The UW Classics in Greece study abroad program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This program handbook supplements the IAP Study Abroad Handbook (located in your My Study Abroad account) and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of publication. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

This program handbook contains the following information:

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**Contact Information**

**On-Site Program Information**

Your primary contact in Greece will be UW Professor Marc Kleijwegt, the Resident Director. While in Greece, Professor Kleijwegt will be staying in the same housing as students.

Professor Marc Kleijwegt  
Department of History  
5219 Humanities  
Office Tel: (608) 263-2528 (U.S.)  
mkleijwegt@wisc.edu

For this program, IAP works closely with Educational Tours and Cruises, LLC, a company that specializes in custom-designed study tours.

Thalia Cocconi, Operations Manager  
4321 Lakemoor Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28405-6429  
Tel: (800) 275-4109

**IN GREECE:**  
Tel: (+30) 210 8951725, 210 9657441  
Fax: (+30) 210 8955419  
Email: edtours@ed-tours.com  
Website: www.ed-tours.com
**UW-Madison Information**
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 715 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329
www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

**Jessa Boche**
Study Abroad Advisor
Tel: 608-265-6329
boche@studyabroad.wisc.edu

**Emergency Contact Information**
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Your Resident Director can be reached during the program on a Greek mobile phone.

If you are calling from within Greece (on a Greek phone): 695-103-2411
If you are calling from the US (or with a US phone): 011-30-695-103-2411

**Embassy Registration**
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register online at [https://travelregistration.state.gov](https://travelregistration.state.gov). If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Embassy in Athens
91 Vassilisis Sophias Ave
10160 Athens, Greece
Tel: +30-210-721-2951
E-mail: AthensAmEmb@state.gov
Web: [http://athens.usembassy.gov](http://athens.usembassy.gov)

**Program Dates**
Depart U.S. May 17, 2015
Arrive in Thessaloniki, Greece May 18, 2015
Course dates May 18 – June 5, 2015
Departure from Athens, Greece June 5, 2015

**The program will officially start at 3PM on Monday, May 18th, at the meeting point in the Thessaloniki airport. When making travel arrangements, be sure to allow enough time to land and exit the customs and baggage area. This process typically takes 20-30 minutes. Specific details regarding arrival can be found below in the “Travel and Arrival” section below**
**Preparation Before Leaving**

**Immigration Documents**

**Passport**
A passport is needed to travel to Greece. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website ([http://travel.state.gov/passport](http://travel.state.gov/passport)). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa**
No visa is required for U.S. passport holders for stays less than 3 months. Students from other countries should consult with the Greek Embassy regarding visa requirements.

**Handling Money Abroad**
The currency in Greece is in Euros. As of February 2014, the exchange rate is: 1.00 USD = .88 Euros. For the latest currency exchange rate, visit [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/).

**Banks**
Banks in Athens are typically open Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 2pm. The National Bank of Greece has branches in Syntagma Square and in Omonia Square. The latter is open later and has some weekend hours.

**Credit Cards**
Most hotels and restaurants, retail stores, jewelry stores, etc. accept major credit cards. You may withdraw cash 24 hours a day from your personal account in the US in most ATM machines.

**Packing**
All manner of clothing is possible in Greece, within the limits of decency and good taste. You are expected to dress in a respectable manner when visiting churches and monasteries. In order to enter a church, women are expected to wear skirts that fall below their knees and at minimum, shirts that cover their shoulders. Men should likewise wear pants and sleeved shirts. You will see tourists entering churches with far less clothing than is required, but it can be considered offensive.

Light casual clothing is the best defense against Greece's intense summer heat, lightweight hat is recommended. Cottons and linens are far preferable to synthetics. Skirts, sleeveless dresses, slacks, long shorts and T-shirts are acceptable in any but the most formal situation. Men may want a short sleeve dress shirt and summer sport coat for the fanciest resort restaurants. Although topless and nude sun bathing are common on remote beaches you must cover up when swimming near towns or religious buildings. Bring a light sweater, wind-breaker, or light jacket for unexpected night ferries. Remember to bring comfortable walking shoes.

