

KOÇ UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2016

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OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS

Click on any news you would like to read.

With Love From OIP Team

Dean of Students' Message
Executive Manager's Message

Cover: Has Spring Sprung?

Latest on Global Partnership

New Research and Collaboration Agreements
Collaboration with the Netherlands Education Support Office EP-Nuffic Neso Turkey
Popular Summer Exchange Destinations

Koç University's Presence Overseas

2016 APAIE Conference in Melbourne
Forum on Education Abroad
KU President Visits Leading Chinese, Hong Kong, Singaporean Universities

Academic Highlights

Koç's Graduate School of Business appoints leading Marketing scholar as its new academic director
New PhD programs – Law, Neuroscience, Reproductive Medicine
2016 Turkish Academy of Science Distinguished Young Scientist Award (BAGEP) at Koç University and European Research Council (ERC) Grants
International Koç Graduate School of Science and Engineering alumni is part of the "discovery of the century"
IIE Syria Consortium partnerships brings new tuition scholarships for Syrian undergraduate students

International Community at Home

Turkish Conversation Program re-Branded, re-Structured as "Inter-lingual Rendezvous" under ICO
Towards Collective Internationalization on Campus
TURK 203 – Turkish for Foreigners

Campus Happenings

Koç University's Annual Study Abroad Fair 2016
Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center Celebrated its 15th Anniversary with Fazıl Say Performance
It is time for Rehavet Panayırı!

Experiencing Diversity

A Glimpse of Spring'16 Incoming Exchange Orientation Week by Öykü Kay, Exchange Mentor

Unforgettable Adventure: Antakya by Jungin Bae

On the home front : Mentors
Yet another inspiring story from an Outgoing Exchange Student
Little Things - Biggest Memories

International Special Projects

GEC Reflections: The Way I See It from Istanbul to Houston by Nazlı Özkul
KU's Success at Global Social Venture Competition 2016 Finals in Bangkok
Brand new program: International Migration and the Crisis "The Basic Instinct: Survival"
Prelude to the Middle East: Nanyang Technological University students were at KU
Peacemakers Annual Conference 2016: Call is Out: "Migration and Securitization of Europe: Views from the Balkan Corridor"

Latest from Us, the OIP at KU

New Application System for Exchange Programs
Outgoing Exchange Alert: New Destinations!
New Year, New Team Members

As Seen in Social Media

More than just a semester: Outgoing Exchange Students' Video Contest
Sharing memories: Incoming Exchange Students' Instagram Contest
Follow Us on Social Media

Of Interest and Importance

Incoming Staff and Faculty Exchange Opportunities
Could we be doing better at using data to further our internationalization goals as a university? –The HEIDA Project
Looking for a Project Partner?

Credits and Contributors

KUnnection Newsletter

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Dean of Students' Message



Dear Partners and Students,

Dean of Students Office reflects our commitment to enrich the lives and experiences of our students with the collaboration of the Office of International Programs (OIP) that creates opportunities for KU students and students from all around the world to experience internationalization. Internationalization is right at the heart of Koç University's general strategy and OIP plays a crucial role to realize this goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to further explore OIP and its activities for the first six months of 2016. I encourage everyone to learn more about what makes Koç University such an amazing place to study, learn, educate, and experience.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Bilgen Bilgin
Dean of Students

Executive Manager's Message



Dear Colleagues,

[Office of International Programs \(OIP\)](#) of Koç University is proud to present its first issue newsletter of 2016. OIP is dedicated to supporting and enabling cross cultural experiences and enterprises, promoting study abroad, creating valuable ties with esteemed institutions, supporting international social innovation and service learning, adopting practices to support internationalization at home efforts, and acting as a liaison to the University for international students and scholars.

This newsletter aims to provide you the latest news on OIP's internationalization efforts and we hope you will enjoy reading it and share it with your community.

Best Wishes,

Burcu Sarsilmaz
Executive Manager

Cover: Has Spring Sprung?

Over the past few weeks, spring has arrived to our campus. There are colourful flowers on the trees, the weather has been nice and bright. Campus looks beautiful, spring fever makes it hard to stay in classes.

Students are enjoying the sun and warm weather at Henry Ford Yard.



The events on campus are WAY more fun than usual. This spring Social Activities Club of Koç University organized series of sports competition where students enjoyed competitions from different branches from sports to hot dog eating competitions!



These plants at our small botanic garden of campus have been a part of our yard for last couple of years.



The birds are singing! The sky is blue and the sun is shining finally! Get your hunting on just in time for spring and enjoy this beautiful weather!

Here is a gallery showcasing the current mood of the campus.



Latest on Global Partnership

KU has over 200 partnership agreements with leading, like-minded institutions across the globe. By partnering with the best universities, Koç University creates impactful research and exchange opportunities, taps into specific knowledge from a certain field of study or geographic region, and creates opportunities for our students to gain invaluable experience living and studying in a new environment as part of their degree.

Depending on the needs of students and academics, the types of partnerships we have are as follows:

- Student Exchange
- Research Collaboration
- Academic and Administrative Staff Exchange
- Joint workshops, projects, symposia and conferences
- Joint & Dual Degrees

New Research and Collaboration Agreements

Research and collaboration agreements

- [SungKyunKwan University](#), Korea
- [KAIST](#), Korea

The university would specially like to express its gratitude to [Turkish Ambassador in Korea](#) H.E. Hakan Okçal for his support in helping Koç University establish these highly beneficial collaboration agreements with the best universities of Korea.

Collaboration with the Netherlands Education Support Office EP-Nuffic Neso Turkey

Koç University continues to build a positive and productive relationship with higher education institutions and other organizations in the Netherlands with the support of the ["Netherlands Education Support Office in Turkey "\(EP-Nuffic NESO Turkey\)](#).

Following a high level delegation visit led by the EP NUFFI NESO Director General in late 2015, the EP-Turkey office has been actively helping us to organize productive meetings between the [Koç Incubation Center](#) and [Brainport Foundation](#) on April 6th, 2016 to look at the technology innovation and Erasmus+ internship opportunities for Koç students.

They also provided our students with useful information about short term and graduate study opportunities in the Netherlands at the annual Koç University Study Abroad Fair on April 27th, 2016.

Koç University currently has long standing academic and research cooperation agreements with [11 Dutch universities](#) and has developed joint PhD programs with some of the best institutions in the country such as University of Amsterdam.



Popular Summer Exchange Destinations

KU students can spend a summer, a semester or a year at equally prestigious universities in all five continents, more than 50 countries and world-class cities such as London, Kyoto, New York, San Francisco and Hong Kong.

