

How is the educational system in Greece shaped?¹

The Greek educational system is under the responsibility and surveillance of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

The provision of adult third country citizens with education is an obligation of the Greek state and established through the international and Greek legislation (article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN, 1989, ratified in Greece by **Law 2101/1992, Government Gazette A 192**, article 16 of the Constitution of Greece and article 21 Law **4251/2014 (Government Gazette A80/1.4.2014)**. Schooling is compulsory for all children in Greece, including the refugees and the asylum seekers, both boys and girls, from 5 to 15-year-old.

If you are an asylum seeker or recognized as a refugee or eligible for subsidiary protection, your underage children can have access to the national educational system under the same conditions that apply to the Greek citizens.

Compulsory schooling includes pre-primary (one year), primary and lower secondary education which are aimed at children from 5 to 15 years of age. The duration of the primary education (Primary school) is for six years and that of the lower secondary education (Junior High School) is for three years. The duration of the upper secondary education is for three years and it is aimed at children from 15 to 18 years of age and it includes the General High School and Technical Vocational Training (TEE).

In secondary education, the children's schooling is characterized as sufficient or insufficient depending on the total absences of the student accumulated in the final school year. In order for schooling to be characterized as sufficient, the total number of the absences must not exceed 114, in accordance with **article 28 of the Presidential Decree 485/83 (Government Gazette 120, issue B 120/23.1.2018)**, as in force. One absence is one teaching hour. The students whose schooling is characterized as insufficient are obliged to attend the same class once more.

Attendance in the Compulsory Public Schooling is free of charge.

What are the supporting documents for school admission?

The required supporting documents include:

1. International Protection Applicant Card issued by the Asylum Service or another official document which confirm identification of the students;
2. Health or vaccination record booklet
3. Individual Student Health Card (ADYM)
4. Residence certificate
5. Schooling certificate from the country of origin (if available)

Admission period for the school year 2019-2020

1. Pre-primary Education - Early Childhood Schools Admission: 6-20 May 2019 for students born in 2014-2015. Admission after the above period may be accepted in case of a vacancy.

¹ <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/el/h-zwē-stην-ελλάδα/πρόσβαση-στην-εκπαίδευση/>

2. Primary Education – Primary Schools Admission: 6-20 May 2019 for students born from 1-1-2013 to 31-12-2013. Admission after the above period may be accepted in case of a vacancy.

3. Secondary Education - Junior High Schools Admission Admission is automatic for the students who completed primary school in Greece. If it is your first admission, you must follow the admission procedure described above.

4. Secondary Education - General High Schools and Vocational Upper Secondary Schools (EPAL) Admission is automatic for the students who completed lower secondary school in Greece. If it is your first admission, you must enroll through an online platform and, additionally to the aforementioned supporting documents, VAT Number (A.F.M.) as well as access codes to the online tax information platform taxisnet are also required.

Which are the official public holidays during which schools are closed?

Schools remain closed in the following dates of the school year:

-Christmas Holidays (from December 24th to January 7th)

-Easter Holidays (From Monday starting the Holy Week to Thomas Sunday for two weeks)

-Summer Holidays (mid-June to mid-September)

Public holidays, that is the days during which schools are closed are:-17 November (Athens Polytechnic Uprising Anniversary)

-26 October (Patron Saint of Thessaloniki Day)

-28 October (National Day)

-30 January (Religious Day – Day of Three Holy Hierarchs)

-25 March (National Day)

-1 May (Labor Day)

Moreover, there are some holidays that are not on a fixed date every year:

-Holy Spirit Monday (Religious Holiday)

-Clean Monday

Other types of school units²

Additionally to the general education schools, as they were described above, there are also:

1. Intercultural Education Schools

These schools implement special research and innovative programs stressing intercultural communication and the students' educational needs. The teachers are selected and hired according to their experience in intercultural education, their knowledge of the students' mother tongues and teaching Greek as a second language. There are 13 intercultural schools of primary education and 13 schools of secondary education in Greece.

You can find the list of the intercultural schools in Greek here:

<https://edu.klimaka.gr/sxoleia/diapolitismika/548-katalogos-sxoleia-diapolitismikis-ekpaideyshs>

² <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/el/h-zwē-stην-ελλάδα/πρόσβαση-στην-εκπαίδευση/>

2. Special Education school units

Certain schools have a specialized staff and teachers for disabled students (severe hearing damage or mental disability or learning difficulties). For admission in special education schools, the Centers for Differential Diagnosis, Diagnosis and Support (KEDDY) issue the relevant recommendation and referral.

