GLOBAL TRANSFORM LEARNING YOURSELF CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP THE WORLD FOR SUSTAINABILITY
WHAT IS GLLS?
Global Learning and Leadership for Sustainability Program (GLLS) is a co-curricular track program for Koç University undergraduate students to complement their academic studies with a “hands-on” approach. The comprehensive program aims to enable students to acquire global competence and to develop personal and professional skills to thrive in a 21st century world.

GLLS is an immersive learning journey with an innovative curriculum that includes credit-bearing courses, workshops, talks, retreats, service-learning programs, international learning experiences and projects.

GLLS is coordinated by the Office of International Programs with the academic consultancy of the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics, providing learning experiences that contribute to development of the students.

All activities and academic obligations are designed to strengthen and enlarge the notion of sustainability of the students. It allows them to understand a problem, to detect financial, natural and human capital for the solution, to enter a process of design thinking, to build an impact map for the solution process, to collaborate local, national and international stakeholders with different sectors, to use technology and to create new technologies when necessary, and get inspired by the sector leaders with constant workshops and seminars to introduce different aspects of sustainability in different sectors.

The program consists of two stages, where a student’s progress is measured by their active involvement.
MANIFESTO
MANIFESTO

WE LEARN TO...

- make a difference with a global perspective
- address the world’s complex challenges and take action
- collaborate and become an effective team player
- to know ourselves better and take initiative
- embrace failure as an opportunity for learning
- adapt to changing circumstances and live with uncertainty
- embark on the never-ending journey of self-development
- transform self, environment and society
- play and have fun

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE LEARN TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN.
WHY GLLS?
WHY GLLS?

Our world is going through a time of disruptive and unprecedented change. Complex and interrelated problems that our society faces in the 21st century require a new collective kind of leadership to collaborate across disciplines, departments and organizations to develop creative and systemic solutions. This collective leadership capacity should be built through the work of young change-makers, equipped with the skills to disrupt existing systems and design adaptive institutions in order to create a just and sustainable world.

Forces that are transforming our world, society, economy and organizations also have an impact on the nature of jobs and workplace. Work today is increasingly collaborative focused on solving complex problems in interdisciplinary and creative ways. Students are required to develop a new skill set to thrive in a world in flux.

The 21st century university experience should facilitate a journey, where students can learn by engaging with real world problems through thinking, doing, creating and collaborating.

GLLS exists to grow students into competent individuals, who can respond to the needs of changing work environments, as well as skillful leaders with the vision of transforming our world and society for the better.

One of the best part of GLLS is the amazing people you met and the peer-learning environment. I can surely say that GLLS has a huge effect on me and my thoughts!

İDİL TÜRE
ALUMNI 2020 | Business Management
4
THE
GLLS
JOURNEY
THE GLLS JOURNEY

GLLS learning journey is structured through two stages. Students start the program with a Kick-off Meeting organized by GLLS Advisor in the beginning of Spring Semester.

**Fellow**

2 CASE Sustainability and Impact Management Track required courses*

3 Workshops  
(Mandatory: Mindfulness)

3 Seminars

3 Off-Campus Events

1 Project

1 Project Bazaar

1 Retreat

International Learning Experience**

*1 Required course must be INTL 365 Survival and Prosperity in an Interdependent World, the other required course must be either MGMT 310 Creating Social Impact through Collaborative Project Management: Experiential Learning or MGMT 360 Social Entrepreneurship

**Exchange Programs, International Conference, Summer or Winter Abroad, Internship Abroad, International Competition, International Fellowship Programs

**Advanced**

2 CASE Sustainability and Impact Management Track elective courses

2 Workshops  
(Mandatory: Deep Democracy)

2 Seminars

2 Off-Campus Events

1 Project

KUSIF Mentorship Program

International Learning Experience*

*Exchange Programs, International Conference, Summer or Winter Abroad, Internship Abroad, International Competition, International Fellowship Programs

GLLP allows you to encounter and practice more with the dynamics of the 21st century and prepares you to become a more competent, solution oriented and self-aware individual. It is a very well-designed curriculum to open new horizons in people’s minds while encouraging them to tackle global issues!

