

The American College of Thessaloniki



Study Abroad Guide

Fall 2016

American College of Thessaloniki
17 Sevenidi st., P.O. Box 21021
55510, Thessaloniki, Greece
Tel. +30 2310-398398



Dear Study Abroad Students,

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The International Programs Office and the Office of Student Services would like to welcome you to the American College of Thessaloniki! Our offices are dedicated to helping students make the most of their time abroad, by organizing activities, answering questions and helping students learn about the local environment and Greek culture.

Once you arrive on campus you will become a part of the ACT community and we warmly invite you to participate in all of our events, activities and clubs. In this booklet you will learn important information about your time abroad so that you can make the most out of your stay.

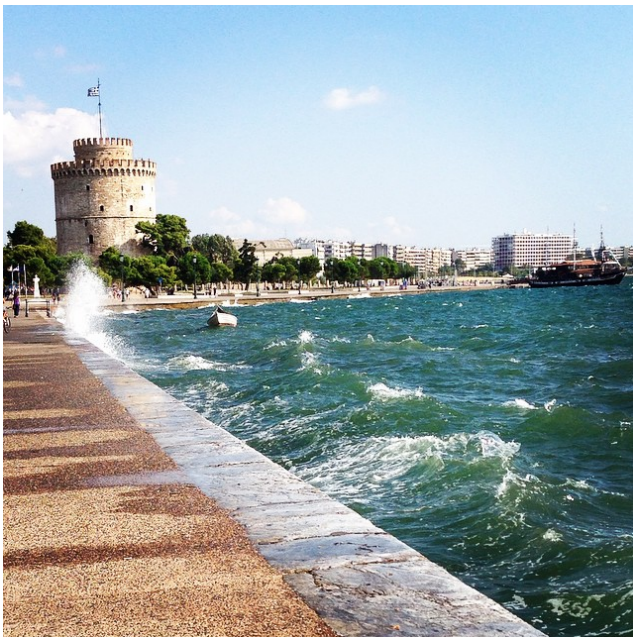
We look forward to welcoming you here in person!

“

Thessaloniki is a great city to explore: the museums, the ruins, the restaurants, and the nightlife! The city will always hold a special place in my heart!

-Lula Kontoula Liavanis, University of California

”



Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, located on the Thermaikos Gulf, is the second largest city in Greece, and has lots of sunshine all year round. It is a city like no other, renowned for its laid-back lifestyle, student life, and picturesque views, it will leave you with endless memories. As you sit at a modern cafe looking out at the ancient city

walls, you will feel as if you are moving through past and present. With a six-mile long boardwalk filled with cafes, restaurants, and shops, one cannot help but fall in love with a city that is bursting with life.



Aristotle Square



Boardwalk

THE PERKS OF ACT

U.S. ACCREDITED

ACT is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and validated by OPEN University, making transferring credits easy. With the style and substance of a true American university, you can find a familiar place in a new and exciting environment.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

We offer more than 50 cultural and historical activities each semester that can help you get to know the city.

RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

The Writing Center offers tutoring in English and Greek and our Math Tutoring Center offers assistance to students. Our dedicated professors offer tutoring for their own subjects and look forward to meeting students on a 1:1 basis to help them troubleshoot their way through any difficulties. In addition, the Career Services Office can assist students with resume writing and career counseling.

STUDENT LIFE

Thessaloniki is known for amazing and vibrant student life! Thessaloniki is a college town, home to over 100,000 students. On the ACT campus we have students from more than twenty countries. There are countless activities offered on campus and throughout Thessaloniki for you to participate in and to feel a part of the student culture. With an international student scene, we offer a semester calendar as well as weekly postings about current events.

ATHLETICS

Gym and fitness center, track field, basketball courts, tennis courts and soccer field on campus.

LEARNING-IN-ACTION

At ACT professors take you beyond the classroom walls and immerse you into the community through hands-on experience, local field trips and real-world problem solving.

GREAT LOCATION

Thessaloniki is perfectly located near the beaches of Chalkidiki, Mount Olympus and many historical sites. The local train and bus, along with the airport, put you within easy reach of Greece's islands as well as other cities in Greece and throughout Europe.

DEDICATION TO STUDENTS

Our commitment to providing our students with a positive and enriching stay abroad drives all of our decisions. You will learn that at ACT we offer many support services to help students with all of their needs.

