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Follow us on social media!

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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 last six months of 2015. 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 second issue newsletter of 2015. 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 Sarsılmaz
Executive Manager
New Year greetings and best wishes all around! We’d like to acknowledge a brilliant year of accomplishments and treasured memories. From our team to yours; sending you joy and happiness for the year to come.

With this New Year comes new hopes and dreams...

Best Regards,
OIP Team
KOÇ UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION IN EAIE CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW!

On September 15th – 18th, 2015, a Koc University delegation represented by:
• Burcu Sarsılmaz, Executive Manager of Office of International Programs
• Sedef Erçetin, Team Leader/Coordinator of Exchange Programs & Partnerships
• Esra Özenci, Outgoing Exchange Student Coordinator
were in Glasgow, Scotland, participating in the 27th Annual EAIE – European Association for International Education Conference.

EAIE positioned as Europe’s largest international higher education conference with 5050 participants from 90 countries took place in Glasgow, Scotland. Participants experienced an innovative, cutting-edge conference program and more than a ‘wee dash’ of the famous Glaswegian culture and hospitality.

During the Conference, Koc University team had in over 60 meetings with current and potential partner universities and hosted a Happy Hour Reception jointly with Bilkent University and Sabanci University for 100 guests.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY RANKS THE NUMBER 1ST IN TURKEY

Koç University in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings
Ranked 251-300!

Koç University continues to be listed among leading universities of the world, with its ranking in the 251-300th band in Times Higher Education (THE) 2015-2016 World University Rankings.
STUDY ABROAD FAIRS and PARTNER UNIVERSITY VISITS

Office of International Programs travelled the globe to promote Koç University as an exchange destination. On their travels they met with international counterparts to discuss exchange-related matters and strengthen bilateral collaborations.

Germany
In May 2015, Team Leader/Coordinator of Exchange Programs & Partnerships, Ms Sedef Erçetin travelled to Germany and visited our 3 partner universities; TU Munich, Ludwig and Maximilians University and Munich Business School.

Ireland
Proceeding to EAIE 2015 Conference in Glasgow, our International Partnership Development Coordinator participated in the Partner Day of Trinity College Dublin (TCD) on September 10th, 2015. During this visit, she was not only warmly welcomed by TCD colleagues but also met with representatives of other leading universities from China, Australia, USA and Singapore there.

Scotland
Executive Manager of the Office of International Programs, Ms Burcu Sarsılmaz, attended to the Partner Day of Edinburg University, which attracted around 150 participants from the universities all around the world on September 10th, 2015. EAIE 2015 Koc University Team also visited the University of Glasgow and Strathclyde University in Glasgow to explore various forms of possible collaboration.

EBS Germany & IESEG France
In October 2015, Our Incoming Student Advisor, Ms. Betül Semiz visited our Erasmus+ partner universities; European Business School in Germany and IESEG in France for their International Partners Week, which welcomed around twenty partner universities across the Europe. During this visit, she not only met with students interested in Koç University, but also discussed the current mobility between our institutions with colleagues from partner universities.

NEW PARTNERS in 2015

In 2015, Koç University established new partnerships with prestigious universities from all around the world.

University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)
ADA University (Azerbaijan)
FGV Direito Rio (Brazil)
University of Toronto, Rotman Commerce Business School (Canada)
Universidad Adolfo ibanez (Chile)
Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
Zhejiang University (China)
Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich (Germany)
Central European University (Hungary)
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (India)
ITAM (Mexico)
Singapore University of Technology and Design (Singapore)
National University of Singapore (Singapore)
Pusan National University (South Korea)
University of Michigan (USA)
Duke University (USA)

Research & Collaboration Agreements
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (India)
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (India)
Azerbaijan State University of Economics (Azerbaijan)
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The Koç University delegation, led by Vice President for Research and Development Professor Dr İrşadi Aksun, visited the university of Bath to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with their Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell, signalling the beginning of what is hoped to be a fruitful relationship as strategic partners. Professor Colin Grant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Internationalisation), had met with staff from Koç University during two exploratory visits in 2014 and the visit this year was planned to take forward matters discussed previously, with an additional aim of establishing ways to utilise mobility funds.

Our delegation met with representatives from the Faculties of Science, Engineering & Design and Humanities & Social Sciences to formalise research links in shared areas of interest.

Discussions covered opportunities for collaboration with the Departments of Biology & Biochemistry, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Health.

Professor Grant said: "Koç University, Istanbul, and the University of Bath have much in common: a shared commitment to partnership, a commitment to excellence in both research and education, a shared international vision and many shared partners around the world. Our meetings were productive and focused and we look forward to many tangible outcomes in the very near future."

VISITS TO KOÇ UNIVERSITY

Partnership Development team hosted around 200 visits in 2014-15 Academic Year. These visits from universities and ministerial bodies serve as an excellent platform to further collaborations in exchange, research and joint programming through valuable engagements and interactions with peer institutions.
LEFT BEHIND PEACEMAKERS 2015: 
What Happened to Yugoslavia

For the fourth consecutive year Koç University’s Office of International Programs in a joint effort with Center for Research on Globalization, Peace, and Democratic Governance (GLODEM) is proud to report on the success of its “Peacemakers: What happened to Yugoslavia?” conference at Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Istanbul and workshop program on the main campus held between June 22nd and 25th 2015.