3. Evening Junior High Schools and High Schools: They are designed for students over 15 years of age who work in the morning.

Their duration is also for 3 years with 4 or 5 study hours every afternoon.

For more information on the admission procedure per level of education you can visit the following link (it includes information in: Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, French, Turkish, Kirmantzi and Sorani):

<https://blog.refugee.info/greek-schools-open-for-refugees/>

Tertiary Education in Greece

Children who graduate from the secondary education in Greece (upper secondary education) can sit exams in order to enter the Universities or Technological Institutions (TEI) of the higher education or enroll at a Vocational Training Institute (IEK).

With which organization do I have to communicate for recognition of a degree?

In Greece, DOATAP (Hellenic NARIC) is the competent organization for the recognition of qualifications awarded by foreign recognized education institutions and information on Higher Education studies abroad and in Greece.

For the recognition, official documents from the country of origin are required.

For more information you can call in the following telephone numbers +30 2310379371-2310379372-2310379373-2310379106 or visit the office of DOATAP in Thessaloniki in the address: Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace - Dioikitirio, P.C. 541 23, <http://www.doatap.gr/gr/>

What are the opportunities for free of charge masters in Greece?

The Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies of the University of Macedonia has launched for the summer semester of the academic year 2019-2020 the master degree in politics and economy of the modern Eastern and South-eastern Europe.

The Program will give the refugees the opportunity to attend the courses. The candidates will be selected upon interviews and the ones who will successfully complete the required courses will be awarded an attendance certificate. The candidates must be fluent in English and hold a university degree in finance, political sciences or law. Deadline for the submission of the applications: 31/8/2019

For detailed information on the application procedure, visit the link <https://mabsos.uom.gr/admission/how-to-apply> For enrollment and information on +30 2310 891527 and mpesecr@uom.edu.gr

Adult Education in Greece³

There is a number of educational programs for adults organized by the state or by private bodies, NGOs and other organizations. The General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning of the Ministry of Education is the competent authority for most of the educational programs for adults. The following are some of them:

1. Second Chance Schools they are aimed at adults who have not completed compulsory schooling. Their duration is for two years and it includes evening courses. The students who graduate are awarded a certificate that is equivalent to the Junior High School diploma.

2, Lifelong learning Centers They are established and function at municipalities, <http://www.gsae.edu.gr/en/>

Which structures offer language lessons free of charge in Thessaloniki?⁴

Solidarity School Odysseas, 24 Aisopou Street 4th floor, Tel. +30 6974517418- +30 6945533616

Solidarity Now, Thessaloniki Solidarity Center, 29^A Ptolemaion Str., 4th floor, Tel: +30 2310 501030-40
- English and Greek language lessons for adolescents (15-18 years of age)

Solidarity Now, Blue Refugee Center, 25Δ. I. Koletti Str., Tel: +30 2310555263-4
- Greek and English language lessons for children (6-18 years of age)
- Supplementary teaching for children.

Union of Hellenic-Arabic Friendship, 14 Olympou Str., Tel: +30 699 579 4379
- English and Arabic language lessons for adults, Teaching hours: 4/ week,
- Greek language lessons for children 6-14 years of age, Teaching hours: 8/ week

Refugees Care Center, 5 Christou Pipsou Str., Tel: +30 2310541022
- English lessons, Tuesday & Thursday (13:00-15:00)

METAdrasi, 7 Vilara Str., Valaoritou*, Tel: +30 2310 501151
- Greek language lessons for children, adolescents and adults, 4-6/week,
The lessons are given at the 8th Vocational Upper Secondary School "Efkleidis"-Al. Papanastasiou 13, Thessaloniki 546 39

* Enrollments take place at the office of METAdrasi

³ <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/el/h-zwē-stην-ελλάδα/πρόσβαση-στην-εκπαίδευση/>

⁴ The appearing lessons schedule may be changed.

Objective of the LION Project

The creation of a natural platform where discussions between bodies of the local community and third country citizens will take place. These two groups will have the chance to exchange points of view and share experiences and practices with the overriding objective of creating strong links between them.

