
Global Education Office
Reves Center for International
Studies
The College of William & Mary



ATHENS SUMMER HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Summer in Athens 2017..... | 3 |
| Handy Information..... | 4 |
| Overview, Dates, and Money..... | 5 |
| Visa Information and Budgeting..... | 6 |
| Packing..... | 8 |
| Traveling to Athens..... | 10 |
| Coursework..... | 11 |
| Excursions & Activities..... | 12 |
| Housing and Meals..... | 13 |
| Communication..... | 14 |
| Health & Safety..... | 15 |
| Travel & Country Information..... | 16 |
| Athens..... | 17 |
| Frequently Asked Questions..... | 18 |
| Contact Information..... | 20 |

Summer in Athens 2017

This handbook offers guidelines that we hope you will find useful in making your preparations and while studying in Athens. Please read the handbook carefully before your departure and **bring it with you** to Greece, either as a paper or email copy. The program policies are included, along with lists of important items to bring with you, tips for handling your money, and precautions for safeguarding your health and belongings. In an effort to serve you best, the material in this handbook is edited each year and contains the latest information available to assist you in preparing for your trip. While we do our best to provide you with the most accurate information, inevitably some changes may take place and we will need to make adjustments. Your program director and the Global Education Office Advisor at the Reves Center will keep you informed of any changes.



Handy Information

| SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS IN GREECE | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Date | Holiday | Description |
| May 11 – August 29 | The Feast of the Flowers | Traditionally, families drive out the countryside and pick flowers to make wreathes, which are then hung on their doors. The wreathes are then burned for the Feast of St. John. |
| Around June 21 | European Music Day | The biggest annual music event in Greece. |
| June | Epidaurus Festival | One of the most important cultural festivals in the country, with Greek classical theatre performances, Green drama, music, concerts, contemporary dance events, lectures and more. |

| AVERAGE MIN/MAX TEMPERATURES IN ATHENS (°F) | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June |
| 43/55 | 44/56 | 47/60 | 52/68 | 59/77 | 68/85 |
| July | August | September | October | November | December |
| 72/90 | 72/90 | 66/84 | 58/73 | 52/65 | 46/58 |

| TIME ZONE COMPARISON: GREECE IS 7 HOURS AHEAD OF VIRGINIA | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Pacific (US) | Mountain (US) | Central (US) | Eastern (US) | Athens |
| 5:00am | 6:00am | 7:00am | 8:00am | 3:00 pm (15:00) |
| 1:00pm | 2:00pm | 3:00pm | 4:00pm | 11:00 pm (23:00) |
| 9:00pm | 10:00pm | 11:00pm | Midnight | 7:00 am (next day) |

Overview, Dates, and Money

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Fees:** \$5,150
- **Program Director:** Professor Vassiliki Panoussi, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, panoussi@wm.edu
- **Accommodations:** Students will stay in apartments in Athens. In other locations, such as Nafplio, students will stay in hotels.
- **Meals:** Lunches in Athens will be provided. Breakfast in hotels will be provided.
- **Course information:** 4-7 CREDIT: THE ANCIENT CITY (CLCV 498) 4 CREDITS;
- Additional 2-3 credits enrolling in undergraduate research abroad in classical studies (CLCV 494).

PROGRAM DATES

- Arrive June 19 – Depart July 9, 2017

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION

Your Program Director should hold 2-3 meetings prior to the program leaving to answer questions and have you know what to expect, as well as how to prepare for your program. Students will be automatically enrolled in a one credit pre-course after the spring semester has begun. Dates and times are to be determined by the Program Director and the participants.

MONEY

A note on currency: Regardless of the level of financial resources you may have available for your period of study abroad, all students share the same need to have quick access to their funds and, at the same time, to have their money protected against loss. The currency of Greece is the Euro (€) and is equivalent to the US dollar at a rate of approximately: \$1 US = 0.94€ Euros or €1 = \$1.07 USD (as of February 2017). You can check the current exchange rates on the web at <http://www.xe.com/ucc> or in the financial section of a large city newspaper.

Visa Information and Budgeting

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passport

- You should apply as early as possible before departure to secure your passport through a Passport Agency (found in major cities), a local issuing office, a Federal or State Court House, or a Class I Post Office.
Start the process early so that there will be plenty of time to resolve any problems that may arise. If you will be using your current passport, make sure that it is good for six months after your return to the U.S. If it is not, you will need to renew it.
- Guidelines on renewing your passport or applying for a new one can be found at:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>



Visa

No visa is necessary for students studying in Greece for fewer than 90 days

BUDGET

Your budget for incidental expenses will depend on your personal taste and the amount of independent travel you intend to do before or after the program. The program fee covers many of your necessary expenses: tuition, housing, and transportation and entrance fees for program excursions. For basic expenditures in Athens, we recommend that you budget approximately \$125-\$175 per week, plus extra money for shopping and traveling. It is probably possible to live for considerably less than this. Naturally, if you plan to do a significant amount of shopping and/or traveling, you should budget accordingly.

