



National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens



A Self-Portrait

ATHENS 2016



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Schools and Departments

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Department of Theology
Department of Social Theology

SCHOOL OF LAW

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

Department of Political Science and Public Administration
Department of Economics
Department of Communication and Media Studies
Department of Turkish and Modern Asian Studies

SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

Department of Philology
Department of History and Archaeology
Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology
Department of Psychology
Department of English Language and Literature
Department of French Language and Literature
Department of German Language and Literature
Department of Italian Language and Literature
Department of Spanish Language and Literature
Department of Music Studies
Department of Theatre Studies
Department of Russian Language and Literature
and Slavic Studies

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Department of Biology

Department of Chemistry

Department of Geology and Geoenvironment

Department of Informatics and Telecommunications

Department of Mathematics

Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Department of Physics

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

School of Medicine

Department of Dentistry

Department of Pharmacy

Department of Nursing

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Primary Education

Department of Early Childhood Education

**SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
AND SPORT SCIENCE**

1. Introduction –Historical Overview





The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) is an integral part of the modern Greek intellectual tradition, life and international presence. It successfully combines an old established name and authority with a dynamic development and creative participation in modern letters and science.

It is the oldest University in the country, founded by the Royal Decree of 22 April 1837 under the name “Othonian University”, as the first king of modern Greece, Otto of Bavaria, was its founder. Initially, it consisted of four Schools (of Theology, Law, Medicine and Philosophy, the latter still comprising at that time Mathematics and Applied Sciences) with a total of 52 students. Its first seat was a neo-classical house on the north slope of the Akropolis hill, originally the home of the architect Stamatis Kleanthis (today the Museum of the University’s History is housed there). As it was the first university in the newly established modern Greek state, as well as in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean region, its role has been decisive, in historical and social respect, for the production of special knowledge and the promotion of cultural life in the country.

After the fall of Otto’s monarchy, a decree of October 20, 1862 issued by the ‘Interim Government’ has renamed The Othonian University to: “The National University”.

In 1841 administrative and educational facilities were transferred to the edifice currently and widely known as the “main building” of The University of Athens, the middle

part of the famous “neoclassical trilogy” in the center of Athens. In accordance with the will of the important donor Ioannis Dombolis (dating from 4 February 1849) and to implement that donation, a law was issued on July 17, 1911, with which ‘The Kapodistrian University’ was founded: the latter was composed of the theoretical Faculties of the previous ‘National University’ and was placed under common administration with the latter, sharing the Senate and the Rector with it. Since 1932 “The National University” and “The Kapodistrian University” were also formally united (Law 5343/1932): the final result was “The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens”, a fully self-governed legal entity of public law.

Up to the early 20th century the NKUA was the only university which provided Greek society with scientists and scholars receiving diplomas in the Medical, Natural and Social Sciences, Law and Economy, Theology, Literature, History, Archaeology. Thus the staff needs of the country regarding administrative personnel, education and clergy have been competently served. In its many years of operation, The University of Athens has offered the country a centre of intellectual production, further stimulating various relevant circles functioning inside and outside its premises.

Nowadays, the NKUA still offers important social services, producing academic and scientific personnel, in addition to the exercise of closer scientific tasks: through its members, it often participates in national and international committees, it carries out educational and other research projects, organizes and contributes to seminars for various social groups (often alongside its members’ full employment at the University). One of the most important services of The University of Athens concerns the promotion and care of national health. An additional point in this request is that students of the Health Sciences perform their first practice period offering their medical aid to the public under the supervision of their professors.



2. Academic Structure Development and Presentation of the University's image

2.1. Basic Structure (Schools and Departments) and Studies in NKUA

2.1.1 Schools and Departments

There are now eight Schools in operation at the NKUA: 1) The School of Theology, 2) The Law School, 3) The School of Economics and Political Sciences, 4) The School of Education, 5) The School of Science, 6) The School of Physical Education and Sport Science, 7) The School of Health Sciences and 8) The School of Philosophy.

Within these eight Schools of the University are allocated thirty three academic Departments, which offer and implement each a corresponding undergraduate study program.

The structuring of these Schools into specific Departments and separate Sections of the Departments is at present as follows:

1. **The School of Theology.** It comprises two Departments: The Department of Theology and that of Social Theology.
2. **The School of Law** includes only The Law Department
3. **The School of Economics and Political Sciences** includes four Departments: The Department of Political Science and Public Administration, The Department of Economics, The Department of Communication and Media Studies, and The Department of Turkish and Modern Asian Studies.
4. **The School of Philosophy** comprises twelve departments: The Department of Philology, The Department of History and Archaeology, The Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology, The Department of Psychology, The Department of English Language and Literature, The Department of French Language and Literature, The Department of German Language

and Literature, The Department of Italian Language and Literature, The Department of Spanish Language and Literature, The Department of Music Studies, The Department of Theatre Studies and The Department of Russian Language and Literature and Slavic Studies.

