Dear student,

College Year in Athens invites you to Greece, a country with a long history, a rich culture, and marvelous hospitable people. Greece is much more than the birthplace of democracy. It is a modern country, a member of the European Union, with a significant international role in the stability of a whole region. Athens itself is a vibrant and exciting metropolis of about 4 million people.

CYA’s expert faculty and passionate staff are dedicated to offer you the best learning experience. You can take inspiration from all that is positive in Greece, the joy of life, the compassion, the resilience and the resourcefulness of the Greeks and engage with the country in as many ways as possible.

The CYA Academic Center looks out to two of Athens’ top landmarks: The Acropolis and the Panathenaic Stadium (Kallimarmaro), the venue of the first Modern Olympic Games of 1896. CYA’s academically rigorous program will help you study the wonders of Greece and its glorious past combined with a vibrant experience of day-to-day contact with the local people, the magnificent monuments and the diverse landscape of this beautiful Mediterranean country. Your courses will be in English but your daily lives will be like those of other Athenians.

Our primary goal is for you to return home academically inspired, intellectually stimulated and with the confidence of a cosmopolitan citizen.

Alexis Phylactopoulos
CYA President
Welcome to CYA

Our vision is to help students transform into global citizens who understand and appreciate other cultures.

As Socrates said two and a half thousand years ago: “I am not an Athenian or a Greek, I am a Citizen of the World”.

CYA (College Year in Athens) is a non-profit educational institution that has been acting as a cultural and educational bridge between the U.S. and Greece for over half a century. Our study abroad program helps students to develop new perspectives on the world, their own countries and themselves.

We offer outstanding semester, full academic year, summer or winter study programs that embrace the vibrant experience of day-to-day contact with the people, monuments, and landscape of Greece and the Mediterranean.

—Welcome to CYA

—Fun Facts

Greece is the sunniest country in Europe enjoying more than 250 days of sunshine, or 3,000 sunny hours a year

Greece’s coastline measures a whopping 13,676 km

The Mediterranean diet is among the healthiest in the world

Greek is one of the oldest written languages still in existence

Cats are a part of everyday life in Greece; a large population of them roam the neighborhoods freely

On average Greeks consume 5.5 kilos of coffee per capita each year

Greece was ranked among the safest countries for tourists, by U.S. State Department (2018)

—Fun Facts

—CYA at a glance

Program, On-Site Classes
Courses Offered, Course Levels, Credit
Field Study, Optional Field Study
Academic Resources
Winter Intersession, Summer Sessions
Life in Athens
Volunteering & Internships, Extracurricular
Orientation, Housing, Meals
Heath & Safety, Insurance, Finances, Scholarships
Apply Now
Learning Beyond the Classroom

—Our Program

We place an emphasis on learning beyond the classroom, offering hands-on learning experiences in the rich and diverse environment of Greece. Many classes are held on-site adding a new dimension to learning and a global understanding of the subject.

Our extensive curriculum is complemented by field study on location. The program is carefully designed to enrich classroom material and provide a deeper understanding of Greece and the region. All courses are taught in English.

—On-Site Classes

All courses at CYA make use of the abundant resources in Athens and of what can be seen or experienced directly. The Archaeology and Art History courses provide a wealth of opportunities to study authentic materials and original artifacts on-site and in the world-renowned museums of Athens. Courses from other disciplines bring you in direct contact with the local community such as Anthropology, Environmental Studies, Politics and Modern Greek, to name a few.

This was the most unique semester I have had so far in terms of academics. It was very interesting to take Political Science and International Relations classes from a non-American perspective, and I have a completely new understanding of those fields. It is also very different to take History and Archaeology classes and then be able to walk 5 minutes down the road and visit the exact site that you learned about in class.