SERVICE LERANING

Through the Office of Student Services, you have the opportunity to participate in community service that will let you experience another part of the Greek community, as well as build and develop professional skills.

STUDYING ON CAMPUS

Bissell Library is one of the largest English language libraries in Greece. Filled with 26,100 books in print, 130,000 electronic books, DVDs and other media. There is Wi-Fi, computer labs, and network ports for laptops. Getting work done on campus and doing research could not be easier!

Quick facts about ACT

- ACT is the division of undergraduate and graduate studies of Anatolia College.
- The institution has been serving students in this region since 1840 and in Thessaloniki since 1924.
- ACT is one of only three NEASC-accredited education institutions in southeastern Europe
- ACT has a diverse student body, from over 20 countries.
- The 45-acre green campus houses Anatolia's many schools and 3,000 faculty, staff and students.



FAQ

My home school needs to view the syllabi for my ACT classes to be able to accredit them. Can I get copies?

Yes! Most school advisors will be able to do this for you, but if you are working independently on coming to ACT, you can email abroad@act.edu directly and request the syllabi for classes you are interested in taking and we will be able to send it to you.

Do I need to know Greek?

No! Many people in Thessaloniki speak English! But, a little Greek does go a long way. ACT classes are held in English, but if you are interested, you can enroll in a Greek class!

How do I enroll in classes?

You will receive an email from admissions asking for your course selection. If you change your mind, you can send an updated email or make schedule changes during orientation. Be sure to confirm your course selection with your academic advisor at your home school.

How do I contact home?

Most students call home via Skype or Viber. While in Thessaloniki, students keep in touch with each other by getting a local phone number and SIM card. The SIM card can be used in an unlocked phone. Pay-as-you-go phone plans, including a data package, start at just 7 euros a month. We will help you get set up during orientation.

How do I get to school?

ACT provides a basic shuttle service to and from school twice each day. The public bus, #58, also provides easy access.

What happens if I get sick?

Not to worry! ACT has an on-site doctor that you can see for free. Also, private clinics like Euromedica and St. Luke's are nearby. The ACT staff will help guide you through any emergency. See page 25 for more information!

Payment procedures and information

If your school has a Study Abroad Agreement with ACT, please consult with the Study Abroad Director at your school before making any payment. If you come as an independent student, you are required to have paid in full prior to your arrival. Please note that, in general, where the home institution does not have an existing agreement with ACT, the individual student is responsible for all payments to ACT.

You may send your payment by wiring complete payment to:

Beneficiary's bank: Alpha Bank

USD account: 811015001000074

USD IBAN number: GR98 0140 8110 8110 1500 1000 074

Swift Address: CRBAGRAA

Beneficiary's account name: Trustees of Anatolia College

Payment Details: Student's name and reason of payment

Bank address: 12^o klm, Thessaloniki – Moudania, 57001, Themi

Be sure to provide your name when wiring your money and not that of a parent/guardian. Wire transfers require a fee that varies depending on your bank. Please deposit the full amount owed, separate from any wiring fees. The wiring fee is an extra charge incurred by you.

The only other method of payment is by bank check (no personal checks, money orders or traveler's checks) in U.S. dollars made to the order of: American College of Thessaloniki. If you are paying by check, please do not mail it but bring it with you.

For questions contact Miranda Margariti: mmargari@act.edu

Arriving in Thessaloniki Checklist

- ☐ **Step 1:** Get your passport ready
- ☐ **Step 2:** Finalize your flight information (date, time, airline, flight #)
- ☐ **Step 3:** Email your itinerary to the ACT Study Abroad Coordinator, Miranda at mmargari@act.edu
- ☐ **Step 4:** Upon arrival in Thessaloniki, look for our International Programs staff, they will help you into a taxi. (Have 20-25 Euros ready to pay the taxi driver.)
- ☐ **Step 5:** Arrive at the housing where another staff member will meet you, provide you with an arrival pack and show you around your housing and neighborhood.
- ☐ **Step 6:** Settle in and enjoy!

We suggest you bring some European currency in hand (at least 50 euros) for initial expenses.

The address you should provide for reporting lost luggage, as well as for receiving mail, is:

YOUR NAME
C/O Miranda Margariti
American College of Thessaloniki- IPO
P.O. Box 21021, Sevenidi 17
Anatolia College
Pylea 55510, Greece

Housing for S.A. students opens on September 12, 2016. Please arrive by September 14th, 2016 at the latest.

