



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY of EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF DIGITAL SYSTEMS,
INFRASTRUCTURES AND EXAMINATIONS

DIRECTORATE of EXAMINATIONS
and CERTIFICATIONS
Department B'

37 Andrea Papandreou Str.
151 22 – Marousi
PHONE NUMBERS: 210-3442133, 210-3442100.
WEBSITE: www.minedu.gov.gr

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN GREECE
OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- A) GRADUATES OF FOREIGN ORIGIN OF NON-E.U. LYCEUMS
- B) GRADUATES OF LYCEUMS OR EQUIVALENT SCHOOLS OF E.U. MEMBER STATES

According to the laws 4415/2016 (FEK 159 A), 4452/2017 (FEK 17 A) and the Ministerial Decision F.151/20049/B6 (FEK 272/B'/2007) as modified and validated, various categories of candidates can be admitted to Higher Education in Greece under special prerequisites. Two such categories are:

A. Graduates of foreign origin (candidates of Non-E.U. Lyceums)

This category includes:

A.1 Graduates of foreign origin of Non-E.U. Lyceums (schools abroad). Candidates belong to this category on condition that: a) one of his/her parents is of non greek origin b) the candidate has fully attended the two last classes of the lyceum or equivalent school in the country of his/her graduation. For the school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, graduate certificates are being exceptionally accepted even though attendance was partly registered by distance learning, due to the pandemic covid 19. The candidate's graduation certificate must entitle him/her to University admission in his/her own country.

A.2 Graduates of foreign origin of Non-E.U. Lyceums, graduates from foreign schools that do not follow the Greek curriculum in Greece. Candidates belong to this category on condition that neither they themselves nor their parents are of Greek origin and have fully attended the two last classes of the lyceum or equivalent school in the country of his/her graduation. For the school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, graduate certificates are being exceptionally accepted even though attendance was partly registered by distance learning, due to the pandemic covid 19. The candidate's graduation certificate must entitle him/her to University admission in his/her own country.

B. Graduates of Lyceums or Equivalent Schools of E.U. Member States.

This category includes:

B.1. Graduates of Lyceums or Equivalent Schools of E.U. Member States (schools abroad). Candidates belong to this category on condition that: a) one of his/her parents is of non greek origin and b) the candidate has fully attended the last two classes of the lyceum or equivalent school in the country of his/her graduation. For the school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, graduate certificates are being exceptionally accepted even though attendance was partly registered by distance learning, due to the pandemic covid 19. The candidate's graduation certificate must entitle him/her to University admission in his/her own country.

This category includes candidates who graduated from schools in Cyprus who must have attended the Exams for entering Universities in Cyprus and in Greece (PANKYPRIES) and must have the certificate of attendance to these exams for the current year. Those candidates from Cyprus should follow the specific instructions from the Ministry of Education in Cyprus in order to apply from there and on different dates.

B.2 Graduates of Lyceums or Equivalent Schools of E.U. Member States, for foreign origin graduates from foreign schools that do not follow the Greek curriculum in Greece. Candidates belong to this category on condition that: a) **neither themselves nor their parents are of Greek origin** and b) have fully attended the last two classes of the lyceum or equivalent school in the country of his/her graduation. For the school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, graduate certificates are being exceptionally accepted even though attendance was partly registered by distance learning, due to the pandemic covid 19. The candidate's graduation certificate must entitle him/her to University admission in his/her own country.

ATTENTION:

- **Graduates of Greek secondary schools, which operate in Greece, are not entitled to apply for admission to Higher Education in Greece.**
- **Candidates who, during the same school or calendar year, have attended more than one secondary education class with an intensive or condensed teaching program are not accepted.**
- **Secondary education certificates obtained by correspondence (distance) are not accepted.**
- **Candidates of the above-mentioned categories are not entitled to reapply if they have already been admitted and have acquired a Higher Education Diploma in Greece according to the specific prerequisites.**

NOTE:

The successful candidates for the academic year 2025-2026 can change Faculty or Department by submitting a new application entry form.

