

Office of International Programs presents...

The Student Exchange Newsletter


<http://oip.ku.edu.tr>

ISTANBUL AS...

Istanbul As...

Istanbul is a dynamic city of close to 16 million people. The city straddles the Bosphorus, dividing the city between an Asian and European side (the only city in the world located on two continents). The city is by far Turkey's largest, and most culturally dynamic, being named a European Capital of Culture in 2010 and European Capital of sports in 2012.

Istanbul as an Artistic Center

Istanbul was the house of various civilizations throughout the history. The architecture inside the city proper contains buildings, statues, and functional constructions which came from ancient Greek, Byzantine, Genoese, Ottoman, and modern Turkish sources. That's why when a person walks around the city, he can run into a 600 year-old palace or 1500 year-old mosque.

Sultanahmet, which is known as old Istanbul, was founded by Greek settlers in 660 BC. In 330 AD, Emperor Constantine made it the capital of the Roman Empire. The city was the seat of the Byzantine Empire until it fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. During Byzantine rule, culture and architecture flourished in the city. It was during this time that the Hagia Sophia was constructed. The city again flourished under Ottoman rule, with many grand structures (such as Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque) being constructed. The city was a thriving cultural metropolis with Ottoman style arts, ceramics and calligraphy flourishing.



Istiklal Street, located in Taksim, is surrounded by late Ottoman-era buildings (mostly from the 19th and early 20th centuries) that were designed with the Neo-Classical, Neo-Gothic, Beaux-Arts, Art Nouveau and First Turkish National Architecture styles. On Istiklal you will also see a few Art Deco style buildings from the early years of the Turkish Republic, and a number of more recent examples of modern architecture. Istiklal starts from the medieval Genoese neighborhood around Galata Tower and ultimately leads up to Taksim Square.

Istanbul as a Cultural Center

With Istanbul's feature of connecting Europe and Asia, Istanbul has become a center where various cultures and religions are combined, survived and succeeding one another. In Istanbul, there are people from a variety of ethnicities and religions. A Muslim can freely go to a mosque to pray (that mosque might be from Ottoman Empire), or a Christian can go to a Church on Sunday (perhaps from the Byzantine Empire). In one café, you will find people sipping their classical Turkish coffee and playing backgammon, overlooking the Bosphorus; and, right next door, you will find people drinking their lattes while checking emails on their iPad.

Istanbul as a Musical Center

Istanbul is the home for all kinds of musical tastes. "You can't really say that there is a single, homogeneous Turkish culture," says Pelin Opcin, the director of the Istanbul Jazz Festival. "We are a mixture of everything." The modern beats pulsing through this cosmopolitan city are as diverse as its cultural history. The award-winning director Fatih Akin, a German of Turkish descent, touched on this in a 2005 documentary, "Crossing the Bridge: The Sound of Istanbul," which has been described as a Turkish "Buena Vista Social Club." The film features Mr. Sesler, the

rapper Ceza, the Seattle-grunge-influenced rockers Duman, the electronic fusion of Mercan Dede and the Kurdish singer Aynur Dogan. Audiences were also introduced to the sounds of Orhan Gencebay, dubbed the Elvis of arabesque; the weepy ballads of a raki-swilling Muzeyyen Senar; and even a rendition of Madonna's "Music," sung by the operatically trained Sertab Erener, who won the 2003 Eurovision Song Contest. Moreover, people can find a place which plays blues or jazz or they can go to classic music concerts. Each musical sub-culture has its manifestation throughout the city, blending at some points, diverging at others, all together creating the eclectic symphony that hums through the city pulsations.

Istanbul as a Fashion Center

More and more, Istanbul has become a fashion center, leveraging its unique tie to the East and West. The city has a historical background in fashion, based in the traditional Turkish and Ottoman way of clothing. The blending of old and new, East and West—the dynamic that ultimately defines many nuances of the culture—has created a unique expression of



high fashion. The most important fashion event in Istanbul is Istanbul Fashion Week. Istanbul Fashion Week was organized for the fifth time last year, with an aim to promote Turkish designers and brands in the national and international arena and also to make a contribution to the Turkish economy, while increasing the design power in the fashion industry. Fashion also takes the world's attention via mass media.

