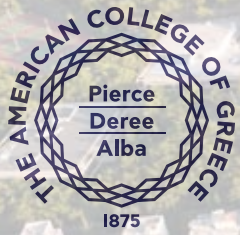


Pierce



Pierce – The American College of Greece School Profile 2020-2021

The School

The American College of Greece (ACG) is a non-profit, three-unit, educational institution consisting of Pierce (1,575 middle and secondary school students), Deree (over 3,600 university undergraduates and graduates), and Alba (over 540 graduate business school students). Pierce is a Greek, selective, private, co-educational day school, accredited and regulated by the Ministry of Education and only one of three private schools granted the equivalence status to Greek public schools. Instruction is in Greek and English.

Founded in 1875 as a school for girls and young women in Smyrna, Asia Minor, ACG was a pioneer for women's education in the geographic region. It relocated to Greece, at the invitation of Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, following the destruction of Smyrna; first to Paleo Phalero (1923) and later to Helleniko (1932). In 1965, ACG transitioned to its present 64-acre wooded, mountainside campus in Aghia Paraskevi, overlooking the city and became co-educational in 1984.

Statement of Purpose

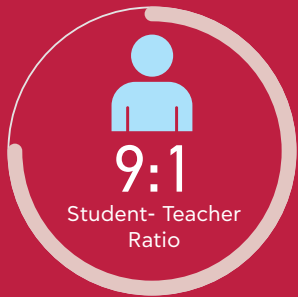
The Pierce mission is to provide a holistic education to shape and support the growth of intellectually independent, morally responsible, socially engaged, bilingual and globally minded citizens. Of the Class of 2021, over 30% are applying to colleges and universities abroad. There exists a strong tradition and ethos to contribute locally, nationally and internationally with 57,000 alumni around the world working in virtually every field of human endeavor. The school's motto 'Non ministrari, sed ministrare' ('Not to be served but to serve') defines Pierce's institutional character and our aspiration for our students.

Students

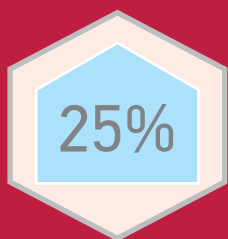
Admission to Pierce, based on school records and a written examination in Greek Language, Mathematics and English Language, is highly selective with an acceptance rate of 25%. Pierce believes in a socio-economically diverse student community and provides financial aid based on documented financial need as well as scholarships: academic, music, and athletic. Our students are Greek or Greek dual-nationals who culminate their secondary education by sitting for the PanHellenic university entrance exams and if in the International Baccalaureate, the Diploma exams and PanHellenic equivalency exams. The Class of 2021 has 229 students.



97% Pierce
Graduates enter
Universities from our
IB/Greek Academic
Programs



35%
Students
Receiving
Financial Support



Admissions
Acceptance Rate



British Council
International
School Award 2018-21



Academic Programs

Pierce comprises a middle school (Gymnasium) with 823 students in grades 7-9 and a high school (Lyceum) with 752 students in grades 10-12. The study program fulfills the requirements as set by the Greek Ministry of Education and while much of the Pierce curriculum is mandated, the Greek ministry permits Pierce to deviate in some respects, allowing more instruction in English, for example, than any other Greek-curriculum school. The English curriculum presents the English language in context, so that by the time students graduate, all have studied American and British literature. During their second year (Grade 11) and final year of the Lyceum (Grade 12), students must choose two out of four concentrations (one in the 11th and one in the 12th): Humanities, Sciences, Economics/Computer Sciences and Health Sciences. Those wishing to attend university in Greece take a barrage of rigorous exams.

Pierce, also, offers the two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) to students entering 11th grade, following the standards and expectations of the IB Diploma Programme. As mandated by the IBO, students select three Higher Level courses (with approximately 240 hours of instruction over two years) and three Standard Level courses (150 hours over two years). The additional requirements of the IBDP are met with the inclusion of Theory of Knowledge, CAS and the Extended Essay. Students in the Pierce IBDP must also qualify for the Greek National High School Diploma in order to graduate and take three additional courses: Greek Literature, Greek History, and Greek Composition. These combined with the IBDP coursework, allow for the equivalency of the Greek Diploma to be recognized and awarded in July. The IBDP Curriculum functions as a parallel program fully integrated into school life and ensures that students in the program are active members of the Pierce community.

Academic Policy

Students are not officially ranked at Pierce. The grading system mandated by the Ministry of Education is set to a 20-point scale.

10	passing
10-13.0	considered low
13.1-16.0	average
16.1-18.0	very good
18.1-20.0	excellent

Internally, we recognize the 20-point scale as equivalent to the following:

20 = A+	19 = A	18 = A-	17 = B+	16 = B	15 = B-
14 = C+	13 = C	12 = C-	11 = D+	10 = D	9 or less = F



Co-Curricular Programs

Pierce provides a diverse co-curricular program of clubs and activities for all students to further both their educational and leadership skills. This has led to significant achievements and distinctions across a variety of fields, offering our students the opportunity to hone their leadership, research and rhetoric skills among many others.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS 2018-2020

FORENSICS

In the summer of 2020, two Pierce students and members of the National Debate Team representing Greece reached the top at the **World Schools Debating Championships**; one student achieved **1st place** in the category of speakers for whom **English is a foreign language (EFL)**.

