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# koçpost

Exchange Newsletter

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SPECIAL  
EDITION



KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ

## ARCHITECTS OF A GLOBALIZED KOÇ

by İpek Okucu - Law (Senior)

I've always admired the triggering atmosphere of open offices, how they enable interaction among people, their constant energy for producing and so on. **The Office of International Programs (OIP)**, located in the -3. floor of the Student Center, catches one's attention, not only by offering insightful programs for students, but also with their genuine and intense enthusiasm directed towards posing Koç University as one of the top ranking universities in the world.

It had all started with the exchange program concept introduced by Barış Tan, the Dean of Faculty of College of Administrative Sciences and Economics. Gradually gained institutional support led to a more entrusted, curious environment among both the students and the administrative structure of the

university. As a result of these improvements, the Exchange Programs Office officially expanded to become the Office of International Programs in September 2010. Currently there are 200 incoming and 174 outgoing exchange students which set a main goal for the international office: Matching the number of incoming and outgoing students while approaching this whole exchange process in a wider context. A wider concept refers to internationalized program options that also contain summer programs, student research programs, summer internships, certificate programs and so on.

**"If we can manage to accomplish these in Koç University, we will serve as a model within and outside of Turkey"** states the Director of International Programs Ayşe İnan.

She insistently emphasizes on the significance of clubs, sports activities and other extracurricular activities on



forming a complete international understanding. Exchange programs should be perceived as a part of this whole international system and the OIP should serve as a menu of international options for students, as İnan notes.

On the Erasmus frontier, there is a visible increase in the demands for the free slots since Erasmus offers international internship programs in addition to its one or two semester long exchange programs. **New agreements have been made with some universities, such as Northwestern University in Chicago, Rice University in Texas and Technical University of Munich.** Moreover, an already-existing agreement with **Maastricht University** is about to be renewed with a wiser one and **Kyoto University** in Japan as one of the leading universities in the far east is in negotiation with Koç University at the moment, with a joint conference on sustainable development set for September 2011.

Drastic developments in technology and rapidly globalizing world require distinctively higher standards from individuals. Although a high school education was sufficient to fulfill the socioeconomic demands before, our globally competent age requires more than a university diploma. International office has a strong belief in the **"Turkish style"** as they call the intense and excellent passion when Turks become ambitious to achieve something. Their enthusiasm stems from their strong belief in Koç University and OIP's area of influence goes beyond the exchange programs: **"If we look through a comprehensive perspective, Koç University diploma will be equally valued with a Stanford or Harvard diploma in the following years.** Considering the support of entire Koç University, insides of the institutions, amazing faculty, increasingly competent student body, fantastic research opportunities and extracurricular activities, we are pretty much like them actually. **We need to go beyond the first impression and make others open the book. Because once they do, they'll love it."**



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## Editorial

It took us a long time to print the newspaper you are holding in your hands.

Koçpost started out as an internet platform for Koç students, and in the beginning it was a challenge for us to even keep the internet site updated. We know because we were there. We did struggle to structure the site to the branches you see today, to find writers, to find editors. In those amateur days, we didn't even know how to update the site ourselves, we used help from CIT.

Now, this was in 2007.

In the Spring term of 2010, having established our internet site, we decided to regularly print Koçpost, therefore reaching our reader in an easier way. The ones who were here in the Spring semester 2010 know that we were pretty successful and well read with the printed Koçpost. However, to our disappointment and due to budgetary problems, we weren't able to print any issues of Koçpost this term. Or so we thought, until we took the initiative and proposed the university's Office of International Programs to help them about the Exchange Newsletter they printed every semester. After much brain storming with the Office and within our club, what you are reading now came to exist: The Exchange Post.

We would like to thank the Office of International Programs for cooperating with us in our efforts in publishing a printed issue of

Koçpost. It's been a pleasure working with you.

**The Exchange Post, is not only for those interested in Exchange. This is a newspaper for all us. Just read Murat's piece and you'll be amazed at what you don't know about your school. In İpek's and Burcu's columns you'll find**

**culinary and cultural advice on İstanbul life. Enjoy Can's urban legends about Turkish and Ottoman history.**

As a last word, we would like to say that we welcome your opinions and suggestions about both the site and the printed issues. We welcome you to work with us (you can contact us either by presidents' or editors' e-mails.). We welcome you to read us. We want Koçpost to be yours, what we want in return is this: **Make Kocpost your own!**

**We wish you a Happy New Year!**

Editors-in-chief: **Mert Gumren - Indr. Eng. (Junior)**

**Burcu Ergun - Law (Senior)**



**Koçpost**  
**Koc University College Newspaper**

Founded in 2007 Koçpost is the student newspaper of Koç University. The internet site is updated every two weeks. With a revolutionary decision taken by writers and editors, we now proudly announce that Koçpost will be printed every month, starting with Spring semester of 2011.

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## WHAT IS ISS?

by Can AHTAM - Bus. Adm. (Senior)

The International Student Society, ISS, exists for the sole purpose of bringing multiculturalism and internationalization to the KU student body. Our goal is to create a melting pot of cultures on campus, one that creates opportunities meant to encourage the integration of local and foreign students. ISS is famous for its annual events, such as parties for Halloween, Christmas, New Years, trips to cities in Turkey, and its friendly staff. Everyone-whether you are a local KU student, an exchange student or a friend of the KU community-is always welcome to anything ISS does.

