



UK-Greece Strategic Partnership in Education Progress Report

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Launched in March 2021, the "UK-Greece Strategic Partnership in Education to foster collaborations between UK and Greek Universities" programme is a support mechanism aimed at facilitating contacts and promoting enhanced collaboration between UK and Greek higher education institutions. The programme is unique in its multi-faceted approach, combining strategic planning, virtual communication, group learning, and face-to-face interactions to help institutions from both countries find the right partners and build sustainable partnerships. The primary objective of UK-Greece SPE is to increase and support the number of sustainable UK-Greek academic partnerships, including student mobility, joint and double degrees, joint research, faculty exchange, and more. To achieve this goal, the programme has thus far focused on: enhancing knowledge of UK and Greek higher education systems; providing tools and resources for developing a partnership strategy; and creating opportunities, both virtual and in-person, to convene both sides and strengthen ties between potential partners.

As of this year, the UK-Greece Strategic Partnership in Education has grown to include 24 Greek universities and over 50 universities from the UK. By conducting over 100 partner matching sessions to facilitate meaningful collaborations, the programme has successfully engaged more than 400 academics in various activities and has seen participation from over 500 academics and staff in online events. UK-Greece PSE has also hosted significant events, such as:

- Partnership Models & SharePoint: A forum for sharing best practices in academic partnerships.
- Designing and Implementing Successful Internationalisation Conference: A conference focused on strategies for successful internationalisation.
- Minister Kerameus 'Visit to London with a Delegation of Greek Rectors: A high-level visit that strengthened institutional ties and explored new collaboration opportunities.

- Deputy Minister Syrigos 'Participation in the Education World Forum: Engagement at a global education forum to promote the partnership.
- Workshop on Planning, Designing, and Implementing International Joint, Dual, and Double Awards: A practical workshop to guide institutions in developing joint degree programmes.
- Capacity Building Workshops: Sessions aimed at enhancing the capabilities of academic staff and administrators.
- Developing and Implementing Impactful Internationalisation Strategies in Higher Education: Workshops focused on creating and executing effective internationalisation plans.

These activities have significantly contributed to the collaboration between institutions from both nations and have strengthened the ties between the higher education systems of Greece and the UK.

KEY PARTNERS

The UK-Greece SPE Programme would not have been possible without the administrative partnership between organisations and government entities in both countries. These are:

Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic

The Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports of the Hellenic Republic is a government department of Greece, and one of the country's oldest ministries. Established in 1883, its mission is to ensure that children and young people in every part of the country get a good education and are prepared with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need. The Ministry works to level up education standards and create a smart, creative and innovative environment. Internationalization of Greek higher education lies at the heart of the Ministry's vision. Committed to enhancing the quality of instruction and research, and fostering collaboration between Greek and international higher education institutions, the Ministry has developed a strategic plan centred on a clear, long-term vision focusing on openness, outreach and international synergies in the fields of academia and research.

British Embassy Athens

The British Embassy in Athens maintains and develops relations between the UK and Greece. The robust framework of U.K.-Greek relations focuses on regional cooperation, defence and security, trade and investment, energy, law enforcement, and people-to-people ties. Fostering educational ties between the United Kingdom and Greece is a key priority for the Embassy, as education plays a significant role in advancing our economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties. The Embassy continues to play a pivotal role in fostering educational ties between the UK and Greece by supporting international student mobility and educational partnerships through grants, exchange programmes, the media, and more.

British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. With more than 80 years of history and 100 offices worldwide, the British Council's principal mission is to enhance cultural relations and promote academic partnerships between

the UK and the world. Working in Greece since 1939, British Council Greece has offices in Athens and Thessaloniki and offers a wide range of activities focusing on academic and research collaborations and partnerships between British and Greek higher education institutions.

Study in Greece

SiG is Greece's official body for the internationalisation of higher education, international promotion of Greek universities, and international students' services. Composed of representatives from all Greek universities, and backed by the Greek state, SiG's vision is to make Greece a study-abroad destination. The SiG portal is a comprehensive, official resource on Greek higher education, and SiG's digital platforms facilitate networking between Greek and international institutions, scholars, and researchers, and provide useful information and guidance to prospective international students. SiG represents Greek universities at international education fairs, organises information sessions and promotion campaigns, and guides Greek HEIs in developing strategic international partnerships.