**Electronics**
The standard in Greece is 220V AC (50Hz). With the difference in voltage, we recommend that you avoid taking U.S. electrical appliances. If you do, pack an adapter together with your electrical appliance, so that you do not have to spend valuable time looking for adapters and transformers during your stay.
Travel and Arrival Information
You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements, which includes arranging flights that will allow for appropriate arrival time before the course start date. You may wish to arrange flights with other students on the program or fly to Greece on your own.

The program will officially start at **3PM on Monday, May 18th**, at the meeting point in the Thessaloniki airport. The program staff, Resident Director, and other program participants will then board a bus that will take you to your hotel. A detailed program itinerary can be found below.

When making travel arrangements, be sure to allow enough time to land and exit the customs and baggage area. This process typically takes 20-30 minutes.

Airports
Arrival: Thessaloniki Airport ([www.thessalonikiairport.com/](http://www.thessalonikiairport.com/)) is the second biggest airport in Greece, located 14 km of the city center and serves 3.5 million passengers per year. Thessaloniki Airport is also known as International Airport “Makedonia”. The airport code is SKG.

Departure: Athens International Airport, Eleftherios Venizelos ([www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr)) has all the amenities of a large airport including a hotel, post office, courier service, banks, currency exchanges, ATM’s, as well as many stores and restaurants. The airport is 27 kilometers (17 miles) southeast of Athens and is accessible by car, taxi, metro, and bus. The airport code is ATH.

The Academic Program
General Information
This program examines the literature, society, monuments, artifacts, and culture of classical Athens and other regions of Greece. Study will include examination of archaeological remains, literary texts, and modern scholarship. We will explore the defining characteristics of the Athenian city-state (polis) and the contribution of ancient Greece to the Western intellectual and political tradition. Topics of discussion will include topography, architecture, religion, democracy, war, imperialism, tragedy, and art. We will also examine questions of identity in the ancient world, the role of women in ancient Greek society, and the conceptions of myth and the divine. We will also take several trips outside of Athens in order to experience the Greek countryside and other sites that are important for understanding all eras of Greek history.

**You must bring your college student ID card with you to Greece.** Students with International Student Cards or student IDs receive a fifty (50%) reduction to most sites and museums. On first Sunday of the month, sites and museums are FREE of charge (except guided tours).

Course Information
Class will convene regularly in classroom space provided by our hotels. The lectures and discussions will be complemented by numerous trips to monuments and museums in Athens and throughout central and southern Greece. The program includes time in Athens as well as the cities of Thessaloniki, Glyfada and Nafplio.

Registration
IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.
Course Equivalent Requests (CERs)
Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account.

Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and in your My Study Abroad account under the academics tab.

This course cannot be taken for Pass/Fail. Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn 3 UW-Madison credits of Classics 371: Topics in Greek Culture.

Program Itinerary
**changes may occur on-site**

- **Sunday, May 17**
  Students depart the US

- **Monday, May 18**
  Students arrive in Thessaloniki by 3PM
  Private bus transfer to hotel
  Welcome Dinner
  Overnight in Thessaloniki (Hotel Mediterranean)

- **Tuesday, May 19**
  Breakfast
  Morning pick-up for guided city tour by private bus
  Overnight in Thessaloniki (Hotel Mediterranean)

- **Wednesday, May 20**
  Breakfast
  Morning pick-up for guided tour by private bus to Vergina and Verroia.
  Overnight in Thessaloniki (Hotel Mediterranean)

- **Thursday, May 21**
  Breakfast
  Free day
  Overnight in Thessaloniki (Hotel Mediterranean)

- **Friday, May 22**
  Breakfast
  Travel to Glyfada (suburb of Athens)
  Optional visit to the site of Dion (sacred town of the Macedonians)
  Stop in Thermopylae
  Overnight in Glyfada (Hotel Palmyra)

- **Saturday, May 23**
  Breakfast
  Free day
  Overnight in Glyfada (Hotel Palmyra)
• **Sunday, May 24**
  Breakfast
  Free day
  Overnight in Glyfada (Hotel Palmyra)