Considering the demand coming from students, summer exchange destinations has been varied and increased. [Our current summer exchange partners are:](#)

University of Mannheim, Germany
European Business School, Germany
Cologne University, Germany
Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
ESSCA, France
Radboud University, The Netherlands
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Lingnan University, Hong Kong
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Baptist University
Remnin University of China

Fudan University, China
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China
Southwestern University, China
Peking University, China
China University of Political Science and Law, China
ITAM, Mexico
University of Seoul, South Korea
University of Yonsei, South Korea
Pusan National University, South Korea
National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Singapore Management University, Singapore

Koç University's Presence Overseas

2016 APAIE Conference in Melbourne

[APAIE, the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education](#), is an organization in the Asia-Pacific region that promotes internationalization of institutions for higher education worldwide. Its annual conferences have brought together those in charge of international education and are highly regarded as opportunities for active networking and improving professional skills in the field of international education.

During the exhibition period, Koc University had meetings with more than 40 institutions, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region and discussed the possibility of advancing our relationship, including the prospect for academic exchange agreements.



Forum on Education Abroad

The Office of International Programs attended to [Forum on Education Abroad](#) 12th Annual Conference held in Atlanta for the first time. Education abroad is a field of intersections. In every program, different national identities, learning models, values, disciplines, languages, traditions, institutions and organizations encounter each other in distinctive ways that create the unique cultures of education abroad. Education abroad lives and thrives at the intersections of these ideas and realities.

How do these intersections shape the various cultures that are unique to education abroad? How, in turn, do these cultures influence the field and the profession?



What are the characteristics needed to navigate through these intersections as an education abroad organization and as a professional?

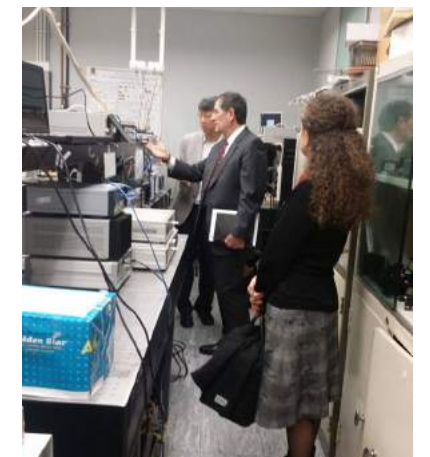
How do these intersections create opportunities for student learning? What are the challenges for education abroad organizations and professionals

to help students navigate the intersections? Should education abroad resolve or reject the tensions that intersections may create?

The Forum's 12th Annual Conference sought to address these and other questions unique to education abroad.

KU President Visits Leading Chinese, Hong Kong, Singaporean Universities

President Umran Inan launched a visit in Beijing and Hong Kong to explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange with the leading universities in the region and Victor and William Fung Foundation, and to create awareness of Koç University as the leading research university in Turkey for the recruitment of brilliant Chinese and HK students to our graduate programs.



Now, the Fung Foundation Graduate Fellowship program not only funds the students from Peking and Zhejiang University but the students from [all Fung partner universities in China and in Hong Kong](#). Incoming exchange students from Hong Kong and Singapore are also eligible for this funding.

Mr. Inan also met with Koç University's Outgoing Exchange students during a nice Asian dinner.



Academic Highlights

Koç's Graduate School of Business appoints leading Marketing scholar as its new academic director

Prof. Stefan Wuyts was appointed as the new Academic Director of Koç University's [Graduate School of Business](#) in February 2016 for a three year term.

Stefan Wuyts is a Professor of Marketing at Koç University (Turkey) since 2010. Prof. Wuyts' interdisciplinary research on inter-organizational relationships and innovation has been published in leading journals across academic fields, including Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, International Journal of Research in Marketing, Journal of Management, and Journal of Operations Management. He has also served as a track chair for the American Marketing Association's Winter and Summer conferences. In 2015, he received the Journal of Marketing Outstanding Reviewer Award and the Koç University Outstanding Faculty Award.

Professor Wuyts will undoubtedly bring new energy and impetus to Koç University's Graduate School of Business. One of the exciting new developments at the GSB is the launch of the Tech MBA program and the successful completion of the AACSB accreditation process.

Thanks to the outstanding leadership of the previous GSB Director, [Prof. Zeynep Gürhan Canlı](#), both the national and international profile of GSB was elevated to unprecedented heights, including the substantial expansion of the PhD programs, the development of the MBA program, increased numbers of students in our EMBA program, a significant enhancement in our [Financial Times rankings](#), outstanding representation of our university in the [CEMS](#), [GNAM](#) and [PIM](#) programs and the substantial enhancement of enrollment numbers in our Executive Education programs.



New PhD programs – Law, Neuroscience, Reproductive Medicine

Koç University has launched three new PhD programs in Law (School of Law), Neuroscience and Reproductive Medicine (Graduate School of Health Sciences) in 2015 and 2016.

These programs will help further achieve the university's mission of training the future academic leaders of Turkey and contribute to scientific knowledge in Turkey and internationally.

All Koç University's PhD programs have a duration of four years, provide world-class faculty supervision and are offered with full scholarships to Turkish and international students.

Koç University has also set as a strategic goal establishing new joint PhD degrees with partner universities that shared a similar curricular and research approach to doctoral education and that can offer significant doctoral training benefits for participating students.

To learn more about the PhD programs click [here](#). Higher education institutions who'd like to explore opportunities for joint or double degree Ph.D programs may contact the Global Engagement Coordinator, Melissa Abache at mabache@ku.edu.tr.



2016 Turkish Academy of Science Distinguished Young Scientist Award (BAGEP) at Koç University and European Research Council (ERC) Grants

Five faculty members from Koç University's College of Sciences were awarded the prestigious [BAGEP Award \(Distinguished Young Scientist Award\) of the Turkish Science Academy](#): Asst. Prof. Özgür Birer (Chemistry); Assoc. Prof. Barış Coşkunüzler (Mathematics); Asst. Prof. Menderes Işkın (Physics); Asst. Prof. Sarp Kaya (Chemistry); and Asst. Prof. Aşkın Kocabaş (Physics).

Academic Highlights

Koç University currently hosts 16 out of the 83 members of Turkish Academy of Sciences and continues to be recognised nationally and internationally through [accreditations, awards and rankings](#) as a research "powerhouse" in terms of its young age and size.

This is also demonstrated on receiving between 2012 and 2016 8 out of the 15 European Research Council awards hosted at Turkish universities.