Alexandra Marsh, Swarthmore, Fall '18
Develop new perspectives
Courses Offered

—Anthropology
— The Anthropology of Food in Greece: Mediterranean Diet and More (Summer only)
— Tasting Culture: Nordic and Mediterranean Food, Tradition, and Nutrition (Summer only, in collaboration with DIS)
— The Culture of Modern Greece: The Ethnography of a Society in Transition
— Gender and Sexuality in Modern Greek Culture
— Solidarity, Social Movements, and the Fight for Justice and Change in Greece: A Service Learning Approach (cross-listed with Political Science)
— Anthropology of the City: Exploring Modern Athens (Winter Intersession only)

—Archaeology
— Introduction to Digital Archaeology and Virtual Reality
— Aegean and Ancient Greek Art and Archaeology
— When Egypt Meets the Aegean: Interconnections in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean (Summer only)
— The Topography and Monuments of Athens
— Aegean Prehistory: The Rise and Fall of the Bronze Age Cultures
— Ancient Materials and Technologies in the Greek World
— Archaeological Drawing
— Excavations at Aixonidai Halai: Voula Field School (Winter Intersession only)
— Excavating the Aegean: The Case of Despotiko (Summer only)
— The Dawn of Greek Art: From Homer to the Persian Wars (Summer only. Cross-listed with Art History)

—Architecture
— Byzantine Art and Architecture (cross-listed with Art History)
— Ancient Greek Architecture from the Archaic to the Roman Times as Reflected in the Monuments of Athens (cross-listed with Art History)

—Art History
— Photography and Archaeology: The Art of Documentation (cross-listed with Cultural Heritage)
— Ancient Greek Sculpture
— Byzantine Art and Architecture (cross-listed with Architecture)
— Ancient Greek Architecture from the Archaic to the Roman Times as Reflected in the Monuments of Athens (cross-listed with Architecture)
— The Art and Craft of Curating: Making Sense of Art in the 21st Century (cross-listed with Cultural Heritage)
— Performing (in) Athens: Exploring the City Through Theater and Performance (cross-listed with Theater)
— The Present Past: Reimagining Greece Through Heritage (Summer only)

—Business
— Business, Ethics and Politics (cross-listed with Philosophy)
— Sustainable Future: Cultural Heritage & Tourism Management (cross-listed with Cultural Heritage)
— Communicating Across Cultures: The International Business Connection (cross-listed with Communications)

—Classical Languages
— Beginning Ancient Greek I & II
— Intermediate Ancient Greek I: Attic Prose & II: Homer
— Advanced Ancient Greek I: Thucydides & II: Attic Poetry
— Advanced Latin I & II
— The Greek Stones Speak: An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy

—Communication
— Mediating the Message: Social Media and People (in Greece)
— Communicating Across Cultures: The International Business Connection (cross-listed with Business)

—Cultural Heritage
— Photography and Archaeology: The Art of Documentation (cross-listed with Art History)
— The Art and Craft of Curating (cross-listed with Art History)
— The Present Past: Re-imagining Greece Through Heritage (Summer only. Cross-listed with Art History)
— Sustainable Future: Cultural Heritage & Tourism Management (cross-listed with Business)
— Illegal Antiquities (Summer only)

—Economics
— Crisis and Change in Greece and Europe (cross-listed with Political Science)
— Political Economy in Historical Context: From Ancient Greece to Modern Greek Crises (Summer Only. Cross-listed with Political Science)

—Credit

CYA issues course transcripts which are accepted by most colleges and universities for transfer credit. If your home institution does not grant credit on the basis of the CYA transcript, you may request a transcript from our school of record. We consider four courses per semester a full-time load; however, some schools require a fifth course, which you may elect to take at CYA at no extra cost.
—Environmental Studies
— The Natural Environment of Greece: From Landscape Ecology to Conservation
— Urban Sustainability: Theory and Case Studies in Greece (cross-listed with Urbanism and Sustainability)
— Education for Sustainable Development: Island Communities and Conservation (cross-listed with Urbanism and Sustainability) (Summer Only)

—History
— Contemporary Greek Politics and Society: Historical Perspectives on Change and Continuity (cross-listed with Political Science)
— The Development of Athenian Democracy (cross-listed with Political Science)
— Sports, Games and Spectacles in the Greco-Roman World
— Ancient Macedon to the Death of Alexander the Great
— Biography of an Empire: the Surprising Life of ‘Byzantium’
— Who is a Greek? Politics of Identity in Modern Greece
— The Greek Jews: History, Identity & Memory
— Alternative Histories: Jewish Greeks and the Modern Nation
— To the Strongest: The Ancient Near East from the Death of Alexander to the Coming of Rome
— Is this the Center of the World? Modern Greece: From Revolutionary Visions to the European Crisis
— Ancient Greek Medicine (Summer Only)

