

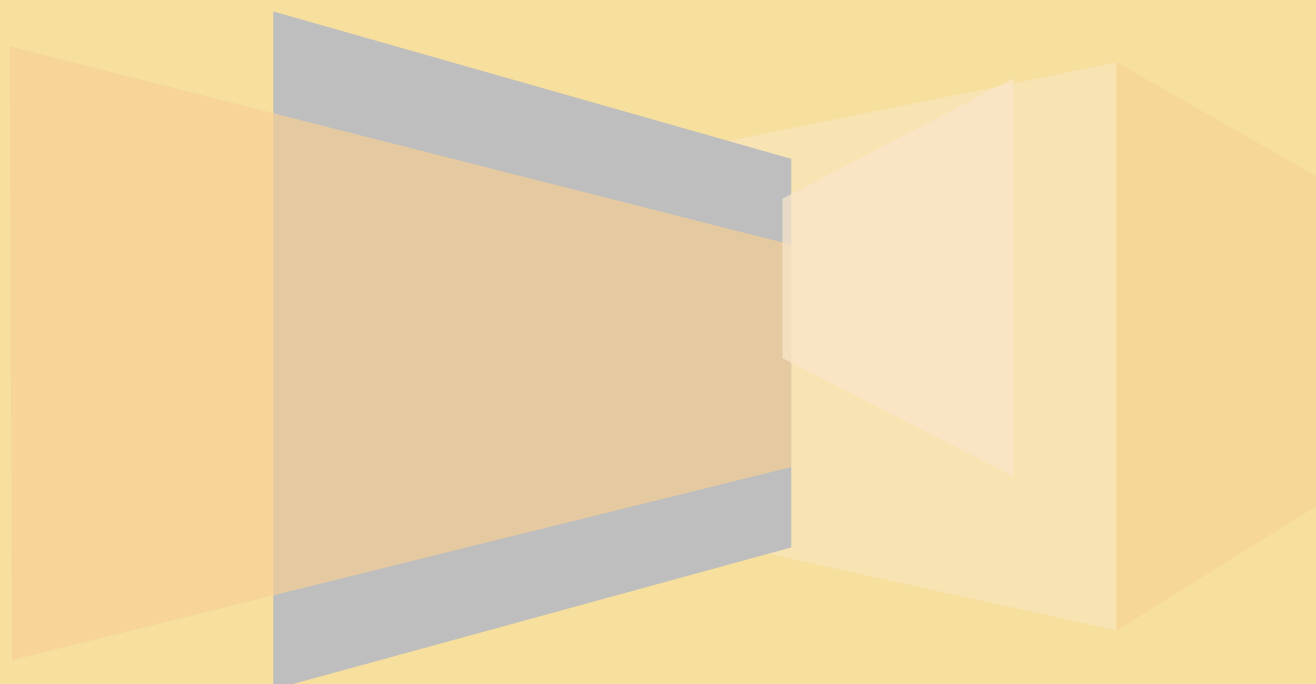


ΓΕΩΠΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS



STUDENT GUIDE 2026

For Erasmus Students



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Welcome to the Agricultural University of Athens (A.U.A.)

Agriculture and Culture, two senses very close and extremely important. Agriculture is related to the cultivation of the land and Culture to the cultivation of the mind. We begin from something settled, the land and the mind, which in collaboration with the human capital can produce seeds. Their quality depends on the rhythm of our work and our capacity to develop.

In this framework the contact with other cultures is very significant as we have the opportunity to broaden our mind. That is to say that the exchange of knowledge and experience in the framework of Erasmus+ Programme is going to help you to be in contact with different countries, people and mentalities.

The Agricultural University of Athens (A.U.A.) is the place that makes the difference and the new environment where you may pass a part of your study Programme combining the agricultural experience you already have with the new one. All the staff of the A.U.A. is willing to help you to integrate from the very beginning till the end of your stay. Moreover, we hope that the variety of Faculties initiated by the A.U.A. is going to respond to your expectations and your specific interests.

Dear student,

The Agricultural University of Athens welcomes you and wishes you a successful Erasmus study period and an unforgettable stay in Athens. Looking forward to meeting you in Athens, we give you some practical information you may need before your arrival and during your stay in Greece.

A brief historical background of the Agricultural University of Athens

The Agricultural University of Athens is the third oldest University of Greece and the first devoted to agriculture. Its history goes back to 1920 and its impact on the development of Greek agriculture has been very significant.

Its historic location near Kerameikos and along Iera Odos, the oldest street of Europe, is inseparably linked to the ancient Greek traditions of agriculture. Iera Odos was the route along which the ritual procession to worship Demeter, the goddess of agriculture, passed to end in Elefsina, the town of Triptolemos, who spread agriculture throughout Europe.



