



GUIDE TO ADMISSION TO TURKISH UNIVERSITIES
As the number of international students seeking to study in Türkiye flourish, people are searching for admission processes. TR-YÖS system, conditions for application, competition in fields such as medicine and engineering, required paperwork are among the most searched topics. Here are ten most-asked questions by international students seeking to study in Türkiye and their answers.

Türkiye: world’s new education destination

With its 208 universities, more than 6 million students and growing research infrastructure, Türkiye draws global attention. The university ecosystem from Istanbul to Ankara generates international projects on technology, health and engineering. Hundreds of thousands of international students opt for studying in Türkiye while universities provide a gateway to an international career





COMPREHENSIVE CAREER OPTIONS
More than a country offering diplomas, Türkiye is also a place where international students can build their careers. University-industry collaborations, technology parks, rapidly developing tech ecosystem offer international career options to the youth along with education.



A CENTER OF ATTRACTION
For students pursuing more than a diploma, Türkiye stands out. Diverse campus life, developing tech ecosystem, affordable living and multi-cultural social environment make Türkiye an essential education hub for the youth.

Türkiye: Rising brand in education

Türkiye stands out in higher education not just with the number of its universities but also research infrastructure, international student mobility, tech investments and global career options



CEYDA KARAASLAN

The higher education in Türkiye is going beyond a system simply providing diplomas. With hundreds of universities, millions of students, growing research centers and international career options, the country is becoming a regional education hub. In recent years, Türkiye stands out both with the number of international students it hosts and scope and diversity of its higher education. The universities once confined to local students now hosts the youth from around the world. Growing academic capacity, increase in the number of research centers and strengthened international collaboration make Türkiye more visible in the global higher education map.

208 UNIVERSITIES IN 81 PROVINCES

According to the 2025-2026 data by Board of Higher Education (YÖK), Türkiye hosts 208 institutions of higher education. Students in the system exceeded 6.3 million while number of academics surpassed 189,000. These figures make Türkiye the host of one of the biggest higher education systems in Europe.

Istanbul leads in the number of universities with more than 50 universities and it is followed by Ankara. Izmir, Antalya, Bursa, Konya, Kocaeli and Eskişehir are among cities with a high concentration of higher education investments.

Experts say this boosts not only education but also urban economies. The universities contribute to technology investments, cultural activities, entrepreneurship activities and international mobility in the cities they are located at.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNIVERSITIES

Over time, universities in Türkiye evolved into influential brands. Some institutions gain international visibility especially in the fields of engineering, health sciences, social sciences, arts and technology.

In engineering and technology, Middle East Technical University (METU), Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Yıldız Technical University and Gebze Technical University stand out. These institutions are distinguished in terms of projects on artificial intelligence, defense technologies, software and robotics.

In health sciences, Hacettepe University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Ankara University and Ege University stand



out. A substantial portion of international students seeking to study medicine choose these institutions.

Koç University, Sabancı University, Bilkent University, Boğaziçi University, METU and ITU are among universities with higher recognition in international rankings. QS and THE rankings host a large number of Turkish universities.

GROWING RESEARCH CENTERS

Turkish universities recently boosted investments in labs, technology parks and research centers. Universities are now not merely institutions of learning but also centers developing technologies and projects. University-industry collaborations

particularly in defense industry, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, health Technologies and cybersecurity rose to prominence. Many students have the opportunity to take part in research projects before they complete their studies or can work at technology park firms. Technology zones in Istanbul, Ankara, Kocaeli and Bursa are among centers helping students to be introduced to the sectors in the early years of their studies.

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GROW

Türkiye became a major hub for international students in recent years. According to the YÖK data, hundreds of

thousands of international students study in Türkiye. Türkiye rose to prominence in terms of attracting international students recently. Majority of them hail from Central Asia, the Balkans, Africa and the Middle East. Lately, number of international students from Europe and Asia-Pacific also increased.

Türkiye Scholarships program is an important factor in rising interest to study in Türkiye. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people apply to study in the country.

STRONG ACADEMIC PROFILE

Number of academics in Turkish higher education exceeded 189,000. In recent

years, number of academics engaged in doctoral studies abroad also increased. Many universities expand their investments in creating international publications, research projects and employment of foreign academics. Number of academics engaged in international research networks especially in engineering, health sciences and basic sciences is also increasing.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For new generation of students, universities are no longer solely an institution to obtain diplomas. Career connections, internship opportunities and international experience influence their criteria to pick universities. Many universities in the country provide education opportunities in different countries through Erasmus+, Mevlana and other international exchange programs. In addition, number of dual diploma programs and joint academic projects is increasing.

Students, particularly those studying engineering, software development, aviation, health technologies and business administration have the opportunity of employment after graduation in Europe, the Gulf countries, Central Asia and North America.

MORE THAN A DIPLOMA

Experts point out that diversity is one of the biggest advantages of Türkiye's higher education. Technology-oriented universities, research universities, health education institutions, universities focusing on arts and international campuses are part of the same ecosystem.

The new generations of students aspire not only for enrolling in a fine program. They also choose universities where they can conduct research, become a part of startup ecosystem, make international connections and engage in social life.

With 208 higher education institutions, millions of students, growing research infrastructure and internationalization goals, Türkiye is fast becoming a global education hub.

HIGHER EDUCATION FIGURES

- 208 institutions of higher education
- More than 6,3 million students
- More than 189,000 academics
- Over 300,000 international students
- İstanbul: Home to more than 50 universities
- Ankara: Second major university hub of Türkiye
- 26 universities in QS rankings
- More than 100 Turkish universities in THE rankings





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ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY

A Global University in Pursuit of Excellence

52.000

Students



17

Faculties
and Schools



Graduate
Programs
(Natural, Health and
Social Sciences)



353

Academic
Programs



3.000

Staff



89.000+

Alumni



660+

International
Cooperation
Agreements



12.000+

International
Students



36

Research
Centers



165

Application
Laboratories



3

Incubation
Center



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Cultural Organization



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Türkiye
Discover
the potential

TURQUALITY

A gateway to education to Türkiye from the world



Turkish Maarif Foundation offers quality education across the world at all levels from pre-school to university. The foundation aims to raise good people and build bridges of friendship between cultures with its activities in 66 countries.

Türkiye Maarif Foundation (TMV) was founded based upon a law enacted by Turkish Grand National Assembly in 2016, as a non-profit public educational foundation. TMV reaches out to more than 75,000 students with more than 500 schools in 57 countries from Asia and Africa to Europe and Americas, along with two universities, 11 research centers and 17 education centers.

**MAARİF AGENCY:
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ENVOY**

Maarif Agency, an initiative of Türkiye Maarif Foundation is active across the world. The agency provides guidance services for international students in their application to 208 universities in Türkiye, help them complete admission process and their integration in Türkiye. Additionally, it provides guidance services for universities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe. Maarif Agency presents best choices of country, city and university for academic careers of students.

**UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN
TÜRKİYE**

Türkiye has been a hub of attraction for international students thanks to its rich cultural heritage and quality education. Turkish education system is comprised of 12 years of mandatory education including pre-school, primary school, middle school and high school. After high school, students can opt for higher education institutions which comply with Bologna Process. Türkiye has two types of universities: state universities and foundation (private) universities. The language of education is commonly Turkish although many universities also offer programs in English. Programs including medicine, engineering, law, psychology and architecture are quite popular among international students.

ADMISSION VIA TR-YÖS EXAM

International students are required to sit International Student Exam (TR-YÖS) for admission to state public universities in Türkiye. Based on their score, they have the opportunity to study in leading universities of the country.



SERVICES OF MAARIF AGENCY

Maarif Agency provides support to students on various topics, from application process to accommodation in Türkiye. Among types of support is university admission consultancy, summer schools and language courses in Türkiye and abroad, education fairs and introduction to universities, online applications. Students are also welcomed at airports and provided accommodation. In addition, health insurance, residence permit procedures, GSM line and orientation services for cities are among the services the agency offers. The

services ensure a safe and supportive education process in social and cultural terms along with academic orientation.

WORLD'S CULTURE CAPITAL

Türkiye has a unique location at the intersection of Europe and Asia. Along with its rich cultural heritage and multi-cultural composition, it is not just an education hub but also a venue for cultural discovery for international students. Türkiye hosts about 337,000 international students. The warm approach of hospitable society helps students to adapt to social life swiftly. The



country hosts a variety of climates. Verdant mountains of the Black Sea, sunny shores of Aegean and Mediterranean and historical cities of Central Anatolia offer students both natural beauties and a treasure trove of history. Türkiye is also an affordable country with its cost of living and state-supported scholarship programs.

