

Fur Summer School 2016: Inspiring the Future of Fur

Fur Europe, in cooperation with the Hellenic Fur Federation, organizes a summer school that will take place in Kastoria and Siatista, the heart of the unique fur microcosm in Western Macedonia in Greece. The organizers call for expressions of interest of young people interested in participation. **Please read the entire call before applying, only participants meeting the requirements will be accepted.**

This project, bringing young people from the entire fur value chain together, not only promotes youth participation and involvement in the fur sector but also fosters entrepreneurship of young people in Europe and connects young talents with experienced businessmen. The educational program will combine both theoretical and practical exercises with visits to fur-related facilities. During ten days, participants will gain a deep understanding of fur from various angles: crafts, design, business, ethics and communication. It is a unique opportunity for young people that will combine thinking process, creativity, inspiration and fun.

The summer school will provide a truly international learning environment in fantastic locations blessed with remarkable natural and historical beauty. The reason this first pilot project takes place in Greece is that the region of Western Macedonia has been active for 1,400 years or more in the fur sector. On a global scale, it has still one of the greatest population of skilled practitioners in the fur manufacture but strives to be rejuvenated. Kastoria, Siatista and the environs are seats of unique classical beauty and Byzantium ecclesiastical architecture, museums, artefacts and iconography depicting the fur industry of that era and more.

The event will be conducted in English. An important ingredient throughout this short summer school is that of “inspiration”. Learning does not stop when lessons finish – activities, excursions and socializing during meals and free time will stimulate a positive learning environment built around fur creativity.

Target group

A group of 25 young people interested in fur is anticipated with participants preferably (but not exclusively) of age 20-30 years coming from a European country. This is not solely a design course; we aim at reaching balance of participants in terms of their professional orientation (business, design, communication, farming, research...).

Time & location

23 August – 1 September 2016, Western Macedonia (Kastoria and Siatista), Greece

Objective of the project

- To raise awareness and educate 25 participants about fur in today’s world.
- To stimulate the participants resulting in creation of new ideas and solutions.
- To enable the participants to become a part of a network well engaged with the European fur sector.

General requirements

Applicants must be interested in fur, curious to learn about its infinite possibilities, willing to actively contribute with their ideas to shape the concept of a youth programme. Participants must be fluent in English and preferably come from a European country in the scope of Fur Europe’s activities.

Participants will have to cover their own transportation to Thessaloniki and pay a € 100 fee to the account of Fur Europe by the end of June 2016. For participants from outside of Europe other fees apply. Fur Europe and Hellenic Fur Federation will cover all in-situ costs including accommodation, lunches or educational materials.

How to Apply

Applicants should send a:

- 1) completed expression of interest;
- 2) CV of maximum 2 pages;
- 3) example of personal achievement (e.g. portfolio, thesis, article, photos...).

Please contact Fur Europe if more clarification is needed.

The application documents should be sent electronically to Fur Europe at adam.gono@fureurope.eu. The deadline for submitting the expression of interest is 27 May. Successful applicants will be chosen by the organizers in following period and contacted before 22 June.

About organizers

Fur Europe is a Brussels-based umbrella organisation representing the fur sector in Europe via its more than 40 members – national organisations covering the sector in the large majority of European countries. Established as a merger between European Fur Breeders Association and European part of International Fur Federation, it unites the entire fur value chain in Europe based on values of openness, transparency and reliability. More info at www.fureurope.eu.

Hellenic Fur Federation is a second-level organisation gathering six regional specialized fur associations in Greece. With its seat in the unofficial world's capital of fur, Kastoria in the Greek region of Western Macedonia, it represents the interests of the fur value chain in Greece and works in order to assure development of the fur sector in Greece, the European stronghold of fur manufacture. More info at www.helfurfe.gr.

