
Press release

British and Greek ministers confirm that educational relations are entering a new era of growth

More than 40 British and Greek universities met to discuss opportunities for collaboration in an event opened by **Mrs Niki Kerameus, Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece**, and the **Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi, Secretary of State for Education, UK**. Both ministers affirmed the importance of British-Greek educational relations and their joint commitment to strengthening educational connections and growing institutional collaborations.

Minister Kerameus said that *'the internationalisation of higher education has been an essential policy of this government to bring the excellent work of Greek universities to the world, as well as to bring the world to the vibrant Greek academic community. We have lifted barriers to make it easier for universities to form partnerships. And we are facilitating the establishment of ties with the world's leading universities' sector through strategic partnerships and, of course, the UK is pivotal to this effort.'*

Secretary Zahawi said: *'The United Kingdom has proven to be an attractive destination for Greek students throughout the past few years with around 9,797 students coming to study at our world-class higher education institutions in the academic year 2019–20 and, of course, we want to see the same reciprocated with students from the United Kingdom studying in Greece's wonderful and exceptional universities.'*

After the opening session, representatives from British and Greek universities participated in one-to-one partner matching discussions. Through dynamic dialogue they explored areas of collaboration in a wide range of fields. After more than 70 meetings, the participants were positive about the great potential for development and growth.

The partner matching event took place as part of the **UK-Greece Strategic Partnership in Education** scheme. Launched in March 2021, the programme has seen the entirety of the Greek university sector and close to 40 UK universities express interest in forming new partnerships. More information about past activities since the programme launch is available at: www.britishcouncil.gr/en/programmes/education/uk-greece-strategic-partnership-in-education.

Several universities reported their intention to sign MoUs for wide-ranging collaborations (consisting of one or more of the following: study visits, student and staff exchanges). Others are developing joint and dual degrees in subjects such as economics, engineering, fine arts, psychology, English language, design and media, and several others.

The programme is delivered by the British Council, the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the British Embassy in Athens. The International Education Directorate, Department for Education, UK, Universities UK International and the Hellenic Universities Rectors' Synod are supporting the partnership as members of the Advisory Board of the programme.