STUDYING ABROAD

In addition to Türkiye, Maarif Agency offers support to those who seek to study in Europe, the Balkans, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Aus-

tralia. It offers education opportunities for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctorate programs. Additionally, students have access to language courses, summer schools and vocational training programs. After graduation, students are informed about working and residence permits and offered guidance services.

**DIGITAL GUIDANCE AND
ADMISSION**

Thanks to the digital platforms of Maarif Agency, students have easy access to information about the city, the university and the program they want to study at. They can upload required documents online to start the application process. After obtaining letter of acceptance from the university, the agency coordinates student's process of arrival in the country and accommodation. Thus, they can start their education in a safe and planned way.

WANT TO STUDY IN TÜRKİYE?

You can find necessary information about all universities in Türkiye on the website of Maarif Agency.

- Choose the city, university and program you want to study at
 - Upload required documents to sign up for the university at www.maarifagency.com
 - Ensure you received letter of acceptance from the university
 - We will accompany you when you arrive at Türkiye, at the airport and to the university.
 - We will offer guidance about the dormitory you will be accommodated.
- The agency's website introduces Turkish universities and offer digital services for pre-enrollment. Students seeking to study in Türkiye can scan the QR code below for the necessary information. You can check out our website and follow our social media accounts for detailed information.





STUDY IN İSTANBUL

[APPLY.OKAN.EDU.TR](https://apply.okan.edu.tr)

**Blue
Diploma**



**Free
Double Major**



**Erasmus and Exchange
Program Opportunities**



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- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Dentistry
- Faculty of Pharmacy
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences
 - Faculty of Law
 - Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Business and Administrative Sciences
 - Faculty of Applied Sciences
- Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Conservatory
 - Vocational School
- Vocational School of Health Services
- Master's and Doctorate Programs



— İSTANBUL —
OKAN ÜNİVERSİTESİ

Studying in Türkiye: More than a diploma

International students are not just picking a university, they are choosing countries where they can build a career. Türkiye offers them both education and a fast-growing career ecosystem

CEYDA KARAASLAN

Obtaining a diploma was the basic goal of international students preferring Türkiye in the past. Things are changing. Next generation of students choose countries where they can pursue internships, create technologies, be included in entrepreneurship networks. This makes Türkiye an attractive location. Turkish companies growing in many fields from defense industry, software to aviation and health technologies are now working closer with the universities. This means a career opportunity for students along with a proper education.

FROM CAMPUS TO TECHNOLOGY PARK

Number of technology parks and entrepreneurship hubs at Turkish universities rapidly grew in recent years. Many students can take part in projects before completing their studies, can join start-up teams or work at research labs. Engineering, artificial intelligence, software, biotechnology and defense technologies are particularly popular. Students are most interested in:

- Artificial intelligence
- Software development
- Cybersecurity
- Aviation technologies
- Health technologies
- Game development
- Digital design

PRODUCER, NOT CONSUMER

Türkiye’s production capacity is also an attraction for international students. Investments particularly in defense industry, unmanned aerial vehicles, automotive technologies and healthcare appear inspiring for the youth. Many students describe Türkiye as a developing country of technology.

UNIVERSITIES MORE ENGAGED WITH INDUSTRY

Hands-on training models are more widespread now at Turkish universities. Along with acquiring theoretical knowledge, students can join company projects and work alongside sector professionals. Istanbul, Ankara, Bursa and Kocaeli in particular are among cities with high level of collaboration between universities and industries.

PURSUIT OF A GLOBAL CAREER

New generation of students desire acquiring skills to work in different parts of the world, not just in their own countries. Those studying in Türkiye acquire this skill before completing their studies, thanks to multi-cultural environments.



Students from a diverse array of countries working on the same projects are now a common sight in many campuses.

NETWORKING

The environment they built is one of the biggest advantages for students according to experts. The Türkiye alumni can take up important jobs in different countries and keep in touch with each other. The university experience in Türkiye is not just an education process but it also means building a long-term, global network. Türkiye does not just offer classes, labs and diploma to the youth. It also paves the way for their next-generation career stories.

SOCIAL LIFE INFLUENCES THE CHOICES

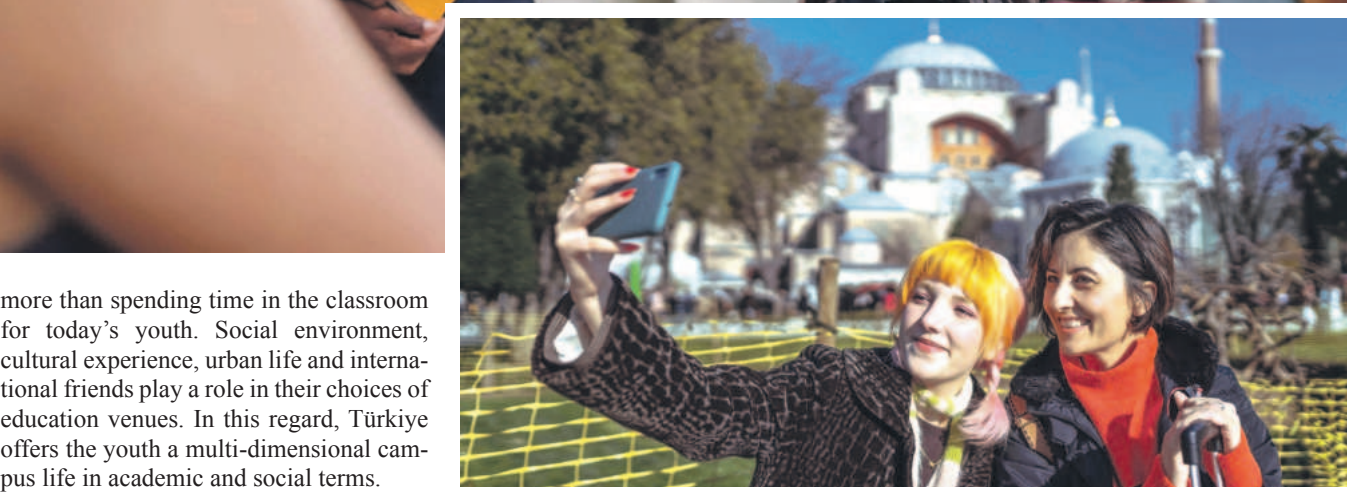
Social life is one of the main factors for international students to pick Türkiye for studying. The youth is now opting for cities where they can socialize and feel safe, not just those where they can attend a fine university. Türkiye provides a vast experience to students in this regard.

Cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Eskişehir and Antalya stand out with their lively campus life, cultural activities, vast means of transportation and social diversity. The university students attending classes during the day can attend concerts, festivals, tech and arts events in the evening.

Many campuses have active student clubs. Entrepreneurship communities, software teams, international student clubs, social responsibility groups help students to build a social environment, not just an academic one. Students coming together at the events help boosting cultural interaction.

The Turkish cuisine is also attractive for international students. A wide variety of options from street food to traditional eateries help students to adapt to daily life faster. Cafés, seaside towns, historical districts, student-friendly living spaces help students to socialize more.

Experts say the university experience is



more than spending time in the classroom for today’s youth. Social environment, cultural experience, urban life and international friends play a role in their choices of education venues. In this regard, Türkiye offers the youth a multi-dimensional campus life in academic and social terms.



TOP POINTS OF INTEREST FOR STUDENTS

- Post-graduation employment opportunities
- Internship options
- English-language working environment
- Connections with tech companies
- Entrepreneurship incentives
- Working permit processes

PROMINENT SECTORS OF TÜRKİYE

- Defense industry
- Aviation
- Software and technology
- Health services
- Tourism management
- Construction and architecture
- Digital media

Turkish model in global higher education

Assessing Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities’ (YTB) international student policy and global position of Türkiye Scholarships, Abdulhadi Turus highlights that in the face of \$370 billion global education market, Türkiye’s human-oriented authentic model which prioritizes areas of crisis and is based on long-term trust stand out.

Türkiye builds an authentic model with “human” at its center, rather than a mere economic approach, in an era where international student mobility translates into a market of hundreds of billions of dollars. Türkiye Scholarships for which the applications exceeded 162,000 as of 2026 became a global attraction and transforms global norms by offering education equality to the youth in crisis-hit regions, from Somalia and Palestine to Ukraine and Rakhine.

We discussed rising “Turkish Model” in higher education, global vision and future strategies with YTB President Mr. Abdulhadi Turus.