• **Monday, May 25**
  Breakfast
  Morning bus departure to Argolis.
  Potential visit: Corinth site and Nemea.
  Dinner in Nafplion at local taverna with special folkdancing demonstration.
  Overnight in Nauplion (Hotel Park)

• **Tuesday, May 26**
  Breakfast
  Morning bus departure to visit the Arch, Museum of Nafplion
  Continue to visit Epidaurus, visit the Ancient Theatre
  Overnight in Nauplion (Hotel Park)

• **Wednesday, May 27**
  Breakfast
  Guided visit at Mycenae site and the museum and stop in Argos
  Afternoon visit of Palamidi castle.
  Overnight in Nauplion (Hotel Park)

• **Thursday, May 28**
  Breakfast
  Guided visit of the ancient site of Messene (day trip)
  Overnight in Nauplion (Hotel Park)

• **Friday, May 29**
  Breakfast
  Travel to Athens
  Potential visit of Eleusis on the way back or Daphni Monastery
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)

• **Saturday, May 30**
  Breakfast
  Free day
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)

• **Sunday, May 31**
  Breakfast
  Free day
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)

• **Monday, June 1**
  Breakfast
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)
• **Tuesday, June 2**
  Breakfast  
  Guided visit at the Agora and Kerameikos  
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)

• **Wednesday, June 3**
  Breakfast  
  Guided visit at the National Archaeological Museum  
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)

• **Thursday, June 4**
  Breakfast  
  Farewell dinner  
  Overnight in Athens (Hotel Achilleas)

• **Friday, June 5**
  Breakfast  
  Depart Athens (students arrange their own transportation to airport)

**Living Abroad**

Greece is located in southeastern Europe, situated on the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula. It is bordered by Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania to the north, and by Turkey to the east. The Aegean Sea lies to the east and south of mainland Greece, while the Ionian Sea lies to the west. It is heir to the heritages of classical Greece, the Byzantine Empire, and nearly four centuries of Ottoman rule. Regarded as the cradle of western civilization and being the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, western literature, political science, major scientific principles and drama, Greece has a particularly long and eventful history and a cultural heritage considerably influential in Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East. Today, Greece is a developed country, a member of the European Union since 1981 and a member of the Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union since 2001. Athens, Thessaloniki, Piraeus, and Patra are the country's major cities. (Information in this paragraph adapted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece)).

**Athens**

By the fifth century B.C., Athens had become one of the most popular tourist attractions of Greece with its magnificent temples and monuments, festivals and theatrical performances, and its ports and streets crowded with merchants. Today, Athens is the political capital of modern Greece and offers visitors the opportunity to explore its immense heritage that has had an impact on all modern disciplines from art and drama to philosophy and history. Athens houses some of the most famous ancient Greek sculpture and pottery in the National Archaeological Museum and some of the most remarkable ancient Greek architecture, such as the Parthenon and Erechtheion on the Acropolis, the Theater of Dionysus, the Temple of Hephaestus in the Agora, and the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion.
**Housing**
During the program, participants will be staying at Hotel Mediterranean, Hotel Emmantina, Hotel Park, and Hotel Achilleas.

Mediterranean Palace Hotel  
3, Salaminos str. 54626  
Thessaloniki, Greece  
Tel: +30 2310 552.554  
[www.mediterranean-palace.gr](http://www.mediterranean-palace.gr)

Hotel Palmyra  
70, leof. Poseidonos  
Glyfada, Athens 16675  
Tel. +30 210 8981183  
[www.palmyra.gr](http://www.palmyra.gr)

Park Hotel  
1 Dervenakion  
Nafplio, Argolida, Greece  
T: +30 27520 27428  
[www.parknafplio.gr](http://www.parknafplio.gr)

Hotel Achilleas  
Lekka 21, GR10554,  
Athens, Greece  
T. +30 210 3233197  
[www.achilleashotel.gr/](http://www.achilleashotel.gr/)

**NOTE:** A tip of 1 to 2 Euros for housekeeping and porters in hotels is suggested.

**Meals**
Your hotel will provide complimentary buffet breakfasts at the hotel restaurant for participants. Lunches and dinners may be purchased at the large variety of taverns, cafeterias, and restaurants.

