



**Τμήμα
Θεολογίας**

**Ξενόγλωσσο
Προπτυχιακό Πρόγραμμα Σπουδών
Orthodox Theology and Spirituality**

ιη.
Ενημερωτικό υλικό προς φοιτητές του ΞΠΠΣ
(στα ελληνικά και αγγλικά)

Ιανουάριος / 2026

Why in Greece

Welcome to the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

We invite you on an exciting journey through theological studies and the scientific study of religion. On this journey, the theological tradition and the sciences of religion meet history, anthropology, anthropology and various cultures in a complete professional context, utilizing a variety of interactive learning strategies and new technological tools. Our main goal is to walk with our students and fulfill their dreams and future professional goals. Come and travel together in the science of Theology and in the tradition and culture of man and our world.

Ilias Evangelou
Professor of Ecclesiastical Literature
and the Ecclesiastical Life of the Slavic Peoples
Head of the School of Theology

Study in Thessaloniki

The city of Thessaloniki is located next to Mount Athos and dominates the Balkan Peninsula from its foundation until today as its cultural and spiritual capital. Its history begins in the years of Alexander the Great (founded in 315 AD) and its history goes hand in hand with the formation and spread of Christianity in the world.

A few kilometers east of Thessaloniki, in Philippi, Macedonia, the Apostle Paul baptized Saint Lydia and organized the first ecclesiastical community in Europe. He then founded the Church of Thessalonica, to which he sent two Epistles, which are part of the New Testament. From Thessaloniki he essentially began his missionary journey in Greece, passing through Athens and reaching Corinth.

The patron saint of Thessaloniki, Saint Demetrios, who also adorns the emblem of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, has been over the centuries the heavenly protector and guide of the Church of the Thessalonians. With the Great Martyr Demetrios as a guide, the Church of Thessalonica contributed with the work of the Great Fathers who were born or acted here to the synthesis of Greek wisdom and the Gospel word in a unique synthesis.



It is worth mentioning Saints such as Saints Cyril and Methodius, the enlighteners of the Slavic world and protectors of Europe, the representatives of Hesychasm in the 14th century such as Saint Gregory Palamas and Saint Symeon, eminent Metropolitans of Thessaloniki, who renewed the spiritual life and theological thought of the Church by connecting dogma with the Orthodox ethos and highlighting its social dimensions.

For centuries the city of Thessaloniki has been distinguished for its pluralistic character and the coexistence of different religious communities and especially the Abrahamic religions (Orthodox Christians, Muslims and Jews).

The School of Theology, respecting this tradition, plays a leading role in the academic inter-Christian-interreligious dialogue as well as in mediation for the cultivation of skills and abilities that promote harmonious coexistence. It organizes ecumenical and interreligious conferences and cooperates closely with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece, as well as the Ancient Patriarchates of the East as well as the modern Churches of the Wallachians for dialogue and the peaceful coexistence of differences in Greece, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and in many corners of the world.

"Do not quench the Spirit" from the Epistle to the Thessalonians (5:19) is the frontispiece at the entrance to our School. This fully expresses the quintessence of our academic, scientific, spiritual and practical action. An action that is based on the triptych Openness - Dialogue - Culture.

Starting from scientific knowledge and research in theology, intercultural communication and modern learning according to European standards and with respect to the cultural specificity of our country, the Department of Theology works to prepare students in the modern world and to cultivate humanitarian values as well as the harmonious coexistence of others.

"Do not quench the flame of the gifts of the Holy Spirit" (1 Thess. 5:19)]. This flame of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we are constantly working to pass on and cultivate to our students!

School of Theology

The Department of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has existed as an independent Department since 1982. His course, however, is intertwined with the history of the Theological School, which began operating in 1941. In all these years, he has formed a distinct identity, which is distinguished for his study of theology, the creative synthesis of tradition and renewal, the scientific study of religion as well as the cultivation of universal values through dialogue and education.

In the Department of Theology there are 2 Undergraduate Programs of Study. The first is the Theology Curriculum, which offers a high level of theological education and approaches the religious phenomenon and the major religions of the world in an interdisciplinary way. From the academic year 2016-2017, there is a second Undergraduate Program dedicated to the study of Islam, its theology and traditions to serve the educational needs of Greek Muslims.

Graduates of the Department of Theology occupy key positions in academic institutions as well as in the Orthodox and non-Orthodox Churches (Catholic and Protestant). Its human resources are of high quality with specialized studies in Greece and abroad and constantly produce high-level scientific, research and teaching work.

