

K O Ç U N I V E R S I T Y O F F I C E O F I N T E R N A T I O N A L P R O G R A M S N E W S L E T T E R

# KUNNECTION

JUNE 2017

**broaden your horizon**

# KUNNECTION

## INDEX

**Dean's & Director's  
Message**

### **Latest on Global Partnership**

**President's visit to Asia**

**New! More mobility opportunities  
with Erasmus+ Worldwide Program**

### **Koç University's Presence at Overseas**

**Forum on Education Abroad 2017**

**Koç University delegates  
attendance to the International  
Fairs and Conferences**

### **Academic Highlights**

**New! Koç University Center for  
Asian Studies (KUASIA)**

**New international accreditations for the  
College of Nursing (ACEN) and Graduate  
School of Business (AMBA)**

**New UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and  
Sustainable Development at Koç University**

### **International Community at Home**

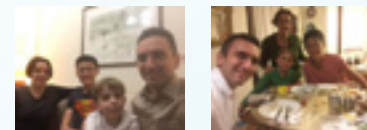
**3rd Annual Kite Festival  
to Bring Everyone Together**



**A New Cricket League in Turkey:  
Pakistani Inter-Collegiate Teams  
Play for Friendship**

### **Experiencing Diversity**

**Every Exchange Has a Story!**



**Memories of a cultural  
exchange opportunity: Turkish  
Host Family Program**

**Spring 2017 Incoming Exchange  
Orientation Week**

**Incoming Students' Cappadocia Trip**

**KU Staff Exchange Abroad**

### **International Special Projects**

**KuGlobalAid students' Social  
Service Project for Syrian Refugee  
Children in Gaziantep**

**Waladu:  
An Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project**

**First International Migration and the Crisis  
Program completed successfully!**

**Hot Topic! The 6th Annual Peacemakers  
Conference and Workshop is on the way!**

**Changemaker 101: "TunnelX –Makerspace" First  
community center for students at the campus!**



### **As Seen On Social Media**

**The Internationalization of Turkish Research Universities  
(ITRU) group is also now on social media!**

**Sharing memories: Incoming Exchange  
Students' Instagram Contest**

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

### **Of Interest and Importance**

**Incoming Staff and Faculty  
Exchange Opportunities**

**Summer Exchange Program**

**Looking for a Project Partner?**

### **Credits & Contributors**

**KUnnection  
Newsletter**

Sign up for the newsletter

**SUBSCRIBE >>>**



## 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 2017. 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



## Directors’ Message

Dear Colleagues,

Office of International Programs (OIP) of Koç University is proud to present its first issue newsletter of 2017. 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.

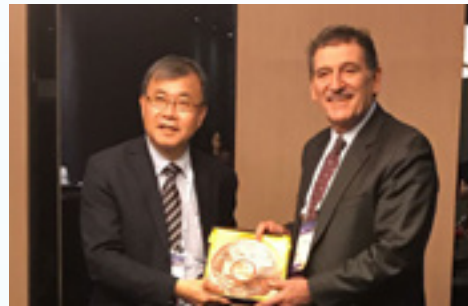
Best Wishes,

Burcu Sarsilmaz  
Director



## President's visit to Asia

In March 2017, Koç University President Prof. Umran Inan attended the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Universities Summit in Ulsan, South Korea and the Asia-Pacific Association of International Education (APAIE) conference in Kaohsiung, Taiwan as an invited speaker. These trips also provided the opportunity for visits at Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) in Seoul, South Korea and National Tsing Hua University in Taipei, Taiwan. Both are excellent institutions with which Koç University has established partnerships for undergraduate and graduate student exchange, PhD student recruitment, joint research programs and dual & joint degree programs. These are excellent additions to the university's network of universities, consistent with its renewed drive for internationalization and KU's emphasis on Asia.



## New! More mobility opportunities with Erasmus+ Worldwide Program

Koç University has received funding for 6 projects in 5 countries for Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Program. Our partner universities for the project are Azerbaijan/ADA University, Hong Kong/Chinese University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University, Lebanon/American University of Beirut, South Africa/University of Cape Town, Uruguay/Montevideo University.

So far 17 academic and administrative staff and 2 students have been selected for the program at KU. Our university has received 6 staff and 7 students from the project partners.

Exchange Programs and Partnership Development Team has submitted many more new projects for 2017 with partner universities from different regions in order to extend the number of participant and provide geographical diversity in scope of the program.

For 2018 we look forward to further increasing our projects with new partners.

Watch program guidelines for international students from the partner universities mentioned above.



[TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

## International Delegation visits to Koç University

A delegation consisting of esteemed members of National Taiwan University, National Cheng Kung University and National Taiwan University of Science and Technology visited Koç University from Taiwan to explore diversity, future collaborations and mutual exchanges between the institutions which, later on, led to signing an exchange agreement with National Cheng Kung University in APAIE, Taiwan.

Among other visiting universities, representatives from University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Southampton visited Koç University to discuss research collaboration and mutual exchanges between our institutions.



## Fostering The Next Generation Of Stem Students in The Arab Region at Koç University

Syrian students in Turkey and Arab students can now access a unique scholarship opportunity at Koç University through the Al Ghurair STEM Scholars Program.



The Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education, one of the largest privately funded philanthropic initiatives in Education, supports Arab students in pursuit of their Bachelor or Master's degree in a STEM-related field at top universities in the region and abroad.

The collaboration between Koç University and Al Ghurair Foundation targets Syrian students in Turkey whose education has been interrupted because of conflict. This partnership, established in late 2016 through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Development, helps to fulfil the university's mission to serve Turkey and humanity as a model of institutional excellence and is another step in increasing opportunities similar to existing scholarship programs such as the IIE Syria Scholarship Consortium (for Syrian students) and the Anatolian Scholarship Program (for Turkish Students).