### The Cultural Dinner

The Cultural Dinner is an event composed of the best chefs among the exchange students, who are willing to share their cultural tastes with their fellow student friends. The students represent their country with their flags and local food and drinks. The most fun part in this event is, of course, the cooking, where we use the huge kitchen of the school cafeteria with our friendly employee chefs' assistance and company. After the hard and enjoying work, it is such a relief to taste different kinds of foods and drinks.



### Turkish Classes

Most exchange students get to learn Turkish in Koç University in a fun environment with our good teachers. By the end of the semester most are capable of speaking Turkish upto what they have learned, and continue on developing their language skills in Turkish. The exchange students use their Turkish by speaking to our local students, to the school staff, and to the Turkish public during their stay. It is a fun learning process and an interesting experience since Turkish is different than learning other languages.





## The International Fair

The International Fair allows our local students to get to know foreign universities first hand from our exchange friends. With this information, local students get to take one more step for studying abroad as an exchange in a foreign country because (s)he will get to have a clearer idea of where to study. The exchange students represent their own country and university and share their experience and knowledge with Turkish students who are interested in studying abroad. This enhances, not only the decision making process of the local students, but also the interaction of the exchange students with the local students creating a friendly, welcoming environment for all.



## Halloween Party

One of the spookiest of all ISS events is of course the annual Halloween Party. Our students come with their colorful, scary, and different costumes and have fun with the scariest atmosphere within the campus. The best costume

of females and males deserve their Best Costume Awards. It is a great interaction for Koç students, including both the local and the international students.







by Can AHTAM - Bus. Adm. (Senior)

## Trips

During each semester, ISS organizes several trips to different places around Turkey, both in and out of İstanbul, and these trips, like all ISS events are open to all members of the KU community. Our fellow students share their enthusiasm and interest with their friends while exploring historical sites. To see such diverse cultures in one country is a fascinating journey of history, art, and view.







Report: Mert Gümren - Indr. Eng. (Junior)  
Murat Gençoğlu - Chem. Bio. Eng. (Junior)

Name: Abrar-ül- Haq Bajwa  
Country: Pakistan  
Major: Business Administration

**Why did you want to come to Turkey?**

There are plenty of reasons. First of all, it's a country whose culture is very similar to our country's. Our language is very similar to Turkish. Secondly, this place is the European capital of culture. It's a mixture of lots of cultures. It has a lot of history. There are many different kind of people. Diversity and culture are my reasons for coming here

**What is the biggest difference between Turkey and Pakistan that you observed?**

Pakistan is much more conservative and religious than Turkey. Over here, it is more liberal. I don't know in other parts of Turkey the situation is the same but in Istanbul, it is very liberal which is good in some sense.

**Your country's dominant religion is Islam and in Turkey the situation is the same, from your observations up to now, what do you think about the role of Islam in Turkey, and what are the main differences?**

The religion is much more important in lives of people in my country. Over here the role of religion is secondary, first comes your life, what you like and don't like, then religion comes much more later.

**How does it feel to be an Exchange student? What are the advantages and disadvantages?**

It is really awesome to be an exchange student. You have to study but the life of an exchange student is worth it. Every day you meet new people. Today I met a guy from Germany, I had lunch with a guy from Italy who is a very good friend of mine, and then I met new friends from different places of the world. This is awesome. Life is very good in here.

**Did you travel around Turkey? Where did you go?**

I went to Cappadocia and the place was very beautiful and very good. It was a two day trip but it was very good. I also went to İzmir during bayram. İzmir and Selçuk are both in Aegean region and it was very beautiful.

**What is the funniest thing you observed in Turkey?**

The funniest thing that I've found here is the language problem. The day I came here, I had to explain to the dormitory management system that I lived over there, and I had that room. And they couldn't understand a single word that I told them. So, it took us one hour to explain where I wanted to live. And it goes like this every day. Every day, there is a problem. And I try to solve it, but it's very hard for people over here to speak English. So, I really get into a difficult situation

**What was the hardest experience in Turkey for you?**

The hardest experience that I had over here is that one like one night I was coming back from Taksim, I was a little drunk. I came out of the taxi, and I forgot my wallet inside. And I immediately went to security guys in west campus to tell them to stop the taxi in main campus, because some of my friends in the taxi were going to the main campus. But it was really hard to explain this to him. And I spent 1-2 hours standing in the security office to solve this problem. I could never find my wallet again. I had my credit card, student id and some money in the wallet.

**Tell me 3 things that come to your mind in Turkish.**

Çok güzel. Çakmak var mı? (laughs). Taksim

**What's Turkey for you in one word?**

Awesome

**What's Turkey for you in one sentence?**

That's not fair; these are similar questions (laughs). Turkey is the place that I could spend my whole life.

**What are the 3 common characteristics you observed about Turkish people? Can you give one example you experienced for each.**

Hospitable: Whenever you ask for help, they leave whatever they're doing to help you out. As I observed, Turkish people do everything to help you out

Crazy: People are very interesting. One day, I had the experience of watching a football match inside a stadium. The match was between Beşiktaş and Porto. The fans were really crazy

Complicated: Especially Turkish girls are really complicated and difficult. When you talk to them, in the beginning they are frustrated and very hard to talk to. (Murat: It is the same for us (laughs)) After some time, when you get very intimate with them, then they are really fun to be with.

**Who is the biggest celebrity in Turkey for you?**

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: He is the biggest celebrity in Turkey

Tarkan: I love his music.

Beşiktaş: I am a fan of Beşiktaş.

How is it going with Turkish cuisine? What's your favorite food?