The Agricultural University of Athens today

Nowadays, the A.U.A. has more than 200 teaching and research staff, approximately 2.000 students plus associated administrative and technical personnel. The University is actively involved in the promotion of agricultural research and teaching in collaboration with other institutions. It comprises 9 Departments and awards 9 undergraduate degrees in:

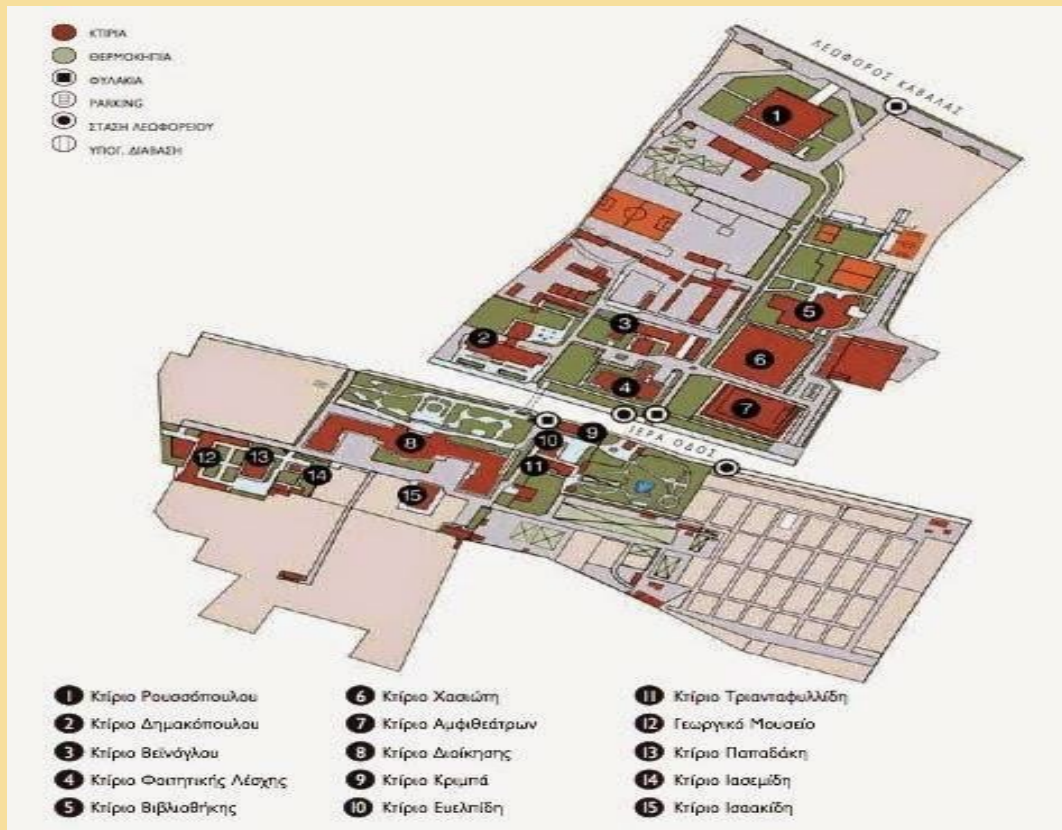
1. Crop Science
2. Animal Science
3. Biotechnology
4. Agricultural Economics & Development
5. Food Science and Human Nutrition
6. Natural Resources Development and Agricultural Engineering
7. Forestry and Natural Environment Management (campus in Karpenisi)
8. Regional & Economic Development (campus in Amfissa)
9. Agribusiness & Supply Chain Management (campus in Thiva)

Most Departments of A.U.A. have initiated postgraduate courses which lead to M.Sc. as well as Ph.D. degrees



Map of Agricultural University of Athens

The University campus covers an area of 34 acres and is located on either side of Iera Odos, near the ancient cemetery of Kerameikos in the district of Votanikos. The campus consists of 14 main buildings (offices, amphitheatres, laboratories, library, leisure