The [European Commission's ERC Program](#) is one of the most prestigious research & innovation awards in the world granted to individual scientists and rewards «excellent, groundbreaking science».

To learn more about Koç University's research strengths and opportunities for international collaboration click [here](#).

International Koç Graduate School of Science and Engineering alumni is part of the "discovery of the century"

Koç University's MSc Optoelectronic and Photonic Engineering alumni from Pakistan, [Mr. Imran Khan](#) is among the authors of the prestigious paper by LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration on the "Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger" paper that gathered worldwide attention in February 2016 and was labelled the "discovery of the century".

Mr Khan graduated from Koç University's [Graduate School of Science and Engineering](#) in 2015 and was supervised by [Prof. Ali Serpengüzel](#) at the university's Microphotonics Research Laboratory.

Other group alumni have recently joined prestigious research institutions such as the Max Born Institute for Nonlinear Optics and Short Pulse Spectroscopy (MBI-



Berlin), Yale University Department of Applied Physics and Gent University / IMEC Department of Information Technology INTEC as postdoctoral researchers.

It is a proud moment for our university as our alumni help to advance universal scientific knowledge and for Pakistan in developing bright scientists.

IIE Syria Consortium partnerships brings new tuition scholarships for Syrian undergraduate students

Koç University has been a member of the [Institute of International Education \(IIE\) Syria Consortium](#) since 2014. Now in its third year of membership the university is proud to announce that it has opened a new small scholarship program for Syrian students wishing to pursue undergraduate programs at the university.

This initiative aims to support those talented Syrian students who would like to continue their education in a top-ranked university in English and who can partially support their living expenses.

Koç University recently participated in [a workshop organized by AlFamar Media](#) on the topic of responses to the issues faced by Syrian students looking for opportunities to continue their education in Turkey and Europe.

Turkish universities have been welcoming thousands of Syrian students since 2011. The official Turkish Higher Education Council (YÖK) figures put the number for the 2014-15 academic year at 5560 Syrian students enrolled in Turkish universities.

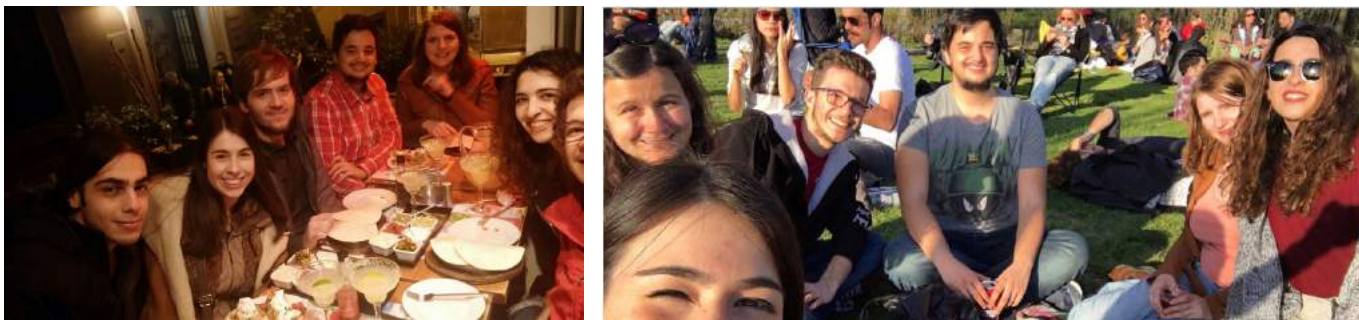
Global Engagement Coordinator, Melissa Abache stated that "We organized on January 15th, 2016 [a webinar with the Jusoor Foundation](#) for Syrian students interested in graduate programs. It was very well attended and we have seen a significant increase in enquiries and applications from Syrian candidates for the Fall 2016 admission period".

This partly shows the large unmet need of these students to find opportunities to study in Turkey and countries in the region. Institutions interested in learning more about ways to support Syrian students may visit <http://eua.be/activities-services/eua-campaigns/refugees-welcome-map>

More information about the Koç University scholarships is here and queries can be sent to study@ku.edu.tr.

International Community at Home

Turkish Conversation Program re-Branded, re-Structured as "Inter-lingual Rendezvous" under ICO



The Turkish Conversation Program, formerly run and supervised by the Exchange Office at OIP was moved under International Community Office this Spring with a new name and new tweaks. With its new name "Inter-lingual Rendezvous", program attracted over 95 international and domestic students from various programs of enrollment including exchange, graduate and post-graduate studies. The current program allows multiple tutors to teach one group; it used to be one tutor for about 6-7 students. "We want to include a more diverse group of students and enable them to not only focus on Turkish but have a chance to explore each other's cultures with this program. We received so many enthusiastic applications both as tutors and learners and we tried our best to make sure no student is left out" says Mert Sanivar, the coordinator of ICO, and the supervisor for the program. Each group has 5 or 6 learners and 3 tutors and the tutors submit weekly progress reports online. One of the premises of the program is to introduce Istanbul to foreign students by holding conversation circles off-campus at different locations, sometimes over a meal or drinks. Students also post their rendezvous pictures on Instagram with the tag [#turkceogreniyoruk](https://www.instagram.com/turkceogreniyoruk) (I'm learning Turkish at KU) to share these memories with their friends. One student said:

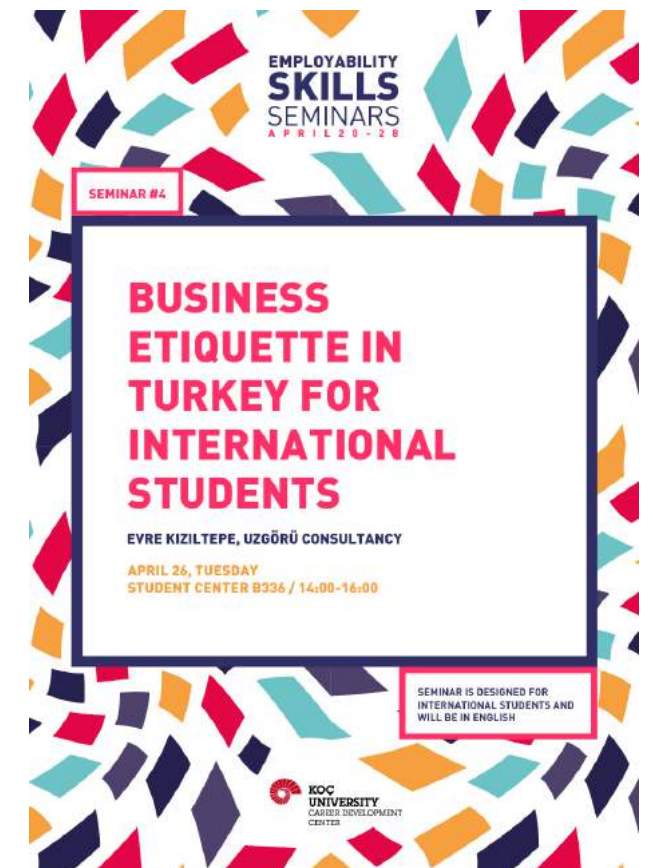


"This is such a brilliant idea. Thanks to Inter-lingual rendezvous I'm not only learning Turkish but I'm also making new friends and having lots of fun". This Spring, program is running from March to May. More information about this program can be found at <https://ico.ku.edu.tr/initiatives>