The Al Ghurair STEM Scholars Program targets high-achieving students who are in need of financial support to embark on their education journey. It offers scholarships towards tuition and other university expenses and aims to ensure that all its scholars receive quality academic advising and career counselling, as well as opportunities to access community service and internships in their career fields. More information can be requested from [agfe@ku.edu.tr](mailto:agfe@ku.edu.tr)



Koç University ranks among the top research universities in Turkey in terms of number of articles per academic member. This indicates the importance attached to research, and success of academic members and research programs.

#### TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

- Top 251- 300th for World University Rankings
- 36th in the world among universities under 50 years old
- 15th among BRICS & Emerging Economies
- Ranked 11th among world's best small universities
- Ranked 27th for Asia University Rankings

#### FINANCIAL TIMES

- Ranked 67th for Business School Rankings

#### QS BY SUBJECT RANKINGS

- Top 151-200 for Political Sciences and International Relations
- Top 151-200 for Archaeology



### Forum on Education Abroad 2017

The Forum's 13th Annual Conference focused on the topic of Creating and Sustaining the Education Abroad Continuum.

Koc University was represented by the Director of the OIP, Burcu Sarsilmaz, and interesting discussions were held on the student's education abroad experience. Ideally, the education abroad experience is a continuum that begins long before the student arrives in the host country and carries on after their return, integrating the academic and experiential, supported by fair policies and ethical programming. While this ideal of a continuum may not be the reality for all students, education abroad can take practical steps toward achieving it.



### Koç University delegates attendance at International Fairs and Conferences

APAIE Conference and Exhibition 2017 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The 12th APAIE was held from March 20 to 24, 2017 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and set around the following theme: "New Era, New Horizon, New Frontier Higher Education in Asia Pacific"

Koç University was the part of the Turkish Research Universities stand with Boğaziçi University, Bilkent University and Sabancı University as ITRU Group in order to improve the visibility of the Turkish Higher Education.

The delegates from Koç University were President Umrhan S. Inan and the Office of International Programs. During the exhibition period, Koç University had meetings with more than 40 institutions, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region.

During the conference, President Inan presented a session on "East meets West: Strategic partnerships for cross-border movement of students". He was also invited as panelist in the APAIE Presidents' Roundtable with the theme of "Co-Development of University and Industry: Forging New Partnership" which was one of the most crowded sessions at APAIE 2017.



The director of the OIP, Burcu Sarsilmaz, presented three different sessions titled University programs for refugees on two continents, How to manage an international office despite budget cuts, and Recent Developments in Turkish Higher Education. International Marketing and Projects Specialist Rena Polat presented a session where she shared the best marketing practices of OIP, titled Marketing Strategy for Internationalization: Winning in the news digital era.



### AIEA Conference 2017 in Washington DC, U.S.A.



Burcu Sarsilmaz, Director of the Office of International programs, attended the AIEA 2017 Conference that took place in Washington D.C. in February. The conference titled "Internationalization Through Difference: Transcending Boundaries" hosted many thought provoking sessions and discussions. Our Director also had several meetings with Koc University's partners. She was selected to participate in the Transatlantic Leadership Dialogue that was jointly organized by the AIEA and the EAIE. This year's theme explored the role of advocacy - making the case for internationalization - as viewed from North American and European perspectives.



### Promoting education in Turkey in the four corners of the earth!

Between January and June 2017 the Global Recruitment Team travelled to over 20 cities in 13 countries to provide information and advice to students looking for bachelor, master and PhD programs in Turkey and at Koç University. The team participated in student fairs, school and university visits and meetings with key stakeholders in each country. Here are some pictures of our trips and keep an eye out on our country visits calendar to check if we'll be visiting your city later this year so we can meet! Enquiries on this matter should be directed to [study@ku.edu.tr](mailto:study@ku.edu.tr) and you can also follow the team on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

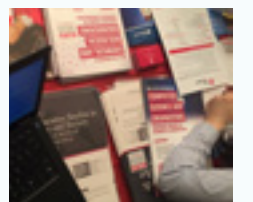
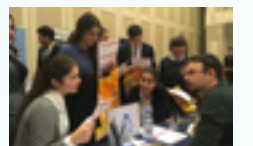
### Cooperation with the Government of Fujairah Human Resources Directorate to welcome talented UAE students at Koç University

Koç University and the United Arab Emirates Government of Fujairah Human Resources



Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2017 to facilitate academic and research cooperation and Exchange of scholars and students in governmental institutes and universities and provided Koç University with official recognition. This agreement will help towards attracting talented students from the UAE to pursue their studies in different academic fields at Koç University.

Mohammed Khalifa Al Zayudi, Director of the Human Resources Department at the Emiri Court of Fujairah Government signed the MoU and wished for a long and positive cooperation with Koç University and with Turkish institutions in the future. Enquiries about this partnership can be directed to Ms. Melissa Abache, Global Engagement Manager [mabache@ku.edu.tr](mailto:mabache@ku.edu.tr)

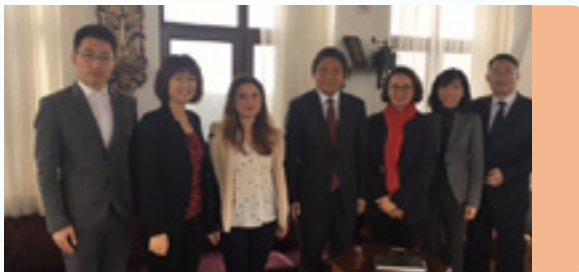




## New! Koç University Center for Asian Studies (KUASIA)

Turkey is conveniently poised to monitor, analyze and interpret developments in this region thanks to her geographical, historical, and cultural proximity – uniquely positioning her as the Asian gateway to Europe and European gateway to Asia.

