

Sport and Education Program

From Ancient Olympia to the Present

July 6 – 10, 2026

Ancient Olympia, Greece

Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece and the US (CHS), the International Olympic Academy (IOA), in collaboration with Harvard Athletics, University of Patras, and Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sport at the University of Texas at Austin, and with the support of Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and AEGEAS Non-Profit Civil Company offer the Sport and Education Program: From Ancient Olympia to the Present. The Program is under the auspices of the General Secretariat of Sport, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, Hellenic Republic. It will be held between 6-10 of July 2026, at the premises of the IOA in Ancient Olympia.

Description

Following the longstanding collaboration between CHS and the IOA, the Program will bring a diverse body of students and faculty together in Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games, to examine how sport shaped ancient models of knowledge, and how, in turn, the ancient athletic-knowledge complex, known as *paideia*, served as a model for modern universities and professional sports.

[See more information about the Sport and Education Program 2026.](#)

Organized by



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Program faculty

The list of faculty members for this year's program consists of:

- Charles Stocking, Academic Director of the Sport and Education Program, Associate Professor at the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, University of Texas at Austin, and Associate of the Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University
- Georgios Mouratidis, Assistant Director of the British School at Athens
- Mark Schiefsky, C. Lois P. Grove Professor of the Classics, and Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University
- John Zilcosky, Professor of German and Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto

This list is provisional and will be updated on the program's website as more faculty, speakers, and sport experts are confirmed.

Organization and logistics

This is a non-fee-based activity, and participants will be given certificates of participation during the closing session of the Program.

Provisions: Transportation by bus from Athens to Olympia on July 6, and from Olympia to Athens on July 10 (with intermediate stops at Patras); accommodation (double rooms), and meals (breakfast, lunch) at the IOA premises. The Organizers do not cover airfare and other incidental expenses associated with the presence and participation in the symposium, beyond those described above.

Details about transportation and accommodation will be shared with the participants in due time.

Application

This activity is open to up to thirty-five (35) undergraduate students in their 3rd year of studies and higher and postgraduate (Master's and PhD) students from every department of Greek Universities. We welcome applicants with a demonstrated current affiliation or interest in sport. In addition to undergraduates and postgraduate students from Greece, the program will also host Harvard undergraduate student-athletes and undergraduate students from other collaborating universities in the US and Canada.

Applications for students from universities in Greece (<https://forms-greece.chs.harvard.edu/sport-education-program-application/>) will remain open between Friday, January 19, 2026, and Thursday, March 19, 2026 (23:59 Eastern European Time).

References must be submitted by Monday, March 23, 2026 (23:59 Eastern European Time). The selection process will conclude by April 30 and selected participants will receive acceptance messages via email, along with instructions regarding the confirmation of their participation and the submission of other related forms.

Contact information

For more information about the program and the application, please visit the [Program's website](https://greece.chs.harvard.edu/events-conferences/sport-education-program) (<https://greece.chs.harvard.edu/events-conferences/sport-education-program>) and/or contact: programs-events@chs.harvard.edu or IOA Sessions' Coordinator Marilena Katsadoraki (email: m.katsadoraki@ioa.org.gr, phone: +30 210 6878810).

Organized by:



Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Education,
Religious Affairs and Sports

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July 6-10, 2026, Olympia, Greece



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students from universities in Greece, and
undergraduate students from Harvard and
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