Towards Collective Internationalization on Campus

OIP's [International Community Office \(ICO\)](https://ico.ku.edu.tr/initiatives) is enjoying a series of collaboration activities this year. Koc University is definitely one of the most international universities in the region as per its international programs and population of students, faculty, interns and employees. It is also the most fortunate one to have the wealth of resources, supportive co-workers and departments, and an executive body that encourage internationalization. Without a university-wide collective collaboration, a complete internationalization cannot be real. Koc University departments are making an informed effort to sustain successful collaboration. Some of ICO's latest collaborative engagements include the improvement of foreign personnel induction processes with HR, making Career Services fully available for all types of international students and help students seek career opportunities more effectively with the Career Office, securing financial aid funds in the form of work-study for Turkish language tutors with the Scholarship Office, working to localize online resources for non-Turkish speakers such as Health and Safety, Health Center website with the Office of Communication and working in concert with academic divisions for consistency when it comes to providing information to student and non-student communities. In addition, in 2015 Fall, ICO began making video tutorials for foreigners in collaboration with the [Office of Learning and Teaching \(KOLT\)](https://www.ku.edu.tr/office-of-learning-and-teaching).

Want to contribute your thoughts? Be a part the collaboration by sharing views or suggestions for a better international campus. Please contact ico@ku.edu.tr



International Community at Home

TURK 203 – Turkish for Foreigners (comes with a bonus Multi-National Breakfast)

Turkish language classes taught for several years by Ms. Neslihan Baltacioglu, has been one of the most popular and fun classes among international students. Even exchange students who spend the least amount of time at KU know her by name. Sure, there are some good reasons for this. Professor Baltacioglu, by her students' account, is friendly, caring, has a good sense of humor and a very good language teacher. But there's one extra side to her classes and personality as a teacher: she organizes a gigantic breakfast party where you can taste as many dishes as the number of nations of students in her class. The last of these multi-tasting multi-national breakfasts was in last Fall which was sponsored by ICO and for the first time it took place at the kitchen of student center known as Cool Cook Kitchen. Everything was made from scratch and students cooked for over three hours to serve the delicious breakfast dishes from all over. ICO arranged for a video production from the event and it can be viewed below:



Campus Happenings

Koç University's Annual Study Abroad Fair 2016

This year's Study Abroad Fair took place on April 27th, 2016. The fair served as a chance for students interested in international opportunities to receive information directly from the source.

The day began with a Welcome Reception for partner institutions and a key-note address by the Dean of Students, followed by a campus tour. The fair itself began with the opening of the World Foods Section in which exchange students served food they have prepared from their respective cultures. The students had prepared the food early that morning in the university's training kitchens. All proceeds of the food sales were donated to Small Projects, a local NGO for refugee aid.

Consulates, students, and esteemed representatives from some of KU's most prestigious partner universities were also present for the duration of the fair and provided students with information about studying, working, internships, and scholarships abroad.

Overall, the day was a colourful display of culture and friendship and one of the best fairs to date.

University Representatives:

EBS (European Business School)
Universität, Germany
University of Mannheim, Germany
Baruch College, USA

Consular General and Higher Education Representatives:

Turkey NESO-EP NUFFIC, The Netherlands
Goethe Institute, Germany
British Council Turkey, The United Kingdom
Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul, Sweden
Australian Trade Commission, Australia



Timetable:

- 09:30 Welcome Reception
- 10:30 Campus Tour for Partners
- 11:00 Set-up for Partners & Lunch Break
- 12:30 World Foods section opens & fair begins
- 12:30 University and Consulate Representatives present at booths
- 13:00 Session I: Ali Halabi; VOLT Founder & CEO "My Startup Journey as a Foreign Entrepreneur"
- 16:30 Session II: Wilco Van Herpen; Chef, Photographer & Television Host "Memleketim: Doğmadığım Ülke, Türkiye / Turkey: My Motherland Abroad"



Students who attended Study abroad Fair submitted pictures with #kustudyabroad2016 hashtag on Instagram Contest for the day. Here is the winner picture of Barış Kayaaslan.

Campus Happenings

Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center Celebrated its 15th Anniversary with Fazıl Say Performance

Koç University's [Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center \(SGKM\)](#) has been hosting several events like concerts, plays, exhibitions and dance performances since 2001. Mission of SGKM is to interesting performances and student' together. Different performances from different cultures are welcomed on SGKM stage.

This year is the 15th year of SGKM. One of the most important musicians of 21st century Fazıl Say has been hosted by SGKM stage for the 15th anniversary of SGKM with his special compositions.



It is time for Rehavet Panayırı!

Farkındalık is a subgroup of Koç University Volunteers Club that aims to build libraries in Anatolian schools with the slogan of "No School without Library".

In order to achieve this goal, every semester they organize a fair called "Rehavet Panayırı" and all income out of this fair is channelled to the schools in Anatolia to build libraries for better education. This year the group went to Denizli and build libraries for two different high schools.



Experiencing Diversity

A Glimpse of Spring'16 Incoming Exchange Orientation Week by Öykü Kay, Exchange Mentor

1st day: Welcoming the New Students

We began the orientation week at Yemekhane (cafeteria) to have our first breakfast together. All the exchange students were shocked at the choices offered in a Turkish breakfast! After the breakfast, we had seminars to inform students about our university, student support services, course enrolment, and other vital information for life on campus.



2nd day: Course Enrolment & Ice-skating

The second day was course enrolment day. This went very quickly and everyone headed to the ice rink afterwards to let out their energy! It was really fun to go skating while the whole campus was covered with snow!

3rd day: Welcome Brunch

This was one of the most exciting days for students and mentors since we were met with an enormous Turkish village-breakfast! During this welcome brunch in a small fishing village called Garipçe, it was amazing to see students eating Menemen, drinking "çay" more and more, laughing and talking to each other.