MEANS OF ENGAGEMENT

Since the launch of the programme, Greek and UK Universities have engaged in the programme through various actions and at different stages:

- Research into subject areas and types of programmes to identify areas of common interest to Greek and British universities and set priorities April to May 2021
- Thematic webinars focusing on joint and dual degrees, research collaborations, and summer programmes June 2021
- Information portal giving participating universities access to useful information to facilitate knowledge sharing and networking launched in June 2021
- Communications to support engagement and facilitate progress of discussions
- Partner Matching Activity January 2022
- Visit of Minister of Education Kerameus and four Greek Rectors to London November 2022
- Workshop (hybrid) for joint dual double degrees at Harokopio University Athens February 2022
- Capacity Building Workshops (online) for researchers February to March 2023
- One-to-one meetings (online) with international relations officers of Greek universities September to December 2023

GREEK PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Agricultural University of Athens
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Athens School of Fine Arts

- Athens University of Economics and Business
- Democritus University of Thrace
- Harokopio University of Athens
- Hellenic Open University
- International Hellenic University
- Ionian University
- Hellenic Mediterranean University
- National Technical University of Athens
- Panteion University
- Technical University of Crete
- National Kapodistrian University of Athens
- University of Crete
- University of Ioannina
- University of Macedonia
- University of Patras
- University of Peloponnese
- University of Piraeus
- University of the Aegean
- University of Thessaly
- University of West Attica
- University of Western Macedonia

UK PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- Aberystwyth University
- Birmingham City University
- Brighton University

- Bournemouth University
- Coventry University
- Cranfield University
- Edge Hill University
- Goldsmiths University
- Heriot-Watt University
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Kingston University
- Keele University
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Nottingham Trent University
- Queen Mary College University of London
- Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London
- SOAS University of London
- University College London
- University of Bath
- University of Birkbeck
- University of Birmingham
- University of Buckingham
- University of Bristol
- UCL Institute of Education
- University of Derby
- University of East Anglia
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Essex
- University of Exeter

- University of Glasgow
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Greenwich
- University of Leeds
- University of Lincoln
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Newcastle
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Reading
- University of Sheffield
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of Southampton
- University of Warwick
- University of Westminster
- The Queen's University Belfast
- University of Bradford
- University of Roehampton
- University of St Andrews

PROGRESS UPDATE

- 11 MoUs signed for student and faculty exchanges
- 4 MoUs for joint programmes under discussion

- Collaborations established or in discussion for:

 - a. 12 student & faculty exchangesb. 8 joint degrees [joint masters, dual undergraduate (1), research]c. 4 summer courses (and semester abroad),

 - d. 3 joint supervision of PhD students

Greek University	UK Partner Institution	Type of Partnership
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	 University of East Anglia Birmingham City University Edge Hill University Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London SOAS University of London University of Liverpool University of Reading University of Sussex University of Westminster Nottingham Trent University 	 Student Exchange MoU - Faculty Exchange MoU Student Exchange MoU MoU - Faculty Exchange MoU - Joint Programs (under discussion) MoU - Joint Programs (under discussion) MoU - Faculty exchange

Joint research programmes/projects in a wide range of scientific fields with 20 UK institutions:

- Coventry University
- Cranfield University
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- University of Manchester
- University of Exeter
- University College London
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of East Anglia
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Essex
- University of Glasgow
- University of Leeds
- University of Lincoln
- University of Newcastle
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of Surrey
- University of Warwick

• Student exchange

Athens University of Economics and Business	 University of Birkbeck Goldsmiths University	 MoU - Joint Programs (under discussion) MoU - summer courses & semester abroad
Harokopio University of Athens	Goldsmiths University	Summer course
Ionian University	 University of Buckingham University of Portsmouth Bournemouth University	 Joint PhD Joint research Student exchange
Panteion University	 University of Oxford Goldsmiths University University College London The Queen's University Belfast 	Student exchangeStudent exchangeStudent exchange
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	 University of Leeds Queen Mary College University of London Kingston University	 MoU - Student exchange MoU - Student exchange Student and faculty exchange
Hellenic Open University	 Queen Mary College University of London University of Reading	 Joint degrees (under discussion) Joint degrees (under discussion)
University of Western Macedonia	King's College LondonCranfield University	• MoU • MoU
University of Ioannina	 King's College London Aberystwyth University UCL Institute of Education	 Joint Summer course Joint Summer course Joint supervision of PhD students