Question: International student mobility is mostly viewed through economic perspective across the world. What is the basic feature that distinguished Türkiye Scholarships from other programs as it offers merit-based opportunities to the youth in the crisis-hit regions from Somalia and Palestine to Myanmar and Ukraine?

Abdulhadi Turus: Our approach is purely oriented on people. We don’t have an economic view or a view based on academic mobility when we tackle the matter of international students here at YTB. We are acting upon a more encompassing understanding based on Türkiye’s historical and civilizational experience. Wars, humanitarian crises and economic inequality across the world deprive quite qualified youth from education. Türkiye Scholarships presents an approach for equal opportunities in education. It is very valuable to us to have the youth in Somalia, Palestine, Rakhine and Ukraine to resume their education.

Türkiye Scholarships is distinct for its views of students as natural components of long-term humanitarian, cultural and academic relations. For us, the scholarship process is not only a support for education but also a multi-faceted investment for paving the way for a lasting interaction between countries.

We believe any international approach without people at its center is not sustainable. Türkiye Scholarship’s basic feature is that it is built upon sharing, mutual trust and common future.

Question: How do you describe the transformation that ensured Türkiye significantly rose in international student mobility in recent years?

Abdulhadi Turus: Türkiye underwent a significant capacity transformation in recent years in the field of higher education. It used to be a country sending its students abroad for education but today, it is a center of attraction for students from around the world.

Investments in university infrastructure, more accessibility for international students in our cities and policies for internationalizations in higher education were determining factors of this transformation. Türkiye’s multilateral relations with Asia, Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East also contributed to this process.

Today, high cost of living, restrictions in migration policies and accommodation problems in many countries create uncertainty for international students. Türkiye offers a more balanced model with its accessible education opportunities, strong academic infrastructure and social harmony capacity.

One of the most concrete indicators of this transformation is the rise in the number of international students, from about 87,000 in 2016 to more than 337,000 today.

Currently, more than 5,000 Indonesian students study in Türkiye. Developing education ties between Türkiye and Indonesia advance historical and cultural proximity between two countries through academic cooperation. The increase in the youth population and academic mobility will pave the way for stronger joint works

in the future.

Türkiye now presents a comprehensive higher education ecosystem to students through academic development, cultural interaction and social inclusion.

Question: How do you view Türkiye Scholarships on a global scale since it received more than 162,000 applications from 174 countries as of 2026?

Abdulhadi Turus: Türkiye Scholarships today became a comprehensive higher education scholarship program with its strong institutional capacity with a high international recognition.

The process began with about 42,000 applications in 2012 and it exceeded 162,000 applications from 174 countries and this indicates the trust in the program. Total volume of applications between 2020 and 2026 exceeded 1 million.

Deep-rooted, older programs like Fulbright, Chevening and DAAD certainly have a significant experience. Türkiye Scholarships, on the other hand, built its own model in a short time and became a distinctive program for international student mobility.

Our approach is beyond simply handing out scholarships. We provide the students with Turkish education, social inclusion support, cultural activities, vocational development opportunities and long-term communication network in addition to academic opportunities. This multi-faceted structure helps program to get a strong response from around the world.

Indonesia’s high interest in Türkiye Scholarships prove that academic trust in Türkiye and capacity of interaction strengthened in Asia. We highly value developing cooperation in higher education between Türkiye and Indonesia.

Türkiye Scholarships today are on the most visible and most institutionalized tools of internationalization policies in higher education.

Question: You pay attention to candidates with potential of establishing ties between countries in addition to their academic accomplishment. How will AI-supported systems and regional specialization will transform this process?

Abdulhadi Turus: Türkiye Scholarships’ selection processes are based on a multi-layered evaluation system. Academic accomplishment is one of the basic criteria but student’s communication capacity, adaptation skills, social awareness and long-term potential are also taken into consideration.

Recently, we have been reinforcing our regional specialization model. Working with teams knowing social, cultural and academic dynamics of different regions enhance the quality of evaluation processes.

We adapt an approach that does not replace human element with technological tools but rather, utilizing them to support decision-making processes. We emphasize getting to know the students better through in-person interviews. This is because we contribute to establishing long-term academic and humanitarian ties, beyond selecting scholarship recipients.

Question: International student mobility is now a hundreds of billions of dollars of economy. What is the connection between Türkiye’s growth in this field and contribution of the alumni network to public diplomacy?

Abdulhadi Turus: International student mobility became one of the most important elements of economic competition, generation of quality human resource, development of academic capacity, not just the education policies. The global higher education economy is estimated to reach a volume of about \$370 billion.

In recent years, Türkiye achieved a significant momentum in this field. But what is more significant for us is new human resource and international network of relations.

The Türkiye alumni today retain employment in varied fields, from academy to public administration, from private sector to civic society. This creates natural and sustainable communication channels between countries.

Across the world, Türkiye Alumni network whose number exceeded 150,000



DREAM FOR A GRAIN OF RICE: The Story of Ahmad from Temanggung



My name is Ahmad Nur Rohim, a son of a farm laborer from the slopes of Mount Sumbing and Mount Sindoro, Central Java, Indonesia.

I am the youngest of three siblings. My mother passed away when I was only eight years old. The simple house we lived in began to feel empty when my two older brothers left to work as laborers in the JABABEKA industrial area in Bekasi. Since then, I have lived with my father, who works as a farm laborer, depending on other people’s planting and harvest seasons for our livelihood.

Back then, every day on my way to school, I used to walk, sometimes hitchhiking on pickup trucks carrying sacks of rice grains. A thought would occasionally cross my mind: these grains are the source of life that fills the plates of millions of people, yet my father, the person most familiar with this staple food, was the furthest from prosperity. He knew exactly when the grains would start to fill, when the dry season threatened, and when pests would attack.

Then one time, I remember clearly when all the farmers experienced crop failure, including the rice fields my father cultivated. Many of my neighbours couldn’t eat for several weeks. The farmers complained about the failed harvest due to a lack of knowledge about technology to prevent pest and disease attacks, which caused damage and losses. That was when I began to wonder, “Why does the same problem keep repeating every year?”

Determined to become part of the much-needed change in the agricultural sector, I enrolled in an agricultural vocational high school, majoring in agricultural analytical chemistry, and focused on agricultural laboratory activities, such as residue analysis and the impact of pesticide applications.

During my undergraduate studies, I read many journals about plant pests and food security in countries with subtropical and semi-arid climates. Türkiye turns out to have a highly advanced agricultural system, especially in modern irrigation and farmer support policies implemented by the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. I greatly admire Türkiye as an agrarian country that has become a major international trading partner of Indonesia, with a phytosanitary service system that has been effectively actualized at the village level.

Furthermore, my decision was based on Türkiye being very active in research with well-equipped laboratory support. From that moment, I began searching for scholarship opportunities and discovered Türkiye Bursları and my application for the 2024 intake was a success. The requirements were strict, but I felt it was a good fit because this scholarship provides an agriculture major, covers tuition, and offers accommodation support, health insurance, and a one-year Turkish language course (TÖMER). The experience in Türkiye has been extraordinary. In my first year, I studied Turkish at TÖMER. Honestly, it was very difficult for me at first, because the alphabet and grammatical structures are different. But my professors were very patient. After obtaining my Turkish language certificate, I be-

gan my studies in the Plant Protection Department. I have experienced how the library is open 24 hours, how professors and teaching assistants always keep the door open for discussion, and a campus atmosphere filled with international students from over 150 countries.

There is a memory and a person in Türkiye that I will never forget. He is Mr. Eren Buğra, a hazelnut farmer in Fatsa, Ordu. I met him during a greenhouse visit there. One afternoon, I was sitting alone next to the greenhouse, feeling homesick because I missed my father. I didn’t know that Mr. Eren was sitting on the bench next to me. He came closer, and without saying much, handed me a glass of Turkish tea (çay). In my still-messy Turkish, I told him about my father, who is a farm laborer. Mr. Eren smiled and said, “Son, every farmer is a hero. And you will become his hero.” From that day on, every time I had a break from university, Mr. Eren would invite me to his orchard. I learned a lot from him: how to grow kiwis and grapes using drip irrigation, how to graft olive trees, and the patient philosophy of the Black Sea farmer.