—International Relations
— A Changing World: Global and Regional Trends in the 21st Century
— An Arc of Crisis in Europe’s South: The Regional Security Environment in the Eastern Mediterranean

—Literature
— Becoming a Traveler: Writing in Greece (Summer only)
— Attic Tragedy (In Translation)

—Modern Greek Language
— Beginning Modern Greek I & II
— Accelerated Beginning Modern Greek I
— Beginning Modern Greek Language and Culture
— Intermediate Modern Greek I & II
— Advanced Modern Greek I & II

—Philosophy
— Business, Ethics and Politics (cross-listed with Business)
— The Concept of Life in Ancient Greek Philosophy and its Relevance Today
— Action in Ancient Greek and Contemporary Analytical Philosophy
— Practical Reason in Ancient Greek and Contemporary Philosophy
— Athens Philosophy Seminar (APS) (Summer only)

—Political Science
— Contemporary Greek Politics and Society: Historical Perspectives on Change and Continuity (cross-listed with History)
— Crisis and Change in Greece and Europe (cross-listed with Economics)
— Immigrants, Citizenship and Nationalism in Europe
— Solidarity, Social Movements, and the Fight for Justice and Change in Greece: A Service Learning Approach (cross-listed with Anthropology)
— The Development of Athenian Democracy (cross-listed with History)
— Political Economy in Historical Context: From Ancient Greece to Modern Greek Crises (Summer Only, Cross-listed with Economics)
— The European Union: Challenges and Strategic Choices
— The European Governance of Migration: Reflections on Emerging Responses

—Psychology
— The Biology of Consciousness
— Trauma and the Remaking of the Self

—Religion
— Ancient Greek Mythology and Religion
— The Religions of the Middle East: A Comparative Approach
— The Orthodox Church
— The Geography of Faith: Paul and the Emergence of Christianity in Greece (Summer only)

—Sociology
— Sociology of Dissent

—Theater
— Performing (in) Athens: Exploring the City through Theater and Performance (cross-listed with Art History)

—Urbanism & Sustainability
— Urban Sustainability: Theory and Case Studies in Greece (cross-listed with Environmental Studies)
— Contemporary Urbanism: Athens through Time, Space and Narrative
— Global Cities: The Case of the Port of Piraeus
— Sustainable Social Housing: the Case of Greece
— Education for Sustainable Development: Island Communities and Conservation (Summer only) (cross-listed with Environment)

—Course Levels

Three-hundred level courses are designed as a first exposure to the subject and are of general interest and broad in scope. Some Three-hundred level courses require that students have prior basic knowledge of the subject, as indicated in their description. Four-hundred level courses are more specialized and academically more demanding.

All Three-hundred level courses can be taken at Four-hundred level by completing the required additional coursework equivalent to that of Four-hundred level courses.
Field Study travel is an integral part of the CYA program. Led by faculty and experts with extensive knowledge of the relevant sites and locale, you have the opportunity to explore Greece and some of its most significant sites, which are among the most impressive and beautiful in the world.

Itineraries vary between the fall and spring semesters and according to the academic focus of each group of students.
—Field Study

Experience historically and culturally significant sites and regions first-hand, interact with the people and landscape of Greece. CYA-led field study supplements the academic program and includes:

- Pre-departure lectures
- Exciting projects
- Wrap-up sessions

The cost of field study is included in the fees.

Destinations

Peloponnese: Explore history and culture in the towns of Nauplion, Sparta, Kalamata. Visit world-known sites such as Epidaurus, Mycenae, Olympia, museums and exhibitions.

Delphi: The center of the world, ancient site and museum; picturesque Arachova; Hossios Loukas monastery, a UNESCO site.

Crete (fall): Heraklion, Chania, ancient site of Knossos, hiking the Imbros Gorge and more.

Northern Greece (spring): Vergina and Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great; thematic walks in Thessaloniki, the 2nd largest city of Athens with Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman influences; fort Roupel, a famous WWII fortress on the Greek-Bulgarian borders.

