Access to Education in Greece

October 2022
Introduction

Free & Compulsory Education for all children in Greece between 4-15 yo:

- Kindergarten (Nipiagogeio) 4-6 yo

- Primary school (Dimotiko) 6-12 yo

- Lower secondary education: Junior high school (Gymnasio) 12-15 yo

Upper secondary education (optional): High school (Lykeio) 15-18 yo or

- Vocational High Schools (EPAL)

- Vocational Apprenticeship schools (EPAS)

- Vocational Training Schools (acronym in Greek: ESK)

- Evening High Schools for working students
How to enrol your children at school?

Documents required:

• Asylum seeker’s card or valid residence permit, or any other valid identification document.
• Proof of residence
• Health or vaccination booklet of the child

Relevant support:

ESTIA accommodation: social worker and RECs (Refugee Education Coordinators – Ministry of Education)
RIC and OAS: RECs
Self-accommodated: NGOs and RECs
Who can help you enrol your children at school?

**ARSIS**: KUN, 21B Tenedou, 112 57 Kypseli - Opening hours: 10:00-18:00 - Contact Tel: 2108611132 and 2108611134

**HELIX**: 20-22 Patisson, 106 77 Athens - Hours of Operation: 09:00-19:00 - Contact Tel: 2103809990 and 2103810445

**Solidarity Now**: 11 Epirou, 104 33 Athens - Opening hours: 09:00-19:00 - Contact Tel: 2108233651 & 6932245628

**METAdrasi**: 3rd floor, 75 Patriarchou Grigoriou V, 176 76 Kallithea - Opening hours: 12:00-20:00 - Contact Tel: 2141008700 (ext. 250)

**METAdrasi**: 2nd floor, 15 Mitsaki, 111 41 Ano Patisia - Opening hours: 14:00-18:00 - Contact Tel: 2141008700 (ext. 250)
How to get your children vaccinated?

- **Primary Medical Care** (P.E.D.Y.) & **Local Health Units** (T.O.M.Y.) - 14900*

- **Red Cross Education Health Facility** (Panormou Str.)
  [https://educational-health-station-hellenic-red.business.site/](https://educational-health-station-hellenic-red.business.site/)

- **Médecins du Monde** (MDM) - contact n. 210 32 13 150

- **The Smile of the Child** - contact n. 210 76 47 760
Nursery Education

➢ Children of 6 months to 3 yo (optional)

Online application - Municipal Nursery of Athens:


Submitting period: April - May
Primary Education – Kindergarten

➢ Kindergarten (Nipiagogeio) at 4-5 yo

Online application
https://proti-eggrafi.services.gov.gr/

Submitting period: second half of May
Primary Education – Elementary school

➢ Public elementary school (Dimotiko) at 6 yo

To enrol your children, you may visit your nearest public school early in advance of the next school year

Schools start mid of September
Secondary Education

- Lower Secondary Education (Gymnasium) at 12 yo

- Upper Secondary Education
  
  i.  **Lyceum (GEL)** after 15 yo (optional)

  ii.  **Vocational high school (EPAL)** after 15 yo

  iii. **DYPA (Public Employment Service) Apprenticeship School (EPAS)** after 15 yo ([dypa.gov.gr](http://dypa.gov.gr))

  iv.  **Vocational Training Schools** (acronym in Greek: ESK) after 15 yo (2yrs)

Enrolment to Gymnasium and GEL is automatic if graduated from public school
18+ Education

- Post Secondary Vocational Training (Vocational Training Institutes, IEK)
- Apprenticeship Class for EPAL graduates
- Evening Vocational Schools (EPAL) for adults or adolescents who work
- Second chance schools: 18+ (not completed low secondary education)
- Lifelong Learning Centers (KDVM) offering non-formal adult education

Information and contacts:

Higher Education - Greek University

Number of foreign students to be accepted is announced in June-July.

Requirements:
- **Graduation certificate** (completion of Greek school)

or

- **B2 level Greek language certificate** (for specific slots available to non-Greek citizens) for those who finished secondary education in another country

No tuition for undergraduate students in Public Universities

**Master's degree/Phd** - tuition varies between €1,500 - €4,500/yr

"Study in Greece" search tool [https://studyinggreece.edu.gr/](https://studyinggreece.edu.gr/)
Who can help with higher education?