Arrive in Thessaloniki between the hours of 8:00 am-12 midnight. We will meet you at the airport, help you into a taxi and check you into the housing. If you arrive between 12 midnight and 8:00 am, you should make other overnight arrangements.

Are you arriving early, staying longer or having friends visit?

The Metropolitan Hotel, 65 Vassilissis Olgas Street, tel. +30 2310 824221, has student rates available. Contact the sales manager, Mrs. Oikonomou at roikonomou@metropolitan.gr to make a reservation and get our student prices.

Sample packing list

Thessalonians have a unique, fashion forward and trendy sense of style. You will want to leave space for new clothes/items when you pack!

- Underwear and socks (two weeks worth)
- Long sleeve shirts
- Short sleeve shirts
- Sweatshirt/hoodie
- Jeans/khakis
- Shorts
- A belt
- Skirts
- A set or two of workout clothes
- Pajamas
- Swimsuit
- One formal/nice outfit
- Flip flops or sandals
- Sneakers or sturdy shoes for athletics and for hiking on Mt. Olympus
- Gloves, mittens, hat, scarf, etc.
- Outlet adapters/converters
- Sunglasses
- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Linens and towels

Remember to pack lightly!

WEATHER

Thessaloniki has four seasons, and you will be here during the transition from summer to winter, so bring a variety of clothing.



Fall 2016 semester calendar

Use this calendar as a guide for planning your time abroad!

Activities with (*) are optional and have an extra fee. Sign up during orientation.

Move-in	September 12-14
Orientation & City Tour	September 15-16
Vergina Day Trip	September 18
First day of Classes	September 19
Activities Fair	September 21
Halkidiki Day Trip*	September 24
Sailing Trip *	September 23-25
Mount Olympus*	October 1-2
Scuba*	October 8 or 9
Canyoning*	October 15 or 16 November 5 or 6
Meteora*	October 22-23
Fall Break	October 26-30
Pozar*	November 6 or 27
Athens & Delfi Trip	November 11-13
Polytechnic Day (No classes)	November 17
Rafting*	November 26
Final day of housing	December 16

Program Highlights

VERGINA

Day trip to the area of Ancient Aegai and a visit to the museum of Vergina which houses the tombs and treasures of members of the Macedonian Royal Dynasty. The museum includes the treasures and tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great.

ATHENS & DELPHI

A three-day trip to the capital of Greece where you will visit the new Acropolis museum, the Parthenon, the Ancient Agora and Monastiraki open air market! Followed by free time to explore the city. The trip concludes with a visit to the ancient site of the Oracle of Delphi including a guided tour of the museum and archeological site.



Housing (Studio Apartments)

ACT provides housing for study abroad students in safe residential areas, which are in close proximity to the campus and to the center of Thessaloniki. Both residences are in close proximity to supermarkets, pharmacies, banks, post office and bus stops. By living close to the city center students are given an opportunity to dive into the local life and culture. Upon arrival, your RA will give you a tour of your building and your neighborhood and help you find everything you need to settle in.

Location:

124 Alexandrias Street, Thessaloniki



All studio apartments are furnished and offer free Wi-Fi access. The apartments are also outfitted with Ethernet connections (cable not provided). Each building has shared washing machines and are within walking distance of wash and dry Laundromats. You will need to provide your own kitchenware and linens (single bed), but blankets and pillows are provided.

Housing assignments are sent out about **two weeks** before your arrival. Housing assignments are made on a first-come-first-served basis established by the date your deposit is registered as paid. Be assured, however, that all study abroad students are guaranteed housing. **Fall Housing Closes on December 16th, 2016.**

Housing Policy: Study Abroad housing is located in downtown residential areas, within friendly neighborhoods. During Orientation you will attend a mandatory housing session during which you will be asked to sign a Housing Agreement. By signing this document you will agree to abide by the rules and regulations provided as part of the ACT housing policy. Study Abroad students need to observe the following:

- ACT study abroad housing is within buildings that are shared with other individuals (Greek University students, workers etc.) They are not to be thought of as on-campus dormitories. There are mandatory quiet hours in Greece as a matter of law: 3 pm -5.30 pm and 11:00 pm -7:00 am daily. Excessive noise and wild parties are not acceptable in student living quarters. Alcoholic beverages are only allowed in the strict confines of the room and in limited amounts specified in the housing policy.
- There is a zero-tolerance policy regarding the use of illegal drugs in Greece: If caught in possession and/or use of illegal drugs, you may be faced with serious legal charges and you will not be allowed to continue your studies at ACT.
- Overnight guests are not permitted in the student housing.
- Pets are not allowed in the student housing.