I am afraid, not very good. The food here doesn't contain enough spice as in our country. My favorite foods are menemen, köfte and iskender. Iskender çok nefis (laughs)

**Sing me a Turkish song.**

I can just whistle for you, because I don't know the lyrics. Na na na na na na na na na na (öp - Tarkan)

**What are you going to miss the most about Turkey?**

Turkish people who are very nice, İstiklal Caddesi, and my exchange friends.

**Will you recommend your friends to come to Turkey?**

Yeah, I would not recommend them to go to Switzerland, America, Austria, or anywhere. I would first tell them to go to Turkey. I love it. After that they should go to another place.

**What's your mail address if people have any questions about Pakistan, exchange or anything?**

Abrarbajwa1@gmail.com



Report: Mert Gümren - Indr. Eng. (Junior)  
Murat Gençoğlu - Chem. Bio. Eng. (Junior)

Name: Jonathan Kaeppler  
Country: United States of America  
Major: International Relations

**Which school are you from? The University of Minnesota**

**What is the biggest difference between Turkey and your country that you observed?**

-The food.

**Why did you want to come to Turkey?**

-I wanted to come to Turkey in order to see for

myself how a nation situated between east and west functions. I wanted to see how a very Muslim, yet secular nation operates.

**How does it feel to be an Exchange student? What are the advantages and disadvantages?**

-At first, being an exchange student is overwhelming and hectic. However, that goes away and the advantages are meeting new people, trying new activities and attempting to learn a new way of life in a new culture. It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The disadvantages are being taken advantage of in shops...some Turkish shopkeepers seem very eager to rip off foreigners, and not know what you are ordering in restaurants because you can't read the menu.

**Did you travel around Turkey? Where did you go?**

-I have traveled to Bursa, Edirne, Antakya and Gaziantep.

Report: Naz Cuguoğlu - Psys. (Junior)

Name: Leo Löwenherz  
Country: Germany  
Major:

**Which school are you from?**

Hohenheim Business School in Stuttgart

**Why did you want to come to Turkey?**

Because I like Turkish people and Turkish food. Also, Istanbul is an awesome city and metropolis. Usually when people ask

me this question, I just say "Come on, it's Istanbul!!!!"

**We all know that Turkish people form the largest ethnic minority in Germany. Did you have any stereotypes about Turkish people before you came? Why? What?**

I had some stereotypes about Turkish people in Germany (almançılar). But I knew from the very beginning that Turkish people in Turkey would be so much different. Still, I can give you some examples for the stereotypes that most Germans have about Turkish people. For example, although it's a shame, still most Germans think that it is impossible to have a relationship with a Turkish girl because of the big brother she probably has. And, most Germans think that all Turkish women wear headscarf. They think that Mustafa and Ali are the most common names among Turkish people. And they think only food Turkish people have is döner. But when I go back to home, I am going to tell everybody that Turkey is awesome and all Turkish people are not the same.

**What is the biggest difference between Turkey and Germany that you observed?**

There are more Germans in Germany?

**How does it feel to be an Exchange student? What are the advantages and disadvantages?**

When you are an exchange student, they write "özel öğrenci" on your student ID. So, first of all, I am feeling special? But, seriously, there are a lot of advantages to be an exchange student. I personally met a lot of friendly and international people, experienced a really different culture and country and I had the chance to get to know myself better. Also, partying all the time of course... I really cannot say any disadvantages for being an exchange student.

**Did you travel around Turkey? Where did you go?**

Yes sure. For bayram, we rented a car and did a road trip. We went to Çanakkale, İzmir, Selçuk, Efes and Asos. Also, with a trip organized by ISS (International Students Society), we went to Kapadokya.

**What is the funniest thing you observed in Turkey?**

-Scented toilet paper and drivers who drive in the middle of road.

**What was the hardest experience in Turkey for you?**

-The hardest experience is communicating when you do not know Turkish very well and always having to watch out for people trying to not be honest about prices in stores.

**Tell me 3 things that come to your mind in Turkish.**

- Problem var, Problem yok, efendim?

**What's Turkey for you in one sentence?**

-A mixture of east and west and always attempting to figure out which one it wants to belong to.

**What are the 3 common characteristics you observed about Turkish people? Can you give one example you experienced for each.**

- Three characteristics are very, very friendly, self-assessing, and not afraid to speak their minds.

**How is it going with Turkish cuisine? What's your favorite food?**

-It took a while to get used to but I am not very fond of Turkish cuisine. That being said, of the food my favorite is the breakfast of tomatoes, cucumbers and bread.

**What are you going to miss most about Turkey?**

-I will miss the dolmus drivers and their need for speed, the vast mixture of cultures in Istanbul, and the many friends I've made here.

**Sing me a Turkish song.**

-Ummmm.....Tarkan?

They were both so much fun.

**What is the funniest thing you observed in Turkey?**

The funniest thing for me is how some Turkish people smoke (He stands up, kneels down, pretends like he is smoking and laughs?)

**What is the strangest situation you observed here?**

There was a girl about to die in front of a club in Taksim. It was probably because of alcohol. There were no ambulances and they tried to put her in a cab but probably it was too late.

**What was the hardest experience in Turkey for you?**

The hardest thing was to have a roommate because it is a new experience for me. And it is so strange to have someone else in your room. In Germany, there are only single rooms and flats.

**Tell me 3 things that come to your mind in Turkish.**

Merhaba. Hadi bakalım. Taksim'e gitmek istiyorum.