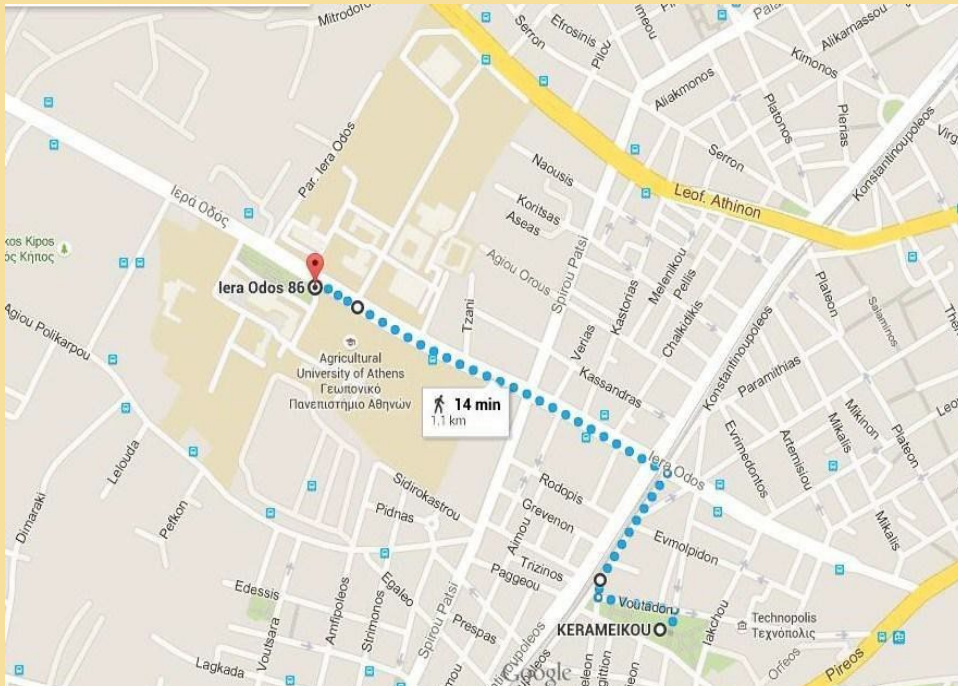


- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Roussopoulou | 8. Central Administration Building |
| 2. Dimakopoulou | 9. Kriba |
| 3. Veinoglou | 10. Evelpidi |
| 4. Students' club (gum, restaurant, canteen) | 11. Triantafyllidi |
| 5. Library | 12. Agriculture Museum |
| 6. Hassioti | 13. Papadaki |
| 7. Lectures' Hall | 14. Iasemidi |
| | 15. Isaakidi |

centre and restaurant), associated installations (gardens, stables, plantations, greenhouses, vineyards, sports fields). Additionally, the A.U.A. owns facilities and experimental fields in Kopaida, Oropo, Spata and Messinia.

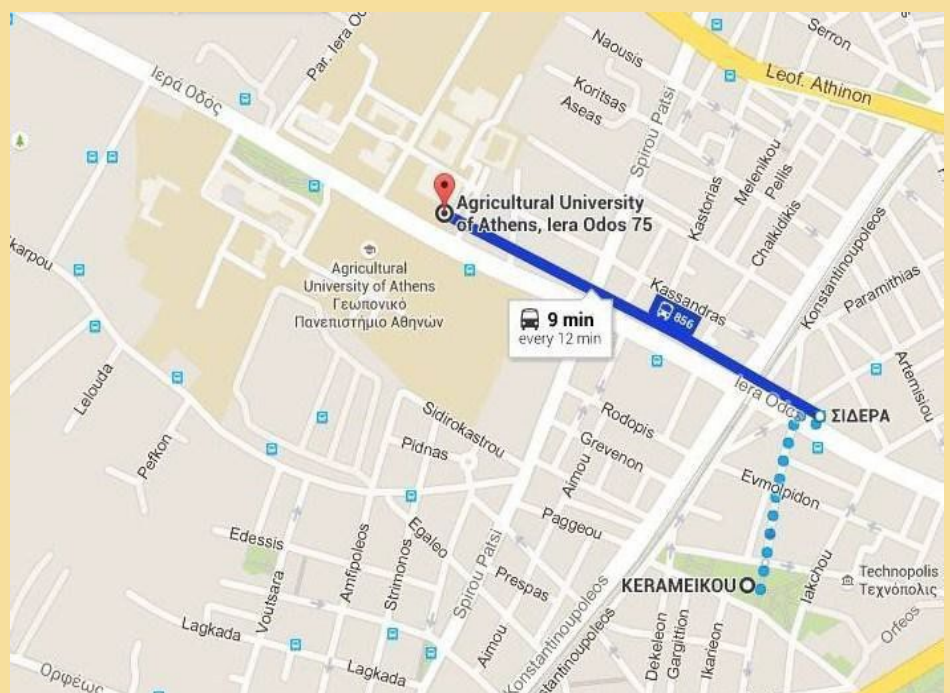
Arriving at the A.U.A.

In order to arrive to the A.U.A. campus you can use a number of buses whose numbers are the followings: 813, 856, A16, 026, 027. For more information on bus routes visit www.oasa.gr/. In addition you may use the metro (Line 3): stations “Kerameikos” and “Eleonas” (www.amel.gr).



Coming to AUA on foot from Kerameikos Metro Station Exit “Konstantinoupoleos”

Coming to AUA by bus from “Kerameikos” Metro Station (Exit Technopolis/Gazi), take bus from “Sidera” bus station and go to “Geoponiki Scholi” bus station.



Courses, Examinations, Grading of Qualification

Studies at the A.U.A. last 5 years (except for the programme in Regional & Economic Development) and its courses are divided in two annual semesters (autumn and spring). Lessons include lectures and laboratory work. Lectures normally take place in the morning (from 08:30 to 13:00) and laboratory work takes place during midday hours (from 14:30 to 17:00).

The grading scale used in the A.U.A. is the following:

- ❖ Type of scale 1-10
- ❖ Highest grade 10
- ❖ Lowest passing grade 5

EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

A: 9 – 10	EXCELLENT – outstanding performance with only minor errors
B: 8	VERYGOOD - above the average standard but with some errors
C: 7	GOOD - generally sound work with a number of no table errors
D: 6	SATISFACTORY - fair but with significant shortcomings
E: 5	SUFFICIENT - performance meets the minimum criteria
Fx: 3-4	FAIL - some more work required before the credit can be awarded
F: 1-2	FAIL – considerable further work is required

University Registration

Upon their arrival in Athens, Erasmus students should visit the International Relations and Mobility Office and register. The Office will provide them with the Student Identity Card, the Restaurant Card and the Library Borrowing Card, valid for the period of study at the A.U.A.

