Student mobility

Student mobility through scholarship programmes

Scholarships granted by the ministry of education

The Directorate of Organisational and Academic Development of the Ministry of Education is responsible for awarding scholarships in line with bilateral cultural agreements as well as grants based on bequests.

Scholarships granted by the state scholarships foundation

The State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) is the designated national agency for scholarships since 1951, awarding grants for the promotion of academic excellence. More specifically, IKY:

1. Manages a small number of bequest grants for postgraduate studies and academic/doctoral research in Greece or abroad. The grant-holder selection process is based on written tests or other criteria determined by the bequest’s terms and conditions as well as the current legislation on bequests.
2. Awards grants for doctoral and post-doctoral research and training at the European University Institute in Florence.
3. Awards scholarships to foreign nationals for postgraduate and post-doctoral studies.
4. Awards scholarships for Modern Greek Language and Culture courses. This programme is intended for foreign nationals, holders of a graduate degree from a non-Greek university outside Greece, who do not permanently reside in Greece. Courses and seminars are being offered since 1992. From 2006 and onwards candidates from all over the world join activities. Award is of 8 months duration (usually from October to May) and takes place in any of the public universities in Greece. It covers all levels of language competency. The programme also includes cultural events and educational visits to Greek sites of historical interest. A certificate of attendance is awarded upon completion of the programme. The scholarship covers accommodation and living expenses, tuition fees and subsistence, health insurance (public healthcare only), a monthly allowance of 150 Euro and a one-off 200 Euro allowance covering expenses incurred on arrival.
5. Awards scholarships for Greek expatriates studying (at bachelor or postgraduate level) at the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston and Greeks studying at Theology schools in Greece; they cover expenses for a study period spent in Greece and Boston by the afore-mentioned student categories respectively. Duration of studies, student attendance and course units obtained at the destination university are fully validated and recognised by the sending university.

Scholarships granted by other state bodies

A small number of scholarships for undergraduate or postgraduate studies are also awarded through other public agencies:
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Hellenic Institute for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

Scholarships and bequests by private institutions

There is a significant number of private foundations that award grants and bequests for higher education and postgraduate studies in specific areas. This is an indicative list of such foundations:

- Bodossaki Foundation
- Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation
- Fulbright Foundation.

Erasmus+ european programme student mobility

Erasmus+ student mobility is promoted through the following actions:

- **Key Action 1 - student and staff mobility in higher education**

  The action is split into a) a study period carried out abroad at a partner higher education institution and b) a work placement (traineeship) in a company or similar organisation based abroad and c. a combination of both.

  European programme/Erasmus offices operating in higher education institutions, coordinate these programmes and provide information services to students who wish to be informed of the programme.

  Eligible participants are students who attend a course leading to a recognised degree or another recognised higher university qualification (up to the doctoral level) at a partner country higher education institution. The duration of the mobility can last up to 12 months per cycle of study while a monthly grant is provided for the students who are involved in a mobility period depending on the receiving country.

  Students selected to be involved in a mobility period either for a study period or for a traineeship are required to sign a ‘learning agreement’ which provides for the formal recognition of their period of mobility abroad.

- **International student mobility**

  Erasmus+ coordinates student mobility from and to partner countries. In order to carry out student mobility (first, second and third cycle) from and to partner countries, Greek higher education institutes are required to sign an inter-institutional agreement with the respective institute located in the partner country. Higher education institutes in partner countries are bound by this agreement to abide by the terms set out in the Erasmus+ university guide. The study period spent abroad can last from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 12 months. Institutes participating in the international mobility action are obliged to recognise the credits obtained by students during the mobility period spent in a partner country or in Greece.

- **Intensive short courses**

  Additionally, students are entitled to intensive short courses (5 days to 2 months) which bring together incoming students from different universities and promote effective learning in multicultural environments.

