

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in Greece

A guide for aspiring teachers & educators — how teaching in Greece works, the routes and requirements, visas, pay, contracts, and how to find the right program.



Find Your Community
2026 EDITION

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

FRONTISTIRIA, SUNSHINE, AND AN ENVIABLE LIFESTYLE

Greece has **steady demand for English teachers**, mostly at **frontistiria (private language schools)**, plus a Mediterranean lifestyle and low costs. Roles span **frontistiria, international schools, academic English, and tutoring**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, visas, pay, and contracts**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find programs.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Greek rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer and region. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Greek immigration, the Greek consulate, and each employer**. K12 Academics does not run or endorse any specific program — use the K12 Academics directory to find and compare your options.

Understand Why Teachers Choose Greece

WHAT TO KNOW

Greece offers **steady demand** (mainly at frontistiria), an enviable **Mediterranean lifestyle**, a **rich culture and history**, and a **low-moderate cost of living** — the lifestyle, not the salary, is the real draw, and non-EU access is competitive.

BY THE NUMBERS

Steady demand

frontistiria

Mediterranean

lifestyle

Low-moderate

cost of living

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Greece's **lifestyle and culture** against break-even pay and competitive non-EU access — for the experience of living in Greece, it's wonderful; for savings, it isn't the target.

GOOD TO KNOW

Pay is roughly **break-even with the cost of living** — teachers come for the Mediterranean lifestyle and culture, not to save.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **frontistiria** (private language schools — the dominant employer, afternoons and evenings), **international schools** (best pay, hiring licensed schoolteachers), **public schools** (highly competitive), **universities and academic English**, **corporate/business English**, **summer camps**, and **private tutoring** (popular). Browse and compare specific options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Frontistiria

dominant employer

Int'l schools

best pay (licensed)

Camps / tutoring

+ corporate

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — a frontistirio for most TEFL work, an international school if licensed, or tutoring to supplement — then find options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

WATCH OUT

Find and compare **specific frontistiria, international schools, and recruiters** in the **K12 Academics directory** — this guide stays program-neutral.

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

The usual combination is **native or fluent English, a bachelor's degree, and a TEFL certificate** (a degree is also mandatory for the non-EU visa). International schools require a **home-country teaching license and experience**; public schools require **EU citizenship, a teaching qualification, and some Greek**. Tutoring, camps, and smaller schools can be more flexible (for EU teachers).

BY THE NUMBERS

Native/fluent

+ degree + TEFL

Int'l schools

license + experience

Public schools

EU + Greek

HOW TO HELP

Line up the **native/fluent English + degree + TEFL** combination for frontistiria, a teaching license for international schools, or EU status and Greek for public schools.

GOOD TO KNOW

A bachelor's degree is **mandatory for the non-EU visa** — confirm you have one, alongside your TEFL, before planning a move.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA citizens work freely (and are preferred). For **non-EU citizens (including UK and US post-Brexit)**, you need **employer sponsorship plus a national visa and residence permit**, and **most small frontistiria won't sponsor** — so a sponsored role is competitive. An alternative is the **Greek digital-nomad visa** (proving income from an employer outside Greece). Confirm with Greek immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU/EEA

work freely (preferred)

Non-EU

sponsorship (competitive)

Digital-nomad

foreign-income route

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — **EU citizens work freely**; non-EU teachers need employer sponsorship (hard to find at small schools), so many use the **digital-nomad visa** and teach online instead.

WATCH OUT

Most small frontistiria **won't sponsor non-EU teachers** — so a sponsored role is competitive, and the digital-nomad route is a common alternative.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Pay is modest: full-time roles average ~€690–1,233/month, with **frontistiria** typically €1,000–1,500 and **international schools** the highest. It roughly **breaks even with the cost of living**, so saving is limited, though the low-moderate costs (lower outside Athens) mean a comfortable Mediterranean life. Private tutoring supplements income.

BY THE NUMBERS

Full-time

~€690–1,233/mo

Frontistiria

€1,000–1,500

Int'l schools

highest

HOW TO HELP

Set realistic expectations — ~€690–1,233/month (frontistiria €1,000–1,500), roughly **break-even with living costs**; tutoring tops up income, and life is comfortable if not lucrative.