4th day: Bosphorus Boat Tour

We had a boat tour in the Bosphorus on the fourth day. Fresh air, sunny weather, warm people and the amazing view of Bosphorus made our day perfect. It was great to see all the seaside residences of Istanbul, Dolmabahçe Palace, and Ortaköy Mosque.



Unforgettable Adventure: Antakya by Jungin Bae

The city I decided to go after Istanbul in Turkey was Antakya, which is also called Hatay. There were two reasons why I wanted to go there. First, it is because of the many historical events which encircle that place. Not only was the city Antioch built there around 300 B.C., but it is also famous since Paul in the Bible started his journey to spread Christianity there. Plus, Hatay is related with the first crusade, and it was the center of the ancient Syria and an important spot on the Silk Road. The other reason to visit Antakya is because its location is close to Syria. I am very interested in Syrian refugees' problems nowadays, so at that time I wanted to see and get a closer perspective on the issues. Also, I really wanted to eat Kunefe from the place it originated! After arriving in Antakya, I went to Hatay archeology museum first. The relics about the area were really helpful to experience Hatay and areas close to the



Experiencing Diversity



city. Because Antakya had a mixture of many religions, it was really easy to see many kinds of churches including Catholics, Protestant, and even Orthodox ones. I was really surprised since they were in peace although the city is quite big. I had the opportunity to meet people from Syria. When I asked a stranger on the road for directions after eating Syrian food, he told me that his job is to help Syrian refugees. Thanks to him, I visited one mobile phone shop run by some Syrians. By talking to them, I could empathize with the issues facing them better than before. I made some unforgettable memories in Antakya. Just like Hatay, I hope to make many more fabulous experiences in other cities of Turkey, too.

PS. Thanks to mentor, Burak Rami, who gave me much information about his hometown^^.

Jungin Bae, Pusan University, South Korea

On the home front : Mentors

As a mentor, I enjoy the friendships we've built together a lot. As a mentor, you get the chance to meet so many new people from around the world and at some point it becomes not only a mentor-mentee relation but also an integral part of their exchange semester; these students become a part of your life here. I am so happy to be a part of this wonderful family!

Biset Eker, Mentor



Our new exchanges 🥰

We had a very nice weekend trip to the Western Black Sea region in early April. We were 30 people in total; mostly exchange students from various countries and four mentors. We all had amazing moments together during the trip. . Everyone was exhausted by then, but it was definitely worth seeing the historic sites surrounded by natural beauty.

Eray Kaan Karabulut, Mentor



Yet another inspiring story from an Outgoing Exchange Student



Other than being an academic experience, Canada was an excellent break for me to all the rush and overwhelming times. When I think of those times one more time, the first things come to my mind are its gorgeous environment and pleasant people. With every breath I take in, I've learned to appreciate the moments we live. As being one of the most popular countries nowadays, Canada is such an amazing opportunity to be purified from the burden of daily commitments.

Considering the fact that Vancouver is selected as the second city to live in, devoting my four months to this city was the best decision I've ever made.

Tugce Gunduz, University of Victoria, Vancouver – BC



click on the video to watch

En güzel anılarımı burada paylaştık

Experiencing Diversity

Little Things - Biggest Memories

Chikako Hori

Koç University has become my home university in Turkey. It gave me a lot of precious experiences including happy exciting moments. I hardly had such an international exchanging or even spoke English in Japan before I came to Koc university. The days in Turkey were full of interesting surprises caused by people from several countries in the world.

Japan: Kyoto University (International Relations)



Idzel Marie Cano Mendoza

Koc University is special to me because of both the exchange and Turkish friends and people I have encountered so far, the amazing professors and faculty, the beautiful scenic location, the cats and dogs in every corner, and the refreshing feeling of being at a university that welcomes everyone with open arms.

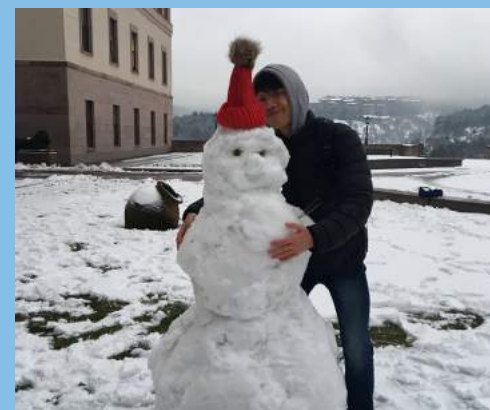
USA: San Francisco (International Relations)



Yun Ngok Chan

KU is such a place that full of nice schoolmates and passionate instructors. And people here are helpful for all time. I particularly love the square lawn near the student center because students gather there to have a meal and enjoy the sun shine as well as nature.

Hong Kong: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Chemistry)



Bill Chow

KU is a university with a combination of education, sport and ethics. Education is not something merely revolving around books. The best way to gain knowledge is to step out of classrooms, walk on your own way, meet friends with different background, and explore the world through your eyes. And KU is a perfect platform for that.

Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Mathematics)



Sander van Dessel

Koç helped me to create a better understanding about the different cultures all around the world. You can meet all sorts of people whom you never thought you would connect with.

Holland: Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University (Business Administration)



International Special Projects

GEC Reflections: The Way I See It from Istanbul to Houston by Nazlı Özkul

Nine [Global Engagement Certificate \(GEC\)](#) students from Koç University took a 13-hour flight to Houston from Istanbul. They went to Houston to expand their partnership with Rice's Gateway Study of Leadership (GSL) Program. Nazlı Özkul, a senior studying law and international relations at Koç University, shares her experience.

"On Saturday, we met with GSL students and had brunch in Rice Village. It was very nice to see the GSL students after their visit to Istanbul [last fall](#). Our visit to Houston really strengthened the relations between GSL and GEC students, helped create a long-standing partnership and allowed more time to learn the research methodology and process of the [Turning Points project](#).

The GSL fellows prepared a great itinerary for us. We visited the Menil Collection and had coffee at Siphon Café. Seeing the surrealist pieces by American artists was a unique experience for us.



On Sunday we went to McMurry College for a retreat. In the retreat program, we met with the rest of the GSL fellows who weren't in the group that visited Istanbul. All of the GSL team was welcoming, and we had a nice chat in the ice-breaking session. On Monday, we met with Rice University President David Leebron and had a meeting with other GSL fellows. President Leebron's speech was welcoming and his interest in the Koç University partnership was sincere. President Leebron's speech was inspirational and very relative to our research partnership with the GSL group. On our last day in Houston, we visited NASA's Johnson Space Center. Our visit was both informative and fun.