The annual event consisted of two parts, firstly: a conference, which witnessed various eminent speakers, all experts in Balkan studies, conflict resolution and international relations, discussing what happened to the Balkans in the 1990’s, the result following its demise, the impact it had, and continues to have, on its citizens and possible reasons for the dissolution. Secondly: a workshop headed by one of the conference speakers, Dr Govinda Clayton the Deputy Director of Conflict Analysis Research Centre at the University of Kent.

According to many of the participants during the debrief portion of the program, the issues discussed in the conference and the workshop activities they participated in were crucial in breaking down the barriers, altering their initial opinions and creating more positive attitudes towards one another.

It had been the expressed hope of Koç University and the Office of International Programs that the stimulating discussions of peace, conflict, war and transnationalism will contribute to a better understanding of how tension, which still endures, arises and transgresses into acts of violence and that from this a breakdown in prejudices and stereotypes will transpire. The success of this years’ event signifies that this hope has again become a reality and Koç is already planning the 2016 Peacemakers event, giving consideration, following the valuable feedback collected from its participants, to topics which were not directly addressed in the previous so to continue raising awareness, promoting diversity, and contributing to the movement that is the Peacemakers Initiative. Click here for more information about the Peacemakers Conference.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NUMBERS IN TURKISH HIGHER EDUCATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

This autumn we followed with interest the latest figures published by the Turkish Higher Education Council (YÖK in Turkish) on the number of full time international students that have chosen Turkey as the place for undergraduate and graduate studies.

Turkey now hosts over 72,000 international students, mostly at undergraduate programs. This is a welcome development for all Turkish universities and higher education institutions. The news was even picked up by the prestigious international education online news outlet The PIE in a recent article.

Koç University welcomes this good news and recognises that more needs to be done to increase the number of graduate (particularly PhD) students who enroll at Turkish universities. We have played a small but critical part in this trend by admitting an increasing number of international PhD students from Pakistan, Iran, United States and European countries in the past five years.

APPLICATION FOR FUNG GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS FOR CHINESE STUDENTS IS NOW OPEN

Victor & William Fung Foundation, established by the world-famous Fung Group headquartered in Hong-Kong, to reinforce academic cooperation between Turkey and China.

The partnership will fund and support PhD students coming from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan to study at Koç University as Fung Graduate Fellows. In the long term the partnership reinforces academic relations between the two countries as part of the Chinese government’s new Silk Road initiative. This mirrors similar fellowships the foundation has established with other world class universities including Harvard University, Princeton University, Stanford University and MIT.

This is the first strategic step from a world-ranked Turkish research university to bring talented minds from China to Turkey and present an attractive alternative graduate destination for one of the largest international student markets.

The ceremony to launch this groundbreaking educational cooperation took place on May 13th 2015 at the Rahmi Koç Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. The signing ceremony was followed by a panel debate on “The renewal of the Silk Road: the initiative to reinforce the economic and cultural relations of China”.

At the ceremony, the President of Koç University Dr. Umran İnan said: “We believe that this agreement represents a very important step for all of us. The Silk Road is not simply a tool for trade development, but also a social, economic, and cultural platform for sharing and cooperation. I am certain through these means that strong academic ties will be established between the two cultures that will trigger a new flow of innovation and knowledge and further cement our long-standing and deep relationship.”

For more information about this new Fellowship Program please contact Melissa Abache, Graduate Schools Global Engagement Coordinator, mabache@ku.edu.tr
NEW AGREEMENT WITH ICETEX COLOMBIA

Koç University is now a proud partner of ICETEX Colombia. ICETEX is the Colombian government body responsible for providing scholarships and loans for study abroad opportunities. Through this scholarship cooperation agreement, Koç University will receive talented students from Colombia to pursue MA/MS and PhD degrees in our Graduate Schools. The agreement was signed earlier in 2015 and fall 2015 semester we will welcome our first Colombian student to our LLM in Private Law program. The interest of Colombian students in Turkey as a study destination has been increasing over the past couple of years (52 Colombian students were enrolled in Turkish HEIs in the 2014-15 academic year according to the latest Turkish Council for Higher Education figures).

Koç University currently has partnership agreements with Universidad de Los Andes and will look to further our links with the South American nation through a new agreement with the Ministry of Higher Education for teacher and university academic staff training program.

If your organization would be interested in establishing scholarship cooperation agreements for human resource development plans with Koç University please contact; Melissa Abache, Graduate Schools Global Engagement Coordinator, mabache@ku.edu.tr

SUPPORTING THE BEST EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Koç University established two new exciting partnership agreements in the second half of 2015 that will help establish new projects and raise its visibility of the university in Europe and the US with talented undergraduate students.

The first agreement was signed with the Board of European Students of Technology (BEST) and will provide a platform for Koç University to reach out to engineering and science students interested in post-graduation management and business training to know more about the opportunities offered at our Graduate School of Business and our Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering.

The second agreement was established with the National Society of High School Scholars in the United States. The society gathers thousands of talented US high school and undergraduate students every year in events and through online communications to promote scholarship opportunities for graduate study, internships and study abroad as a way of expanding the aspirations of often under-represented communities in US higher education. We were presented at one of their recent member events in San Diego with the help of one of our students (Mr. Serhat Arslan, currently on exchange at UC San Diego) who commented: “the event was very well organized and I received a lot of questions from students about how life is in Turkey for a student”.