According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 for Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies, theological studies at the Faculty of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki are internationally recognized within the 101-140 level worldwide. The most recent overall rankings of the Aristotle University in overall ranking systems (QS, THE, ARWU) confirm the institution's extensive international presence and research influence, further enhancing the international recognition of its theological studies.

The School of Theology organizes 4 Master's Programs that it organizes on its own (Theology and Culture, Religion, Geopolitics and International Security, Slavic World, Balkans and Hellenism: History, Education, Culture and Learning and Innovation in Education) and participates in 4 other interdepartmental and interinstitutional programs (Tourism and Local Development, Contemporary Medical Practices: Legal Regulation and Bioethical Dimension, Byzantine Music Science and Artistic Creation and Sciences of

Education: Religion and education). It also has an Interdoctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Research Program, in which the graduates of the Department can continue their studies.

The School of Theology is in full cooperation with the Department of European Educational Programs of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in the context of Erasmus mobility (incoming and outgoing) for students, faculty members of all levels and staff



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) was founded in 1925 and was named after the famous ancient philosopher Aristotle. It is one of the largest University of Greece, covering an area of about 34 hectares and located in the city centre.

It consists of 41 Faculties and Schools offering all kinds of studies, has about 74.000 registered students (65.000 undergraduate and 9.000 postgraduate, 4.000 of which at Doctoral level), more than 2.500 permanent teaching staff and approximately 800 permanent administrative staff.

AUTH houses 16 Museums, Archives and Collections, has 3 choirs, 1 orchestra, 1 opera. It facilitates a Gym providing a wide range of sports' programmes and activities, a restaurant where more than 15,000 meals are served to all members of the university community on a

daily basis and a Career Services Office where you can get detailed information and advice about studies, career and employment opportunities. The university also has a Camp in Kalandra (Halkidiki), a piny area next to the sea.

AUTh takes part in the Erasmus exchange programme and is a member in 11 student unions.

Finally, AUTh was certified as fully compliant by the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency Board on 10/9/2019 after the external evaluators visit on July 2019.



Programme Overview / Key Facts

The Undergraduate Program of the School of Theology "Orthodox Theology and Spirituality" is a full-time program for foreign citizens. The main objective is to provide a high level of Orthodox theological education to an international audience, through systematic familiarization with the main scientific fields of theological science. The Program provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills to access a range of professions related to the science of Theology and in particular of Orthodox Theology, as well as for any other professional or academic activity that requires theological training..

The Bachelor of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality offers a rigorous academic approach to Orthodox theological studies, rooted in the living heart of Eastern Orthodoxy. Combining critical textual analysis, historical depth, and systematic theological reflection, the program provides in-depth engagement with biblical texts, patristic writings, dogmatic theology, and liturgical tradition, while addressing contemporary theological questions within global and intercultural contexts.

A student of the program cultivates skills that allow him to apply Orthodox theological knowledge in professional and social life with respect for human rights and the values of humanism. In addition, he is able to study texts with a critical spirit in the context of their historical relevance and to make the necessary extensions to contemporary reality, evaluating new and evolving forms of religious beliefs and practices with universal spirit and willingness to reconcile. In addition, he develops skills that allow him to adapt to a practical level the knowledge he has acquired about the complexity of different mentalities, social behaviors and aesthetic responses, as well as the interaction of theological ideas, religious beliefs, values, sacred texts, art forms, social data and politics. At the same time, the student is able to participate in the dialogue between religious traditions and philosophical systems, to communicate directly and to transmit theological and religious concepts to the wider public, as well as to apply in practice the theory of teaching theological and religious data

Why study Orthodox Theology and Spirituality at AUTH

- **Direct access to primary Orthodox sources**
Study Scripture, the Fathers, and Byzantine theological texts within a School internationally recognised for critical editions, patristic research, biblical scholarship, and original contributions to Orthodox theological studies.
- **Study Orthodoxy at its historical heart**
Greece is widely regarded as the historical and spiritual heart of Eastern Orthodoxy, with an uninterrupted Orthodox presence since the 1st century AD. Studying theology here means engaging with Orthodoxy where it has been lived, practiced, and transmitted for centuries.
- **Focused specialisation in Orthodox Theology**
The program offers a coherent and in-depth academic specialisation in Orthodox Theology, rather than a general or comparative religious studies approach, ensuring a solid and clearly defined theological foundation.
- **Academic theology within a living Orthodox environment**
University-level academic theology is uniquely combined with immersion in a living ecclesial context, supported by Thessaloniki's proximity to Mount Athos, major monasteries, and historic centres of Orthodox spiritual life.
- **Strong linguistic formation for theological study**
Students develop high-level competence in Modern Greek and are introduced to Ancient Greek, the original language of Scripture and the Church Fathers, enabling direct engagement with primary sources and Greek-language Orthodox scholarship.
- **An international, condensed Bachelor structure**