Istanbul as whatever you want it to be...

Ultimately, the diversity of Istanbul, its many angles and layers and sounds, teaches people how to see the world differently, to divert from a singular perspective on "how things should be" toward a more accepting vantage point. Istanbul defies "nice-and-quiet" attempts at labeling and categorization, forcing the city under the sub-heading of a pre-existing paradigm. It is a city that challenges you to redefine and re-evaluate your perceptions and your truths. Balancing history and modernization, Istanbul is an amazing blend, where while taking a cab back from a nightclub, you are likely to pass a Gucci store, as you drive under an ancient Roman aqueduct.



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'TURKISH DELIGHT' - AN AUSSIE GIRLS' ADVENTURE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

Maddy Cassidy-
Bond University Australia

Before arriving in Turkey I knew three things;
 1. Kebab's (or Kepab's) are the staple food
 2. Turkish history consisted of something called the Ottoman Empire, but was now a secular state with a high Muslim population and;
 3. Australians fought on Turkish soil during World War I in the Gallipoli (Gelibolu) peninsula, which is a main event shaping our national identity.
 I was unaware of the beauty, culture and what Turkey had to offer. So I packed my bags, headed off for Egypt and Paris before settling into Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. Admittedly, when I arrived I had my lonely planet guide clasped besides me where I read about being cautious with taxi drivers either thinking he was going to rip me off or alternatively sell me. When arriving at Koç, I truly thought it was the worst mistake I made in my life. I had met no one for two days, I had to carry my 30 kilogram suitcase up three flights of stairs on my own and I was convinced I would end



up lonely, without any friends or any idea how to break down the barriers which I had recognised. Quickly though, I began meeting people, making friends and really jumped at the chance to meet anyone, anywhere.

Other exchange student: So, Where do you come from?
 Me: Australia

Other exchange student: "Oh! Do you come from a land down under? Where women glow and men plunder? Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder? You better run, you better take cover."

It's amazing how many people know Men at Work's 'Down Under' and to be honest, I feel a strange sense of national pride and excitement talking about my own country



here. I'd probably be laughed at if I was home, but luckily for me everyone seems to love Australian's here. But truth be told, I have fell in love with Turkey and everything it has to offer. I feel as though I have created a new life for myself, one that I don't want to leave behind. Secretly, I have been plotting ideas to stay here - extending my exchange to one year and looking into Masters programs. I will always love Australia, but I don't want to go back there. So far in this short seven weeks, I've already made incredible friends, travelled to Ephesus, Izmir, Bursa and around Istanbul, which is almost the same population size as my country) and have made plans to live my dream and travel the Middle East. It



blows my mind that I can jump on a plane for 2 hours and be in another country. My massive island at home, takes 5 hours by plane, just to cross it. Hand on my heart; I can honestly say that studying at Koç and being in Turkey has changed my life. It's changed my perceptions of myself, the world and given me new dreams and aspirations for my future. The university is nothing short of incredible. I'm excited to see what else comes of it.

So from the Bosphorus to the Marmara, Romania to Armenia, Russia to Syria, Europe to Asia, East to West; I'm in for one mighty adventure.

Having arrived in Turkey I have learnt three things;

1. Turkey is a beautiful country with its own unique culture and way of life
2. Turkish food is so much more than just a Kebab... and it's all amazing.
3. My life has changed forever.

Maddison Cassidy, Bond University, Australia
Fall 2011



LIVING KOÇ

Matilde Polonia Gonçalves Gracio,
Nova School of Business and Economics Portugal

How much do you have to love a place for never wanting to leave it? How many good experiences do you have to have to willingly trap yourself in a city? Only one month passed since I landed in Istanbul and I have already got a million reasons to keep me here. The beginning is the best place to start...