**What's Turkey for you in one word?**

Istanbul

**What's Turkey for you in one sentence?**

Bence Türkiye çok güzel ama Türk kız daha güzel. (I think Turkey is beautiful but Turkish girls are more beautiful)

**What are the 3 common characteristics you observed about Turkish people? Can you give one example you experienced for each.**

Hospitable: I spent lots of time in Murat's house

Relaxed: There are no timetables for dolmuş.

Helpful: As soon as people understand that you speak Turkish, they try to talk and help you.

**Who is the biggest celebrity in Turkey for you?**

Tarkan

**How is it going with Turkish cuisine? What's your favorite food?**

We have lots of Turkish food in Germany but still sometimes I miss some German food. Mostly, I miss sausages and German style kebab. My favorite food is kaşarlı tavuk dürüm.

**Sing me a Turkish song.**

Bu geceeee... bu geceeee.. (Tarkan)

**Will you come back to Turkey?**

Sure. I have residence permit for one year.

**What are you going to miss most about Turkey?**

Everything. I will miss going to Taksim, hanging at the student center, talking in English, seeing beautiful Turkish girls around, and of course all of my friends here.

**Will you recommend your friends to come to Turkey?**

Hell yea!!!

**What's your mail address if people have any questions about Germany, exchange or anything?**

leodw@gmx.de



## SUMMER DREAMS OF A GIRL NAMED YOUTH

I want to introduce you a friend of mine today. We have a complicated relationship with her. Every morning, I wake up with the feeling that she is my best friend and I know her very well. Every day, she surprises me though. At the end, every night, I go to sleep with the feeling that there is a lot I need to learn about her. All of you have met someone like her in your lives. I am not sure about your reaction about their existence in your lives. I am sure you either loved it or hated it. Just to be sure that we are talking about the same girls, I want to talk about these girls' physical appearances. It is easy. Average height... Average weight... A crazy sparkle in the eyes... They are in love with sleep. They are in love with danger. They are also all in love. Although I feel like she is my best friend, I can never remember her name. To make it easy, let's call her "Youth" and talk about her a little.

This girl named Youth has been either studying or working for the whole year. She woke up early and went to sleep really late. She did not have time for anything. Now, she is really

tired so needs to rest. First feeling of her is to spend all of the summer just sleeping. Second phase is becoming bored of just sleeping after a while. And in the third phase which is the last step, she will begin to search for some fun. She will spend some days only searching internet for

some activities that she would love to become a part of. So, when she goes to sleep at the end of the day, she will see dreams in which she does these activities. Let's look at her dreams.

In some of her dreams, she will be in Turkey. She told me that once she saw herself doing voluntary work in the east.

She was building a library with a lot of other young people she did not meet before. In another one, she was attending workshops. In these workshops, she learned surfing in Alaçatı, philosophy in Adatepe, yoga in Bodrum and ceramics in Karaköy. With these workshops, both she met a lot of other young people, learned a new hobby and also had a lot of peace in the beautiful nature. In some other dreams, the crazy sparkle in her eyes won so she got on the first bus leaving and went to discover either the green of the north coast of Turkey, or the history of the east, or the hot beaches of the south.

In some other dreams, she will be in abroad. She knows that she can also do voluntary work there. Maybe, she will see herself building a small bridge on a little river in a village of Romania, or teaching English to the children in India. She won't pay for the accommodation or the food. She will just enjoy the experience. Or she will attend workshops in abroad. She can learn how to make chocolate in Switzerland or how to make wine in France. If the crazy sparkle wins again, she will buy either an interrail ticket to travel all Europe or a Balkan Flexipass to travel Balkans. She can click on couchsurfing website to stay at other young people's houses to save money.

I am sure that she will see all of these dreams. What I don't know is which one Youth will choose to make it come true. For me seems like the crazy sparkle wins, I am going to Balkans this summer. Choose your dream, join me! Let's make our dreams come true this summer!







İpek OKUCU - Law (Senior)

## CULINARY BACKSTREETS OF ISTANBUL

For those who want to experience the traditional Turkish food (FYI the content is not limited to kebab and dürüm) most of which are still unknown for the local, I invite you to the culinary backstreets of İstanbul.

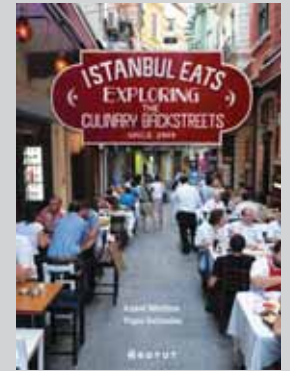
As the first spot, Ficcin stands out as a quasi Circassian embassy located on the Kallavi Street, İstiklal. The name of the restaurant itself is the most famous Circassian food resembling a cheesecake in sight made with meat and dough, instead of cake and vanilla. To be more clear, ficcin can be thought of as a slice of börek (cut in the shape of a triangle, similar to a pizza slice) filled with meat, besides pretty remote from being a börek though. Caucasian manti and chicken are my other favorites in the menu. Be careful: you must ask for the menu with pictures to prevent an order malfunctioning, since they usually bring the one including merely the names of the food that may only make sound for a Circassian.