—Optional Field Study

Explore places of interest within Greece and Europe in addition to the semester’s field study. Led by experienced faculty, the visits combine academics, history, contemporary culture and personal exploration. Optional Field Study takes place over a 3-day weekend (these require a supplemental fee which is kept low, making it affordable for students to participate).

Destinations

Andros Island
Crete
Meteora-Metsovo-Ioannina
Barcelona
Berlin
Cyprus
Rome
Venice-Ravenna
Learning by Doing
Sharpen your skills and knowledge with a range of CYA-led academic workshops, lectures and networking opportunities.

—Lectures and Events
We regularly host on-campus academic lectures by expert guest speakers who present their research and prompt discussion on current issues or topics of debate. This is a unique opportunity to network with the local community and academia.

CYA students have the opportunity to attend international conferences within Greece and Europe including the renowned annual Delphi Economic Forum.

—Student Conference
Every Spring semester we host the CYA Annual Student Conference which aims to provoke broad-based and multi-disciplinary discussion on a chosen topic. Students have the opportunity to participate and present their research. CYA provides specialized workshops covering every step of the process. The two-day conference includes an address by a keynote speaker and is open to the whole CYA community. Presenters include undergraduate students of CYA, other U.S. institutions, and universities in Greece.

—Academic Seminars
Free admission and certificate of participation

Ancient Economies, Networks & Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean. A holistic and experiential approach for the study of land and sea routes, as well as the technological and environmental factors that affect the movement of people, ideas, products, raw materials, knowledge and even diseases. It focuses on the forms of economic organization and trading activities in Antiquity; methods of cataloguing and recording (through a hands-on Linear B workshop); and the importance of harbors and anchorages in the Mediterranean.

Art & Public Space, Urban Narratives. Students explore different aspects of Athens’ physiognomy through public art. From street art and graffiti to sculptures and installations, they discover the multifaceted urban fabric of the city centre and learn how to get important knowledge by spatial observation.

Legal Terminology in its Graeco-Roman Context. A historical introduction to the language of law and to legal technical vocabulary, accessed from a cultural perspective. Legal terms explained, analyzed and associated with philosophy, society and culture.

Media Workshop XYZ. How three generations, Generation X, Millennials (Y) and upcoming Gen-Zs interact in the digital world: everyday life communication, verbal and non-verbal experiences in education, media and the changing workplace. A journey of teasers from Web 2.0 to the Internet of Things and beyond, producing food-for-thought on key issues such as: social media and digital literacy, storytelling, agenda setting and messaging systems, workplace communications, information design, cultural intelligence and more.

Textual Criticism and Paleography. The workshop provides students with an understanding of the methodology and sources for the reconstruction of ancient literature. It also offers an insight into transmission of texts from ancient to modern times and the significance of the reconstruction of ancient texts.

The Protection of Heritage in the 21st century Definitions, History, Legislation, Case Studies. The workshop surveys the history, theory, and practice of the protection of heritage, whether cultural or natural, tangible or intangible. It follows the trajectory of heritage-related issues: heritage (concepts and definitions); the past as tangible memory; architecture and collective memory; legislative frameworks (international, U.S. and Greek); sustainable heritage, UNESCO and international conventions-mandates.
—Hands-on Workshops

Bronze Age wall-paintings  
Linear B  
Marble carving  
Mosaic making  
Mud-brick making  
Mycenaean metallurgy  
Oil Lamp making  
Vase painting

—Library Resources

The CYA Library offers its students, faculty and staff excellent resources with an updated print and electronic collection.

The collection has been developed to support the curriculum while experienced library staff is available to help users accessing and using the library resources. The Library provides a comfortable environment for studying including a quiet and a group study area.

Textbooks and course materials (except for Modern Greek Language and Archaeological Drawing courses) are issued on loan from the CYA library throughout the whole semester.

Apart from the CYA Library, CYA students have access to one of the most important libraries in Athens, the Blegen Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, a research library on prehistoric and classical archaeology of the Mediterranean region, classical languages, history, and culture.

—Academic Support

CYA provides an additional range of free services to assist you, including:

- Academic Advising  
- Language Lab  
- Academic Writing Lab

Details of available workshops and possible costs will be shared with students at the beginning of each semester.
Winter in Athens

—Winter Intersession

If you have a keen interest in archaeology or anthropology, you may gain experience and credit by participating in one of CYA’s three-week January programs.

