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Koç University, ranked as the only university in Türkiye in the top 500 in this year’s QS World University Rankings, has topped this list in Türkiye 5 years in a row. This year’s QS World University Rankings include almost 1,500 institutions from around the world.

The six indicators that determine the QS World University Ranking 2023 are:
- Academic reputation
- Employer reputation
- Faculty/student ratio
- Citations per faculty
- International student ratio & International faculty ratio

Koç University received the Most Successful Institution in Türkiye Award within the “Horizon 2020” program, the world’s largest innovation and research program. With a total of 52 projects and 23,8 million euros funding, our university was ranked at the top among all universities in Türkiye.

Along with this award, three projects carried out by Koç University academics and funded by the European Commission with a total of 6 million Euros were awarded among the most successful projects.

Details regarding the projects can be found here.

As a result of the evaluations made by the Higher Education Council (YÖK) within the scope of the "Research Oriented Mission Differentiation Project", Koç University was recognized as one of the "Research Universities" with the inclusion of foundation universities in the program for the first time in 2021.

Within the scope of this program, special government supports will be offered to increase the research capacities of universities, Various privileges and benefits such as additional staff allocation, doctoral education abroad, and additional research grants to research universities with the highest performance.
The International Student Recruitment Directorate team is excited to be welcoming again visits from prospective international undergraduate and graduate students, families and school counsellors on the main campus in Istanbul.

During the Spring 2022 semester they welcomed several groups from international schools in the UAE, Azerbaijan and other countries.

If you would like to schedule a visit please email study@ku.edu.tr.

In Türkiye, only the top candidates who score within the top 1 percentile of the university placement exam are provided financial aid. With limited financial means, university candidates from vulnerable populations are at a distinct disadvantage relative to other students in reflecting their true potential on the nationwide university entrance exam.

The Anatolian Scholarship Program was launched in 2011 providing scholarships for 14 students with the support of 6 sponsor companies. As of 2021, the number of students benefiting from the program has reached 982 with over 300 sponsors and more than 1500 individual contributors (mostly alumni).

In line with the yearly Koç University tradition, the report of the 2021-2022 academic year was shared by the Office of the President as the semester comes to a close.

This year’s report focuses on the accomplishments and goals in the field of research at Koç University as well as the practices and experiences from the Return to Campus process following the onset of the pandemic.

You may read the report in its entirety here.

10 Year Anniversary of the Anatolian Scholarship Program

Return to Campus Visits for International Prospective Students and Families

Koç University Annual Report 2021-2022
KU Internationalization Strategic Plan for 2021-2026

Since its foundation, Koç University has given strong emphasis to the internationalization of the University. As a leading research university that regularly ranks among the top institutions in Türkiye, in the region and in the World, Koç University recognizes that it needs to connect globally across all its missions in order to serve its students, partners and society. At Koç University, it is believed that internationalization contributes substantially to realizing further quality and competitiveness gains across all areas of activity and that international higher education, research and innovation can strengthen relations between and among nations.

In this regard, the strategic direction of Koç University's internationalization, as described in the 2017-2020 strategy document, has been updated based on the University's refreshed institutional strategy and changes in the international higher education landscape. KU will be well on the way to achieving the goal of becoming a center of excellence with this support and involvement, which will be built on the current worldwide capabilities and relationships.

The plan in its entirety and a summary video can be accessed by clicking the screen below.

Annual International Staff Week & Study Abroad Fair

From 9 to 13 May 2022, OIP had the pleasure of hosting 20 colleagues from around the world for the 5th annual International Staff Week. During this week, the participants from different institutions received a general overview of Koç University, the other participating universities, and how institutions create a welcoming climate for both students and staff from all backgrounds with thoughtful cross-cultural experiences.

Throughout the week, the participants participated in an introductory Turkish course, workshop regarding multicultural sensitivity, presentations regarding the KU digitalization journey, roundtables about virtual mobility and sustainability, faculty networking, and much more.