Given the infancy of research and education on Asia in Turkey, Koç University's Center for Asian Studies (KUASIA) will fill an important gap. Koç University has the potential to establish a dedicated center to study various issues of pertinence in Asia. The University is endowed with unique characteristics to promote scholarship and expertise on Asia thanks among others to its international connections, solid multidisciplinary teaching and research capabilities, English language medium of operation and instruction, as well as its adaptive and pioneering leadership. The Center has the potential to become the leading research center in both Turkey and her neighborhood.



The main objective will be to make KUASIA the leading research center for Asian studies in Turkey with public policy impact with the involvement of business circles, scholars, bureaucrats and policy makers.

In collaboration with the OIP, KUASIA has started establishing partnerships with the matching HEIs and research centers all over world. Recently, we've signed MoUs with Sussex University and Beijing Foreign Studies University.

## New international accreditations for the College of Nursing (ACEN) and Graduate School of Business (AMBA)

Koç University College of Nursing has been awarded accreditation status from [The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing \(ACEN\)](#). Accreditation was granted for the undergraduate program on March 9-10, 2017 and became the [first and only Nursing School in Turkey](#) that has been accredited by an international accreditation commission.

ACEN is the entity that is responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing education programs. ACEN accreditation is a voluntary peer-review process intended to enhance improvement in nursing education.

Koç University has also officially received accreditation from The Association of MBAs (AMBA), one of the leading authorities on postgraduate business education.

[The Association of MBAs](#)

(AMBA) accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement in postgraduate business education and is earned only by the best post graduate management programmes. AMBA accredits the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Business Management (MBM) and Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) courses in only the top 2% of the world's business schools. This international accreditation adds to the [existing EQUIS accreditation](#) that was also awarded to the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics and the Graduate School of Business.

## Koç University School of Nursing is the first faculty in Turkey accredited by ACEN.



ACEN: The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

## New UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Sustainable Development at Koç University



The Dean of the Law School, Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder was appointed in May 2017 as the new holder of the Koç University Center for Women & Gender Studies (KOÇ-KAM) and as the holder of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Sustainable Development at Koç University and the new Director of KOÇ-KAM. Prof. Oder is an outstanding and dedicated faculty member in all respects and is very much committed to betterment of Gender Equality and Women's issues both in Turkey and our region. Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı, who passed away tragically on March 2nd, had been the previous chair. She was an outstanding scientist, a true humanist and a woman of the Turkish Republic. Among her countless contributions to science, her most important legacy are the many students and highly accomplished scientists she has educated and inspired.

## Science Academy's Young Scientist Awards Program (BAGEP) of the Science Academy of Turkey

Koç University realized yet another outstanding achievement with the announcement of the 2017 Recipients of the Science Academy's Young Scientist Awards Program (BAGEP) of the Science Academy. Our faculty members were the recipients of 12 of the 42 Awards given out this year. The fact that our university has received the largest number of BAGEP Awards given in the last 5 years underscores the outstanding performance of our academic faculty.





## A New Cricket League in Turkey: Pakistani Inter-Collegiate Teams Play for Friendship

### Koc and Sabanci University Pakistani Ph.D Students Cricket Meet



Cricket is big in Pakistan, Koç and Sabanci, and may be in other schools where Pakistani students study, but for now, Koç and Sabanci Pakistani teams make up the league. Well, even if it is an imaginary league for now this is not the first time students from both schools play cricket but this was the first university sponsored game dedicated to friendship of students and the International offices. The idea came out of a meeting recently hosted at Koç University where members of Sabanci University International Relations Office joined our International Community Office team to discuss current international student issues, legal procedures and exchange thoughts on student engagement. The game took place at the Tuzla Campus of Sabanci University on a sunny Saturday on April 15th. The KU team won all 3 games played. "It is important to make room for international

students to do what they are really missing in a foreign country, because at the end of the day this is what truly motivates them" said Mert Sanivar, the ICO coordinator. Based on what Pakistani students said, a cricket game can last for several days; the one they played was just a "test" game that lasted one whole day from 11AM-7PM. Adil Mustafa, a 3rd year Ph.D Biomedical Engineering from Pakistan shared his thoughts about this activity: "It is always refreshing experience to keep the sporting traditions from your country alive when you are abroad. The cricket series played between Koc University cricket team and Sabanci University cricket club was one such experience. It was amazing to recreate the passion we normally associate with cricket games played back home. I hope we can continue to have that experience in coming days."

## What Are Our International Scholars Up To?

We would like to feature faces from our international community and bring to our readers information about their academic work, their stories or thoughts. In this issue we have two internationals:



Huaping Li China

Huaping Li is a post-doc researcher at the Department of Physics. He is working with Professor Alkan Kabakçioğlu. His research, by his own account, is about: "Taking advantage of various simulation methods such as Monte Carlo, molecular dynamics, replica exchange sampling method, I'm interested in constructing coarse-grained models for biological molecules and understanding biological processes based on fundamental physical principles."

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kite Festival to Bring Everyone Together

The 3rd Annual Kite Festival took place at Henry Ford Lawn on a sunny May 4th with a record crowd including students, faculty, staff and their families (of course children). The festival introduced to our campus by Pakistani graduate students to celebrate Basant festival turned into one of the most popular events to welcome Spring at Koc University. This year, with the start of a new club, International Student Community, under Clubs and Volunteer Activities office, the event came out as a club activity managed by Pakistani students and was co-sponsored by the clubs and ICO. Looking forward to next year's Kite flying event, stay on the look out for the date!