My master’s studies in Türkiye focus on four main areas: 1) Molecular biotechnology and plant protection, especially DNA identification of new species of plant-parasitic nematodes for food security; 2) Development of biopesticides and bioherbicides: Microbial Biocontrol Agents and Plant-Based Pesticides, which I have presented at the International Turcic World Youth Agriculture Symposium in Tokat and the 9th Türkiye Plant Protection Congress with International Participation, TAGEM, Ankara; 3) Modern irrigation systems for hazelnut plantations, which I plan to apply to Temanggung coffee plantations (semi-dry mountain slope conditions); and 4) Farmer cooperatives (Türkiye has a highly successful Tarım Kredi Kooperatifleri model).

My career plans after returning to Indonesia are: 1) Establish a farmer field school (Sekolah Tani) in a village in Central Java, using methods I have adapted from Türkiye; 2) Collaborate with the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture to design a policy for affordable organic fertilizer credit for farm laborers; and 3) Create a simple AGRITECH startup based on SMS messaging for farmers in areas without internet access, similar to the digital agricultural services that are already common in Türkiye.

For Indonesian students: never be ashamed of your roots. Don’t ask, “Does a village kid, a laborer’s child, deserve to go abroad?” In fact, your roots are what make you strong. Nothing is impossible as long as you fight for it. When you feel tired, never stop moving forward; remember that your dream is in your hands. If not you, who else will reach it?

Since that time, I have always thought, “Education is a rice field that never fails to harvest.” We have the right to have dreams and to achieve them. Türkiye Bursları is here for us, they do not ask who your parents are, but rather they ask about your big dream and how hard you are willing to fight. Depart from the problems that you and your community face, then return to your hometown and solve them.



Istanbul Aydın University

Right location for jobs of the future



Istanbul Aydın University offers comprehensive education programs aligned with the needs of the times and the jobs of the future. The university pioneering education in strategically important fields, including medicine, dentistry, aerospace studies, software and IT, is committed to a vision of training qualified graduates with strong scientific skills and a passion for research.

Operating under the motto of “For A Bright Future,” Istanbul Aydın University (IAU) is a higher education institution instilling its students with an entrepreneurial and creative spirit in line with needs of 21st century, through its experienced academic staff recognized for their scientific contributions both nationally and internationally and with its campus in the heart of Istanbul. The university offers education for more than 20 years at its 17 faculties and vocational school and achieved a nearly 90% employment rate among its alumni.

Istanbul Aydın University was founded in 2003 with the purpose of training qualified professionals sought after nationally and internationally and made a name for itself with its accomplishments in numerous fields. It helped more than 100,000 graduates enter the workforce after graduating from its more than 190 postgraduate programs, 187 undergraduate programs and hosts 52,000 students including more than 12,000 international students. It is one of Türkiye’s biggest foundation universities and employs 3,000 academic and administrative staff.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Istanbul Aydın University’s motto is “For A Bright Future.” It is a genuine urban university with its campus at the center of Istanbul and stands out with its academically accomplished faculty with scientific proficiency and student-oriented education approach.

In Webometrics 2024 rankings, the university is ranked 36th among 208 universities in Türkiye and 8th among foundation universities. In UI GreenMetric World Universities rankings, it is ranked 270th among 1,745 universities in the world while it maintained 34th place in the same rankings for Turkish universities and 6th among foundation universities in Türkiye.

The university also made it to 501-600 rankings at the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings while holding 14th place among Turkish universities and 9th place among Turkish foundation universities in the same list. Additionally, it had a major accomplishment in THE’s world university rankings by securing the 636th position.

LEADING IN TECHNOLOGY

IAU’s patented innovations, artificial intelligence projects and successful start-ups are supported by its incubation center while ElektroAydın, Cumhuriyet Rocket Team, Starsat7A and Starsat7B technology teams made their marks in their respective fields. The university made a name for itself with numerous patents and medals.

GLOBAL EDUCATION,

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

The university has a prestigious place among world universities with its commitment to international education standards, advanced technological infrastructure and

DENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

Faculty of Dentistry trains dentists highly proficient in their vocation through its clinics furnished with high technology, a strong academic staff and an education model based on hands-on training. The education is based on clinical experience, digital dentistry practices and one-on-one mentorship and provides a well-equipped educational environment for those seeking to specialize in healthcare.



an approach centered on innovation.

Its education ecosystem is supported by 203 laboratories and 37 research centers, offering students integration of hands-on training and theoretical knowledge while providing students with extensive practical experience in many fields, particularly medicine and dentistry.

LEADING IN HANDS-ON TRAINING

IAU aims to raise qualified individuals creating value in the professional life, individuals who can meet the expectations of the global business world, can efficiently use their knowledge and skills and retain an innovative mindset. To that extent, it regularly brings students together with

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics provides a research-oriented education in the fast-developing world of science of genetics and is a strong starting point for students pursuing a career in the fields of healthcare, biotechnology and scientific innovation.

its premium solution partners. Since 2004, it sets a primary example of university-industry collaboration by sending its students to companies in relevant sectors one day a week for hands-on training.



SOFTWARE ENGINEERING: ARCHITECTS OF A DIGITAL WORLD

Department of Software Engineering trains solution-oriented, creative software developers in line with needs of the digital age. A solid theoretical background is supported by modern labs, software development environments and real-world projects. Students play an active role in projects developed in collaboration with sectoral businesses and make their foray into professional world before their graduation, through seminars, workshops and internship opportunities. The program goes beyond algorithms and coding and equips students with strategic thinking, communication skills and skills to develop solutions exclusive to the sector and makes a difference in the sector with its alumni with a globally competitive edge.

A SAFE FLIGHT

The university’s avionic program raises experts who take part in all processes of electrical and electronic systems, from design to maintenance. Advanced labs, hands-on training model and a structure integrated with the sector prepare graduates for a strong career in civil and military aviation.

EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS

Istanbul Aydın University provides a social environment for its students, to address their social, cultural and sports needs. It was chosen as the best university in Europe by the European University Sports Association (EUSA) and won 116 championship titles in European and Turkish championships, including 12 European championships, as well as 430 medals and 218 trophies in addition to numerous accomplishments.

IAU FACULTY OF MEDICINE: GUIDED BY HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Faculty of Medicine combines modern health science with technology, offering a strong educational opportunity. Students develop their clinical skills at high-tech laboratories and simulation centers and can earn hands-on experience at hospitals starting from the initial stage of their education. Being a physician means improving people’s quality of life and serving them directly. The university provides not only knowledge but also skills of critical thinking, questioning and lifelong learning for students. Influential academic staff and interdisciplinary research opportunities train students both as physicians of today and future. If you are willing to have an impact on the lives of others and pursue the path of science, you should join this journey.

A SKY-HIGH CAREER: PILOTAGE

Flying does not have to be merely a dream for you as Pilotage Department of the university opens the doors for a career in the skies. It offers an educational model where theoretical knowledge is backed by high-technology simulations and sectoral developments are followed through projects and collaborations. Modern classrooms, simulation systems and an application-oriented curriculum help students make a difference while learning. Graduates can pursue a career in many venues, from commercial airlines to air ambulances, business jets, cargo delivery and flight schools after completing a preparatory program in English and a 4-year comprehensive education program in compliance with standards of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (SHGM) and EASA. The Department also offers international exchange programs and internship opportunities for students to gain global experience and develop an international perspective in their career, along with polishing their professional skills.

ENGINEERS OF TECH SHAPING THE FUTURE

Particularly through its Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering, the university aims to train experts with high technological expertise in digital age. With an education approach focused on research, application and innovation, the university prepares its students for the future, raising them as individuals equipped with knowledge in the fields of artificial intelligence and data science. Qualified engineers who will contribute to Türkiye’s digital transformation are educated by Istanbul Aydın University.

PHARMACISTS OF THE FUTURE

Faculty of Pharmacy makes a difference in healthcare with its modern labs, strong academic staff and application-oriented education, training innovative pharmacists committed to ethical values.

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BAU: Shared choice of international students

BAU Global member Bahçeşehir University (BAU) tops the list of students in Türkiye and across the world with its academic accomplishments, education models integrated with technology, physical infrastructure, international collaborations and opportunities it offer.

Bahçeşehir University, whose Board of Trustees is chaired by Enver Yücel, was founded in 1998 as a non-profit, foundation university in Istanbul, at the intersection of Europe and Asia. The university hosts 10 faculties, a graduate school, conservatory, school of applied disciplines and vocational school of health services. Together with medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, conservatory and law programs, it offers 58 undergraduate programs. Additionally, BAU is home to 31 research centers and 92 student clubs.

The university currently has 30,000 students and more than 7,000 among them are international students. Interviewed students usually link their preference for BAU to university’s location at the heart of Istanbul and its international power, as well as being “more than a university with its integration with business world, technology and innovation.”