Mr. Arslan during the event
HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION VISITS TO OUR CAMPUS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD

In the second half of 2015 Koç University was honored to host high level governmental and diplomatic delegations on our campus that included:

- French Embassy, Alliance Athena (coordination of all the research operators for the General Secretary of High Education and Research) and Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme
- United States Embassy Public Affairs Counselor
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Federal Agency Rossotrudnichestvo (Russian Centre of Science and Culture)
- Indian Consul General in Istanbul
- Shanghai Senate Delegation – International Committee
- Spanish Embassy in Turkey Education Affairs Team

These visits have helped our institution to raise its visibility as a research “power house” to various government representatives and agencies and establish fruitful dialogues towards different cooperation activities that include fellowship programs, funded projects and wider awareness in our student body about education opportunities outside Turkey.

This list does not include the extensive list of university partner organizations that visited us in 2015!

CHANGES AT OIP

Global Engagement activities moved to the Vice-President for Research and Development Directorate

In an strategic change for the university aimed at further advancing the internationalization of its research activities and increasing the diversity of its international graduate student body, the Global Engagement team will now report directly to the Vice-President of Research and Development. Global Engagement at Koç University encompasses the following functions:

- Research oriented university-university and university-agency collaborations (eg. establishment of joint MA/MS and PhD degrees, promoting short-term research partnership visits)
- Relationship management and cooperation with international government agencies, diplomatic bodies and scholarship awarding bodies
- Strategic development and day to day management of our Graduate Schools’ international graduate student recruitment activities and initiatives in key target markets

E-mails or enquiries regarding these topics can be directed to;
Melissa Abache, Graduate Schools’ Global Engagement Coordinator
mabache@ku.edu.tr
The autumn semester kicked off with a three-day intensive training for our Turkish student mentors. Each mentor is assigned five to six foreign exchange students for whom they are responsible throughout the semester. Mentor duties range from accompanying students on trips, acting as a guide and resource-person, ensuring their students’ well-being at all times, maintaining regular contact, and most importantly being a friend.

The training was well-received by all; students who had been reserved in our ice-breaker activity were confidently expressing themselves in humorous role-plays by the afternoon. The series of leadership workshops and team-building activities served to reinforce trust, sharing of ideas, intercultural communication, and to encourage each student to demonstrate his or her talents.

After the intensive training, the mentors were invigorated and ready to welcome their new peers. They put their newly-acquired leadership and team-work skills to the test by checking students into the dormitories over the weekend prior to orientation.

The following Monday, we started off the year on a bright note with warm weather and enthusiastic faces in attendance at our first general meeting. It was our pleasure to welcome students to Istanbul and the Koç University community, and to present the countless activities and excursions for the week. Orientation events and semester trips have been outlined from a student’s point of view in our Mentor Reflections section below...

We are now at the mid-semester point and students are demonstrating little bits of Turkish here and there. We are happy to report that students have adapted well to Turkey’s tea culture and vibrant social life! We are looking forward to a most productive end to the term, and to welcoming our new batch of students in the spring semester.

Until the next time,
Incoming Team

MENTOR REFLECTIONS
Mentor Training

Mentor Training week was arranged for three days where mentors met each other and socialized. They spent first day for getting know each other and warm-up training activities. On the second day they played outdoor team building games to develop and improve the trust and compassion for each other. On the last of the training, the trust between mentors led them work efficiently and in a good harmony. Rest of this day was based on role playing which some of them pretend they were mentees having some trouble and mentors trying to solve those problems. It was an effective way of practice before the Exchange Students arrived. They also went over the important things and prepared the welcome packages and badges for the students.

We would like to share the best moments of our Mentor Training week with this video that one of our mentors created for us!
FALL 2015 EXCHANGE ORIENTATION WEEK

The Orientation Program gives Incoming Exchange Students an opportunity to adapt to Koç University and Istanbul. During the orientation week, students are informed about legal procedures for their stay, academic issues, the city transportation, security and safety tips, shops, food etc. All this information provides students with an overall idea about life in Istanbul and at the university. The main objective of the orientation week is to enhance the exchange student adaptation process.

The first day of the orientation started with a breakfast at Yemekhane with exchange students and mentors. Next, the information session took place where students were informed about Istanbul, Turkey and Koç University. There were several information sessions from other departments and services on campus, presentations about living in Istanbul, as well as information about general safety and well-being.

FALL EXCHANGE INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS’ TOUR AND ACTIVITIES

Students enjoyed the various trips organized by Koç University during the orientation week. On the third day of the orientation week, students began their day with a traditional village breakfast in Garipçe. All of the exchange students were super excited to try the delicious Turkish dishes. While some students went to Taksim to see the city after breakfast, others made their way to Bebek for a Turkish Coffee and a great view of the Bosphorus. On the fourth day of the orientation week, students went to the Old City to see some fascinating places such as Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. The exchange students seemed fascinated by the city where so many cultural elements are involved. After the cultural trip, all of them went to the Turkish Fasıl night (a traditional dinner with folk music and dancing).