The International Relations and Mobility Office is located on the ground floor of the University's Central Administration Building (corridor of Laboratory of Agronomy) and it is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 13:00 (address: Agricultural University of Athens, Department of International Relations and Mobility, 75, Iera Odos str, 118 55 Athens, tel: +30 210 5294819 -823 -927, e-mail: european_pr@aua.gr).



AUA Campus Info

Library

The central library of A.U.A. is situated in a separate building in the University campus (number 13 in the map of A.U.A.). All staff and students of the University community have the right to use the library facilities and may borrow material in accordance with the library rules.

The library offers a wide range of books and journals relating to the various activities and disciplines of the Faculties and Laboratories. Students must register to the library and use the library card every time they want to borrow books. Students have the right to borrow up to 5 books for a 10 days period, renewable subject to demand. Failure to return the loaned material by the agreed date, loss or damage of loaned material renders the borrower liable to a fine. The library does not loan journals, doctoral thesis or material of special or historic value.

Additionally, the Library offers computer facilities and Wireless Internet Connection.

For further information and opening hours please visit the library site <http://library.aua.gr/>



Accommodation

The A.U.A. does not have a student hall of residence. Exchange students can find flats in many internet platforms and consult the ESN AUA students.

Student Restaurant and Canteen

There is a student restaurant in the University campus. Visit <https://www2.aua.gr/en/info/campus-restaurant> to check opening hours and the weekly menu.

Apart from the restaurant, there is a canteen for the purchase of snacks and soft drinks. Opening hours: from 07:00 to 18:00 (excluding weekends)

Sports Facilities

Indoor Leisure Center: there is place for athletics and aerobic from 06:00 to 15:00 (Monday to Friday), information: +30 210 529 4954. Other sport facilities: Open air courts for tennis, volleyball, basketball. Visit <https://www2.aua.gr/el/info/gymnastirio> for additional information.

Cultural Activities

Besides its role in education and research, the A.U.A. is also interested in promoting cultural activities. In this respect, the following groups have been established and are currently active: dance, theatre, music and a choir. Additional activities include the organization of sport events.

Health Care

To get healthcare through the public system in Greece and in all the countries of the European Union (EU), if you become ill or injured while on a temporary stay, European Union nationals may obtain in their home country Form E 111 (for emergency care) or Form E 128 (also for non-emergency care, valid for the length of the course). In place of the above-mentioned E-forms, from 1 June 2004 has been introduced in some countries the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Through them and the EHIC you have access to the National Health System under the same conditions as nationals of the member state you are visiting.

Students coming from non-EU countries must make arrangements for health insurance before entering Greece. It is the responsibility of the Sending University to provide insurance cover to students for the period of their stay at A.U.A.

University Medical Services

Next to the Greenhouse, University Campus

Mr. Baousis Evangelos, Internist

Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00

Tel: +30 210 529 4898

Coordinators

Erasmus Institutional Coordinator

Professor Emmanouil Flemetakis, Vice Rector (Rectory, Central Building, 2nd floor)

Tel: +30 210 5294802, e-mail: vr2@aua.gr

Department of Crop Science

Departmental Coordinator: Professor Bebeli Penelope (Building No 3, 1st floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4626, e-mail: bebeli@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Professor Maritina Stavrakaki (Building No 1, ground floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4631, e-mail: maritina@aua.gr

Department of Animal Science

Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Georgios Theodorou (Building No 10, 2nd floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4455, e-mail: gtheod@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Professor Vasileios Paraskeuas (Building No 10, 1st floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4460, e-mail: v.paraskeuas@aua.gr

Department of Natural Resources Development & Agricultural Engineering

Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Ioannis Baziotis (Building No 16, 1st floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4155, e-mail: ibaziotis@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Professor Leonidas Mindrinos (Building No 16, 1st floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4117, e-mail: leonidas.mindrinos@aua.gr

Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition

Departmental Coordinator: Professor Drosinos Eleftherios (Building No 13, ground floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4713, e-mail: ehd@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Aimilia Papakonstantinou (Building No 14, 1st floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4967, e-mail: emiliap@aua.gr

Department of Biotechnology

Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Professor Anastasia Zerva
(Building No 13, 2nd floor)

Tel: +30 210 5294316, e-mail: anazer@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Professor Rigas Stamatis
(Building No 13, 2nd floor)

Tel: +30 210 5294210, e-mail: srigas@aua.gr

Department of Agricultural Economics & Development

Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Prof. Eleni Zarokosta (Building No 7, ground floor)

Tel: +30 210 529 4716, e-mail: elenazarokosta@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Constantinos Demestichas (Building 16, 1st floor, Laboratory of Informatics)

Tel: +30 210 529 4192, e-mail: cdemest@aua.gr

Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management (campus in Karpenisi)

Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Palaiologos Palaiologou

Tel: +30 22370 25063, e-mail: palaiologou@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Sergios Tampekis

Tel: +30 22370 23282, e-mail: stampeki@aua.gr

Department of Regional and Economic Development (campus in Amfissa)

Departmental Coordinator: Lecturer Anna Ftouli e-mail:

aftouli@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Professor Theodoros Daglis e-mail: thdaglis@aua.gr

Department of Agribusiness and Supply Chain Management (campus in Thiva)

Departmental Coordinator: Associate Professor Kanellos Toudas,
e-mail: kstoudas@aua.gr

Deputy Departmental Coordinator: Assistant Professor Amalia Nikolopoulou, e-mail: anikolop@aua.gr

CONTACT

Ms. Thania Anastopoulou, Deputy Head of the Department

Tel. +30 210 529 4819, e-mail: european_pr@aua.gr

Ms. Vicky Griva

Tel. +30 210 529 4823

Address:

Agricultural University of Athens

General Directorate of Administration Services

Directorate of Internationalization, Mobility and Student Welfare

Department of International Relations & Mobility

75, Iera Odos str.

