

PRESS RELEASE

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MBA in Air Transport Management (MATBA)

The first MBA in Air Transport Management in Greece

“Where Academic Excellence Meets Aviation Reality”

Two Greek universities join forces to establish an innovative, English-taught Programme of Postgraduate Studies, the first in Greece dedicated to air transport management. The MBA in Air Transport Management (MATBA) has been developed by the Department of Tourism Economics and Management of the University of the Aegean and the Department of Civil Engineering of the Democritus University of Thrace, with strategic partners Athens International Airport and the international non-governmental organisation Hermes – Air Transport Organisation, headquartered in Montreal, Canada.

The programme aims to prepare specialised executives in the field of air transport by offering a combination of theoretical training and applied knowledge, while strengthening essential strategic skills. MATBA graduates may pursue careers as executives in companies and organisations of the sector in Greece and internationally, assume roles in strategic planning and policy-making in national or international organisations, and engage in research on issues related to air transport.

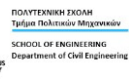
The official welcome reception for the postgraduate students of the new Programme of Postgraduate Studies “M.B.A. in Air Transport Management” (MATBA) took place in the foyer of the “Giannis Karalis” Amphitheatre, in the main building (Michaleio Building) of the University of the Aegean campus in Chios, on 1 February 2026 at 18:00. The event provided an important opportunity to present the programme’s philosophy and objectives, and to facilitate networking among participants, the academic community, and invited guests from the air transport sector.

The first greeting was delivered by **Professor Emmanuel Christofakis, Dean of the School of Business of the University of the Aegean**, who stated: “The launch of the M.B.A. in Air Transport Management (MATBA) marks a particularly important moment for the University of the Aegean and its outward-looking trajectory. It is a modern and dynamic programme that responds to the needs of a sector with a decisive contribution to the economy and tourism, and specifically to the broader air transport environment. MATBA strengthens the University’s role as a producer of knowledge with direct application, cultivating management, strategy and innovation skills, and building productive bridges of cooperation with the market, institutions and the international academic community.”

Professor Andreas Papatheodorou, Head of the Department of Tourism Economics and Management of the University of the Aegean and Director of MATBA, noted that MATBA addresses a substantial need of the international air transport market for professionals with modern management training, strong strategic thinking, and a deep understanding of the sector’s particularities. He emphasised that the programme has a clear orientation towards linking academic knowledge with practice, leveraging the international experience of the teaching staff, collaboration with sector stakeholders, and modern teaching methods. MATBA aims to equip students with both theoretical and applied knowledge in critical areas.

Dr. Kostas Iatrou, Director General, Hermes – Air Transport Organisation, stated: “MATBA aims to bring forward the next generation of leadership talent in air transport, offering a balanced combination of high-level academic training and meaningful connection to practice and the real needs of the market. Through modern subject areas, case studies and applied activities, participants strengthen their managerial and strategic skills in order to respond to the challenges of a constantly evolving sector. At the same time, distinguished professionals and prominent personalities from the air transport community will be hosted within the programme to deliver guest lectures and interventions. In this way, students will have the opportunity to gain a direct view of the sector’s trends and priorities, become familiar with best practices from the operational environment, and enrich their knowledge with experiences and examples from day-to-day market reality.”

Michael Bell, Senior Partner at Korn Ferry, stated: “MATBA is a meaningful investment in the future of aviation, because it does not only transmit knowledge, but it also cultivates a way of thinking, a leadership mindset and professional maturity. In a sector that is changing rapidly, the difference will be made by people who can see the ‘big picture’, make decisions with clarity, collaborate effectively and lead responsibly. Through the programme, participants will engage with contemporary approaches to management and strategy, work on realistic scenarios and develop skills that translate directly into value for organisations and teams. Most importantly, they will build a strong network of people with a shared vision, professionals who aim not only to follow developments, but to shape them.”



More information about MATBA is available on the programme's official website:

<https://matba.aero>

Follow MATBA on social media to stay updated:

<https://linktr.ee>