In order to obtain the Degree in Theology of the "Orthodox Theology and Spirituality" Program, students are required to attend 44 courses, which are Compulsory. The duration of the Undergraduate Program is 8 semesters, during which students must accumulate two hundred and forty (240) credits (ECTS). The distribution of courses varies between 5 and 7 courses per semester.

Upon successful completion of the studies, students receive the Degree in Theology ("Orthodox Theology and Spirituality"), which is in accordance with the EU Directive 2005/36/E. They also acquire sufficient knowledge of the Modern Greek Language and become familiar with the Language of the Holy Bible (Hellenistic Koine).

The Program provides students with the academic prerequisites for the continuation of their studies at postgraduate and then doctoral level and the professional prerequisites for their careers in fields and disciplines that require documented theological knowledge and training, while the degree awarded is equivalent to the degrees awarded by the Greek-language Theology

programs of the country's HEIs and respectively of foreign universities.

Graduates have the necessary scientific training to work as teachers in public and private secondary education, to serve the Church as clergy and to staff as lay servants the social structures of Christian Churches and ecclesiastical and religious institutions. The humanistic and anthropocentric character of theological studies enables them to work in various scientific, cultural and social organizations, as well as in businesses related to religious tourism, the media with an emphasis on ecclesiastical current affairs, as well as in artistic workshops.

The language of instruction of all courses is English. Students attend compulsory courses of Modern Greek language and in the fourth (4th) year compulsory courses of ancient Greek (Hellenistic Koine) of the years of the New Testament, with the aim of an in-depth acquaintance with Modern Greek and to a satisfactory degree of the Hellenistic Koine so that they are able to study the Greek theological bibliography as well as the sources of the science of Theology and in particular the Old and New Testament and to facilitate if they wish to continue their professional careers in Greece.

The philosophy of the Undergraduate Curriculum of the Department of Theology puts students at the top of the new proposal. The Undergraduate Theology Program aims to unleash and develop people's creativity through a series of courses and activities, where the intelligence and talents of students and teachers will be expressed, leading our students from their current state to specific future goals and, in addition, to help them achieve even greater achievements, which they may not have even imagined they could reach. In this program, the educational conditions will stimulate the curiosity and creativity of the students, while the professors guide, and awaken their interests and quests.

Students will have the opportunity to be introduced to the science of Theology and to become familiar with the subversive thought of the Fathers of the Church and the always renewing and modern Tradition of the Church. In addition, it will give students the opportunity to be taught and learn to a very high degree the modern Greek language but also to be introduced to the ancient Greek language of the Holy Bible and the Fathers of the Church. they will have access to the very large Greek-speaking theological production as well as to the language of the Church's sources, which will give them a strong academic advantage but also a resource that will allow them not only to advance in their academic career but at the same time to develop professionally.

Goals and Main Features

The philosophy of the new undergraduate programme of studies (UPS) places the people who constitute the Faculty/Department of Theology on top of the new proposal. The main goals are to liberate and develop people's creativity and transform the Faculty/Department into a structure where students' and teachers' intelligence and talents will be expressed. The main target is to lead our students from their current status to specific future goals and, furthermore, to help them reach even greater achievements, which they might not even have dreamt they could reach.

More specifically, the objectives of the UPS are:

1. An academic environment in order to create:
 - a. the best student
 - b. the best teacher

2. To increase the interaction between student and teacher.
3. The development and cultivation of new ideas, adapted to the characteristics of modern times.
4. To develop conditions in order to give students and teachers:
 - a. a different sense of possibilities
 - b. a different set of expectations
 - c. a wider range of opportunities
 - d. The above will give everyone the opportunity to be creative and innovate in their field.
5. To create educational conditions aiming to excite the curiosity, individuality and creativity of students. If the teacher lights the spark of the student's curiosity, then the latter, very often, becomes capable of learning without further help.
6. Teaching is a creative process. When properly designed, it is not just an administration system. The teacher does not just convey assimilated information. At the same time, he guides, provokes and tries to awaken consciousness.