5. **The School of Science** has seven departments: The Department of Physics, The Department of Chemistry, The Department of Mathematics, The Department of Biology, The Department of Geology and Geoenvironment, The Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, and The Department of History and Philosophy of Science (until very recently titled: The Department of Methodology, History and Theory of Science).
6. **The School of Health Sciences** is structured into: The School of Medicine, The Department of Dentistry, The Department of Pharmacy and The Department of Nursing.
7. **The School of Education** consists of two departments: The Department of Primary Education and The Department of Early Childhood Education.
8. **The School of Physical Education and Sport Science** includes only The Department of Physical Education and Sport Science.

2.2. Studies in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

At the NKUA there are implemented thirty-three (33) undergraduate programs (one for each department) and one hundred and two (102) properly operated Postgraduate Programs (PP). Of those 102 programs, 6 are international, 12 represent collaborations with other universities, 11 are interdepartmental, 18 interinstitutional (e.g. between NKUA and a Research Center) and the rest are run by single departments of the NKUA. Therefore, 43% of the postgraduate curricula are based on domestic and international partnerships that promote openness and further collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to scientific subjects.



All undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs of the departments of the University of Athens correspond to the academic level declared and the qualification awarded. This assertion may be supported by (a) the reports of the external evaluators, (b) the detailed information on objectives set and learning results, as they are reflected in the study guides of the departments, (c) the full alignment with European and International Standards (the ECTS system), (d) the standard acceptance of NKUA graduates in postgraduate and doctoral studies not only in Greece but also abroad, and finally (e) their professional success and social advancement wherever they finally reside.

The courses of the curricula fall into the following categories: core courses, mandatory and elective mandatory (from a list), free selections from wider thematic cycles, workshops, seminars, outdoor activities (e.g. inspection of sites of scientific interest), clinics etc. All these sorts of educational activities try to follow a rational general structure so that students may choose the ones suiting best their inclinations and scientific interests.

Thus the revised UP and PP of the University provide respectively undergraduate and postgraduate students with the opportunity to create their individual profile gradually according to their special interests, abilities and skills as applied in the courses offered and selected. At the same time, and in addition to more or less theoretical training, these programs try to cultivate the practical dimension through specialized work, internships, exemplary teaching, workshops, clinics, production and exhibition of artistic results (where appropriate). Basic, laboratory and elective courses run parallel to each other, although in some departments there do exist prerequisite courses.

The institutionalized existence inside or the close link with the University of a significant number of Laboratories, Clinics and Museums, and other supportive structures (e.g. An Experimental Department, A Department of Foreign Languages, An Observatory etc.) are further assets. All these 'affiliated branches' of The University possess good logistics and are staffed with high-level educational personnel so that they can essentially support the educational process, research and social contribution of the University.

The NKUA is firmly oriented to the promotion of research and excellence. A significant example of this policy is that the University supports by its Departments and School members the preparation of many doctoral theses.

There were 14 708 doctoral candidates in the academic year 2012-2013. It should be clarified, however, that 68% of them are PhD students of the Medical Department (10.044), a fact that is explained by the latter's scale, range of scientific subjects and infrastructure (laboratories, clinics, etc.).

3. International relations and partnerships

3.1 Introduction

The NKUA includes in its strategic options the role of an institution actively interested in co-shaping the development of European and international education and culture. It tries to contribute positively to the processes at decision-making centers where the issues of higher education are regulated. At the same time it is concerned with publicizing the educational and cultural work of high-quality produced under its auspices.

The achievement of its corresponding objectives is pursued through:

- its activity in the European educational program ERASMUS +
- the participation in further European scientific cooperation and mobility programs
- the conclusion of international bilateral academic cooperation agreements with other higher education institutions and the participation in international independent academic programs.
- the participation in various international organizations, associations and university networks
- The development of international joint master and doctoral programs and the co-supervision of doctoral theses.

3.2 Bilateral Agreements - International Scientific Cooperation

The international bilateral relations of The NKUA have been systematized especially since 1982. Since then many international bilateral cooperation agreements have been signed with institutions of equal status - mostly public universities or equivalent higher education and research institutions, as well as with international networks.

