 28 – Greek National Day
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- December 26 – Boxing Day

**Safety**
The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the heightened threat of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and interests abroad. Like other countries that are members of the Schengen Agreement for free cross-border movement, Greece’s open borders with its European neighbors allow the possibility of terrorist groups entering/exiting the country with anonymity. Greece’s long coastline and many islands also heighten the possibility that foreign-based terrorists might try to exploit Greece’s borders.

In addition, there are domestic radical organizations that engage in violent acts in Greece. These activities have been against both domestic and foreign targets. From the mid-1970s until earlier this decade, the domestic Marxist terrorist group November 17 (N17) targeted Greek officials, as well as officials from NATO countries residing in Greece. During that period, five employees of the U.S. Embassy in Athens were murdered by N17, which was responsible for 23 killings altogether. Many of the N17 terrorists were apprehended by Greek authorities in 2002 and tried for their crimes. Since then, successor groups to N17 have emerged and have engaged in violent attacks against Greek and foreign targets. On January 12, 2007, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the U.S. Embassy. There was minor damage and no injuries. The Greek domestic terrorist group Revolutionary Struggle (RS) claimed responsibility for that attack.
 Strikes and demonstrations are a regular occurrence. Greece is a stable democracy and these activities usually are orderly and lawful. There have been recent incidents in Athens and Thessaloniki, however, in which unruly protestors engaged in aggressive confrontations with the police, often in areas frequented by tourists. Riot control procedures often include the use of tear gas. Visitors should keep abreast of news about demonstrations from local newspapers and hotel security. When there are demonstrations, visitors should be aware of and avoid places where demonstrators frequently congregate, such as the Polytechnic University area, Exarchion and Syntagma Squares in Athens, and Aristotle Square in Thessaloniki. Greek police are prohibited generally from entering Greek public university campuses. As a result, the campuses are sometimes exploited as a refuge by people who may engage in petty crime and vandalism.

Crimes against tourists (such as purse-snatching and pick-pocketing) have occurred at popular tourist sites and on crowded public transportation. Pick-pocketing is especially common on the Athens metro and in some shopping areas in and around Thessaloniki. Reports of date or acquaintance rape also occasionally occur. The majority of these offenses take place on the islands. The usual safety precautions practiced in any urban or tourist area should be practiced during a visit to Greece.

In many countries around the world, counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available. Transactions involving such products may be illegal under local law. In addition, bringing them back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines. More information on this serious problem is available at [http://www.cybercrime.gov/18usc2320.htm](http://www.cybercrime.gov/18usc2320.htm).

**Time Zone**

The time zone in Greece is +2 hours GMT or equivalent to +7 hours EST. Daylight Savings Time starts the last Sunday in March and ends the last Sunday in October.

**Transportation**

**Airport** - Greece has 15 international airports (Athens, Thessaloniki, Rhodes, Heraklio, Corfu...) which are hosting regular and chartered flights and 25 state domestic airports. Most of the international flights arrive on Athens International Airport. Olympic Airlines offers the majority of the domestic flights. Aegean Airlines also offers domestic scheduled flights from Athens.

**Taxi** - Taxis are quite cheap in Greece, so they can be considered a very convenient way of moving around in Crete. Using a taxi in the cities of Heraklion or Chania will rarely cost more than 3 €. Taxi fare structures are the same all over Greece and they are regulated by the Greek State. Taxis in cities and bigger towns MUST use the meter and the driver has to switch it on when you get in. If he forgets to do so, then ask him to.
Taxi Tariffs: There are two basic tariffs: Tariff 1 and Tariff 2. Depending on the time of day and the journey the driver must select the correct rate. Tariff 1 is the "day rate" used from 5.00 am to 12.00 pm and Tariff 2 is the night rate valid from 12.00 pm to 5.00 am. Also, tariff number 1 is used within the limits of the town or city where the taxi is registered and tariff number 2 is used outside that zone.

If you get a taxi at the airport or the port and you intend to travel a long distance, then ask the driver how much he expects the fare to cost. By doing so you will avoid unpleasant surprises. Also, remember that in the arrival halls of the airports or at the taxi stands outside the airport there are boards with the taxi fares to the most popular destinations.

Water
The public drinking water in Greece is safe to drink, although it can be slightly brackish in some locales near the sea. For that reason, many people prefer the bottled water commonly available at restaurants, hotels, cafes, food stores, and kiosks. The days when Greek restaurants automatically served glasses of cold fresh water are gone; you are now usually made to feel that you must order bottled water, at which point you will have to choose between natural or carbonated (metalliko), and domestic or imported. Cafes, however, tend to provide a glass of natural water.