Local dishes are the best at the taverns. Some recommended dishes to try include: astakos (grilled lobster, available mostly on the island), barbounia (grilled red mullet), garedes (prawns), kalamaraakea (squids), oktapode (octopus), moussaka (eggplant dish), dolmadakia (stuffed vine leaves with minced meat and rice), paidakia (grilled lamb chops), gyro, souvlaki, spanakopita (spinach pie with feta cheese), Greek salad with tomatoes, cucumbers and feta, stuffed tomatoes and peppers, pastichio (pasta dish) and the traditional kebab.

Greeks typically eat dinner later than Americans do, and some restaurants may not open until 9pm. Tipping is also known as a "service charge", and is included on your bill in Greece. If you feel that the food or service was particularly good, then it is common to leave a small amount more. (Information adapted from [http://www.travelswithfriends.com/Travel_Tips-Eating_In_Greece.htm](http://www.travelswithfriends.com/Travel_Tips-Eating_In_Greece.htm))

**Water**
Tap water is drinkable, but you may also order a bottle of non-carbonated mineral water. If you like carbonated water, you should ask for it as “soda.”

**Shopping**
Hand-woven Greek textiles embroidered blouses, earthenware and silverware, leather goods such as backpacks, bags, jewelry, copper, bronze, and antiques can be found everywhere, in the old town of Plaka, in Monastiraki (flea market) but especially SHOULD BE AVOIDED on Sunday.

Best streets for museum copies, less expensive jewellery and modern Greek ceramics are in Plaka in Voulis Street, Kidathineon Street ("Vergina Gallery"). For European Casuals, Italian sportswear, designer wear shop, go to Kolonaki in the area between Solonos and Anagnostopoulou Street, Omirou, Iraklitou & Skoufa Street. Best items are those, which are uniquely Greek Folk art, handicrafts, copies of Ancient jewelry/ceramics, as well as "flocati rugs", cotton embroideries.

Museum Information
Museums and sites in Athens (Acropolis), Delphi, Crete, Mycenae and Epidaurus are open in the summer until 6:30-7:00 pm. Most museums are CLOSED on Mondays but schedules might vary.

Transportation
Public Transportation in Athens
Public Transport network in Athens consists of buses, trolley buses, trams, and the METRO. Tickets for all means of transport in Athens, cost the same, 1.4 Euro can be used throughout the network for the duration of 1 ½ hours. Tickets may be purchased at kiosks around Athens and at the metro stops. Ticket should be validated. A 24-hour ticket and monthly card can be purchased at O.A.S.A and METRO booths as well.

The METRO from Athens International Airport to Athens center locations costs approximately 8 Euros. (www.amel.gr)

The express bus from Athens International Airport to Athens locations (Syntagma Square) costs approximately 5 Euros. (www.oasa.gr)

Approximate Urban Transport Fares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus, trolley, tram, metro:</td>
<td>1.4 Euro valid for ½ hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day card valid for all transport:</td>
<td>4 Euros per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly pass for all transport</td>
<td>14 Euros</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taxis
Taxis are reasonably cheap and sometimes the quickest and easiest way to get around. Athens’ taxis are yellow and the taxis outside the Attica area are gray. Always look to see if the driver has turned on the meter. If the driver refuses to use the meter then it is best to get out and use a different taxi. It is typically easy to catch a taxi in Athens and other large cities, although sometimes the one you flag down will not want to drive you to your desired location. If that is the case, simply wait for the next one.

The taxis in Greece also engage in ride sharing in the sense that they sometimes look for other passengers going to places near your destination if you are riding alone. Please note that taxis will board other passengers on the way but that does not mean you will receive a discount on the ride. Be aware that after midnight taxi fares increase. ALWAYS ask for a receipt from the taxi driver, as he/she is required by law to provide you with one and check that is the correct amount that you need to pay. For cab drivers, a 5-10 % tip is expected. Luggage also has an extra charge; there is an add-on fee for pick-ups or drop offs to airports, port, and bus stations.