International Bilateral Agreements (IBA) promote inter-university partnerships that aim at sharing knowledge, exchanging information and promoting science and research. These IBA foresee the exchange of scientists, students, administrative staff and research material, as well as the organization of joint research projects and academic meetings (workshops, symposia, conferences and others). There are now sixty-five (65) such active IBA of The University of Athens. These agreements are governed by the Regulation of International Bilateral Agreements of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens adopted by the Senate in July 2008, a text elaborated by the International Relations Committee. This Committee and the Vice Rector of International Relations are the special caretakers of The University's international policy.

3.3 International Organizations, Associations and Networks

The NKUA participates as a member in seven major international organizations, associations and university networks that aim to promote international cooperation between universities and develop methods and strategies that help to improve their educational and research activities.

3.4. Erasmus⁺ Program

For many years the NKUA has greatly contributed in Greece to realizing students' and academic staff's mobility between EU universities through the program Erasmus, now continued as ERASMUS +. Since the beginning of Erasmus (1987) the NKUA has been actively participating in the program: the number of incoming students has risen until today (2016) to ca 4 700 while the number of outgoing students to ca 11 700.

The activities of mobility foreseen by the ERASMUS+ program are based on bilateral ERASMUS agreements between The University of Athens and other European universities wishing to have this connection. The School members who wish to collaborate with colleagues from other European institutions usually take the initia-



tive of preparing the ground for such a bilateral agreement. There are today 612 Erasmus Agreements between the NKUA and 330 universities of 30 European countries.

According to the statistics for the Erasmus Program during the academic year 2013/4, which have been published by the EU, The University of Athens is precisely ranked to the 41st place among ca 2 700 European institutions of higher education.

Incoming Erasmus Students are encouraged to participate in all educational and cultural activities of the NKUA. They are also offered the possibility to attend free Greek language courses in the Teaching Center for Modern Greek attached to the School of Philosophy (in the University Campus at Zographou). Moreover, they are encouraged to attend the interdisciplinary course offered in the same School under the title: “CONTEMPORARY GREECE: History, Arts and Letters” (in English), organized by the Department of Theatrical Studies.



4. Research in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

4.1. The Strategy of the University on Research

The research mission of The NKUA is very important and intertwined with its educational one. It consists in systematically supporting and developing scientific research under conditions of academic freedom. Free scientific research is considered both as a right and an obligation of the academic staff. The University undertakes to guarantee the freedom of research and at the same time to ensure the compliance with basic research ethics.

The University supports all forms of research activity (individual and collective, fundamental and applied, funded and non-funded) and promotes the publication of research results through papers at academic conferences, printed and electronic publications and any other appropriate means. The education process itself contributes also to the development of research, as one of its targets, on post-graduate level the most important one, is the training of new researchers. Postgraduate students and especially doctoral students are naturally expected to contribute to the research process.

The University utilizes the existing research resources and the infrastructure to support research across the spectrum of disciplines represented by its academic units and their members.

The research developed at The University of Athens may be described as rich, multi-layered, often innovative and internationally recognized. The research work conducted covers the areas of basic, applied and technological research. A basic guideline of this activity is that the role of research in modern society does not consist only in the production of new knowledge but also in the utilization of research achievements of the University by the broader market space and society.

A main concern of The University's community is the active participation and integration of its members in the largest possible number of research projects at national and international levels.

Specifically, students' participation in research is highly valued: it does not only aim at enriching their practice and their connection with the educational process, but also to inform and familiarize them more deeply with means and methods of modern science. The overall purpose of these activities is both to recruit new scientists of high-level training at the NKUA and to activate in research and thus properly exploit the intellectual capacities of a larger number of students.

The research strategy of the NKUA has the following main objectives:

a) The development of research skills by undergraduate and postgraduate students, who -as part of their studies- should also participate in courses requiring their presence in laboratories and clinics (for The School of Medicine) or in seminar courses with paper presentations, discussions and final submitted written essays (in the humanities and social sciences).

b) The implementation of research projects at doctoral and post-doctoral levels by scientific groups and individual researchers of The University, eventually in collaboration with researchers of other institutions in Greece and abroad.

c) The promotion and development of research activity by School members, which is reflected among others in the organization and implementation of research seminars, in the presentation of research results at conferences, in the publication of articles in academic journals, also of books/monographs/chapters in edited volumes/book reviews, etc.

d) The identification, mapping, promotion and economic exploitation of research results, the assurance of the intellectual property through the acquisition of patents and the establishment of spin off companies.