Failure to observe ACT housing policies may lead to eviction from one's housing, without any reimbursement or assistance from ACT to relocate.

Housing Deposit Refund (\$300): This will be refunded in euros to you at the end of the program based on the exchange rate the day the housing deposit was made.

- Minus housing damages (if any)

[illegible]

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Alexandrias housing | 11. Supermarket | 21. Poseidonio- Athletic center |
| 2. Bus stop | 12. Taxi stop | 22. Supermarket |
| 3. Pharmacy | 13. Coffee shops | 23. Photocopy center |
| 4. Convenience store | 14. Bus stop ACT drop off | 24. Electronic store |
| 5. Bakery | 15. Bus stop back from town | 25. Photo shop |
| 6. Supermarket | 16. Boardwalk | 26. Greek Taverna |
| 7. Supermarket | 17. Music Hall | 27. Gyro |
| 8. Restaurant | 18. National Bank of Greece (ATM) | 28. Gyro |
| 9. Caribbean Restaurant | 19. Attica (ATM) | 29. Crepes |
| 10. Pub | 20. Pireus (ATM) | 30. Supermarket |

Public transportation

Getting to Alexandrias (from ACT) via city bus:

- Take the bus number 58 in front of Anatolia College
- Get off at the stop OSIA KSENI (9th stop)
- CROSS THE STREET TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE
- Take bus number 30
- Get off the bus at stop VASILISSIS OLGAS (4th stop).

Getting to ACT from Alexandrias:

- Take the bus number 30 from GEFIRA
- Get off at the stop OSIA KSENI
- CROSS THE STREET TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE
- Take the bus number 58
- Get off the bus at stop KOLEGIO ANATOLIA.

Useful Tips for Getting Around

- Bus tickets can be purchased at kiosks for 1.10 euro
- Bus tickets can be purchased on the bus for 1.20 euro
- Monthly bus passes can be purchased for 30 euros for 1 month
- Your ACT RAs will show you how to get around!
- Visit oasth.gr for bus times and stops!

Washing machine instructions Alexandrias building

Step one: Open door GENTLY

Step two: Put clothes into washer

Step three: Gently close the door

Step four: On the top, left-hand side of the washer open the small drawer and add a cup of detergent to the far left deposit (middle is for softener)

For best washing results, only open the drawer halfway when you add detergent!

Step five: Choose a temperature: 30-40C.

(Hotter water could shrink your clothes!!)

The numbers are not for the time, they are for measuring the temperature of the water in degrees Celsius

Step six: Use Eco Friendly setting to wash,

Right machine: ΕΞΟΙΚ. ΧΡΟΝΟY
(approx. 69 minutes)

Left machine: the bottom button on the left
(approx. 60 minutes)

Step seven: Push the start button

Step eight: When the machine stops AND the lights have stopped blinking, turn the machine OFF

Step nine: Gently open door and remove clothes

Step ten: Gently close the door

Orientation

The goal of orientation is to familiarize you with ACT. You'll have the opportunity to meet your classmates, ACT staff and professors, and to be introduced to the Greek way of life. We require that all Study Abroad students fully participate in Orientation. A schedule will be provided in your welcome pack upon arrival in Thessaloniki.

What to expect:

- Neighborhood Tour
- Campus Tour
- Introduction to life in Thessaloniki
- Health & Safety Seminar
- Academic overview (class schedules & changes)
- Greek 101
- Excursions and Activities Overview
- Thessaloniki City Tour





