

THE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS



PRESENTATION

The Academy is part of formal public tertiary education since its foundation in 1975. It is located in Argostoli, Kefallonia, an island of the Ionian Sea in the west part of Greece and is one of the eight National Merchant Maritime Academies for Deck Officers in the country.

The island has a rich Maritime history throughout the centuries and many of the well-known Greek ship-owners were born and raised here. The Academy is operating under the auspices of Ministry on Mercantile Marine.

The Academic staff comprises of both fully qualified Master Mariners with the highest qualifications, STCW certifications, and years of experience at sea as captains of ocean-going vessels for specialized Maritime subjects, and professors of other Maritime-related subjects, English for Specific Purposes who hold Masters Degrees and Doctorates in their respective fields. All professors at the Academy are experienced with many years of teaching Naval students.

Our graduate students are our ambassadors plying the seas worldwide and through them our Academy's reputation has expanded beyond every border. Some of them work in the maritime cluster in various managerial positions at the land-based institutions and companies as superintendents, port captains, claim handlers, trainers, ship-operators or they run their own business as shipbrokers, S&P brokers or ship chandlers.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ACADEMY IS THE FOLLOWING:

The Academy offers students free tuition and accommodation as well as free complimentary study materials as part of the public education scheme.

The studies consist of a four-year sandwich course (six semesters of classroom lessons and two semesters paid training at sea). The students who fulfill the requirements will train on board modern Greek merchant ships of all types (mostly bulk carriers, container ships, tankers, LNG/LPG and passenger ships) -1500 gross tons capacity or over.

There is a formal code of conduct which all students are required to abide by, stated in the "Internal Regulations of Attendance" document pertaining mostly to the semi-military character of the institution. Attendance is compulsory and overall, students must succeed in 53 subjects, compile a thesis during their 4th year and train a total of 12 months as Cadet Officers, in order to graduate.

All textbooks and formal curriculum of the Academy are defined by the Ministry on Mercantile Marine and the Aegean according to world-acknowledged standards and follow the latest requirements of STCW 2010 "manila amendments".

On successful graduation from the Academy, the graduates attain a certificate of the Second Officer (2nd/O) or Officer in Charge of Navigational Watch (unlimited tonnage) according to the mandatory requirements of the STCW Convention and after approximately 2 years at sea can become First Deck Officers (Chief Officers or Mates). After a minimum of 3 more years on board they become Masters (captains). Both advancements presuppose an average of 5 months studying at the central maritime public organization of KESEN (Center for further Education of Merchant Marine Officers).

EXPECTATION CONCERNING THE VASCO DA GAMA PROJECT

Concerning our interest and expectations vis a vis VDG we are in a position to offer our decades of Maritime Education experience since our foundation, but also are expecting to expand our horizons. Our many graduates represent our work throughout the globe as experienced mariners of all deck officer ranks. We hope to develop our training programs, and curriculum. Through the VDG project, we await the expansion of knowledge we offer pertaining to environmental awareness and training among our cadets and we foresee a broad source of information.