Anthropology • Archaeology • Architecture • Art History • Business • Classics Communication • Cultural Heritage • Economics • Environmental Studies • History International Relations • Literature • Modern Greek Language • Neuroscience • Philosophy Political Science • Psychology • Religion • Sociology • Theater • Urbanism & Sustainability
Welcome to CYA

CYA (College Year in Athens) is a non-profit educational institution that has been serving as a cultural and educational bridge between Greece and the United States for 60 years, with the goal of expanding perspectives and providing exceptional academic experiences. Our vision is to help students transform into global citizens who understand and appreciate other cultures.

Following the wisdom of Socrates, “I am not an Athenian or a Greek, I am a citizen of the world,” CYA aims to transform students into global citizens who have a cosmopolitan view of themselves and the world.

CYA provides unique, academically rigorous courses that include field study and on-site components, encouraging hands-on and experiential learning. CYA courses utilize the landscape of Greece, and Athens especially, as a classroom, placing students in direct contact with their objects of study. Semester and year-long programs are available, as well as winter and summer sessions.

Fun Facts

- Greece is the sunniest country in Europe, enjoying more than 250 days of sunshine, or 3,000 sunny hours a year!
- Greece has more archaeological museums than any other country in the world.
- Athens has 148 theater stages, more than the West End and Broadway combined.
- Greece’s coastline measures a whopping 13,676 km, or 8,498 miles. No point in Greece is more than 85 miles or 137 kilometers from water.
- The Mediterranean diet is considered one of the healthiest in the world.
- Greek is one of the oldest written languages in existence.
- Athens is home to the first known democracy.
- Cats are a large part of everyday life in Greece. Often, they roam neighborhoods freely!
- On average, Greeks consume 5 kilos of yogurt, 5.5 kilos of coffee, 26.9 liters of wine and 153.1 liters of olive oil per capita each year.

“During these four months, Greece has been my classroom, and I have discovered that from ancient ruins to soccer matches, there is always something or someone to learn from. That has been extremely enriching as a student, but especially as a young woman navigating adulthood.”

Daniela Castro Vélez, Fall 2021, Brandeis University

“Spending the semester abroad has taught me so much. It has opened my eyes not only to new ways of seeing the world, but to new ways of viewing myself and the people around me.”

Kaitlin Binsbaum, Spring 2020, Vassar College

Life in Athens

Renowned for both its ancient history and modern culture, Athens is home to some of the most important monuments, museums, and ancient sites, as well as a thriving contemporary art and music scene.

Galleries, theaters, and live music venues are found in every neighborhood and often host shows and performances by exciting artists from all over the world.

The city is also known for its abundance of charming cafes and restaurants (Athens is home to five Michelin-starred restaurants!), where you are encouraged to take your time enjoying the company of friends.

Penteli, where CYA is located, is known for its student-vibe, evident in the abundance of great cafes and restaurants within a half-mile radius of the Academic Center. Penteli is also home to a Liki, or weekly farmer’s market.

Athens is close to many great beaches in the southern suburbs, but there is also easy access to the port, where you can take a ferry to nearby islands for day trips or weekend excursions.
Courses Offered in

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art History
- Business
- Classics
- Communication
- Cultural Heritage
- Economics
- Environmental Studies
- History
- International Relations
- Literature
- Modern Greek Language
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religion
- Sociology
- Theater
- Urbanism & Sustainability

Library Resources

The CYA Library, organized and managed for the students and faculty, serves as a learning resource center and, as such, provides up-to-date print and electronic collections and services necessary to support the objectives of CYA and help students develop academically and professionally. Textbooks and other course materials are issued on loan from the Library throughout the semester. Apart from the CYA Library, students have also access to one of the most important libraries in Athens, the Blegen Library of the American School of Classical Studies.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Enrich your academic experience through a variety of activities that offer hands-on learning in the dynamic and diverse environment of Greece.

Conferences & Networking Opportunities

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 Delphi Economic Forum.

Every spring semester we host the CYA Annual Student Conference which aims to provoke broad-based and multi-disciplinary discussion on a chosen topic. The two-day conference includes an address by a keynote speaker and is open to the whole CYA community.

Hands-on Workshops

- Bronze Age Wall Paintings
- Linear B
- Marble Carving
- Mosaic Making
- Mud-brick Making
- Mycenaean Metallurgy
- Oil Lamp Workshop
- Vase Painting

Academic Seminars

- Ancient Economies: Networks & Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Art & Public Space: Urban Narratives
- Legal Terminology in its Graeco-Roman Context
- Media Workshop XYZ
- Textual Criticism and Paleography
- The Protection of Heritage in the 21st century: Definitions, History, Legislation, Case Studies
- Greek Coins: Between Art, Money, and Ideology
- Food for Thought: Kitchen Chemistry meets Greek Tradition
- An Introduction to Environmental Archaeology & Bioarchaeology
- History and Anthropology of making and wearing Jewels in Greece
- Trafficking in Human Beings

Athens as a Classroom

Many classes are held on-site around the city, adding a new dimension to learning and a global understanding of the subject.