❖ **Study in Greece**

Contact:
- [Facebook](#)
- Email: [info@studyingreece.edu.gr](mailto:info@studyingreece.edu.gr)
- [Contact form](#)

❖ **Pyxida** (GCR)

Contact:
- Phone: 2103814710
- Email: [gcr1@gcr.gr](mailto:gcr1@gcr.gr)
- [Facebook](#)
- 4th floor, Solomou 20, Exarcheia 106 82
Scholarships

• Scholarships at the American College of Greece
  https://www.acg.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/admission-process/greek-students/financial-assistance/scholarships-for-entering-students/

• UNHCR, limited number of scholarships to unaccompanied children who transition to adulthood and youth
Diploma or Degree recognition in Greece

Institutions that facilitate the recognition procedure:

- The Interdisciplinary Organization for the Recognition of Academic Titles and of Information
  https://www.doatap.gr/home_english/organization_english/

- The National Organization for the Accreditation of Qualifications and Professional Orientation (E.O.P.P.E.P.)
Education activities by urban actors

- Solidarity Now
- GCR Pyxida
- Elix
- Arsis
- METAdrasi
- DRC
- Melissa
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Action for Women
- We Need Books
- Odyssea

- Hellenic Red Cross
- ANKAA
- FAROS Horizon Centre
- Hestia Hellas
- Bab el-Shams
- Migrants and Refugees Integration Centre (KEM)
SOLIDARITY NOW

**Homework and Creative Activities Center**: non-formal education service to facilitate the integration in formal education (supported by interpreters).

- Support of language skills (Greek and English)
- Support at home for the daily school tasks
- Support to children in need/with disabilities by social scientists and psychologists
- Expanded vocational training courses, employability workshops and support for accessing higher education opportunities
- Emphasis on the school readiness of students aged 4-6 years

**Address**: 11 Ipeirou, Athens 104 33
**Email**: athens@solidaritynow.org
**Tel**: 210823365, 6932245628

**Supported languages**: Arabic, French, Farsi, Kurdish, Pasto, Urdu
GCR Pyxida

- Greek language and educational classes for all levels (Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced)
- Guidance with all school enrolments and school support programs
- Psychosocial and recreational activities
- Employment preparation counselling and vocational courses
- Advocacy and community awareness
- Anti-racism & cultural training courses for school students, teachers & parents

Monday – Friday, 09:00 – 19:00

Address: 20 Solomou, Athens 106 83
Email: pixidaesp@gcr.gr
Tel: 2103814710

Supported languages: Greek, English, French, African languages, Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, Pashto, Bangla, Sorani, Kurmanji, Turkish
ELIX

- Non-formal education and homework support to children & their parents
- Coverage of the educational needs of children aged 3-17
- Daily homework support for children aged 6-15

Address: 20-22 Patission, Athens 106 82
Email: learning.center@elix.org.gr
Tel: 2103810445

Supported languages: Greek, English, Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Sorani, Urdu
METAAdrasi

• Non-formal education and homework support to children aged 4-18
• Strong presence in urban Athens and Thessaloniki, Lesvos and Chios
• Use of Akelius Language Learning Course, a Digital Platform with which METAAdrasi provides educational and technological support to the education staff of Formal Education
• Main provider of interpretation services in Greece, facilitating communication among school principals, teachers, children, their parents and the MoE’s Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs)

Address: 7, 25 Martiou, 17778 Tavros
Email: info@metadras.org
Tel: 214 100 8700

Supported languages: over 20 different languages
ARSIS

• Provision of non-formal education and homework support to children aged 4-18.
• Presence in Athens, Thessaloniki, Fylakio, Samos, Kos and Leros, as well as with a mobile team in Crete.

Address: 21B, Tenedou, Kypseli, 112 57
Email: arsisathina@gmail.com
Tel: 210 8611132

Supported languages: Greek, English, French, Farsi, Arabic, Kurdish et al.
Jesuit Refugee Service

Magistories: Informal educational program for kids from 6 yo & adults
Partners with Libraries Without Borders (Bibliothéques Sans Frontières)

- Greek lessons for children and adults
- English courses for children and adults
- Computer classes for adults

Address: 4 Agiou Isidorou, Athens 114 71
Email: greece@jrs.net
Tel: 2108237835

Supported languages: English, French, Greek
Action for women

Women-only day centre for women over 18 yo:

- **Trauma-informed** non-formal education classes (Greek & IT)
- PSS services (1:1 counselling with a Psychologist, weekly activities) at the Pomegranate Project
- Team trained and specialised in gender-based violence

Girls of **15-18 yo** will require signed parental/guardian consent

**Languages spoken**: Greek, English, French, Farsi/Dari, Lingala, German, Portuguese, Mandarin

**Email**: athens@actionforwomen.ch
**Tel_WhatsApp**: 6970398914
**Facebook_messenger**: https://www.facebook.com/actionforwomenCH
**Website**: https://afw.ngo/
WE Need Books

Multilingual lending library and multicultural center

Address: 7 Evias, Athens 113 62
Email: info@weneedbooks.org
Tel: 2111824043
Facebook_messenger: https://www.facebook.com/weneedbooks
Odyssea