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| <u>ATTENTION: CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DATES FOR APPLYING BY A LATER ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE WEBSITE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND SPORTS: www.minedu.gov.gr</u> |
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REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

a) Graduation certificate, validated by the competent educational authority of the candidate's country along with the official translation in the Greek language if it is a graduation certificate issued by schools abroad. The graduation certificate must bear on the original either the Apostille stamp or must be validated for the signature authenticity of the undersigned person by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad. (consular Validations and translations).

NOTE: Graduation certificates that are acquired by long distance/correspondence are not accepted

b) A certificate of correspondence of the candidate's graduation certificate issued by a Greek authority; either the Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports (Directorate Of Indigenous Education, Intercultural Education, European And Minority Schools), either the local Directorates of Secondary Education or the Coordinators at the Education Offices of the Greek Embassies.

In case the total marks average of the graduation certificate is not on a 0-20 mark scale, 20 being the top mark and 0 the lowest mark, a certificate with the total marks average on a 0-20 mark scale should then be issued either by the Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports (Directorate of Indigenous Education, Intercultural Education, European And Minority Schools), either by the local Directorates of Secondary Education or the Coordinators at the Education Offices of the Greek Embassies.

NOTE: If the candidate's graduation certificate is issued by vocational education (professional or technical school) a certificate of equivalence is required issued by EOPPEP (National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance).

This certificate is not necessary for the holders of a graduation certificate from a Cypriot Lyceum.

Holders of a graduation certificate from a Lyceum of the Republic of Cyprus, must also present an entry certificate with the total mark, after participating in the Pancyprian exams (PANKYPRIES) for the current year.

For candidates that graduate from foreign schools located in Greece a certificate of equivalence is also required issued by the local Directorates of Secondary Education.

c) A certificate issued by the competent educational or diplomatic authority of the candidate's country, confirming

1. that he/she has fully attended the two last classes of a Lyceum or equivalent school in the country of his/her graduation, **the student should have attended the school courses from beginning to end of the school year.** The school years and classes should be explicitly mentioned

2. the country and the curriculum of the candidate's graduation school
- This certificate is not necessary for the holders of a graduation certificate from a Cypriot Lyceum or for the holders of a graduation certificate from Greek schools abroad.

3. that his/her graduation certificate entitles him/her to enter Universities in his/her own country

- The certificate must bear on the original either the apostille stamp or must be validated for the signature authenticity of the undersigned person by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad. (see chapter validations and translations).

- If the certificate is issued by the diplomatic authority of the foreign country in Greece (Embassy or Consulate) this document must be validated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Greece.

d) A certificate showing not only the candidate's origin, but also his/her parents' origin

- **For cases A.1 and B.1** it should be clearly confirmed that at least one of his/her parents is of non Greek origin
- **For cases A.2 and B.2** it should be clearly confirmed that none of the parents is of Greek origin (form I)

- In the event that the above certificate cannot be presented by the candidate because it is no longer issued by the competent authority of the country of residence/origin, the following documents may alternatively be submitted: a) certificate of family status of the candidate which will include birth details of his/her parents; or b) birth certificates of the candidate and his/her parents, or c) copies of the passports of the candidate and his/her parents, or d) a combination of the documents of the above cases b and c.

- The certificate either must bear on the original the apostille stamp or must be validated for the signature authenticity of the undersigned person by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad. (see chapter validations and translations).

- If the certificate is issued by the diplomatic authority of the foreign country in Greece (Embassy or Consulate) this document must be validated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Greece.

e) Two small-size photographs of the candidate.

f) A clearly printed photocopy of the candidate's passport or another official document with a photograph that can verify the candidate's identity.

i) An official statement that the candidate:

- does not hold a graduation certificate of a Greek secondary school which operates in Greece
- does not hold any degree of Greek Higher Education Faculty or Department being admitted according to the above specific provisions and
- has not been admitted to any Greek Higher Education Faculty or Department in the year 2024 or earlier. Candidates, holders of a graduation certificate from a Cypriot Lyceum formally state that they hold an entry certificate with the total mark of the current year.

VALIDATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS

All the documents issued by a foreign authority (school, educational authority, etc.) must be:
-Validated for the signature authenticity of the undersigned person either by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad or by the diplomatic authority of the foreign country in Greece (in the latter case, these documents must be validated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Greece)

Documents which have been issued by the following countries: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Barbados, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei-Darussalam, Burundi, Cape Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark (apart from Greenland and the Faroe islands), Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Estonia, Eswatini, France, Finland, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Lesotho, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein Luxembourg, Macao, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldavia, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Saint Eustatius, Saint Martin, Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Samba), New Zealand, Niue, Nikaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, Santa Lucia, San Marino, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Samoa, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Saint Helena, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Montserrat, Isle of Man, Cayman Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Falkland Islands, Jersey), United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Senegal, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia **do not need any ratification by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad, provided that they bear the APOSTILLE stamp mentioned in the articles 3 and 4 of the Hague Convention (5th October 1961) by the local competent authorities assigned for this purpose in every contracting country according to article 6 of the Hague Convention.**

For this reason, the candidates who obtain their documents from the above mentioned countries should apply to the competent authority of their own country and make sure they have the requested stamp on their documents.

Degrees, certifications and certificates that are issued in countries that have been contracted to the Hague Convention but Greece has objected to their contraction such as **Algeria, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh** must be validated for the signature authenticity of the undersigned person by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad. Kosovo is recognized as part of Serbia and not as independent country since Greece has objected to any other determination. The validation should be on the original document.

According to Law 4231/2014, the birth, marriage or death certificates issued in Austria, France, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Turkey require no further validation. These deeds and documents will be accepted without further validation or certification of equivalence on condition that they bear the date and signature or stamp of the competent issuing authority of the state/country that provided them.

The statutory data contained in the art.1 Law 4250/2014 (FEK 74/b/26.03.2014) are valid in respect of submission and certification of degrees, certifications and certificates.

Degrees, certifications and certificates are submitted and are obligatorily accepted in a clearly printed photocopy of a document's copy which has already been certified by a lawyer. All documents must be accompanied by official translation in the Greek language which will be submitted in original photocopy of the certified one.

According to the Opinion n.233/2000 of the Legal Council of The Hellenic State (LCHS), all documents coming from abroad should bear on the original the Apostille stamp or the validation for the signature's authenticity of the undersigned person by a Greek diplomatic authority abroad, must be submitted to public authorities in simple, legible photocopy from the certified copy from the original by a lawyer.

Any supporting documents issued by a foreign authority but not validated for the signature's authenticity shall not be accepted by the Higher Education faculties or departments secretariats, which have the responsibility to examine the validity of all documents during the enrollment of the admitted students.

Submission of simple legible photocopies serves as candidate's solemn declaration for the accuracy and validity of the submitted photocopies and, thereby, it is legally equivalent to the official Declaration based on the law 1599/1986.

The submission of all the above mentioned documents will be revoked if any alterations to them are found during any obligatory or other control.

Besides this, the consequences mentioned in par.6 art.22 Law 1599/1986 will be imposed on the person concerned if this action is not penalized more severely by another legal, administrative action or other action.

The official translation can be carried out by the official authorities: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Translators register), the Embassy or the Consulate of the foreign country in Greece. According to the new lawyer's Code (art.36, Law 4194/2013-FEK 208/A/27.09.2013). Translations of foreign documents carried out by lawyers are accepted if the lawyer certifies his sufficient knowledge of the foreign language from which and to which the translation takes place.

The official translation can also be carried out by Translators, graduated from the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpretation of the Ionian University, certified by the Panhellenic Union of Professional Translators of the Ionian University.

Attention should be paid to the documents issued by foreign schools in Greece. The Greek Educational Authorities responsible for the specific school (i.e. Directorate of Secondary Education that the school belongs to) should validate the authenticity of the documents issued by the school and state the legal operation status of the school. All documents that have been issued by services and institutions of the public and wider public service sector (degrees, certifications and certificates) are submitted and obligatorily accepted in a clearly printed photocopy of the original documents certified copies.