About programme

Detailed programme will only be available in following months. Below is the programme of the summer school pilot 2015. Please note that it is just informative in order to give the applicants the idea of what is to be expected.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<i>Arrival day</i>	<i>'Setting the stage'</i>	<i>'Understanding the material'</i>	<i>'Understanding the sector'</i>	<i>'Marketing the product'</i>
	09:00 Setting the objectives – 14:00 Introduction to the course: history, ethics, importance, uniqueness Individual presentations of the participants and what they have prepared of self-introduction A brief to be responded to by all participants, will be issued and explained	09:00 Fur techniques course: handling and working with this material is a unique and delightful experience. It is a 'natural vitamin' for creative people – 14:00	09:00 Presentation of Fur Europe, IFF, Hellenic Fur Federation, KF, Saga – 09:30 Fur and the Battle of Ideologies – A Dilemma Game by Mick Madsen – 12:00 Studio work to progress each student final project, with personal tuition – 14:00	09:00 Byzantine Museum – 10:00 10:30 Communication and marketing plan – 11:30 11:30 Reflection on the readings that you have been offered – 14:00
	14:00 Lunch	14:00 Lunch	14:00 Lunch	14:00 Lunch
	15:30 Workshop continues in a fur manufacturing company (Expopel SA ¹). Physical experience of handling fur: here, hundreds of years of traditional skills and techniques will astonish and delight the learner – 17:30	15:30 Workshop continues in a fur manufacturing company (Manakas ²). Each company has its own style and working system. Though the end result is a fur product, it is the individual approach that gives character to the product that differs from all other producers – 17:30	15:30 Visit of a mink farm (Dimzas ³). An important step in understanding how the animals are bred, tended and respected throughout their life and beyond – 17:00	15:30 Visit of a dressing company (DTS ⁴). Technical processes to prepare, colour, treat and enrich the texture of fur will be seen. Fur is a natural fabric – leather with hair. It is unique. – 16:30
	17:30 Workshop continues in a fur manufacturing company (Glagias ⁵). – 19:00		17:30 Workshop continues in a fur company (Lazaros Savvidis ⁶) – 18:30	16:45 Workshop continues in a fur company (Bourtsos ⁷) – 18:30
19:00 Bus from the Thessaloniki airport	19:30 Dinner	19:15 Dinner	19:00 Dinner	19:00 Dinner
19:20 Bus from Thessaloniki			21:00 Drink at Prophet Elias	
22:00 Arrival to Kastoria, small buffet and welcome drink				

Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
<p><i>'Working the material I'</i></p> <p>09:00 Fur techniques course by – Eliana Dimitrakopoulou 14:00 and Venetia Koutsou</p> <p>14:00 Lunch</p> <p>15:30 Workshop continues in – two fur companies 18:00 (Planeta⁸ & PKZ⁹). We will never ceased to be amazed by the diversification of the industry</p> <p>19:00 Dinner</p>	<p><i>'A day to digest'</i></p> <p>08:00 Day Excursion to Meteora: The wonder of man and his spirit supported by his soul</p> <p>16:00 Lunch</p> <p>Visit of small fur companies in Siatista (Greek Siatista Fur¹⁰)</p>	<p><i>'Working the material II'</i></p> <p>09:00 Fur techniques course. – After so much 14:00 information, the brief will require answers. Now we begin to respond individually</p> <p>14:00 Lunch</p> <p>15:30 Visit of small and – medium and one big 17:00 (CPL¹¹) fur companies in Siatista. Many companies for their own reasons, being unique or specialized, or both, remain 'small is beautiful'</p> <p>19:00 Dinner</p>	<p><i>'Promotion of fur'</i></p> <p>09:00 Fur techniques course: – Ongoing exploration 14:00 into the joys of creating one's own technique. Team work communication plan 'Methods and tools for promoting fur'</p> <p>14:00 Lunch</p> <p>15:30 Presentation of students' – work: Every student will 19:00 have prepared a captivating presentation to us all. We will record this for archival purposes and to enhance the learning process. It will become a 'portfolio' of the Summer School</p> <p>19:00 Dinner & farewell party</p>	<p><i>'Wrap-up day'</i></p> <p>09:00 Exchange of impressions – and experiences 12:00 Evaluation of the event Prospects for future</p> <p>12:00 Light lunch and departure</p>

¹ 30 year family company producing exclusive couture garments for the retail worldwide.

² World renowned mink label.

³ Royal Mink Farm, one if the biggest in the area

⁴ Dressing company with modern techniques for treating and changing the character of fur.

⁵ Fourth generation family owned business that has been serving an international clientele with one of the most extensive collection of furs over the years.

⁶ Well-known fur design

⁷ Family company specialized in swakara garments.

⁸ Global fur company with special focus on sable.

⁹ Fur company known especially on the Russian market.

¹⁰ Fur company specialized in exclusive fur coats.

¹¹ Member of one of the biggest groups of companies in Greece.