University of Patras	Imperial College London	Dual Undergraduate Program (under discussion)
University of West Attica	 University of Plymouth Heriot-Watt University University of Birmingham Kingston University London Birmingham University University of Warwick Joint research programmes/projects in diverse scientific fields with 8 UK institutions: University of Bath University of Derby Nottingham Trent University University of Gloucestershire Brighton University University of Reading University of Birmingham University of Greenwich 	 Student exchange Dual Master's (under discussion) Student exchange Joint Master's Faculty exchange ERASMUS+ programme
University of Thessaly	 University of Birmingham Joint research programmes/projects in diverse scientific fields with 6 UK institutions: University of Liverpool University of Aberystwyth University of Greenwich University of East Anglia University of Birmingham University of Edinburgh 	• Joint supervision of PhD students

University of Macedonia	Goldsmiths University	Faculty exchange
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UK-GREECE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION SURVEY

The questionnaire was sent to 131 individuals from UK universities who had expressed interest in the SPE programme and/or their names were provided as their main contacts from the Greek state universities. Eleven responses are logged below.

University Response given by (full name, position, email)	Current partnership with GR universities (University name, form of partnership, level of programme on offer)	Are you interested in a new partnership? (University name, form of partnership, level of programme to offer)	How can the British Council and its partners help you make progress in the partnership arrangement you are working or new one(s) you are interested to explore?
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University of Bradford	Raed A Abd-Alhameed Professor of Radio Frequency Engineering r.a.a.abd@bradford.ac. uk	University of Patras / University of West Attica Research programmes, Other Worked with these two universities on awarded H2020 grant applications for many years. Currently, jointly working on two H2020 awarded grants. Prepare a joint EU call for Nov 2024.	 University of Patras University of West Attica Research programmes. Delivery of short / summer courses 	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources Organise matching events Conduct a solid workshop in either the UK or Greece once a workable plan is available
University of Oxford	Peter Frankopan Professor of Global History/Director, Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research peter.frankopan@worc .ox.ac.uk	N/A	N/A	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources Understand that relationships between universities are established at the Vice Chancellor level Recognize that collaborations can be time-consuming to engineer and are not priority areas unless funding is involved

King's College London	Eleanor Salt Partnership's Manager eleanor.salt@kcl.ac.uk	University of Western Macedonia Academic exchanges, Other / Masters, PhD Strategic Communications	N/A	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources
University of Roehampton	Nikoleta Syreti Senior Lecturer Nikoleta.Syreti@Roeh ampton.ac.uk	University of West Attica Other	University of West Attica Other	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources Organize matching events Strong interest in developing collaborations with Greek universities to offer courses in Healthcare and Healthcare Management sectors, therefore request connections for potential collaborations. Request support to expedite the process of collaboration between the University of Roehampton and Areti Stavropoulou from the University of West Attica, regarding regarding the MBA in Healthcare Management programme.

University of Westminster	Karen Jackson Director of International Development - Westminster Business School k.jackson@westminste r.ac.uk	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki MoU / exploring exchange - and a site visit was conducted. However, the arrangement has not proceeded.	N/A	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources Organise matching events
University of Warwick	Georgia Kremmyda Professor g.kremmyda@warwic k.ac.uk	N/A	N/A	Provide updates on education information and events by the British Council in Greece.
Queen Mary University London	Ioannis Kokkoris Head of school i.kokkoris@qmul.ac.u k	N/A	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Academics exchanges, Research programmes, Delivery of short / summer courses	Organise matching events

