

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUMMER ACADEMY



Summer 2026

PJL
PEACE JOURNALISM LABORATORY



Introduction

Welcome to THISAM 2026, the premier summer school for those at the forefront of journalism and media.

This unique event, held from **July 3-10**, brings together a dynamic group of **early career journalists, students, media entrepreneurs, scholars, and leaders from NGOs and the media industry**.

At THISAM, we believe in the power of journalism to drive positive change globally. Our **interactive and hands-on approach** ensures that participants of all career levels gain invaluable experience and insights.

Step into the future of media and communication in this immersive summer school. Explore the challenges and discover the cutting-edge tools **shaping tomorrow's landscape of information dissemination**. Through engaging discussions, workshops, and hands-on sessions, gain invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by these disruptions. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to thrive amidst this transformative era of communication. Gain practical insights into the hurdles and opportunities presented by disruptive technologies and shifting societal expectations. Practice the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an era where innovation drives media and communication forward.

Join us to be part of a transformative journey in media and communication.

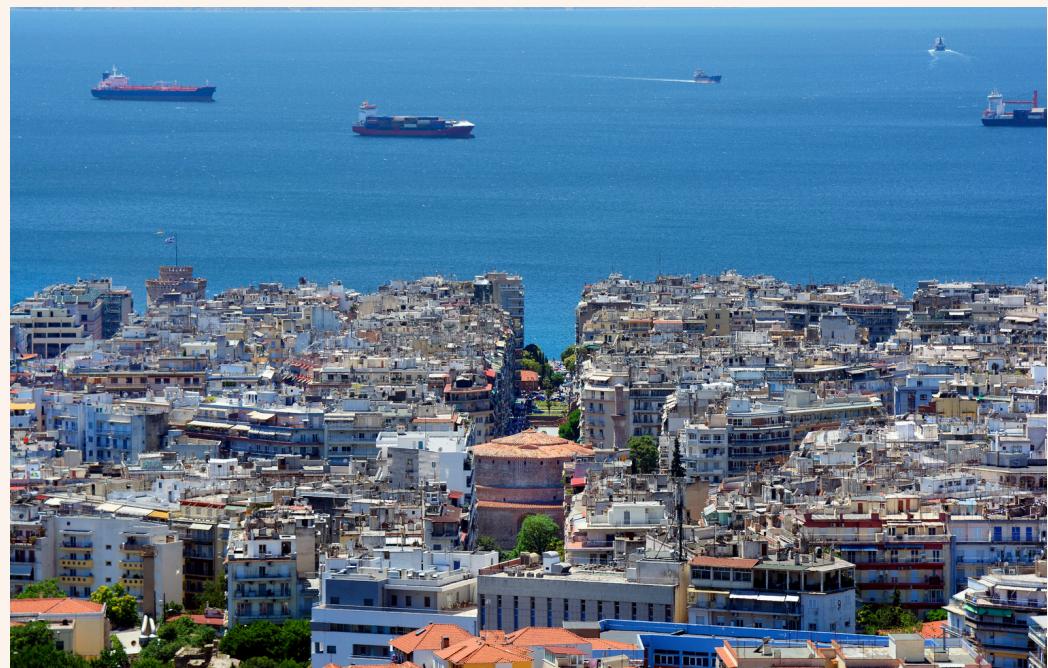


Photo credits: Giannis Triantafyllidis

Location and Venue

Thessaloniki, also known as Thessalonica (English: /θɛsələ'naɪkə, Θεσαλονίκη/), Saloniki or Salonica, is the second-largest city in Greece, with over 1 million inhabitants in its metropolitan area, and the capital of the geographic region of Macedonia, the administrative region of Central Macedonia and the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace. It is also known in Greek as η Συμπρωτεύουσα (i Simprotévousa), literally "**the co-capital**", a reference to its historical status as the Συμβασιλεύουσα (Simvasilévousa) or "co-reigning" city of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, alongside Constantinople.

Thessaloniki is a popular tourist destination in Greece. In 2013, **National Geographic Magazine included Thessaloniki in its top tourist destinations worldwide**, while in 2014 Financial Times FDI magazine (Foreign Direct Investments) declared Thessaloniki as the best mid-sized European city of the future for human capital and lifestyle. Among street photographers, the center of Thessaloniki is also considered the most popular destination for street photography in Greece.



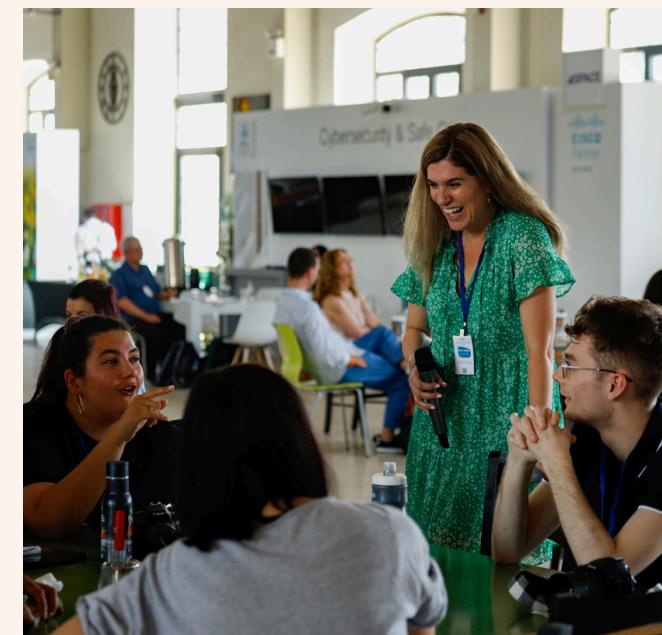
International Collaboration and Support

THISAM 2026 is a **melting pot of knowledge and expertise**, thanks to our collaboration with prestigious institutions from Europe, Asia, and the USA.

