Aegean College

OMIROS EDUCATIONAL GROUP

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2024-2025

Aegean College was founded in 1997 and is part of the Omiros Educational Group, founded in 1946.

Currently the college offers more than 87 programmes in 9 schools while it is home to over 5200 students in Athens, Piraeus, & Thessaloniki.

Guiding Values

- The institutional values of AEGEAN College underpin its educational, social and sustainability strategy. These guiding values include:
- Quality Assurance across all academic, administrative and operational activities
- Student-Centered Approach, by promoting academic success, personal growth and lifelong learning
- Academic Excellence through evidence-based education that meets international academic standards
- Innovation and Technology with digital learning tools and state-of-the-art laboratories
- International Collaboration with strategic partnerships that enhance educational quality
- Continuous Improvement – Regularly reviewing institutional practices, educational resources and student services to ensure sustainable organisational development and outstanding student experience

Mission

AEGEAN College's mission is to provide students with high-quality, relevant, affordable and up-to-date education that equips them with the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive global job market.

Vision

AEGEAN College's vision is to deliver excellent higher education that responds to the evolving needs of both the Greek and international job markets, while serving society through innovation, academic excellence and humanistic education.

The College is committed to educating and preparing the next generation of professionals and changemakers through international academic collaborations, industry engagement, and personalised student support. This mission is achieved through experienced academic staff, internationally recognised degree programmes, close relationships with employers and alumni, and a student-centred educational approach.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



At **AEGEAN College**, health and wellbeing are embedded within the institution's educational philosophy and operational practices. Through academic programmes in Allied Health Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Psychology, Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and related disciplines, the College contributes to the development of future healthcare professionals capable of addressing contemporary public health challenges. Beyond academic provision, the College promotes a holistic approach to wellbeing by integrating physical health, psychological support, community service, professional ethics and evidence-based healthcare into student life. This commitment has been internationally recognised through the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2026, where AEGEAN College was ranked in the 601–800 band globally for SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being.



1 A Curriculum Designed to Promote Health, Well-being, and Social Impact

Experiential Clinical Learning

Aegean College partners with leading public and private hospitals, healthcare providers, and research institutions across Greece to offer students meaningful clinical placement opportunities in real-world settings.

Students enrolled in programmes including Dietetics, Physiotherapy, Clinical Speech and Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Biomedical Science, Clinical Psychology, and Perinatal Mental Health gain hands-on experience under the supervision of experienced healthcare professionals, developing the practical skills, clinical competence, and confidence required for successful careers.

Industry Recognition & Professional Standards

Our health-related programmes are developed in close collaboration with regulatory authorities, professional bodies, and accreditation organizations to ensure they reflect current industry standards and professional expectations. Continuous engagement with these partners informs curriculum enhancement, keeping our programmes aligned with advances in healthcare practice, emerging technologies, and the evolving needs of patients and healthcare systems.

Education Sector Partnerships

Through ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Education and non-governmental organizations, Aegean College continuously updates its education programmes to reflect developments in educational policy and inclusive practice. These partnerships strengthen programmes such as Early Childhood Education with Special Needs, Pre-Primary Education, Primary Education, and School Psychology, equipping students with the knowledge and specialist skills needed to support diverse learning environments and promote wellbeing across educational settings.

One of **AEGEAN College**'s most important contributions to **SDG 3** is its role in educating future healthcare professionals. The College provides academic programmes in areas related to healthcare, psychology, biomedical sciences, rehabilitation and human wellbeing, supporting the development of professionals who can respond to current and future health challenges.

Health-related programmes combine theoretical education with practical training, allowing students to develop both scientific understanding and professional skills. Through laboratory activities, clinical education and applied learning experiences, students gain knowledge of evidence-based healthcare practices and develop the ability to work effectively within multidisciplinary health-care environments.

The College's educational approach emphasises prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation and holistic care. These principles align closely with the objectives of **SDG 3**, which promotes not only the treatment of illness but also the prevention of disease and the improvement of quality of life.

Faculty Development and Knowledge Exchange

Collaboration with healthcare institutions provides AEGEAN College faculty members with valuable opportunities for continuous professional development and exposure to the latest scientific advancements, emerging practices and innovations within their respective fields. These collaborations enable academic staff to remain connected with current developments in healthcare and professional practice.

The knowledge and experience gained through these external collaborations are integrated into teaching activities, enhancing the quality of education and ensuring that students benefit from contemporary, evidence-based approaches. Through this continuous exchange of expertise, faculty members contribute to a dynamic learning environment that bridges academic knowledge with real-world healthcare applications.

Expert Contributions and Applied Learning Initiatives

Partnerships with healthcare institutions facilitate opportunities for students to engage directly with experienced professionals through guest lectures, seminars and specialised educational activities.

Healthcare practitioners and experts are invited to share their professional experiences, practical knowledge and insights into current challenges within the healthcare sector.

In addition, collaborative workshops provide students with opportunities to strengthen their practical skills, apply theoretical concepts and gain a deeper understanding of professional practice. These initiatives enhance experiential learning and support the development of well-rounded graduates equipped with both academic knowledge and practical competencies required in modern healthcare environments.

2 Enhancing Academic Excellence in Health Sciences

3 Getting Students Ready to Thrive Outside Academia

Research Partnerships and Knowledge Advancement

AEGEAN College collaborates with healthcare institutions and professional organisations to support research initiatives that contribute to the advancement of knowledge in key areas of health and wellbeing. These collaborations focus on fields such as perinatal mental health, systemic psychotherapy, dietetics and other emerging areas within the healthcare sciences.

Through these research partnerships, the College contributes to the development of evidence-based practices and the generation of knowledge that can support improvements in healthcare delivery. Research findings have the potential to influence professional approaches, inform policy discussions and contribute to the continuous improvement of healthcare services.

Clinical Training, Internships and Career Development

Collaboration with healthcare institutions creates valuable opportunities for students to participate in internships, clinical placements and professional training experiences. These opportunities allow students to apply theoretical knowledge in real healthcare environments while developing practical skills and professional competencies.

The experience gained through placements supports students' transition from academic study to professional practice, enhancing their employability and preparing them to contribute effectively to the healthcare sector. By strengthening links between education and employment, AEGEAN College supports the development of highly qualified professionals who can respond to future healthcare needs.

Alumni Engagement and Professional Networks

AEGEAN College maintains strong connections with graduates of its health-related programmes, fostering an active alumni network that supports professional collaboration, knowledge exchange and lifelong learning.

Alumni engagement creates opportunities for current students to benefit from the experiences and expertise of healthcare professionals who have progressed into different areas of practice.

Through mentoring, networking activities and professional interaction, alumni contribute to strengthening the academic community and supporting the development of future generations of healthcare professionals.

EXAMPLE

In April 2024, **Aegean College's School of Human Sciences** partnered with the **NGO W.I.N. Hellas** to deliver the "Stand Up" awareness event, aimed at **preventing harassment in public spaces and promoting healthy, respectful relationships.** The initiative combined the international Stand Up bystander intervention programme with the Abuse is Not Love educational campaign, equipping participants with practical knowledge and skills to recognise, prevent, and respond safely to harassment and intimate partner violence.

The event focused on empowering students and the wider community through evidence-based training, including the internationally recognised 5Ds methodology (Distract, Delegate, Document, Delay, Direct), which provides safe intervention strategies for bystanders. Participants also learned to identify the warning signs of abusive relationships, reinforcing the importance of prevention, awareness, and collective responsibility in creating safer and more inclusive communities.



© Aegean College | ' Stand-Up' Anti-Harassment Awareness Conference, Athens, 2024

EXAMPLE

In June 2024, the **Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw**, in collaboration with **Aegean College**, hosted an international seminar titled **The Tools of Migrants' Mental Health**
Support. The event brought together mental health professionals working with refugees and migrants to discuss effective psychosocial support strategies. The keynote speaker, **Dr. Chrysovalantis Papathanasiou, Director of the MSc in Human Rights and Migration Studies at Aegean College**, presented evidence-based approaches for addressing the mental health needs of refugees.

The event also emphasized the importance of international collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint research to improve mental health services for refugees and migrants across Europe. Finally, Aegean College also highlighted its MSc in Human Rights and Migration Studies, which prepares professionals to address contemporary migration and human rights challenges through an interdisciplinary and practice- oriented curriculum.



© Aegean College | Dr. Chryssovalantis Papathanasiou, Dr. Piotr Toczyski and Dr. Lidia Zabłocka-Żytka during 'The Tools of Migrants' Mental Health Support' Seminar, Poland, 2024

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OLYMPIACOS BASKETBALL 1925

Aegean College and **Olympiacos BC** renewed their partnership for the 2024–2025 basketball season, with **Aegean College** joining the club's sponsorship programme. The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to excellence, quality, and continuous development in both education and sport.



© Aegean College | Aegean College X Olympiakos B.C, Partnership Renewal, Athens, 2024

EXAMPLE



© Aegean College | 7th Panhellenic Medical Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine, Thessaloniki, 2024

Aegean College actively contributed to the **7th Panhellenic Medical Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine, held in Thessaloniki in October 2024**, reaffirming its commitment to advancing research, education, and professional engagement in mental health.

The College organized a scientific symposium on the relationship between family environment, intimacy, and mental health, chaired by the Academic Director of its postgraduate psychology programmes. Postgraduate students presented research on topics including depression, schizophrenia, eating disorders, and family dynamics, while additional oral presentations addressed the quality of life of informal cancer caregivers, the impact of loneliness and social stereotypes on depression in older adults, and the relationship between circadian rhythms, insomnia, and depression.