At the Study Abroad Fair, KU students had the opportunity to discover how they can fit an exchange opportunity into their study plan, get advice from partner university representatives, and speak with Outgoing Exchange Advisors about what they need to know before studying abroad.

You may catch a glimpse of the week by visiting our website.
Orientation Week of Spring 2022 for Incoming Exchange Students

Orientation Week of Spring 2022 semester run between February 7 and 11, 2022 the week before the semester began on February 14, 2022, and the schedule and structure were quite similar to the Orientation Week of Fall 2021.

The week started off by welcoming the Incoming Exchange Students. Director to the Office of International Programs, Burcu Sarsılmaz Coşan, made a quick speech to welcome the incoming exchange students to KU Community and advised them to enjoy their time at Koç University while being careful with and staying safe against COVID-19. After the welcome speech, students were informed by the Inbound Mobility Team about the university and the services they can benefit from.

Since planning the courses beforehand makes the course enrolment much easier, first session in the afternoon was course planning on the first day. After a busy and tiring day with so much new information, incoming exchange students ended the day with some ice-breaking activities led by Mentor students from KU.

Second day was packed with immigration procedures in Türkiye. In the morning, students were informed on residence permit and other important topics that is important to the international students in Türliye. In the afternoon, a computer lab on campus was ready for students to make the online residence permit applications with the help of ICO’s highly detailed instructions and Mentor students’ help.

Third and fourth days were held fully online with Turkish Culture Trivia Game, Course Enrolment Info Session by the Registrar’s Office, Course Enrolment Session on the third day, and info sessions by Student Supporting Units at KU such as Career Development Center, Guidance and Psychological Services Center and Office of Learning and Teaching on the fourth day. After the info sessions, there were also drop-in sessions for students to ask their questions to the representative from Student Supporting Units.
Our Incomings Experience the Turkish Hospitality!

Coordinated by OIP’s Inbound Mobility Team, Turkish Hospitality Experience Program brings Incoming Exchange Students together with Koç University student and staff families to give exchange students a unique experience of Turkish culture and hospitality while helping them integrate into life in Türkiye. There are a wide range of opportunities from visiting a host family for a family meal to spending weekends or holidays together.

Program gains praise from participating students and host families. One of the incoming exchange students says, “Being a part of a program like this and being able to meet new people is amazing. Thank you very much for providing this opportunity” while a host family shared their experiences, saying, “We are very happy as a family to meet an incoming exchange student. The student was incredibly positive and very friendly. Thanks to this organization, we had a very good and different time. It was probably the beginning of a friendship that would last for many years, thanks to this organization. On behalf of my family, we would like to thank the founders of this program and everyone who contributed to the professional operation of the program”.

Quick Chat with an Incoming Exchange Student

1. Can you introduce yourself?
Hello, my name is Floriane and I chose to come to Istanbul for one semester for my last academic year. Koç University in Istanbul was my first choice because I really wanted to explore a different culture outside of Europe and finally get rid of the stereotypes we might have about Türkiye in France.

2. What is your favorite thing about Türkiye/Turkish culture that both surprises and pleases you?
I was very surprised that Istanbul is such a dynamic city and what I love the most about Turkish culture is that people are very kind. I feel like Turks have a genuine desire to help us, explore the culture and be polite. It is great to see that we are truly welcomed.

3. What is your favorite thing about Istanbul?
I feel like the sea air softens the city and gives the feeling of a holiday despite the constant hustle and bustle (even under the snow). Also, because of the size of the city, there is so much to do, so you never get bored.

4. What is your favorite thing about life at Koç University?
The good thing about Koç University is that you can find everything on its campus. Dozens of cafes, restaurants, gyms and more! Professors are very kind and understanding towards exchange students. Also, Koç students are really nice when you ask for help.

