Study Abroad
IN GREECE

Open a Window
to Learning
in the Most Fascinating Country in the World
Better to Reach Out and Touch a Rapidly Changing World Than to Be Totally Surprised

by Constantine S. Sirigos

Everything in the news suggests it would be foolish to make political and economic predictions beyond, say, 2040, but while social and political forces can push back and slow down the pace of globalization and multiculturalism, it is unlikely that they will not go away. That is among the reasons why more and more colleges and universities are urging or requiring students to dedicate part of their education to study abroad—and wise parents should embrace the idea.

The country is a destination for those of all ages wishing to broaden their horizons because it remains an economic and cultural crossroad. Many of the class members of American students choosing to study there are from Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East and even the Far East. However, China has selected Greece to be its economic bridge to Europe. In this special edition, parents and students of all ages wishing to broaden their horizons because it remains an economic and cultural crossroads.

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State of the art ACT facilities include science labs.

That is one of the things students look for, the chance to meet locals and have an authentic experience. They can take a history class in the United States, but they cannot get the same flavor for it, and through Service Learning, they understand how history has contributed to the modern Greek and American community.

The ACT uses an approach called Learning in ACTion. “All the professors adopt the methodology of bringing the classroom into the community and bringing the student out into the community to get hands-on experience with the different topics they are teaching about.” Funk said. “They can walk through ancient sites and stand where Alexander the Great and the Apostle Paul stood, and also have at that time forget some modern-day issues like the economy and refugees.”

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Study in Greece and don’t miss a day of News from Back Home! The National Herald: Bringing the news to generations of Greek-Americans.

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Hospitality and Learning with ACT in Glorious, Omorfi Thessaloniki

The school becomes for them, Funk believes, “a modern-day Delphi, where they gain knowledge and share it when they return to their classroom back in the United States. They can say ‘I was in Greece and this is what I saw…this is what the people told me’ – the hands-on experience is very important and we try to offer them as many opportunities as possible.”

ACT offers some field trips free of charge, but students can also choose from other low-cost trips ACT organizes – like overnight excursions to Meteora and Ioannina. “They really get a feel for the geography, the history, the beauty of nature and the stories of the ancient world come alive to them while they are out exploring, and that’s what makes it a life-changing experience.”

The locals gain because they love engaging with the students and learning about where they are from and what they are studying. Funk said, “There is an open door of conversation and idea exchange” and “many students are deeply moved by the Greek hospitality they encounter and they are touched by how kind Greek people are to them…Thessaloniki is a small city and it is very easy to navigate and meet a lot of local people.”

Funk, who grew up in New Jersey, is a career educator who has worked both as an administrator and a teacher. She has been taking students abroad since the start of her teaching career in 2000.

“My personal belief is that world peace is only possible through interpersonal connections, people meeting people and seeking out commonalities and finding ways to work through differences. The different ways that people live come from something historical or environmental and the best chance we have for being kind and understanding to people who have differences is to experience how they’ve lived and where they come from.

And there is practical value too. “Study abroad has the opportunity help the business students be the best businessmen they can be because they’ve understood something outside of their own familiar context,” Funk said, adding that “the same applies to a nurse or a writer. It opens windows and doors for people to understand how things work somewhere else.”

All the professors adopt the methodology of bringing the community into the classroom and bringing the student out into the community.

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American College of Thessaloniki students enjoy a field trip on Mt. Olympus.
The Hearts of Hellenism Beats

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Applications Open December 1, 2018 for the NYU Summer in Athens Abroad Session 2019

For further information, you may visit bit.ly/nyusummerathens or contact Vaia Trittas at vaia.trittas@nyu.edu or 212-998-3979

The Reversed Fulbright Program for Scholars

An “Engine of Brain Gain” for Greece

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Summer in Athens excursions touch many fascinating spots in Greece, but the heart and soul of students’ visits to Greece is the forefront and other meaning architectural sites that stage ancient Greek drama – Thedias

2018. There has been much talk about Greek cinema, especially rebetika – Theodora

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includes a class on contemporary Greek cinema, and another on the arts in Athens

The National Herald noted that the National Scholarships Program has a special emphasis on the arts in Athens and in other parts of Greece. The Reversed Fulbright Program for Scholars “strives to provide students with a meaningful Greek culture within the context of lived experience. Special emphasis is placed on visiting and exploring significant cultural and historical sites, not only in Athens but also in other parts of Greece. Field Trips, Cultural Activities, and Guest Lecturers constitute an integral component of the program; students are expected to attend and actively participate in all of them. For further information, you may visit bit.ly/nyusummerathens or contact Vaia Trittas at vaia.trittas@nyu.edu or 212-998-3979. Summer in Athens excursions touch many fascinating spots in Greece, but the heart and soul of students’ visits to Greece is the forefront and other meaning architectural sites that stage ancient Greek drama – Thedias.
College Year in Athens (CYA) is a Life Transforming Experience

By Constantin S. Sirtos

"W e place an emphasis on learning beyond the classroom... a hands-on learning experience in the rich environment of Greece. A significant portion of the semester involves home-stays, which are designed not only to enhance the classroom material but also to give you a deeper understanding of Greece."