Best moments of Fall 2015 Incoming Exchange Orientation Week!

click on image to view video
The Office of International Programs and student mentors planned the events below for the Autumn exchange students:

**TURKISH BATH/ HAMAM**

*3 OCTOBER 2015*

Want to steam away the student grime in Istanbul’s famed “hamams”?

A must when you travel Turkey! Every Turkish town still has at least one hamam, and cities have many. Most are simple, functional, and inexpensive, but the historic hamams, especially those built by the sultans to serve their imperial mosques, are beautiful works of Ottoman Architecture made of fine marble with rich decoration.

In Ottoman times, hamams were social centers, and they were the only baths in Turkey until the mid-20th century when western-style tub-bath-and-shower plumbing began to be accepted.

**BALAT TRIP**

*10 OCTOBER 2015*

Located on the shore of the Golden Horn, Balat is one of Istanbul’s historic neighbourhoods. Forming a part of the Fatih district, it houses many historical buildings despite its very narrow streets. All are welcome; especially those who are interested in getting a glimpse of a once glorious part of Istanbul, and some of the neighborhood’s many stories.

**CAPPADOCIA TRIP**

*15 - 18 OCTOBER 2015*

As we organize the Cappadocia Trip every semester for exchange students, this term it will take place from the 15th-18th October. Students were eager to attend and we filled a total of two coach buses. We are looking forward to enjoying the sights with the students!

Anadolu Kavağı is where the Bosphorus excursions ferry completes its journey. It’s a pleasant spot in which to wander and have a seafood lunch at one of the touristy places on the square in front of the ferry terminal. Perched above the village are the ruins of Anadolu Kavağı Kalesi, a medieval castle that originally had eight massive towers in its walls. First built by the Byzantines, it was restored and reinforced by the Genoese in 1350, and later by the Ottomans.
Located on the Asian side of Istanbul. Besides its perfect view, there are also lots of bars and restaurants full of young people. You can see both the Princes’ Islands and Historical Peninsula (Sultanahmet, Hagia Sophia, Eminönü etc.) from Kadıköy’s Coast.

ESKİŞEHİR TRIP
6 - 8 NOVEMBER 2015

Eskişehir is known as a student city rife with natural beauties. It is calm and quaint with a great nightlife. We are planning to spend a weekend in Eskişehir from November 6th-8th.

SUPPORTING EVENTS
EURASIA MARATHON
14 NOVEMBER 2015

The Eurasia Marathon has been organized every year for 30 years. People come from around the world to run from one continent to another via the Bosphorus bridge. The Marathon’s motto is to run for friendship and peace.

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INCOMING STAFF AND FACULTY EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

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

If you work for another European university and are interested in an Erasmus Staff exchange (teaching or training) at Koç University, then please click here to read our Incoming Mobility Guidelines information Fact sheet that should help you in applying for an exchange with us.

MY EXCHANGE STORY AT KOÇ

Emilie Litsas from American University

Today’s society operates and connects on a global scale. It is no longer enough to be a citizen of your country. Even more importantly—for a strong future both as individuals and as a global population—we must become global citizens, aware and able to work with all cultures and business environments. We encourage students to Enjoy the unique student lifestyle of an overseas university and develop a greater understanding of both their own and other cultures.

Emilie Litsas, from American University chose to take a semester out from her degree and came to Istanbul, Turkey on an exchange program. She tells us the experience of living in Istanbul and studying here at Koç University.

click on image to view video
My experience of exchange in the University of Wollongong was literally the best thing ever happened to me. It was a great experience of learning about myself and other cultures. I am a person that is interested in different cultures and different practices of cultures and studying abroad gave me the opportunity to explore those things in person.

By the time I got there I started meeting with new people both exchange and local and they were so friendly and helpful to me. The people I met there are going to be my life-long friends because such things like study abroad and exchange, and travels and memories of these make people get closer and have the unique experience all together.

I know some people are afraid to go to Australia because they hear and read that there are dangerous animals there but I was never thinking in that way, I was always thinking that if some people can live there then I can as well.

The learning about myself part was also a great experience because in my opinion when you stay in your comfort zone you never know yourself and capability of yourself in the best terms.

I hope my story will inspire my peers they will take advantage of this great opportunity and explore this life changing experience.

Best,
Cansu Ezgi Alkan, Sociology Senior
ERASMUS INTERNSHIP EXCHANGE

This program enables our students to spend a placement (traineeship) period between 2 months to 12 months in an enterprise or organization in another participating country; public or private organizations active in the labor market.

One of the objectives of the program is to help students adapt to the requirements of the EU-wide labor market as well as develop specific skills including language skills and improve understanding of the economic and social culture of the respective country in terms of acquiring work experience.

Koç University (KU) announces internship opportunities each semester. For any questions, please contact; Ms. Esra Ozenci at eozenci@ku.edu.tr

KU STUDENTS ARE EXCITED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS!

KU students are interested in exchange programs more than ever!

Outgoing Exchange Student Advisors Esra Özenci and Elif Çeltikçi, held various info sessions about exchange programs and our partner universities. This semester, there was a big number of student interest and participation to these sessions.