Immerse yourself in a fascinating, fast-paced course within and about the city of Athens, or participate in an excavation that’s taking place in Voula, a southern suburb of Athens.

Anthropology of the City: Exploring Modern Athens
For students interested in learning how urban environments have been studied in the social science and how we can apply those ideas to Athens, a vibrant, multi-layered, cosmopolitan city.

Voula Field School (excavation)
Gain excavation experience and credit towards your Archaeology major by participating in the three-week Voula Field School in Athens. The excavation site is associated with Aixonidai Halai, one of the ten demes of ancient Attica.

Soak up Summer in Greece

—Summer Sessions

Summer is an exceptional time to study in Greece with a choice of unique CYA courses tailored to combine academics with authentic experiences, taking advantage of the sun, the sea and the vibrant summer culture from Athens to the islands.

We offer summer courses over two consecutive four-week sessions that run between the end of May and the end of July.

Explore Greece’s rich history, get involved in an archaeological excavation or delve into the country’s culture and environment. Learn more at: cyathens.org/summer
CYA students on the Pnyx Hill, one of the earliest and most important sites in the creation of Democracy, where Athenians gathered to host their popular assemblies from the early 5th Century BCE.
Photo: Jeff Vanderpool

CY A students on the Pnyx Hill, one of the earliest and most important sites in the creation of Democracy, where Athenians gathered to host their popular assemblies from the early 5th Century BCE.
Immerse Yourself in the Vibrant Local Scene

—Life in Athens

Renowned worldwide for its history, monuments, and museums, Athens has a cultural life that is an energizing blend of old and new.

Hip bars spring up alongside small, live music venues playing the ever-popular Rebetika. There is a thriving theater tradition - from the ancient to the experimental.

Athens boasts an impressive number of art galleries and classic cinemas. You can easily catch a ferry and make day trips to nearby islands. There are beaches, sports venues and concert halls, myriad restaurants and cafes, and the open air fresh food market is a weekly mainstay in every neighborhood.

You will have plenty of opportunities to travel on your own including 3-day weekends, semester breaks and national holidays.

Athens is a rich city, both historically and culturally. There are dozens of diverse opportunities to experience if you take the initiative to go and discover them. I have no doubt that you will stumble across surprising side streets with great food vendors, restaurants, coffee shops and more. Likewise, do not be afraid to get lost. A friendly “Sygnomi” can go a long way.

Shiro Burnette, The University of the South, Sewanee, Fall '16
Gain Experience, Help Others

—Volunteering & Internships

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience, build friendships and network while in Athens. We assist dozens of students in arranging volunteer or internship placements.

Our students have interned and volunteered in local soup kitchens, refugee aid, environmental groups, animal welfare, special needs education, film & theater, writing & editing, libraries, museums, art galleries, kindergartens and marketing & advertising.

—CYA Media Lab Internship

Students interested in building their portfolio, knowledge, and skills in digital media and communication can take advantage of CYA’s great in-house internship opportunity. Applications are open to all CYA students before the beginning of each semester.

Internships at some organizations may be arranged as part of specific courses.

CYA has established a strong network of organizations where students can volunteer.

Keep Fit, Start a Hobby

—Extracurricular Activities

Explore Greece and participate in activities that express your interests. You will have access to a broad list of recommended extracurricular activities both independent and CYA-led.

Examples of Extracurricular Activities:

Marble Carving Workshops, Running at the Athens Authentic Marathon, Embroidery Workshops, Greek Dancing, Sports, Hiking Mt. Olympus, Fitness and Health Groups, Cooking Classes, etc.

These activities usually require an additional fee - see the full list at cyathens.org / extracurricular-activities

The most valuable transformation that occurred during my time in Greece was that I stopped only being a citizen of the United States, and became a citizen of the world.

CYA provided everything I could have ever wanted in a study abroad experience and every day I wish I could go back and do it all again.

