

KOC UNIVERSITY

Exchange Newsletter

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Issue 7

Editor's Note

Ever wondered why there are no answers to some questions? Some questions even which may not be answered by today's high end modern technology? Questions which come to mind on some idle southern night while thinking about what the hell shall be done after graduation? Questions about reconsidering to start over. To go after what you really want instead of following what the routine phase of life will bring to you... Questions to challenge yourself...

For example would it be naive to ask for the existence of an undergraduate program to have the efficient background for making a change in the world or to have the wisdom to save it from all its sorrow? would that be as controversial as asking for disarmament while still having production of arms in the world?

With all due respect, I can just imagine the faces of the presidents of some Ivy League Schools who are making some ordinary speeches about how to make a difference in the world on a commencement day. Now is the time to make a change my fellow graduates!

Now is the time...

Onur Ayan



Although I thought the first day that it would be very difficult to get used to living in Bordeaux, it wasn't at all. Actually the Erasmus Student Club "Melting Potes" organized a lot of events (inc. parties, travels,...) for the first week so that you meet not only the Erasmus students but also French students. And they provided us help if we needed any (eg. finding an accommodation before coming to Bordeaux) The only difficult point would be that sometimes French people don't want to speak English and some of the courses do require lots of homework. However, to be in Bordeaux as an exchange student and to meet lots of students from different cultures is fantastic! I think I have made the best decision to study abroad, and especially in Bordeaux!

Asli Pehlivanoglu, Bordeaux Business School

These two months, which I had been in Italy as an exchange student, convinced me that being a part of the Exchange Program is a great experience that all students should experience once. Being from another university belonging to another culture teaches many things that we cannot learn on ourselves. Other than that, now it is clearer for me to realize that we are amazingly lucky people as being a Koc University student considering all the opportunities and the privileges we are provided, I'd like to thank again to my home university!

Kerem Tinaz, Bocconi University

One year ago...

One year ago my Turkish exchange has started. I have been the happiest man of the world there. Koc has been a strange environment, like a happy island in which the time has a different meaning, in which being able to enjoy the beauty of the Bosphorus is what really counts. I will never be able to erase from my mind Istanbul's atmospheres: the dark streets of Eminonu enlighten only by pale streetlamps, the simplicity of Saryier's markets, the taste of Cay in front of a tavla, the Dolmus fighting the traffic that every day makes the city explode of fury... If you mix this heady atmospheres with the best friend you can find, you obtain the semester I had. With this message I just want you to know I wouldn't barter a single minute we spent together at Degustation, at Sortie or simply at the "S building"s refectory, with all the gold of the earth. I would also like to remind you that I don't care if time is passing: if you come to my country you have to contact me, whenever it will happen. When I start thinking at the Bosphorus only a conclusion comes to my mind: I want to come back. Even if it will be impossible for all of us to be there at the same time, I hope we'll have the chance to get pleasure from the oriental magic of Istanbul, again. A big hug from Italy...

Giulio

Dear all,

Giulio couldn't say it better... A heart warming email. Lotte just sent me an email today about the same... One year ago... It was very nice, we studied hard, really hard. But though we had really nice time. We saw a lot, enjoyed the Turkish life, did crazy things... Thanks to Adi with his crazy actions. And let us not forget our marvellous new years evening, Halloween at Berna's place, sinterklaas, etc. For everybody the same... I am living half in the north of the Netherlands and half in Amsterdam! Please if you come around, let me be your guide! Don't hesitate to call anytime... And it may sound as a crazy dream, but a big reunion in 4 years from now! (I like planning, you know...) September, 12 2011 at Koc University! Lots of Love!

Martine

Dear all,

It's nice to notice that I was not the only one yesterday thinking about Koc & Istanbul, and all the wonderful experiences that were about to begin, one year ago. Your email, Giulio, is really heart warming and I hope that everyone thinks about our time in Istanbul at the same way. I would love to go back to see Istanbul and Koc again! Hopefully that will happen one day... For now, for me the same as Martine, if anyone comes to visit, from Tilburg!

Lotte

Learning more than the Lonely Planet can offer...

I think that Istanbul is one of the most beautiful cities i've ever been to. A lot of cultural activities and off course the night time over here is brilliant. Students of Koc showed me around the city which make you feel less like a tourist, and you learn other stuff besides the things in the Lonely Planet.

I think i can say that all of the exchange students are having the time of their lives. For me it's an experience i will never forget.

Philippine Bogaardt



A Dutch Guy in the Orient

Almost a year ago, I was thinking about my upcoming semester abroad. It was quite hard to find a perfect location to study and also enjoy a complete different culture. After Christmas, I finally made my decision to go to Istanbul. I had no idea what I could expect in that oriental metropole between Europe and Asia. So, I left Holland at the end of a lovely summer with a suitcase of memories and a mind full of expectations and questions.

At the moment I am living in Istanbul for the last two months and I am approximately half way my semester abroad. The first weeks here were full of complete new experiences with this quite different culture. I can remember the first time that we were visiting Sultanahmet, it felt so different then home. All the beautiful squares with the nice mosques and palm trees, the imam inviting everyone to pray and of course the typical oriental chaos. But during my semester I have got much more experience with Istanbul which really gave me the feeling that the expected differences were not as big as I first thought. For example: The Istiklal street is quite similar to any other big shopping street in Northern Europe, the square in Ortaköy could be exactly copied out of a lonely planet guide about Italy and the nightclubs under the bridge are very similar to the clubs in Holland. Also the majority of the people are not really different then "we" are: football is the religion, Atatürk is more important than Allah and we share a colorful past with several similarities. Even the weather is quite the same at the moment.

To stay short, I am so glad that I made the decision to "leave" Europe and live half a year in Istanbul. The first two months gave me so much new insights about the few differences and of course the many unexpected similarities between "you and us". I really like to live life in the Istanbul way. I believe that the upcoming months will give me so much more nice experiences on the borders of the Bosphorus and I am really curious if all the nice memories will fit in my suitcase...

Jurgen Braspenning

