

The Foreign Languages Teaching Centre

In the context of its educational tasks and broader training work, the University of Athens offers the opportunity to its undergraduate and graduate students, during the course of their studies, to master one or more foreign languages. This is effected through the **Foreign Languages Teaching Centre** which is an independent academic department under the purview of the University Senate. Five languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian) were taught until 1988, and in 1988-89 the Centre's programmes were radically changed, taking into account additional students' interests with regard to foreign language learning. Thus, the following languages are taught at the Centre: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Swedish, Serbian, Arabic, Portuguese, Korean, Danish, Dutch, Norwegian, Bulgarian, Hindi-Sanskrit, Persian, Finnish, Albanian and Turkish. The Centre plays a leading role in promoting multilingualism, through the teaching of 22 foreign languages.

The courses are directed initially at the enrolled University students and members of the academic community, but the Teaching Centre is gradually expanding its work to meet individual needs for learning other foreign languages.

The number of students exceeds 3,500 in any given year. In the first three years of study, learners become acquainted with the structural and functional system of the language of their choice, so as to acquire the ability to comprehend, produce and process the spoken and written language. In the fourth and fifth years, students come in contact with authentic contemporary texts, such as newspaper and magazine articles, literary and scientific texts, etc. At the end of each academic year, comprehensive examinations are held and students who receive a passing grade are granted a certificate of language efficiency.

Apart from its main teaching work, the Centre offers special programmes such as English translation, medical terminology in English and French, legal terminology in French and German, Language workshops-enhanced with audio-visual sessions at the centre's audio-visual facilities-special Conversation and Composition classes as well as Translation of EU texts to and from Greek for undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

The Centre is administered by a seven-member Administrative Board chaired by the Rector or the Vice-Rector for Academic and Staff Affairs. The Administrative Board is in charge of the overall functioning of the educational, research and administrative work, approves the curriculum, plans, announces teaching positions and allocates the budget. Additionally, there is a Teachers' committee in charge of the coordination and implementation of the curriculum.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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