**Academic System**

**Structure of School System**

**Primary**
Type of school providing this education: Dimotiko
Length of program in years: 6
Age level from: 6 to 11

**Lower Secondary**
Type of school providing this education: Gymnasio
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 12 to 14
Certificate/diploma awarded: Apolytirio Gymnasiou

**Upper Secondary**
Type of school providing this education: Lykeio
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 15 to 17
Certificate/diploma awarded: Apolytirio Lykeiou

**Vocational Secondary**
Type of school providing this education: Technika Epangelmatika Ekpedeftiria (TEE)
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 15 to 17
Certificate/diploma awarded: Level 3 Certificate
Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education is provided in both public and private schools and is divided into a compulsory first cycle (Gymnasio), from age 12 to 15, and an optional second cycle (Lykeio) from age 15 to 18. No entrance examinations are required in either case.

Higher Education
Under the terms of the Constitution of 1975, higher education institutions are legal entities of public law. They are self-governing and under the supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs which supports them financially and is responsible for educational policy concerning them. Technological Educational Institutions (TEI) form part of higher education just like the universities but belong to the non-university sector. Military Academies (Stratiotikes Scholes Axiomatikon) enjoy the same status as universities but they fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense. There are no private universities. The diplomas awarded by certain private post-secondary education institutions are not recognized by the State.

Teacher Education
Training of pre-primary and primary/basic school teachers - The training of primary school teachers is provided by the Pedagogical Departments for Primary Education, which has been set up at some Universities.

Training of secondary school teachers - Secondary level teacher training takes place at university level. Pedagogical studies may be taken in the third or fourth year but it is not obligatory. Within certain specialized fields, teacher training takes place at university level specialist institutions. Technical secondary teachers are trained in a School for Technical Vocational Education Teachers (SELETE) which includes the Technical Pedagogy School (PATES). It offers training courses to graduates of the TEIs and universities. This leads to the qualification of Ptychio(n) Paedagogikon Spoudon. The Higher Engineering College (ASETEM) is another institution that is part of SELETE. It offers four-year courses after the completion of Lykeo which include a period of teaching practice. The final qualification is the Ptychio(n) Ekpedeftikou Technologou Michanikou.

Training of higher education teachers - The prerequisite for teaching in higher education institutions, at all levels, is a Doctorate in the relevant field awarded in Greece or at an institution of higher education abroad. The candidate's request at professorship is examined by a Board consisting of university professors on the basis of his previous experience and the level of the doctoral thesis which he has defended, whether in Greece or abroad.
**Etiquette**

**Cultural Orientation**
Greeks use laws and morality to give structure to their worldview. It is one’s role in the social structure, the extended family, and deep friendships that give structure and security to the individual. There is a strong work ethic, but a laid-back approach to life contributes to an image of much activity but slow progress. There is a strong need for consensus in groups. Failures are often attributed to external circumstances. There is a definite social hierarchy, with some bias against classes, ethnic groups, and religions. Greeks have an inherent trust in people because of the social interrelationships between extended families and friends.

**Business Practices**
Always be punctual, although you will note that your Greek counterparts do not generally stress punctuality. To do business in Greece, one must be patient, yet ready to use quick judgment. Greeks are excellent bargainers.

Business is usually done over a cup of coffee – often in a coffeehouse or tavern. Lunch is the main meal of the day, between noon and 2:00 p.m.

**Protocol**
The greeting can take many forms in Greece; a handshake, an embrace, or a kiss can all be encountered at first meetings or among friends and acquaintances. The Greeks are an active and energetic people, and their mannerisms reflect this. Gestures tend to be strong and used frequently. Greeks gesture, not only with their hands and heads, but with their eyes and lips as well.

Greeks are very generous; if you compliment an object too enthusiastically, it may be given to you. If you are invited to a home, compliment the children of the household and give them a small gift; flowers or a dessert is also appropriate for the host.

Conservative business dress is best. Women should wear dresses or suits in subtle colors.

**Tipping**
Restaurant bills, including the VAT and any local taxes, include a 10% to 15% service charge. Nevertheless, it is customary to leave an additional 5% to 10% for the waiter, especially if he or she has provided special service. Certainly round off on larger bills; even on small bills, leave change up to the nearest 1€ ($1.30). Good taxi service merits a tip of 5% to 10%. (Greeks rarely tip taxi drivers, but tourists are expected to.) Hotel cleaners should be left about 2€ ($2.60) per night per couple. Bellhops and door attendants should be tipped 1€ ($1.30) to 5€ ($6.50), depending on the services they provide.
References


