

## THE GREEK EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Well, I would like to tell you some facts about the Greek educational system. The Greek educational system is mainly divided into three levels: primary, secondary and university level. Primary education is divided into kindergarten lasting two years, and primary school lasting six years (ages 6 to 12). Secondary education comprises two stages: Gymnasio (Junior High School), a three-year school, after which students can attend Lykeion or Vocational lykeion. University level education is provided by Technological Universities (T.E.I.) and Academies which primarily cater for the military and the clergy. In order to enter to universities, pupils have to give examinations called "panhellenic" (panellinies). At the same time throughout Greece, students are given a common theme. The examinations are given before graduating in the third grade of the lyceum. Students who fail to enter universities have the right to re-examine the following year. Undergraduate courses (in Universities) typically last 4 years. (MSc level) courses last from 1 to 2 years and doctorates (PhD level) from 3 to 6 years. I would like to say that there are both public and private schools and universities. Also there are schools that run the evening for people of all ages. Usually adults who wish to finish school are represented to them. All levels are overseen by the Ministry of education, Research and Religious Affairs.

I would like to point out that every child has a right to education, which is free for all. School books are free of charge from the state. Also, as Greece is in financial crisis, there are no recruitment of teachers in public schools. The percentage spent on education in the state budget is 32%.

Another very important feature of the Greek education system is that the distribution of students is based on their place of residence in order to make the access to school possible or easier. When a student lives far away from his school, he is given the opportunity to be transported daily to the school with a special coach so that he won't miss the first hours.

All members of the school community are equal, having the same rights and obligations. They have to follow the rules of the school and their valid attendance.

Parallel support is also offered to children with special needs in order to fully integrate into school and to validate their potential. They take part in the lesson, and sometimes they are provided with an additional teacher who is responsible for their training.

Finally, the Greek culture is governed by a spirit of allegory and help for the fellowman. Students try to get rid of the preconceptions and stereotypes of older generations and by using the appropriate means to explore, understand and support diversity.