That is the powerful premise and rich invitation College Year in Athens (CYA) presents on its website, which is reinforced by the words of its president, Alexis Phylactopoulos.

"College Year in Athens (CYA) is a school, he told The National Herald, adding "CYA has completed 55 years in operation and it’s been an uphill journey but the needs of the students have evolved so that we have very good governance...they take their role seriously and also contribute generously from donations through the website, cyathens.org."

"It is a unique way to get that first experience with Greece, or to start learning or to improve their language skills."

"It is not a program, it is a school," said Phylactopoulos. "It is a school for students who are classified as "students of Greek descent" but are "so happy to be here. One said 'it helps me discover a part of me that I know is there but I didn't get it.'"

"It is also a wonderful way to give back," he added. "We have known because they invite them to their own homes... villages, and homes."

"It is a unique experience of Greece. Phylactopoulos said "It is a unique way to give that first experience with Greece, or to start learning or to improve their language skills."

"Children with only one Greek parent tell them they are "so happy to be here. One said "It helps me... to give back," he added. "There are also appeals through the alumni newsletter... and anyone can make donations through the website, cyathens.org."

"The commitment to excellence is unparalleled, but the needs of the students have evolved so that..."
American Community Schools of Athens (ACS) -- An Ethos of Morphosis,Ethos

By Constantine S. Sirigos, president of the American Community Schools of Athens (ACS). ( Courtesy of the American Community Schools of Athens (ACS))

The American community schools of Athens (ACS) have been a beacon of light for the students who have attended them. The school has been an important part of the American community in Athens, Greece, and has provided a safe and secure environment for students to learn and grow. The school has a rich history and has been a part of the American community for many years. The school has been known for its academic excellence, and has provided students with a solid foundation for their future careers. The school has been a place where students have been able to learn and grow, and has provided them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. The school has been a place where students have been able to form strong relationships, and has provided them with a support system that has helped them through the ups and downs of their lives. The school has been a place where students have been able to find their passion, and has provided them with the tools they need to pursue their dreams. The school has been a place where students have been able to make a difference, and has provided them with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the world. The school has been a place where students have been able to learn and grow, and has provided them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. The school has been a place where students have been able to form strong relationships, and has provided them with a support system that has helped them through the ups and downs of their lives. The school has been a place where students have been able to find their passion, and has provided them with the tools they need to pursue their dreams. The school has been a place where students have been able to make a difference, and has provided them with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the world. The school has been a place where students have been able to learn and grow, and has provided them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. The school has been a place where students have been able to form strong relationships, and has provided them with a support system that has helped them through the ups and downs of their lives. The school has been a place where students have been able to find their passion, and has provided them with the tools they need to pursue their dreams. The school has been a place where students have been able to make a difference, and has provided them with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the world. The school has been a place where students have been able to learn and grow, and has provided them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life.

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American College of Greece
A Study Abroad Magnet and Gem

By Constantine S. Sirigys

The American College of Greece (ACG) is the oldest and largest American college in Europe – and the quality and kinds of programs offered by the private nonprofit institution that constantly reinvests in its philosophy – and Greece itself has made it a magnet for highly motivated students, Dr. Dimitris Andreou, VP of Administration and Enrollment, notes. “Greece is an increasingly recognized American academic circle as a prime destination for studying abroad. It can be safely said that Greece’s growing prominence... owes a lot to ACG’s success. ACG, a US-accredited institution, offers a great variety of programs and accommodations for international students.” The proof of that success is “the incredible growth in the number of study-abroad students, especially from the U.S.” arriving each semester at ACG,” he said.

Daskalothanassis spoke about the College’s contributions to Greece through the years, but on a sunny summer afternoon he focused on how the school responds to social changes in the U.S. and Greek American community, both that it is offering programs to attract excellent students, and so that experiences can enrich their community when they return.

“The community is going from generation to generation with a national, instinctive connection with Greece to second and third generations that still have natural connections, but they are weaker, and the children’s identity is ‘up for grabs.’ Both given intermarriage and because other elements claim their place in young people’s psyche,” he said. “Facing bad in the United States, he knows one challenge in the need for changes in the way American culture is presented to our youth, but he adds “Greece also has obligations, including making the youth proud to be Greek. If they do that, they are more likely to support the homeland.”

But for that to happen, the youth have to understand they country and its people. The philosophical foundation of what the American College offers diaspora youth is the notion that “you cannot like a country and stereotypes about Greeks, but at the same time, they are more likely to support the homeland.”

A college is essentially an arena for exploring the minds in many contexts and the School is known for its student-centered, seminars and cultural events.

The ACG family consists of Pierce College, a secondary school; Deree College for undergraduate and postgraduate liberal arts – named for William S. Deree (born 1872–1947), a 1916 graduate of Harvard University, a resident of Greece and a co-founder of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in 1944.

Dr. Andreou added that “young Greek Americans who are pursuing degrees. There are now 51 students in business, liberal arts, and the fine and performing arts. Costs are low compared with the States, and as of last year they can get federal financial aid. The Summer programs are also very popular, with middle and early high school students enjoying the Pierce Leadership Academy. As wonderful as the summer programs are, Daskalothanassis urges students to “come for the semester – 3½ months of immersion, and not in summer, when Greece is filled with tourists, but winter too...”

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