Clothing in Greece is more expensive than compared to the US. Greeks are more formally dressed compared to other nearby countries that sport a more sporty and casual style. Benchmark price for an international brand of men's jeans is \$119, a quality international brand of running shoes \$123, men's leather shoes suitable for office wear \$122 while a medium size international summer dress from a global chain store is \$45.

Study Abroad Program Estimated Costs Worksheet for Athens

| Expenses: | Amount: | When due: | Paid to W&M? | Paid out of pocket? |
|---|---------------|---|--------------|---------------------|
| Program Fee | \$5,150 | Deposit March 6th, Balance April 1st | Yes | |
| Airfare | \$1800 | | | Yes |
| Meals: In Athens, lunches are included M-F, elsewhere, breakfasts are included. | \$500 | | | |
| Reves Center Fee | \$75 | | | Yes |
| Local Travel | | | | |
| Visa, passport, photos | NA | Prior to beginning of program | | Yes |
| Books & supplies | \$100 | | | |
| Misc./Personal Items | \$600 | | | Yes |
| | | | | Yes |
| Total | \$8225 | | | |

| | Items | Average Price | Price Range |
|------------------|--|---|-------------|
| Dining | Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant | €13.00 | €10-15 |
| | Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar | € 6.00 | €5-7 |
| | Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle) | €1.20 | €1-2 |
| | Water(0.33 liter bottle) | €0.50 | €0.50 |
| | Milk (regular), 1 liter | €1.25 | €1.15-1.40 |
| | Cappuccino (regular) | €3.50 | €3.0-4.0 |
| | | | |
| Living | Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat | € 8.00 | |
| | latest release | €7.85 | |
| | Dry cleaning | €6.32 | |
| Traveling | Transportation Methods | Average Price | |
| | Ninety-minute ticket (Local Transport) | € 1.40 | |
| | Monthly Pass (Regular Price) | €45.00 | |
| | Taxi Rates | Taxi Start: € 2.80 Taxi 1km: €0.68 Taxi 1hour Waiting: €10.92 | |

How will the program be funded:

| Sources: | Amount: | When Available: |
|----------------|---------|---|
| Scholarship(s) | | Varies by deadline, Reves scholarships will reduce your total balance due. You will find out if you've been awarded a Reves scholarship by the end of February. |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Financial Aid (Loans, grants, through W&M) | | First day of classes on campus or the first day of the summer program, whichever is LATER. |
| Savings | | |
| Parental/Guardian support | | |
| Other | | |
| Total | | |

Packing

PACKING TIPS

General

- Many items you need can be purchased once you've arrived at your destination. For example, bring travel-sized toiletries to keep your bags light, and purchase full-sized items once you've arrived.
- Do not bring any items of sentimental value that you couldn't bear to lose.

Luggage

- **Pack only what you can carry by yourself up and down a few flights of stairs.**
- Do not pack valuables in your checked luggage.
- Put address labels and contact information inside and outside each piece of luggage.
- Pack medications in your carry-on luggage.
- Pack all sharp objects securely in your checked baggage.
- Pack all liquids in plastic bags to avoid leakage during travel.
- Place your camera in your carry-on. If you take film, carry it in a lead-lined travel pouch (available at camera stores).
- Put TSA-approved locks on all of your luggage so that it can be opened without the lock or bag being destroyed.

Clothes

- Bring easy care clothing items that are lightweight, drip dry, and wrinkle-proof, such as knits, permanent press, and cotton clothes. Dark colors are more practical than light, as they do not show dirt as easily.
- Bring clothes that you can layer for various temperatures. A non-breathable water-repellant jacket is strongly recommended.
- Bring one nice outfit for presentations and receptions.
- Roll clothes instead of folding them; you will fit more in the bag, and have fewer wrinkles upon arrival.

For more tips, please consult the Summer Study Abroad Manual, as well as the "Know Before You Go" section of this handbook.



AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON ELECTRICITY IN GREECE

Electricity in Greece is 220 volts, 50 cycles alternating current (AC). For comparison, in the United States it is 110 volts, 60 cycles AC current.

If you plan on using your own 110-volt appliances, you will need a voltage converter, unless your appliance is designed to also work with 220 volts electricity (dual voltage). For example, most laptop and camera chargers are designed to work both at 110 and 220 volts. **Plugging in an appliance that is not designed to run on 220 volts electricity without using voltage converter will most likely kill it and may cause fire!**

Regardless of voltage, if your appliance has flat prongs, you will need a plug adapter: Greek sockets are designed to accept round prongs. Do get one before your leave!