For those who add hot spices to a simple dinner yet, **Antiochia** -deriving its name from the ancient name of the city Antakya- introduces the delicious apperizers from southern Turkey which may reveal an addiction in you with its extremely delicious incredibly hot food. My suggestion would be to order a mixed meze plate including the 7 outstanding mezes in the cuisine coming along with lavaş breads, in order not to miss any of them. Assuming you'll go there pretty hungry, minced meat wrap will make this Antiochian dream whole right after the samples. As we all know the closer a place gets to Asmalimescit, the harder to find a place to sit, especially with large groups on a Friday night, a reservation will make things easier for you. A smooth address description would be to walk down from Groove in Asmalimescit, turn left, walk a little bit more until you see Autoban's sign on the wall and there goes Antiochia, watching Autoban in face. Or shall I say follow any cat

after you turn the street and it will take you straightly to Antiochia anyways?

Another combination of meat, onion and salad is offered in **Canım Ciğerim** (which amusingly means "my liver, my dear" in English). Very Turkish, very cautious. Cautious; since you may literally stink after eating that much onion if you do not carry your mints or gums with you. Or a fast and furious cat may directly jump up to your table to reach the liver without endearing itself with you beforehand. Apart from these survival threats, I guarantee you will leave the place with a full stomach and an empty brain. What I mean by a "full stomach" is a genuinely FULL one since they put more than you ordered to the table as a courtesy. Liver-friendly people may find the place if they turn right after Groove instead of left. My liver, my dear dwells under the trees with its red neon lighted sign.

Time to illuminate everything: "Istanbul Eats: Exploring the Culinary Backstreets" book, originally Time to illuminate everything: "Istanbul Eats: Exploring the Culinary Backstreets" book, originally converted from a blog, has published in 2009 by two non-Turkish residents who take eating very seriously. Moving from the intention of disclosing the unexplored eating stops in İstanbul, they also translated the book into Turkish very recently. All the above addresses are tiny samples from the book which actually cover a wider range of food and not limited to Beyoğlu district as well. Above are the mistakeproof ones and much more undiscovered ones are hindering in the book. Getting bored with the already known destinations or contributing to local economy may be some stimulating factors for the inhabitants but notably exchange students do not need any reason to try them before the semester comes to an end. Updated version of the book can be found by clicking this: <http://istanbuleats.com/>. Bon appétit everyone!



## LIVING AT KU

In the beginning, I thought writing it about the mysteries of KU but I realized afterwards that Koç University has not much of a mystery, maybe one or two. Then I decided to write it like a city guide. This article is all about surviving at Koç University (I don't have the proper knowledge about west campus. Some of you are staying in there. I beg your pardon. It is mainly about main campus. You still can use the info), where surviving stands for having fun. Having fun is important especially if you are dealing with a new city, a new university, new instructors, and new friends. Of course having fun is not the most important thing in our life but it is something brings along the laughter. Laughter is in top ten in the most important things for our body which is explained by some certain chemical reactions.

I am used to divide the topic into subtopics in particular for myself. I need it to be able to hold on to topic, and to be organized. Subtopics mostly are about what a normal person can do when she is bored. I give you some hints and tips on some topics as I am capable of. Subtopics are in order; sports, activities, and means of transport.

**Sports:** Your sports area is the sport center obviously. In sport center, you can play basketball, ping pong, tennis, squash, racketball, and volleyball. You can also do jogging (you can do your jogging anywhere you want of course), bodybuilding, and fitness. Sports center is open from 9.30 to 22.00 for ball requiring games and the bodybuilding room. Fitness room is open 24 hours.

There is also a big barrack-shaped building near the sports center. It has an ice skating field. You can obtain skates from there in appropriate size.

### Activities:

**Foosball;** you can find foosball tables in student center B1 floor. There are four tables but there is only one ball. So if you see a group playing foosball don't waste your time hoping to find another ball. If you see two groups playing foosball one of them is probably me because I have my own ball.

**Billiard;** you can play billiard at student center B3---. It is usually a deserted place so you shouldn't have worries about finding it occupied. You need to find

Murat GENÇOĞLU - Chem. Bio. Eng. (Junior)

attendants in B3 floor to have the room opened. It works until 21.00.

**Movie;** yes movie. You can take your computer and go to a random classroom after classes. If the classroom is not already occupied you can set your computer and watch a movie with the joy of a movie screen. Almost every classroom has a projector and screen.

**Music;** there is a music studio at student center B3 floor. There is a price for using it. There are amplifiers and a drum in it. Grab your guitar and enjoy the music. It is open till 23.00. Additional to that at student center B329 you can find original handmade piano. It is also open till 23.00.

Also you can find a digital piano in the CAS 135 near a water dispenser.

**Coiffeur;** Some of you may already know that. There is a coiffeur in B3 floor at student center.

**Means of transportation:** I would like to recommend a few tips to you about travelling inside the school. There are two ways to travel around student center and engineering without getting wet in rainy days. First you can travel through tunnel which you can enter from engineering B floor and exit to the corridor between student center and CAS. Second way; you enter from engineering second floor and continue to science's first floor. Then you go up to second floor of science and continue to SOS and CAS's first floor. After that you can move along to student center.

Again in a rainy day, you can travel from Henry Ford building to sports center without getting wet through a tunnel (Some students believe it is a myth). You can find the entrance of the tunnel from the photograph. That tunnel also goes to S dormitory but the part it goes to S dormitory is very low ceilinged, muddy, dirty, and may have present dead sewer rats. So don't use it but some of you, who are adventurist, may want to see there. The other one is ok.