Through the active participation of its academic staff and students in a national scientific forum, Aegean College promoted evidence-based research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the dissemination of knowledge on critical mental health challenges.

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE

Presentation at the 18th Panhellenic Medical Congress on Obesity

An undergraduate Dietetics student from **Aegean College** presented research at the **18th Panhellenic Medical Congress on Obesity**, contributing to the advancement of evidence-based approaches in nutrition assessment and preventive healthcare.

The study investigated the relationship between anthropometric measurements and body composition parameters, analysing data from more than 700 participants and comparing simple clinical measurements with DXA body composition analysis.

This research highlights **Aegean College's** commitment to applied health research, student engagement in scientific dissemination, and the development of practical, accessible methods that support improved clinical practice and public health outcomes.



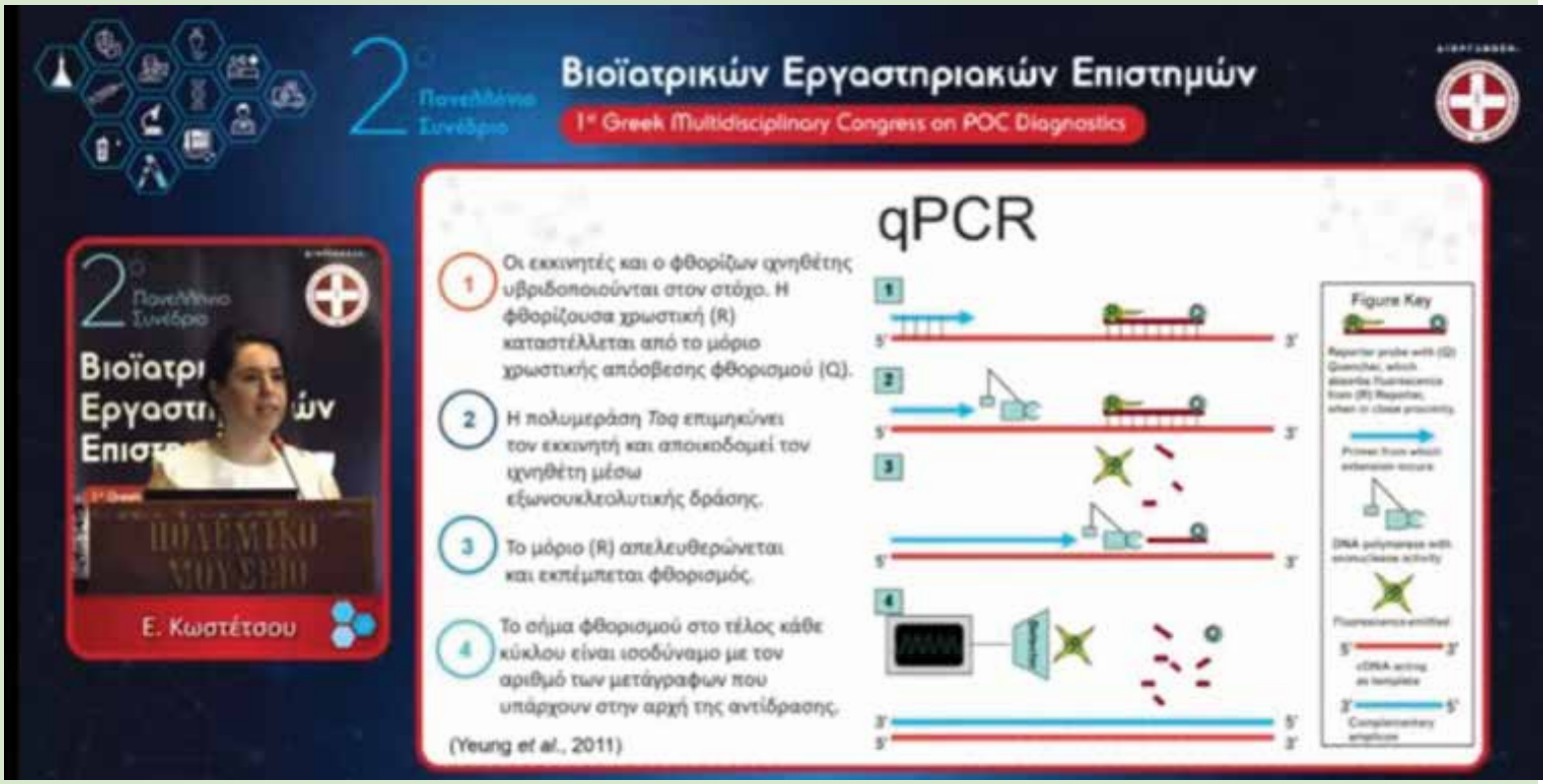
© Aegean College | Zoi Diakonikoli, Dietetics student at Aegean College, presenting at the 18th Panhellenic Medical Congress on Obesity, Athens, 2024

Participation in the 2nd Panhellenic Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

The **Department of Biomedical Sciences at Aegean College** participated in the **2nd Panhellenic Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences**, showcasing its commitment to research, innovation, and academic excellence.

Academic staff delivered presentations on the application of PCR technology in the diagnosis and prognosis of haematological malignancies and the latest clinical guidelines for the management of deep vein thrombosis. In addition, two peer-reviewed e-posters were presented, focusing on interdisciplinary approaches to biomedical science education.

A notable aspect of the College's participation was the involvement of an undergraduate student as a co-author, reflecting Aegean College's commitment to integrating students into research activities and fostering experiential learning.



© Aegean College | Irini Kwstetsou, presenting at the 2nd Panhellenic Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences, Athens, 2024

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE

In October 2024, **Aegean College** organized its **3rd Special Education Conference in Thessaloniki**, bringing together more than 350 educators, healthcare professionals, students, and experts to explore the theme "Giftedness and Inclusion." Held under the auspices of local authorities, the conference promoted dialogue on equitable access to education and the inclusion of gifted learners within schools and society.

The programme featured expert presentations on the psychological, educational, and social needs of gifted children, differentiated education and inclusive educational practices. Interactive discussions encouraged the exchange of knowledge and best practices among participants. As part of the event, Aegean College also recognized and supported a young world chess champion, highlighting its commitment to nurturing talent and promoting equal opportunities for all learners.



© Aegean College | 3rd Special Education Conference, Thessaloniki, 2024



Dr. Doukas Konstantoulas with Students of Aegean College during Seminar "Relaxation Techniques in the Service of Sports Performance," Athens 2025

In 2025, **Aegean College** introduced an experiential seminar on relaxation techniques as part of its commitment to developing well-rounded health and sports professionals. The seminar, "Relaxation Techniques in the Service of Sports Performance," provided students of the **BSc (Hons) Sports Science with Physical Education programme** with practical knowledge on stress management, mindfulness, breathing exercises, muscle relaxation, and mental imagery techniques.

Through this initiative, students explored the connection between psychological wellbeing and physical performance, gaining valuable tools to support themselves and future clients or athletes.

EXAMPLE



Aegean College promotes **Alzheimer's Disease Awareness** Through Knowledge Sharing and supports initiatives that promote public health awareness and the dissemination of scientific knowledge on critical health challenges. Through the contribution of **Anastasia Kefallinou**, an Aegean College graduate, who published an article in a specialised Alzheimer's disease information magazine, the College highlights the importance of sharing evidence-based insights with the wider community.

This initiative reflects Aegean College's commitment to advancing health literacy, supporting research-informed communication, and empowering graduates to contribute to society beyond the academic environment. By encouraging knowledge exchange on neurodegenerative diseases and healthcare challenges, the College contributes to greater awareness, understanding, and social impact.

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE

Recognising the strong connection between mental and physical health, **Aegean College** participated in the **8th Panhellenic Medical Conference on Psychosomatic Medicine**, where academics and **MSc Clinical Psychology** students explored contemporary topics linking mental and physical wellbeing, including the relationship between emotional disorders, cardiovascular health, digital behaviours, and psychological wellbeing.

The main message is that effective healthcare requires a holistic approach, combining medical knowledge with psychological interventions. It also highlights the role of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) in supporting patients and demonstrates the importance of research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and student engagement in advancing modern healthcare practice.



© Aegean College | Christina Kalogirou presenting at the 8th Panhellenic Medical Conference on Psychosomatic Medicine, Sparta, 2025

EXAMPLE

Advancing Human Rights Awareness Through the Lens of Political Psychology

Understanding the relationship between individuals, societies, and systems of power is essential for addressing contemporary social challenges. Through the webinar "**The Psychological is Political: Human Rights from the Perspective of Political Psychology,**" Aegean College created a platform for exploring the complex interactions between psychological processes, political dynamics, and human rights.
Led by **Dr. Chryssovalantis Papathanasiou, Academic Director of the MSc in Human Rights and Migration Studies at Aegean College**, the webinar examined how political and social processes influence individual and collective psychological experiences. Participants explored key themes including identity formation, migration, governance, social inequalities, and the psychological impact of human rights violations.

Through interdisciplinary discussion, case studies, and reflective activities, participants gained a deeper understanding of how political and social environments can shape individual and collective psychological experiences.





© Aegean College | Dr. Chryssovalantis Papathanasiou

Regarding sexual and reproductive health education, it is highly integrated into the curriculum. In the BSc (Hons) Midwifery (Applied) and BSc (Hons) Dietetics (Applied). Students explore a broad range of subjects, including maternal care, reproductive health conditions, and the role of nutrition in supporting reproductive wellbeing. This academic approach ensures that graduates develop both the scientific understanding and practical competencies needed to provide informed and responsible care.