Students had the chance to learn more about exchange programs from the Peer Advisor Team which was formed from previous KU Outgoing Exchange Students who share all the necessary information and stories about their previous Exchange experiences. The team helps new Outgoing Exchange students with the course selection, application process, and other procedures such as documentation, visa procedure, accommodation options and etc.
GRADUATE SUMMER SEMINAR:
Urban Political Ecology on the Road:
City’s Nature and Nature’s City through İstanbul

Having attracted applicants from many different parts of the world, this program proved to be extremely creative and useful for its participating students! We received so many good feedback that we decided right away to repeat it in the summer of 2016!

This grad-level course focuses on how the contemporary city depends upon its natural surrounding not only for agricultural output and land conversion, but also how natural resources shape the city’s landscape, establish and reinforce socio-spatial inequalities as well as how urban commons have recently become a battleground over which dominant urban strategies are being contested. As a part of the “on the road” concept, the flow of the class adopts a hands-on approach to the city and benefit from a series of guided fieldworks as well as readings and discussions. The course is enriched through discussions with several social leaders that we host as guest speakers.

Colombian Ecologist Germán Andrés Quimbayo Ruiz, who was one of the students of the first of this program, expresses his thoughts with these words below:

“Definitely the best part of this program on urban political ecology is getting underground and knowing the urban transformations first hand through the field trips, because we definitely gain an important view about these urban transformations, and even engage in meetings with some of the social leaders that really have been involved in these urban transformations. Knowing some creative forms to face the challenges on these urban transformations is important; for example, the housing transformations and the defense of some important ecosystems in Istanbul. These particular places are promoting urban control and some cultural heritage etc. That is so useful and so insightful and compliment perfectly with not only urban political ecology but also in urban land planning. I want to say thank you to the Office of International Programs at Koç University for opening this space of these innovative seminar courses. And of course to Ya˚ar and Sinan, our instructors. Their knowledge and background experience is extremely helpful to understand the Istanbul transformations.”

GLOBAL SUMMER ACADEMY:
Philanthropy and Civil Society: A Comparative View

Another OIP program that received so much interest prior to the program and lots of positive feedback afterwards! The summer of 2015 marked the second year of this course, and we are already preparing to repeat it next summer. This undergrad-level course introduces students to the size and scope of philanthropy and civil society organizations in Turkey, the United States and Western Europe as well as the role they play in each society. Students get a chance to understand individual and institutional philanthropy and the role and management of nonprofit/civil society organizations in community life through a hands-on service-learning grant-making experience.

This summer students conducted their field work in various NGOs working on social issues such as solidarity with asylum seekers and migrants, LGBT rights, social responsibility projects for children living in disadvantageous areas to discover different perspectives about the past to society, and an independent, crowdsourced news network. Students had a chance to have volunteer work in all these NGOs for a five-week period, at the end of which they evaluated each of them based on a set of certain criteria. Then they selected one of them, the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants, as the winner. At the end of the program, OIP and Binghamton University granted grants to each one of the partnering NGOs for hosting the students and participating in our program.

While delivering this course, it is our greatest reward to hear many of our students say it is a life-changing experience for them. We often hear them say thanks to this course, they have transformed into better persons.

This course was taught by David Campbell, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Public Administration, College of Community and Public Affairs, Binghamton University.
DOING BUSINESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

2015 marked the eighth year of this successful Law program that OIP organizes with the joint efforts of Koç University Law School and Santa Clara Law. Open to law students from all around the world, the program combines three weeks of academic courses on Practicing Business Law in the Middle East, Banking and Finance in the Middle East, Corporate Structure & Vehicles for Investment, Turkish Public Law & Structure for Business, visits to courts, law firms and other sites, and an optional internship for another three weeks in Istanbul and Qatar. Lectures are delivered by Koç University law faculty, business faculty and practicing lawyers from international law firms in the region.

NEW SUMMER PROGRAM ON GLOBAL MIGRATION AND CRISIS

In light of the escalating refugee crisis in Turkey and Europe, we have decided to start a new summer program on Global Migration and Crisis. Targeted at undergraduate students, this program is being designed through the joint efforts of the Office of International Programs (OIP) and Migration Research Center (MiReKoç), one of the most established institutions at Koç University with more than ten years of experience in migration research studies.

The program will be mostly practice-based with extensive field work in the areas of Istanbul where the largest populations of migrants reside, including visits to NGOs working on the field, as well as having a rich, discussion-based academic aspect with high-quality in-class time with significant guest lecturers and reading material.

At the end of this three-week long program, students will have the option to choose between earning 6 ECTS credits and being awarded a certificate. The program will start on July 11 and end on July 29.

More information will be shared on our website.

KUGLOBALAID: INDIA

KUGlobalAid is Koç University’s flagship service learning and social entrepreneurship program. This year KUGlobalAid had partnered with Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India and social ventures Watervalla and Center for Social Consultancy to conduct a social impact project on water hygiene, sanitation and education at Dharavi, Mumbai’s largest slum. A team of Koç University students spent a month in Mumbai in August 2015 and worked with partners and community organizations to develop affordable water filtration technologies to be utilized by households at the slum areas.