118 55 Athens

GREECE

Find us at the ground floor of the Central Building (No 1, corridor of Laboratory of Agronomy)

OPENING HOURS: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 am to 13 pm

For more information about your Erasmus in AUA visit:

http://www.european.aua.gr/?page_id=757

and ESN AUA Athens website:

<http://aua.esngreece.gr/>

Athens Student's Guide

ARRIVING AT THE ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT "ELEFThERIOS VENIZELOS"

The Athens International Airport is located 44 km north-eastern of Athens and can be rapidly accessed via a six-lane motorway ("Attiki Odos"), by express busses on a 24h basis (www.oasa.gr), by metro (www.amel.gr) and Suburban Railway (www.proastiakos.gr)-from Athens center and the port of Piraeus, ensuring this way efficient transport of air travelers and facilitating linkage to key tourist attractions.

TRANSPORTATION IN ATHENS

The unified ticket is valid for all transportation in all means of Mass Transportation (metro, tram, buses, trolley-buses) for unlimited rides for 90 minutes from the time of its validation. The student ticket costs 0,60 € while the normal 1,40 €. You should validate your ticket upon boarding on the vehicle (bus, trolley-busses) or entering the station (metro, tram) or possess a valid transportation card (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly). You can buy tickets in all stations and in kiosks (periptera). More details about tickets/cards/prices/routes at <http://www.stasy.gr/>

Athens Metro

The metro network system has 3 lines in total; line 1 (from Piraeus to Kifissia), line 2 (from Anthoupoli to Elliniko), line 3 (from Airport to Dimotiko Theatro). You can buy tickets and cards at the entrance of each station, where they are also validated before you enter the metro.

Athens Tram

There are the following routes of the Tram:

- Line 6: From SYNTAGMA TO PIKRODAFNI
- Line 7: AGIA TRIADA to ASKLIPEIO VOULAS

Journeys using lines 6 & 7 with connection at PIKRODAFNI:

Asklipieio Voulas – Syntagma/Syntagma – Asklipieio Voulas

Agia Triada – Syntagma /Syntagma – Agia Triada

The tram operates daily from 05:30 am to 00:30 am

Public Urban Transportation (buses and trolley-buses)

(www.oasa.gr). Tickets must be validated upon boarding in special validation machines within the vehicle (there is a penalty fine for not stamping your ticket).

Taxis

Taxis in Athens are yellow. They can be found at special stops or in motion. The flag – falling is 1,19 € and there is a minimum charge of 3,20 € regardless of the distance. Between 24:00 and 5:00 there is a double tariff. The amount payable is indicated on the taximeter of the car, except in cases where there is an extra charge (transport from ports – airports, long distance bus terminals, luggage, radio – taxi call). During Christmas and Easter period there is an extra charge of about 0,60 €.

Long distance transportation: you can travel by long – distance buses (KTEL) throughout Attica, from Sounion to Marathon. They are orange–colored and their terminal is at the “Pedion tou Areos” (Areo’s Park) on Mavromateon & Ioulianou St.

The ticket costs about from 2,20 to 5,70 € (25% student discount) depending on the route and the buses run from 05:30 till 22:30 for most routes. For further information you may call +30 210 880 8000

Postal Services: Greek post offices (“tachydromeia –ELTA: Ελληνικά Ταχυδρομεία”) are generally open from 07:30 to 14:00, Monday to Friday, with some main branches staying open as late as 20:00 (main branches occasionally open for a few hours at weekends). The main post offices in the center of Athens are indicated on the Street Finder map, at Plateia Syntagmatos, Tritis Septemvriou and on Aioulou St. All post offices are closed on public holidays. Those with an “Exchange” sign will change money in addition to the usual services. Post boxes are usually bright yellow; those with two slots are marked “esoteriko - εσωτερικό”, meaning domestic and “exoteriko - εξωτερικό”, meaning overseas. Bright red post boxes are reserved for express mail, both domestic and overseas. Express mail is a little more expensive but cuts delivery time by few days. Stamps (“grammatosima – γραμματόσημα”) can be bought at post offices and also at kiosks (the latter usually charge a ten per cent commission). Some useful telephone numbers are the followings: central post offices: Plateia Syntagmatos – Mitropoleos St. ++30 210 3226253, Omonia, 100 Aioulou St. +30 210 3216024.