That's all I know about having fun at KU with using environment. I hope you like this so called Koç guide. You have the chance of studying at another university. It is not an "at any time" occasion. You have to have fun. Of course there are many things to do in order to have fun other than what I just told you. For example smoking, drinking (you don't know me if you get caught), playing board games with your friends, playing computer games with or without your friends, playing with your friends, and so on. You can figure out those things by yourself I guess. If you know me, by any chance, you can ask me anything about what you just read or something else. Have fun







Burcu ERGÜN - Law (Senior)

## TIPS TO GET YOU THROUGH THE JANUARY CHALLENGE

It's so easy to feel like you're a part of the city in the summer. People are everywhere, the whole city seems to burst out from the buildings into the streets, everything happens right in front of your eyes, you feel like you

can't miss anything. The challenge is to feel the same way in January when the wind is about to break your umbrella, the frost will hurt your gloved hands and everything gets stuffed inside buildings. Here are some tips to get you through January as if it's as warm and fun as a summer day:

### Get drunk in a Tomtom street party before it gets too cold!

To the left side of Ara Kafe is a semi-hidden street called Tomtom, filled with restaurants, pubs and discos (actually there's 1 of each since the length of the street can accommodate only so much). In this street artsy types hang out and dance all night long to disco music that

spreads to the street from the restaurant/bar W. Have a beer in W and enjoy the loud music and the crowded street with partying people. But hurry before the January rain and snow forces this party scene inwards. These might be your last chances of seeing the scene again before April.

While you are there, check out the

underground electro-pop disco **Pixie**. Guaranteed: a unique experience!

### Hot Wine—It's right about time!

When comes January and the frost settles into the city, the many wine houses in İstanbul start making their own hot wines. There's nothing better to do in a cold January night than to hang out in one of the tiny pubs in Asmalımescit that serve hot wine. Another spot for some delicious hot wine would be the infamous wine house Pano.

### Cozy up in one of Cihangir's bohemian cafés!

My pick: The beautiful **Susam Café**. I will never know why I love this café so much: is it the decoration, the distinctive cuisine (try out the plum steak) or the fact that you can settle on a couch and chat with your friends all day and no one will say anything.



Maybe it's the cat Susam itself. But there's something special about this café. You will have an extraordinarily good time whenever you dine there. Watch out for the prices though, some meals can cost you a significant part of your allowance.

While you're there check out **İvrir Zıvır Şeyler Dükkanı** an antique junk shop nearby. The cocky shop owner might get a little too chatty and condescending sometimes. Never mind him.

### It's Official: Coolest people in İstanbul hang out in Babylon (Because "Babylon turns İstanbul on")!

Dance to experimental Jewish music with **Oi Va Voi** on 19-20-21 January in **Babylon**. In the deadly frost of a January Saturday night the best thing to do might be to get hot by dancing. With the exceptional environment of Babylon and a bottle of Efes, a fulfilling time is guaranteed. Other hot nights in the month include shows by **Baba Zula** (a unique, weird and definitely Turkish experience) on January 27 and Turkish music's latest electronic treasure **Portecho**, on January 7.

Announcement: The much waited **Radio Babylon** started broadcasting! Listen to the music that reflects the soul of the city at [www.radyobabylon.com](http://www.radyobabylon.com)

### Have Tapas in Que Tal!

Have tapas in **Que Tal**, Tünel's newly opened and unique tapas restaurant. It may not serve the best tapas you can find in Spain, but it definitely is a gastronomical heaven. Try karamelize keçi peyniri and creme brulee. A fun time is guaranteed if the tapas are accompanied by lots of friends and Sangria.







İsmail Can ÇEKEN - Bus. Adm. (Senior)

## SOME URBAN LEGENDS

### THE OTTOMANS' SECRET

When the Ottoman Empire was going to the war, the army was collecting people who were mad and who looked like monsters. They would walk in front of the army. The aim of this strategy was to destroy the morale

of the enemy's army.

Also the Ottomans were taking foreign children to the army when they were little to train them. During the trainings they were given marbles before the campaigns and they did slap training to break these marbles. The idiom of Ottoman slap comes from this training method. If they dropped their weapon during the war, they could use their hands: when they slapped someone, it was fatal.



### PIZZA'S UNKNOWN HISTORY

After the conquest of Istanbul, Sultan Mehmet II wanted to conquer Italy and sent his navy and took Otranto. One day an Ottoman seaman was eating a "pide" and an Italian guy was watching him. After a while the Italian asked what he was eating. The seaman's mouth was full with pide and that's why he pronounced pide as "pize". The Italian asked the ingredients, but the seaman was bored and said: "put anything that you want!" The Italian cooked it at home; he and his wife liked it. Then pize went to all Italy, changing its name to "pizza" along the way.

### FIRST SUBWAY WAS MADE BY TURKS

The first subway was in the tunnel which was in Karaköy for using carry loads. The Sultan proposed to put steamy train underground to carry people. But grand vizier and Shaikh al-islam told the Sultan

that it was a sin to put people underground when they were alive. That's why we didn't do it and England made a subway which carries people for the first time in the world.

### HOW WAS COAL FOUND IN TURKEY?

Ottoman government was searching for coal mines. One day a commander called his soldiers and ordered them to go to their villages and search for the black stone which he was holding. Uzun Mehmet was searching black stones in his village and he found them. He tested how the stone he found burns and he was sure the stone was what the commander wanted. Then, he went to his commander to tell it and now a statue stands in Zonguldak in his memory.

