Yassas! Greetings from Greece!

This summer, 20 students from NYU took part in the College of Arts and Science (CAS) Summer in Athens program led by Professor Liana Theodoratou. A host of co-curricular events and group excursions complement the coursework and utilize Athens and other areas of Greece as a living classroom. Students learned about the archaeological ruins at Mycenae in the Peloponnese and a few days later stood in front of the Lion Gate, considering the importance of that structure to the History of Art, as well as the ancient civilization that built it. They discussed Greek tragedies, such as Oedipus Rex, and visited the ancient theater of Epidaurus to experience outdoor theatre firsthand much as ancient Greeks did millennia ago.

As the Associate Director of CAS Summer and Study Abroad, I had the pleasure to visit the group in July. One thing that struck me was how quickly students embraced Greek culture, language and the Kolonaki neighborhood where they live and study during their six weeks in the city. Not only were students immersed in their studies, they were conversing with locals in cafes while sipping the ubiquitous summer beverage, freddo cappuccino. Within days of arrival, they were exploring the Parthenon and Hadrian’s Arch and ordering souvlaki like pros . . . in Greek!

As with other programs offered by CAS Summer Abroad, academics form the core of Summer in Athens. Classes are offered in Modern Greek, the Archaeology of Greece, Greek Drama, and an overarching course, The City of Athens, which asks students to navigate the city’s history through its art, music, and architecture. These are great opportunities for students to explore different disciplines, get ahead on language study, enhance a resume, or even accelerate degree completion. These types of unique experiences deepen understanding of concepts that students first encounter in the traditional classroom. What could be a better way to spend the summer months! If you’d like to explore Summer in Athens and other CAS Summer Abroad programs, check out: www.nyu.edu/summer/abroad.cas.

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