ACT CAMPUS MAP

1st Anatolia College Gymnasium - Lyceum

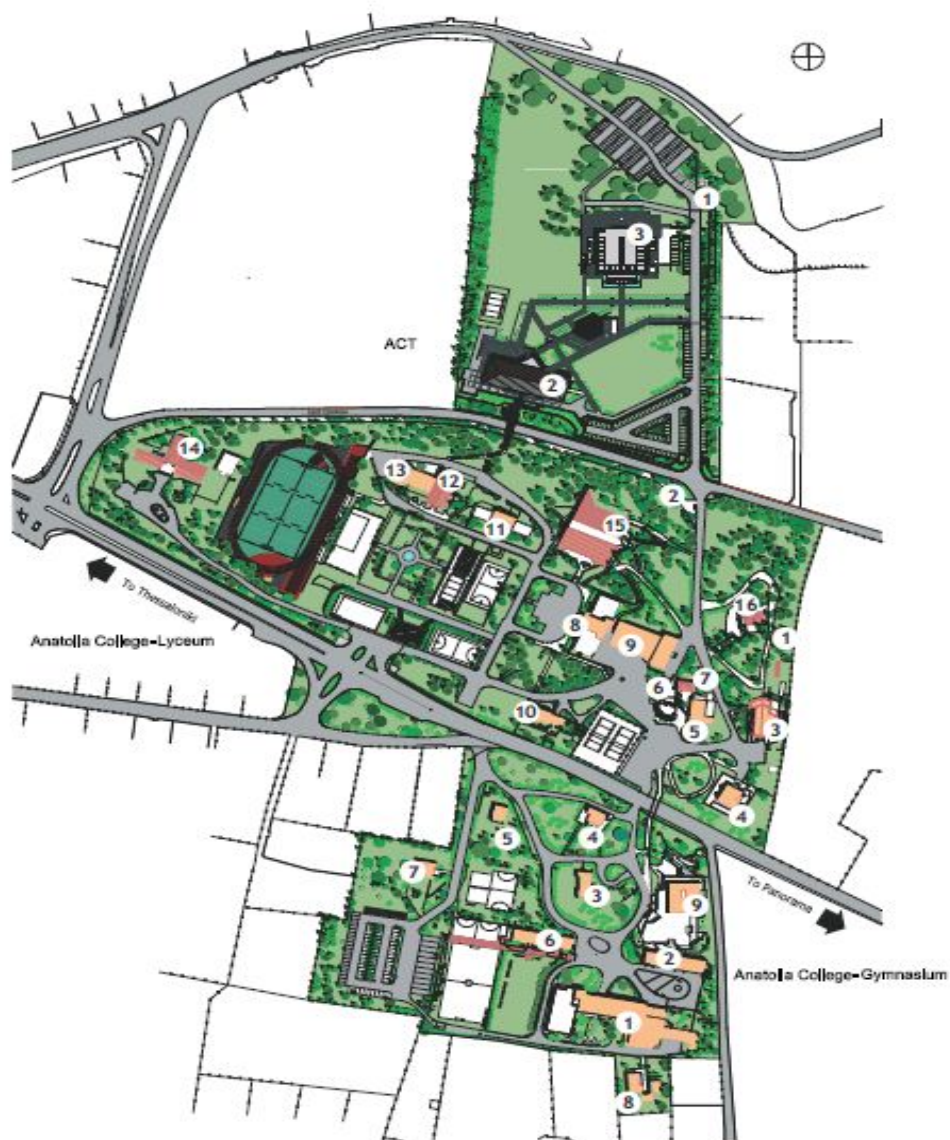
1. INGLE HALL
2. WHITE HALL
3. WHITE HOUSE
4. WILLARD HOUSE
5. YEROUSIS HOUSE
6. RIGGS HALL
7. CHAPMAN HOUSE
8. STAFF RESIDENCES
9. ELEFTHERIADIS LIBRARY

2nd Anatolia College Gymnasium - Lyceum

1. MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP
2. ELECTRIC POWER SUBSTATION
3. RAPHAEL HALL
4. MORLEY HOUSE
5. PAPPAS HALL
6. CANTEEN
7. MUSIC ROOM
8. MACEDONIA HALL
9. KYRIDES HALL
10. WESTERVELT (MINNESOTA) HALL
11. STEPHENS (MINNESOTA) HALL
12. COMPTON (ALUMNI) HALL
13. LADAS HALL
14. PINEWOOD MAIN BUILDING
15. GYM
16. CHURCH OF THE THREE HIERARCHS

ACT

1. WATER PUMP STATION
2. ACT NEW BUILDING
3. GIBBS LIBRARY



Getting involved

IN THE COMMUNITY:

You can get to know the community by volunteering through our Service Learning program that is organized by the Student Services Office. It is a great way to explore Greek culture in ways that are otherwise inaccessible to visitors. You will develop your skills or learn new ones, improve your Greek, make friends and receive a certificate of participation!