EKİN BERK POLAT
ADVANCED | SENIOR | History
5 COMPONENTS
COMPONENTS

- courses
- workshops
- seminars
- retreat
- project bazaar
- off-campus ecosystem events
- project
- KUSIF mentorship
- international learning experience
**Courses**

GLLS Required and Selective Courses are similar with the courses of Sustainability and Impact Management Track program. GLLS students are able to attend the same courses for both of the track programs.

Student must take required and selective courses from the list provided by the program management.

These courses may change in every cycle. GLLS Advisor will provide you the updated course list each semester. [Click here for the available course list.](#)

**Workshops**

GLLS Skills Workshops are specially curated learning experiences for GLLS students to achieve specific program learning outcomes. Workshop topics vary from mindfulness to conflict resolution, storytelling to entrepreneurial literacy. Workshops might be a half-day, full-day or two-days long. Every semester three workshops are offered to GLLS students.

**Seminars**

Every month the program coordinators invite a leader in the community to our school for organizing story harvest sessions. In these sessions student groups listen the speaker around different themes such as leadership challenges, magical moments etc. The speaker starts to tell his story from the beginning of her life. At the end of the speaker’s session. Groups present speaker’s whole to the rest of the group. This session enables fellows to understand the challenges, obstacles in the life of a leader. In this way fellows can be able to see the possible approaches towards challenges in their own life.
Retreat

GLLS Retreat is a two or three-day immersive learning experience for GLLS students which takes place at a location outside of Istanbul. The retreat plays a crucial role for students’ GLLS journey, since it creates a strong container for students to practice deep self-reflection and build lasting relationships to become a community of peers and learners. GLLS Retreat is organized once every year.

Project Bazaar

This is an on-campus networking event for GLLS students to present their projects to Koç University community, Civil Society Organizations and Companies to increase impact through collaborative action. Project Bazaar is organized once every year.

Off-Campus Ecosystem Events

At the beginning of every month, students receive a newsletter informing them about selected events that are organized by organizations and individuals from the fields of education, sustainability, social impact, entrepreneurship, design and technology, etc. Students are expected to participate in these events to connect with a network of like-minded individuals and organizations in the topics that they are interested in.
Every GLLS student is required to be part of a team and carry-out a hands-on prototype initiative that connects the personal, relational, and systemic dimensions of change. Learning-by-doing is at the heart of Projects and design thinking is used as a core problem-solving methodology. Through the projects, students apply the knowledge, skills, methods and tools that they learned during the GLLS program on real life social or environmental challenges.

Project topics vary from reducing package waste across the campus to developing language learning programs for refugees. Project teams are constantly mentored throughout the process and are required to achieve clear project outcomes and deliverables at the end of every semester. Success of the projects is assessed through mentorship meetings and end-of-semester presentations.
KUSIF Mentorship

Within the scope of their projects, students are required to be part of the KUSIF Mentorship Program. This will enable students to get mentoring, professional support, as well as access to research tools and work space in the Social Impact Lab who have social entrepreneurship ideas and wants to work in the laboratory.

International Learning Experience

Students are required to attend at least one International Learning Experience at both levels. These opportunities and limited number of small grants are announced to GLLS students regularly. Students are also expected to fundraise their own costs to attend international Learning experiences.

GLLS students are required to attend at least one of the activities of following:
- Semester Exchange Programs,
- International Conferences/Workshops,
- Short Term Special Summer or Winter Programs,
- Internship Abroad International Competition,
- International Fellowship Program and
- International Service Learning Project/Program.

GLLS is a total experience of discovering yourself and the world. It is a ticket to the bright side of the world where communities are trying to achieve the mutual best for all people.

ERHAN KAAN BİLGİN
ALUMNI 2020 | Industrial Engineering
CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES?
Based on Real Problems
Our focus lays on the real world problems, while we constantly strive to combine theory and practice. Each GLLS learning experience has a relevance to real world context.

Human Centered
Communicating with people and listening to their stories is crucial to understand real problems, which constitutes the basis of social impact. Problems exist in relation to people, and for this reason human centered research and design must be a part of the solution process.

Systematic and Holistic
Nothing exists in isolation. The complex structure of the problems must be considered when addressing a social challenge. Experiences and perspectives of the stakeholders should be considered during the process.

CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES

GLLS helped me to gain global awareness and knowledge through the courses I took, and helped me to gain self-awareness through speakers, workshops and retreats.

ȘEVVAL KARADAĞ
ALUMNI 2018 | Medicine
Action Oriented

Being action oriented is vital in the process of moving from idea to manifestation. Effective tools such as observation and research cannot have any impact on problems unless their outputs are transformed into action and practice. Therefore, GLLS curriculum helps students to combine head, heart and hand throughout their work in the program.

Participatory Leadership

The complex challenges of the 21st century require a new kind of leadership approach which is more authentic and participatory. GLLS holistic leadership approach combines personal, relational and systemic dimensions of leadership development.

Grounded on Collaboration

21st century social issues are multidimensional which makes it impossible for an individual to create change on their own. There is a rise in the need to collaborate. The contribution of an individual is significant only when it is combined with others.
REFLECTIONS & PROGRESSION TRACK 9
After each GLLS experience, students are required to submit a reflection piece highlighting their key learnings. Students can track their progression through Blackboard and KUSIS systems. Your GLLS Advisor will also organize one-to-one progression meetings to plan and discuss each student’s GLLS journey in the beginning and in the end of the semester.

Students can write a reflection piece on their experiences. Only written reflections can be submitted for the following experiences:

- GLLS Retreat
- Project
- International Learning Experience

Students are welcomed to submit two-minute videos for the following experiences as well as written reflections:

- GLLS Skills Workshops
- GLLS Seminars
- Off-Campus Ecosystem Events

After the reflection is submitted, it is evaluated by the GLLS administration team. If the reflection piece is not considered satisfactory, students might be asked to re-submit their reflection pieces. To be evaluated, reflections should be submitted within 15 days following the experience. Late reflections will not be accepted.
10 APPLICATION & SELECTION
Eligibility

GLLS is open to all Koç University undergraduate students. Students enrolled in any department at Koç University and who have a grad point average (GPA) of at least 2.00/4.00 as of the semester of their application, can apply to the track program.

Application Process

Every year, GLLS applications begin and run in October. Students apply for GLLS by completing the application form available on the GLLS website: GLLS.ku.edu.tr

Students should submit their CVs during their applications. Shortlisted students are invited for an interview or assessment round during November. Selected students are notified at the end of the month.

GLLS gains you 21st-century skills through amazing experiences. Not only meeting with special people but also growing up with them can be one of the best parts of this journey! If you want to be a part of the change, this is your place!

CEMRE KORKMAZ
FELLOW | JUNIOR | Business Administration
RULES
&
GOVERNANCE
RULES & GOVERNANCE

Rules

There is no attendance policy for participating in the GLLS program. A student’s progress in the program depends on their active involvement in the GLLS experiences. Every student is responsible for keeping the track of their progress in the program.

Students admitted to the first GLLS stage are expected to complete the required experiences in four academic semesters.

Students who complete the necessary requirements for any GLLS stage should negotiate with the GLLS program coordinator to receive their certificates. Semester-long study abroad experiences can be counted as half of the program requirements for any GLLS stage, if students work to deepen their study experiences by focusing on a specific environmental or social sustainability challenge (green energy, urban sustainability, migration, human rights, etc.) and involving key ecosystem actors (meetings, attending to events, networking, volunteering, etc.). Students should meet with the GLLS program coordinator in order to plan and design a study abroad experience based on GLLS values and principles.

Governance

GLLS is designed and coordinated by the Office of International Programs. The GLLS program coordinator at OIP is responsible for program administration and coordination. GLLS advisory board include faculty members who have been involved in the GLLS program design since the beginning and meet once a year to oversee the program development.
In GLLS we have a diverse community of students from different degrees and disciplines. The program is a great way for meeting new fellows, making connections, improving skills and building valuable networks for life. Creating an engaged and supportive Alumni network is one of our priorities as the number of our graduates increase. Our current Alumnis support us for organizing joint workshops, projects and act as assessor during our recruitment process.

"GLLS allowed me to expand my vision, achieve things that I would not even imagine and helped me shape my career. Through this journey I got to know about myself, acknowledged great leaders and learnt from their experiences."

MİNE HAZAL ŞENOL
ALUMNI 2019 | Law