We as a group of the Global Engagement Certificate students from Koç University are lucky to be a part of the partnership with GSL fellows. We found an opportunity to enjoy our interesting and beautiful Houston visit but also have had an active role in shaping the future of an organization.

We are so grateful to our Koç University Dean of Students Bilgen Bilgin and GEC coordinator Mert Çetinkaya and also to Alex Wyatt and Ipek Martinez from the Gateway Study of Leadership team, who made this trip possible."

KU's Success at Global Social Venture Competition 2016 Finals in Bangkok

This year, two Turkish teams, yedi70 and Otsimo, from [Global Social Venture Competition \(GSVC\)](#) at Koç University participated in the GSVC semi-finals that took place at London Business School in late February. Otsimo is a free and open source educational application for children with autism, whereas yedi70 is a longevity platform that aims to improve well-being of elderly people in the society. Otsimo was selected as one of the final two teams to proceed to the GSVC finals in Bangkok which took place in the first week of April. Among 17 teams competing in the finals, Otsimo got the 4th place and awarded with the three global finalist prize.

GSVC @ KU 2017 application process will open in October 2016.

gsvc.ku.edu.tr



International Special Projects

Brand new program: International Migration and the Crisis "The Basic Instinct: Survival"

[Summer Program for Incoming International and Koç Students](#)

International migration has become a major political issue worldwide. This course presents an overview of the main issues raised by the cross-border movements of people. It will introduce students to current trends in migration flows, to the different types of human mobility and the dynamics behind them, and to governments' responses to the social, political and legal challenges raised by international migration. The course material is organized to reflect on the social issues such as social mobility, poverty, gender, inequality and citizenship as they relate to different types of international mobility. Particularly, we will look at changing trends in global mobility, at theories explaining international mobility, forced migration, migrant integration; the impact of migration in sending and receiving societies, the basic methods used for analyzing migration related issues. This course will not only seek to learn from, but also to evaluate, critique, and expand existing methods. In addition, students will have the opportunity to develop their own professional thinking in this field.

Taking the recent mass refugee movement as the case study, this course aims to offer participants an understanding of the complex and varied nature of global migration in general and forced migration in specific and their centrality to global, regional and national processes of political, social and economic change and of the needs of displaced people themselves.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAM

The Basic Instinct: **SURVIVAL**
International Migration and the Crisis

Program Dates:
July 11-28, 2016



Prelude to the Middle East: Nanyang Technological University students were at KU

In December 2015, 25 NTU students came to KU to have a set of lectures. They had an intense schedule of 36 hours of lectures with various titles such as "Ottomans in Search for Modernity", "Perception of the Byzantine past in modern Turkey", "Ottoman Reforms and Political Ideas, 1839-1918", "Understanding Foreign Policy Analysis and Turkish Foreign Policy", "A Brief Historical Overview of General Trends in Turkish Foreign Policy", "Turkish-American Relations", "Turkey and the European Union", "Turkey and the Middle East", "Archaeology, Urban Development of Constantinople as the Capital of the Byzantine Empire", "From Single Party to Multi-Party Era (1946-1960)", "Problems of Pluralism and Democracy (1960-2000)", "Archaeology, Byzantine Cultural Heritage and Istanbul today", "Cultural Boundaries in Contemporary Turkey", "Turkey's Modernization, Culture, and Religion", "Case Studies: Contemporary Cultural Debates", "The Role of the Military in Turkish Politics", "Byzantium in Turkish Novels and Movies", "How did Constantinople become Istanbul?", "Turkish-Russian Relations", "Eurasia and Energy", "Minorities in Turkey", "Secularism in Turkey and Islam in Turkish Politics".

In addition to their academic experience, the students were also engaged in lots of cultural activities such as guided city tours organized by OIP.

Co-developed with Nanyang Technological University, "Prelude to the Middle East" will come to Koç in December 2016 for the fourth time.



International Special Projects

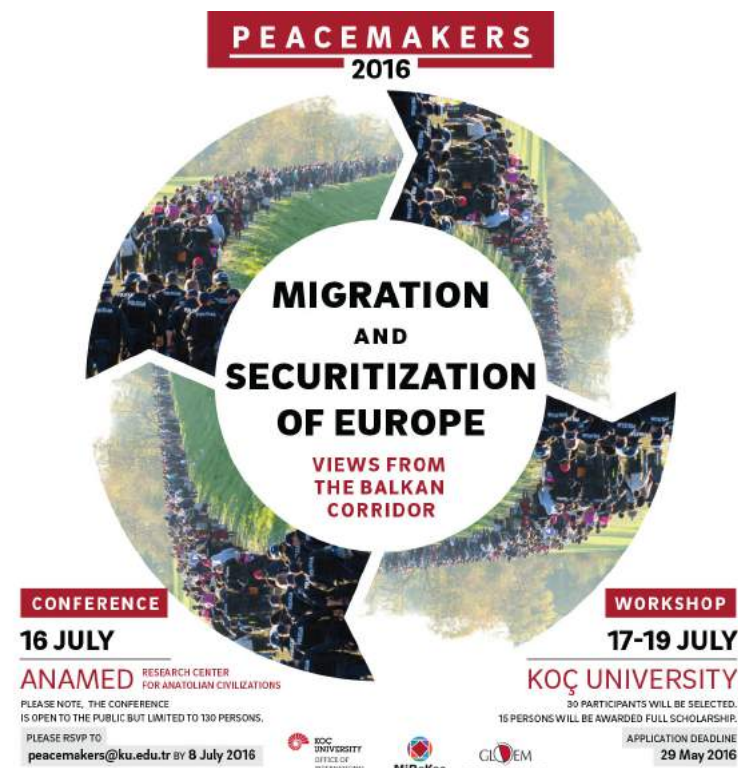
Peacemakers Annual Conference 2016: Call is Out: "Migration and Securitization of Europe: Views from the Balkan Corridor"

For the fifth consecutive year Koç University's Office of International Programs in a joint effort with Migration Research Center of Koç University is proud to announce its Peacemakers Annual Conference on "Migration and Securitization of Europe: Views from the Balkan Corridor". [This year's Conference](#) will take place on Jul 16, 2016, at KU's ANAMED Research Center in Istanbul.