SCHOLARSHIP VIA APPLY BAU

Apply BAU, implemented in world’s leading university, was introduced in Türkiye by BAU for the first time. The admission system offers scholarship to many accomplished students regardless of their exam scores.

PREPARE FOR BUSINESS LIFE WITH COOP

COOP Education Model of Bahçeşehir University prepares students to business life. The model based on “my campus, my workplace” motto, brings together the university and the business world. BAU introduced the model to Türkiye in 2008, to help students meet the companies and eventually, more than 11,000 students were placed in business experience programs. Students both accumulate experience and have the opportunity of employment proposals by companies. Branded Course, an education model exclusively employed in BAU, involves partner companies to create their own content for the courses and introduce their sectors and applications to students. A total of 30,173 students benefited from this program which takes university-private sector collaboration to the classroom under the supervision of academics.

BAU HUB: GUIDING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Through BAU Hub, Biz Lab, BUG Lab, Hub Incubation Center and Hub Belgium programs, Bahçeşehir University facilitates the efforts of young entrepreneurs with its guidance. The Hub mentors entrepreneurs for securing financial support from various organizations, from the UN, EU to TÜBİTAK and KOSGEB. Hub Belgium, a part of BAU Hub Incubation Center, provides support for companies seeking expansion in Europe. BAU Tekmer integrated with BAU Hub, offers services to the youth in gaming and IT sectors.

RECOGNITION THROUGH ACHIEVEMENTS

Bahçeşehir University ranks 59th globally according to Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025 by world’s most prestigious higher education ratings institution. In THE’s 2026 rankings based on fields, it ranked first among Turkish foundation universities in educational sciences. BAU also ranked third in arts and humanities, fourth in engineering and fifth in social sciences.

The university is also recipient of multiple awards on “export in education” by Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TIM) and was awarded in 2025 in service exports by Turquality support program which marks its 20th year in supporting Turkish brands’ international competition.

GLOBAL EDUCATION NETWORK

Bahçeşehir University is distinguished among others by offering exclusive opportunities to students to study in many countries, in addition to exchange programs for global education. It offers education at institutions which are members of BAU Global in Berlin, Washington D.C., Georgia’s Batumi and Girne (Kyrenia) of Northern Cyprus.

Students have access to a comprehensive English program with Mentora College in Washington D.C. as part of BAU Global. Additionally, through Dual Up system, they can have double degrees by studying one year in Germany, via programs at Berlin International University of Applied Science which offers equivalency.

Bay Atlantic University in Washington D.C., another member of BAU Global network, offers undergraduate and postgraduate (MBA) education for students from all across the world, along with on-line certificate programs. Students who completed their third year in BAU undergraduate programs can also have access to education at Kansas University School of Law, with the option of having a diploma



from Türkiye and a postgraduate diploma from the United States. After completing law courses in the United States, students are eligible to sit bar exams in the states of New York, California, Washington, Georgia and Wisconsin.

BAU CAMPUS: INNOVATION AND PRODUCTION HUB

BAU Campus introduced this year within university’s compound, serves stu-

dents and Istanbul with its academy-private sector integration, AI-integrated education, multidisciplinary labs, venues for culture and arts, a congress center hosting experts of their fields from around the world, interactive learning infrastructure, specialization programs for career support and international collaborations. The Campus hosts a modern library, high-tech classrooms, labs for engineering sciences, from electricity, control and automation,

civil engineering, antennae and communications, power electronics, robotics, chemistry, genetics, smart energy management systems, along with labs under Ad-

vance Sciences and Medical Engineering, including physics, nanooptics, cell, movement analysis and biomedical engineering labs.



Psychology education beyond borders

NAIDA FIRDAUS (THIRD-YEAR STUDENT – BAU FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES- PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE): “As a psychology student, getting to know different cultures and human stories is not only a personal interest but also a professional necessity. Global opportunities helped me to gain a new perspective into different venues of life. BAU helps us to go beyond borders by offering studying in campuses outside the country, not just in Istanbul. The cultural experience I had here will help me to expand my views of clients in the future. Professors do not only equip us with knowledge, they also create fields where we can utilize the knowledge. Role-playing work in the classes prepare us real-world cases as we take up the roles of counselor and client. Actively participating in group and individual counseling processes while I am still a student, will grant me making a better venture into the professional world after the graduation.”

NETWORK, KEY TO CAREER

Nasywa Zhafira Julia Ahmad – (first-year student - BAU Political Science and International Relations): “BAU offers broad, international opportunities in academic sense and with its location. Instead of a usual approach to education without links to the outer world, we can experience the vivacity of the crowds. I believe global opportunities is key to build a network of communications, one of the basic elements in one’s career. Without networking, the experience will resemble simply sitting the in the classroom without any attention to the course. We come together with people of different backgrounds at BAU and we earn the skill of achieving a common denominator with other people while preserving our own identity. This is an invaluable asset for an international relations student.”

BAU, A CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF ISTANBUL

BAU Global President Enver Yücel: Next-gen universities should be transformed for the future world



ENVER YÜCEL, president of BAU Global and chair of Bahçeşehir University Board of Trustees offer insights in many fields, from education approach and technology’s integration, from internationalization to jobs of the future. Yücel highlights the education is among significant determining factors for future of societies, adding that Bahçeşehir University located at the heart of Istanbul is more than a university with the opportunities it presented, its collaboration, a strong understanding of education for local and international students.

Yücel says project-based and application-oriented approach gained importance in education and they were aiming to raise students as individuals with self-confidence, capable of teamwork and with leadership skills. He pointed out that the knowledge was transforming fast in the new era. “We cannot process today with the past knowledge. Universities should be venues not merely relaying knowledge but rather, venues where the knowledge is converted into application.”

He said they held lengthy consultations with academics and members of the business world in the process leading to foundation of Bahçeşehir University, a member of BAU Global network, and the university’s basic vision has been “an international univeristy offering application.” “We are building the universities of tomorrow,” he said, adding that the technology played a transformative role in education.

He noted that the technology was essential for equal opportunities, adding that they launched remote education programs years ago and AI-supported systems were now serving as digital assistants for students.

On international collaborations of Bahçeşehir University, Yücel said they had agreements with about 150 universities and the students can study in several countries, giving examples of Bay Atlantic University in the United States, Berlin International University in Germany and BAU International University in Georgia which became part of their global education network.

ISTANBUL AS A UNIVERSITY

Yücel says Istanbul’s multi-cultural life contributed greatly to the university. He stated that the university had students from some 140 countries, adding that almost every one in five students were foreign nationals at the university which hosts about 30,000 students. “Istanbul itself is a university,” Yücel says.

He noted that Bahçeşehir University stood out among preference of international students.

Yücel advises the youth to adhere to lifelong learning, pointing out that one occupation would not be sustainable for them in the future. He recommends students to deepen their knowledge in their fields of interest and highlights the need to redesign the curriculum based on changing living conditions.

BAHÇEŞEHİR



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Studying in Türkiye: More than a campus

The youth opt for countries offering more than a diploma, countries where they can build a career, socialize and make a gateway to other countries. Türkiye stands out for students due to vast opportunities from education and tech to social life and cultural diversity

CEYDA KARAASLAN

International student mobility in the world is growing. However, students’ criteria changed. Enrolling in a fine university was sufficient in the past. Today, prospective students seek more than education quality, such as social life, a good technology ecosystem, career opportunities, lower cost of living and post-graduation opportunities. This change in criteria boosted prominence of Türkiye in recent years. Türkiye is an attractive hub for international students with its young population, developing university infrastructure, diverse campus life and fast-growing technology investments. Cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, Antalya and Eskişehir draw students not only for education but also social and cultural life.

STRATEGIC LOCATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA

One of the biggest advantages of Türkiye is its location. A bridge between Europe and Asia, Türkiye offers students proximity to different cultures. The European capitals, the Middle Eastern countries, the Balkans, Caucasus and North Africa are only a few hours away via air travel. Students view it as an advantage especially for international careers.

For many students, Türkiye is not merely a location for education but also a regional hub. The youth studying in Türkiye can connect with people from different countries and build up career networking while studying.

DIVERSE CAMPUS LIFE

The campus life at Turkish universities underwent a major transformation in recent years. The universities are now more than venues where people study. They evolved into the centers of social life and campuses host hundreds of different student clubs.

Tech communities, entrepreneurship hubs, social responsibility teams, sports clubs, arts communities, international student unions help socialization of the youth.