As a matter of fact, Greek plugs can be of two different sizes. Some sockets will take in the plugs with large prongs only, some other will take in the ones with small prongs (more common for small appliances; large prongs are used for demanding appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines). Regardless of prong size, **the outlets all produce 220 volts!**



Traveling to Athens

NOTE: You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to and from Greece

AIRPORT PICK-UP

You are responsible for your flight arrangements to and from Athens. When you know your arrival time in Athens, inform Prof. Panoussi. We will arrange one rendezvous time at the airport on June 19th, at which time Prof. Panoussi will meet you and travel to your place of residence. From the airport, you will be taking public transportation back to the CYA apartments in Athens. To take the metro, it will be 8 euros, and the bus 5 euros at the time of publication. This is not covered by the program.

Students are strongly encouraged to plan travel arrangements together, either through Blackboard or Facebook.

Please keep in mind that to be in Athens by **June 19**, you must leave the United States the evening of **June 18**.

The program officially ends **July 9**. You will need to leave by that date or make arrangements for your own housing for that night and beyond. If you plan to stay in Greece after that date, you will be responsible for organizing and incurring all additional housing and food costs. Your only academic commitment to the program after that date will be the final write-up of your research project, which will be due at the end of the summer.

Don't forget to call or email home!

As soon as possible following your arrival, remember to call or email your family to let them know you have arrived safely. This will not only save them from worry, but also help the Reves Center and College Year Athens from receiving panicked phone calls regarding your whereabouts.

Coursework

During your stay in Athens, your program will be organized by:

College Year Athens

5 Plateia Stadiou

GR-116 35 Athens, Greece

Phone: +30 210 7560-749

Fax: +30 210 7561-497

Email: programs@dikemes.edu.gr
www.cyathens.org

College Year in Athens offers unparalleled learning opportunities in Greece. Incorporated in 1962 as a non-profit under U.S. law, College Year in Athens was the first study-abroad program in Greece for English-speaking undergraduates.

NOTE: Class materials are provided. Students should pack any materials for the research project that they know will be needed

Courses on this program focus on Classical Studies and include:

| Courses | |
|-----------|--|
| CLCV 498: | The Ancient City (4 credits, GER 4A, GER 5) |
| CLCV 494: | Undergraduate Research Abroad in Classical Studies (1-3 credits) |



Excursions & Activities

OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL OPTIONS

Excursions include a two night trip to Sparta, Olympia, and other sites in the Peloponnesus, and an overnight trip to Delphi. There will also be a number of day trips to nearby sites from Athens and Nafplio, and visits on foot to historic and archaeological sites in Athens.

GUIDEBOOKS

Consider purchasing a travel guidebook prior to leaving the United States to help you make personal travel plans. These can be purchased at bookstores like Barnes & Noble, or online. Some guidebook publishers include:

- *Eyewitness Travel Guide* (<http://us.dk.com/static/cs/us/11/travel/intro.html>)
- *Fodor's* (<http://www.fodors.com>)
- *Let's Go* (<http://www.letsgo.com>)
- *Lonely Planet* (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>)
- *Rick Steves' Books* (http://www.ricksteves.com/books/update/update_menu.htm)



Housing and Meals

HOUSING

Students will live in self-contained apartments in residential apartment buildings in the Pangrati areas of Athens, which are approximately a five to ten minute walk from the Academic Center. This neighborhood is desirable for their central location, proximity to sites, monuments and museums, and access to the National Gardens and the wooded slopes of Lykavittos Hill.

A typical apartment houses four or five students (double and single rooms) and includes a common area, a kitchen (stocked with tableware and basic cooking equipment), bathroom and balcony. Apartments are simply but fully furnished, with air-conditioned bedrooms and WiFi Internet access.

All students live within easy walking distance of grocery stores, cafes and restaurants, bakeries, dry-cleaning shops, banks, and other amenities, including a lively, weekly outdoor "people's market" offering fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, and flowers.

There are generally no more than a few CYA apartments within a given building. The advantage of these accommodations over typical student dormitories is that students have a greater opportunity to interact with their Greek neighbors and generally live like Athenians do.

Linens (sheets and pillowcases, towels, blankets) are provided and laundered in conjunction with regular housekeeping services.

The CYA main building has laundry machines for student use. In Nafplion laundry will need to be done in the hotel room or taken to a laundry store.

Communication

ONLINE

Students have free wireless internet available to them at their CYA apartment.

CELL PHONES

Your American cell phone will not work in Greece unless it is GSM compatible (such as an iPhone or Blackberry). **The Global Education provides cell phones and/or SIM cards for all students going on W&M summer programs.**

PLACING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

See the “Handy Information” section for a time zone conversion chart before you call!

Calling Athens from the United States: Dial 011+ 30+ phone number.

Calling the United States from Athens: Dial 001+ phone number.