Local Currency, Bank Services and credit cards: The monetary unit in Greece is Euro

Coins: 0,01 / 0,02 / 0,05 / 0,10 / 0,20 / 0,50 / 1 / 2

Notes: 5 / 10 / 20 / 50 / 100 / 200 / 500

There are Greek banks and branches of all big foreign banks in all major towns and resorts as well as exchange facilities at post

offices, travel agents, hotels, tourist offices and car hire agencies. Always take your passport with you when cashing travelers' checks and check exchange rates and commission charges beforehand, as they vary greatly. In major towns and tourist areas you may find a foreign exchange machine for changing money at any time of day or night; these operate in several languages. All banks are open from 08:00 to 14:30 Monday to Thursday and from 08:00 to 14:00 on Friday. Cash machines are in operation 24 hours a day. All banks are closed on public or national holidays.

The most widely accepted credit cards in Greece are Visa, MasterCard (Access), American Express and Diners Club. They are the most convenient way to pay for plane tickets, international ferry journeys, car hire, most hotels and large purchases. Cheaper tavernas, shops and hotels as a rule do not accept credit cards.

Police Service: Greece's police ("αστυνομία") are split into 3 forces: the regular police, the port police and the tourist police. The tourist police are the most useful for holiday – makers, combining normal police duties with tourist advice. Should you suffer a theft, lose your passport or have cause to complain about shops, restaurants, tour guides or taxi drivers, your case should first be known to them. Usually, every tourist police office has at least one English speaker, they can act as translators if the case needs to involve the local police. Their offices also offer maps, brochures and advice on finding accommodation.

Some useful telephone numbers are the followings: Police: 100 and Tourist Police: 171 (nationwide emergency).

Medical Treatment and Insurance: All students of European Union are entitled to free medical care in Greece on presentation of an E128 (the ex E111) form. Students from other countries must be

provided with a public or private insurance from their country of origin before entering Greece.

Emergency Services: In case of emergencies the appropriate services to call are listed below.

For accidents or other medical emergencies, a 24-hour ambulance service operates within Athens. If necessary, patients can be transferred to EOPYY (Greek National Health Service System – Εθνικός Οργανισμός Παροχής Υπηρεσιών Υγείας) hospitals. A complete list of ESY hospitals, private hospitals and clinics is available here: <http://www.eopyy.gov.gr>. Some useful telephone numbers are the followings:

Ambulance: 166 (nationwide emergency) and doctors: 105 (from 14:00 to 07:00).

Pharmacies: Greek pharmacies are highly qualified and cannot only advise on minor ailments, but also dispense medication. Their premises (farmakeia – φαρμακεία) are identified by a red or green cross on a white background. Pharmacies are open following the shop hours. Details are posted in pharmacy windows, both in Greek and in English. A useful telephone number is the following:

Information on 24-hour pharmacies: 107 (central Athens) and 102 (suburbs).

The climate of Athens: The weather in Athens is generally warm: temperatures are high in summer and rarely drop below 0 °C in winter when, usually, north-coming winds are extremely strong.

	April	July	October	January
Average daily hours of sunshine	8hrs	12hrs	7hrs	4hrs
Average monthly rainfall	23mm	6mm	51mm	62mm
Max Temperature	26 °C	40 °C	28 °C	18 °C
Min Temperature ° C	6 °C	19 °C	11 °C	1 °C

Main public holidays: these are the dates when the A.U.A. and also other public organizations are closed nationwide:

1st January (New Year's Day)

6th January (Epiphany Day)

30th January (only for Educational Institutions)

25th March (National Holiday)

Greek Orthodox Easter (Sunday and Monday - movable feast)

1st May (Labor Day)

Holy Spirit (movable feast)

15th August (Assumption of Virgin Mary)

28th October (National Holiday)

17th November (only for Educational Institutions)

25th December (Christmas Day)

26th December (Boxing Day)

*Educational institutions have two-week vacations during Christmas as well as during Easter.

Entertainment and cultural life in Athens

Athens excels in the sheer variety of its entertainment. People coming to Athens can go to cinemas and see the latest film releases, attend theatre pieces, live the experience of concerts in a variety of concert halls, go to galleries, spend lazy evenings in garden bars full of the aroma of plants and flowers and also try delicious plates and wines in a great variety of restaurants and tavernas. People can, at the same time, visit some of the many museums and historical sites of Athens in order to discover the glorious Greek art and history.

Some English listing magazines related to the entertainment and cultural life in Athens are the following: “Athens News” published daily, “Greek News” and “Athenscope” published weekly, “The Athenian” and “Athina” published monthly and “Odyssey” published bimonthly. Concerning detailed information about museums and sites you can address to the Hellenic Tourism Organisation (EOT).

Museums and Art Galleries

In the center of Athens:

- The National Archaeological Museum (44, Patission Str.)
- The Acropolis Museum (On the hill of the Acropolis)
- The Kerameikos Museum (148, Ermou Str.)
- The Byzantine Museum (22, Vassilissis Sophias Ave.)
- The Benaki Museum (on the corner of Vas. Sophias Ave & Koumbari Str.)
- The Greek Folk Art Museum (17, Kidathineon Str.)
- The National Historical Museum (13, Stadiou Str.)
- The Museum of Cycladic and Ancient Greek Art (4, Neophytou Douka Str.)
- The War Museum (on the corner of Vas. Sophias Ave & Rizari Str.)
- The Museum of the City of Athens (7, Papparigopoulou Str.)
- The Theatre Museum (50, Akadimias Str.)
- The National Gallery and Alexander Soutzos Museum (50, Vas. Konstantinou Ave).
- The Folk Art and Tradition Centre (6, Ang. Hatzimihali Str.)
- The Municipal and Cultural Centre of Athens (50, Akadimias Str.).