Throughout the year, many universities host concerts, festivals, career summits, hackathons, entrepreneurship contests and cultural events. These activities especially help international students to adapt to Türkiye faster. Students from different countries taking part in the same projects are now common sight at campuses.

INCREASING AFFORDABILITY

Another advantage of Türkiye is affordability of the education and lower cost of living compared to other countries. Compared to big cities in Europe and North America, accommodation, transportation and similar costs as well as meals are quite affordable. Education expenses particularly at state-run universities are far lower compared to many countries. Students also benefit from cheaper transportation tickets, social facilities, dormitories and in-campus services. These advantages play a major role in choosing Türkiye to study for students particularly from Africa, Central Asia, the Balkans and the Middle East, according to experts.

MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Hundreds of thousands of international



students studying in Türkiye mean meeting of diverse cultures in the same campuses. Students from several countries study in the same classroom, take part in the same projects and get together at social events. This helps them socialize better. In today’s business world, intercultural communication skills matter. Those studying in Türkiye acquire this skill long before their graduation.

International students often highlight warm attitude of Turkish people and their hospitality. Friendships built at campuses last beyond graduation.

MODERN RESEARCH CENTERS

Number of research labs, applied education centers and technology park investments significantly increased in Türkiye in recent years. Universities support students

not only with theoretical knowledge but also applicable projects.

The country hosts important research centers particularly on engineering, health sciences, artificial intelligence, software, biotechnology and defense technologies.

Many students work at research labs before graduation or they can take part in projects jointly developed with technology companies. Some universities offer a spot in start-up teams for students. Thus, the youth can have access to sectoral experience.

DEVELOPING TECH ECOSYSTEM

Growth in defense industry, artificial intelligence, game development, software and health technologies make Türkiye more attractive for the youth. Increasing collaboration between universities and

private sector influence students’ career plans. Technology parks especially in Istanbul and Ankara host young entrepreneurs working alongside students in the same ecosystem. Many students have the opportunity of pre-graduation internship at technology firms or working on project development. Experts say new generation of students pursue developing projects and launching startups instead of solely focusing on finding jobs. Growing tech investments in Türkiye supports this expectation.

MODERN LIFE MEETS HISTORY

One of distinctions of Türkiye is coexistence of historical heritage and modern living. Students can live world’s most important historic cities while studying at modern campuses.

Istanbul in particular stands out for students. Historical buildings, museums, art centers, concert venues, cafes, technology centers and campuses are part of the same city life. Cities like Izmir and Antalya are distinguished for seaside life and social environment. Ankara is known for its academia and high concentration of student population while Eskişehir is popular due to its young population and student-friendly life.

MORE THAN A DIPLOMA

Experts say students of modern era pursue experience, social environment and international connections, not just a diploma. The youth studying in Türkiye benefit from a multi-cultural environment, establish strong connections with people of different countries and became a part of wide international network of alumni.

COLORFUL SOCIAL LIFE

Quality of daily life is another factor influencing students’ choice in addition to classroom environment. Students in Türkiye have easy access to concerts, festivals, culture and arts activities, sports events and many other social activities. Cafes, libraries, coastal towns, social facilities and activities for students help them to socialize. Diversity of Turkish cuisine is also an attraction for international students.



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Q & A on admission to Turkish universities

Number of international students seeking to study in Türkiye is growing every year but how can you apply to Turkish universities? What is TR-YÖS? Which documents are required? How can you enroll in programs like engineering and medicine? Here are the questions and answers

CEYDA KARAASLAN

Türkiye is now home to more than 350,000 international students. The youth from across the world, from Africa and the Balkans to Central Asia and Europe choose Türkiye for education. However, university application system may appear complicated at first for most candidates. Türkiye carried out significant changes in international student admission processes in recent years and Türkiye International Student Admission Exam (TR-YÖS) is playing a central role in international student applications. Here is all you need to know to apply to study in Türkiye:

1- WHAT IS TR-YÖS?

TR-YÖS or Türkiye International Student Admission Exam (TR-YÖS), is a central exam for international students seeking to study at Türkiye's higher education institutions and is conducted by Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM). The exam is one of the important assessment tools in international student admission processes. Today, many state-run universities base their admissions on the score students achieve at TR-YÖS. The exam is held in different languages including Turkish, English and Arabic.

2- WHO CAN APPLY?

Students of foreign nationalities, students with Blue Card and students who completed their high school studies in their entirety abroad can apply. Due to recent regulations, certain students of foreign nationality who attended high school in Türkiye are required to sit YKS or university exam for Turkish students. Experts advise candidates to check their citizenship and high school graduation status before applying to TR-YÖS.

3- HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

Applications can be made online. Candidates can complete application process by uploading their passport information, personal information, photos, contact information to the official website of ÖSYM. The exam is held twice a year. Applications for this year's second exam will be open between July 9 and August 3 while candidates who missed those dates can apply between August 7 and August 11. The exam will be held on October 11, 2026.

4- CAN ANYONE PASSING THE EXAM GET ENROLLED?

No. TR-YÖS scores do not necessarily secure enrollment to any university. After obtaining exam results, candidates separately apply to the university of their choice. The university assess the application based on its own quota and its admission criteria. For this reason, it is essential to check university's conditions of application beforehand.

5- DO ALL UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT TR-YÖS SCORE?

Majority of state-run universities ac-



cept TR-YÖS scores but some foundation (private) universities may require different assessment criteria. Some institutions may ask for grade of (high school) diploma, international exam score or an additional interview. Therefore, it is crucial for candidates to search for further information at universities' international student offices.

6- IS THE EXAM SCORE ALONE IS IMPORTANT?

Not always. Some universities can ask for additional requirements such as high school diploma score, national exam score, international exam documents and letter of recommendation. Candidates' academic background may matter more especially for programs more popular among applicants.

7- ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION TO MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY MORE DIFFICULT?

Yes. Competition is quite high in applications to health programs such as medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. Some universities accept only very high TR-YÖS scores in application to these programs. Thousands of people apply for these programs despite limited quota. According to the expert, success rankings in the fields related to health are increasing every year. Most competitive programs are medicine,



dentistry, pharmacy, software engineering and aviation.

8- WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION?

Documents may vary for each university but they generally ask for:

- Passport
- High school diploma
- Academic transcript
- Official document of TR-YÖS score
- Photos
- Identity or citizenship documents
- Additional documents for some programs

Most documents may be required to be certified by a notary or an official translator. Therefore, candidates are advised to launch documentation process early.

9-WHEN TO APPLY?

Universities usually launch application period in the summer but each university may have a different timetable. So, it is advised to regularly check universities' official websites. Some universities may also open additional placement windows and introduce additional quotas.

10- WHAT CAN STUDENTS WHOSE APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED EXPECT?

Students approved for admissions go through the following processes:

- official, final enrolment
- student visa
- residence permit procedures
- health insurance
- accommodation

International student offices of most universities offer guidance in these processes. Orientation programs at campuses facilitate students' adaptation to Türkiye. Consultancy services of universities are crucial especially for students leaving their country for the first time to study abroad.

FIVE STEPS OF THE ADMISSION

1-Sit TR-YÖS or other required exams
2-Check out the universities
3-Prepare the paperwork
4-Apply online
5-Complete registration and visa processes after admission

PROPER STRATEGY

International student admission system became more professional and central according to the experts. Nevertheless, preparing for the exam alone is not sufficient for a successful application.

Students should:

- check out the university thoroughly
- check out the quotas regularly
- manage paperwork processes correctly
- have a good planning on the language they want to study at and the city they prefer to study at

Along with a campus, candidates seeking to study in Türkiye apply for a multi-cultural student life, good academic opportunities and opportunities for pursuing a global career.



FEATURES OF TR-YÖS

TR-YÖS measures not only the knowledge but also applicants' skills in mathematics, problem solving and analytical skills. Candidates are asked 80 questions they have to solve in 100 minutes. Every four wrong answers deduct one correct answer from the overall score. TR-YÖS scores are calculated on a standardized system. Scores usually range between 100 and 500 points.

HOW MANY POINTS ARE REQUIRED?

- 250–300 points: May apply to many programs
- 300–400 points: An advantage in admission to prominent state-run universities
- 400 points and more: A higher chance for admission to medicine and dentistry programs

Konya: City of youth, education, history and sports

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay underlines that Konya has been home to a myriad of civilizations for 9,500 years since Çatalhöyük, a UNESCO World Heritage site and invites all youth to study in Konya, a city home to history, culture and nature tourism, a city of youth, education and sports

Uğur İbrahim Altay, mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, says Konya, a historic capital of Türkiye, is a private city with a past of thousands of years and centuries of hosting numerous civilizations.