Emergency Numbers

General Emergency / Police: 112

Health & Safety

IMMUNIZATION

Students are encouraged to consider updating standard immunizations against meningitis and tetanus. For current information concerning recommended protection against communicable diseases for those planning to travel abroad, you may check the Center for Disease Control's website at:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/greece.htm> If you prefer to talk to someone in person about the currently recommended immunizations, you can call Travel Health of Williamsburg at 220-9008 (located at 287 McLaws Circle), or consult with a physician in your area who has some expertise concerning immunizations for international travel.

STAYING WELL/GETTING SICK

For the duration of the program, the College Year in Athens support staff is always available to assist students in obtaining medical care. Useful information on preparing for medical emergencies before you go abroad is provided at

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

If you become ill, please alert your Program Director or CYA for assistance in finding you medical care. Please remember to pay for any medical care at the time it is received, and to keep your receipts to submit to your insurance company for reimbursement upon your return.

For the duration of the program, the Director is always available to assist students in obtaining medical care.

Travel & Country Information

We encourage all students to research their study abroad destination. The State Department has important information available at online. Be sure to read up on Greek history, culture, and current events before your arrival, as well. Knowing as much as possible about where you are going will not only make you more comfortable during your time in the country, but will also allow you to talk more knowledgeably with your host family and new friends.

We strongly recommend that you register your travel plans with the U.S. State Department at this website:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

This will help the State Department contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. On this website you can find information ranging from geographic and political descriptions of the country, to special health and safety announcements.

Athens



Athens is the capital and largest city in Greece. It is one of the oldest cities in the world, with written history spanning back 3,400 years. Athens is known as a center for arts, learning, and philosophy, and is widely referred to as the Cradle of Civilization. Home to two UNESCO World Heritage sites, the heritage of the classical era is still highly present in the city.

Students on this program will enjoy that Athens is a world center of archaeological research. They will also be able to tour the sites of the first modern Olympics and the 2004 Olympics.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I need a visa?

A visa for study is not required. According to the Greek government, you are not considered a student because you aren't in class for 25 hours per week. If asked upon arrival, you are tourist for visa purposes. Only a valid passport is required.

What airport will I fly into? Do all W&M students travel together on the same flights?

Please refer to the section in this handbook on "Traveling to Athens" for specific information. W&M students do not necessarily take the same flight. However if you wish to travel with other students you can arrange communicate through Blackboard or Facebook.

Can I arrive earlier or stay longer than the program dates?

Yes, you may but you will be responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements. You will **NOT** be able to stay in the housing provided during the program.

If my family or friends visit, may they stay with me?

No, they will need to make their own arrangements for accommodations. Please advise your program director if you expect family or friends to visit you during the program.

Am I required to participate in all excursions provided by the program?

Yes, unless your program director says otherwise. The excursions supplement the coursework and expand cultural learning.

Will I need to seek post approval for the courses I take?

No, all of the courses offered in the W&M faculty-led summer programs have already been approved.

Will my grades be posted on my transcript?

Yes, the grades you receive will be posted on your W&M transcript and will be calculated into your GPA.

Can I take classes pass/fail?

No, this is not an option.

Do I need to take my own sheets and towels?

You will be staying in an apartment in Athens so you do not need to bring sheets and towels. Although, if you plan to travel on your own and stay in hostels, it is suggested to bring your own thin towel and sheet.

Will my study-abroad facility have a fitness center/gym for student use?

Unfortunately, College Year in Athens does not offer a fitness center facility for students.

How much spending money will I need?

That varies on your normal spending habits, especially in regards to eating meals out and how much shopping you like to do. Former students on similar programs have indicated they spent on average Students reported spending between \$500-1,000 during the program. Most students reported spending \$750 or more, but again this depends on your personal spending habits. Former students DO NOT recommend traveler's checks. They recommend carrying some cash and your credit or debit card.



Contact Information

REVES CENTER CONTACTS

You may call the Reves Center and its advisors at the numbers below between 8am and 5pm (Virginia time), Monday through Friday. In case of an emergency that falls outside of these times, please call William & Mary Campus Police at +001 (757) 221-4596. Campus police will then forward your call to the correct person or office.

Reves Center Advisor: Molly DeStafney (mldestafney@wm.edu) - +001 (757) 221-3425

Reves Center for International Studies
College of William and Mary
P. O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
Fax – (757) 221-3597

*To call the U.S. from abroad: 001+ (Area Code) + phone number

AT CYA

Phone: +30 210 7560749

Program Director

Professor Vassiliki Panoussi
Associate Professor of Classical Studies
The College of William and Mary
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
Office Phone: +001 757-221-2993
Cell will be posted to Blackboard
(panoussi@wm.edu)

US Embassy Athens

91 Vasilisis Sophias Avenue
10160 Athens, Greece
Telephone : (30) 210 721
2951
Email:
athensameb@state.gov

NOTES