Floriane Seyve, Grenoble Ecole de Management, France
I had the opportunity to go to INCAE-Costa Rica as part of the Erasmus+ Program between 4-8 April. During the week I spent there, I had meetings with different departments and met my colleagues. We held meetings with the Career Office, Alumni Office, Advancement Office and Admission Office. At these meetings, we talked about engagement activities, groups/associations established for alumni living abroad, and resources/donations developed from alumni. We shared career support efforts before graduation and career follow-up after graduation. In addition, we evaluated the registration and admission processes and scholarship opportunities for prospective students in detail.

In the meetings we held, we exchanged ideas about the programs we implemented, learned from each other, and got inspired.

I would like to thank the INCAE team for hosting me, the Koç University OIP team for supporting my participation in the program, and the Erasmus+ team for making this program possible.

Erasmus Staff Exchange Program I recently participated at the University of Westminster was a great experience overall. I had the chance to shadow various colleagues and exchange ideas on very similar projects we are running. I must say what I observed so as to their approach and perspective was definitely a great contribution. Their welcoming attitude also made this short program worthwhile as I gained new friends and mentors I’ll be in touch in the future, as well.
As a bachelor’s student I never seized the opportunity to participate in an Erasmus exchange, something which I always considered as a missed opportunity. It took a number of years for this great opportunity to arise again, but now within a different context, and with a much more challenging and rewarding objective. I had a chance to apply to a couple of universities for Erasmus Staff mobility. I received two offers from two different universities and I picked FU Berlin as it includes Legal English classes and I decided to challenge myself to teach in a different context. I taught an intensive graduate course on International Contracts: Dispute Resolution Clauses and Conflict of Laws as part of the normal curriculum.

Having now participated in an Erasmus Teaching Mobility at the Law School of FU Berlin in my capacity as lecturer. I can testify from my personal experience that the Erasmus programme has proven to be an invaluable experience to me. During my mobility period – Berlin (Germany) in 2022, I had the opportunity to get acquainted with people with different cultural backgrounds, to learn new methods of learning and teaching, to refine my professional skills and improve my teaching techniques.

In conclusion, Erasmus Teaching Mobility indisputably contributes to the development and modernization of the academic systems and provides international learning and teaching expertise to everyone involved in this fascinating social and intellectual experience. Such trips are enriching at both personal and professional level. I cannot be grateful enough to all the colleagues involved in organizing this trip at very short notice – both at Koc University and at FU Berlin.
**ICO has Launched a New Monthly Newsletter**

The successful information flow the International Community Services Office (ICO) provided to the KU international community through its Bi-Weekly News, formerly known as News Updates, inspired the office to create its own Quarterly Newsletter. The main motivation behind this decision was the great interest that the KU community showed in the Bi-Weekly News, the will to brief the community about the news from the office, and to generate an online archive on ICO’s website.

Upon receiving the most valuable feedback of the KU international students, faculty, staff and researchers this academic year, the ICO has decided to combine the much-beloved Bi-Weekly News and Quarterly Newsletter to present the new and improved Monthly Newsletter which aims to provide news for the KU International Community from Türkiye, Istanbul, KU and the ICO on the first week of each month.

*You may read the latest issue by clicking the screen below.*

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**Introducing the International Student Service Hub**

ICO has created an online space to bring together university professionals who are responsible for providing assistance to degree-seeking international students after enrolment and throughout their education period to have an exchange of ideas. International Student Service Hub is a monthly online event series, covering many topics that are enriched with the input and insight of all participants.

Upon invitation, colleagues from over 26 countries and over 40 institutions signing up to join the hub. The kick-off event was held in April where members got to meet one another and shape the sessions to come. In May, the theme of International Student Orientation Practices was covered. The session was led by Begüm Çiçek from the ICO and Poulcheria Papadopoulo from the Program Office of Stockholm School of Economics.

