

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

### FIRE / POLICE / AMBULANCE

112

Call 112 from a landline, a mobile phone or a pay phone and you will be automatically connected free of charge to the European emergency services.

### BRITISH CONSULAR NETWORK

Emergency and out of hours contact. Please call the Embassy's switchboard (+30 210 7272 600) and listen for instructions or visit [ukingreece.fco.gov.uk](http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk)



### EMPLOYMENT IN GREECE

A good knowledge of Greek will assist you find a job or to work as a self-employed person.

EU Nationals have the right of self-establishment in Greece. However, in some areas the Greek authorities may require an applicant to satisfy certain qualifications.

Manpower and Employment Organisation office  
[www.oaed.gr](http://www.oaed.gr)  
(only available in Greek)  
Ministry of Employment and Social Security  
[www.ypakp.gr](http://www.ypakp.gr)  
(only available in Greek)  
National Insurance for self-employed  
[www.oaee.gr](http://www.oaee.gr)  
British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
[www.bhcc.gr](http://www.bhcc.gr)

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Registering with Greek Authorities

##### Registration certificate / Permanent Residence Certificate

EU nationals have the right to live and work in Greece without a work permit; however EU nationals staying longer than 3 months are required to obtain a Residence Certificate (Vevaiosi Engrafis). This certificate will not need to be renewed. Another document that is available is the Permanent Residence Certificate (Engrafo Monimis Diamonis) which is optional. This certificate may suit you if you are married to a Greek citizen or if you have made Greece your permanent

## WHAT THE CONSULATES CAN AND CANNOT DO FOR YOU

### Can

Provide help if you are a victim of crime, have suffered rape or serious assault or are in hospital. Help people with mental health needs, contact your family or friends, if you wish;

Accept applications for emergency travel documents if you need to travel urgently and your passport has expired or is lost / stolen. Information on how to apply can be found on [ukingreece.fco.gov.uk](http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk) or contact your local Consulate;

Provide information on how to transfer funds. We can help you to contact relatives and friends who may be willing to transfer money to you or to buy you a ticket back to the UK;

Make every effort to contact you within 24 hours of being told that you have been detained;

Offer support and help in a range of other cases, such as child abduction, death of relatives overseas, missing persons and kidnapping;

Register births / deaths, issue certificates and provide notarial services.

### YOUR LOCAL CONSULATES IN GREECE

**Athens:** +30 210 7272 600

**Corfu:** +30 26610 23457

**Crete:** +30 2810 224012

**Rhodes:** +30 22410 22005

**Thessaloniki:** +30 2310 278006

**Zakynthos:** +30 26950 22906

**Honorary Consulates / Agents**

**Patras:** +30 2610 277329

**Lesvos:** +30 22510 32461

### Cannot

Get you better treatment in hospital or prison than is given to local people;

Issue standard passports. Our passport work has been relocated to the Regional Passport Processing Centre based at the British Embassy in Madrid. Information on how to renew your passport can be found on [ukingreece.fco.gov.uk](http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk);

Help you enter a country, for example, if you do not have a visa or your passport is not valid, as we cannot interfere in another country's immigration policy or procedures;

Pay any bills or give you money from public funds. However, we can advise you on how you can arrange funds to be transferred from the UK;

Get you out of prison, prevent the local authorities from deporting you after your prison sentence, or intervene in criminal or civil court proceedings;

Give you legal advice, become involved in specific property/land disputes, investigate crimes or carry out searches for missing people, although we can give you details of people who may be able to help you in these cases, such as English-speaking lawyers;

Make travel arrangements for you, or find work or accommodation or make business arrangements on your behalf;

Make sure you will be safe in another country; safety and security are matters for the Government concerned. Provide compensation if you are affected by a major catastrophe or terrorist attack.



## British Consular Network Greece

There is a lot of information on our website [ukingreece.fco.gov.uk](http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk) It is aimed at people who live in Greece or who are preparing to move to Greece. In this leaflet you will find some basic information and a guide on where to get answers to questions you may have.

home. Anyone wishing to obtain this certificate must be able to prove that s/he has been a permanent resident of Greece for over 5 years. Applications for the above certificates should be made to the local Aliens Police (Tmima Allodapon) or to the local Police station closest to your residence, if you live outside Athens. The Greek authorities should be approached for detailed information. Documents that are likely to be required to be submitted in person are: a valid passport, 3 photographs, proof of medical cover, document that shows permanent residence and a statement from the applicant's employer. Hellenic Police [www.astynomia.gr](http://www.astynomia.gr) (only available in Greek)

## Greek Social Security

The main Greek Social Security organisation is called IKA. IKA provides basic medical services to Greek national insurance contributors and has a reciprocal agreement with the UK National Health Service.