Christina Moma crismoma@act.edu

Sample Service Learning Locations:

- Special needs centers
- Soup kitchens
- Local schools (elementary - high school)
- Youth centers
- Tutoring
- Community centers
- Digital reporting

ON CAMPUS:

ACT offers a number of ways to get involved and integrate yourself in the community and Thessaloniki. There is an activities fair held at the start of each semester where you will get the opportunity to sign up for: sports teams and clubs and activities, as well as for excursions.

ACT also has a Student Government Association, which plans additional trips, on-campus events, nights out and also sells ACT apparel. Each semester one study abroad student can run to represent the study abroad students as part of the Student Government.



Health services

MEDICAL DOCTOR: If you need medical assistance while in Greece there is an English-speaking doctor on campus once a week for free consultations. Regular appointments at her practice downtown can also be scheduled free of charge by emailing Dr. Kounti, MD at kounxat@act.edu.

COUNSELING & MENTAL HEALTH: Dr. Psoinos, the college counselor, offers free confidential counseling consultations on campus and students can make an appointment by email (psoinos@act.edu). ACT can also recommend a psychiatrist, Dr. Vaggelis Karabelas, who has a 50 euro fee per session 6944466461- vkaravelas@yahoo.gr

HOSPITALS: Thessaloniki has several private hospitals for exams, test and emergency medical assistance. Kliniki Agios Loukas (St. Luke's) Hospital, a private general clinic, is less than a 10-minute drive from the campus. The Euromedica group of hospitals are located downtown, near the housing. Bills must be paid at the time of the examination and may be submitted by the student to their insurance company for reimbursement according to the individual plan. Both hospitals have worked with ACT study abroad students for many years and can issue receipts in English, so that you can easily submit it to your insurance company. Both hospitals accept cash, Visa and MasterCard.

Geniki Kliniki Euromedica

Marias Kallas, 11 & Gravias 2

Thessaloniki, 54645

Phone: + 30 2310 895 100

Kliniki Agios Loukas

Panorama 55236

Phone: +30 2310 380 000

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS: We recommend bringing a full supply of prescription medication that will last throughout your stay. Remember to pack it in your carry-on luggage while traveling. If you must refill your prescription while in Thessaloniki, contact the college doctor to make sure that you can buy what you need locally before running out.

If you anticipate needing any special medical support, inform us prior to your arrival in Greece, so we can help you organize it in advance!

Emergency Services

Thessaloniki is a welcoming and innovative city with a low crime rate. Here are some tips on staying safe and healthy while abroad.

1. Sign up with STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program) to receive important information from the Embassy regarding:
 - a. Travel advice and notifications
 - b. Safety conditions
 - c. Assistance in case of a local, regional or national emergency
 - d. Help for relatives to get in touch with you in case of an emergency
2. Add these numbers to your phone:
 - a. 24-Hour Assistance from ACT: (+30) 6936000358
 - b. US Embassy: Athens (+30) 2107202414
 - c. US Embassy Emergency (Greece): (+30) 2107294444
 - d. Police, Ambulance, Fire (All of Europe): 112
 - e. Ag. Loukas Hospital: (+30) 2310380000
 - f. Euromedica (Geniki Kliniki): (+30) 2310895100
3. ACT Travel Form

When you arrive, you will be given a link to a form that you are required to complete before you travel outside of Thessaloniki. This form allows ACT to locate you and provide you with better assistance in case of an emergency.
4. ACT staff is always available, knowledgeable and helpful! In case of any emergency, notify your RA or the ACT 24-hour phone.

Receiving mail

All mail/packages should be addressed to:

YOUR NAME
MIRANDA MARGARITI
American College of Thessaloniki, IPO
P.O. BOX 21021, SEVENIDI 17
PYLEA 55510
GREECE

You will be notified if you have a package to pick up from the International Programs Office. For mail from the US, we recommend that all packages are sent through USPS. We advise using FedEx, DHL, UPS, or other courier companies only for sending documents. All shipping that goes through a courier company will pass through customs and will always have an extra tax fee.

If your package contains taxable items (i.e. electronics, merchandise, medication, etc.), there may be a customs fee charged.