Project Coordinator



Project Partners



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ARSIS, Youth Support Center, 9 Sparti Str., Tel: +30 231 022 7311

- Greek language lessons for families, children, adults and adolescents (French speaking), Teaching hours: 3/ week
- English language lessons for children, adults, and a special class for Arabic speaking, Farsi speaking, Kurdish speaking persons, Teaching hours: 4.5/ week
- German language lessons for adults, Teaching hours: 4.5/ week
- French language lessons for adults, Teaching hours: 2/ week

CHANTH (YOUTH CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD), 1, N. Germanou Str. - CHANTH Park, Tel: +30 231 6001000-0883, Dolores Tarrafeta

- English and Greek evening lessons for adults Teaching hours: up to 8/week
- DIAdrasis: Child's center for the development of social skills, 6A Prasakaki & 2 Koukoufli Str. Tel: 231 126 4629, Monday - Friday 8:30-15:00 Bilingual Early Childhood Education Program for the development of cognitive, socio-emotional, kinetic and communication skills in the mother tongue and in Greek (for children 2-4 years of age)
- & Monday-Friday 17:00-20:00, Early Childhood Intercultural Activities Program for refugee children and local children through musicokinetic, science and technology, theater games and visual arts workshops as well as various events for the whole family aiming at intercultural communication (2-6 years of age)
- Participation in the activities is free of charge.

Irida Multicultural Women's Center, InterVolve, 59 El. Venizelou Str., Tel +30 231 129 6392

- Lessons exclusively for women 16+, Alphabet beginners class beginners class with vocabulary useful in everyday life as well as advanced English and Greek language class, upon consultation.

Enrollment only on the 1st Friday of each month, 10:00-16:00

For more information you can contact through whatsapp (6907289836) or visit the center.

Greek Language School, Directorate of Social Policy of the Municipality of Neapoli-Sykes

- Greek language and culture lessons with different lessons for immigrants and refugees according to their language profile, Teaching hours: 6/ week.
- Lessons are exclusively for people governed by the Municipality of Neapoli-Sykes.
- For information and enrollment contact the consulting station of the municipality +30 2313 313 151, 2313 329525, 2313 502 226, 2313 300 206.

Which activities are free of charge for children and adults in Thessaloniki?

ARSIS, Tel: +30 231 022 7311

- Dancing for persons 8-25 years of age, on Mondays 18:00-20:00, 59 El Venizelou Str. (3rd floor)
- Football for children 8-14 years of age Tuesday and Thursday 15:00-17:00, Pedio Areos Park, Stratou Str. & Monday and Wednesday 14:30-16:30 at the Chortatzidon-Agios Dimitrios field
- Parkour for persons 8-25 years of age on Fridays 18:00-19:30, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (next to the School of Theology)
- Basket for persons 8-25 years of age on Mondays 17:00-18:30, Nea Paralia park - M. Alexandrou & P. Syndika Str.

Terre des Hommes, (Chortatzidon- Agios Dimitrios Field)

- Football for persons over 15 years of age, two weekly activities per week for men and two for women.
- For enrollment and more information Tomas Farines, e-mail: thomasfarines@gmail.com

Irida Multicultural Women's Center, InterVolve, 59 El. Venizelou Str., Tel +30 231 129 6392

- Lessons only for women 16+

European Qualifications Passport for Refugees, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications>

Duolingo, Free of charge online lessons on all languages; English is required for the lessons, <https://www.duolingo.com/>

Loescen, Free of charge online Lessons, <https://www.loecsen.com/>

British Council, Free of charge online English lessons, <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/>

Hellenic American Union, Free of charge online English and Greek language lessons, <http://www.hau.gr/?i=learning.el.podcasts>

METAdrasi

- Free of charge multilingual support tool for children and adolescents speaking Arabic or Farsi and have basic communications skills in Greek language. Download here:

<https://metadrasi.org/campaigns/εντάξει-2/>

- Free of charge Mathematics Glossary which includes general mathematics terminology on Algebra and Geometry. Download here: <https://metadrasi.org/campaigns/μαθηματικό-λεξικό/>



We believe in human rights, respect in diversity and mutual coexistence

<http://allianceforintegration.eu/>

LION (Local Alliance for Integration)

ACCESS GUIDE TO EDUCATION IN THESSALONIKI