ATTENTION: Candidates, holders of a graduation certificate from Cypriot Lyceums, regardless of the place of residence, in order to participate in the specific category must submit their application-entry forms ONLY in Cyprus and must follow the instructions related to the dates, the place and the procedure of applying, determined by the competent authority of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus (For further information, please contact the Ministry of Education and Culture NICOSIA: 00357 22 582900).

NOTE 1: ONLY male Christian Orthodox candidates are eligible for the *clerical studies program* of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies.

Attention: It should be noted that candidates who fulfill the conditions for submitting to the category of foreign candidates 4.A, 4.B, as well as the categories 1, 2, 3 of Greeks living abroad should choose between the two basic categories only one of them, for submitting in the same year, in order to enter the Higher Education in Greece.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE SELECTED CANDIDATES

1. The selection of the candidates, who enter a Faculty or a Department of Higher Education, is made by Decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The Faculties and the Departments, to which the candidates can be admitted, are listed on the candidate's application entry form.

2. Candidates take no entrance examinations. The selection criterion is the total mark of the "entry certificate" only for holders of a graduation certificate from a General Lyceum of the Republic of Cyprus, while for candidates from other countries the criterion is the overall mark of their graduation certificate

3. Regarding their University registration, the candidates admitted into a Faculty or a Department, are also required to hold ***a certificate denoting their competence of the Greek language***. Such a certificate is issued after relevant examinations either by the University of Athens or by the University of Thessaloniki; alternatively, the candidates should hold a B2 level certificate issued by the Greek Language Centre. **If the candidates do not hold any of these language certificates, they can only enroll in the next academic year of their admission to a Greek University, on condition that they will by then have obtained the prerequisite language certificate. Otherwise, the candidates are disqualified from enrolling.**

The examinations for the Greek language certificate are held twice a year around May and September in ATHENS, at the **Modern Greek Language Centre** of the University of Athens in Zografou (tel: 0030 210 7277672 / 7277971 / E-mail: info@greekcourses.uoa.gr / Web site: www.greekcourses.uoa.gr); also, in June and October in THESSALONIKI, at the **School of Modern Greek Language** of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (tel: 0030 2310 997571 / 997572 / Email: school-mg@smg.auth.gr , sneg@smg.auth.gr / Web site: <http://www.smg.auth.gr>). The examinations for the B2 level certificate issued by the Greek Language Center are held in May (www.greeklanguage.gr/certification)

For further information concerning the language examinations and the exam periods, the candidates need to contact either the University of Athens or the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at least a month prior to the exam date, to make sure that they will not miss the deadline or any potential changes of the language examination.

If a candidate holds a graduation certificate either from a Cypriot Lyceum, or from a foreign school attesting that the candidate has been taught and successfully examined in the Greek language, no Greek language certificate is required.

4. Candidates should undergo a medical examination before enrolling, according to each Faculty or Department's regulations.

5. Students of non-E.U. citizenship must bear in mind that the **Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports has no authority to grant a visa or a stay-permit**. The stay-permit is issued by the regional competent services of our country (Offices of Foreigners and Immigration Issues) only to those candidates who are admitted to Higher Education in Greece, provided that there are no reasons against the granting of this stay-permit.

It is also noted that, according to the Greek legislation ar. 31 N.3386/2005 (ΦΕΚ Α' 212) a stay-permit (granted for study purposes) is not granted if a student changes Faculty or Department more than once.

Consequently, only successful candidates for the academic year 2025-2026 can change Faculty or Department by submitting again a new application entry form (two attempts in total).

**MODEL
ATTESTATION**

It is certified that, according to the legislation of our country, (candidate's full name)

1.. attended full-time and physically in the last two grades of high school.....
(name of the school) **during school years.....** ...

2. that school..... which he/she graduated from.....
(name of the country).

3. the graduation certificate from (name of the school) that
..... (candidate's full name) has obtained, entitles
him / her to be admitted to University Faculties.

.....**20...**

The competent authority of the issuing authority/ official

(signature-stamp - full name)