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO ABOUT KITE FESTIVAL DOCUMENTARY](#)

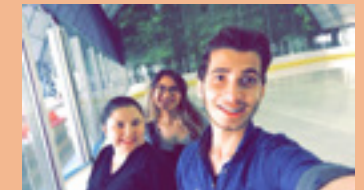


Valentina Rita Scotti  
Italy

Valentina Rita Scotti holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Public Law from the University of Siena, Italy. She works as Post-doctoral Researcher in Comparative Public Law at the Koç University Law School, Istanbul. She has held classes as Adjunct Professor in Comparative Constitutional Law and in Institutions of Muslim Countries at the LUISS Department of Political Science. She publishes in international and Italian reviews and journals, as well as in edited books, on constitutionalism and human rights in the Mediterranean area, transjudicialism in India, and parliamentary cooperation. In 2014 she published her first monograph, *Il Costituzionalismo in Turchia fra identità nazionale e circolazione dei modelli*, Maggioli (Constitutionalism in Turkey between national identity and cross-fertilization). Currently, she is working on a book on gender issues in Mediterranean countries.

## Local Friends Program in its 2nd Semester

The Local Friends program (LFP) initiated by the International Community Office (ICO) continues to attract KU students with an interest to learn about different cultures and languages. Even though the main premise of this program is to let international students experience the local culture with a local friend and practice Turkish language it offers a great chance for our domestic KU students to learn about other countries, languages and cultures. This semester we had 55 participants from different majors and degree programs. Compared to last semester this year we had more Ph.D students join. To learn more about the LFP and be either a local friend to an international student or become a local friend with a local friend here send an email to [ico@ku.edu.tr](mailto:ico@ku.edu.tr) or [msanivar@ku.edu.tr](mailto:msanivar@ku.edu.tr).

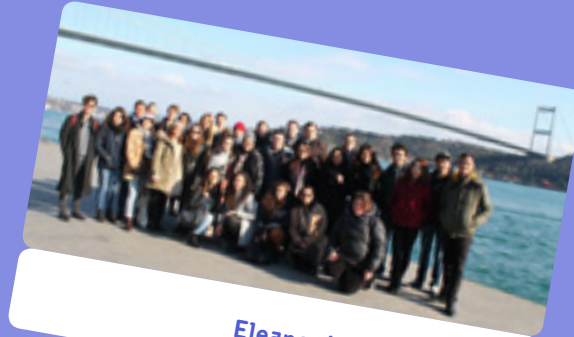




# Every Exchange Has a Story!

Experiencing  
Diversity

One of the best experiences of my exchange in Istanbul was meeting and getting around with locals. They love to share their city and culture by showing you around and taking you to their favorite restaurants, shops and places in and around the city.



Eleanor Marienne Munch



Behara Djokovic

As an exchange student you get hosted very well by the program and amazing mentors that show you around and takes care of all your concerns and helps you alot with both queations regarding University and the city. If I could go back and redo my choice for my exchange I would choose Istanbul and Koc University all over again.



Önem Özbizerdik

I spend my exchange semester in University of St.Gallen, Switzerland. It was full of culture and nature intertwined abroad experience. I strongly recommend my friends who loves nature like me to spend their exchange semester in Switzerland.



Birce Nevruz

I was in Cape Town for my exchange semester. Amazing views with great friendships all over the world and great food made my semester an unforgettable experience. I wish I could go back!

Koç exchange Program was simply perfect! The University provided everything in this orientation week I needed to have a good semester: a house, my classes and a lot of potential friends. I enjoyed all of my classes and I never faced bigger problems. In general people were always willing to help, and they tried to understand what I needed and to help me even if I don't speak any Turkish and they didn't speak English.



Eva Maria Resch

Koç University allowed me to be on exchange but also enjoy the same things I did at home, playing drums! It also means I can meet people who are also into music!



Elliot Matthew Termote



Beril Şahin

It was an amazing experience to spend a semester in San Francisco. Getting to know people from all over the world and learning about their cultures are great.



## Study Abroad 101: Koç Universitesi in Istanbul by Hussein Cheaito from American University of Beirut



After signing the required contracts, paying the deposits, and booking my ticket, I took off for a new and beautiful experience last September.

Making the decision to study abroad for a semester is not easy. It's one of the toughest once you consider that studying abroad means more than partying and good food (although that's a vital part of it, don't get me wrong).

Going on a study abroad to Koç University in Istanbul was by far the best thing I came to do in my twenty years of age (you might have to read this twice for it to truly sink in). As an exchange student, and with complete honesty, I barely studied except for one time when it was absolutely worth it.

The semester abroad offered me a multicultural experience that changed how I viewed the world. Istanbul is a beautiful city with a lot to discover and Koç University is a top tier research university with elite teaching staff who you will most certainly benefit from. This combination of a beautiful city, people, and an esteemed university have helped make the whole exchange experience one not-to-miss.

Exchange programs are engineered in such a way that they would change you as a person and that is an essential asset every student needs to have prior to graduating. If you want to

witness the feeling of getting out of your comfort zone, then this is the right place for you to do just that.

In terms of the university itself, the campus was large and had a lot of student-friendly facilities. The student center offered a wide range of food options within the actual cafeteria (Yemekhane) and in other fancy restaurants, which served international food, including Asian and Italian cuisine. There's also your typical gyms and luxurious dormitory buildings. Koç University even has banks and ATMs within. The university has its own constantly active shuttle buses which move both frequently across the campus and into the city center, where all the fun really is.