This means that you have to pay into the social security system in order for you and your dependants to get state healthcare. If you have worked in the UK and you plan to take up residency in Greece, contact the UK Department for Work and Pensions to request an S1 form. This form should then be taken to your local IKA office where it will be exchanged for a health book. This health book is your entitlement to healthcare in Greece. Appointments to see an IKA doctor may be made by calling 184. Medicines prescribed by an IKA doctor are available from any pharmacy and you will be charged a patient charge. Charges may vary depending on the prescription. The level of nursing and aftercare at the public and private hospitals around Greece may differ from what is normally available in the UK. If you live in Greece but do not pay into the Greek Social Security system you should consider private health insurance. NHS: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
IKA: [www.ika.gr](http://www.ika.gr)  
Department for Work and Pensions: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)  
Directgov: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

## Pensions

To enable your state pension to be paid directly into a bank account in Greece you need to report your change of address, bank details or other circumstances to the Pension Service.

In order for you to get healthcare from IKA you first need to request an S1 form from the UK Pension Service. When you receive this, you should take it to your local IKA office. You will then be issued with an IKA health book in exchange. This book can then be renewed each year. The Pension Service: [www.thepensionerservice.gov.uk](http://www.thepensionerservice.gov.uk)  
IKA: [www.ika.gr](http://www.ika.gr)  
Directgov: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

## Benefits

You may be entitled to benefits, including sickness and bereavement, depending on your individual circumstances. For information on how moving to

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

### TAX

There is a bilateral taxation agreement between the UK and Greece whereby persons are obliged to submit their tax declaration to the tax authorities in their country of residence, irrespective of where his/her income arises. Taxation is a complex issue and advice should be sought. Initially, you need to obtain a Tax number (AFM / ΑΦΜ) at the local Greek Tax Office (Eforia). The Tax number is required in order to legally work in Greece or to buy a car or property. Once you have a tax number you are required to submit a yearly tax return in Greece.

For information visit your local Tax Office or an accountant.

### THE GREEK OMBUDSMAN

The Greek Ombudsman may intervene in cases involving public bodies such as: Ministries, Prefectures, Municipalities, Communities, social insurance funds, Tax Offices etc.

In exceptional circumstances, the Greek Ombudsman may examine the behaviour of private citizens where a child's rights are violated and where there is unequal treatment of men and women in matters of employment. More info at: [www.synigoros.gr](http://www.synigoros.gr)

Greece will affect your benefits visit [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and [www.thepensionerservice.gov.uk](http://www.thepensionerservice.gov.uk)

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC entitles you to state emergency treatment on a par to treatment received by the residents of the country in all European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland. However, you will not be covered for medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or treatment of a non urgent nature. Applying for the card is free. You may be expected to pay towards your treatment. For information on how to apply go to: [www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk) We strongly recommend that you have both an EHIC and comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling abroad.

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Most banks require a minimum deposit for opening an account and for some banks the applicant must be over 18. Some documents that are likely to be requested are:

Identity card and/or valid passport, proof of address e.g. recent bill, Registration Certificate from the Aliens Police, formal statement declaring that the account will not be used for trade, copy of tax statement. Hellenic Bank Association: [www.hba.gr](http://www.hba.gr)

### CARS AND DRIVING

For info go to: **UK Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)** [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk)  
**Greek Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks** [www.yme.gr](http://www.yme.gr)

### ANIMALS / PETS

Taking pets from Greece to the UK – for info go to: **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) (Pet Travel Scheme)

Bringing pets to Greece from the UK for info go to: **Ministry of Rural Development and Food** [www.minagric.gr](http://www.minagric.gr)

### LISTS OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING PROFESSIONALS

You will find lists of English-speaking lawyers, interpreters, doctors and funeral directors on our website ([ukingreece.fco.gov.uk](http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk)).

### CITIZENS SERVICE CENTRES (KEP Offices)

The KEP offices offer information and services which vary from central to regional and local level. There are offices throughout Greece which you may visit; For info go to: [www.kep.gov.gr](http://www.kep.gov.gr)

### VOTING IN GREECE

#### Elections in the UK

British citizens who have been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years are eligible to vote in the UK. The Electoral Commission: [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk)

#### Elections in Greece

European Union citizens have the right to vote and to be elected both during the Municipal/Community Elections and the EU Parliamentary Elections. Greek Ministry of Interior Decentralisation & E-government: [www.ypes.gr](http://www.ypes.gr)

### EDUCATION

There are a number of private schools in Greece with English or international curricula. Their programmes vary but all schools are required to satisfy the requirements of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

The British Council Greece provides information on learning or teaching English, enrolling in a UK University and organises various cultural or scientific events from the UK.

**Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs:** [www.ypepth.gr](http://www.ypepth.gr) and [www.minedu.gov.gr](http://www.minedu.gov.gr)

**British Council:** [www.britishcouncil.gr](http://www.britishcouncil.gr)



### Disclaimer

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this information but it is not exhaustive and the British Embassy and British Consular Network in Greece cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. The content of this leaflet is correct at time of printing (2011). If you have any feedback on the contents of this leaflet, please email us at: [Consular.Athens@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Consular.Athens@fco.gov.uk)

Photo credits: Stavros Messinis