Exposure to Clinical Practice and Professional Expertise

Students benefit from direct engagement with healthcare professionals through clinical placements, particularly within maternity hospitals and healthcare settings. These experiences allow students to observe and participate in real-world healthcare practices, strengthening their understanding of sexual and reproductive healthcare delivery. In addition, invited professionals from maternity units and partner healthcare organisations contribute their expertise through guest lectures, sharing current practices and clinical insights.



Engagement with Research and Professional Communities

Through participation in conferences, seminars, and scientific events, students from relevant disciplines—including Midwifery and Dietetics—gain exposure to emerging research, current healthcare discussions, and professional networks within sexual and reproductive health. These opportunities encourage continuous learning and enable students to engage with experts and developments shaping the future of healthcare.



Access to Specialist Academic Knowledge

The expertise of Aegean College's academic staff plays a central role in ensuring students receive reliable information on sexual and reproductive health. Faculty members with specialised knowledge contribute to teaching, awareness-building, and the development of students' professional capabilities.

Strengthening Links Between Education and Healthcare Services

Through collaborations with maternity hospitals and public healthcare providers, Aegean College creates opportunities for students to connect academic knowledge with practical healthcare environments. These partnerships support experiential learning and provide students with greater insight into the delivery of sexual and reproductive healthcare services, reinforcing the connection between education, professional practice, and community health needs.





4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Aegean College is committed to advancing **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education)** by providing accessible, high-quality higher education that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to succeed in an evolving global environment. Through its academic programmes, partnerships with internationally recognised universities, and emphasis on student-centred learning, the College promotes academic excellence, innovation, and lifelong learning.

The College's collaboration with the **University of Essex, one of the leading UK universities**, enables students to earn internationally recognised qualifications while studying in Greece, supporting access to high-quality tertiary education and enhancing graduate mobility and employability. Curricula are regularly updated to reflect developments in industry, technology, healthcare, business, and professional practice, ensuring graduates are prepared to meet current and future labour market needs.

Beyond academic instruction, **Aegean College** fosters an inclusive learning environment that values **diversity, critical thinking, ethical leadership, and professional development**. Students benefit from experiential learning opportunities, internships, industry engagement, and career support services that strengthen practical skills and facilitate successful transitions into employment.

The College also promotes a culture of academic achievement and continuous improvement through initiatives that recognise student success, celebrate graduate accomplishments, and acknowledge excellence in teaching and research. Events such as the annual graduation ceremony reinforce the value of higher education, strengthen engagement with partner universities and industry stakeholders, and celebrate the achievements of graduates as they embark on their professional careers.

Celebrating our students' achievements!

In March 2024, **Aegean College** celebrated the achievements of its undergraduate and postgraduate students with a graduation ceremony held at the **Athens Concert Hall.** The event brought together graduates, families, academic staff, and representatives from the **University of Essex**, highlighting the institution's commitment to international collaboration and academic excellence.

Distinguished guests addressed the graduates, while outstanding faculty members were recognized for their contributions to teaching and research. The ceremony celebrated student success and reinforced **Aegean College**'s dedication to providing high-quality, internationally recognized higher education.



Open Days 2024

Aegean College hosted its annual Open Days in September 2024, welcoming prospective students to explore its academic programmes, modern learning facilities, and educational environment. The initiative provided visitors with the opportunity to engage with academic staff, learn about undergraduate and postgraduate study options across nine academic schools, and gain insights into career pathways and international study opportunities through the College's partnership with the **University of Essex**.

Participants also toured specialised laboratories and teaching facilities, highlighting the College's emphasis on experiential learning and practice-oriented education. By promoting informed study choices, widening access to higher education, and encouraging lifelong learning, students can make informed decisions about their academic and professional futures.



© Aegean College | Open Days Athens, 2024



© Aegean College | 1st - year students of Biomedical Science during a guided lab project, Athens/Thessaloniki, 2024

Biomedical Lab Training

First-year students enrolled in the **BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science** programme at **Aegean College** participated in an inter-campus laboratory project focused on DNA fingerprinting and the isolation of genetic material from different biological samples. Conducted in the College's modern biology laboratories in **Athens and Thessaloniki,** the project provided students with practical experience in essential molecular biology techniques.

Working under the guidance of academic staff, students analysed the quality and quantity of extracted genetic material, compared experimental results, and evaluated factors affecting extraction efficiency. The project strengthened their technical laboratory competencies, critical thinking, and scientific problem-solving skills while preparing them for advanced molecular diagnostic techniques, such as PCR.



Recognised for academic excellence!

In 2024, **Aegean College** was ranked first among Greek colleges in the **Webometrics Ranking of World Universities**, reinforcing its reputation for academic quality and institutional excellence. The ranking evaluates higher education institutions based on criteria including digital presence, global visibility, research transparency, and academic excellence.

This recognition reflects the College's ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality higher education through its partnership with the **University of Essex** and highlights its strong academic performance, research visibility, and international outlook. Such achievements support Aegean College's contribution to promoting excellence, innovation, and internationally recognised educational standards.

Discovering professional paths!

Aegean College successfully hosted its **Career Days 2024** across its **Athens and Thessaloniki campuses**, providing students with valuable opportunities to engage directly with employers from a wide range of industries and gain insights into current labour market expectations. The initiative combined career networking, employer presentations, recruitment interviews, educational visits, workshops, and personal development seminars, equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and professional connections needed to support their transition into employment.

By fostering meaningful collaboration between academia and industry, **Career Days 2024** strengthened students' employability, career readiness, and professional development, reflecting Aegean College's commitment to preparing graduates for successful careers.



© Aegean College | Students with HR representatives during the Career Days, Athens/Thessaloniki, 2024

Expert Guest Lectures Hosted at the College!

In April 2024, **Aegean College** welcomed **Nantia Deli**, an experienced sports psychologist to deliver a guest lecture for students of the Sport Science programme, providing valuable insights into the application of psychology in elite athletic performance and athlete wellbeing.

Drawing on extensive experience working with professional sports teams in Greece and internationally, the speaker discussed the role of mental resilience, performance psychology, and psychological support in competitive sport. Students also had the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion, gaining practical insights into career pathways and contemporary challenges in sports psychology.

This initiative strengthened the connection between academic learning and professional practice, enriching students' educational experience and supporting the development of future sport science professionals.



© Aegean College | Nantia Deli, expert Psychologist, giving a lecture to students of Aegean College, Athens, 2024

5 GENDER EQUALITY





No Gender Left Behind!

Aegean College is committed to fostering gender equality and ensuring that its admissions procedures are based on principles of fairness, transparency and equal opportunity. The College systematically monitors women's participation throughout the admissions process, including application rates, acceptance rates and enrolment patterns.

The collection and analysis of gender-related admissions data enables the institution to identify potential disparities, evaluate progress and implement appropriate measures to promote equal access to higher education.

Gender Data Monitoring and Analysis

Aegean College collects and analyses detailed data regarding gender representation among applicants, admitted students and enrolled students across its academic programmes. This systematic approach enables the institution to identify trends, assess gender balance and recognise areas where further action may be required.

The collected data is reviewed internally to support evidence-based decision-making and to ensure that institutional practices remain aligned with equality and inclusion principles. Where appropriate, relevant information is also shared with national educational authorities and governmental bodies.

Institutional Reporting on Gender Diversity

As part of its commitment to transparency and accountability, the College prepares institutional reports that include information on gender diversity within admissions and the wider academic community. These reports provide an overview of women's participation, including the proportion of female applicants, acceptance rates and representation across different fields of study.

Through regular reporting and evaluation, the College is able to measure progress, identify opportunities for improvement and strengthen its long-term approach to advancing gender equality within higher education.

Continuous Evaluation of Admissions Practices

The Admissions Department of Aegean College continuously monitors gender-related indicators throughout the admissions cycle across all levels of study, including undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

This ongoing evaluation process allows the institution to identify emerging patterns, respond proactively to potential inequalities and ensure that admissions practices remain inclusive and accessible. By incorporating gender considerations into institutional monitoring procedures, the College reinforces its commitment to creating an equitable educational environment for all prospective students.

Inclusive Admissions Policies and Outreach Initiatives

Based on insights gained through gender monitoring and analysis, the College develops targeted initiatives designed to encourage greater participation of women in academic disciplines where representation may be lower.

These initiatives aim to address potential barriers, challenge stereotypes and promote equal opportunities for students regardless of gender. Through awareness activities and outreach efforts, the College seeks to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to pursue their educational aspirations and achieve their professional goals.





© Aegean College | Maria Evripioti, MSc Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Graduate

Maria Evripioti, a graduate of the **MSc in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy with Counselling Skills**, describes her post-graduate studies at Aegean College as a transformative academic and professional experience that prepared her for a career in mental health. Reflecting on the programme, she highlights its strong balance between academic rigour and practical application, emphasising that students develop not only theoretical knowledge but also the confidence and competencies required for professional practice.

According to Maria, the programme's distinctive strengths include teaching by highly qualified doctoral-level academics, extensive supervised clinical practice, personal therapy sessions, and experiential learning opportunities that allow students to apply evidence-based therapeutic approaches in real-world settings. Maria also emphasises the supportive academic environment fostered by Aegean College, where close interaction with faculty, continuous mentoring, and personalised guidance contributed significantly to her learning journey.

Recognition for Gender Equality at the THE Sustainability Impact Rankings (601-800)

The **THE Impact Rankings** are one of the world's leading frameworks for assessing how higher education institutions contribute to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** evaluating universities based on measurable evidence of implemented policies and initiatives rather than stated commitments.

The recognition reflects **Aegean College**'s long-standing commitment to advancing gender equality through evidence-based policies, public awareness initiatives, and research that promotes women's empowerment. The College has implemented programmes addressing the elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination, supported women's participation in leadership and public life, and fostered an inclusive institutional culture based on equal opportunities, diversity, and respect.