Altay points out that Çatalhöyük in Konya, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the oldest settlements with a history of 9,500 years and since then, Konya has been the site of a large number of civilizations which were born and grew there.

CITY OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS

Located at the heartland of Anatolia, on an area of 42,000 square kilometers which hosts a population of more than 2.3 million people, Konya is home to five universities with a total of 130,000 students. The city ranks fourth in Türkiye in the number of academic staff and students. The city has high-speed train connection with İstanbul, Ankara, Eskişehir and Karaman. Konya Airport is also a hub of flights to İstanbul and İzmir.

“We have several projects for the youth with our Konya Model, a municipality model. Among them are Youth Assembly, Youth Center, Working Youth Assembly, Young Culture Card application, KAPSÜL Technology Platform, Social Innovation Agency, youth and education camps,” Altay says.

YOUNG CULTURE CARD

The Young Culture Card Application is exclusive to university students living in Konya and is introduced to encourage their participation to social, cultural, educational, sports activities. It is a comprehensive socialization program.

Using Young Culture Card, students can join social responsibility projects in the city and collect points to be used in expenses such as theater, concert, sports tickets and education expenses. Through a smartphone app, cardholders can also access draws where they can win books, online education and gym memberships.

KAPSÜL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

For students interested in technology and innovation, Kapsül Technology Platform, which aims to contribute to country’s National Technology Movement and technology-focused activities, brings together the youth working to represent the city and the country in Teknofest competitions.

The municipality’s Konya Science Festival, one of the largest of its kind in the country, marked its 10th year. Elsewhere, Konya Science Center, Türkiye’s biggest science center supported by TÜBİTAK, hosts tens of thousands of the youth every year.

City Conferences bring together famous figures with the youth in central Konya and districts every month. The annual Konya Book Days helps readers to meet hundreds of authors. Konya City Theater hosts tens of thousands of theatergoers every year at Selçuklu Congress Center.

CHEAPEST TRANSPORTATION

Mayor Altay says the municipality’s transportation services serve in the largest area in the country and trams and buses are employed in downtown Konya while buses operate in the districts. Altay highlighted that they expanded their transportation fleet with environment-friendly vehicles. “For students, we continue offering the best fees for students in transportation. Student passes are only TL 12 and monthly subscription system offering free pass costs TL 450,” Altay said.

STRONG SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Altay said Konya had significant developments in sports in recent years, noting that they created new spaces for sports in every corner of the city. “We implemented sports projects for all ages. We are hosting marathons and festivals participated by tens of thousands of people. We also hosted Fifth Islamic Solidarity Games which were participated by 4,200 athletes from 55 countries. Konya was the 2023 World Sports Capital and it was selected as European Cycling Capital in 2026. It also holds the title of 2026 Organization of Islamic Cooperation Youth Capital.”

BICYCLE CITY

Thanks to its geographic condition, Konya



ya has the highest number of bicycle riders. Altay says they were working to expand it further and preparing projects that will set example for the entire country. “We are ahead of other cities with bicycle lanes amounting to a distance of 680 kilometers. Türkiye’s first bicycle museum is also in Konya. We also have a bicycle tram which is very popular among riders,” he said.

Konya is also home bicycle repairing stations offering free services, bicycle bridges, special traffic lights for riders, bicycle parking stations, Smart Bicycle Transportation System (ABUS), electric bike rental services and buses equipped with bicycle racks.

BEAUTIFUL MUSEUMS

Altay says Konya is also an open-air museum thanks to its history of thousands of years and rich cultural texture. “Every year, millions of visitors come here, particularly for Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi Museum and visiting historical and natural beauties. The municipality also built and restored several venues for reflecting city’s spiritual texture, history and culture and they include Çatalhöyük Visitor Center, Stone Building Digital Center, Warehouse

No. 4, Konya Panorama Museum and Irfan Civilization Research and Culture Center. I invite everyone to Konya which is beautiful throughout the year,” he said.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, EMPLOYMENT

Konya is among country’s important agriculture, industry and commerce hubs with 12 Organized Industrial Zones and two Technology Development Zones. The city’s competitive sectors include machinery production, automotive spare parts, metal casting, food industry, on-board equipment, plastic packaging, footwear production, agricultural machinery and equipment and milling machine production.

INVITATION TO KONYA

Altay, who also serves as co-chair of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and chair of Union of Turkic World Municipalities, says Konya is a magnificent city with its precious universities, education infrastructure, venues for the youth and best examples of historic, cultural sites and nature tourism and invites the youth to study in Konya.



Discover Türkiye



Türkiye’s geographical location has advantages for students. It is located in a unique point where Asia and Europe meet and you can fly into many countries in less than four hours

CEYDA KARAASLAN

One of the main determinants in Türkiye’s social, economic, cultural and political life is its location in the world. It is located at a place where Asian and European continents meet, a peerless feature. Türkiye is at the intersection of the Balkans, Caucasus, Middle East and Mediterranean basins. Thanks to its location, you can fly following countries in less than four hours from Istanbul: Finland, Morocco, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia, Turkmenistan and United Kingdom. Turkish Airlines (THY) is among the companies with highest number of direct flights to many destinations the world over.

Türkiye is a big country in terms of size, indeed, biggest in the entire European continent. The distance between country’s eastern and western tips exceeds 2,000



kilometers. Anatolian and Thracian lands come closer to each other in Çanakkale straits and Bosphorus. Two continents are connected with each other by land with three bridges in Istanbul. If you are good swimmer, you may cover this connection for a unique experience in annual intercontinental swimming race organized by Türkiye’s National Olympics Committee.

A MATCHLESS NATURE

Türkiye is a peninsula surrounded by seas in the north, west and south. Elsewhere, Türkiye is usually mountainous, with an average altitude of 1,132 meters. In addition, Türkiye is home to countless rivers and lakes. Lake Van as big as a landlocked sea, longest river Kızılırmak and ancient rivers Fırat (Euphrates) and Dicle (Tigris) are among them. Every year, millions of local and foreign tourists visit Türkiye to see the natural wonders.

FOUR SEASONS, SIMULTANEOUSLY

As a result of its geographical location and its distinctive features, Türkiye is home to different climates. The country is surrounded by seas on three sides and is largely mountainous or has uneven terrain. Climate differences between landlocked regions and coastal regions are immense. Mediterranean climate prevails in the western and southern coastal regions, with quite low precipitation in winter. Landlocked, inner regions at higher altitude have rather harsh winters compared to other Mediterranean countries.



STUDENT-FRIENDLY DISHES

- ◆ **DÖNER:** Meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie is a common sight in windows of many kebab restaurants in cities. This Turkish specialty called döner is a type of fast food for students with the option of having it stuffed into a half-cut bread.
- ◆ **MANTI:** Manti is a type of dumplings similar to the ones in cuisines of other countries and is basically pieces of dumplings containing minced meat. It is usually served with tomato paste and yoghurt.
- ◆ **SOUP:** Türkiye has soups made of almost anything edible. Ingredients are usually for vegetarian taste and soups contain high amount of water mixed with diverse vegetables and pulses.

- Some soups contain meat. They are ideal for consumption for a light lunch or dinner.
- ◆ **KURU FASULYE (DRIED BEANS) AND PILAV:** Kuru fasulye (dried beans) and pilav (a rice dish) is a staple of lunches at university canteens and restaurants offering traditional food. Pilav is made of rice or bulgur and is often served with stews. Nutritional value of dried beans rumored to increase when consumed with pilav.
 - ◆ **BÖREK, TURNOVER, POĞAÇA (PASTRY):** Pastries are basic food that will spare you from food preparation trouble at breakfast and are good as daytime snacks. You may find a wide variety of pastries at canteens, bakery shops and some restaurants.

TURKISH PROFICIENCY

EDUCATION language in some universities is English but in most of them, it is Turkish. Turkish proficiency is a requirement for admission to most academic programs but you may still be admitted to universities without basic knowledge of Turkish. In most universities, Turkish language preparatory classes are offered to international students once they are admitted to undergraduate or postgraduate programs. For a reasonable price and in some cases for free, you can have access to language lessons on various levels, usually 4 to 6 hours a day. Preparatory classes conclude with an exam testing language proficiency that helps you to be eligible for your studies. Make sure to check if your school offers complementary Turkish language classes in addition to preparatory classes.