“I was able to learn in a different way this past semester, and it was amazing seeing what we were learning in the classroom play out in the field. I gained public speaking skills through my multiple presentations for classes, and taking these classes forced me to think in ways I haven’t before.”

Mary Wallace, Spring 2022, Harvard College

“Studying abroad has introduced me to the field of urbanism, which I have not had the opportunity to study at my home institution. Studying in Athens has allowed me to approach my majors from a worldly perspective due to the connection between our studies and the culture around us.”

Anastasia Negron, Spring 2022, Lafayette College

Academic Support

CYA provides an additional range of free services to assist you, including:
- Academic Advising
- Language Lab
- Academic Writing Lab
Study Travel
Explore Greece, Europe and Beyond

Study travel is an integral part of the CYA program. Led by faculty and experts with extensive knowledge of the relevant sites and locale, these trips give you 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 firsthand, interact with the people and landscape of Greece. CYA-led field trips supplement the academic program and include:

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

—The cost of these field trips is included in the fees.

Destinations
Delphi - Hossios Loukas - Arahova or Itea (both semesters)
Peloponnese: Nafplio, Patras, Kalamata, Sparta, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Kalavryta, Pylos, Gythio (both semesters*)
Crete: Heraklion, Rethymno, Chania, Knossos, Phaestos, Malia, Spinaloga (fall semester*)
Northern Greece: Thessaloniki, Ambelakia, Vergina, Kastoria, Ioannina, Dodoni, Metsovo, Volos, Pelion, Roupet, Lake Kerkini (spring semester*)

*Locations vary depending on the study travel theme selected by each student

Optional Field Study
Explore places of interest within Greece and Europe in addition to the semester’s field trips. Led by experienced faculty, the trips combine academics, history, contemporary culture and personal exploration. Optional trips take place over a 3-day weekend and vary each semester.

—Optional trips require a supplemental fee which is kept low, making it affordable for students.

Destinations
Andros Island, Crete, Meteora-Metsovo-Ioannina, Cyprus, Rome, Venice-Ravenna

“I don’t know any other study abroad program that takes 2 separate weeks out of the semester to travel around the country, and I had such an incredible time on the Peloponnese trip. The week is still educational, with professors leading you and explaining all of the incredible sites, and it’s an amazing opportunity to bond with your new friends! Some of my best memories from abroad are from that week traveling with CYA.”

Kelli Frangoulis, Spring 2020, Wake Forest University
Getting Involved

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 communications 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

Immerse Yourself in the Local Community

Education — Humanitarian — Environmental — Animal Welfare — LGBTQ Librarians — Architecture — Museums — Foreign Policy — Think-tanks Pre-med — Biomedical research

“Working at Delfys Archive provided me with another adult mentor from whom to learn about Greek culture and history, and it offered a helpful reference point through which to compare feminist movements cross-culturally.”

Mawadth Wilson, Spring 2022, Notre Dame University

“I absolutely loved working at Dokou Dental with both dentists. It was so nice to have an all-female staff where they were all so welcoming, organized, and considerate of me and all their patients. I was able to do so much more hands-on work than shadowing back home in the United States.”

Oliva Baumberger, Spring 2022, Notre Dame University

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. All summer courses include extensive travel to mainland and island destinations. Each course’s itinerary is different, based on the course’s subject and discipline; therefore, students may enroll in only one course per session.

Disciplines:

Anthropology — Archaeology/Archaeological Excavation
Art History — Business — Cultural Heritage — Engineering Economics — History — Literature — Philosophy
Political Science — Psychology — Religion
Urbanism/Environmental Studies

Islands visited:

Santorini, Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Paros/Antiparos, Naxos, Cos, Tinos, Delos, Amorgos, Paros, Thassos

—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-sessions

Winter in Athens

Winter Intersession

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

Learn 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.

“My experience here in Greece was the epitome of “hands-on learning”, and I loved every minute of it. This was enriching not just for my academic studies, but also pushed me outside of my comfort zone in the personal sense.”

Erika Schneible, Summer 2022, University of Rochester
Why CYA?

In Greece, your textbooks come to life! CYA is perfectly positioned for students to take advantage of all that Greece, the Mediterranean, and Europe have to offer. Apply today to expand your perspective and become a global citizen with us in Athens.

➢ Fees

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).

➢ 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.

As a non-profit study abroad institution, we aim to help our students find as many options as possible for financial assistance.
“I have never felt more confident that studying abroad was the best risk I have ever taken. Take chances, seek passionate work, cross your own comfort zone, and do it all with a smile. Studying abroad has instilled in me these values that have inspired the way in which I approach my life post-graduation and beyond. If there’s no risk, there’s no reward.”

Emily Morgan, Spring 2022, University of Michigan