Arriving: To enter a new cycle is always hard; there is no point in trying to say that the trip was fantastic and the food in the plane was actually good - leaving home, leaving friends, leaving your country is difficult, even when the date of coming back is already scheduled. Arriving in Koç was no different; a feeling of sadness and of loss constantly struggles with the excitement of having no idea where you're going and knowing precisely what was left behind. The first night, the first day; they are scary: the language sounds different and all the interactions with human beings begin and end with your name, your country and your major; there's nothing left to say.

Meeting: Someone that remembers your name from the brief meaningless conversations of the first days is someone that you want to meet. Remembering your name means that you caused an impression, you made yourself memorable and in this kind of new environment that's all you need to have company, and company is all you need to feel fine in the first days.

Settling: Locals that have no obligation to interact with you are either more helpful than what is recommended or just not helpful at all; Mentors are shooting stars, they guide the way and you just follow; Roommates, well, that is perfectly discussable, and then, you have each other -lost, sleepy, excited, experienced, funny, smart- perfectly different but drawn together; and in the middle of all of these, that's where you settle. (Living:) And then you start living, then you start feeling that there is not enough time to do everything that you wish to do. That's why exchange students are known for doing too much and always being out: because the clock never stops and, so, you can never press pause! Classes, Nights Out, Trips, Mid Terms, Readings, Ice Skating, Friends, Football Games, Sleeping: all of these and so much more happens and the all of it it's amazing. When I close my eyes I see a blur of everything together and my lips stretch, I smile, there's nothing wrong there.

Leaving: The only thing that I can say to you about leaving is that no matter what was left behind, no matter how much I miss what I know, I don't want to go back; but because the date of my departure is unchangeable I'll simply say that perfect places exist: Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey is one of them.



CAPPADOCIA IN CONTEXT

DATES: 17 June 2012 - 05 July 2012

Be fascinated by Byzantine & Post-Byzantine Cappadocia!

INFORMATION: Intensive Graduate Summer Workshop by Koç University OIP & RCAC

Do you want to explore the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Cappadocia? Within the region's spectacular volcanic landscape are dozens of rock-cut settlements, including hundreds of painted, rock-cut churches, chapels, monasteries, houses, villages, towns, fortresses and underground cities.

The program will start up in Istanbul, ancient capital of Byzantine, with lectures and field trips lead by program faculty and Koç University Graduate School of Social Sciences & Humanities students. After first three days in Istanbul, the group will travel to Cappadocia together. Through a program in Cappadocia that combines lectures, guided site visits, thematic explorations and seminar presentations, the workshop will explore ways to read the landscapes and its monuments, as well as ways to write a regional history based on the close analysis of sites and monuments.

Prof. Robert Ousterhout (University of Pennsylvania) and Dr. Tolga Uyar (University of Paris I), with the contribution of some esteemed faculty members from Koç University, will present Cappadocia through a combination of lectures, seminar discussions, site visits and field trips. A camera, sturdy walking shoes and a taste of exploration are essential!

In order to maintain an intimate setting and provide maximum exposure opportunities, the program has a limited capacity of 14 students. The accommodation will be provided by Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (RCAC) in Istanbul & by Gül Konakları and Asrav Konak/Pansiyon in Cappadocia. You can visit our program website and find out more about the program details.

3 full scholarships available for Koç University students



ISTANBUL THROUGH THE AGES

DATES:

A breath of Istanbul from pre-history to present...

INFORMATION: Intensive Graduate Summer Seminar by Koç University GSSH, OIP & RCAC



Being the milestone of magnificent empires, Istanbul is calling you to discover its rich cultural heritage by following the footmarks of saints, sultans and angels. Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations is excited to invite you to have the taste of Istanbul with its intellectual, in-depth program developed by worldwide known Ottoman and Byzantine academicians.