SENDING MAIL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE:

- .90 € for postcards & letters
- Expect mail to take 10-14 days

Cell Phones

While Wi-Fi is widely available, we provide you with a local phone number during your stay. It's an easy process and gives you the opportunity to be more independent, receive calls from friends and family, be in touch in case of an emergency and to live like a Greek! Follow these easy steps:

- ☐ Step 1: Bring or buy an unlocked phone, which then gives you the opportunity to use an international SIM card (basic talk/text phones start at 20E)
- ☐ Step 2: Pick up your free SIM card from your RA
- ☐ Step 3: Top up with at least 5 euros each month
- ☐ Step 4: Enjoy calling, texting and data (receive incoming calls for free!)

More information and an opportunity to set up your calling will be given during orientation.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ACT 24-Hour Emergency Phone Number: (+30) 6936.000-358

Director of International Programs: Heather Funk - Theodoridi: (+30) 2310.398-215

Study Abroad Coordinator: Miranda Margariti: (+30) 2310.398-205

Student Services: Christina Moma: (+30) 2310.398-242

Shopping hours

The Greek economy is heavily based on small, family-run businesses.

The shopping hours reflect this cultural focus:

Most supermarkets are open from 8am-9pm on Monday-Friday, and Saturdays usually until 8pm.

Many **retail shops** are open from 9am-2:30 pm daily, but reopen from 5:30-9pm on Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays.

Typically, shops remain closed on Sundays.

Each neighborhood has a weekly Open Air Market (Farmers Market), with the freshest fruits and vegetables at low prices. Your RA will organize a group visit, so you can learn how to shop like a local!

Banking/credit cards

We recommend that you bring some cash (in Euros) and an ATM card that you will allow you to take money out from the many ATM's around the city.

Be sure to inform your bank/credit card company before you leave the US that you will be making transactions from Greece for the next few months so they do not question your account activity and consequently freeze your account.

In addition, Greece is mainly a CASH ECONOMY, so don't plan on using your credit or debit card for small day-to-day purchases or to pay for ACT trips and activities. You will most likely use your credit/debit card for larger purchases like airplane tickets, hospital visits or to withdraw cash from an ATM.

TIPS:

Master and Visa card are the best choices and most widely accepted

American Express is accepted at limited locations and Discover is not accepted

Carry small bills and coins when possible, it makes shopping easier!

Things to do in Thessaloniki

26 things to do for under 10 euros:

- Eat a pita gyros “ap’ola”
- Eat bougatsa for breakfast
- Have a coffee or a drink at the cafe “Room with a View,” at the loft of the Olympion cinema, which overlooks Aristotle Square
- Learn some Greek, it helps!
- Go salsa dancing at La Rosa Negra
- Go shopping or window shopping on Tsimiski Street
- Get to know the locals!
- Go for dinner in Ladadika and then head over to Valaoritou for a fun night
- Eat at Bit Pazar and enjoy traditional live Greek music
- Walk up to the Byzantine city walls and enjoy the view
- Watch the sunset from the boardwalk
- Drink Greek coffee and get your fortune told
- Go for a coffee at the OTE Tower (it spins!) and enjoy the panoramic view!
- Head over to the east side of the city and check out Kalamaria and Nea Krini
- Take the boat to Perea and enjoy fresh seafood
- Eat family style at a taverna in Plateia Athonos
- Climb the White Tower
- Sit at a cafe in the old city at sunset
- Take Culture Bus #50 to explore the city (hop-on-hop-off style)
- Attend the Documentary Festival or Film Festival hosted in Thessaloniki
- Visit Agios Dimitrios and Agia Sofia churches
- Shop in the Modiano Market
- Try all the varieties of coffee (Greek coffee, frappe, freddo, filter, cappuccino,...)
- Rent bicycles on the boardwalk and stop to buy some grilled corn or snacks
- Ride on one boats that takes you around the harbor to get a view of Thessaloniki from the sea!
- Visit one or more of the many [museums](#) in the city

Visa and Residence Permit

PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION THOROUGHLY

In order to study and stay in Greece, or another country of the Schengen Area, for **MORE** than 90 days in a 180-day period, you **MUST**

- A. Obtain a *Visa* (**prior** to arriving in Greece) from the Greek Embassy or Consulate
- B. Apply for a *Residence Permit* (**after** arriving in Greece)

The countries forming the Schengen Area are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. (*Bulgaria and Romania are currently in the process of joining the Schengen Area.*)

IMPORTANT: When you arrive into the Schengen Area, it is crucial to **ensure that your passport is stamped**; this is the only way to prove the amount of days you spend in the Schengen. If you enter without a visa, you are considered a tourist and are not eligible to apply for a visa or residence permit in country.