- **Mixed student mobility**

  It accommodates activities combining one or more short-term periods of physical (2 months in total) and virtual mobility for complementary preparation for future physical mobility.
Scholarships from foreign bodies

Greek citizens can receive scholarships from foreign bodies such as embassies, state scholarship foundations, international organisations, etc. IKY acts as an information hub for such scholarships. Interested parties may be informed on their own initiative in accordance with the corresponding invitations.

IKY has partnered with the European Organisation for Nuclear Research CERN in order to deliver grants for participation into CERN educational programmes.

Academic staff mobility

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs supports the exchange and mobility of academic staff through the following framework:

Law 4009/2011

According to law 4009/2011, professors are entitled to receive fully paid scientific leaves for up to one year for every 6 years of service or for up to 6 months for every 3 years of service. The scientific leave is granted by a dean’s act, upon the rector’s recommendation, which refers to the way in which the educational needs of the curricula of the courses, in which the applicant professor the scientific leave participates, can be covered.

The application for an educational leave is accompanied by the proposed programme of scientific activity. After the expiry of their leave, the professor submits to the rector or to his deputy a report on the implementation of the programme he had proposed.

Professors, who, during their scientific leave, cooperate with HEIs or other institutions abroad without pay, are entitled to their full salary increased by 80%. After the end of their scientific leave, they are obliged to remain at their institution for at least 3 years. Professors are also entitled to unpaid leave. During the period of unpaid leave, all pension, health insurance and other arrangements are covered by them.

The total duration of unpaid leaves may not exceed 3 years. Information concerning the participation of professors in mobility projects abroad in the framework of scientific leave are kept at the higher education institutions.

Private initiatives of higher education institutions

Higher education institutions implement mobility projects for academic staff in the framework of bilateral agreements – partnerships that institutions themselves develop on their own initiative, as well as through participation in international organisations. International organisations aim at promoting cooperation between higher education institutions and at promoting quality and research in particular areas of interest.

Moreover, academic staff mobility takes place through participation in international conferences abroad and within the country. Furthermore, administrative staff participate in mobility programmes for vocational training purposes. Mobility programmes are addressed to academic staff, researchers and administrative staff and are coordinated and funded by the special and ordinary account of the higher education institution.

Moreover, in the context of joint postgraduate studies programmes and preparation of doctoral thesis with the co-supervision between greek higher education institutions and the respective foreign Institutions (law 3685/2008), there is provision for mobility of academic staff to provide research work.
The specific information on the level of participation in these activities, the financial aid and recognition of the mobility period abroad, is in the competency of the higher education institutions that organise such activities.

**Bilateral educational agreements and bilateral cultural exchange programmes**

Bilateral Educational Agreements between Greece and other countries set the legal framework for cooperation. They are designed so as to establish mutual understanding between the parties involved and to promote cooperation in various scientific fields. The countries involved, through diplomatic channels, commit themselves to support the implementation of educational programmes, which promote mobility and encourage the development of contacts and networking among teaching and research staff, as well as other scientists that belong to higher education institutions.

Bilateral cultural exchange programmes are awarded based on bilateral cultural agreements that Greece and other countries have signed and aim to promote cooperation between the academies of science and higher education institutions, by implementing joint research projects, participating in international scientific conferences, exchanging teachers and research scientists and sharing information on issues falling under their competence.

The duration of the scientists' stay in the host country is 7 days on average.

The services which are responsible for organising, coordinating, financing and implementing these programmes are: a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, b) the Greek embassies abroad, c) the State Scholarships Foundation and d) the Department D, Students Affairs and Scholarships of the Directorate of Organisational and Academic Development of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

The amount of funding on behalf of Greece includes expenses for travel, daily allowance, whereas accommodation expenses are always covered by the host country. Participants continue to receive their regular pay from their work.

Finally, there is no particular provision for the recognition of performance and achievements of participants in the foregoing activities.

**Programme to promote exchanges and scientific cooperation between Greece and Germany**

Since 2000, IKY and the German Society for Academic Exchanges (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) have been running the IKYDA programme based on a bilateral agreement to further promote the scientific cooperation of higher education institutions, as well as the research institutes, in Greece and Germany.