Students eligible for Türkiye Scholarships which include monthly allowances, tuition fees, dormitory fees and healthcare insurance are offered free Turkish language classes for one academic year. Students receive C1 level Turkish proficiency certificate if they complete those classes and proceed with their regular university studies. Those who failed have the option of sitting another exam and additional time to study until the next academic year.

Separately, you can apply to Yunus Emre Institute (YEE) for learning Turkish before you start your studies and even before arriving in Türkiye. YEE, which aims to promote Turkish culture and arts and language around the world operates in 46 countries with 58 centers.

Once you arrived in Türkiye, you can apply to Turkish Application and Research Center (TÖMER) which is available in most public universities, to learn Turkish. You can sign in for Turkish classes in TÖMER branches in several cities to learn Turkish on Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

CANTEENS

- MOST universities have canteens offering two or three meals. Subsidized by the state, meal prices are very reasonable and they are offered as fixed menu or a la carte. In most universities, commissaries, restaurants and cafes are available outside canteens. Don’t miss following meals if they are available in the menu:
- ◆ Karniyarik (stuffed eggplant)
 - ◆ İmambayıldı (a variation in karniyarik)
 - ◆ Tas kebabı (meat stew)
 - ◆ Yaprak sarma (stuffed leaves)
 - ◆ Kebab
 - ◆ Baklava
 - ◆ Kazandibi (caramelized milk pudding)

TEKNOSEL 2026, Anatolia’s largest tech festival, concludes



Selçuklu TEKNOSEL 2026 Technology Festival concludes with an awards ceremony where the genius of the future was rewarded

TEKNOSEL 2026 Technology Festival organized by Selçuklu Municipality, Selçuklu Directorate of National Education, KOP Regional Development Directorate and Innopark concluded with an awards ceremony for students. The first three-day stage of the festival was held at Selçuklu Municipality International Sports Hall with robotics competitions and the second stage was held at Selçuklu Congress Center where technology contests and activities catering to people of all ages were organized. The youth competed in technology during the six-day festival which also hosted visitors at the venue of activities. Contestants who won two stages were awarded on the last day of the festival.

This is the third edition of the festival where 120 teams competed in Free and Special Categories, 20 finalists took part

in Gaza-themed AI film competition and 355 teams participated in mBlock coding competition and 567 teams competed across seven categories in the robot competitions.

AN INSPIRATION FOR INNOVATION AND NEW PROJECTS

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı says they were grateful to all contributors to TEKNOSEL 2026 where the youth were awarded. “We delivered awards for the first-place, second-place, third place, jury special awards and honorable mentions. For us, every team participating the festival ranked first. Being here, joining the competition, introducing authentic projects based on innovative ideas is the most important part. I congratulate all teams and students. This is just a beginning. It is important that they presented themselves,

introduced, implemented their projects and demonstrated them to our guests and jury and showcased innovative products. We hope the innovative ideas demonstrated here will serve as a source of inspiration for future for new ideas, new projects. As long as teams, students and schools are interested, we will develop our TEKNOSEL Festival further and continue it in the coming years in a more comprehensive manner,” he said.

The awards ceremony was attended by Meram District Governor and Selçuklu acting governor Bayram Yılmaz, KOP Regional Development Directorate chairman Murat Karakoyunlu, Konya Provincial Gendarmerie Commander Cemil Lütfi Özkul, Konya Chamber of Industry chairman Mustafa Büyükeğen, Innopark General Manager Ali Kahraman, Selçuk University Faculty of Technology Dean Hımar Kahramanlı Örnek, Selçuklu Belediyesi Spor Club President Mustafa Yavuz Tezcan, Selçuklu Municipal Assembly Member Ayşe Lütfiye Poçanoğlu, teachers, students and their families.



SELÇUKLU YOUTH CENTER MOVES TO THE NEW VENUE

Selçuklu Municipality which prioritizes the youth in every project, relocated Selçuklu Youth Center in the Bosna Hersek neighborhood to its location. The center is a popular hangout among the university students



Selçuklu Youth Center, a project which prioritizes the youth, serves to the youth in its new venue. The center owned by Selçuklu Municipality provided new visions for university students and is set to be a popular spot again in its new location. The center houses studying spaces, social spaces, reading venues and entertainment venues, offering the students a comfortable place. An average of 600 students visits the center daily. In its new location, the center addresses all the needs of the youth. It hosts library, Wi-Fi connection, canteen, an 80-seat study hall, a 100-seat conference hall, a meeting hall and a recreational space.

FAVORED BY THE YOUTH IN ITS NEW LOCATION

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı says Selçuklu Youth Center is an important venue for students' social, cultural and scientific activities. “It will remain one of the most preferred locations for students. We increased the service capacity of the center by relocating it to a spot with high population of students in Bosna Hersek neighborhood. Selçuklu Youth Assembly organizes activities, we offer social, cultural and educational programs in cooperation with youth communities at the universities and civic society organizations, we help students with career planning,” the mayor said. He added that the center was beyond a mere location to study and was a place where students can feel home. “We are delighted with interest by the students. I wish it will benefit all university students,” he said.





Life outside the school

With its cultural and social diversity, Türkiye offers activities outside the school for students in a vast spectrum. Students can choose between them, from cinemas and theaters to concerts and trips to historic places



CEYDA KARAASLAN

Being a university student is definitely not about being confined to studies, studying for midterm and final exams. Türkiye's rich cultural and social diversity means a wide range of activities outside the school for students. Here are some options compiled in "Study in Turkey" website of Board of Higher Education (YÖK):

-STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Every university houses student clubs that brings together students sharing a common interest and organizes relevant events. It can be an astronomy club coming together to watch solar eclipse or photographers' club where students can gather and tour the city in pursuit of capturing perfect photos. You can also join an archaeology club which organizes trips to archaeological excavation sites or a jazz club to showcase your musical skills. Elsewhere, a gastronomy club helps us to discover lesser known dishes of Türkiye. If you are a film enthusiast, you can join a club to explore classic films of world or Turkish cinema or contemporary movies. Just be passionate and sign up.

-CINEMA: The number of cinema halls in Türkiye is increasing every day. Some of the cinemas are located in the city centre, while others are in the shopping malls. Cinemas mostly shows popular movies and almost every film is shown almost simultaneously in Türkiye and the world. Other than latest popular films, there are also relatively small halls where films outside mainstream cinema are shown. Movies are usually displayed in original language and with Turkish subtitles.

Various cities in Türkiye host major film festivals throughout the year. Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Istanbul Film Festival, Adana Golden Boll Film Festival, Ankara Film Festival, , Mobile Film Festival and Malatya International Film Festival are among prominent ones. In these festivals, films are shown in their original language and are mostly available in both Turkish and English subtitles.

Plays (theater) can be divided into three as state theaters, municipal theaters and plays performed by private theaters. In these performances, plays of both Turkish and World writers meet with the audience. Tickets for popular performances are sold weeks ago. Therefore, make your plans early. Theatrical plays



are staged in Turkish.

For both cinema and theater, students have the right to receive discounted tickets. Show your student ID at the box office.

DISCOUNT FOR STUDENTS

-THEATER: Theater plays can be divided into three as ones performed at state theaters, municipality theaters and private theaters. These theaters offer plays both by Turkish playwrights and playwrights from other countries. Popular plays are often fully booked weeks ahead. Therefore, plan ahead. Plays are staged in Turkish.

Students are entitled to discounted tickets both for plays and films. Just show your student ID at the box office.

-CONCERTS: If listening to live music is indispensable for you, you'll find many places where you can listen local groups in the city where your university is located or find venues where artists popular in Türkiye perform. From pop music to classical Turkish music, from Turkish folk music to hiphop, many different kinds of musical experiences are waiting for you.



-MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SITES: Türkiye, which hosted countless civilizations and empires throughout its history has numerous museums and historical sites. In addition to museums and historical sites in the city you study at, Türkiye is home to Ephesus, Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, Göbeklitepe, Pamukkale, Topkapı Palace and similar landmarks you should definitely visit, landmarks of major importance for the mankind. You can find a full list of places you can visit on this website: <https://www.muze.gov.tr/en/museums>

-SPORTS: Türkiye is passionate about sports. Most popular sports are football, basketball and volleyball. Their matches in national leagues are highly competitive and fun to watch. Tickets are mostly sold online. If you are actively involved in sports, you can use sports venues at your university, which are offered for free or with a small fee. You can also participate in tournaments in campus or join the school teams.

-SHOPPING MALLS: You can find a major shopping mall in almost every city in Türkiye. The malls meet all your shopping needs and host entertainment centers as well. Shopping malls are crowded particularly on the weekends and prior to festive holidays.

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