Taxi drivers in general speak a surprisingly limited amount of English given that tourism is such a large part of the Greek economy. It does not hurt to have the name of your destination written down or a map available where you can point to where you are headed. If all else fails, use the phrase "Thelo na pao sto..." ("I want to go to...")

Travel outside Greece
You are strongly encouraged not to travel to any areas designed as hazardous or unsafe by the U.S. State Department. Make sure to check with the U.S. State Department, Embassy or Consulate regarding the safety of any areas which you are planning to travel to, or through, before you make any travel plans. You must leave a travel itinerary with the Resident Director as well as a family member or friend in the U.S. in case someone needs to reach you as well as for your own safety.

Communication

Telephone

In Athens, the kiosks around the city offer the cheapest way to make local or international calls. Pre-paid phone cards such as SMILE +WEB, TALK TALK, start from 3-5 Euros each (for max talk time to the U.S up to 2 hours) and can be used from any land line. If you use the phone card from your hotel room, you will be charged a minimum local call fee.

Alternatively, you may purchase a SIM card to add to your cell phone (approximately 5 Euros), obtain a Greek cell phone number (companies such as TIM, Cosmote, Vodaphone) and receive calls from the US for no charge and make outgoing calls at rates varying between approximately 1-2 Euros per minute.

To call abroad if you are in Greece, dial 00 then 1, followed by the area code and phone number. Local and international calls can also be made from public cardphone booths and kiosks (periptera) equipped with meters. Telecards can be purchased from kiosks.

Events and Literature

Events

There are many cultural events around Athens and Greece. Please consult the newspaper “Athens News” (on stands every Friday) to check for theatres, movies (original versions), opera (“The Megaron of Music”), art galleries and special events.

Recommended Literature

Fiction: The Mask of Apollo and The King Must Die by Mary Renault; Women of Andros by Thornton Wilder; The Colossus of Maroussi by Henry Miller; Zorba The Greek and A Modern Sequel to the Odyssey by Nikos Kazantsakis

Classics: Homer's The Iliad and The Odyssey (translations by Robert Fitzgerald); Mythology by Edith Hamilton

History: From Alpha to Omega: The Life and Times of the Greek Alphabet by Alexander and Nicholas Humez

Art and architecture: Greek Art by John Boardman

Travel: Literally Companion to Traveling in Greece, by Richard Stoneman; Patrick Fermor's personal journeys to "Mani" or "Roumeli." You may also find a lot of individual guides, published by Lycabettus Press, rich in photography, lively folk and historical lore as well as FROMMER'S Budget Travel Guides or Lonely Planet Guides.
Student Testimonials

The testimonials below are from past participants; they reflect various students’ experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

Preparations Before Leaving
I wish I would have packed mini laundry soap packets to clean my clothes in the sink or tub because it is very difficult to find a Laundromat. Plus, you don’t exactly have room in your luggage to pack enough clothes for the entire month. We just hung our stuff out to dry over the balcony.

Living Abroad
One of my favorite parts of the program was when we traveled on our own and stayed overnight on the islands. Some of the students went to Santorini while others went to Mykonos, but we all agreed it was worth the extra money and time. I would highly suggest checking out the islands, they have a very different lifestyle than the Athenians do for the most part.

On my own, I began to know Athens really well from jogging around it in the morning and just exploring. I do wish that I had ventured a little farther out on days when there was not a lot we had to do. The countryside is gorgeous.

The program was amazing! It scheduled a lot of exciting day trips. Athens was the best place to be immersed in the culture, but I do wish that we were able to spend more time getting to know the culture of the people who lived outside of the big city. Three weeks is such a short time to do all there is to do in Greece. The food is great, the weather is great, and the water is amazing. Anyone who does this program will have an unforgettable time and some absolutely priceless pictures.