Key features of the new Undergraduate Study Program are:

1. One Credit Unit (CU, European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, ECTS) corresponds to 28 hours of workload.
2. Students, in order to complete their studies, must successfully attend and be tested on 44 obligatory courses with a total of 240ECTS (.
3. Each academic year has 2 semesters (winter and spring). Semester duration: 15 weeks.
4. There are 3 exam periods of 3 weeks, 2 at the end of each semester and 1 in September (before the winter semester).
5. Courses can be taught:
 - a. the traditional way (in the classroom)
 - b. in electronic form
6. Organizing online courses has the following advantages:
 - a. Each topic is taught by the most specialist professor in the field.
 - b. The responsibility of the professor in the organization of his lesson is increased because posting online (code-watching) also involves public check.
 - c. New knowledge on the subject being taught, e.g. new guidelines instructions are integrated directly into the e-course.
7. Τα μαθήματα διακρίνονται για τον διαδραστικό χαρακτήρα. Η κλασική διδασκαλία με μονόλογο του καθηγητή στις τάξεις μειώνεται, ενώ αυξάνεται ο χρόνος για προβληματισμό και συζήτηση μέσα από τη μελέτη διάφορων περιπτώσεων σχετικά με τη θεολογία και την εφαρμογή της σε καθημερινά ζητήματα που συνδέονται με την εκπαίδευση, ποικίλες κοινωνικές εφαρμογές, την ηθική-βιοηθική, την επικοινωνία, τη χριστιανική μαρτυρία, τις τέχνες και τον πολιτισμό.
8. The aim of the above activities is to make the most effective use of the talents of both students and professors, without spending effort on imparting the knowledge which each

student could find on the mobile phone, anyway.

9. E-courses can be carried out in a variety of ways, chosen by professors. Two suggested forms are:
 - a. the theoretical development of a topic,
 - b. Παρουσίαση μιας μελέτης περίπτωσης με ένα θεολογικό ζήτημα και στη συνέχεια παράθεση 6-8 ερωτήσεων πολλαπλής επιλογής, όπου προσφέρεται η δυνατότητα ανάλυσης της σωστής ή λανθασμένης απάντησης του.
 - c. . In order for the student to proceed to the next question, he must have answered the previous one correctly.
 - d. Students should be actively involved in teaching by:presenting interesting cases of theological and religious subjects,
 - e. analysis of theoretical issues
 - f. presentation of articles from the theological and religious literature
 - g. writing and presenting tasks assigned to them by the faculty members on specific topics.
10. The exams will be conducted:
 - a. in the traditional way
 - b. by electronic means. Advantages are the immediate extraction of grades at the end of the exam and the great time saving of teachers who will invest their energy on teaching interaction with students, which is also the main focus of the new undergraduate program.
11. One and only grade should be avoided when examining each course. It is suggested that the final grade be derived from the average of:
 - a. the degree of progress that students will have in the course during the semester (10-20%),
 - b. the grade from a short task conducted under the guidance of the faculty members of the course (30-40%),
 - c. the grade of the final examination (40-50%).
 - d.

Graduates of the new undergraduate programme of studies (UPS) of the School of Theology, beyond the basic scientific and professional knowledge, will be able to think freely, creatively and inductively, apply knowledge in practice, communicate in a second language beyond their mother tongue, use technology for searching, processing and analyzing information, analyze, compose, adapt to novel situations and make decisions, work independently or in a team at international or/and interdisciplinary level, produce new research ideas, plan and manage projects, respect individuality, multiculturalism and the environment, demonstrate social, professional and moral responsibility and sensitivity towards gender issues and achieve self – and peer assessment abilities. In practice, their training aims to produce learning outcomes and competencies which enable to offer service in the fields of Theology, Religious Studies,, Education.

A degree with global relevance

Graduates of the Bachelor of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality earn a degree grounded in a

long-standing and internationally recognised academic tradition of Orthodox theological scholarship. Delivered by one of Europe's leading public universities, the program prepares graduates for further academic studies, research pathways, and professional engagement in international academic, cultural, and ecclesial contexts.

