

ed on the candidate's application entry form.

2. A candidate can enroll only in the Faculty or the Department he/she has been selected for.

3. With regard to his/her registration, the candidate admitted into a Faculty or a Department is also required to hold a certificate denoting his/her command of the Greek language. Such a certificate is issued after relevant examinations either by the University of Athens or by the University of Thessaloniki; alternatively, the candidate should hold a 3rd level or higher-level certificate issued by the Greek Language Centre (www.greek-language.gr). If the candidate does not hold any of these language certificates, he/she can only enroll in the next academic year of his/her admission to a Greek University, on condition that he/she will by then have obtained the prerequisite language certificate. Other-

wise, the candidate is disqualified from enrolling.

The examinations for the Greek language certificate are held twice a year around May and September in ATHENS, at the Modern Greek Language Centre of the University of Athens in Zografou (tel: 0030 210 7277672 / 7277971); also, in June and October in THESSALONIKI, at the School of Modern Greek Language of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (tel: 0030 2310 997571 / 2).

For further information concerning the language examinations and the exam periods, the candidates need to contact either the University of Athens or the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at least a month prior to the exam date, to make sure that they will not miss the deadline or any potential changes of the language exam.

If a candidate holds a graduation cer-

tificate either from a Greek or Cypriot Lyceum, or from a foreign school attesting that the candidate has been taught and successfully examined in the Greek language, no Greek language certificate is required.

4. Candidates should undergo a medical examination before enrolling, according to each Faculty or Department's regulations.

5. Foreign students who come from non-E.U. Member States and are admitted in Higher Education in Greece, pay fees so as to cover a small percentage of both the expenses of studies and the books they are granted.

6. The documents submitted by candidates not admitted to any Higher Education Faculty are returned to the candidate or to an authorized person if so requested. In case the candidate does not request for his/her documents to be returned, the documents are destroyed in

August of the following year.

7. Students of non-E.U. citizenship must bear in mind that the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs has no authority to grant a visa or a stay-permit. The stay-permit is issued by the regional competent services of our country (Offices of Foreigners and Immigration Issues) only to those candidates who are admitted to Higher Education in Greece, provided that there are no reasons against the granting of this stay-permit.

It is also noted that according to the Greek legislation, a stay-permit is not granted if a student changes Faculty or Department twice.

Students of non E.U. citizenship can change Faculty or Department only once by submitting a new application entry form within the year following their first admission to a Faculty or Department.

Man in the news: George Papandreou

Fortunately for Greece, George Papandreou possesses some of the classic qualities needed to confront a crisis: a stubborn persistence and an ability to stay cool under pressure.

Aged 13, the future prime minister had a brutal introduction to the darker side of Greek politics. During the night in April 1967 when a military junta seized power, Greek special forces broke into the Papandreou family's home to arrest his father, Andreas, who was then an ex-cabinet minister in a centrist government. In Democracy at Gunpoint, his father later recalled: "Their leader raised his pistol and put it to George's head: 'Tell us where your father is or we will shoot.' Calmly, serenely, my son answered, 'I don't know.'"

Greece's debt crisis erupted six weeks after Mr Papandreou, now 58, led the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) to a landslide victory on October 4. Resolving it will require the same courage he showed as a teenager. This week Mr Papandreou won some respite in averting a sovereign debt default after a political statement from European Union leaders. It included an implicit pledge of financial aid if Greece is unable to fund a spike in repayments on its public debt.

But Greece will pay a steep price: rigorous surveillance of its economic reform plan by the European Commission and experts from the International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank – an ignominious intervention described by a sombre Mr Papandreou as "a partial



surrender of sovereignty."

The prime minister's approval ratings before the EU summit exceeded 50 per cent. That could fall fast amid public reaction to the government's new austerity package, which includes public-sector pay cuts, a tax overhaul and a drastic reform of the state pension system to raise the retirement age by seven years.

As heir to one of the country's leading political dynasties – both his grandfather and father served as prime minister during turbulent times – Mr Papandreou faced immense pressure to enter politics. "Had he been a less dutiful son, he would have opted for an academic career in Sweden," said a former aide.

Mr Papandreou had a peripatetic upbringing. The first of five children, he was born in 1952 in St Paul, Minnesota, where his father taught econom-

ics. He first came to Greece aged eight but the family was forced into exile by the junta and moved to Sweden and Canada. He studied international politics at Amherst College in the US and sociology at the London School of Economics.

Family relationships were volatile, friends say. George had a rocky relationship with his grandfather. He enjoyed a close bond with his American mother, Margaret, a firm believer in his political destiny. He was deeply affected by his late father's public affair in the 1980s with Dimitra Liani, an Olympic Airways stewardess, whom Andreas later married. His brothers, Nikos, a former World Bank economist, and Andreas, an economics professor at Athens university, are both close informal advisers.

Mr Papandreou served briefly as education minister in his father's government. Appointed

foreign minister in 1999 by Costas Simitis, his father's successor, he earned a reputation as an innovative policymaker, overseeing a rapprochement with Turkey. One friend recalls: "In the 1990s, when his father was prime minister, Greek foreign policy played up to all the stereotypes – effectively backing Serbia in the Bosnian war, accusing Bulgaria of wanting to grab Greek territory and obstructing progress on the Turkish issue. When George took over he flipped everything 180 degrees in the face of fierce resistance from the Greek orthodox church and locals. He changed policy on the Balkans and Turkey. What he did was dramatic."

The friend describes him as "slightly earnest, but very gentle," adding: "You can trust what he says, but if someone deals with him in a duplicitous fashion he will show real resolve to address his sense of what is right."

His instincts are internationalist. Unlike most Greeks he goes to the gym every day, and rides a bicycle around the suburb where he lives with his second wife. He is surrounded by advisers, mainly Greeks with an international background – dubbed "the Byzantine court" by critics. He enjoys lively theoretical discussions at his annual Simi seminar, named after the small Greek island, to which he invites a wide group of international figures. Mr Papandreou's Scandinavian background – he speaks Swedish and once said he wanted to make Greece "the Denmark of the south" – is evident in some of his policies. He has taken on a militant nationalist faction with efforts to allow Greece's large immigrant community to qualify for citizenship – an issue previous governments have avoided

for the past 20 years.

But a drive to promote transparency has met mixed success. After the election more than 5,000 public-sector jobs were advertised on the government website in a break with Greek tradition of lobbying MPs to secure a government job. But Mr Papandreou faced criticism for adopting some of the clientelist practices he condemned – chief executives at state-controlled banks appointed by the previous government were sacked after the election and replaced by socialist sympathisers.

Some analysts see opportunities for him in the crisis, arguing it will allow him to build international credibility. "These issues converge with his own beliefs," says Antonis Kamaras, analyst at Levant Partners, an Athens-based investment fund. "Tax reform will reduce the budget deficit and expand the fiscal base. It will also advance the fight against corruption, one of his deep concerns."

Others worry about Mr Papandreou's decision to serve as his own foreign minister and maintain a punishing schedule of foreign travel. He also chairs the Socialist International, an umbrella group of centre-left parties worldwide. On his website, the SI symbol of a clenched fist grasping a rose is shown next to Pasok's emblem of a green rising sun. He has used the position to forge a network of political contacts – a hint of an ambition to serve on the wider international stage. But such diplomatic ties will prove even more critical in the coming weeks in sustaining the support of eurozone leaders for his austerity package and keeping the Greek public behind him.