

Ministerial Decision 66904/02/14-06-2024 “Determination of the admission process for students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools under Law 4823/2021 (A' 136)”.

Article 1

Admission Requirements

1. Male Greek citizens or persons of Greek origin who have reached the age of eighteen (18), holding a school leaving certificate from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), a Model Ecclesiastical High School under Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), a General High School, or a school leaving certificate or diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent secondary education qualification from a school in Greece or abroad, who possess the qualifications to be ordained as clergy, and have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempted from them, have the right to enroll in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.
2. Foreign citizens of countries within or outside the European Union, who have reached the age of eighteen (18) and hold degrees equivalent to those specified in paragraph 1, have the right to enroll in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools. In this case, knowledge of the Greek language at a minimum level A2 is required, as provided for in article 76 of Law 4763/2020 (A' 254).
3. Clergy appointed pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 140 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136) are also eligible to enroll.

Article 2

Number of Admitted Clergy Candidate Students

1. The number of students admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may amount to: (a) twenty (20) students for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, (b) forty (40) students for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Vellas, Ioannina, and (c) twenty (20) students for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete. With the exception of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the number of admitted students may be increased, provided that the costs of accommodation and meals are borne by the students themselves.
2. Clerics subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of article 140 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136) shall be enrolled in excess of the number of admitted students.

Article 3

Selection Committees and Their Operation

1. A Selection Committee is established and has its seat at each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 145 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136).
2. Each Selection Committee consists of the President, the other regular members, and the Secretary. The President and the Secretary are appointed by the Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece for the Selection Committees of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Vellas, Ioannina, and the President and Secretary of the Selection Committee of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete are appointed by the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete. Participation in the Committee is without remuneration.

3. The duties of the Selection Committee include:
 - a. Collecting and reviewing the applications and certificates, and compiling a list of accepted and rejected candidates pursuant to paragraph 8 of article 4 of this decision,
 - b. Conducting the oral interviews of the first stage and assessing the clergy candidates participating,
 - c. Compiling a list of successful candidates in the interview process in descending order and notifying the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations for posting on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports,
 - d. Supervising and overseeing the written examinations process,
 - e. Compiling a list of candidates who successfully passed their written exams in descending order and sending it to the Supervisory Council of Ecclesiastical Education, as well as
 - f. Delivering the candidates' exam papers to the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School for safekeeping and destruction three (3) years after the date of the examinations.
4. Upon completion of the selection process, the supporting documents of the successful candidates are kept in their individual files, which are kept at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of their acceptance, under the responsibility of the School Director. The individual files of unsuccessful candidates are destroyed by the relevant Selection Committee three (3) months after the announcement and posting of the list of admitted candidates on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The entire process of evaluating and selecting clergy students is governed throughout its duration and after its completion by the principle of confidentiality.

Article 4

Admission Process and Selection Criteria for Clergy Students

1. The Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports issues a call for applications from candidates for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, which describes the process, the required supporting documents, the exam material and the time frame for the selection process, in accordance with the following paragraphs.
2. Applications are submitted electronically through a platform within ten (10) days from the publication of the call for applications. Interested parties submit their applications exclusively online through the gov.gr platform, after authenticating their identity using their personal credentials issued by the General Secretariat for Information Systems and Digital Governance (taxisnet), following the path Home – Education – School Registration – Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, after first uploading the necessary supporting documents.
3. Each candidate may list up to three (3) Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools' preferences in total, in order of priority.
4. The application for lay candidates has the form and content set out in Annex I, which constitutes an integral part of this decision, and is submitted after the uploading of the required supporting documents, as specified in paragraph 6. In the same application, in a separate field, candidates for admission to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Vella and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete indicate whether they wish to reside at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School to which they are admitted. The submission of the application constitutes a solemn statement that the applicant guarantees the accuracy of the information provided and consents to the processing of their personal

data, in accordance with the applicable personal data protection legislation, for the purpose of the admission process to a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, and that they accept the Operating Regulations of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School and the obligations arising therefrom.