Richard Falk, Albert G. Milbank Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University and Research Fellow of the Orfalea Center of Global Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will deliver a presentation as the Keynote Speaker of the Conference. The confirmed panelists at the discussion session are:

- Ms. Daniela Bobeva, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria
- Mr. Bulent Aras, Professor at Sabanci University, Turkey
- Mr. András Kováts, Director of Menedék, Hungarian Association for Migrants, Hungary
- Mr. Apostolos Veizis, Director of Medical Operational Support Unit, Médecins sans Frontières, Greece

[The workshops](#) will take place on July 17 – 19, 2016, and be led by Dr. Govinda Clayton, Senior Lecturer in International Conflict Analysis at the University of Kent. The workshops give an opportunity to young leaders coming from Turkey and the selected



countries to engage in interactive, evidence based, intensive workshop to overcome the dimensions of prejudice currently entrenched in the dynamics among the countries of focus.

As the Syrian conflict has resulted in Syria being the top source country of refugees in the world, most media and public attention has turned towards refugees fleeing Syria, especially those taking dangerous journeys through Turkey along the Balkan route. Consequently, the question of security has become a hot topic in the agenda of migration policy makers at the national and international level. The security-based perspectives conceptualize international migration as a threat to national security. The securitization approach puts the national sovereignty at the center of analysis and policy making. This has resulted in an increase of securitization of borders; intensifying practices of detention and deportation of foreigners, at the expense of abridging fundamental rights. Moreover, these measures put the human security of migrants and refugees at stake.

Restrictive immigration policies and EU regulations force refugees to attempt to reach Europe through irregular and hazardous routes. In this context, over the last few years, the Balkan route has increasingly become one of the most important routes for refugees and migrants originating from Syria, but also those from Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, with the intention of reaching Western Europe.

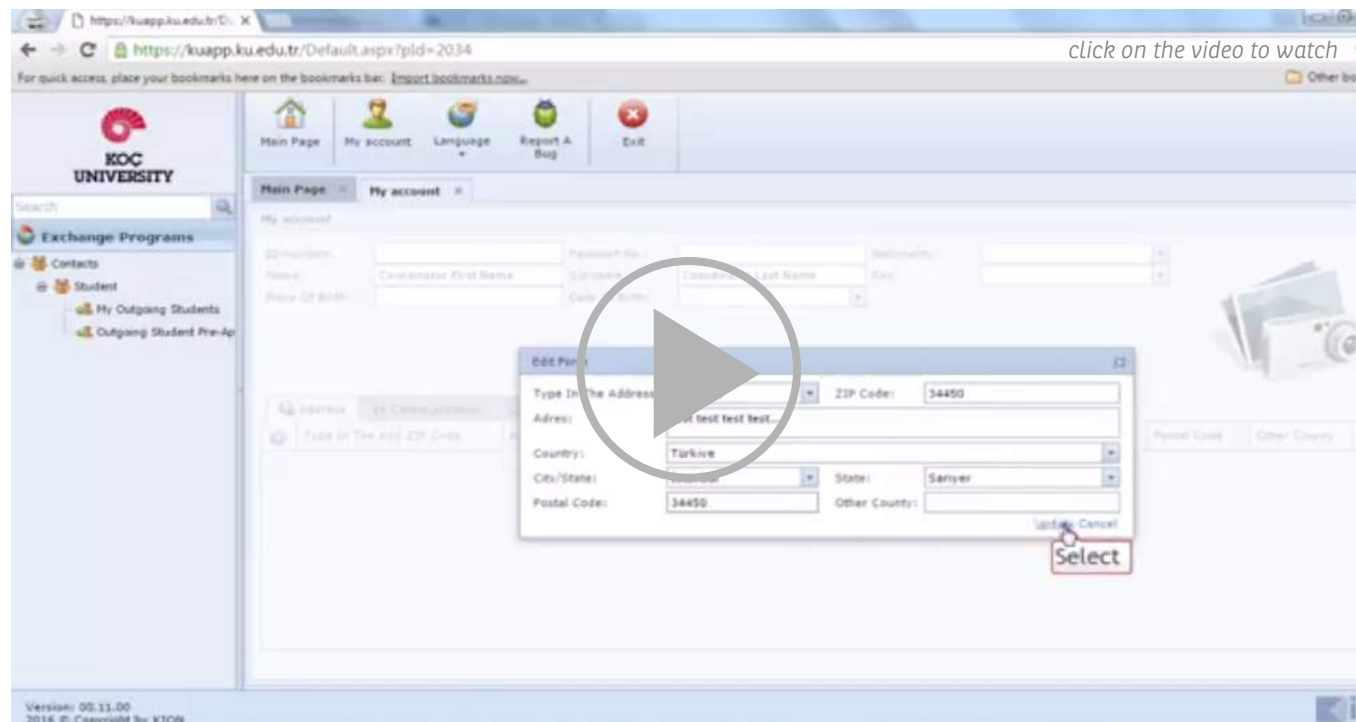


Latest from Us, the OIP at KU

New Application System for Exchange Programs

Mobility Office's newest application and nomination system called [KUAPP](https://kuapp.ku.edu.tr/) has been in use since February 2016. The goal for using this system is to quicken the application and placement process for Erasmus+, Summer and Global Exchange Programs. The system is able to collect and save the applications of outgoing students.

This system enables the outgoing student placement to be made automatically. Also visa letters, acceptance letters, application forms and student guidebooks can also be sent via KUAPP. This features of the system gives time and space to the team members to give one-to-one guidance to Koç University students on exchange programs and application processes.



Partner Universities can visit [OIP website](https://kuapp.ku.edu.tr/) for more information.

Outgoing Exchange Alert: New Destinations!

Koç University students have great opportunities to gain an exchange experience at least one time during their studies. OIP aims to send equal numbers of student to all partners in different countries.

With the new system and the expanded team, Exchange Programs Office has an opportunity to concentrate on which countries are popular among the students. This year Brazil, Mexico, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan are the popular destinations for Global Exchange and Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden for the Erasmus+ Exchange.

"Exchange is not a year in your life, it is a life in a year."

New Year, New Team Members

OIP is continuing to improve its services and programs with two new team members, who are responsible of Outgoing Exchange Programs. Ms. Arzu Yılmaz has recently joined Ms. Elif Çeltikçi in the mission of improving the application and exchange processes for Koç University community to make it easier and user friendly.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
oip.ku.edu.tr
outgoing@ku.edu.tr
eceltikci@ku.edu.tr
+90 212 338 1802



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oip.ku.edu.tr
outgoing@ku.edu.tr
eceltikci@ku.edu.tr
+90 212 338 1802

As Seen in Social Media

More than just a semester: Outgoing Exchange Students' Video Contest

Studying abroad may be one of the most beneficial experiences for a university student. By going on exchange, students have the opportunity to study in a foreign nation and take in the allure and culture of a new land. Choosing to study abroad can be one of the most enriching, fulfilling, interesting and educationally stimulating experiences of students' entire life.