### CHURCHILL'S SACK

During the World War II, England wanted to be allies with Turkey and started negotiations. However, Turkey didn't want to join war and was doing balance politics between Germany and England. Churchill came to Adana to persuade İsmet İnönü but he couldn't do it and turned back to his country. Then, Churchill sent a sack filled with wheat with a note saying that they were crowded like wheat which one saw in the sack, and to cut off our relations with Germany. İsmet İnönü replied this threat the following way: he put a chicken into a sack and sent it to England. When Churchill opened the sack he only saw a chicken and a note asking why should we be frightened of the English who can't do anything even to a chicken.

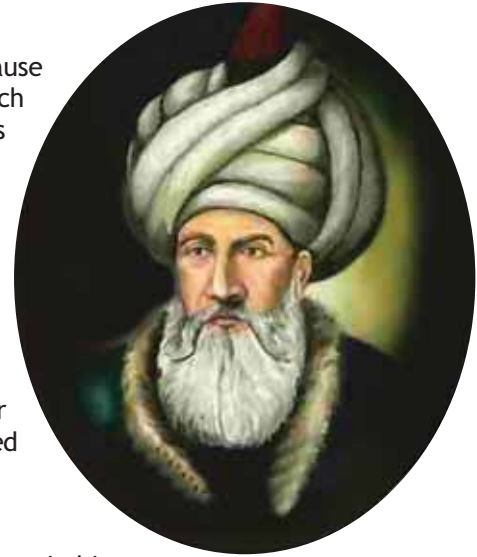
### MİMAR SİNAN'S METHOD

Sinan's structures aren't collapsed by earthquakes because he put a rail system under the structures like the ones found in the modern skyscrapers today. The difference, is he put them hundreds years ago. Also foreign countries are widely inspired from Mimar Sinan's method. The first foreign country which used Sinan's rail method is Japan who is troubled with earthquakes. They explored it when they came to do a research on Turkish historical structures.



### A LETTER FROM MİMAR SİNAN

Few years ago, Süleymaniye Camii (mosque) was in danger of collapsing because its arch eroded. Nobody knew how this arch could be changed. While many architects were investigating how to save the arch, one man saw hole on the arch. When he looked in, he saw a bottle. He took this bottle and there was a note in it. They understood that this note was authentic and was written by Mimar Sinan. The note was saying: "If you found this note, then you have a problem about the arch. Now I will explain how you can repair it." After that, they changed the arch stone and saved the Süleymaniye mosque.



### MANY EGGS ARE IN THE MORTAR

Sultan Selim II wanted to build a mosque in his memory and ordered Mimar Sinan to do so. At the beginning of the construction, Sinan said they will use egg in the mortar to build the mosque. After that, a chicken farm with 30.000 chickens was opened in Edirne only for this job. They put egg white to mortar, but Mimar Sinan disappeared, therefore the construction stopped. Iran shah sent many crates of gold and said that he thought that the Ottomans' money was finished, that it was to help the Ottoman. 8 years later, Sinan came back to Istanbul. Sultan was very angry with Sinan and wanted to execute him. He called him and the reasons of his disappearance. Sinan answered that he thought the mortar needed 8 years to become well. Sultan liked this idea very much and he put Iranian gold under the construction.

### OUR ANCESTORS' SPORT WAS KARATE

Everybody thinks that karate is a Chinese sport. No! At the times when Turks lived in Central Asia they were very strong and defeated Chinese army which was more crowded than theirs. The Chinese built the Great Wall of China in fear of Turkish attacks, but the Turks still continued the attacks. Chinese emperor sent many spies who looked like Turks to learn the fight methods. Only 3 spies returned to China and they opened karate schools and this sport spread to all of China. When the war broke out between the two countries, China again lost the battle, because Turks were more professional at this fight. Then emperor sent princesses to Turkish princes. They taught a new sport to Turkish princes called "güreş". Güreş means passive in old Chinese. Then wrestling spread among the Turks and they forgot karate. Then China started to defeat the Turks, that's why they had to leave Central Asia. Now the Chinese teach Turkish people karate in the karate saloons.



### OTTOMAN DISCIPLINE

The Ottoman Empire was and one day an English journalist wanted to see discipline of Ottoman and came to Anatolia. At that time Ottoman army was in Konya. He prepared reports and asked the commanders "what their secret was. The answer was always: "Because we are Ottomans". One night he went to his tent to sleep and woke up at 5 a.m. to see a sleeping guard. He went out of his tent and realized that the army wasn't there. At night Ottoman had army collected their guns, cannons, tents in such a silent way that he hadn't woken up. He realized, this was the Ottoman discipline. Then he returned to England and told his story, but nobody believed him.





## “What? Hong Kong?! Are you crazy? You should have chosen to go to somewhere normal.”

Asi Cansunar,  
(City University of Hong Kong,  
2009 Fall Exchange Student)

Are these the kinds of things one should say to a 21-year-old girl about to spend 6 months far, far away from her school, family, and country? Unfortunately, these types of comments were precisely what I heard from everyone around me before I left for my exchange semester at City University of Hong Kong. Nobody could understand why I would choose this destination, when there were so many other countries and schools available. And, to make matters worse, I couldn't quite come up with a satisfying, “logical,” and convincing response to the comments being made to me. “Since I was a kid, my favorite book was my Travel Atlas, and I would spend days looking at pictures of the Great Wall of China and dreaming about a time when I would grow up, go there, and climb the Great Wall” was the best explanation I could come up with; but this explanation managed only to make the person across from me question my decision even more. I couldn't seem to explain myself to anybody; I couldn't seem to convince anyone that I had made a good decision. However, I was so certain within myself that I had made the right decision, I was so certain that I was going to have an amazing 6 months, that I didn't let other people's attitudes damage my courage and curiosity. I had already thought a lot about this decision, and I had already made up my mind: more and more so as time goes on, Turkish culture overlaps and sometimes even embeds itself into American and European cultures. Europe is a quick plane ride away, and America is a relatively accessible destination as well. And, isn't the point of student exchange to push the boundaries? Isn't the point to throw yourself into the unfamiliar, to surround yourself with new cultures, and to truly find yourself in this discovery process? Besides, how else was I going to find a ready-made opportunity to live in Hong Kong for 6 months? Thus, inspired by these thoughts, and despite the courage-crushing reactions from all around me, I got on the plane in August 2009 with nothing but

optimism for the 6 months I was about to spend in Hong Kong.