5. The application for by clergy members under paragraph 4 of article 140 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136) has the form and content set out in Annex II, which constitutes an integral part of this decision, and is submitted after the uploading of the necessary supporting documents, as specified in paragraph 6 hereof. The submission of the application constitutes a solemn statement that the applicant guarantees the accuracy of the information provided and consents to the processing of their personal data, in accordance with the applicable personal data protection legislation, for the purpose of their admission process to a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.
6. Candidates submit, along with their application, certified supporting documents or documents issued through the Single Digital Portal of the Hellenic Public Administration (gov.gr) to prove their formal qualifications, as follows:
 - a. For lay candidates:
 - A curriculum vitae, including the candidate's Social Security Registration Number, identification details and contact information.
 - A photocopy of both sides of the identity card or passport.
 - A certified photocopy of an academic degree as defined in paragraph 1 of article 1.
 - A certified Certificate of Equivalence of academic degree for candidates of Greek origin residing abroad/foreign nationals. In the case of a graduate of ecclesiastical high school abroad, the recognition of equivalence is carried out by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education upon request by the interested parties and must be completed prior to the submission of the application.
 - A certified A2-level Greek language certificate, for foreign nationals.
 - A residence permit for foreign nationals.
 - A certificate from the Metropolitan of the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, confirming that the applicant possesses the qualifications to be ordained as a cleric.
 - A type A' certificate of military status.
 - A certificate of marital status, and
 - A certificate for specific learning difficulties, only for candidates falling under the provisions of article 5 of this decision.
 - b. For clerics referred to in paragraph 4 of article 140 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136):
 - A photocopy of both sides of the identity card.
 - The Government Gazette publication of appointment to a permanent or temporary Parish Priest position.
 - The most recent assignment decision.
 - A population certificate of the Municipality where they are assigned and serve, in accordance to the most recent census by the Hellenic Statistical Authority, and
 - A certificate of marital status.

Candidates are excluded from the selection process if they fail to upload the required supporting documents, or if the documents uploaded during the selection process are invalid, or if they submit false declarations during the process.

7. Once the application is definitively submitted, the system automatically sends an application code to the email address provided by each candidate in their application.
8. The Selection Committee is responsible for the collection and verification of the candidates' supporting documents and applications on the basis of each candidate's first preference. After the deadline for submitting online applications and within seven (7) days, the Committee gains access to the platform data, verifies the candidates' applications and supporting documents, and compiles a list of accepted and rejected candidates, which it posts at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School and notifies the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations so that it is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. No right of objection is provided against this list.
9. For clerics referred to in paragraph 4 of article 140 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), their most recent placement to a permanent or temporary Parish Priest position is taken into account as their appointment position, to which they are required to remain for ten (10) years, and, during this period, their secondment, transfer or, in general, reassignment is not permitted.
10. The admission of clergy students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is based on a selection process conducted in two (2) stages.
11. In the first stage, oral interviews of the candidates are conducted by the five-member Selection Committee, based on the candidate's first preference, in accordance with the provisions in force.
12. The Selection Committee sets the dates for inviting candidates to an interview. If there is a serious reason, the interview may, following the same process, be conducted remotely through a videoconferencing application, under the responsibility of the Selection Committee. The candidate must submit a written and substantiated request to the Selection Committee, within three days from the posting of the list referred to in paragraph 8 of article 4 on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, requesting that the interview be conducted remotely. Candidates are examined by the Selection Committee of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of their first preference.
13. The invitation, specifying the dates on which candidates are to be interviewed, is communicated to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and, under its responsibility, is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports at least forty-eight (48) hours before the start of the process. Candidates who fail to attend the interview are excluded from the selection process.
14. The selection criteria for clergy students are: a) the candidate's overall character and personality, b) his aptitude for priesthood, and c) his ability to respond to the principles that inspire the Holy Clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ.
15. The Selection Committee may exclude from the further stages of the process any candidate who, during the interview, is found not to be suitable for the priesthood.
16. During the interview, the secretary of the Selection Committee is responsible for keeping the minutes of the process, which include a brief summary of the content of the interview, as well as the questions posed by the members of the Selection Committee and the answers provided by the candidate. The minutes record the individual assessment of each Committee member regarding the candidate's aptitude for priesthood, his ability to respond to the principles that inspire the Holy Clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, and an assessment of his personality and overall character. Furthermore, the

minutes record the invitation of the candidates to the interview and the date of its posting on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the candidates' attendance in the order and at the time they were invited, and, finally, the completion of the proceedings.