This exclusive program is designed for graduate students interested in:

- An intense program organized chronologically, carrying participants from pre-historic times to present
- An opportunity to deepen their understanding of Istanbul and add this unique value to their academic focus.
- Gain exposure of lecturers with outstanding expertise and perspectives
- Collaborate with a cohort of equals, bonded by a mutual interest in historical mysteries and myths of Istanbul
- Have access to the extensive resources available at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilization and Koç University as a whole
- Attend field trips offering students invitations to opportunities otherwise unavailable to general public

...all the while spending your summer in an exotic city bursting with energy, history, spontaneity and endless roads to travel and discover. With over 12 million inhabitants representing a true melting pot of cultures and faiths, Istanbul--supplemented by the contents of this unique summer program--gives you the chance to enrich your academic pursuits while concurrently enriching your mind and soul.

In order to maintain an intimate setting and provide maximum exposure opportunities, the program has a limited capacity of 25 students. Accommodation will be provided by Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, located at the heart of Istanbul, Beyoglu. You can visit our program website and find out more about the program schedule and our faculty.

3 full scholarships available for Koç University students

WHAT IS ISS?

Barlas Ömür Law

International Students Society is a student club in Koç University under the supervision of the Office of International Programmes, mainly working for the purpose of integrating local students with the incoming exchange students. ISS works in two categories: The integration category where the events are aimed to get local students and the exchange students closer for mutually beneficial interactions and the cultural category where we organize trips for exchange students for the purpose of teaching them some of the amazing culture and the history of their current place of visit, Turkey.

Now, lets take a look at some of the events and trips that we organized in the past:

Cultural Dinner

First of all, we said that the main goal of ISS is to integrate students. For to serve the purpose, and of course for to have fun, we traditionally organize a "Cultural Dinner" where local students and exchange students find a chance to cook cultural meals of their origins and communicate while sharing delicious experiences with each other. This event takes place when the lectures start and before the midterms so that the participation is maximized. Event takes huge attention and gets great feedbacks, most importantly, it is deliciously fun!



The Cappadocia Trip

Secondly, our background goal is to show the exchange students a bit of Turkish culture during their visit. One of the biggest trips that we organize is, again a traditional trip, "The Cappadocia Trip." During the first two weeks of arrival, we take approximately 90-130 students to Cappadocia for a 3 days trip where they catch the chance to observe one of the most magnificent natural structures of Turkey called the "Fairy Chimneys." We also exhibit the underground tunnels and all the other historical/natural views of the beautiful city while of course not forgetting about having fun! Days are for sightseeing and the nights are reserved





for parties inside the hotel. Dates and the prices for the trip are to be announced soon after the semester starts. You wouldn't want to miss this chance!

International Festival

Thirdly, with the approval and the support of the OIP, as sharing traditional food wouldn't be enough to share experiences and a culture of a nation, we organize the "International Festival" every semester. This event is an event that we achieve many great things via certain instruments. One of the things that happen in the International Festival is that every country has a table with their flags on them and brochures of colleges that Koç University has an agreement with. The purpose of that is to encourage local students to do an exchange programme and to help the outgoing students to gather more information about the college they are planning to go from the students that actually study there. During the day we have food, drinks, music and many more surprises around the festival area and during the night we have a party to relax and enjoy the experience. Dates are to be announced at the beginning of the semester.



Other than these major events, we organize parties and small trips too. One of them is the "Taksim Nightout" where we gather local and exchange students and take them to one of the most popular places to have fun in Istanbul, Taksim. There we have fun and get connected with each other and form friendships that will not only last for a semester but for a lifetime.

What is Erasmus Student Network ?

Erasmus Student Network, also referred as ESN, is a network established in over 37 countries that has a purpose of forming a network of students who are willing to have fun and meet new people around the world. ESN is formed up of different layers, the smallest layer is the Sections layer. Sections layer is the layer where Universities are represented. What is meant by that is every University who wants to be a part of this network has a Section for themselves and they can interact with other sections for mutual organizations and/or events. Then comes the National layer, where a whole nation is represented by a National board chosen amongst the delegates by the Sections forming the National layer. This National board is the voice of the sections in Regional and International layers. Regional layer is one bigger of the National and one smaller of the International Layer. Depending on the situation of a country on the map, ESN International is divided into regions. Regional platforms where all the sections inside the region are participating are held in different countries every year. After the Regional Layer, there is the International Layer of ESN. This is the biggest layer and is the organ that modulates the other layers. Every year, an Annual General Meeting is held to get all the sections together for taking decisions about ESN International. It is a huge network that helps the exchange students throughout their stay.