In addition, students designed and facilitated a week-long hygiene and sanitation curriculum for second grade students at the community school in Dharavi. Overall, the project was a significant learning experience for both students and administrators as OIP wants to expand its portfolio of global service-learning projects and also offer such programs for our partners who wish to conduct projects in Turkey. You can follow the projects on KUGlobalAid Facebook page as well. Kuglobalaid@ku.edu.tr

Best moments of the KUGlobalAid Project team in India:

One of our students created her comic book; after her experiences in Dharavi, India. You can read it by clicking here.
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CERTIFICATE (GEC)

Global Engagement Certificate (GEC) is a co-curricular program of seminars, speaker series, and experiential learning activities designed for undergraduates who seek to develop, personally and professionally, into tomorrow’s global leaders. The GEC is meant to complement the academic course of study with its “hands-on” approach to building global competence and awareness through the following activities: campus-wide changemaker projects, study abroad opportunities, professional skill development with global businesses and organizations, service learning, international internships, volunteerism opportunities, and participation in activities that broaden global perspectives. GEC had its second retreat event in early October 2015 where 20 Koç University students had a chance to reflect on their personal GEC journeys and also designed the future of the program.

GLOBAL SOCIAL VENTURE COMPETITION

The Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC), launched by UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business 15 years ago, provides aspiring entrepreneurs with mentoring, exposure, and $50,000 in prizes to transform their ideas into businesses that will have positive real world impact. For the past four years, Koç University has been an outreach partner of GSVC for promoting the competition across Turkey, Balkans, the MENA region and North Africa and recruiting applicant teams.

This year GSVC@KU 2016 has launched in October and applications will be accepted until December 11th. Selected teams will be participating in the GSVC regional semi-finals that will be hosted by London Business School in London in February 2016.

gsvc.ku.edu.tr & gsvc.org & gsvc@ku.edu.tr

KUCHANGEMAKER CAMPUS

KUChangemaker Campus process has been kick started this academic year by Office of International Programs, Koç University Social Impact Forum and interested student clubs and faculty members to coordinate and communicate the university’s social innovation and impact programs and activities more efficiently and effectively. As part of the KUChangemaker process, various stakeholders in the campus are now discussing how to scale the university’s existing social impact projects, integrate changemaker approaches and values to students’ learning journeys and co-create the 21st century university experience. KUChangemaker Campus also organizes semester long events on various social innovation themes to build a community of learners and practitioners across the Koç University campus.
GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION & PRESIDENT’S WELCOME RECEPTION

Fall 2015 was a first in terms of having a joint orientation across graduate schools and including both Turkish and non-Turkish graduate students. The orientations took place on September 7-8 and the language of all info sessions was English. Graduate students were given presentations by different departments covering a number of topics including campus life, Health & Safety, immigration matters for foreigners. International Community Office organized an additional orientation day for only international graduate students on September 18th. This orientation was specifically geared towards the most pressing questions of students that are new to Istanbul. Students learnt how to apply for a transit pass (İstanbulKart), register their mobile phones, obtain a tax id, obtain a museum pass and so forth.

The President’s Welcome Reception saw a wonderful turn out this Fall with the participation of domestic and international graduate students, both together for the first time. The Dean of Students Office (DOS) planned a new model of orientation this Fall that mimicked the Freshman orientation program – a joint orientation of graduate students regardless of discipline. The Freshman Advising Office and the Office of International Programs’ (OIP) collaboration made for a successful orientation week for new graduate students. We are all looking forward to further developing the graduate orientation in the coming semesters.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER (ELC) NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

In its second year, ICO gave its first comprehensive orientation to the new ELC instructors in collaboration with ELC central office. This Fall ELC welcomed ten new instructors and they all arrived in Istanbul about a month before the semester start. This is when their employment actually begins but they use this time window doing some housekeeping work. Their orientation is one big part of the housekeeping. What comes first when we say housekeeping? Sure IKEA it is. ICO arranged for a shopping trip for the new instructors who are mostly English and American and who sure love IKEA.

Within a couple days from their IKEA trip, the instructors met our ICO Coordinator, Mert, for a walking tour of campus that began with the Health Center and ended up at Semahat Arsel Gymnasium. The ICO coordinator also invited the group for a sit down presentation of the university facilities, life in Istanbul, transportation, safety and immigration matters.

UNITED NATIONS BOAT ENROUTE TO THE PRINCES’ ISLAND OF ISTANBUL

Koc University Cycling Club organized a wonderful cycling event on October 10th with 80 students of multinational background, including exchange students and fulltime international students. Co-sponsored by the International Community Office of OIP, the trip featured a 2.5 hour boat trip from Sariyer ferry terminal to the Princes’ Island, a day long biking tour of the island and a barbeque party on the sail back. ICO will organize similar events this year to support and promote multiculturalism in our community through education, sports and arts. We thank KU Cyclists for organizing this event.

Gökhan Tansali, President of KU Cycling Club expresses his feeling as:

We planned our tour so that it wasn’t just about cycling, but also an opportunity for us to explore the island on bike and socialize with friends. On our way to the islands from Sariyer, we were awakened with a beautiful view of the Bosphorus. We prepared ourselves for the long hours of cycling with a small Turkish breakfast. Once we reached the island, we rented our bikes from a local bike shop and began pedaling. After a couple of kilometers on saddle, we stopped for a lunch break at a beautiful park. We ate there and played some games of volleyball. Afterwards we continued our trip and headed towards Aya Yorgi, which is located atop a very steep hill. Only a few of us could make it on bike, since the road was incredibly steep. The rest had to walk up to be able to enjoy the clear view of the island and then later visit the church. After visiting the church, we headed back to our original starting point and explored the city center for a bit longer. In the evening, we boarded the boat, which took us back to Sariyer. Despite being exhausted from cycling all day, it didn’t stop us from partying and bonding over drinks. The three hours on the boat ride back ended up being some of the most eventful parts of the trip.