Students were asked to shoot videos in particular specifications about their study abroad experiences. Here is the winner video of Mehmet Yalçın Aydın during his time in University of California.



Sharing memories: Incoming Exchange Students' Instagram Contest

Every semester OIP launches Instagram competitions based on the motto "Exchange Memories" for Incoming Exchange Students. Students love sharing their experiences by photos and videos. This semester, the most-liked three pictures won GoPro Camera,



Apple TV and URBANEARS headphone. Using #ilovekoc and #kocunivoip tags, this competition again created great synergy among the students.



Follow us on social media!

Koç University Office of International Programs uses various social media tools such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to contact with our students and partner universities from all around the world. Using the power of different networks has been a key for us and has been a great audience connector not only with current contacts but also with prospective ones. Sharing announcements and photos from the campus on the social media attracts students and professors, and engage us with our partner universities. In addition to that, following us on social media is the best way to be immediately informed about our activities, events and announcements.



Of Interest and Importance

Incoming Staff and Faculty Exchange Opportunities

Koç University offers opportunities for Incoming Faculty and Staff Exchange Programs.

Any interests in Erasmus Staff exchange (teaching or training) at Koç University is possible for Staff or Faculty members of a European University. Details are announced on our website. Please [click here](#) to read Incoming Mobility Guidelines information Fact sheet that covers all information needed while applying for an exchange at Koç University.



Could we be doing better at using data to further our internationalization goals as a university? –The HEIDA Project

Between January and March 2016 an online questionnaire targeting Turkish and European universities was rolled out as part of the HEIDA project activities. Over 100 European institutions amongst Koç University international partners and Turkish Universities participated and provided valuable insights about those aspects of internationalization that institutions find more or less easy to monitor and track using data available at institutional level.

One of the findings of the survey was the difficulty for International Offices to track and use research, teaching and learning focused internationalization data and indicators.

Another key learning from survey respondents was the need to build user friendly data collection tools that allow for data and indicators to be visualized in graphs, infographics or other formats. This, was argued, would help in making internationalization data "come alive" for senior managers when considering strategic



decisions that could affect the process of internationalization at universities.

HEIDA refers to "Data driven decision making for internationalization of higher education: Bridging the gap between faculty and admin using effective communication platforms". This is a 2 year Erasmus+ Key Action 2 funded project (2015-2016) led by Koç University and with collaboration from project partners (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona and International School for Social and Business Studies).

Project partner ISSBS in Celje, Slovenia organized a workshop on April 14th, 2016 to disseminate the results of the survey amongst Slovenian HEIs and "road test" a beta version of the project's web-based, open source tool for internationalization data and indicator management.

You are invited to check out the [project website](#), join the [LinkedIn group](#) or follow HIEDA Project on [Twitter account](#) for updates. There will be a final project conference in Istanbul, on September 22-23, 2016 and Koç University's all European university partners are invited to this conference.

The conference is free to register and will provide useful resources and training on the use of internationalization data and indicators for strategic decision making in benchmarking, marketing, recruitment, research collaboration, partnership development, learning and teaching quality amongst other areas.

Interested universities can contact Ms. Melissa Abache, Global Engagement Coordinator, mabache@ku.edu.tr or to heida@ku.edu.tr to participate or showcase a best practice case study in the use of data for internationalization.

Looking for a Project Partner?

Koç University OIP would be happy to take part in your projects (i.e. Erasmus+ Youth, Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships, etc.). Please contact Mrs. Burcu Sarsilmaz (bsarsilmaz@ku.edu.tr) if you are looking for a partner in Turkey.



Credits and Contributors

The editorial staff welcomes story ideas, comments and news. Please email marketing team on rpolat@ku.edu.tr

OIP Newsletter is a semi-annual magazine brings you the latest news, events, information and more from across the University, students and partners.

Creative and Managing Editor: Rena Polat

Content Editor: Mert Sanivar

General Editor: Burcu Sarsilmaz

Design and Technical Support: Saniye İnce (*Student at Media and Visual Arts*)

Contributors (OIP Team)



Burcu Sarsilmaz; Executive Manager at OIP, loves being a new mom, finds peace in nature and enjoys experiencing new cultures.



Rena Polat; International Communication and Marketing Specialist at OIP, enjoys cooking, travelling and nature.



Nilüfer Akpınar Şahin; International Coordinator for Special Projects at OIP, devoted traveler, photographer and nature-lover.



Yasemin Anatola Özkur; Exchange advisor from Canada, enjoys sunshine and nature.



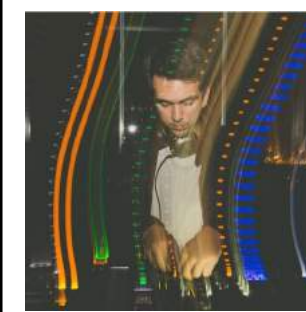
Ayhan Şeker; External Relations Specialist at OIP, is a good family man and adventure-lover.



Arzu Yılmaz; Exchange Programs and Partnerships Specialist at OIP, is food lover and cake master.



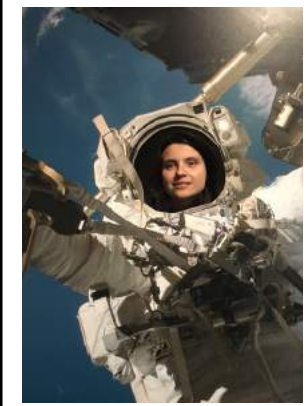
Mert Şanivar; International Community Coordinator at OIP, hails from Adana where you can find the hottest (best and real) Adana Kebap in the World! He is all about finding, cooking and eating good food and he loves drama of all sorts.



Mert Çetinkaya; International Project Specialist at OIP, loves spending time in nature, travelling, cooking and he also has an alter personality as a dj.



Elif Çeltikci; Exchange Programs Outgoing Assistant Specialist at OIP, is a nature and animal lover."



Sedef Erçetin; Team Leader / Coordinator of Exchange Programs and Partnerships, is interested in astrophysics and dream of being an astronaut.



Melissa Abache; Global Engagement Coordinator at Office of Vice President for Research and Development, is originally from Venezuela, loves Istanbul and its magical chaos! She enjoys her work meeting with bright and interesting students and researchers from around the globe and helping them find their potential at Koç University.



Betül Semiz; Exchange Advisor at OIP, is pet lover! Let her alone with animals, they have strong bonds of love.

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