Participation in the **THE Impact Rankings** forms part of Aegean College's broader strategy of integrating educational excellence with sustainability and social responsibility. The distinction acknowledges the College's continuous efforts to provide equitable access to education, professional development, and academic participation while embedding gender equality as a core institutional value rather than solely a regulatory obligation.

To celebrate **International Women's Day**, students from the **Department of Education at Aegean College's Thessaloniki campus** developed a creative awareness initiative celebrating women's experiences, achievements, and contributions to society. Guided by academic staff, the project invited women to reflect on a simple but powerful question: "What does it mean to be a woman today?"

Drawing on authentic personal stories and perspectives, the initiative explored themes of gender equality, self-confidence, social challenges, and women's empowerment. The students produced a video that symbolically traces the journey of women through history, from periods marked by stereotypes and limited opportunities to the achievements of pioneering women in science, education, the arts, and culture, as well as the ongoing contributions of women who continue to lead, innovate, and inspire.

By encouraging dialogue and reflection, the project highlighted the transformative role of education in advancing equality, fostering empowerment, and challenging discrimination. It also underscored the importance of collective action in building a society founded on equal opportunities, respect, and inclusion.



© Aegean College | Aegean College celebrates women's achievements on the International Women's Day, Thessaloniki, 2026

Advancing Gender Diversity Across Academic Fields

AEGEAN College recognises the importance of achieving greater gender balance across all academic disciplines and professional areas. The institution encourages women to pursue educational pathways in fields where female representation may traditionally be lower and promotes equal participation across diverse areas of study.

Through initiatives such as mentoring activities, awareness programmes and outreach efforts, the College seeks to inspire and support women in exploring a wide range of academic and career opportunities. These initiatives contribute to reducing gender stereotypes and encouraging greater diversity within higher education and future workplaces.

Identifying and Removing Barriers to Women's Participation

The College identifies and addresses factors that may limit women's full participation in academic, professional and extracurricular activities. It recognises that barriers related to personal responsibilities, work-life balance, social expectations, or other structural challenges may affect women's educational experiences.

Through supportive policies, inclusive practices and student-focused services, the College works to create an environment where women can participate fully in academic life and access opportunities for personal and professional development.

Supporting Women's Engagement and Leadership Development

The College promotes a campus culture based on diversity, inclusion and equal participation. Women are encouraged to actively engage in academic activities, student initiatives, professional networking opportunities and leadership development programmes.Through mentoring programmes, networking opportunities and skills-development activities, the College supports women in strengthening their confidence, expanding their professional networks and developing leadership capabilities that contribute to their future success.

Dedicated Support Services for Women

Aegean College recognises that effective gender equality requires not only equal access but also appropriate support mechanisms throughout the student experience. The College provides services and resources designed to address the diverse needs of women and promote a supportive educational and working environment. Support structures may include academic guidance, counselling services, wellbeing initiatives and flexible arrangements that assist students in balancing educational commitments with personal responsibilities. These measures contribute to improving student experience and ensuring that women have the necessary resources to succeed.

Continuous Evaluation and Improvement of Gender Equality Practices

Aegean College regularly reviews its gender equality practices and policies to ensure they remain responsive to the evolving needs of students, staff and the wider academic community. Through monitoring processes and feedback mechanisms, the institution gathers insights from students, employees and stakeholders to identify opportunities for further improvement. This continuous evaluation approach supports accountability and enables the College to strengthen its commitment to gender equality, inclusion and equal opportunity.



Alignment with SDG 5.3.3: Eliminating Discrimination and Expanding Access Opportunities

Sustainable Development Goal 5.3.3 focuses on eliminating discriminatory practices affecting women and promoting initiatives that improve women's access to education, opportunities and participation. Access schemes, including mentoring programmes, scholarships, guidance initiatives and targeted support mechanisms, play an important role in reducing barriers and ensuring equal opportunities. Aegean College is committed to supporting women's empowerment through initiatives that enhance access, participation and success throughout the educational journey. These initiatives aim to create an inclusive academic environment where women are supported in pursuing their educational objectives and developing their professional potential.

Women's Empowerment and Support Scheme

AEGEAN College's approach to women's access and empowerment focuses on providing opportunities that support women throughout their academic experience. These initiatives include:

Mentoring and Guidance Opportunities

The College promotes mentoring activities that connect students with academic staff, professionals and experienced graduates. These relationships provide guidance, encouragement and support for women as they navigate academic pathways and prepare for future careers.

Professional Development and Networking Activities

Women students are encouraged to participate in networking events, career development activities and professional skills programmes. These opportunities help strengthen employability, confidence and leadership capacity.

Academic and Personal Support Services

Access to support mechanisms that assist students in overcoming challenges and achieving academic success. These services contribute to creating a supportive environment where women can balance educational responsibilities with personal circumstances.



Promotion of Inclusive Learning Environments

The College fosters a culture of respect, equality and inclusion, ensuring that women have equal opportunities to participate in classroom activities, research initiatives, student life and professional development opportunities.





Inspiring Future Female Talent

Aegean College is committed to encouraging greater female participation in academic disciplines where women have traditionally been underrepresented. Through outreach initiatives in secondary schools and local communities, the College introduces young women to diverse educational and career opportunities, helping to challenge stereotypes and broaden aspirations. These activities provide participants with insights into academic pathways, career prospects, and the inclusive learning environment offered by Aegean College, fostering confidence to pursue studies in fields where greater gender diversity is needed.

Building Partnerships to Advance Gender Equality

Working closely with schools, educational organisations, and industry partners, Aegean College develops initiatives that support women's access to a wider range of academic and professional opportunities. These collaborations create meaningful pathways for young women to explore disciplines where female representation remains limited . Through mentoring opportunities, interactive workshops, career-focused events, and engagement with female role models and industry professionals, participants are encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to pursue their academic and career ambitions.

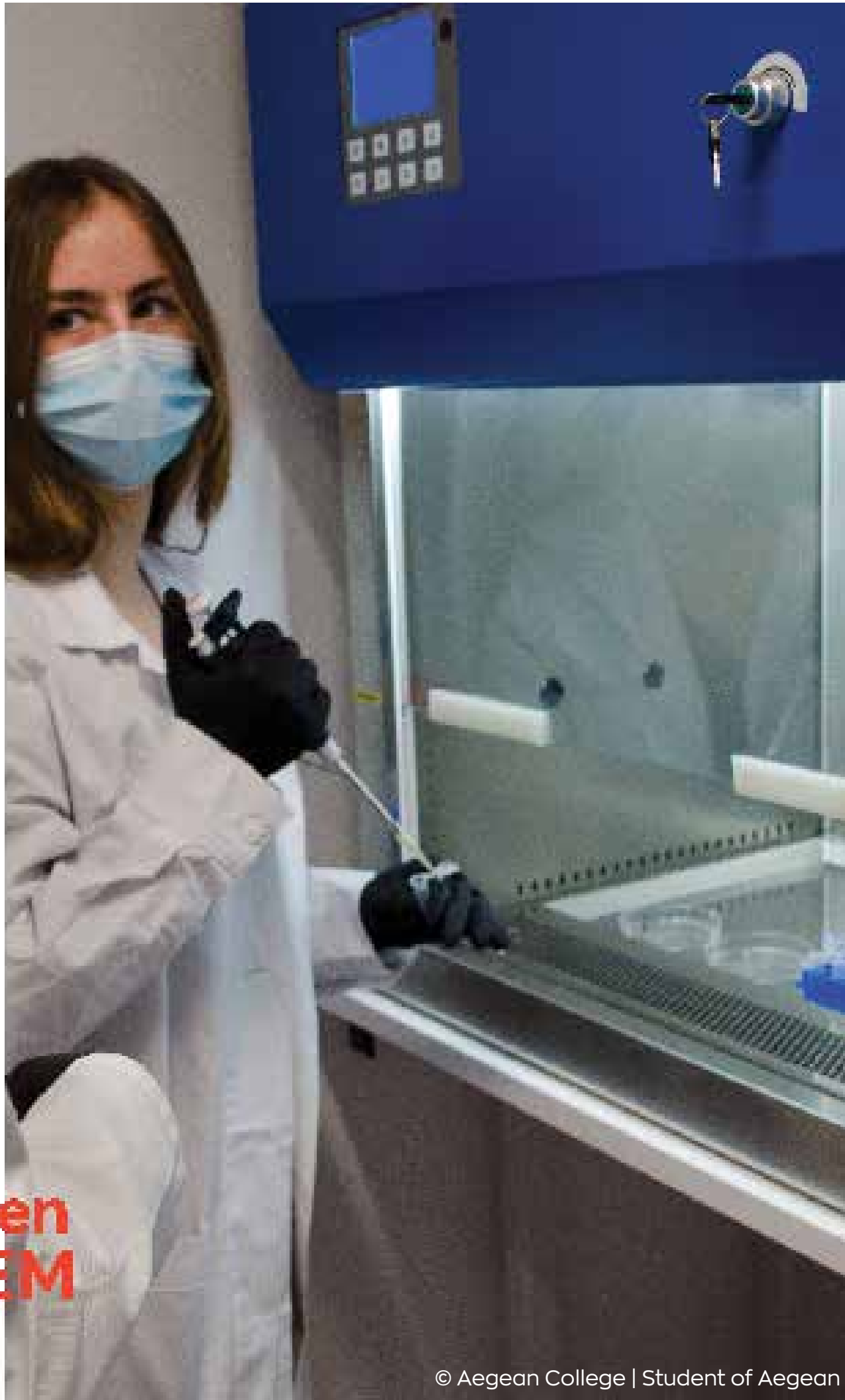


© Aegean College | Kiriaki Theodosi-Polymeri, Psychotherapist & Academic at Aegean College, School of Psychology

Support for Women from Underrepresented Groups

Aegean College implements a counselling initiative to support women from underrepresented groups, particularly those connected with non-governmental organisations who have experienced harassment or gender-based violence. The month-long programme provides psychological and emotional support while creating a safe and empowering environment that encourages participants to pursue higher education and personal development.