Overall, the trip was a lot of fun. We had a great time exploring the island on bike and making new friends along the way.
THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER

The International Community Office (ICO) organized its first Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner on November 24th which saw a great turn out of faculty, students, interns and post-doc fellows. There was an optimistic picture of a university community involving different cultures and people of diverse status, says Mert Sanivar, the ICO coordinator. The ICO’s main goal in organizing an American (or Canadian for some) holiday themed event is exactly this. To bring together “the different” and reiterate KU’s global campus identity. Of course there weren’t only Americans, the Dutch, the German, the English, the French, the Chinese or Ukrainians, Georgians, Azerbaijanis, Iranians, Pakistanis, the Turks; the OIP team was also there welcoming guests and enjoying the delicious Turkey, mashed potatoes, salad and apple pie. Well, we are thankful that we can create these spaces of friendship and peace in our university; we are thankful that we continue to welcome people from around the world and hope that they feel at home when they are here and in Turkey.

Look out for Thanksgiving Dinner 2016:
November 22nd 2016 Tuesday (Dr. Nathan Bertelsen of Faculty of Medicine will treat those interested to also an American Football Game on TV)

BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STAFF AT KU

by Constantino Panagopulos

International Faculty and Staff at Koç University are a large and important component of the international community on campus. We asked Mr. Panagopulos who works for the Communications Office to tell us about being an international staff at Koç University and his daily life experience in Istanbul.

As a foreigner, what is the best thing about working at KU?

We are very fortunate to work on a stunning campus supported by a fantastic workforce. As a working environment Koç University is second to none. No matter how busy the work schedule you always come away with a remarkable sense of well-being. I would say it is the warm and welcoming environment created by the people who work and study here that separates Koç University as a truly great place to work.

Please name 3 things about life in Turkey that you have yet to adjust to?

Although I only joined Koç University in March 2015, I have been living and working in Turkey since 2009. Turkish culture is not so distant from my own and I have had plenty of time to adjust, however I think there are some aspects of life in Istanbul that you never really get used to. Like any large metropolis Istanbul is frequently victim to heavy and extensive traffic. It is also difficult to entirely ignore the summer-time humidity. On the whole, however, life in Turkey is easy to adjust to and Istanbul brims with all the colours and excitement of a Mediterranean city.

What is particularly challenging for an expat working at a university in Turkey?

Koç University is very much an international university. Although the voices in the background are Turkish, on campus you always feel you are part of a global community. Although the international community may vary from campus to campus in general Turkish universities overwhelmingly welcoming to foreigners and it is dijcul t to identify specific challenges with working here that I wouldn’t have faced as a foreigner anywhere else.
KOÇ UNIVERSITY’S GLOBAL ROOTS FESTIVAL

The Office of International Programs, mentors and students, working in collaboration, establish a large-scale international festival which includes partner school representatives, consular education attaches and the whole Koç community.

The day will consist of numerous opportunities for our partners to meet and inform our students about exchange, graduate, and summer school programs at their institutions. The rest of the day will serve as a chance for attendees to explore cultures from around the globe using the city of Istanbul and Koç University as a center stage and meeting point.

The Festival will be held on 27th April, 2016. We will share the program details of the festival on our website soon.

TUESDAY JAZZ CONCERTS!

Several concerts, plays, movie night events, recitals, exhibitions and dance performances have taken place at Koç University’s Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center (SGKM) since 2008. Main goal of SGKM is to bring new and creative performances, festivals and seminars based on students’ interests. SGKM stage has seen performances from different universities, cultures and countries.

Tuesday Jazz Series is one of the latest additions to the events hosted by SGKM, where students relax on beanbag chairs and enjoy Jazz music every Tuesday at Student Center.

Ercüment Gül Trio, Fötr Blues Band, Şalliel Bros & Önder Focan Funkbook

EURASIAN UNIVERSITIES UNION EDUCATION SUMMIT IN İSTANBUL

You are invited to EURIE International Higher Education Summit in February 2016 in Istanbul!

EURIE is the new meeting point for the higher education institutions, educational service providers, and academics from all around the world who are seeking to establish valuable cooperation with the Eurasian Region. EURIE will feature an expo for higher education institutions, as well as panels, seminars and roundtable discussions to expand the knowledge, networks and collaboration opportunities for the participants.

EURIE’s vision is to enhance internationalization of higher education not only in Eurasian region but also in global scale by creating new opportunities for Universities. With this aim, the first year’s theme was chosen as ‘Discovering New Horizons’.

All the universities are encouraged to participate in EURIE 2016 by registering as exhibitor and/or visitor to increase your university’s visibility and network with universities from all over the world to develop collaborations, joint projects, student and academic exchange schemes and overall create new opportunities for your institution for the future.