This, then, brings me to whether Istanbul is still safe to reside in. Well, most frankly, it certainly is. Istanbul's culture is exquisite and deserves appreciation and high valuation. Most of the unfortunate attacks are taking place far from Istanbul and as long as one remains out of crowded places on streets, the probability of getting harmed in any way is minimal.

If you ever feel nostalgic and nationalistic, you can visit Eski Beyrut in Taksim, which offers good Lebanese cuisine and is an excellent place for get-togethers. The food, sights, shopping malls, the people whether nationals or internationals, are all beautiful and make the whole experience worthwhile.

It is highly advisable for everyone reading this to visit the Office of International Programs' office and check their options.

There is somewhere in this world where your true self awaits. Get on it and drive yourselves somewhere that makes you think twice.

[TO READ THE REFERENCE AND FULL VERSION](#)

## Memories of a cultural exchange opportunity: Turkish Host Family Program



YONG ZHI  
NATHANAEL  
LONG from  
Nanyang  
Technological  
University  
(Singapore)

We introduced 'Turkish Host Family Program' in Fall 2016 to enable exchange students to adapt to Turkish culture more easily. It is a good opportunity for exchange students to interact with local families, integrate with people of a different culture and establish good and strong relations between the cultures. We select families among the university community (faculty and staff members) so that students' integration to the campus community can be quicker. It also helps the campus community to understand and experience the importance of internationalization first hand. The families do their best to accommodate exchange students and help them make the most of their stay.

Here is one of the testimonials from an exchange student:

Once again, thank you so much for the opportunity, it has been a priceless experience and thanks to this program, I now have a second family in Istanbul! I am happy to help Turkish exchange students at NTU, as this will be an opportunity to repay the kindness all the Turks here have shown me here during my exchange and I hope to emulate Turkish hospitality to your students in Singapore!

## Grow as you share: Outgoing Mentorship Program (OMP) for KU students

Starting in the beginning of this year, we launched an Outgoing Mentorship Program formed from former outgoing students to assist Koç University students who are willing to study abroad. Their support consist on exchange programs application procedure, answering a wide range of questions, sharing resources of support that ultimately assist their exchange programs, updating and providing content for blog and

reporting the any issue to Outgoing Student Advisors in any case.

The program created great synergy and solidarity among students during exchange program campaign. Here some Outgoing Mentors are seen answering questions during the Koc University Study Abroad Fair 2017.

Ahmet Batuhan Aslan, Elif Çeltikçi, Seher Yüksel



## Spring 2017 Incoming Exchange Orientation Week

On the first day of the orientation, integration of students played an important role, thus their first day was planned accordingly. At "Meet Your Mentor Breakfast", they met both their mentors as well as their fellows. After the presentation, to take a break, they took part in activities led by their mentors in order to get to know each other. After lunch, held by incoming advisor, they attended intercultural communication session in order to get a close insight to cultural awareness.

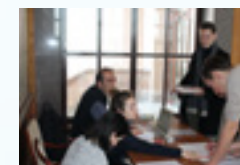
The second day of the orientation started with a traditional breakfast. Organized by the incoming team, the brunch took place at a nice restaurant by the seaside in Rumelihisarı. Incoming students tried traditional Turkish breakfast for the first time accompanied by a scenic view. They also had the opportunity to socialize. The rest of the afternoon was spent on the course registration process as well as an introduction to the university's departments including the Registrar's, Social Media Contests, Career Centre, Dormitory Management, Clubs, KOLT,

KURES and Summer School & Special Projects.

On the third day of the orientation program, exchange students attended the Residence Permit session to find out which documents they would need to prepare for their residence permit application. Following Survival Turkish lessons and the lunch, they were free to go and discover Sarıyer with their mentors.

They spent their fourth day outdoors with their mentors and the incoming advisor playing group games and enjoying their time as well as getting to know each other more.

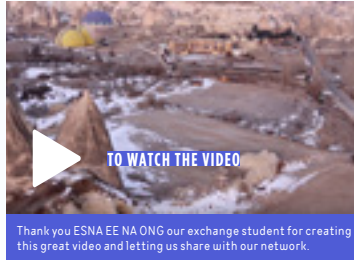
On the last day of the orientation, they submitted their paperwork and following the lunch, they spent their afternoon skating and socializing!





## Incoming Students' Cappadocia Trip

Cappadocia: The traditional trip to Cappadocia took place in February 2017 again. Students were very pleased with the event as it has always been our most popular trip.



## KU Staff Exchange Abroad

Koç University offers opportunities for both Outgoing and Incoming Faculty and Staff Exchange Programs. Here are some of our Staffs Exchange Experiences:

### In touch with the Dutch by Arzu Dalyan

When the spring sprung in the North Hemisphere in May, I set off to participate in the International Staff Training Week at Radboud University in the Netherlands. Radboud University, located in the beautiful city Nijmegen, has a great team in their International Office and they definitely know how to welcome you to their institution and the city. The schedule made very diligently was one of the best parts of the event. Each day was split into time slots to attend the useful workshops, a social activity like a campus or city tour and then some free time to relax and explore the city and culture. Being in a multicultural community, chatting with the colleagues from different institutions with different backgrounds and approaches, and making new friends has been an amazing experience. I thank each and every person who contributed to the organization for giving me unforgettable memories.



## Study Abroad Fair and Partner Day 2017

This year's Study Abroad Fair & Partner Day took place on April 20 – 21, 2017. The fair was a chance for our students interested in planning to study abroad to receive information directly from the source. On the other hand, it was a great opportunity for our partner university representatives to get a better insight into Koç University and meet their prospective students.