Obtaining a Visa

*****START THE PROCESS AS SOON AS YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR ACCEPTANCE LETTER FROM ACT. THE PROCESS CAN BE LENGTHY*****

CALL your local Greek Embassy or Consulate to confirm the application steps (fee, payment method, documents required, appointment time), email is not a reliable way to communicate. To find your local Greek Consulate or Embassy, go to www.mfa.gr/usa/en/the-embassy.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO REQUEST A VISA AT THE GREEK CONSULATE:

- ☐ Official letter of acceptance from ACT, written in Greek (mailed to your advisor or to your home address)
- ☐ Your signed passport (valid for at least 3 months after your planned departure date)
- ☐ The Visa Application Form (available to download on the Greek Embassy website, www.mfa.gr/images/docs/schengen/1application_form_schengen_en_21032010.doc)
- ☐ Your FBI Identity History Summary (confirm which method your consulate accepts)
 - ☐ Option 1: Submit your request directly to the FBI (Lengthy process!! Start now!)
www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks
 - ☐ Option 2: Submit to an FBI-approved Channeler.
www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks/fbi-approved-channelers
- ☐ A signed medical evaluation www.mfa.gr/usa/en/services/services-for-non-greeks/visa-section.html
- ☐ One color passport photo (2x2 inches). Do NOT staple the photo on your application.
- ☐ Cash or money order to pay the visa fee
- ☐ A proof that you have sufficient funds to support your stay in Greece (bank statements, W2 Forms from the last 2 years, tax returns from the last 2 years) or a signed affidavit from your parents stating they will cover all your living expenses while in Greece.
- ☐ Parents' bank and credit statements
- ☐ Parents' W2 forms from the last 2 years
- ☐ Your flight information to and from Greece
- ☐ A proof that you have travel insurance with repatriation coverage (30,000€ minimum) that will cover you during your stay abroad
- ☐ If you wish to have your passport sent back to you rather than picking it up in person you must provide a prepaid, self addressed, courier envelope

WE RECOMMEND YOU MAKE A COPY OF ALL THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR PERSONAL RECORDS IN CASE YOU ARE ASKED TO PRESENT THEM AGAIN.

Obtaining a Residence Permit

Once in Greece, The Office of Student Services will walk you through the process of obtaining the additional documents and applying for the residence permit. You must travel to Greece with all appropriate paperwork and be punctual for all appointments in order to obtain the residence permit. The residence permit is valid for one year. Holders of a Greek residence permit are then entitled to travel throughout the Schengen during 1 year. Failure to obtain a residence permit when required can result in a fine.

Checklist of items you **must** bring with you to Greece

- ☐ **Current passport with visa**
- ☐ **Proof of your Social Security Number.** The original card or a photocopy.
- ☐ **Proof of permanent address.** A photocopy of your driver's license or other official document stating your name and permanent address.
- ☐ **2 passport-size photographs**

Cost and Documents that you will obtain once in Greece

- ☐ **Proof of medical insurance from a Greek provider.** Cost of the minimum coverage package is €120 (subject to change). The original, official letter of insurance coverage for one year (duration of residence permit) from a Greek insurance provider will be issued for submission with your application.
- ☐ **Proof of finances.** We will help you open an account for you to make a bank deposit in your name of €400 at the National Bank of Greece. You will then receive a certificate from the bank indicating that your account maintains a balance of €400. Once you apply for the residence permit, you may withdraw the €400 and close the account.
- ☐ **Official letter of acceptance** in Greek from ACT.
- ☐ **Residence Permit Application Fee Receipt** (150€ Fee)

This information is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time it is being sent out to you. In case of any changes to the residence permit procedure and requirements, you will be notified without delay.

For any questions on the residence permit process, please get in touch with Ms. Christina Moma (crismoma@act.edu), Student Services Office.



We hope you are anticipating your arrival as much as we are! We are looking forward to welcoming you and making your stay memorable. We want you to have the semester of a lifetime and are dedicated to doing what we can to help make your dreams come true! Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

See you soon!!

Contact info:

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ACT Study Abroad Coordinator: Miranda Margariti mmargari@act.edu

Student Services Coordinator: Christina Moma crismoma@act.edu

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