ROBOTICS/INFORMATICS

The Pierce team "Rest in PC's" was **4th in the world** in the Open Lyceum category at the Educational Robotics Olympiad in Thailand, having already achieved 1st place in the final of the Greek Competition of the Educational Robotics Olympiad WRO 2018. Pierce students have also been selected to represent Greece at both the 2019 and 2020 **Balkan Olympiad** on Informatics.

ARTS

A Pierce student achieved **2nd place** at the national final of the International Competition "Draw Me a Neutrino" in the 2019-20 school year. His drawing, with influences from artists Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso and Piet Mondrian, will be one of the three works that represent Greece at the International Competition.

SCIENCES

Students from the Physical Sciences club were invited to visit the European Organization for Nuclear Research **CERN**, acquiring information about the research that goes on at CERN, whose main subject is particle physics, which studies the components and functions of the universe.

POLITICS

This year, two Pierce students were selected to chair committees at the **THIMUN** conference, an annual meeting of future leaders that has been held in The Hague in the Netherlands for the last 50 years. Each student presided over committees of 100-200 students, in the Economic and Social Committee, and the Environmental Commission respectively.

A delegation of 24 students participated and excelled in committees such as Senate Judiciary, House Intelligence, District Court, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Security Council, receiving a certificate of excellence and honorable mentions at the Harvard Model Congress Europe (**HMCE**).

Two Pierce students, following a very strict selection process and having achieved 3rd place among 150 students from Greece) took part in the European program **EUROSCOLA** (Strasbourg), and participated in Committees, related to environment, renewable energy sources, security and human rights, the future of Europe, immigration and youth employment.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2019, the "Agro" team made it to the finals of the International Youth Entrepreneurship Competition "The Diamond Challenge".

This year another Pierce team, "Zero%Risk", the winner of the **1st place** in the Junior Squeazy Student Entrepreneurship Competition among 40 teams in Greece in 2019, has qualified to compete at the "Diamond Challenge 2021". It is worth mentioning that out of the 8 teams of students that competed in the semi final round in Greece, seven were made up of Pierce students.

In 2020, Pierce Young Business Talents teams, "Biobottles" and "Let's sign" won the **1st and 2nd**

place, respectively, in the Junior Squeazy Student Entrepreneurship Competition.

Eight Pierce students completed all the required examinations and gained the **Entrepreneurial Skills Pass (ESP)**, an international certificate obtained by students who through a real business experience, have acquired the knowledge, abilities and skills needed to set up a business and work in a company.

Finally, Pierce was recognized as the "**The Entrepreneurial School of the Year 2018**" for Greece by Junior Achievement-Europe, a culmination of numerous first place distinctions of our students in the past 10 years.

Pierce students have a long-standing tradition of attending top tier universities in Greece and abroad. Their excellent academic and non-academic accomplishments during high school are often rewarded with substantial scholarships; just in the year 2019-20, our students were awarded 2.6 million dollars in athletic and academic scholarships. The following is a list of the most notable universities our students have either attended or currently attending:

UNITED STATES:

American University
 Bard College
 Bentley University
 Boston University
 Brandeis University
 Bryn Mawr University
 California Institute of the Arts
 Clark University
 Dickinson College
 Drexel University
 Emory University
 Fordham University
 George Washington University
 Grinnell College
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Illinois Wesleyan University
 Knox College
 Lehigh University
 Pace University
 Penn State University
 Princeton University
 Providence College
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 New York University-Abu Dhabi
 New York University-New York
 Northeastern University
 Rice University
 School of Visual Arts - NYC
 Smith College
 SUNY-Stone Brook
 SUNY-Buffalo
 Syracuse University
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 University of Chicago
 University of Connecticut
 University of Illinois, Chicago
 University of Iowa
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 University of Miami
 Michigan State University

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Richmond
 University of Rochester
 University of San Francisco
 Vanderbilt University
 Vassar College
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute

CANADA

University of British Columbia
 Simon Fraser University
 University of Toronto
 Ryerson University
 York University

UK

University of Aberdeen
 Architectural Association
 School of Architecture
 University College London
 University of Bath
 University of Birmingham
 University of Bristol
 Cardiff University
 City University of London
 University of Dundee
 Durham University
 University of Exeter
 Imperial College London
 University of Kent
 University of Lancaster
 University of Leicester
 University of Leeds
 London School of Economics
 Loughborough University
 University of Manchester
 Newcastle University
 University of Nottingham
 University of Oxford

Queen Mary University of London
 Royal Holloway University of London
 University of Sheffield
 University of Southampton
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Stirling
 University of Sussex
 University of Warwick
 University of York

NETHERLANDS

University of Amsterdam,
 Business School
 Webster University USA, Leiden
 Amsterdam University College
 Delft University of Technology
 Eindhoven University of Technology
 Erasmus University of Rotterdam
 University of Groningen
 Leiden University
 Maastricht University

CZECH REPUBLIC

Charles University

CYPRUS

Frederick University
 University of Nicosia

GERMANY

Heidelberg University

FRANCE

SciencesPo
 University of Lyon

ITALY

Bocconi University



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