The first day began with a Welcome Reception for partner institutions as well as Consulates and a key-note address by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, followed by Koç University and partner university presentations. The fair started at the noon after a campus tour and a lunch led

by the President and the Vice Presidents.

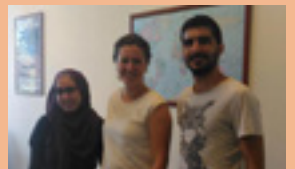
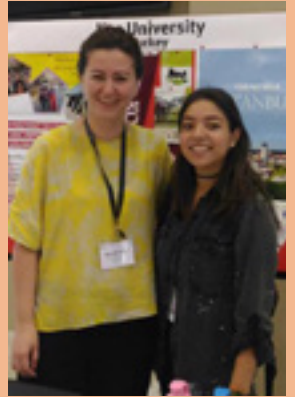
Before the fair, Judith Liberman's spectacular storytelling session took place: "Stroll in Story Land with Judith: Change Starts with Your Story".

Consulates, study-in organizations and partner universities also represented their prestigious institutions for the duration of the fair in order to provide students with information about studying, internships, and scholarships abroad, which enabled our students to get detailed information about life in various countries, which will soon be their next study abroad destinations!

## OIP Director Burcu Sarsilmaz's visits abroad to strengthen international collaborations

I visited American University of Beirut in October 2016 under Erasmus+ ICM Staff Mobility Program where I held an info session for AUB students who were interested in participating in Erasmus+ ICM Student Exchange program. Representing Koç University at AUB's Study Abroad Fair was very productive as many students were interested in exchange and degree programs offered by Koc University. Being able to learn more about the 150 year history of AUB as well as the operations of AUB's OIP, this initial dialogue has led to the movement of more staff members from both institutions. Hopefully more faculties or administrative units will be visiting each other's universities to share the best practices.

I was invited as the Guest speaker and presented a session titled "Global Terrorism and Changing Dynamics of Study Abroad Programs: A Turkish Case" at the Staff Week organized around the topic of "Managing Study Abroad Programs in the Era of Global Terrorism" by Faculty of Economics and Business at KU Leuven University in May 2017. The International Week was organized to strengthen the cooperation between partner institutions and swap best practices on internationalization with fellow colleagues. Participants followed a program of sessions, workshops and study visits. I also represented our university at the Global Village XL, study abroad fair of KU Leuven, during a day trip to Brussels.



University Representatives:

ADA UNIVERSITY  
AZERBAIJAN  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO  
NORWAY  
Radboud University Nijmegen  
NETHERLANDS  
TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
(TUMS) IRAN





## First International Migration and the Crisis Program completed successfully!

2016 has marked the launch of a high quality, and, apparently, an already popular international program! This new summer program on International Migration and the Crisis received great interest from students worldwide!

In addition to an interactive and discussion-based class environment, this program also provides the students with field trips to neighborhoods where immigrants reside in large numbers and operate small businesses in Istanbul. The students also have a chance to attend some seminars of the summer school of the Migration Research Center of Koç University (MiReKoç). There are two other advantages (side benefits) of attending our international migration program:

- 1 • It provides students with an opportunity to conduct voluntary service learning study at NGOs working with / for asylum seekers and refugees in Istanbul.
- 2 • It gets students seats reserved free of charge at the international annual conference of Koç University, which will host prominent international figures as speakers from around Europe, UK (Oxford) and the United States: Peacemakers 2017 (only at the conference, not at the ensuing workshop)

This course is open in the summer of 2017 also! Please contact via [summer@ku.edu.tr](mailto:summer@ku.edu.tr) for further details about the program.

This course presents an overview of the main issues raised by the cross-border movements of people. It introduces 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. This course not only seeks to learn from, but also to evaluate, critique, and expand existing methods. In addition, students have the opportunity to develop their own professional thinking in this field.

## Hot Topic! The 6th Annual Peacemakers Conference and Workshop is on the way!

The 6th Annual Peacemakers Conference and Workshop on "Securitization of International Migration: The Politics of Populism" is organized jointly by the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoç). The Conference will take place on July 8 at the Pera Museum Auditorium and the ensuing Workshop on July 9 – 11, 2017 on the Main Campus of Koç University in Istanbul.

Follow conference day highlights on our social media channels. Facebook, Twitter: kocunivoip



TO FOLLOW HIGHLIGHTS

## Global Engagement Students' visit to GSVC Finals and Silicon Valley, Kaan Bilgin

Beginning Fall 2016, Koç University has become a regional partner for the Global Social Venture Competition. To represent Koç University at GSVC as the Regional Partner, we visited University of California Berkeley. In order to get the feeling of the entrepreneurship ecosystem of the Bay Area, we extended our 5-day trip to 10-day trip. While we were participating in the GSVC Finals, we had a chance to meet with various early stage startups. Watching all those pitches and listening entrepreneurs' motivation was quite amazing. After 3 days in Berkeley, we visited Facebook and Google, also talked to Turkish entrepreneurs living in the Bay area. We got insights about being a Turkish entrepreneur in the Silicon Valley and listened to the difficulties they faced during their journeys.

In addition, we had a chance visit touristic spots. We went to Redwoods National Park for hiking, which was an amazing experience. What struck me in our trip was the joy of life of the people we talked to. They were working very hard but all of them were quite happy, and most of them were doing their dream jobs. It was a life-changing experience for me. All the people that we talked to and the connections we had there means so much to us. I hope one day we will visit there not for seeing sights but to extend our impact in the world. I thank to Office of International Programs and Engineering Faculty for supporting our trip.