Led by **Mrs Kyriaki Theodosi Polymeri**, **psychotherapist and academic at the School of Psychology,** together with a team of Aegean College psychologists, the initiative combines professional counselling with educational encouragement. By addressing the emotional effects of violence and promoting resilience, confidence, and access to learning opportunities, the programme seeks to enhance participants' overall well-being and support their academic and personal aspirations.



Women in STEM

© Aegean College | Student of Aegean

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Diversity and Inclusion Policies

Aegean College implements and promotes diversity and inclusion policies that support gender balance across all academic disciplines, including STEM fields. These policies aim to foster an inclusive learning environment where women are encouraged, supported, and empowered throughout their academic journey.

Transparent and Equitable Admission Processes

The College applies transparent and fair admission procedures designed to ensure equal opportunities and eliminate potential gender bias. Through accessible information and guidance for prospective students, Aegean College encourages women to pursue their academic interests and participate actively in all fields of study, including traditionally underrepresented areas.

Promoting Women's Achievements and Role Models

Aegean College recognises and celebrates the achievements of women who have succeeded in STEM and other traditionally male-dominated disciplines. By highlighting these success stories, the College aims to inspire future generations of female students, promote positive role models, and reinforce its commitment to supporting women's participation and advancement across all areas of education.

Supporting Women's Participation Through Maternity and Parenthood Policies

Aegean College is committed to ensuring that women can fully participate in academic and professional life while balancing family responsibilities. Through comprehensive maternity and paternity policies, the College promotes an inclusive environment where individuals of all genders are supported during pregnancy and parenthood. These practices align with SDG 5.6.3, which highlights the importance of access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Maternity and Parental Leave Support

Aegean College provides maternity leave in accordance with Greek legislation, ensuring that employees can take the necessary time before and after childbirth while maintaining employment security. These provisions support the health, wellbeing, and work-life balance of parents and their families.

Flexible Work Arrangements

To accommodate the diverse needs of employees during and after pregnancy, the College supports flexible working arrangements where appropriate. Options such as flexible schedules, remote working opportunities, or adjusted working patterns help employees effectively balance professional responsibilities with family commitments.

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A Supportive and Inclusive Workplace Culture

Aegean College promotes a workplace culture that respects and values the rights of employees to parenthood. Through awareness, understanding, and supportive management practices, the College encourages an environment where individuals experiencing pregnancy and parenthood feel respected, included, and empowered to continue their professional development.

Paternity Leave Support

In addition to maternity provisions, Aegean College provides paternity leave in accordance with Greek legislation, recognising the important role of fathers in the early stages of their children's lives. This policy promotes shared parental responsibility and supports employees in achieving a healthier balance between professional commitments and family life.

Lactation Support and Family-Friendly Practices

Aegean College supports nursing mothers through collaborations with maternity hospitals that provide access to appropriate lactation facilities, including dedicated breastfeeding spaces and flexible break arrangements. These initiatives are strengthened through the clinical placement partnerships of the **BSc (Hons) Midwifery (Applied)** programme, which connect the College with healthcare institutions that promote maternal and infant wellbeing.

Inclusive Language and Supportive Culture

The College promotes an inclusive culture that recognises and respects the diverse experiences of individuals during pregnancy and parenthood. Through the use of respectful and inclusive language, as well as the promotion of non-discriminatory practices, Aegean College aims to remove barriers faced by individuals with family responsibilities and ensure that all members of the academic community feel valued and supported.

Women's Mentoring Schemes for Academic and Professional Development

Aegean College is committed to empowering female students by supporting their academic progress, personal growth, and professional development through dedicated women's mentoring schemes. These programmes provide structured guidance, encouragement, and networking opportunities, helping female students build confidence, develop career aspirations, and successfully navigate their educational and professional journeys. This commitment contributes to the objectives of SDG 5, supporting gender equality and the creation of inclusive opportunities for women.

Engagement of Experienced Mentors

The mentoring schemes connect female students with experienced mentors, including academic staff, industry professionals, and alumni who provide valuable knowledge, guidance, and support. Mentors are selected based on their expertise, professional experience, and ability to contribute meaningfully to students' personal and career development.

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Personalised Support and Career Guidance

Mentoring relationships are tailored to the individual needs of each student, offering personalised advice on academic development, career planning, goal setting, and overcoming challenges. Through ongoing discussions and support, students gain insights into professional pathways and develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in their chosen fields.

Networking and Professional Connections

Aegean College's women's mentoring programmes create valuable networking opportunities by connecting female students with experienced mentors who can share knowledge, provide career advice, and facilitate access to professional networks. These connections help students gain broader perspectives, explore career pathways, and strengthen their professional development.

Promotion and Awareness of Mentoring Opportunities

The College actively communicates the availability and benefits of women's mentoring schemes to encourage student participation. Through awareness activities, information sharing, and the promotion of successful mentoring experiences, Aegean College highlights the value of mentorship and motivates more female students to engage with these initiatives.



© Aegean College | Students from the School of Humanities during the seminar, Thessaloniki, 2024

Alternative Approaches to Education Through Creative Arts and Experiential Learning

The School of Humanities at Aegean College Thessaloniki successfully completed a seminar titled **"Alternative Approaches to Education Through Creative Arts and Empowerment."** The programme introduced participants to innovative educational methods through a range of experiential activities, including drama-based activities, mime, dance, and educational games and songs.

Through these creative practices, participants had the opportunity to reconnect with their expressive side while exploring new ways of communication and self-expression. The activities also highlighted the importance of collaboration, trust, respect, and mutual understanding, encouraging creativity and stronger interpersonal connections.

Promoting Gender Equality in Student Success and Graduation Outcomes



© Aegean College | Graduation Day, Athens, 2024

Aegean College is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities and outcomes for all students by monitoring and addressing potential gender disparities in academic progression and graduation rates. In alignment with **SDG 5: Gender Equality,** the College systematically evaluates the experiences and achievements of female and male students and implements targeted measures to support equal participation, retention, and successful completion of studies.

Gender-Disaggregated Data Collection and Analysis

The College collects and analyses gender-specific data related to academic performance, student retention, and graduation outcomes. This evidence-based approach enables the identification of potential differences between female and male students and supports the development of informed strategies to promote equality.

Monitoring, Reporting, and Identifying Barriers

Aegean College conducts regular reviews of student progress across academic programmes, analysing graduation trends and identifying areas where additional support may be required. Through consultation and evaluation, the College examines possible academic, social, or institutional barriers that may affect student success and works towards addressing them effectively.



Awareness and Continuous Improvement

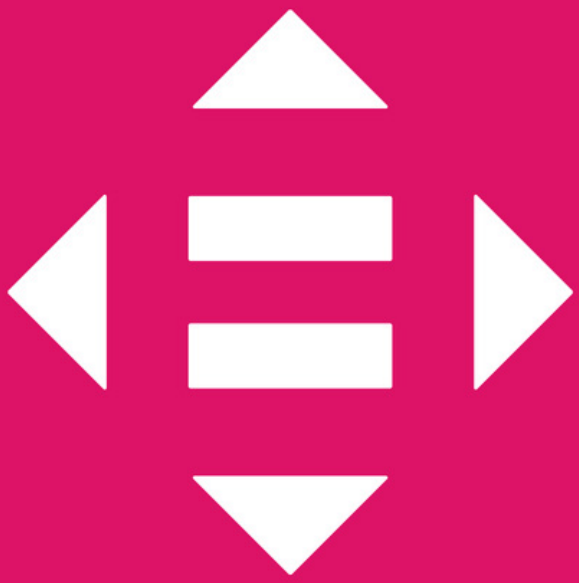
Through communication initiatives and awareness campaigns, Aegean College promotes a culture of inclusion, challenges stereotypes, and encourages equal participation across the academic community. The effectiveness of all interventions is continuously assessed through feedback, research findings, and emerging trends, allowing the College to adapt and improve its strategies for supporting student success.

Communication and Awareness of Policies

The College ensures that its non-discrimination policies, including protections against retaliation for individuals who report concerns, are clearly communicated to all members of the academic community. Information regarding these policies is made accessible through multiple channels, including official publications, institutional websites, and student and staff orientation programmes.

Through the implementation of robust reporting protections and accountability mechanisms, Aegean College supports the objectives of SDG 5.6.8 by promoting a safe, inclusive, and equitable academic environment where individuals can report discrimination without fear of educational or professional disadvantage. These practices strengthen a culture of respect, transparency, and responsibility across the College community.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





Reducing Inequalities through Inclusive Education and Equal Opportunities



Aegean College has been recognised in the **Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026** for its contribution to **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**, highlighting the institution's ongoing commitment to promoting inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunities within higher education.

The recognition reflects the College's efforts to create an academic environment where students from diverse backgrounds can participate fully and achieve their potential. Through inclusive education practices, student support mechanisms, and policies that promote fairness and respect, Aegean College works to reduce barriers that may limit access, participation, or academic success.

The College's approach to reducing inequalities extends beyond educational provision, incorporating initiatives that strengthen social inclusion, support vulnerable groups, and encourage a culture of diversity and belonging across the academic community. By integrating equality principles into institutional policies and everyday practices, Aegean College demonstrates that sustainable development includes addressing social challenges and ensuring that opportunities are accessible to all.



