



## **ExcellenSeas SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

### **Open seas for the success of young people from the borderline islands**

The ExcellenSeas program began as an initiative of the Pastra Cretonaxiosa offshore swimming team. The members of the team, while swimming long distances in various areas of the Greek seas and communicating with the local communities, have gained a direct perception of the special conditions and needs of the small remote islands of our country. For this reason, the team set as a goal of its swimming excursions to raise public awareness and raise funds, in order to provide financial support in the form of scholarships for students coming from these islands. Further, the team's swimming missions have been taking place under the auspices of HE the Presidency of the Hellenic Republic.

Starting in 2018, with the award of a scholarship to the only graduate of the High School of St Stratis island, the initiative evolved into a program supported by a wide range of companies and organizations, including Hellenic Petroleum (ELPE), Eugenia Giannini and Associates Law Firm, Athens International Airport, Grant Thornton, Aegean, ANT1, Holmes Place, Attica Group, Ertif Verwaltung Photovoltaics Ltd, Boston Consulting Group, MGCode, Sofren N.Y., MOTODYNAMICS, TEMES, Ionian Hotel Enterprises, ELLAKTOR Group, SETE, Electra Hotels, SANI Resort and more. These organizations and companies support the operation of the program and also undertake to provide scholarships for the program's scholars.

The vision of the ExcellenSeas program is the development of the local communities in the borderline islands through the academic and professional progress of the young people of these islands. In particular, the aim of our initiative is to reward and support excellent students in these islands, who have been accepted to universities, but need support to meet the financial needs of their studies. Thus, through targeted financial support and advisory guidance, under the auspices of the Scientific Committee of the program, we award scholarships that cover the entire range of university studies. The program also provides to the scholars the opportunity to participate in short-term internships in order to gain professional experience, depending on their respective scientific field.

The Scientific Committee of ExcellenSeas is staffed by Professors of Greek and foreign Universities, as well as by personalities distinguished for their ethics and high academic and professional level. The key task of the Committee is the selection of scholarship holders and the close monitoring of their academic development. In addition, task of the Committee is also the provision of valuable consulting work in the next stage for the students' lives, that towards their professional rehabilitation.

In addition, ExcellenSeas has already awarded 17 scholarships during the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, to students from islands like Astypalea, Kastelorizo, Meganisi, St Stratis, Nisyros, Chalki, Psara, Kasos and Fournoi, who are currently studying at several university faculties of our country's Universities. Moreover, for the academic year 2021-2022 the program proceeds in including 10 additional scholars coming from small borderline Greek islands. The support that scholarship recipients have received at both the advisory and financial levels - especially given the economic impact of the recent pandemic - is a key driver of their academic progress.

Our goal is to continue for the next years in order to contribute in the progress and the development of our borderline islands and in providing equal opportunities to the students coming from these islands.

For more information on the scholarship initiative and framework under which our scholarships are provided, visit our website following the link: [www.excellenseas.org](http://www.excellenseas.org) .