



THE UNIVERSITY OF CRETE SELECTED TO HOST GREEK DIASPORA FELLOWS

Collaborative Project will Focus on Empire, Colonization and Global History in the Mediterranean World (Research Collaboration, Graduate Teaching and student mentoring).

Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program Selects 20 Projects at 12 Greek Universities

Rethymno, Dec.15 – The University of Crete was selected to host a Greek Diaspora scholar from Canada to work on a project of Research Collaboration and Graduate Teaching on *Empire, Colonization and Global History in the Mediterranean World*. [Socrates Petmezas](#), Professor of Modern Economic and Social History in the department of [History and Archaeology](#), will lead the project, together with Professor [Athanasios \(Sakis\) Gekas](#), a Fellow from [York University](#) in Toronto, Canada.

Professors Petmezas of the University of Crete and Athanasios Gekas, a fellow from York University, will collaborate to design and teach a four-week seminar on the History of Empires and Global history in May 2017. Professor [Elias Kolovos](#), of the University of Crete will also collaborate with them preparing a research article on the Ionians Islands as a border island-territory between the Ottoman Empire and the West European powers (17th-19th century). Finally a workshop will be organized on the theme of the «Transition from Ottoman Rule to the Greek State in the 19th century». We are confident that the teaching of the History of Empires and Global/Transnational History in the [Program of Graduate Studies in Contemporary European and Hellenic History](#) of the Department of History and Archaeology will provide fresh approaches and new ideas to our graduate students and orientate them to potential new areas of research, while offering them support and mentoring to if they wish to continue their studies in North American Universities. It will also facilitate and solidify the research collaboration between the incoming fellow and our faculty on an already existing common research project, and help them continue and enlarge their ground of interaction.

The University of Crete is one of [twelve Greek universities](#) selected by [The Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program](#) to host [twenty-one Greek- and Cypriot-born scholars](#) for collaborative projects that meet specific needs at their institutions and in their communities, through proposals submitted by faculty members and administrators at the Greek universities. The scholars, hailing from a cross-section of sixteen prominent United States and Canadian universities, will travel to Greece to conduct academic projects with their peers at Greek universities, working in areas that range from public health to chemical genomics research, and from English language curriculum to continuing education studies in urban food security.

[The Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program](#) is designed to help avert Greece's brain drain and develop long-term, mutually-beneficial collaborations between universities in Greece and the United States and Canada. It is managed by the Institute of International Education in

collaboration with the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, and funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Over a period of two years, the program will award Fellowships to 40 U.S. and Canadian based academics to collaborate with universities throughout Greece to develop curricula, conduct research, and teach and mentor graduate students in priority areas identified by the Greek universities.

“The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is thrilled both with the appeal and interest the program has generated among academics of the diaspora, as well as the wide ranging expertise of the first round of Fellows,” stated Stelios Vasilakis, Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives at SNF. “We look forward to these partnerships, which we believe will build long-lasting relationships and be beneficial to all parties involved. We are grateful to the Institute of International Education for their dedication to the program as well as the invaluable input of the esteemed Advisory Council.”

“The Stavros Niarchos Foundation’s generous support for these Fellowships demonstrates the Foundation’s commitment to expanding Greece’s human capital and investing in the country’s long-term economic recovery,” said Allan Goodman, President and CEO of the Institute of International Education.

For further information:

[The Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program](#)

Institute of International Education (IIE) www.iie.org

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation www.SNF.org

The Fulbright Foundation in Greece www.fulbright.gr/en/

Contact: Maria Papadaki, UoC Office of Public Relations, Rethymnon, publicrel@admin.uoc.gr
Sharon Witherell, IIE Public Affairs, switherell@iie.org



Fellows Professor Sakis Gekas from York University in Toronto, Canada (left), Professor Stavroula Sofou from Rutgers University and Professor Stelios Smirnakis from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts are among the first Greek Diaspora Fellows selected to collaborate with peers at Greek higher education institutions to conduct research, training and curriculum co-development projects. The University of Crete is among the 12 universities in Greece to host the Fellows' projects, which begin in January.

