

# THE GREEK EDUCATION SYSTEM

- The Greek education system is administered by the **Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs**. By law, all children between **5 and 15** years of age are required to attend school.
- The schooling system in Greece is divided into the following levels:
- **Pre-school education** (4-5 years of age)
- **Primary education** (6-12 years of age).
- **Lower secondary education** (13-15 years of age).
- **Upper secondary education** (16-18 years of age).
- After finishing *gymnasio*, children also have the option of attending a more practically focused **Technical and Vocational Lyceum**.
- In their final year of school, students sit the **Pan-Hellenic National University Entry Exams** which determine their eligibility for tertiary studies.

## SCHOOLS IN GREECE

- The school year in Greece begins on the **11<sup>th</sup> of September** and ends in **mid-June** for **primary schools** and at the **end of June** for **secondary schools**.
- **Final exams** for secondary schools begin at the **end of May**.
- There is a **two-week holiday** at both **Christmas** (23d of December to 7<sup>th</sup> or January) and **Easter** (a week before Easter and one after Easter)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- Approximately **95%** of children in Greece attend **public schools**.
- Both **public** and **private schools** are closely overseen by the **Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs**, which dictates the school curriculum.
- For **public schools** the Ministry also decides on the available **funding** and **staff appointments**.
- **Public schools** do **not charge fees** and have traditionally provided **free textbooks** to students.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

- There are just over 20 **universities in Greece**, spread across the country and all within the **public sector**.
- While teaching is mainly in **Greek**, specialized study programs are also available in other languages (most commonly English), at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- These universities are joined by 16 **Technological Educational Institutes** (TEIs), which offer higher education programs with a focus on practical and professional skills, in subjects such as applied technology, healthcare, agriculture, management and art and design.
- Overall Greece's higher education system is well-respected, ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the world in the first edition of the QS Higher Education System Strength Rankings.