© Aegean College | International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, Thessaloniki, 2025

Promoting Inclusion through Adaptive Sport

Aegean College supported the International **Wheelchair Basketball Tournament 2025** as part of its broader commitment to promoting inclusion, equal participation, and disability awareness through sport. The initiative brought together athletes, students, academics, and members of the wider community to celebrate the values of accessibility, teamwork, and social inclusion while showcasing wheelchair basketball as a powerful platform for breaking down stereotypes and challenging barriers.

Through its involvement, the College reinforced the role of sport as a driver of social inclusion and encouraged greater understanding of the experiences and achievements of athletes with disabilities. The initiative provided opportunities for students—particularly those studying health sciences, education, and sport-related disciplines—to engage with inclusive sporting practices, promoting empathy, respect for diversity, and awareness of accessible physical activity.

Aegean College ensures that its admissions processes uphold the principles of diversity, equality, and inclusion, in alignment with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. The College applies fair and transparent procedures designed to provide equal opportunities for all applicants, regardless of personal background or protected characteristics.

Non-Discrimination Commitment

The College's admissions policy explicitly promotes equal access and prohibits discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, colour, gender, religion, nationality, disability, or any other protected characteristic. Admissions decisions are based on academic merit, qualifications, and clearly defined eligibility criteria.

Transparent Admissions Criteria

Aegean College provides clear information regarding admission requirements, academic qualifications, and selection criteria, as established in collaboration with its UK University partner. This transparency ensures that prospective students understand the admissions process and the factors considered when evaluating applications.

Accessible Information for Applicants and Stakeholders

Admissions policies and relevant programme requirements are publicly available through the College's official communication channels and programme information pages. This ensures that prospective students, regulatory bodies, partner institutions, and other stakeholders have access to accurate information about the principles and procedures governing admissions.

Fair Appeals Process

To ensure accountability and protect applicants' rights, **Aegean College** maintains an appeals procedure for individuals who believe they have experienced unfair treatment or discrimination during the admissions process. This mechanism provides a structured and impartial way to review concerns.



Continuous Monitoring and Improvement

The College regularly reviews its admissions policies and practices to ensure they remain effective, inclusive, and aligned with its commitment to equality and diversity. **Aegean College** also monitors applications and admissions data to better understand participation trends among underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, students from lower-income backgrounds, non-traditional learners, women, LGBTQ+ students, students with disabilities, and newly settled refugee students.

Through these measures, Aegean College actively works to reduce barriers to education and create an inclusive admissions environment where all students have equitable opportunities to access higher education and succeed.

Advancing Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion



Aegean College adopts a data-informed and inclusive approach to promoting diversity, equality, and equal access to higher education. Through targeted policies and support mechanisms, the College seeks to create an environment where students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to participate, succeed, and thrive.

Targeted Outreach and Community Engagement

Aegean College undertakes outreach initiatives to encourage applications from underrepresented communities. By working with schools, community organisations, and other stakeholders, the College raises awareness of educational opportunities and provides guidance to prospective students from diverse backgrounds.

Promoting Equal Opportunities

The College implements policies and practices that seek to address barriers to participation and improve access for groups that have been historically underrepresented in higher education. These measures are designed to foster greater equity and create opportunities for all learners to reach their academic potential.

Specialised Student Support

Students from underrepresented backgrounds have access to tailored support services, including mentoring, academic guidance, counselling, and wellbeing resources. These initiatives help strengthen student engagement, improve retention, and enhance academic success throughout the student journey.





Partnerships for Inclusive Practice

Aegean College collaborates with external organisations and community partners that advocate for the rights and inclusion of underrepresented groups. These partnerships support knowledge exchange, strengthen institutional practice, and help the College respond to emerging social challenges while promoting a more inclusive educational environment.

Recruiting and Supporting Underrepresented Groups

Aegean College is committed to building a diverse and inclusive academic community by implementing targeted recruitment and support measures that encourage participation from underrepresented groups. These initiatives contribute to the College's commitment to **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** by promoting equitable access to education and employment opportunities.

Targeted Recruitment and Outreach

The College develops recruitment initiatives aimed at increasing participation among underrepresented groups, including individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds, people with disabilities, and those from economically disadvantaged communities. Through collaborations with schools, community organisations, and diversity-focused initiatives, Aegean College actively broadens access to higher education and employment opportunities.

Collaboration with External Networks

The College works with professional associations, community organisations, and diversity networks to strengthen outreach activities, develop mentoring opportunities, and expand access to educational and professional pathways for individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Financial Support and Scholarship

To reduce financial barriers, Aegean College provides scholarships, financial assistance, and other funding opportunities for students from underrepresented backgrounds. These initiatives help widen participation and enable students to pursue higher education regardless of their economic circumstances.

Promoting a Safe, Inclusive, and Respectful Academic Environment

Aegean College is committed to maintaining an academic environment founded on equality, dignity, and mutual respect. Through comprehensive anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies, the College works to ensure that all members of its community can study and work in a safe and inclusive environment.



Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Framework

The College prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, or any other protected characteristic. These principles apply across all areas of college activity, including teaching and learning, employment, student services, and extracurricular engagement, ensuring equal treatment and opportunity for all. gender diversity is needed.

Anti-Harassment Policy and Reporting Procedures

Aegean College maintains clear policies defining unacceptable behaviour and outlining procedures for reporting, investigating, and resolving incidents of harassment. The framework addresses all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, intimidation, and discriminatory behaviour, while ensuring fair and confidential handling of reported concerns.

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The Diversity and Equality Committee serves as an advisory body to the College Administration and Governing Body, promoting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment across the institution. Its key responsibilities include:

Policy Development and Review

Contribute to the development, evaluation, and continuous improvement of college policies that foster diversity, equality, and inclusion. This includes policies relating to student recruitment and admissions, employment practices, and campus culture.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Build and maintain collaborations with external organisations, community groups, and other stakeholders to strengthen the College's commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion through joint initiatives, outreach activities, and partnerships.

Inclusive Programmes and Initiatives

Support the design and implementation of programmes and initiatives that celebrate diversity, promote inclusion, and respond to the needs of the diverse Aegean College community.

Guidance and Support

Provide advice and support in addressing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or bias, helping to foster a respectful, safe, and inclusive learning and working environment for all members of the College community.

Training and Awareness

Develop and oversee training and educational initiatives for students, faculty, and staff to strengthen awareness, cultural competence, and understanding of DEI principles.

Monitoring Progress and Impact

Evaluate the College's progress towards its diversity, equality, and inclusion objectives by collecting and analysing relevant data, assessing campus climate, and measuring the effectiveness of related policies and initiatives.

Gender Equality

Promote gender equality by advocating for equal opportunities, fair representation, and inclusive practices for people of all genders across the College.



Special Education Conference

In **October 2024, Aegean College Thessaloniki** successfully hosted its **3rd Special Education Conference,** titled "**Giftedness and Inclusion",** bringing together more than 350 educators, healthcare professionals, students, and specialists to discuss inclusive education and support for gifted learners. Held under the auspices of the **Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Region of Central Macedonia**, the conference provided a platform for dialogue on equitable educational opportunities and the social inclusion of students with diverse learning needs.

The programme featured expert presentations on the psychological needs of gifted children, differentiated teaching approaches, multiple intelligences, inclusive classroom practices, Montessori education, and case studies demonstrating effective support strategies for gifted learners. The conference concluded with an interactive discussion, encouraging the exchange of knowledge and best practices among academics and practitioners while promoting greater awareness of inclusive education and equal access to learning for all students.

Experiential Learning Visit to "To Rodi" Special Therapies Centre

As part of the **first-year Occupational Therapy** module Introduction to Occupational Therapy, students participated in an experiential learning visit to the To Rodi Special Therapies Centre. The visit provided students with hands-on exposure to occupational therapy equipment, therapeutic activities, and play-based intervention approaches used in paediatric practice. Through interactive activities, practical demonstrations, and real-life clinical examples, students gained a deeper understanding of how play is used as a therapeutic tool to support children's development and functional skills. The experience successfully connected classroom learning with clinical practice, enhancing students' understanding of the occupational therapist's role while fostering enthusiasm and professional engagement early in their studies.



© Aegean College | 1st - year Student from the BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy during an educational visit to "To Rodi" Special Therapies Centre, Athens, 2026

Educational Visit to Hug and Heal Centre

In April 2026, first-year Occupational Therapy students from Aegean College participated in an educational visit to the Hug and Heal Child and Family Centre, gaining valuable insight into a modern therapeutic environment. During the visit, students explored the centre's occupational and speech therapy facilities, observed evidence-based therapeutic approaches, and learned about the delivery of individualised interventions for children and families.A key highlight of the visit was the opportunity to experience sensory integration equipment firsthand, enhancing students' understanding of its role in supporting child development.



© Aegean College | 1st - year Occupational Therapy students during an educational visit to Hug and Heal Centre, Athens, 2026



© Aegean College | 4th Special Education Conference, Thessaloniki, 2025

4th Special Education Conference – ADHD: Psychosocial & Educational Interventions

In October 2025, the **School of Humanities and the School of Health** at **Aegean College** organised the **4th Special Education Conference, at the Olympic Museum Auditorium in Thessaloniki.** The conference focused on **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)** and explored evidence-based psychosocial and educational approaches to supporting children and young people with ADHD.

The event promoted scientific knowledge, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the exchange of best practices among educators, healthcare professionals, researchers, parents, and caregivers. Through expert presentations and discussions, participants gained insights into early diagnosis, inclusive education, differentiated teaching strategies, and practical interventions that enhance the learning experience and overall wellbeing of individuals with ADHD.

