**GUIDE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS**

**ACCOMMODATION**

Our University does not provide accommodation to its students. The students are free to select any type of accommodation. However, we suggest to our exchange students to get in contact with some private dormitories in order to find the best possible solution. You can find the links here:

<https://www.stayinathens.com/>

<https://www.airbnb.gr/>

Please note that those are just suggestions and you are free to find accommodation through whatever website you wish.

An average price for an apartment/shared room (usually in private dorms) may vary from 250-350€/month (including electricity, water and WiFi).

It is a quite complex and more expensive process to find an apartment on your own through a private host, since most property owners require a long-term contract and usually bills are not included in the price. This option is usually for locals or residents renting a place for a long period (more than 6 months).

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA**

UNIWA is a dynamic and constantly evolving institution that strives to fulfill its vision and mission, and to achieve its goals investing in the development of modern teaching methods, adapted to students’ needs and responsive to competitive labor market and society requirements, as well as in its modern facilities and infrastructure (i.e., teaching resources, classrooms, laboratories/workshops, scientific equipment). UNIWA is the third largest university in the country with regard to the number of undergraduate students whereas it hosts over 50,000 students in total.

Our University offers contemporary Undergraduate and Postgraduate study programmes, which give our graduates the opportunity to acquire specialized scientific knowledge, skills and competences, linking academia to both society and the labor market.

There are twenty-seven Departments operating under the academic umbrella of five Schools, covering a wide range of scientific fields, such as social, administrative and economic sciences, engineering sciences, health and welfare sciences, as well as food sciences and applied art and culture studies.

**STUDENT LIFE - *Erasmus Students Network (ESN) West Attica***

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is the biggest student association in Europe. Its goal is to support and develop student exchange, mainly on a voluntary basis. ESN aims to improve the social and practical integration of international students. This is mainly done through activities in the local sections, which include cultural and social events such as trips to various places within the country, film nights, language projects, international food festivals and last, but not least, parties.

**BUDDY SYSTEM - *“Students helping students”***

Coming to a new city can make you feel lost! However, it can all become easier if you have a buddy!

The buddy system is here to match the international students with locals who can help them navigate the city and teach them all they need to know about their new home, especially during the first few and confusing days.

More info here: <https://westattica.esngreece.gr/>

**ESN CARD**

The ESNcard is the membership card of the Erasmus Student Network. It is a proof of membership in an ESN section and so indirectly of the ESN Network. The ESNcard is valid for 12 months and only valid with a photo and correct personal data. The card is strictly personal and cannot be used by somebody else than the cardholder.

**WELCOME TO ATHENS !**

The city with the most glorious history in the world, a city worshipped by gods and people, a magical city. The enchanting capital of Greece has always been a birthplace for civilization. Athens is a city that fascinates every visitor, during all seasons.

Explore the city of Athens : <https://www.thisisathens.org/>

**Transportation**

The Athens public transport system is affordable, reliable and covers most of the city and suburbs. You can use all means of public transport using the same ticket (a single ticket costs €1.40 and is valid for 90 minutes). Half-price is available for students (Student ID required). More info here: <https://www.athenstransport.com/english/tickets/>

**Currency**

Greece is a Member-State of the European Union and uses its uniform currency – the Euro (€). All major credit cards are widely accepted in Greece, though some establishments do not accept American Express and Diners.

You can find ATMs all around the city that can withdraw cash from your accounts at home, but they will charge you €2-3 per transaction.

**Telephone Services**

The country code for Greece is +30 (0030). Cellular phones may be purchased and used locally. There are three mobile phone operators currently in Greece: Cosmote, Vodafone and Wind. The best option for visitors is to purchase a SIM-card from one of the mobile phone operators. When purchasing a SIM-card you will be required to show your ID/passport since all the mobile numbers have to be registered.

**Food & Shopping**

An average meal is around 10-15€ but it highly depends on each individual.