Our partners include renowned names like **Deutsche Welle, Temple University USA, Hallym University South Korea, and many more**. Hear from our past participants about the unparalleled learning and networking opportunities THISAM offers. Join a community that extends beyond borders, fostering international connections and collaborations.

Partners:

- DW Akademie, Germany
- Temple University, USA
- Hallym University, South Korea
- University of Zagreb, Croatia
- University of Maribor - FERI, Slovenia
- Panteion University, Greece
- ADandPRLAB, Greece
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
- VII Academy, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- PROOF, USA
- International Association for Media and Communication Research - IAMCR
- Center for Education & Lifelong Learning, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece



Explore Our Community



"I have been presenting at THISAM since 2017. One of the most special aspects of THISAM is the **collaborative environment** between participants and presenters. **Everyone learns from everyone! Ideas and creative energy are flowing!** This is a tremendous program for students and early career journalists who want to **broaden their career options** and entrepreneurial journalism ideas. THISAM is a **special experience that I look forward to every year.**"

Sherri Hope Culver, Associate Professor at Klein College of Media and Communication, Temple University



"As the initiator of the Thessaloniki International Media Summer Academy, I am thrilled to witness its **transformative impact**. This international initiative **empowers participants** with **cutting-edge insights, fostering creativity and collaboration**.

Being a **global coalition of universities across the world**, our academy has become a beacon for global talent, providing a unique blend of **hands-on training and industry exposure**. Participants have unique immersive experience, expert mentorship, and invaluable networking opportunities.

The academy's success lies in the colleagues and participants that make it a truly unique experience through our commitment to nurture innovation and excellence. Proudly, THISAM stands as a testament of our passion for cultivating the next generation of media leaders."

Dr. Nikos Panagiotou, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Media Communications, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



"THISAM is an **extraordinary learning and networking opportunity**. The program is carefully curated to reflect the most cutting-edge developments in media and journalism within the context of current affairs and pressing global issues.

The selection process for participants is rigorous, and results in a **truly impressive international cohort**. THISAM is the most **invigorating, inclusive and rewarding** media academy I have ever participated in. This is **international journalism education at its finest.**"

Aphrodite Salas, Assistant Professor at Concordia University

Explore Our Community



“Join us for an exciting Media Summer School where media enthusiasts and seasoned experts from all over the world will meet. You can expect **dynamic workshops, innovative insights and cross-cultural exchange**. Develop your creativity in an exciting environment and make personal connections that break barriers. Expand your skills by exploring the future of media with like-minded people in a friendly and constructive environment. Look forward to an unforgettable experience **where knowledge, inspiration and education meet.**”

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schmidt - Head (Abteilungsleiter bhA)
Academic Education and Training | DW Akademie



Thisam is my **fantastic summer “workation”** from which I keep finding **fun, stimulation, new information and knowledge, and friends from everywhere!** I've been participating in Thisam for many years now as a lecturer, but it never gets boring. There are always more than enough issues to think and talk, and we know that we've got lots of things in the luggage when we leave. We have checked on many crucial topics including media literacy, war and journalism, media technology and business, global aspects of media industries, etc. **It's enriching us all so much.**

Shin Dong Kim, Professor at Hallym University, Chuncheon, Korea, and Chief Director of the Knowledge Cooperative for Good Governance.



“The Organising Committee was impeccable like the faculty and all the personnel who was helping us to make this summer school an unforgettable experience for the participants. Summer School helped me to understand better the topics we learned and it will be an unforgettable experience”.

Priyanka - THISAM Participant

“Briefly, the most powerful are new **friends**, positive emotions and **another portion of self-confidence!** And the latter is now more useful than ever”.

Danaz - THISAM Participant

“Seven days with the guys from all over the world learned to **fight fake news, write constructively** and most importantly, follow the standards”.

Yanni - THISAM Participant

Be Part of the Media Revolution

Whether you're an aspiring journalist, a seasoned media professional, or a curious student, THISAM offers something for everyone.

Don't miss the chance to be a part of THISAM 2026. Whether you're an aspiring journalist, a seasoned media professional, or a curious student, THISAM offers something for everyone. Apply now to embark on a journey of learning, innovation, and networking. With **almost 390 participants from 29 countries in previous years, THISAM is more than an event – it's a global community shaping the future of media.**



Application

Who can apply?

Thessaloniki International Media Summer Academy aims to select a total number of 40 junior scholars, researchers or practitioners, having the following background:

- Bachelor/ Master students of Journalism, political science, International relations, etc.
- PhD Students of Journalism, Political Science, International relations etc.
- Professionals from media and other related organisations who need a deeper understanding on the issues to be addressed.

All applicants should be fluent in English.