The programme is intended for teams of scientists or researchers in all cognitive fields, who are called to prepare a joint research project with their German partners via an exchange of mutual visits. The total period of financing lasts from one (1) to 3 years.

The programme is launched in the summer months and the application closing date is usually in September. Applications are submitted to the relevant National Agency (IKY – DAAD) of each country by the scientific coordinator of the project. The research team in each country is comprised by least 3 members, including the scientific coordinator, without limitation as to the maximum number of members. The team members must be active teachers (of all grades) in higher education institutions, researchers from Greek research institutes, PhD holders, PhD applicants or postgraduate students. Collaboration between two or more institutes is permitted, irrespective of whether these are in Greece or Germany.

According to the IKY – DAAD agreement, applications submitted by both Greeks and Germans will be
examined by certified evaluators. Initially the evaluation process takes place at the premises of the National Agency and is, then, completed within the context of a joint Greek – German Evaluation Committee meeting. During the selection process, priority is given to the promotion of junior scientists, the complementarity of research plans and the possibility of scientifically benefiting from the results.

Financial benefits, by category, are described in detail in each programme’s call. Each programme is monitored by IKY. Results are based on progress reports submitted by the participants and performance is illustrated through conference announcements, joint publications in well-known journals, academic distinctions and scientific projects put into action.

Thyespa

For the purpose of promoting Greek studies, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens organises Thyespa [5]. This a summer course in Modern Greek Studies which aims at familiarising foreigners with modern greek culture, modern greek language, literature, history and arts.

It is directed towards undergraduate, postgraduate students and members of teaching staff of departments at foreign universities which teach subjects related to Greek studies.

The programme is supported by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs [6], the National Scholarships Foundation [1], the Greek Parliament, the National Tourism Organisation as well as from the local government. The programme is structured in levels which are defined according to the principles of the European Council with more inner subdivisions. The candidates sit on a placement test at the beginning of the programme and are classified in the respective level.

Course attendance is compulsory. All students can sit progress assessment tests administered at the end of the programme. ECTS credits will be awarded to students who have successfully passed these tests after having completed a 80% minimum course attendance. A total of 6 credits is awarded for all levels. One (1) extra credit will be awarded to 4-6 level students who have completed a minimum of 50% lecture attendance. There is no fee for courses provided by the programme. Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will not be reimbursed.

Erasmus+ european programme academic staff mobility

Staff mobility in higher education for teaching

This action coordinates the funding of staff mobility in higher education abroad. The programme grants higher education teaching staff permission to teach in partner higher education institutions abroad. Staff mobility for teaching can be pertinent to any subject/field of study and must include a minimum of 8 teaching hours per week.

Teaching and administrative staff mobility in higher education for training

This programme grants higher education teaching and administrative staff permission to participate in training activities (excluding conferences) or perform job shadowing in partner institutions, or other similar agencies located in a programme Country.

This activity may last from 2 days to 2 months, excluding travel time. Staff moving for teaching or training purposes receive travel and subsistence allowances.

Staff in higher education institutions who have been selected to move for teaching or training purposes are requested to sign an allowance agreement before moving abroad. It is required that staff have signed staff mobility for teaching mobility agreement or staff mobility for training mobility agreement between themselves, their institution and the receiving institute/destination organisation.
International mobility for staff in higher education

Erasmus+ coordinates mobility from and to partner Countries, for staff in higher education. In order to carry out staff mobility (academic and administrative) from and to partner countries, Greek higher education institutions are required to sign inter-institutional agreement with the respective institution located in the partner country. Higher education institutions in partner countries are bound by this agreement to abide by the terms set out in the Erasmus+ university guide. Staff mobility period can last from a minimum of 5 days to a maximum of 2 months.

Intensive short courses

Additionally, students are entitled to intensive short courses (5 days to 2 months) which bring together incoming staff from different universities and promote effective learning in multicultural environments.

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