GOOD TO KNOW

Salaries roughly **break even with the cost of living** — tutoring on the side is common to build any savings.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

Frontistiria work is typically **afternoons and evenings** (when students attend after regular school), so check **hours and schedule, pay (gross vs net), contract length, and — for non-EU teachers — whether sponsorship is genuinely offered**. Avoid informal “under-the-table” arrangements. Favour written terms.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hours

afternoons/evenings

Non-EU

confirm real sponsorship

Avoid

informal work

HOW TO HELP

Read every contract for **hours (afternoons/evenings), gross vs net pay, and real visa sponsorship (non-EU)** — and avoid informal under-the-table arrangements.

GOOD TO KNOW

Frontistiria classes run **after regular school hours** — expect an afternoon-and-evening schedule.

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Earn an **accredited TEFL certificate** and have your **degree ready (apostilled/translated)**, plus a background check and a strong CV. If you'll use the digital-nomad route, line up **online or foreign-client income**. Skills in **young learners, exam prep, or academic English** are especially useful in the Greek market.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

accredited

Documents

apostilled/translated

Digital-nomad

line up foreign income

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited TEFL**, prepare apostilled documents and a background check, and — for the digital-nomad route — line up foreign-client income; exam-prep skills help.

GOOD TO KNOW

Exam-preparation and young-learner skills are **especially valued at frontistiria** — a useful edge when applying.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

Frontistiria hire most heavily in **August–September** for the school year (with some mid-year openings); **international schools** hire **January–May for a September start**; and **private tutoring** is available year-round. Non-EU teachers should target sponsoring employers early and allow time for the visa.

BY THE NUMBERS

Frontistiria

Aug–Sept

Int'l schools

Jan–May

Tutoring

year-round

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — frontistiria hire Aug–Sept, international schools Jan–May, tutoring year-round — and non-EU teachers should target sponsoring employers early.

GOOD TO KNOW

The main frontistiria hiring push is **August–September**, before the school year — apply in summer.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need Greek to teach** (classes are English-only), but **basic Greek helps daily life** (and is required for public-school roles). Popular bases include **Athens (the biggest market)**, **Thessaloniki (cheaper, young and lively)**, **Patras**, and **the islands (Crete, Corfu)**. Greece is safe, sunny, and rich in history — the lifestyle is the reward.

BY THE NUMBERS

Greek

not needed to teach

Basic Greek

helps daily life

Bases

Athens, Thessaloniki, islands

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English, but learn **basic Greek** for daily life; popular bases are Athens and Thessaloniki (cheaper), plus Patras and the islands.

GOOD TO KNOW

Thessaloniki is a **cheaper, lively university city** — a strong alternative to pricier Athens for new teachers.

Find Your Program & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific frontistiria, international schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Apply to several, verify each employer, contract, and (for non-EU) real visa sponsorship, and build experience toward international-school roles. Confirm current rules with Greek immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

frontistiria & schools

Apply

to several

Build

toward int'l schools

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare frontistiria, international schools, and recruiters, apply to several, verify each contract and sponsorship, and build toward higher-paid roles.

WATCH OUT

Browse **the K12 Academics directory** to find the specific frontistiria, schools, and recruiters that fit your route and goals.

Teaching in Greece: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with Greek immigration, the consulate, and each employer.

The routes

Frontistiria (private language schools — the dominant employer, afternoons/evenings), international schools (best pay, for licensed teachers), public schools (competitive), universities/academic English, corporate English, camps, and tutoring — find and compare specific ones in the K12 Academics directory.

Requirements

The usual combination is native/fluent English, a bachelor's degree, and a TEFL certificate (a degree is mandatory for the non-EU visa); international schools require a teaching license and experience; public schools require EU citizenship and some Greek.

Visa

EU/EEA citizens work freely (and are preferred); non-EU teachers (including UK/US) need employer sponsorship plus a national visa and residence permit, which most small frontistiria won't provide; the digital-nomad visa (foreign income) is a common alternative.

Pay

Full-time roles average ~€690–1,233/month (frontistiria €1,000–1,500; international schools highest); pay roughly breaks even with the cost of living, so saving is limited; tutoring supplements income.

Timeline & move

Frontistiria hire August–September; international schools January–May; tutoring year-round; basic Greek helps daily life (Athens, Thessaloniki, the islands).

YOUR TEACHING-IN-GREECE JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Teaching in [Country] guides, and find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

