Applying for Your Student Visa: Greece

What is a visa?
A visa is official authorization allowing you to enter a country and travel, work, live, or study there for a specific period of time. Generally, a visa is an elaborate stamp that is sealed onto one of the pages of your passport. Visas are issued to American citizens by a foreign country's Embassy or Consulate located in the United States. Every country has its own regulations governing the issuance of visas.

Do I need a visa to go to Greece?
All persons who wish to study in Greece must apply for a student visa. A student visa is a requirement for study in Greece and enrollment at The American College of Greece. In order to remain in Greece, students who have valid student visas must then seek residence permits within 30 days of issuance of the visa. The College will provide assistance in obtaining your residence permit.

How do I obtain a visa?
► Attention: requirements change constantly and each Consular Office reserves the right to ask for further documentation! Verify this information with the Consulate General Office that has jurisdiction over the state of your permanent address, as the application process can change or may even vary by consulate. We highly advise you to call the specific Greek Consulate you will be requesting your visa to confirm the documentation requirements and interview process, if applicable: http://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/contact-our-missions-in-the-usa.html. The American College of Greece can help you through the visa process and you can find their contact info at http://www.acg.edu/study-abroad-contact-us.

To obtain a residence permit, mail the following original documents plus one set of photocopies to the Greek Consulate General Office that has jurisdiction over your permanent residence: http://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/contact-our-missions-in-the-usa.html.

► A valid passport that will be valid at least 3 months beyond your stay in Greece.
  ○ Refer to page 1 of your Study Abroad Handbook on how to apply for a passport. Apply early; it may take 4-6 weeks for your passport to be processed.

► One passport photo 2 x 2inches glued on to the application form. Applications with stapled photographs will be rejected.

► Original letter of acceptance to your host institution certified by the prefectorial office.

► Letter from a physician stating that you suffer from no communicable diseases.

► National criminal record check from the F.B.I. Request this early! It may take up to 12 weeks for this to be processed and you cannot apply for your visa until you have received it. Visit http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks to find out how to request a copy of your record.

► Proof of travelers insurance of a minimum of € 30,000 stating that you are covered in case of a medical emergency and repatriation in the Schengen States.

► Evidence of sufficient financial funds to support yourself while in Greece. This could be a notarized copy of a bank statement, or a signed affidavit from your parents stating they will cover all your living expenses while in Greece in addition to parents’ bank and credit card statements and W2 forms for the last two years.

► Proof of residency in the consular district where you plan to apply in the form of your driver’s license or utility bill in your name (only applicable if you are applying for a visa before entering Germany).
- **Visa fee.** Contact the Greek Consulate that has jurisdiction over your permanent residence to find out the visa fee for that office: [http://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/contact-our-missions-in-the-usa.html](http://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/contact-our-missions-in-the-usa.html).

- **Pre-paid express mailing envelope** addressed to yourself so the Consulate can mail your passport back to you after the visa has been processed.