What is the connection between ISS and ESN ?

ISS is a part of the Koç Section of ESN. They are not the same thing but they are that different too. ISS is basically the reflection of ESN Koç in our school. ISS events mostly are held as ESN Koç events in order to acquire participants from other Universities and create a bigger network for our exchange students. Working for ISS does not directly mean that you are working for ESN, you can choose not to but for the once who wish to join ESN Koç ranks, they are mostly welcome. As ESN Koç we attend to national, regional and international platforms as well as national, regional and international events.





ISS EVENT CALENDAR Spring 2012

International Festival	1 March
St.Patrick's Day	17 March
ISS Road Trip	Spring Break
Beach Party	17 May
Gala	3 June

KOÇ UNIVERSITY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE NEW EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH UC SYSTEMS

Buket Kaya International Relations

From its inception 20 years after the California Gold Rush, UC faculty and students have looked to cross the horizons of what they know about themselves, their world and what they can do in it. That was the vision of the pioneers living at the farthest frontiers of the American continent when they created a University for the Golden State. The University of California is still at the frontier.

UC's ten campuses at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara provide exciting environments that promote world-class educational and research opportunities and generate a wide range of benefits and services that touch the lives of Californians every day.

UC Berkeley: The University of California was chartered in 1868 and its campus — envisioned as a "City of Learning" was established at Berkeley, on San Francisco Bay. Today the world's premier public university and an origin of innovation, UC Berkeley has a 1,232 acre campus with a sylvan 178-acre central core. From this home its academic community makes key contributions to the economic and social well-being of the Bay Area, California, and the nation.



UC Davis: UC Davis is widely known for its specialties in agriculture, viticulture and enology, the biological sciences and veterinary medicine, and teaching and research are grounded in a principle of excellence that stretches across all of the disciplines. It is one of the nation's best public research universities.

UC San Diego: UC San Diego's high academic rankings reflect its status as one of the leading universities in the country for excellence in education and research. Students have the opportunity to work closely with faculty members including Nobel laureates, interact with other top students, and enjoy endless opportunities for personal and intellectual development.



UC Santa Barbara: UCSB is a public research university as well as a comprehensive doctoral university which is located 8 miles from Santa Barbara and 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The campus is the 5th-largest in the UC system by enrollment with 19,800 undergraduate and 3,050 graduate students. In 2010, UCSB was ranked 39th among "National Universities" by US News and World Report and 29th worldwide by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

UC Irvine: Founded in 1965, the University of California, Irvine combines the strengths of a major research university with the comfort of a Southern California location. Its commitment to a variety of academics, leadership development and research programmes makes its campus a significant motivation which serves for local, national and global communities.



UC Los Angeles: UCLA is one of the world's great research universities, number 11 in London's Times Higher Education rankings (2010-2011). Interdisciplinary teaching and research is a particular strength, with initiatives in the arts, stem cells and other biosciences, nanoscience, international studies and the environment.

UC Santa Cruz: Founded in 1965, UC Santa Cruz began as a showcase for progressive, cross-disciplinary undergraduate education, innovative teaching methods and contemporary architecture. Since then, it has evolved into a modern research university with a wide variety of both undergraduate and graduate programs, while maintaining its reputation for strong undergraduate support and student political activism.



UC Merced: UC Merced is the first new American research university in the 21st century, with a mission of research, teaching and service. The campus opened September 5, 2005, in the Central Valley of California. The university is about two hours south of Sacramento, an hour north of Fresno, two hours southeast of San Francisco and the Silicon Valley.

UC Riverside: Widely recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse research universities in the nation, UCR's current enrollment is over 19,000 students, with a goal of 21,000 students by 2020. The campus is in the midst of a tremendous growth strengthened with new and remodeled facilities coming on-line on a regular basis.



