



**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

## 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.



## 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 **1<sup>st</sup> place** in the category of speakers for whom **English is a foreign language (EFL)**.

#### ROBOTICS/INFORMATICS

The Pierce team "Rest in PC's" was **4<sup>th</sup> in the world** in the Open Lyceum category at the Educational Robotics Olympiad in Thailand, having already achieved 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> place** in the Junior Squeezy 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 **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**place**, respectively, in the Junior Squeezy 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-Stony 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

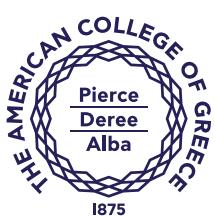
Heidelberg University

#### FRANCE

SciencesPo  
University of Lyon

#### ITALY

Bocconi University



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