17. Upon completion of the interview process, the Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School compiles a list of successful candidates from the first stage in descending order and submits it to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports within twenty (20) days from the start of the interview process, which the Directorate posts on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The Selection Committee of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School also communicates the list of successful candidates to the Multi-Member Council of the Institution.
18. The written exams are conducted at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School in person. Candidates, who have successfully completed the first stage, participate in the common written exams held at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of their first preference. They are tested in writing on the following subjects: a) Greek History, and b) Religious Education.
19. The exam material is as follows: a) Topics in Greek History from the General Education History subject of grade C' of High School, and b) Religious Education of the General Education of grade C' of High School.
20. The written exam consists of multiple-choice questions, and the grading for the Greek History subject is on a scale from one (1) to twenty (20).
21. The written exam consists of two (2) sections, and the grading in the Religious Education subject is on a scale from one (1) to twenty (20). The first section is worth ten (10) points and consists of multiple-choice questions. The second section consists of one (1) open-ended question and is worth ten (10) points. For the second section, brief theological material may be provided in printed form (e.g. an excerpt from a historical or theological text, a hymn, an image, etc.), which candidates may take into consideration or use in their response as a source of information. In assessing answers to the open-ended question, the completeness of structure and content, the correct use of the Greek language, as well as the clarity and accuracy of the wording are taken into account. No re-marking process is provided.
22. Candidates are tested on the above subjects as part of a single exam lasting one hundred and twenty (120) minutes. The examination papers are sent electronically to the examination centers under the responsibility of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, immediately before the start of the exam.
23. Candidates are considered successful if they have achieved at least a score of ten (10) in each subject area.
24. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education selects the common exam topics and issues instructions and clarifications to the Selection Committees regarding the method for grading written exams.
25. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is responsible for organizing the examination process and for supervising it. Candidates are required to present, on the date of the exams, an identity card or passport and the printed code of their application. The personal details and application code of the candidates are concealed immediately after the candidate's identification and are disclosed by the Selection Committee after the grading of the written exams.

26. Teachers of Ecclesiastical Schools, appointed by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, grade the written exams. The decisions appointing the graders and designating the ecclesiastical school to which the examination papers are sent for grading are not published or posted.
27. Under the responsibility of the Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, the written exams are sent to the ecclesiastical schools where the teachers appointed as graders by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education serve, and are returned after grading to the Selection Committee under the responsibility of the relevant Principal of the Ecclesiastical School. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is responsible for delivering the candidates' written exams to the School Principal, drawing up a delivery and receipt record. The Principal keeps the examination papers for three (3) years and draws up a destruction report at the end of that period.
28. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School compiles the list of successful candidates in descending order of success and sends it to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education prepares the list of admitted candidates for each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School and sends it to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The list of admitted candidates for each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is approved by the General Secretary for Religious Affairs and posted on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The list of admitted candidates for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is also communicated to the Multi-Member Council of the Institution.
29. Successful candidates are admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School in descending order of score until the specified number of admissions is filled.
30. In the event of a tie, priority is given to the candidate with the higher grade in the Religious Education exam; if there is also a tie in the Religious Education grade, priority is given to the candidate with the higher high school certificate/degree grade.
31. Transfer of an admitted candidate to another Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is not permitted.
32. If, after the list of admitted candidates has been ratified, vacant places remain or arise due to a successful candidate's failure to enroll, each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School announces, through its website, the number of vacant places that have arisen. In this case, any successful but non-admitted candidate is entitled, within fifteen (15) days from the announcement referred to in the first sentence, to submit an application to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education requesting the filling of the vacant place, on the basis of their grade. The vacant place is filled by decision of the General Secretary for Religious Affairs, upon a recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.
33. If vacancies arise due to the departure of admitted candidates within two (2) months from the start of the academic year, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School announces, through its website, the number of vacancies that have arisen and invites, by email, all successful but non-admitted candidates to submit an application to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education requesting to fill the vacancy within three (3) working days from the date of the invitation. The vacant place is filled by decision of the General

Secretary for Religious Affairs, upon a recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, on the basis of the grades received by the candidates.

34. Any issue arising during the exams is resolved by the Selection Committee and the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

Article 5

Written Examination Process for Individuals with Learning Difficulties

1. Candidates with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dysanagnosia or dysorthographia, are examined under a modified process upon their request. A valid diagnosis certificate from a certified Medical-Pedagogical Centre of a public hospital or a medical opinion from a public Centre for Interdisciplinary Assessment, Counselling and Support of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports is required, which must specify the candidate's specific learning difficulty. Any medical opinions issued by the Centers for Differential Diagnosis, Diagnosis and Support referring to the aforementioned specific learning difficulties are accepted. Candidates must submit the diagnostic certificate along with their application.
2. Candidates falling under the provisions of paragraph 1 hereof are tested on the same subjects as the other candidates in a separate room. Depending on the type of learning difficulty, the examination time may be extended by forty-five (45) minutes. During the written exam, if requested, the proctor may read the question or answer to the examinee one (1) or more times. However, under no circumstances may the proctor reveal, either directly or indirectly, any details of the correct answer.