ON THE ROAD TO CANADA

What an amazing experience it has been being in Canada for 4 months. After this incredible time, Canada is listed as my favourite country among the others regarding its social patterns. I feel lucky for my decision choosing Canada even though its distance and cold weather compared to my country. Knowing the fact that I will not have enough time in my life to live through in a different



place that much time, going for an exchange has been an excellent idea both for my education and my social life. I studied at



Carleton University which is located in Ottawa. I can easily say that one should stay at campus in order to be able to attend all the exchange activities and make friends easily. The dorms are really nice and comfortable. Its education system is not really different than ours. I did not experience any difficulty. In terms of the dining services, I was content with the food. In



Ottawa, it is easy to use public transportation. Also, choosing Ottawa is an advantage because of its proximity to Toronto, Montreal and other popular destinations. Almost every weekend we tried to plan a trip to other cities around.

**Gülşah Bilen English
Language and Comparative Literature**

It has been really nice having friends all over the world. While getting know the city and different culture together, actually we were getting know each other and each other's culture as well. In the beginning, four months seemed long however when it was time to say goodbye, what we all said was "Time flies". We all came back with wonderful



experiences and friends with whom we hope to visit each other in the future. Therefore, I encourage all of my friends going for an exchange.

Canada might seem so far or cold but it is worth spending one term that it is going to be the best memories in our lives.



Events in Istanbul during Next Semester



Othello Ballet: On 1st, 15th and 22nd of February and 7 March 2012 at Beşiktaş Belediyesi Fulya Sanat.
http://www.istanbul.net.tr/istanbul_etkinlik_detay.asp?t=Otello&id=16747

Madonna Concert: On 7 June 2012 at TT Arena.
<http://istanbuldasanat.org/madonna-konseri>

IKSV Film Festival: <http://film.iksv.org/tr>

John Williams and John Etheridge Concert:
Jazz-Blues, on 12 April 2012 at İş Sanat Kültür Merkezi at 20.00.
<http://www.konseretkinlikleri.com/konserler/caz-blues/4566-john-williams-and-john-etheridge-konseri>



This website, biletix is great resource to find out about events around town including soccer matches, concerts, exhibitions and film viewings <http://web03.biletix.com/anasayfa/TURKIYE/en>

WHY TURKEY?

Ayşe İnan
Director of International Programs

Modern Turkey was founded by a collective faith in the power and potential of the country's people. Led by the ideals of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Turks embraced the notion that strength of character, education, and modernization would nurture the nation's youth and that this mindset would propel the country forward and away from the hopelessness that emerged amidst the rubble of the Ottoman Empire. More than the man himself, Atatürk's message became a guiding philosophy. Thus, the founding principle of Turkey was to create a nation able to integrate and apply modern thought and ideology while concurrently honoring the inherent value of its people and their heritage - an intelligent and educated approach to simultaneously retaining a national consciousness and a contemporary culture.

According to Atatürk's philosophy, youth indeed referred to a physical age but also alluded to a youth in ideas that came from open minds and dedicated citizens. As much as the soldiers on the battlefield, Atatürk considered teachers to be a critical player in the country's ability to sustain this concept of youth and forge ahead, versus returning to antiquated dogma.

In the words of Atatürk, "We have to bring the fields of science, culture, economics and public works in the country to higher levels, we have to develop the very positive abilities which our people possess in every respect and it is necessary to give the future generations a sound, unchanging and positive character. Amongst the intellectual forces which are fighting to reach these sacred goals, the teachers hold the most important and delicate position."

The spirit behind the best institutions in Turkey resonates strongly with Atatürk's ideals, cultivating a youth in ideas, a trust in the guidance of science and reason, unshakeable faith in personal empowerment and a persistent focus on progress and development.

Indeed, the history of Turkey does, to some extent, convey the enduring commitment to creating educational institutions that excel in academic rigor and research. However, it is only by walking through the hustle and bustle of downtown Taksim, taking in the magnificence of Hagia Sophia, hearing the hopes and dreams of the youth, and experiencing the educational environment feeding the country's energy, that one can truly understand the spirit of Turkey and the guiding educational philosophy.