There are also many art galleries throughout the city.

In Piraeus and the suburbs:

- The Piraeus Maritime Museum (Akti Themistokleous, Freatida) -
The Piraeus Archaeological Museum (31, Harilaou Trikoupi Str.)
- The Goulandris Museum of Natural History (13, Levidou Str., Kifissia).

Places of Interest:

Archaeological sites in Athens:

- The Acropolis and the Parthenon
- The Theatre of Dionysus
- The Herod Atticus Odeum
- The Areios Pagos
- The Monument of Philopappus
- The Pnika Hill
- The Temple of Hephaestus of Theseion
- The Ancient Agora
- The Roman Agora
- Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of the Olympian Zeus
- The Kerameikos Cemetery

Byzantine Monuments in Athens and its suburbs

- Byzantine Churches: Ag. Apostoli, Kapnikarea, Ag. Theodori etc.
- The Kessariani Monastery (11th century)
- The Dafni Monastery

The Modern City of Athens

- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- The House of Parliament
- The 3-complex Neoclassical Buildings (Academy of Sciences, University of Athens, National Library)

- Monetary Museum (former house of Troya's archaeologist H. Schliemann)
- Syntagma Square
- Lycabettus Hill
- Plaka (downtown Athens) - Monastiraki (flea market) both under Acropolis hill.

Public Libraries

- The National Library (32, Panepistimiou Str.), beside the University's Main Building
- The Greek Parliament Library (Syntagma Sq.)
- The "Benakios" Library (3, Anthimou Gazi Str.)
- The "Gennadios" Library (61, Soudias Str.)
- The Library of the National Institute of Research (48, Vas. Konstantinou Str.).

Religion – Churches of Various Denominations

- Greek Evangelical Church (Amalias Str.)
- St. Denis - Roman Catholic Cathedral (Panepistimiou Str.)
- St. Andrew's Protestant Church (end of Sina Str.)
- St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral (Amalias Str.)
- Synagogue (Melidoni Str.)

International Cultural Centres

- British Council (17, Filikis Etairias Sq.)
- French Institute (31, Sina Str.)
- Italian Institute (47, Patission Str.)
- Goethe Institute (14-16, Omirou Str.)
- Hellenic-American Union (22, Massalias Str.)

Entertainment

In Athens - center of the artistic life in the country - the visitor can choose from among many theatres, the New Opera House in the Niarchos Cultural Center (www.snfcc.org) and numerous indoor as well as open-air movie-theatres. Films are projected in the original version with Greek subtitles.

Athens prides itself on super-modern and perfectly equipped Mansion of Music (on the corner of Vas. Sophias Ave & 1, Kokkali Str.) where various performances - opera, theatre, concerts of classical and jazz music, ballet etc. - are held.

In Athens there is a wide choice of music-halls, discos and taverns.

Cultural Events

*The Athens Festival is organised by the Hellenic Tourism Organisation. Performances are held at the Odeum of Herod Atticus from June to September. They include ancient drama, opera, ballet and concerts presented by Greek and foreign troupes.

*Folk Dances (Philopappus Theatre). From May to September.

*The Sound and Light Show at the Acropolis. From April to October

In summer time there are several other major festivals of similar concept in ancient theatres throughout Greece. The best known is the Epidaurus festival (from mid-June to August); others are held in Dodoni (Epirus) and Patras.

Places to visit in Athens (<http://www.culture.gr>)

Acropolis: in the mid-5th century BC, Perikles persuaded the Athenians to begin a grand programme of new building work in Athens that has come to represent the political and cultural

achievements of Greece. The work transformed the Acropolis with tree contrasting temples and a monumental gateway. The Theatre of Dionysos on the south slope was developed further in the 4th century BC and the Theatre of Herodes Atticus was added in the 2nd century AD.

The Parthenon: one of the world's most famous buildings, this temple was constructed in 447Bc in the grounds of a previous archaic temple. It was designed by the architects Kallikrates and Iktinos, primarily to house the 12m (40ft) high statue of Athena Parthenos (Maiden), sculpted by Pheidias. Taking nine years to complete, the temple was dedicated to the goddess in 438 BC. Over the centuries, it has been used as a church, a mosque and an arsenal, and has suffered severe damage. Built as an expression of the glory of ancient Athens, it remains the city's emblem to this day.

National Archaeological Museum: the museum opened in 1891 and it is often known simply as the National Museum. It brought together a collection that had previously been stored all over the city. New wings were added in 1939. The priceless collection was then dispersed and buried underground during World War II to protect it from possible damage. The museum opened in 1946, but it has taken 50 years of renovation and reorganisation finally to do justice to its formidable collection. With the combination of such unique exhibits as the Mycenaean gold, along with the unrivalled amount of sculpture, pottery and jewelry on display, this is without doubt one of the world's finest museums.