Mentoring and Guidance

Structured mentoring programmes connect students, faculty, and staff with experienced mentors who provide academic, professional, and personal guidance. These relationships promote confidence, facilitate career development, and support successful progression within the College community.

Wellbeing and Counselling

The College offers confidential counselling services that recognise the diverse experiences and challenges of its community members. Qualified counsellors provide emotional support, wellbeing guidance, and assistance in overcoming academic and personal barriers.

Peer Support and Community Building

Peer support initiatives encourage meaningful connections among students and staff from diverse backgrounds. These networks promote collaboration, inclusion, and a sense of belonging while providing opportunities to share experiences and practical advice.

Supporting an Inclusive and Diverse Community

Professional Development

Aegean College delivers targeted professional development opportunities, including workshops, seminars, and networking events, to enhance skills, promote career progression, and encourage inclusive leadership across academic and professional settings.

Continuous Improvement

The effectiveness of mentoring, counselling, and peer support initiatives is regularly reviewed through feedback and evaluation processes. Findings are used to strengthen existing programmes and respond to the evolving needs of the College community.



Accessible Facilities and Inclusive Learning Environment

In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 10), Aegean College is committed to ensuring that its campuses and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The College continually invests in inclusive infrastructure and support services to enable full participation in academic, professional, and campus life.

Inclusive Facilities

Accessible restroom facilities are available across campus, while libraries, study areas, dining spaces, and recreational facilities are designed to accommodate the needs of all members of the College community.

Assistive Technology and Learning Support

Dedicated assistive technology resources provide students and staff with disabilities access to specialised equipment and digital tools that support learning, teaching, and workplace participation. These services contribute to an inclusive educational environment where every individual can fully engage and succeed.

Accessibility and Disability Support

Aegean College is committed to providing an accessible, inclusive, and supportive environment that enables individuals with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of academic, professional, and campus life.



Accessible Communication

The College ensures that information and communication are accessible through a range of support services, including captioning, note-taking assistance, scribes, accessible digital materials, and alternative communication formats. Course materials, institutional communications, and event information are made available in accessible formats to promote equitable access to learning and campus activities.

Disability Support Services

The Disability Services Office works closely with students and staff to assess individual needs and coordinate personalised support and reasonable accommodations. These may include extended examination time, flexible assessment arrangements, accessible learning resources, sign language interpretation, note-taking services, and other adjustments that support equal participation and academic success.

Assistive Technologies

Aegean College provides access to a range of assistive technologies and adaptive equipment, including screen readers, speech-to-text software, adaptive keyboards, and other specialised resources. Training is also offered to help students and staff make effective use of these technologies in their studies and professional activities.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency procedures and evacuation plans are designed to address the needs of individuals with disabilities. Accessible evacuation routes, designated assembly points, and inclusive communication methods help ensure the safety of all members of the College community.



Accessible Transport

Where required, accessible transportation services are available to support students and staff with mobility needs, including wheelchair-accessible transport options that facilitate participation in academic and extracurricular activities.

Awareness and Capacity Building

Regular training and awareness programmes are delivered to students, faculty, and professional staff to promote disability awareness, reduce barriers, and foster an inclusive culture. These initiatives encourage shared responsibility for creating an accessible learning and working environment.

Continuous Improvement

Accessibility policies, services, and facilities are reviewed on an ongoing basis through regular audits and consultation with the disability community. Feedback is actively incorporated to strengthen support services and ensure that the College continues to meet evolving accessibility needs.



Individualised Accommodation Plans

Reasonable accommodations are developed in partnership with each individual to ensure that support measures are tailored to their specific needs, promoting equal access to learning, employment, and campus life.

Disability Services Office

A dedicated Disability Services Office coordinates accommodation requests, provides guidance, and works collaboratively with students, staff, and academic departments to facilitate appropriate support and ensure consistent implementation across the College.

Assistive Technologies and Resources

The College provides and maintains a range of assistive technologies and adaptive resources to enhance accessibility and support independent learning and participation.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Aegean College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations that enable individuals with disabilities to participate fully and equitably in all aspects of academic and professional life. Our approach is guided by principles of inclusion, accessibility, and individualised support.

Training and Awareness

Regular training and awareness programmes are delivered to students, faculty, and professional staff to promote understanding of disability inclusion, reasonable accommodations, and inclusive practices, fostering a supportive and respectful campus culture.

Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

The effectiveness of the College's reasonable accommodation policy is reviewed regularly through evaluation and stakeholder feedback. Input from members of the disability community informs ongoing improvements, ensuring that policies and practices remain responsive to changing needs and aligned with best practice.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



Aegean College recognises climate change as one of the most pressing global challenges and is committed to supporting the achievement of **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action through education, research, community engagement, and institutional collaboration.** The College seeks to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and values required to address the environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate change and to become responsible professionals capable of contributing to a sustainable future.

Climate action is embedded across the College's educational and extracurricular activities through conferences, seminars, workshops, volunteer initiatives, and partnerships with governmental organisations, environmental NGOs, industry representatives, and academic institutions. These initiatives encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on key issues such as climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, the circular economy, and environmental innovation, while promoting evidence-based solutions to contemporary environmental challenges.

Aegean College also places strong emphasis on experiential learning, providing students with opportunities to participate in environmental awareness campaigns, conservation activities, and community-based projects that translate theoretical knowledge into meaningful action. By encouraging active participation in initiatives such as beach clean-ups, sustainability events, and climate-related conferences, the College fosters environmental responsibility, civic engagement, and a culture of sustainability among its students and staff.

Through collaboration with external stakeholders and continuous engagement with local communities, Aegean College contributes to raising awareness of climate-related risks and advancing practical solutions that support adaptation, resilience, and environmental protection.

Beach Clean-Up at Alimos Baths

Students from the **School of Biosciences at Aegean College** partnered with the environmental organization iSea to carry out a beach clean-up at **Alimos Baths**. The initiative contributed to reducing marine litter, protecting coastal ecosystems, and promoting environmental responsibility.

Beyond its immediate environmental impact, the activity encouraged volunteerism, teamwork, and active civic engagement, highlighting the importance of collective action in addressing sustainability challenges. The project reflects Aegean College's commitment to environmental stewardship and supports the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through hands-on community engagement.



© Aegean College | Students from the School of Biosciences during a beach clean-up at Alimos Baths, Athens, 2024



© Aegean College | Conference of Climate Crisis and Economic Impact, Athens, 2024

Conference of Climate Crisis and Economic Impact

Aegean College hosted a conference exploring the environmental and economic challenges facing Greece, with particular emphasis on water scarcity, climate change, extreme weather events, and sustainable development. The event brought together representatives from academia, government, industry, and civil society to discuss strategies for strengthening climate resilience and promoting sustainable resource management.

Key topics included water resource management, marine ecosystem protection, circular economy, climate adaptation, sustainable business practices, and the socio-economic impacts of environmental crises on local communities. Through expert presentations and panel discussions, participants highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, evidence-based policymaking, and cross-sector partnerships in addressing climate-related challenges.

The conference reinforced Aegean College's commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by fostering dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action to support environmental sustainability and resilient communities.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





Towards a more sustainable future for the next generations!

Career Day 2024: Connecting Students with Professional Opportunities

Aegean College Piraeus successfully organised its Career Day 2024, creating a valuable platform for students to connect with leading organisations and explore future career opportunities. The event attracted significant participation, with students from the **School of Maritime Studies** engaging directly with representatives from prominent companies in the shipping sector.

During the event, participating companies presented employment opportunities, internship programmes, and professional development pathways, allowing students to gain insight into current industry trends and the skills required by employers. The initiative encouraged meaningful networking, knowledge exchange, and the development of professional relationships between the academic community and the labour market.

Through initiatives such as **Career Day, Aegean College** reinforces its commitment to enhancing student employability, supporting career development, and providing opportunities for students to transition successfully from higher education into the professional world.



© Aegean College | Dr. Chryssovalantis Papathanasiou

International Accreditation of the Biomedical Science Programme

In 2026, **Aegean College's BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science** programme received international accreditation from the **Royal Society of Biology (RSB), UK,** recognising its compliance with internationally recognised academic and professional standards in the biosciences. The accreditation followed a rigorous external evaluation of the programme's curriculum, laboratory training, research-led learning, critical thinking, and graduate competencies.

This achievement strengthens the College's commitment to delivering high-quality, internationally benchmarked education and enhances students' academic and professional opportunities. Accredited students benefit from complimentary membership of the Royal Society of Biology throughout their studies, providing access to international professional networks, scientific resources, and career development opportunities. The accreditation also supports graduates' progression to postgraduate study and employment in the global biomedical sciences sector.



© Aegean College | Students of Biomedical Sciences working in the Biology lab, Athens, 2026

17 Royal Society of Biology Accreditation and Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The accreditation of Aegean College's BSc Biology programmes, including the specialised streams of Molecular Biology, Ecology and Conservation, and Marine Biology, by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) represents recognition of the programmes' commitment to excellence, academic quality, and internationally aligned standards in biological education. This accreditation strengthens the College's contribution to the development of best practices that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ensuring High-Quality Education

RSB accreditation confirms that the BSc Biology programmes meet rigorous academic and professional standards, ensuring that students receive a high-quality education in the biological sciences. Graduates are equipped with the knowledge, analytical skills, and scientific understanding required to address complex environmental, health, and sustainability challenges.

Alignment with International Standards

The accreditation ensures that Aegean College's Biology programmes are aligned with globally recognised benchmarks established by a leading professional body in the biological sciences. This international recognition supports the continuous improvement of teaching practices, research activities, and educational outcomes.