Jayme Hughes, University of Southern California, Spring '18

For more volunteering opportunities, visit: cyathens.org/volunteering-internships

Bonner Scholars can satisfy their required community service through study abroad at CYA in Greece.
Sam Kupiec (Fall '17) finishing the Athens Authentic Marathon
Settling in

—Orientation and Resources

To help prepare for your arrival in Athens, CYA provides personalized pre-departure guidance and many useful online tools including webinars and video guides. Upon arrival, CYA staff will explain everything you need to know about getting started with the academic and practical aspects of living and studying in Athens. During your first week in Greece, we’ll show you around your new neighborhood and provide you with insider tips. You will get a chance to get to know faculty, staff and your fellow students with fun bonding activities.

Before I even arrived in Greece, I felt so welcomed by the CYA staff. From their assistance with getting together the right materials and documents needed for studying abroad to organizing transportation from the airport upon our arrival, CYA ensured that we were prepared for a great semester of new experiences.

Cara Johnson, Gettysburg College, Fall '17

—Apartments

CYA students live in fully furnished self-contained residential apartments in the area of Pangrati, a 2-10 minute walk from the Academic Center. They are within an easy walking distance of grocery stores, cafes, banks, and other amenities.

The apartments contain single or double rooms equipped with climate units (heating/cooling). All the apartments have Wi-Fi access. A free weekly cleaning service is provided.

The program fee includes all housing costs.

—Homestays

Homestay options are available for interested students who wish to immerse themselves in Greek culture and the Greek family lifestyle. Our Executive Director of Student Affairs carefully matches students with a suitable host family.

Homestay accommodations depend on availability.

—Meals

Lunch is provided from Monday to Friday, (except on field study, holidays, and during recesses) at no additional cost. The daily menu includes vegetarian options, and we also cater to those with dietary restrictions or allergies upon request.

To see more, visit our website for a 360 virtual tour of CYA.

With a beautiful view of the Acropolis, just across the street from the National Gardens and right next to the Kallimarmaro Stadium, the CYA Academic Center is located at an ideal central spot, a short walking distance from key locations like Syntagma Square, Plaka, and the Acropolis Museum.
—Health, Safety & Security

Student health and safety is a priority at CYA. The administration is in frequent contact with the U.S. Embassy in Athens and it monitors U.S. State Department guidelines and OSAC announcements and reports. A member of the administration is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. CYA maintains a list of English-speaking doctors and can recommend specialists. There is also a twenty-four-hour medical service for house calls. For more severe cases, CYA has a special arrangement with a private hospital that allows immediate admission.

—Insurance

Students should check whether their family or home institution insurance policy will apply while they are in Greece. CYA program fees also include enrollment in a supplemental hospitalization insurance policy for the period of study at CYA and an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) which provides some coverage for accidents and illness occurring outside of North America.

CYA tries to foster an atmosphere of open communication between students and staff while encouraging independence and a positive approach to cultural differences.

Get Started at CYA

We welcome applications from students who wish to immerse themselves in the study of Greece and the Mediterranean and become citizens of the world.

—Finances

To help you make a financial plan, a comprehensive breakdown of fees and estimated budget is available on the CYA website. We recommend that prospective students check with their study abroad office for complete information on study abroad costs. (All fees are quoted in U.S. dollars).

As a non-profit study abroad institution, we aim to help our students find as many options as possible for financial assistance.

—Scholarships

We base eligibility for our scholarships on financial need, and our awards range in amounts up to half the cost of tuition.

Only CYA students accepted for a semester or academic year are eligible to apply.

Students are often able to transfer some or all of their financial aid package toward CYA fees. Students should inquire with their home institutions first.
Apply now

CYA has a rolling admissions policy. However, students are advised to check with their study abroad office as soon as possible, as many schools have early deadlines.

Enter the CYA study abroad experience now. Apply online at cyathens.org/applications

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. To my friends who became family, this city that rose out of the history pages and brought us together, the professors and classes that inspired as much as they taught, and the adventure that changed my life, thank you.

Noa Gelb, University of Michigan, Spring '17
On the volcano of Nea Kameni, Santorini.
Studying and living abroad has positively expanded my world views as a **global citizen**. Connecting with new people from all over the world has given me opportunities to learn and grow through **shared experiences** and **conversations** about personal, political, and academic situations. Making these **connections** with other individuals has helped me to expand my **network** with personal and professional relationships that I know will help in my **future**.

*Kiki Lewis, Pacific Lutheran University, Spring ’17*