Kallimarmaro Stadium: this huge marble structure set in a small valley by Arditos Hill occupies the exact site of the original Panathenaic Stadium built by Lukourgos in 330-329 BC. It was first reconstructed for gladiatorial contests during Hadrian's reign (AD 76-138), then rebuilt in white marble by the wealthy Roman benefactor Herodes Atticus for the Panathenaic games in AD 144. Neglected for many years, its marble was gradually quarried for use in new buildings.

In 1895 G. Averof gave 4 million Drs in gold for the restoration of the stadium in time for the start of the first modern Olympic Games on 5th April 1896, inspired by the Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Designed by An. Metaxas, the present structure is a faithful replica of Herodes Atticu's stadium. Built in white Pentelic marble, it can seat up to 60 000 spectators. Metaxas was also helped by the plans of architect Ernst Ziller who excavated the site between 1869 and 1879. Among his finds was a double-headed statue of Apollo and Hermes, one of many that were used to divide the stadium's running track down its length. It is on show in the National Archaeological Museum.

Syntagma Square: the square is being situated to the Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, decorated with an evocative relief depicting a dying Greek hoplite warrior. The tomb is flanked by texts from Perikle's famous funeral oration. The National Guard ("evzones") are on continuous patrol in front of the tomb, dressed in their famous uniform of Greek kilt and pom-pom clogs. They are best seen at the changing of the guard, every Sunday at 11:00.

Monastiraki: this old area of the city takes its name from the little sunken monastery in Monastiraki Square. The former heart of Othoman Athens, Monastiraki is still home to the bazaar-flea market and market stalls selling everything from junk to jewelry. The Fethiye Mosque stands as a reminder of the area's eastern past. Roman influences are also strong in Monastiraki. The area borders the Roman Agora and includes the remains of Emperor Hadrian's Library and the unique Tower of the Winds, a Hellenistic water clock. Monastiraki mixes the atmospheric surroundings of ancient ruins with the excitement of bargaining in the bazaar-flea market. The flea market of Avissynias Square is the heart of the flea market which extends through the surrounding streets. It is particular popular on Sunday mornings.

Plaka: it is the historic heart of Athens. Even though only a few houses date back further than the Ottoman period, it remains the oldest continually inhabited area of the city. One explanation of its name comes from the word pliaka ("plate-πλάκα"), which was used to describe the area by Albanian soldiers in the service of the Turks who settled her in the 16th century. Despite the coming of tourists and Athenians, it still retains the feeling of a residential neighborhood.

Lykavittos Hill: the pick of Lykavittos (also known as Lycabettus) reaches 277m (915 ft) above the city and is its highest hill. It can be climbed on foot by various paths or by the easier albeit vertiginous, ride in the funicular from the corner of Ploutarchou. On foot it should take about 45 minutes. The Hill derives its name from the popular belief that wolves ("lykoi - λύκοι") lived here. The small

white chapel of Saint George (Agios Georgios) crowns the top of the Hill. It was built in the 19th century on the sight of an older byzantine church, dedicated to Prophet Elijah (Profitis Ilias). On the Hill there is Lykavittos Theater where contemporary jazz, pop and dance performances are held annually during the Athens summer festival.

Kolonaki Square: this square and its neighboring side streets are the most chic and sophisticated part of Athens. The area is often missed by those who restrict themselves to ancient sites and the popular flea market of Monastiraki. Also known as Plateia Filikis Etaireias the square is named after a small ancient column (Kolonaki) found in the area. The lively pavement cafes around the square still attract a particular devoted clientele.

Exarcheia and Strefi Hill: it is a very attractive area with the 19th century neo-classical buildings, which is picking up and has a mixed atmosphere of student squalor and new gentrification that has brought many fashionable cafes bars and tavernas. The square of Exarcheia is especially lively when the music clubs and the open-air cinema, the “Riviera” and “Box”, in the streets that climb towards Strefi attract many visitors. The nearby park of Strefi Hill with its intriguing maze of paths is quiet and peaceful by day but comes to life at night when its cafes are full. Strefi Hill is one of the green areas in Athens.

National Garden: behind the parliament building this 40-acre park created in 1840, cherished by all Athenians and formerly known as the Royal Gardens, was renamed as the National Gardens by Decree in 1923. It is one of the most peaceful spots in the city: shady

paths meander past small squares, benches and ponds filled with goldfishes. Remains of Roman mosaics excavated in the park and an old aqueduct add atmosphere. Modern sculptures of writers, such as Dionusios Solomos, Aristotelis Valaoritis and Jean Moreas, can be found throughout the park. South of the park lies the Zappeion exhibition hall, an impressive building in use today as a conference center. The elegant cafe next door to the Zappeion is a pleasant place to relax after a walk around these charming, peaceful gardens.

Useful Telephone Numbers

First Aid Station	166
Holiday and Night Duty Hospitals	106
Holiday and Night Doctors	105
Athens Night Duty Pharmacies	107
Police	100
Fire Squad	199
Aliens Bureau	210 6411746
ELPA road assistance	104
Athens Traffic Police Headquarters	210 5230111
Poisoning Cases Centre	210 7793777
Hellenic Tourism Organisation	210 3223111
Tourist Police	171
Counseling Centre for AIDS	210 7222222