Article 6

Enrolment

1. Successful candidates are invited, before the start of classes, to finalize their enrolment at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School to which they have been admitted, by submitting a photocopy of both sides of their identity card or passport, or a photocopy of a Special Identity Card for people of Greek origin, or a residence permit.
2. Concurrent enrolment and attendance at a Higher Education Institution is not an impediment to enrolment at a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.
3. Concurrent enrolment and attendance at another post-secondary education institution is an impediment to enrolment at a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.

Article 7

Suspension of the Right to Enrolment and Suspension of Studies

1. Successful candidates may, in exceptional cases, submit a reasoned request to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, through the Principal of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School to suspend their right to enroll before the enrolment process is completed. The suspension, if approved by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, is valid exclusively for one (1) academic year. In the event that the aforementioned prospective candidates do not enroll at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School in September of the following academic year, as required, they are automatically deprived of their right to enroll. If the application for suspension of the right

to enroll is not approved by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the successful candidates shall forfeit their right to enroll.

2. Upon a decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, following a substantiated request of the clergy student and provided that exceptional circumstances exist, a deferral of studies may be granted for a period of up to one (1) year.

ANNEX I

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOLS (FOR LAY CANDIDATES)

A. PERSONAL DATA:

- LAST NAME*
- FIRST NAME*
- FATHER'S NAME*
- I.D. NUMBER / PASSPORT NUMBER*
- DATE OF BIRTH*
- PLACE OF BIRTH*
- NATIONALITY*
- MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE*
- CITY OF RESIDENCE*
- ADDRESS*
- POSTAL CODE*
- LANDLINE PHONE*
- MOBILE PHONE*
- Contact email
- MARITAL STATUS* SINGLE / MARRIED

B. FINANCIAL DATA:

- INSURANCE* YES / NO
- TAX REGISTRATION NUMBER*
- TAX OFFICE*

C. ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL

1. CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL VELLAS / CRETE / RIZARIOS ECCLESIASTICAL SCHOOL
2. CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL VELLAS / CRETE / RIZARIOS ECCLESIASTICAL SCHOOL
3. CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL VELLAS / CRETE / RIZARIOS ECCLESIASTICAL SCHOOL

D. RESIDENCE WITHIN CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL *

YES / NO

E. EXAMINATION DUE TO LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

The application form includes a section where the interested party – the applicant selects the examination due to learning difficulties.

F. SUPPORTING CERTIFICATES*

in this field, the applicable supporting certificates are uploaded, as defined in paragraph 6 of article 5 of the present document.

G. ACCURACY OF DATA AND CONSENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The application includes a field where the interested party – the applicant solemnly declares and binds to the accuracy of the data submitted, and consents to the processing of personal data in accordance with the current legislation on Personal Data Protection for the process of their admission to a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.

Filling in the fields of the application marked with an asterisk (*) is mandatory.

ANNEX II

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOLS (EXCLUSIVELY FOR CLERGY AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE 140 OF LAW 4823/2021)

A. PERSONAL DATA:

- LAST NAME*
- FIRST NAME*
- FATHER'S NAME*
- I.D. NUMBER*
- DATE OF BIRTH*
- PLACE OF BIRTH*
- NATIONALITY*
- MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE*
- CITY OF RESIDENCE*
- ADDRESS*
- POSTAL CODE*
- LANDLINE PHONE*
- MOBILE PHONE*
- Contact email
- OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF APPOINTMENT*
- METROPOLIS*
- HOLY CHURCH OF SERVICE*
- MARITAL STATUS*

B. FINANCIAL DATA:

- TAX REGISTRATION NUMBER*
- TAX OFFICE*

C. SELECTION OF CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL

CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL VELLAS / CRETE / RIZARIOS ECCLESIASTICAL SCHOOL

D. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS*

in this field, the applicable supporting documents are uploaded, as defined in paragraph 6 of article 5 of the present document.

E. ACCURACY OF DATA AND CONSENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The application includes a field where the interested party – the applicant solemnly declares and binds to the accuracy of the data submitted, and consents to the processing of personal data in accordance with the current legislation on Personal Data Protection for the process of their admission to a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.

Filling in the fields of the application marked with an asterisk (*) is mandatory.

This decision shall be published in the Government Gazette.