## Changemaker 101: "TunnelX – Makerspace" First community center for students at the campus!

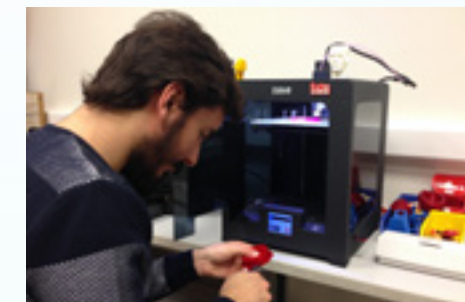
TunnelX – Makerspace is the place & community center providing entrepreneurial & maker students with space and equipment for discussion and prototyping of their ideas. In the makerspace, students from all backgrounds are encouraged to develop their projects, create their initial products and take feedback from colleagues.

The idea of having a creation center at Koç University was first born out of experiences of changemaker Global Engagement Certificate students. Conducting 60+ personal interviews and surveys, the initial need of students and academia is determined to have a working space equipped with prototyping machines varying from 3D-Printers to soldering stations. Funded by the Faculty of Engineering, all design, equipment and management

related plans have been led by volunteer students. Today, TunnelX-Makerspace is the first student-run laboratory in the university, which is home to many design and maker projects.

Throughout the development of this center, I am pleased to lead a group of highly motivated students. With outstanding group work, we managed to understand the needs of students and create dialogue between departments. I personally explored human-centered approach and practiced my leadership and creative thinking skills. It pleases me to see students developing their projects in this space and this makes me understand that the face of the world can be altered with many small steps.

Mehmet Yalçın AYDIN  
1st Cohort GEC Student





## KuGlobalAid students' Social Service Project for Syrian Refugee Children in Gaziantep

Every winter KuGlobalAid members run a cloth aid campaign for people in need with the cooperation of Koç University's students at the campus. The experience of visiting and interacting with Syrian guests who are living in Refugee Center in Gaziantep was very meaningful for us and more than just providing the aid.

Our road to Gaziantep started in the early morning of 23th of April, The National Solidarity and Children's Day. Our aim was to visit the children who live in the Second Islahiye Refugee Center (Islahiye Barınma Merkezi 2) with the mediation of Çocuk Oyunları ve Spor Federasyonu and İstanbul Gençlik Platformu, engage with them and observe their lives a little. The refugee center was located in a one and a half hour of driving to Gaziantep and it is very much isolated. The center is 4 km away from the Syrian border. Islahiye 2 is a refugee center designed as a tent city. It has a capacity of 25 thousand people but is now hosting 10 thousand.

One tent includes six rooms, two of which are common kitchens, and six families. The guests- they call them "guests" in the center, not refugees- have their own markets, cafes, barbers and etc. Actually facility does a lot in order to provide a standard of life in this little tent city, from housing, healthcare, security, monthly based

wages to adult and children education. Administrative personnel are very motivating towards the education of the children, they even use prohibition of children access to outside in order to keep them in the school, but they say that their main opposition is the parents who are willing and insistent that their children work on the fields around the camp rather than going to school.

When we arrived to the center, we were carefully searched by the security forces and always moved with the administrative personnel and translators. At the schoolyard, there were 120+ children from age 10-12 waiting for us. We were welcomed by the clapping of these little hands. We were in the center roughly for 4 hours. We made our donations and spent time with kids by drawing pictures and playing games.

We would like to thank everyone in the campus community at Koç University who helped us make this Project possible.

**Evrin Ayana Karslı**  
KuGlobalAid Member



## Two teams presented Koç University at Hult Prize 2017 Regional Finals!

The Hult Prize Foundation is a start-up accelerator for budding young social entrepreneurs emerging from the world's universities. Named as one of the top five ideas changing the world by President Bill Clinton and TIME Magazine, the annual competition for the Hult Prize aims to identify and launch the most compelling social business ideas—start-up enterprises that tackle grave issues faced by billions of people. Winners receive USD1 Million in seed capital, as well as mentorship and advice from the international business community.

Each year, a critical social problem is selected by President Bill Clinton and a challenge issued. Teams of 3-5 students are challenged to develop an innovative start-up enterprise to eradicate the problem. This year college and university teams were asked to build sustainable and scalable, for-good, for profit enterprises to address the 2017 Hult Prize Challenge on Refugees.

Team stART and Qissah presented Koç University at San Francisco and London Regional Finals.



## Waladu: An Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project

To give a new impulse to archaeology in Iraq, through the modernization and internationalization of Iraqi university programs in archaeology by developing innovative teaching activities is the aim of the new European project called WALADU, coordinated by the University of Bologna and involving the Universities Ludwig Maximilian of Munich and Koç University of Istanbul, together with the three Iraqi universities from Baghdad, Kufa and Qadisiyah.

Funded by the European Union with a budget of 915,000 euro under Erasmus+, the European program for education, training, youth and sport, the WALADU project aims at setting up a long-term international cooperation between European and Iraqi universities, with the purpose of increasing job opportunities for future Iraqi archaeologists.

The kick-off meeting of the project was held in Bologna in February with the attendance of representatives from partner institutions.





