

Pierce



Pierce – The American College of Greece

School Profile 2021-2022

The School

The American College of Greece (ACG) is a non-profit, three-unit, educational institution consisting of Pierce (1,627 middle and secondary school students), Deree (over 3,700 university undergraduates and graduates), and Alba (over 500 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.

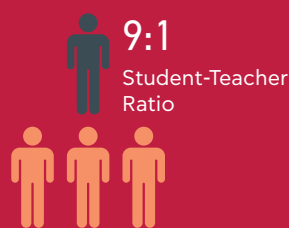
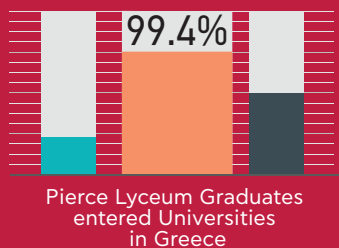
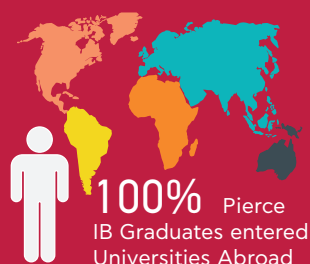
Founded in 1875 as a school for girls and young women in Smyrna, Asia Minor, ACG was a pioneer for women's education in the geographic region. It relocated to Greece, at the invitation of Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, following the destruction of Smyrna; first to Paleo Phalero (1923) and later 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 2022, over 30% apply to colleges and universities abroad. There exists a strong tradition and ethos to contribute locally, nationally and internationally as an ACG community, with more than 60,000 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 30%. 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 2022 has 255 students (40 of whom are pursuing the IB diploma).





Academic Programs

Pierce comprises a middle school (Gymnasium) with 854 students in grades 7-9 and a high school (Lyceum) with 773 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 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.

Pierce is in the final stages of a self-study to gain accreditation by the MSA (Middle States Association), an American accrediting organization. The whole school has been involved in this process, to bring ideas and practices from American and other international schools into the Greek program that characterizes Pierce.

Academic Policy

Students are not officially ranked at Pierce. The grading system mandated by the Ministry of Education is set to a scale 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 2019-2021

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).

This year, two Pierce students have been selected, for the second year in a row, to form the 5-member team representing Greece and the Panhellenic Forensics Association at two international tournaments, the Eurasian Schools Debating Championship, and the World Schools Debating Championship, both online this year.

At the Eurasian Championship, Team Greece finished the preliminary rounds 1st in the overall ranking among 98 teams, with 6 wins (undefeated in the preliminary rounds). In the elimination rounds, they reached the quarterfinals.

ROBOTICS/INFORMATICS

The Pierce Airgenics team came in 2nd place in the National Final of the World Robot Olympiad 2021 and will represent our country in the Worldwide Final of the World Robot Olympiad 2021.

Pierce organized the Panhellenic Student Robotics Competition "Racecar Challenge" for the school year 2021-22, in collaboration with the nonprofit organizations Mathisi Initiative and Junior Achievement Greece. The competition is based on the middle-school program miniRACECAR designed and offered by the Beaver Works Summer Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Pierce students, in response to the needs of the times, utilized the Fab Lab 3D printers to print protective face shields, and offered them to hospitals treating COVID-19 patients and reinforcing the protective measures for doctors as well as all health workers. In all, the Pierce Fab Lab made 1,030 protective shields, which were donated to hospitals and public agencies.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2019, the Agro team made it to the finals of the International Youth Entrepreneurship Competition "The Diamond Challenge". Another Pierce team, "Zero%Risk", the winner of the 1st place in the Junior Squeezzy Student Entrepreneurship Competition among 40 teams in Greece in 2019, competed 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 Squeezzy Student Entrepreneurship Competition. Both businesses were included on the

POLITICS

In 2020, 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).

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, was one of the three works that represented Greece at the International Competition.

Moved by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA, a Pierce student wrote a moving poem, which he accompanied with a very powerful painting. In Alexandros's artistic creation – a hymn to mutual respect, acceptance, and the value of human life – a policeman and an African American embrace, providing a true lesson in human dignity. The short poem also conveys a message of unity and brotherhood for all people, regardless of race, status, or world view. Alexandros's creation was sent to America, and it now adorns the monument created in memory of George Floyd.

Forbes list "30 under 30" (October 2020 issue), having distinguished themselves in their fields for their vision and their ambition.

This year, two Pierce students won the "Waste and Recycling Innovation" Prize, along with a money award, at the Diamond Challenge International Student Entrepreneurship Competition, organized by the University of Delaware in the USA; one of them will be a member of the Diamond Challenge Advisory Board for the Competition that will be held in the academic year 2021-22, the first committee member in the history of the competition who is from Greece.

"Lifefprint," the student business of the Pierce Junior Achievement Club has qualified to the final ten of the Panhellenic Student Virtual Business Competition.

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 2020-21, our students were awarded 2.1 million dollars in athletic and academic scholarships. The following is a list of the most notable universities our students have been accepted to:

UNITED STATES

American University
 Bard College
 Bentley University
 Boston University
 Brandeis University
 Bryn Mawr University
 California Institute of the Arts
 Clark University
 Columbia University
 Dickinson College
 Drexel University
 Emory University
 Fordham University
 George Washington University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Grinnell College
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Illinois Wesleyan University
 Knox College
 Lehigh University
 Pace University
 Penn State University
 Princeton University
 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 Michigan-Ann Arbor
 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
 Wellesley College

CANADA

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

UK

University College London
 University of Bath
 University of Birmingham
 University of Bristol
 City University of London
 Durham University
 University of Exeter
 University of Edinburgh
 Imperial College London
 University of Lancaster

University of Leeds
 London School of Economics
 University of Manchester
 University of Nottingham
 University of Oxford
 Queen Mary University of London
 University of Sheffield
 University of St. Andrews
 University of Southampton
 University of Warwick
 University of York

NETHERLANDS

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

OTHER EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

Heidelberg University (Germany)
 École Polytechnique (France)
 EDHEC Business School (France)
 University of Lyon (France)
 SciencesPo (France)
 Sorbonne University (France)
 Bocconi University (Italy)
 IE (Spain)
 KU Leuven (Belgium)
 École Hôtelière de Lausanne –
 EHL (Switzerland)
 École Polytechnique Fédérale
 de Lausanne –EPFL (Switzerland)
 Copenhagen Business School (Denmark)



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