University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk, UK	Prof. Julia Hubbard Director of International Partnership J.Hubbard@uea.ac.uk Dr. Chrysi Leliopoulou, Associate Professor in Nursing Sciences c.leliopoulou@uea.ac. uk	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Student exchanges / BSc and MSc in Nursing; BSc in Midwifery; Continues Professional Development Courses at BSC and MSc level; PhD Supervision for Health Sciences Students For Aristotle University, the UEA has a global MOU for Student Exchanges across all departments.	 National and Kapodistrian University of Athens University of Western Macedonia University of West Attica Hellenic Mediterranean University Student exchanges, academics exchanges, research programmes, delivery of short / summer courses, joint PhD schemes 	 Provide information on funding sources Organise matching events
University of Leeds	Phil Holliday Head of Europe Office p.holliday@leeds.ac.u k	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens / Other National Technical University of Athens / Other University of Crete / Student exchanges - UG in Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science	 University of Patras University of Crete University of The Aegean Student exchanges, academics exchanges, research programmes, delivery of short / summer courses, Joint/Dual Degrees, joint PhD schemes 	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources Provide more information on current TNE legislation in Greece and any UK-GR funding sources

University of Southampton Jeff Lambrecht International Partnerships Manager g.lambrecht@soton.ac.uk Early stages of a ne partnership.	Economics and Business legislation • Aristotle University of Thessaloniki • Provide information and guidance on legislation • Provide information on funding sources
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Andrews Strand Coo	rategic Partnerships d Networks pordinator rtnerships@st- drews.ac.uk	Athens University of Economics and Business: Regarding academic exchanges, Joint PhD schemes, no active partnership agreement, but longstanding research links exist with the Business School (AUEB Nikolas Topaloglou and UStA Ioannis Psaradellis) University of Crete: Academic exchanges, Joint PhD schemes. Global PhD (Social Anthropology)	N/A	 Provide information and guidance on legislation Provide information on funding sources Organise matching events "We are keeping more of a 'watching brief' at present, but would be happy to facilitate exchanges, research and other connections as directed by our academic staff. All exchanges and partnerships require academic buy-in, so we investigate options and present them to the relevant people in the Academic Schools. Prof Rebecca Sweetman (director@bsa.org.uk) is a Professor of Classics at St Andrews, currently seconded to lead the British School in Athens, and may well have been involved in developing UK-Greece relations."
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NEW DEVELOPMENTS

1. Student Exchange Program between the University of Southampton and the University of Ioannina Introduction

The University of Southampton and the University of Ioannina have established a collaborative student exchange programme designed to enhance academic and cultural experiences in the field of Fine Art. This programme, between the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Southampton and the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Ioannina, facilitates student mobility between the two institutions, promoting interdisciplinary work and industry connections through live projects and studio workshops. It allows up to two students per year to participate, either for two semesters or one full year, and is open to both undergraduate and postgraduate Fine Art students.

2. Goldsmiths University of London, Athens University of Economics and Business, Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences Collaborative Programs

Introduction

Building on the success of a rigorous summer school programme, Goldsmiths University of London, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), and Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences have developed a new collaborative programme aimed at enhancing academic exchange and cultural experiences through annual summer schools and a student exchange semester abroad, starting in Spring 2025. The programme will focus on Law, Management Studies, and Social Sciences, providing high-quality academic courses paired with cultural activities. It is designed to facilitate student mobility and interdisciplinary learning for both undergraduate and postgraduate students from the participating institutions, broadening their global perspectives and enriching their educational experiences.

- **3. Imperial College London University of Ioannina:** The institutions are planning a summer course for Medicine and Nursing students aimed at enhancing medical education through international collaboration. This initiative is expected to provide students with specialized knowledge and practical experience.
- **4. Keele University and Athens University:** Keele University is in discussions with the Medical School at Athens University to develop a joint undergraduate medical course accredited by the General Medical Council (GMC). This programme aims to offer a high-quality, internationally recognized medical education, enhancing the academic and practical experience of medical students from both institutions.

CHALLENGES

Launching successful partnerships is always filled with a variety of challenges, including maintaining momentum and regular communications, garnering buy-in from across the institution, developing a shared understanding of what the partnership will achieve, and identifying resources to jumpstart and sustain the partnership. A few UK–Greek partnership challenges that were learned throughout the initiative include:

Funding

Funding is the greatest challenge all Greek survey respondents mentioned. This ranges from concerns around the cost of tuition to the administrative costs needed to manage a successful partnership. In addition to hoping there will be new sources of funding (including seed grants), participants are also interested in learning about creative models—tools for funding new and existing partnerships to maintain the momentum. Funding is especially relevant for student mobility partnerships given the discrepancy in tuition costs between most UK institutions and Greek universities. Participants on both sides are encouraged to seek external funding from the government, foundations, and other institutional sources.