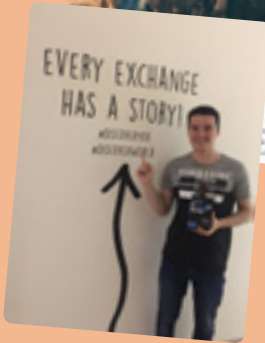
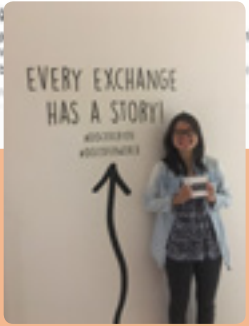
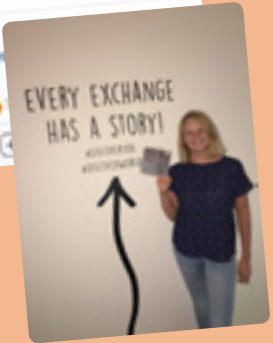
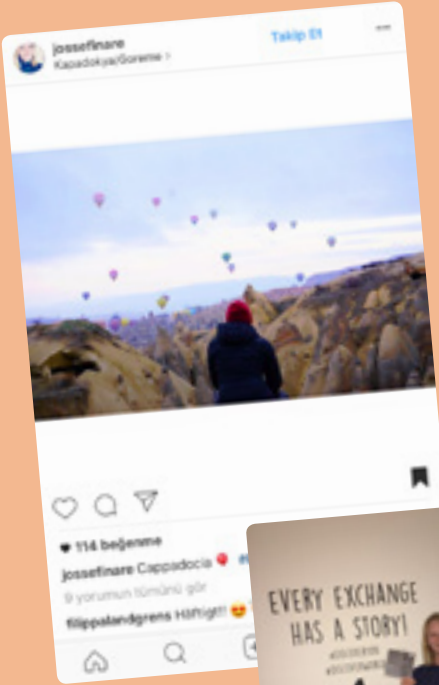
The Internationalization of Turkish Research Universities (ITRU) group is on Social Media Now!

Starting in late 2014 as an initiative of the International Offices of 5 of the top-ranked research intensive universities in Turkey, the ITRU group is now an active community of colleagues who work together to promote the internationalization of higher education in Turkey through information sharing, joint events, advocacy and cooperation with international partners and higher education stakeholders. The group recently launched new social media channels that you can follow for insights and facts about international education at these institutions and in the wider context of Turkey. Visit the website or follow them on Twitter, Instagram and [Facebook](#).



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 mostliked three pictures won GoPro Camera, Apple TV and URBANEARS headphone. Using #kocuniexchange and #v univoip tags, this competition again created great synergy among the students.



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

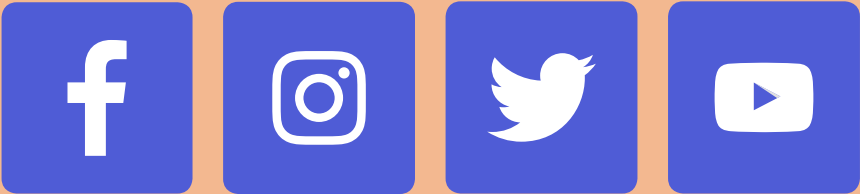
abroad can be one of the most enriching, fulfilling, interesting and educationally stimulating experiences of students' entire life. Students were asked to shoot videos in particular specifications about their study abroad experiences. Here is the winner video of Arda Kırkağaç during his time in Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



TO WATCH THE VIDEO

Follow us on social media!

Koç University Office of International Programs uses various social media tools such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to connect 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 social media attracts students and professors, and engages 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.



## 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.

## 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 OIP Director Mrs. Burcu Sarsilmaz (bsarsilmaz@ku.edu.tr) if you are looking for a partner in Turkey.

## Summer Exchange Program

We have renewed and enhanced Summer Exchange Program by offering this option to both partner and non-partner university students.

The program aims to create a rewarding summer experience for students from both partner and non-partner universities. It combines high-quality courses and the opportunity to participate in local activities that enable students to gain insight into Turkish culture in Istanbul.

An exciting social and cultural orientation week, featuring numerous outdoor and indoor activities, aims to enrich the academic framework of our summer program. Personal guidance by mentors, academic advisors and cultural activities are expected to provide a lasting experience.

Application and nomination period will be open for the 2018 Summer Term. Interested universities can contact Ms. Arzu Yilmaz, program advisor at arzuylmaz@ku.edu.tr for further details.



## OIP's Webinar Sessions for Prospective Incoming Students

With the help of emerging trends that have developed within the education market and in the use of technology, we organized 10 webinar sessions for both our prospective exchange students and for partner university representatives during the month of March. By this means, we quickly responded to all types of enquiries of students in order to both attract them and boost engagement. Providing appropriate guidance and answering their questions before their arrival in Turkey helped us to monitor their demands closely and make modifications to our programs in the light of their demands.



# KUnnection Newsletter

Sign up for the newsletter

**SUBSCRIBE >>>**



**Burcu Sarsılmaz***Director***Rena Polat***International Communication and Marketing Specialist***Arzu Yılmaz***(Incoming) Programs and Partnerships Specialist***Sedef Erçetin***Team Leader / Coordinator of Exchange Programs and Partnerships***Elif Çeltikçi***Exchange Programs Outgoing Assistant Specialist***Ayhan Şeker***External Relations Specialist***Mert Şanıvar***International Community Coordinator***Nilüfer Akpınar Şahin***International Coordinator for Special Projects***Zeynep Ezgi Erdem***Exchange Programs Outgoing Assistant Specialist***Melissa Abache***Global Engagement Manager at Office of Vice President  
for Research and Development*

The editorial staff welcomes story ideas, comments and news. Please email marketing team on [rpolat@ku.edu.tr](mailto:rpolat@ku.edu.tr)

OIP Newsletter is a semi-annual magazine bringing 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

**1 team 1 mission.**  
**Coming together is a beginning.**  
**Keeping together is progress.**  
**Working together is success!**