The University of Athens is implementing a large number of projects either as a concessionaire or in the form of a collaboration or co-execution of a work for third parties. It has also independently undertaken the execution of whole development, research and service projects for third parties. Indicatively, one may report that The University of Athens in the period 2008-2014 was implementing projects:

- amounting to 125,000,000 € within the Operational Programs of the National Strategic Reference Framework (Ε.Σ.Π.Α.)
- amounting to 96,500,000 € by funding from the European Commission
- amounting to 63,500,000 € by self-funding from the Special Account for Research.
- amounting to 42,500,000 € funded by a third party, such as donations, financial contributions, etc.
- amounting to 98,600,000 € for the supply of services in various sectors and institutions, particularly projects worth 2,000,000€ funded by the NSRF Operational Program, projects worth 921,500 € funded from European Commission projects, worth 95,700,000 € funded by other entities.

Finally, it is worth-mentioning that the NKUA has participated and implemented, under the Operational Programs of the third CSF, 672 development projects with a total budget of 173,670,175.04 € in the period 2000-2008.

4.2 Laboratories of Departments and University Clinics

The University of Athens develops applied and basic research by the School members and associate researchers. This research activity takes place in all Departments of the NKUA, especially in laboratories, attached to almost all the Departments of The University. There are in all 169 laboratories that are used for educational and research purposes. Laboratories are regularly smaller units of a Department, but, in essence, the most active ones and those which are the epicenters of growth for applied research.

A rich educational and research work is carried out at the clinics belonging to the NKUA. The 71 clinics operating belong organically to The School of Medicine (57), to The Department of Nursing (10) and to The Department of Dentistry (4). The Clinics of The School of Medicine and The Department of Nursing operate (or are foreseen to work) integrated into hospitals of Athens (Attikon, Evangelismos, Hippokrateion, Laikon, etc.), while the clinics of The Dental Department are housed in The Department's own premises.





5. Other Services and Facilities of the NKUA

Counselling Centre for Students-Accommodation and Restaurant Services

Career Services Office

Student Practice Office

E-Learning Services

Modern Greek Language Teaching Centre

Foreign Languages Teaching Centre

University Club

Specialised/Unified Department Libraries

University Gym

Textbooks services EUDOXOS

Webmail service

Alumni networking

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit

Vocational Training Service

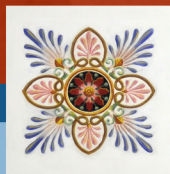
Quality Assurance Unit

Sixteen Specialised Museums

TABLE 1:
TABLE1: Epitome of the Data on the NKUA's Operation (2009-2014)

<i>Academic year</i>	<i>2013-2014</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>
1.Total number of permanent faculty members	1.923	1.953	2.001	2.047	2.100
2. Total number of other teaching staff (full-time employment)	41	49	72	178	153
3. Total number of administrative staff	761	1.312	1.350	1.361	1.362
4. Total number of laboratory and other technical staff	362	253	271	301	329
5. Total number of undergraduate students in normal duration of study (n+2)	40.652	38.566	38.755	40.708	40.972
6. Places of study offered on the basis of the annual Panhellenic Examinations (total number)	5.200	5.420	5.360	5.825	5.860
7. Total number of students newly admitted (all categories)	8.204	7.396	7.011	8.628	8.016
8. Total number of registered students	103.972	100.694	100.324	100.957	98.837
9. Total number of graduates in the specific academic year	6.149	6.482	6.526	6.470	6.870

10. Study places offered to postgraduate students in the specific academic year (total number)	2.475	2.903	3.075	2.665	2.969
11. Total number of new applications for places in the postgraduate programs of study	6.251	8.135	8.514	8.432	8.400
12. Total number of postgraduate students registered	10.502	9.778	9.739	9.722	9.233
13. Total number of PH.D. students	13.936	14.708	16.695	16.744	16.438
14. Total budget size (€)	25,981,354.75	29,942.375	33,881.675	36,256,391.9	51,949,235
15. Total size of <u>Public Investments Program</u> (€)	4,655,062.4	7,570,214.8	12,288,327.75	9,291,280.79	16,026,340.73
16. Total budget size of the <u>Special Account for Research Grants (SARG)</u> (€)	41,478,876.48	67,499,624.91	77,552,554.82	92,884,319.68	47,958,820.69
17. Total Research and Development Funds	30,612,731.93 -UNTIL 30/09/2014-	55,762,594.23	66,502,353.73	54,674,463.99	39,393,112.64



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