

# **Niarchos Fellowship Summary**

## **Report**

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The Niarchos Fellowship was essential in my summer studies in Greece. I attended the Ikarian School in Ikaria Greece. I attended the school for 6 weeks and was in Greece for 7 and a half weeks. At the school I studied Modern Greek Monday thru Friday for at least 5 hours a day. The program used the textbook Greek Now, and I was able to cover almost the whole book in my time there. The lessons balanced listening, writing, talking, and grammar materials. We would often have to answer questions after listening to a dialogue or create skits when given situations. At all times I studied in small groups of at most 4, but sometimes my lessons were one on one with the instructor. The lessons were intense and forced me to rapidly build my vocabulary and speaking abilities. Besides teaching Greek, the program immersed me into the Greek culture. Mihalis the program director also scheduled events on Ikaria to show us the Greek culture. I attended Greek plays and many Greek village festivals. The village festivals in Ikaria were very special to me because I was able to participate in Greek culture that has not been influenced by the outside world. I also had lessons in Greek cooking and was able to visit a traditional Greek farm. It was amazing to not only see and learn the Greek culture but to also participate in it.

Ikaria was the perfect place to have a program like this. Ikaria is an island spared from tourism, so if I wanted to do anything on the island I needed to use my newly acquired Greek skills. This meant that I was practicing my Greek from going to a restaurant for lunch or to the supermarket to buy food for the week. This provided a great opportunity for me. The thing that I struggled with the most studying Greek last year at Yale was speaking. I know that with this constant practice and my instructor forcing me

to speak during our whole lesson I became much better at speaking Greek. I felt my confidence grow and my vocabulary expand.

The program worked on two week cycles. Because I was at the school for six weeks I was able to study with three sets of students. If I had spare time on weekends I traveled to nearby historical sites such as Ephesus, Patmos, and Delos. These small trips further enhanced my learning by forcing me to use the language in my travels. It also allowed me to see parts of Greece other than Ikaria.

My objectives entering the summer were to further my understanding of the Greek language and culture. The Niarchos Fellowship provided me the financial ability to attend the Ikarian Center and to travel throughout Greece. I can say that I achieved my objectives this summer. I noticed a drastic change in my speaking abilities from when I came to Greece and when I left. I also was able to increase my understanding of Greek grammar. The grammar lessons in the school year often went very fast and moved on before I had mastered them. I was able to start over in Ikaria and develop more fully my understanding of the tenses.