The Academy of vocational training: https://odyssea.com/odyssea-courses/

Monday – Friday, 09:00 – 18:00
Address: 17 Nikiforou Mandilara, Agios Ioannis Rentis 182 33
Email: info@odyssea.com
Tel: 2108839877
Supported languages: Greek, English
Hellenic Red Cross

Cultural Mediation and Interpreting Services
Training interpreters in Cultural Mediation

Monday – Friday, 08:00 - 15:00
Address: 1 Athanasaki, Athens 115 26
Email: accrefhrc@redcross.gr
Tel: 6909172980, 6909173104
Supported languages: Arabic & Farsi / Dari
ANKAA

7 education and vocational departments:
• Language school
• IT & Media
• Barber
• Tailor
• Culinary Arts
• Workshops (electricity, metal, carpentry, screen-printing, jewellery, bike repair, soap making),
• Employability support

Monday – Friday, 10.00 - 19.00
Address: 29 Ithakis, Athens 112 57
Email: info@ankaaproject.org
Tel: 6951192126
Supported languages: English & Greek
FAROS Horizon Centre
Educational and training center for young refugees

- 6-9 month program of classes and workshops
- Classes on design and ideation, computer and electronics, 3D printing and video, workshops of carpentry, tailoring
- Psychosocial support and language classes (Greek and English)

Monday – Friday, 13:00 - 17:00

Address: 10 Metsovou, Athens 106 82
Email: horizon@faros.org.gr
Tel: 2108833836
Supported languages: Farsi
Hestia Hellas

Vocational training for adults and adolescents:
- Job coaching: CV writing, job searching and applications, interviewing skills, workplace expectations
- Computer classes
- Greek and English language classes
- Graphic design classes
- Sewing classes
- SEED (sustainable entrepreneurship for empowerment and development) Business Course: a 12-week business course to support you in starting your own business in Greece

Child care is available for children (ages 2-12 yo) while parents are visiting Hestia Hellas.

Monday – Friday, 10:00 - 17:00
Address: 5 Charilaou Trikoupi, Athens 106 78
Email: livelihoods@hestiahellas.org
Tel: 2130907859
Website: https://hestiahellas.org
Facebook messenger: https://www.facebook.com/Hestia-Hellas-805437309614036/
Bab el-Shams

Vocational training and educational activities for women:
• Sewing, knitting, and embroidery trainings
• Hairdressing training
• English, Greek, and German classes
• Youth activities: Folkloric Palestinian Dance "Dabke"
• English, German, and Greek classes
• Photography
• Football team
• Cultural space

Monday – Friday, 10:00 - 17:00
Address: 49 Kallidromiou, Athens 106 81
Email: jafragreece@gmail.com
Facebook messenger: https://www.facebook.com/JafraFoundationinGreece/
Migrants and Refugees Integration Centre (KEM)

Social inclusion activities for adults:
• Greek language courses
• English language courses
• Computer courses

Intercultural activities: theatrical and other cultural activities

For Vocational Counselling, you may call at 2105249704 (Monday and Thursday, 8am-2pm).

Email: kem@athens.gr
Address: 45 Mezonos, Athens 104 38
Tel: 2105246722

Supported languages: Farsi, Urdu on specific hours
Additional Learning opportunities

**Centres for Lifelong Learning** operate in municipalities
https://www.inedivim.gr/en/node/8272

**Greek language courses** for migrants and refugees are organised by Universities, NGOs, and Centres for Vocational Training. You may ask NGOs supporting refugees and migrants for details or for assistance in finding out about program implementation and availability.

https://refugees.studyinggreece.edu.gr/education/
HRC Language courses
Jesuit Refugee Service
Online Resources

- **Coursera**: online learning platform with different mostly free – payment for certificate of completion. Financial aid or Scholarship to obtain the certificate of completion for some courses for refugees at [https://refugees.coursera.org/](https://refugees.coursera.org/)

- **Kiron**: begin or continue studying at university level for free - intermediate-level English and regular access to the internet is required. Learn more at [https://kiron.ngo/en/about-us/](https://kiron.ngo/en/about-us/)

Other online learning platforms include:
- EdX
- Future Learn
- Alison
- Academic Earth
- Lynda, (education videos)
- Khan Academy, (math and coding)
- MOOC LIST
Online Resources

Free language learning apps

- **Duolingo**: basic grammar and vocabulary for different languages
- **Akelius**: Language Learning Course [https://languages.akelius.com/](https://languages.akelius.com/)
- **Memrise**: language-learning website and app for vocabulary especially.
- **Antura and the Letters**: games and quizzes for kids ages 5 to 10 to learn standard Arabic alphabet.