Please visit the EURIE website for more details:
www.eurieeducationsummit.com

BACK TO COLLEGE FILMS

Open Air Cinema Week

With the support of Koç University Cinema Club, Back to College Films was screened at grass area in the first week of the semester between September 14-17.

The movies screened were: The Breakfast Club (1985), Il Posto (1961), Rushmore (1998), Monsters University (2013)
KOÇ UNIVERSITY VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Beginning with the Summer 2014 term, a new program is introduced for Koç faculty to visit other universities and also for faculty from international universities who may visit Koç University.

This program will be managed by the VPAA Office.

Faculty members with research appointments (Asst. Prof., Assoc. Prof. or Prof.) can apply to take advantage of the Koç University Visiting Scholar Program. Applicants (other than those for Harvard) are expected to make arrangements with the University they wish to visit and to obtain an invitation from thereof. Similarly, we encourage faculty members to extend invitations to scholars working at international universities to participate in the Visiting Scholar Program at Koç University so that we can establish the foundations for research-oriented and long-lasting partnerships.

Koç University support for outgoing scholars will include:
- A stipend (for 8-week visits) for outgoing faculty members,
- A round-trip economy class airfare,
- Outgoing participants are expected to make their own housing arrangements.

Koç University support for incoming scholars who will be hosted by a Koç faculty will include:
- A round-trip economy class airfare
- Accommodation at faculty housing at no cost (subject to availability).

Interested faculty members should first discuss their possible visits with their Deans and secure their support. Faculty members interested in participating in this program to visit another university or to host a visiting researcher should send a brief proposal describing their project to Ms. Selin Aydın (selinaydin@ku.edu.tr), indicating specifically how participation in the Koç University Visiting Scholar Program will make a difference for their research. The proposals will be evaluated and decided upon by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, as in the case of the existing Harvard-Koç University Visiting Scholar Program.

KU SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAMS for UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Koç University Summer Research Program is for motivated undergraduates from different universities who want to improve their research skills and plan to attend graduate school. The program offers the undergraduates the opportunity to gain research experience that helps them decide if they want to pursue graduate education or professional research career. This program is open to all undergraduate students including internationals. Students choose from the research projects of KU faculty to match their areas of interest and work closely with faculty mentors & their research groups that include graduate and PhD students. Students are exposed to a broad range of new concepts and research techniques which help to improve their independent thinking and creativity. In case of acceptance to the program, there is no cost to the student for registration/tuition. Students will also be able to stay on campus dorms in shared rooms (1/4) free of charge.

Please contact Ms. Arzu Yılmaz on arzuyilmaz@ku.edu.tr for further information about the program.
SUMMER PROGRAMS for HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

As the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), we have started three international programs geared towards high school students:

1) High School Summer Academy:
   • All high school students who have successfully completed grades 9 through 12 and who meet English Language requirements can apply to the program.
   • All classes are taught in English.
   • The program is designed to create an opportunity for high school students to be a part of university life, to improve their academic backgrounds, to gain experience in different major areas, and to make new friendships through many interesting social activities.
   • Courses within the program are taught by Koç University Faculty Members/Instructors and help high school students to build their future plans better by experiencing the university life in a multicultural environment, and to broaden their views on various academic programs.
   • All courses are based on courses actually offered to undergraduate students, and they are adapted in terms of content and duration by the faculty members offering the course.

2) High School Summer English Camp:
   • All high school students who have successfully completed grades 9 through 12 can apply to the program to practice their English for 2 weeks.
   • There will be classes of 10 to 15 students based on their English level.
   • Courses are taught by Koç University ELC Instructors.
   • Students will also have a chance to meet Koç University Faculty Members and professionals from business world.
   • The program provides students a chance to explore the university life on campus within a multicultural environment.

3) Pre-College Program:
   • Pre-College program is open to all high school students who have successfully completed grades 11 or 12 and who meet English Language requirements.
   • All classes are taught in English –with the exception of language area elective courses.
   • The program allows high school students to participate in undergraduate courses which are taught by Koç University Faculty Members and Instructors.
   • Pre-College students join lectures in the same classroom along with our undergraduate students.
   • Our aim is to help high school students to build their future plans better by experiencing the university life in a multicultural environment, and to broaden their views on various academic programs.

For more information about our programs, please click here.
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4) Exchange Students’ Instagram Photo 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 #exchangememories and #kocunivoip tags, this competition again created great synergy among the students.

[Images of winners for GoPro Camera, Apple TV, and URBANEARS Headphones]

5) Exchange Mentor’s Instagram Photo Contest

This semester OIP launched a Mentor Instagram Contest for the first time! The aim of the contest was to encourage and engage them with the new Exchange students during the Orientation week. The most liked Picture owner Ayşegül Yamak, won an Apple TV!
INSPIRING OPPORTUNITIES AT KOÇ

OTHER JOB AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Koç University welcomes research assistants from all around the world to cooperate with our faculty in their research projects. You are kindly invited to email the related professor/staff member directly. As well as sending your most up to date CV, attaching a cover letter will help you get the best result. There are also several job and internship opportunities within the different departments of the university during the semester.

All these opportunities are announced on the OIP website once they are available.

**Click here for the research assistantship opportunities.**

**Click here for internship opportunities.**