Recognition of Specialist Areas Supporting Sustainability

The accreditation recognises the programmes' specialised pathways in Molecular Biology, Ecology and Conservation, and Marine Biology. These fields directly contribute to addressing key sustainability challenges, including the protection of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15 – Life on Land) and marine environments (SDG 14 – Life Below Water), while advancing scientific understanding of biodiversity and biological processes.



Development of Practical and Applied Skills

A key element of the accredited programmes is the emphasis on practical learning, including laboratory activities, research projects, and fieldwork. These experiences enable students to apply biological knowledge to real-world challenges and develop the skills needed to contribute to scientific innovation, conservation efforts, and sustainable solutions.

Integration of Sustainability Principles into Education

The accreditation supports the integration of sustainability concepts throughout the Biology curriculum. Students develop not only a strong understanding of biological sciences but also an awareness of how scientific knowledge can be applied responsibly to support environmental protection, sustainable practices, and global development goals.

Supporting Research and Collaboration Opportunities

Recognition from the Royal Society of Biology enhances the credibility and visibility of Aegean College's research activities. This strengthens opportunities for collaboration with academic and scientific partners, encouraging research initiatives that contribute to addressing global sustainability challenges and advancing progress towards the SDGs.

17

Professional Recognition and Graduate Employability

Graduates of RSB-accredited programmes benefit from professional recognition, enhancing their career opportunities within scientific, research, conservation, and environmental sectors. Equipped with internationally recognised qualifications and specialised expertise, graduates are better positioned to contribute to sustainable development through their future professional roles.

Integrating Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals Across Academic Programmes

Aegean College is committed to embedding sustainability principles throughout its academic programmes and preparing students to actively contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through strategic collaborations, such as the partnership with Genotypos Science Labs, the College promotes interdisciplinary learning, research, innovation, and the development of practical solutions to global challenges.

Identifying Challenges and Opportunities

The collaboration between academic programmes and Genotypos Science Labs supports the identification of key challenges across areas including health and well-being (SDG 3), food security (SDG 2), quality education (SDG 4), access to clean water (SDG 6), scientific innovation and infrastructure development (SDG 9), climate action (SDG 13), and biodiversity protection (SDG 15). By combining academic expertise with scientific research, the partnership enables students and researchers to explore solutions to complex sustainability issues.

Developing Sustainable Policies and Strategies

Through knowledge exchange, collaborative research, and curriculum development, the partnership contributes to the creation of strategies that support sustainable development. The integration of sustainability-related topics into academic programmes ensures that future professionals are equipped with the skills and understanding needed to address environmental, social, and health-related challenges.

Preparing for Future Challenges Through Innovation

By incorporating developments in biomedical sciences and biological research into its programmes, Aegean College supports innovation and future-oriented thinking. The collaboration encourages the adoption of emerging technologies and scientific approaches that can contribute to sustainable practices, improved health outcomes, and solutions addressing the impacts of climate change.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting of Initiatives

Monitoring and reporting mechanisms form an essential part of the partnership, ensuring that initiatives are evaluated effectively and that progress is measured transparently. Through data-driven approaches, accountability, and continuous assessment, Aegean College supports informed decision-making and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development objectives.



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Supporting Continuous Improvement and Adaptive Management

The collaboration promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement through ongoing communication, research activities, and practical applications. This flexible approach allows strategies and initiatives to evolve in response to new scientific developments and emerging sustainability challenges.

Embedding Sustainability Across the Curriculum

Aegean College integrates sustainability concepts across its academic programmes, including the BSc Biomedical Science and BSc Biology programmes, ensuring that students develop the knowledge, skills, and awareness required to contribute to global sustainability efforts. By incorporating the SDGs into education and professional training, the College aims to create a positive impact that extends beyond the academic community.

Addressing Global Health and Social Challenges

Through its focus on biomedical sciences and collaborative research, Aegean College contributes to addressing global health challenges, supporting improved health and well-being (SDG 3), reducing inequalities through access to knowledge and opportunities (SDG 10), and strengthening partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17).

Aegean College remains dedicated to expanding the alignment of its curricula with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Over the coming years, the College aims to further map and enhance its academic programmes against the SDG framework, ensuring that sustainability remains a core component of teaching, research, and institutional development. The College also continues to participate in international benchmarking initiatives, including the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assess the contribution of higher education institutions towards achieving the SDGs.



A partnership that transforms education!

The collaboration between Aegean College and the University of Essex aims to enhance the quality of higher education in Greece. The University of Essex awards the academic degrees while ensuring that programmes delivered by Aegean College meet the same academic standards as those offered on its UK campus.

As part of the OMIROS Education Group, Aegean College offers around 80 undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes across four Greek cities. The partnership serves more than 4,000 students and focuses on disciplines such as Business, Shipping, Tourism, Artificial Intelligence, Psychology, Education, Health Sciences, and Biosciences. The college also introduced its first doctoral programme in Psychology during the 2023–2024 academic year.

The institution emphasises a student-centred approach by combining theoretical learning with practical experience, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research opportunities. A notable initiative is the BioSensors SmartLab, which supports innovation in areas including psychology, artificial intelligence, and neuromarketing.

According to the college's leadership, new academic programmes are developed following extensive labour market analysis conducted several years in advance. This approach ensures that graduates acquire skills aligned with current industry demands. As a result, approximately 90% of graduates secure full-time employment within one year of completing their studies, with many finding employment before graduation.

Aegean College further supports students' career development through supervised internships, partnerships with numerous public and private organisations, professional seminars, guest lectures, conference participation, and ongoing career guidance after graduation. These initiatives are designed to strengthen graduates' employability and maintain strong links between higher education and the labour market.



Educational Visit | Blue Star 2 Ferry

Students enrolled in Aegean College's Maritime Studies programme participated in a practical educational visit to the Blue Star 2 ferry, operated by Attica Group's Blue Star Ferries, on 29 March 2024. Accompanied by their lecturer, the visit provided students with first-hand exposure to the operational environment of a passenger vessel.

During the visit, students toured the ship's main departments and received explanations from officers regarding the responsibilities and functions of each area. The experience also enabled them to compare the operational characteristics of passenger shipping with those of merchant shipping, gaining a broader understanding of the maritime industry.

A key part of the visit was a discussion with the ship's lieutenant, who described the procedures followed before and during a vessel's departure, as well as the documentation and records maintained on the bridge. Overall, the practical course strengthened students' understanding of ship operations by linking classroom knowledge with real-world maritime practice.



© Aegean College | Students of Shipping during an educational visit to Blue Star 2 Ferry, Athens, 2024

Aegean College Piraeus X Skywalker.gr

On 4 April 2024, **Aegean College Piraeus** organised a career development seminar in collaboration with Skywalker.gr, one of Greece's leading employment platforms. The event focused on enhancing students' job-search skills and improving their ability to use online tools effectively when seeking employment.

The seminar covered practical topics such as preparing an effective CV, creating a professional LinkedIn profile, and using social media strategically for career opportunities rather than solely for personal networking. Participants also received guidance on best practices for entering the labour market and developing a strong professional presence online.



© Aegean College | Skywalker's Business Continuity Director, Sotiris Chatziioannidis delivering a career development seminar at Aegean College, Piraeus, 2024



© Aegean College | Sotiris Chatziioannidis, Commercial Director of Skywalker (left) & Sotiris Manologlou, Professor(right)

Aegean College Piraeus X Skywalker.gr

The session was delivered by **Sotiris Chatziioannidis, Commercial Director of Skywalker.gr**, who shared practical insights and career advice based on his professional experience. Coordinated by **Professor Sotirios Manologlou,** the seminar attracted a large number of students from Aegean College's Maritime Studies programmes, demonstrating the institution's commitment to supporting students' employability and career readiness.



Students attending a career development seminar from Skywalker, Piraeus, 2024



A strategic partnership with the University of Macedonia

Aegean College has established a strategic partnership with the **Lifelong Learning Centre of the University of Macedonia** to deliver specialised education and professional training programmes for students, graduates, and working professionals. The collaboration combines the academic expertise of the University of Macedonia with Aegean College's practice-oriented teaching methods to provide programmes that address contemporary labour market needs.

The partnership aims to promote lifelong learning by offering opportunities for participants to enhance their knowledge and professional skills, supporting career development across a range of industries. It also seeks to maintain high academic standards by integrating university expertise with innovative educational approaches.

In addition, the initiative encourages networking and knowledge exchange between academics and professionals, creating opportunities for collaboration and professional development. The programmes cover a wide range of subject areas, including entrepreneurship, emerging technologies, sustainability, social sciences, and personal development. Overall, the partnership reflects **Aegean College**'s commitment to continuous education, workforce development, and the preparation of skilled professionals for evolving industry demands.

A strategic partnership with the University of Macedonia



The academic collaboration with the University of Belgrade

Aegean College has initiated an academic collaboration with the **Faculty of Security Studies at the University of Belgrade** to strengthen research and educational cooperation in areas of shared interest. The partnership was discussed during a meeting in Belgrade between representatives of both institutions, including the **Director of Aegean College's MSc in Human Rights and Migration**, delivered in collaboration with the **University of Essex**, and f**aculty members from the University of Belgrade.**





The academic collaboration with the University of Belgrade

The discussions focused on developing joint research projects and educational initiatives addressing contemporary global challenges related to migration, human rights, and security. The collaboration aims to provide students with practical learning opportunities while equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to respond to complex international issues.

By combining expertise in security studies, migration, and human rights, the partnership seeks to promote interdisciplinary learning, expand academic cooperation between Greece and Serbia, and contribute to research and education on challenges affecting the Balkan region and the wider international community.



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