The educational system in Turkey is a demanding one. The conviction with which the system was established is palpable in the excellence of institutions throughout Turkey, focused on creating leaders with the high levels of competence and multidimensional awareness necessary to preserve and refine the country's modernist perspective. From an early age, students face demanding academic concepts and an expectation to be disciplined and dedicated to their education, an education considered critical to the continued elevation of the country as a whole. With the emergence of ubiquitous media channels and a socioeconomic reality conducive to self-exploration, the youth are dynamic and driven, fueled by curiosity and optimism for their futures.

True to Atatürk's belief in evaluating reality with common sense and a critical mind, Turkish universities understand that conventional perspectives tend to overlook emerging educational systems in favor of the already established reputations of countries and institutions found primarily in the West. Though these perspectives have begun to deconstruct themselves, Turkish universities recognize that there is still much to be done in this regard.

Thus, to overcome these conventional beliefs, Turkish institutions work to ensure that the excellence of their academic and non-academic services exceed accepted standards and thereby produce exceptional graduates.

Many Turkish universities have embraced the Liberal Arts approach to education, if not outright, then in the underlying spirit of complementing

academic specialization with the development of well-rounded individuals rich in mind and in life. Turkish students who pursue undergraduate studies in Turkey, and then continue at the Graduate level abroad, are often among the best and brightest of their peers, contributing to academics, research, and business abroad.

More than ever, Turkey is manifesting its founding ideals, showing that the large and consistent investment in education (with 22% of the national budget devoted to education alone) has now created a highly educated population able to apply their knowledge to the development of the country. Particularly in the last decade, the country's ability to maximize its resources and geographic location, combined with sound strategy and sound implementation of that strategy, has led to accelerated growth.

Turkey is decisively a significant emerging economy that has attracted international interest in all sectors. With sustainable growth and OECD projections suggesting that growth will continue to rise, Turkey is attracting attention worldwide. Istanbul has become an international hub for universities, policy centers and corporations cognizant of the country's geostrategic value and its good relations with both the Middle East and the West. Turkey's membership in the G20 further underscores its emerging relevance and influence on a global scale. Already, Turkey has become the 16th largest economy in the world. With a time zone conducive to several financial markets, and a system in place to leverage this reality, Turkey has become a center for financial activity and investment.

Several features of Turkey, features constructed through the development of educated thought and reasonable mind, pave the way for the country's success. Serving as a critical energy corridor, securing a liberal investment climate and sound infrastructure, encouraging booming domestic markets and export activity, and establishing favorable trade conditions, Turkey's economy is strategically and fiscally strong. Further, with 65% of the population 35 and under and the country's success in creating a qualified labor force, Turkey's role as a regional leader and global contributor indicates strong reasons for studying, understanding and investing in this country.

Beyond the country's relevance in the global marketplace, Turkey serves as a model of democratic ideology for its region, a role made even more important by the current upheaval in the Middle East. Further, firm in its decision to maintain good relations with both its neighbors and the West, Turkey is a critical player in global affairs.

In short, it is time to notice Turkey as an emerging market and regional leader, trends that are the product of an educated populous taking action. It is time to examine its duality as a bridge of East and West and old and new, where people connect to their faith while retaining their freedom, where a rich heritage and national identity coexist with modernization and innovation.

For institutions around the world, collaborating with Turkish institutions enables one to examine the mosaic of this country with an intimacy and perspective that is impossible to fully capture beyond its borders. The ability to at once appreciate the cultural depth of this region alongside the energy of its modern development is globally unique. Whether one is an economist wanting to learn how to leverage the dynamism of the marketplace; whether one is a political scientist curious to understand Turkey's role in the region and the globe; whether one is a historian eager to unearth the many lifetimes embedded in the soil of this country; whether one is a scientist, an engineer, or simply an adventurous mind, learning from and in Turkey is a unique asset for a multitude of academic pursuits and institutional goals.



TURKEY PHOTOS BY EXCHANGE STUDENTS