To fully share my experience in Hong Kong with you in a few sentences would be impossible, but I can begin by saying this: without a doubt, the best days of my life so far are the days I had on exchange; eating the names of fruits I didn't even know the name of; walking to school surrounded by natural wonders I had never seen before; getting drenched by a tropical rain as I walked along the harbor and watched the beautiful light shows; going on an elephant safari in Thailand; traveling on a boat at night along a river in Vietnam, only to suddenly find myself surrounded by thousands of fireflies lighting up the sky like Christmas lights; diving into the turquoise-colored ocean of the Philippines in December; and—of course—walking along the Great Wall of China, making a childhood dream come true.

What I want to say here is that, when the time comes for you to think about joining Koç University's Student Exchange Programs, don't let the Far East fall victim to your judgments and fears. The best time of your life could be waiting for you. Isn't that worth taking a chance for?



## “I like Yaan, cycling and drop. And... Tilburg University!”

“Being an Exchange student means enjoying every minute from the moment you arrive in Tilburg until you leave” says one Turkish student, who has spent one year as an Exchange student at Tilburg University. Searching through the catalogues of this renown university, and reading the first hand experiences of students who have been there, I couldn't agree more with the comment above. From the vibrant city to the prestige it will provide your academic career with, time spent in Tilburg University is definitely a catch.

Established in 1927, Tilburg University has been one of the most prestigious universities in the Netherlands for more than 80 years. Ranked high in many university ranking lists, it is an academic treasure for social science students. Considering the fact that Tilburg university is highly preferred for its Master's programs, spending an exchange year there would be beneficial for establishing

Burcu ERGÜN - Law (Senior)



contacts you will need in the future. As an exchange student you are expected to take 4 classes each semester, all taught in English. The exchange students can enrich their knowledge on their area of study by taking courses from both Bachelor's and Master's courses. However your experience in Tilburg University will not just be dedicated to your academic excellence. The city of Tilburg has a lot to offer.

Although not known as much as other cities in the Netherlands, such as Amsterdam or Rotterdam, Tilburg is just as much fun and alive. With more than 30,000 students as its inhabitants it's genuinely a student city, and where the students are—that's where the fun is. In fact, from April on Tilburg is filled with festivals and events known as the Tilburg treats: Tilburg Sings, Tilburg Mundial which hosts performers from all over the world, the meimarkt as themarket, Tilburg ten miles as an athletics attraction, Dansnight, Incubate which is the festival of independent culture and Tilburgse Kermis which is the fun fair visited by 1 million people. The city owes this vibrant cultural calendar to its vocational art academies such as the rock academy, dancing academy, academy of drama and academy of visual arts. Combine this city life with an average Erasmus student's level of partying and travelling, and you will reach the inevitable conclusion, that it is impossible to not have a great time in Tilburg. As a bonus point, if all this has not satisfied you, the city of Amsterdam is just a train ride away.

A Dutch friend of mine once taught me a sentence that she thought I would need the most should I be in the Netherlands. I don't remember the Dutch version of the sentence but the English version went like: “I like Yaan (because all the boys in the Netherlands are called Yaan and they're tall and handsome), cycling (cause all you'll ever do in the Netherlands will include a bike) and drop (because it's the favorite sweets of the Dutch people).” I would advise you the same Dutch experience, topped with the academic excellence of Tilburg University, vibrant cultural life of Tilburg and the infamous partying condition of an Erasmus student.

Off to Tilburg we go!

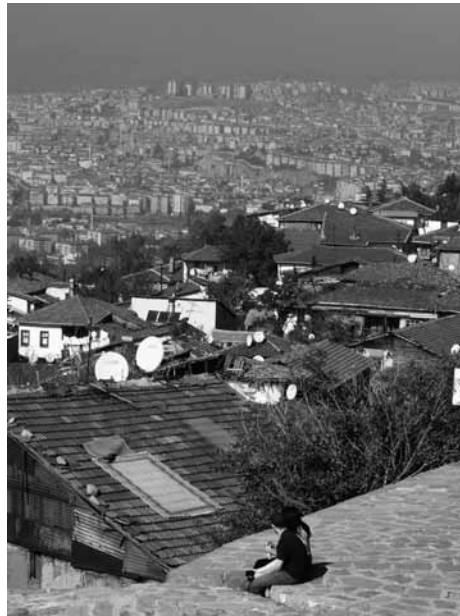




## TURKEY PHOTOS BY EXCHANGE STUDENTS



Halferi-Hatay / Julia Grimm



Ankara / Julia Grimm



Linda Amrou



Turkish Dessert / Qing Lan



Ortaköy / Qing Lan



Linda Amrou



Istanbul / Shuaib



Ephesus / Qing Lan



Istanbul Big Three / Qing Lan



Istanbul / Shuaib