Institutional Capacity

Several Greek universities have mentioned that partnerships with UK institutions are not feasible for them because they lack a concrete internationalisation strategy and culture, and the administrative staff to implement it. They also pointed out that without an established and specific administrative framework between Greece and the UK (such as the Erasmus programme within the EU) they feel unequipped to enter academic partnerships, and need more guidance on forming partnerships, as well as developing their internationalisation strategies.

Dissemination of Information

Albeit the continuous efforts of Study in Greece, the British Council and the institutions 'international offices, sometimes information on diverse topics, events and activities of the UK-Greece SPE is not diffused and circulated automatically to all members of the Greek academic community. This is a serious issue, also related to the institutions 'administrative weaknesses that universities have to tackle.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

UK-Greece SPE constitutes a flagship programme that promotes an innovative approach to academic collaboration between the UK and Greece. Acting as a convener that brings together interested parties through partnership-focused programming, within the last three years, the programme has inspired a new culture, supporting higher education institutions from both countries in setting and achieving broader internationalisation goals through the power of partnership.

Gazing into the future of this impactful initiative

The British Council and Study in Greece will be hosting a series of virtual discussions for representatives of institutions from both countries on topics and practical issues that will help advance their partnerships.

The British Council and Study in Greece will continue to provide further information and consultation services to higher education institutions from both countries to help them define their partnership goals and processes, marshal resources to advance their collaborations, identify priority fields or activities which they are interested in exploring with their counterparts, bridge the cultural gap that might exist between the two higher education systems, and break down bureaucratic hurdles.

Recommended actions

- Creation of UK-Greece SPE Handbooks-Roadmaps Develop comprehensive UK-Greece SPE Handbooks and Roadmaps. These documents should include:
 - 1. Insights on global trends in academic partnerships.
 - 2. Specific recommendations for impactful and feasible synergies between UK and Greek universities.
 - 3. Detailed guidelines for implementing potential collaborations, including step-by-step processes and case studies of successful partnerships.
 - 4. Information on funding opportunities and application procedures.
- Implementation of Bilateral Visits for Partnerships Organise bilateral visits for representatives from both Greek and UK universities. These visits should aim to:
 - 1. Provide representatives from both countries with first-hand experience of each other's higher education environments.
 - 2. Facilitate direct meetings between Greek and UK counterparts to discuss potential collaborations and share best practices.
 - 3. Include workshops and presentations on effective partnership management, teaching methodologies, and research collaborations.
- Regular Communication and Consultation Channels Establish regular communication channels to address specific issues arising from collaborations. This can include:
 - 1. Organise regular meetings for ongoing discussions, continuous feedback, and consultation.
 - 2. Dedicated contact points within each institution for streamlined communication.
- Monthly SPE Newsletter Publish a monthly SPE newsletter to keep all stakeholders informed. The newsletter should feature:
 - 1. The latest news on UK-Greece higher education partnerships.
 - 2. Comprehensive analysis of partnership outcomes and impact.
 - 3. Promotion of best practices and success stories.
 - 4. Updates on upcoming events and opportunities for collaboration.
- Annual Festival of Ideas Organise an annual festival of ideas in Athens or Thessaloniki. The festival should aim to:
 - 1. Bring together academics and institutions from the UK and Greece.
 - 2. Facilitate discussions on topics of mutual interest and global challenges.
 - 3. Showcase best practices in higher education partnerships.

- 4. Provide networking opportunities to foster new collaborations.
- Engaging Greek Academics in the Diaspora Create a network of Greek academics in the diaspora to act as ambassadors of the SPE. This group should:
 - 1. Share their insights and experiences from the UK and Greek higher education systems.
 - 2. Advocate for the programme and raise awareness about collaboration opportunities.
 - 3. Provide mentorship and support for new partnership initiatives.
 - 4. Facilitate connections between UK and Greek institutions.