

Harokopio
University

Department of
Geography

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Scope

The Department of Geography was founded in 1999 and welcomed its first students in September 2000.

The science of Geography explores how the environment is formed through the combined effect of natural processes and human activities. It studies how cultures and societies are shaped by the environment in which they grow. Geography is a vast scientific field, interacting with many other fields, such as geomorphology and climatology, cartography, science of geographic information (GIS), remote sensing, urban and regional development, demography, political, economic, social, historical and cultural geography.

The students in the Department of Geography at Harokopio University, acquire knowledge and skills that allow them to approach and understand some of the most important issues humanity is currently facing. Man-made and natural disasters, the climate change, environmental and energy management, issues of geopolitical and geo-economic changes, migration, population dynamics, spatial planning, creation of collective and individual identities in historic space time, development problems and issues of contemporary spatial inequality in universal socio-economic and political space are only some of those issues.

Today, our world is more interconnected than ever. Geography helps understanding the changes due to globalization, while geographic skills guide important and informed decisions about the future. By all means, there has never been a better time to study geography.



Infrastructure

The Department of Geography has three Laboratories:

- **Laboratory of Physical Geography and Environment**
- **Laboratory of Geoinformatics and Cartography**
- **Laboratory of Human and applied Geography**

The Laboratories are used for lectures and specialized courses, as well as for research purposes.

The Department is equipped with two computer Labs of 40 working places in total. These Labs have MS WINDOWS environment and feature specialized software (ArcGIS, ERDAS, Matlab, etc) to support the educational and research activities of our Department. The infrastructure of the Department has been recently renovated through National and European funding programs.

Teaching Staff

The Department consists of 18 members of Academic Staff, specialized in different areas of Geography. Faculty is assisted by specialized scientific staff. To ensure a high level of specialized education, tutoring in the postgraduate course is further enriched by invited professors and external tutors coming from other Departments of Greek Universities or abroad, as well as with recognized business executives.

Alumni

Alumni of the Department of Geography are highly qualified so as to be professionally engaged either in Greece or abroad, in the public, private and social sectors. Recent amendments in the administrative organization of the country as well as the internationalization of the markets have created new opportunities for graduates with the scientific characteristics of the geographer.

Potential areas of professional and scientific action and contribution of alumni geographers in individual sectors of the economy and society are: Government and broader public sector, local and regional authorities, businesses with the national-regional network, business consultants, companies and consultancies, Secondary education, scientific research and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Postgraduate Studies

The Department of Geography has been offering Postgraduate Studies Programme (PSP) entitled “*Applied Geography and Spatial Planning*” since the academic year 2005-2006. The PSP is a full-time three semesters programme (two semesters of courses and one semester dedicated to the postgraduate thesis), that runs three independent streams:

Stream A: Management of Natural and Human Induced Hazards, Management of Natural and Human Induced Disasters, aims at offering theoretical and applied knowledge on issues referring to the meaning of natural and environmental risks and interrelated terms, the analysis of the natural processes which might trigger disasters, the social and economic impacts of disasters, the concepts of vulnerability, exposure and resilience, the use of modern technologies in disaster management, and the policies aiming at mitigation, preparedness, emergency and recovery/ rehabilitation / reconstruction.

Stream B: European Policies, Planning and Spatial Development, aims at offering / disseminating knowledge on issues referring to the European institutions and European integration processes, the art of spatial planning at regional, national and European level, the urban and rural development / restructuring patterns of Europe, the social exclusion and segregation in cities, and the migration policy and flows at different scales. In addition, the course supports training on methods of scientific research in geography and spatial analysis.

Stream C: Geoinformatics, aims at providing knowledge on issues relevant to technologies of geo-informatics and their special applications for analyzing geographical data, the spatial data bases, the sophisticated techniques of utilizing geographical information systems and remote sensing and the simulation/modeling of geographical data. In addition, there is training on methods of scientific research in geography and spatial analysis.

Each Stream is essentially independent, with a number of modules offered to more than one stream. Modules are organized in the form of lectures and/or seminars, while apart from the teaching staff of the Department, some invited speakers from Greece and abroad contribute substantially to the lecturing and programme.

The Postgraduate Programme confers the **Postgraduate Diploma of Specialization of Applied Geography and Spatial Planning**.

The main objective of the Postgraduate Programme is to educate future professionals / officials / researchers / NGO representatives and others, to enable them to plan and manage spatial interventions at various scales of the urban and regional space. PSP staff aspires to the graduation of experts and specialists ready to apply for a job in the public and private sector and/or third sector organizations, so as to promote research and production of original knowledge in the domain of Applied Geography and Spatial Planning.

Students' Mobility

Undergraduate and postgraduate students can benefit from the Department's bilateral agreements with 29 departments in 16 different European countries through the ERASMUS program. Additionally, mobility across Europe is offered to post graduate students through the network of European Spatial Development Planning or the Institut Euro Méditerranéen en science du risque network - in which the Department of Geography is a founding member and actively participates in their research and teaching work.

Research

Research is an integral part of the academic functioning, allowing, among other things, the continuous improvement of the educational process. Research carried out in the Department of Geography focuses on contemporary fields of geography and concerns specific topics of Human Geography, Geosciences, Environment, Spatial Planning and Geoinformatics.

The Department has organized or co-organized International and National Conferences, workshops and seminars of broader geographic interest. In this context, internationally acclaimed geographers, such as David Harvey, Doreen Massey, Edward Soja and Derek Gregory, have been invited, to give lectures to our students.

The Department provides weather forecasting services and records of the atmospheric conditions through its meteorological stations network, via the website: <http://meteoclima.gr>.



The Department has a specialized team that uses space-based Earth monitoring data with emphasis on applications, monitoring and assessing natural hazards. Relevant material and information is available via the website:
<https://huaremotenesensingteam.wordpress.com>.

Observation and evaluation data of contemporary Greek landscape can be found in the web site
<http://www.greeksapes.gr>.

Since 2001, the Department hosts the biannual scientific magazine GEOGRAPHIES (ΓΕΩΓΡΑΦΙΕΣ) (geographies@hua.gr) issued by NISOS publishing.

International Presence

The Department of Geography has been particularly active and shows growing participation in the ERASMUS+ program. It also participates in the LEONARDO Program, in the postgraduate program "European Module in Spatial Development Planning", as well as in the ERASMUS intensive program "INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (IP) EUROPEAN SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING", that takes place in Stockholm (KTH Architecture and the Built Environment). The Department is partner in the postgraduate program "Co-diplôme du Master (Institut Méditerranéen Euro en science du risque) Sophia-Antipolis".

Our Department participates in the international research group "Islands Development Studies" coordinated by the Department of Geography of Lund University, Sweden, as well as in the European network of Universities for research in Geographical Landscape UNISCAPE.

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