*If you would like to be a member of the International Student Service Hub, attend the monthly meetings, watch the previous sessions and join the Slack Workspace, you may fill in the form available on the [ICO website](#).*
Spring '22 was the 5th semester of the ICO’s reputable online TPH sessions where KU international community members who are learning Turkish met native speakers to practice their conversational skills. Compared to previous semesters, participants decided on the topics and activities, an introduction video was created and used in its promotion, and finally, ICO provided certificates; participation certificates for those who attended at least 5 sessions, and contribution certificates to those volunteers who led at least one session and supported at least 2 sessions.

There have been 14 sessions during the spring semester with an average of 3.5 participants and 2 volunteers (native speakers) at each session. The volunteers mainly prepared a presentation for each session and interactive language activities, such as role-playing games, quizzes with prizes, and Q&A sections.

At the end of the TPH, a total of 5 volunteer native students received their certificates of contribution. According to the survey, half of the participants were very satisfied with the Spring '22 TPH sessions, while the other half rated declared to be satisfied.

The ICO is planning to go back to its initial format; “Turkish Coffee Hour” where participants and volunteers will meet on campus accompanied by Turkish snacks and hot beverages.

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In March, ICO had the pleasure of conversing with an international couple; Michael Chouguill, lecturer at ELC, and his wife Fanny Carvajal. The office had a chance to learn more about them, their experiences in Türkiye and at KU, and to share their perspectives and memories with the KU international community.

Their advice:

1. Maintain a good work & life balance. Find time to enjoy the city.
2. Go explore the culture/ lost corners of the city, and talk to people!

For the full interview, you may click the screen below.
OIP Introduces a 2-Module Summer Program: Virtual Leadership Summer at Koç University

Virtual Leadership Summer at Koç is a 2-module online summer program that offers innovative leadership approaches rather than traditional definitions and practices. OIP offers a special program with top-notch academic quality this summer composed of two spectacular virtual modules focusing on leadership literature and 21st century leadership soft-skills. Participants are free to join the two modules as a package for an intensive learning experience, or, choose just one of them according to their needs and focus of interest. Both modules are open to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young professionals.

For further information, please visit the [website](#) or send an e-mail to [summer@ku.edu.tr](mailto:summer@ku.edu.tr)

“Entrepreneurs without Borders” organized at Koç University

"Entrepreneurs without Borders", an international program for University of Bradford, School of Management students, was organized in Türkiye for the very first time in Koç University!

For four days, students attended intercultural events and ice-breaking activities, workshops at the Koç University Leadership Lab, including Sustainable Leadership and the Future of Work. Students also visited KWORKS, Koç University Entrepreneurship Research Center, to pitch their entrepreneurship ideas and collect feedback from the experts of KWORKS. The group also visited the historical sites of Istanbul.
Koç University becomes a University Global Coalition signatory

The University Global Coalition (UGC) aims for universities to cooperate in education and training in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Koç University has already been a part of the UGC activities as one of the organizers since 2021. In March 2022, Koç University became one of the signatories of the UGC.

The University Global Coalition’s (UGC) SDGs Action & Awareness Week 2022

Between February 28 – March 3, Koc University organized the SDG Action & Awareness Week 2022 (SDG A&A Week) as a part of the University Global Coalition action plan. 35 different intuitions around the world organized a total of 57 events. In Koç University, six events were virtually organized with the coordination of the Office of International Programs (OIP) and a group of volunteering students.

Being aware of the importance of a human-centric design in high quality education; OIP aimed to shape the SDG A&A Week events with respect to students’ needs and expectations. The topics and the guest speakers for the student roundtables were chosen by the moderator students themselves.

A panel on “How Do I Get to Know about Sustainability? Practices in Koç”, was organized as an introductory session for Koç University students to be aware of the campus facilities and resources related with sustainability that they could use in their university life. This panel brought various academics and administrative staff together.
THE EDITORIAL STAFF WELCOMES STORY IDEAS, COMMENTS, AND NEWS. DROP A LINE AT OIP@KU.EDU.TR

WISHING YOU A GREAT SUMMER AHEAD!