About Greece

Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic, historically also known as Hellas, is a country located in Southeast Europe. Greece is considered the cradle of Western civilization, being the birthplace of democracy, western philosophy, western literature, theatre, drama, poetry, historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles and the Olympic Games. Greek is the oldest written language still in existence, continuously used for more than 5000 years. From the eighth century B.C., the Greeks were organized into various independent city-states, which spanned the entire Mediterranean region and the Black Sea. Philip of Macedon united most of the Greek mainland in the fourth century B.C., with his son Alexander the Great rapidly conquering much of the ancient world, from the eastern Mediterranean to India. Greece was annexed by Rome in the second century B.C., becoming an integral part of the Roman Empire and its successor, the Byzantine Empire, which adopted the Greek language and culture. The Greek Orthodox Church, which emerged in the first century A.D., helped shape modern Greek identity and transmitted Greek traditions to the wider Orthodox World. Even more, there are more than 4000 traditional dances around the country. Greece emerged as a modern nation state in 1830 following a war of independence. The country's rich historical legacy is reflected in part by its 18 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The population of Greece is approximately 11 million. Athens is the nation's capital and the largest city, followed by Thessaloniki. Situated on the southern tip of the Balkan Peninsula, Greece is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of the mainland, the Ionian Sea to the west, the Cretan Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Greece has the longest coastline on the Mediterranean Basin and the 11th longest coastline in the world (13,676 km), featuring many islands, of which 227 are inhabited. Eighty percent of Greece is mountainous, with Mount Olympus being the highest with its peak at 2,918 meters. It is also one of the sunniest countries in the world as the whole country has more than 250 days of sun on average. Moreover, Greece has one of the richest varieties of wildlife in Europe, being the home of 116 species of mammals, 18 species of amphibians, 59 species of reptiles, 240 species of bird and 107 species of fish.

Greece is a unitary parliamentary republic and developed country with an advanced high-income economy, a high quality of life, and a very high standard of living. Its economy is the largest in the Balkans, where it is an important regional investor. A founding member of the United Nations, Greece was the tenth member to join the European Communities (precursor to the European Union) and has been part of the Eurozone since 2001. It is also a member of numerous other

international institutions, including the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

Greece's unique cultural heritage, large tourism industry, prominent shipping sector and geostrategic importance classify its power. The traditional heritage of a country is the sum of the cultural and material achievements bequeathed by previous generations. Folk culture for the Greek people, rich in music, dances, poetry and theatre, is part of their everyday life. All over the country have been created many specialized museums and cultural organizations aiming to preserve and study the Greek traditional heritage.

Living in Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second-largest city of Greece, established 2300 years ago. A significant historical and multicultural city, with a population of 1,1 million, located in the north of the country and capital of the Region of Central Macedonia. It is the administrative, cultural and business centre of northern Greece.

The coast at the Aegean Sea is one of the largest urban seafronts of Europe and has an excellent view of the famous Mount Olympus. Thessaloniki is well known for its 30 museums, 15 UNESCO monuments, the delicious food and the nearby beaches of Halkidiki and Pieria. It has historical landmarks, such as the Byzantine walls, the arch of Galerius and the Rotunda, the White Tower and Aristotelous Square. One can enjoy its annual festivities such as the Thessaloniki International Trade Fair and the Thessaloniki International Film and Documentary Festival. The variety of bars and coffeeplaces all over the city are only some of the aspects of this vibrant modern city.

Apart from the cultural and historical elements, the city of Thessaloniki is also known for its scientific contribution. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, one of the main universities of the city, is the largest university in Greece and the Balkans. Being a young student in Thessaloniki is the best choice in scientific and financial terms. Contemporary yet affordable, Thessaloniki is a modern European city.

However, it has a relatively low cost of living and can satisfy the needs of the students' budget.

Moreover, Thessaloniki is among the 100 safest cities of European Union according to Eurostat and the average of 7,1 hours of sunshine per day is one of the highest in Europe (Europe's average is 5,45 h/d).



Housing Information & Living Costs

In Thessaloniki you can find many Real Estate businesses that can help you find the apartment you want.

This is a list including the prices of some basic goods that determines the cost of living“:

Item	Price in Euro
Bus ticket	1,00 € 0,50 € if you obtain the Academic ID Card
Bottle of water (0,5lt)	0,15-0,50 €
Milk (1 lt)	1,00-1,50 €
Refreshments	1,00-2,00 €
Coffee (espresso at a cafeteria)	1,50-3,50 €
Beer (at a bar)	4,00-6,00 €
Cinema ticket	7,50 €
Loaf of Fresh White Bread	0,90 €
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	3,50 €
Meal (mid-range restaurant)	10,00 €
Apples (1kg)	0,80-1,40 €

Visa Information

Applicants from countries outside the Schengen zone need a student visa. Applicants should communicate with the Greek Embassy/Consulate in their country for information on the procedure and also on the time needed for the conclusion of the process.

No visa is required to enter Greece for studies if you possess a valid passport from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.