

Asia Special Issue

KOÇ UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

KUNNECTION

DECEMBER 2016

broaden your horizon

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Dean of Students' Message



Dear Partners and Students,

Dean of Students Office reflects our commitment to enrich the lives and experiences of our students with the collaboration of the Office of International Programs (OIP) that creates opportunities for KU students and students from all around the world to experience internationalization. Internationalization is right at the heart of Koç University's general strategy and OIP plays a crucial role to realize this goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to further explore OIP and its activities for the last six months of 2016. I encourage everyone to learn more about what makes Koç University such an amazing place to study, learn, educate, and experience.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Bilgen Bilgin
Dean of Students

Director's Message



Dear Colleagues,

[Office of International Programs \(OIP\)](#) of Koç University is proud to present its second issue newsletter of 2016. OIP is dedicated to supporting and enabling cross cultural experiences and enterprises, promoting study abroad, creating valuable ties with esteemed institutions, supporting international social innovation and service learning, adopting practices to support internationalization at home efforts, and acting as a liaison to the University for international students and scholars.

This newsletter aims to provide you the latest news on OIP's internationalization efforts and we hope you will enjoy reading it and share it with your community.

Best Wishes,

Burcu Sarsılmaz
Director

Discovering Asia

Asia has long been an exciting and vibrant region in which routes across land and sea connected people of different cultures and key religions. This new issue introduces Koç Community's stories on the latest news, cooperations and visits to Asia-(Pacific) region including partnership development and student exchange experiences.

International seminar on R&D and industry cooperation between Turkey and Korea co-hosted with Korean Consulate in Istanbul

On August 31, 2016 Koç University hosted a group of distinguished guests from the [Consulate of Korea in Istanbul](#) and several Presidents and CEOs of Korean companies who are currently developing projects in Turkey at its Research [Center for Anatolian Civilizations \(ANAMED\)](#) in Taksim, Istanbul.

The event included a presentation from Prof. Umran Inan, President and Prof. Irşadi Aksun, Vice-President for Research and Development, Ms. Melissa Abache, Global Engagement Coordinator, and Ms. Suna Akbayır on the topic of "R&D in Turkey: opportunities and barriers for University-Industry collaboration with Turkish research universities". The participants welcomed the presentation as a first step towards exploring specific areas and formats to collaborate with top research universities in Turkey. The event also served to announce the organization of an international seminar on the topic of Korean-Turkish R&D collaboration in 2017. More information can be found [here](#).



Koç University Technology Transfer Office at TECHINNOVATION 2016



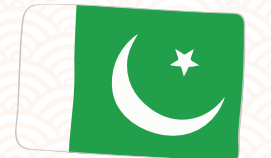
Koç University participated in [TECHINNOVATION 2016](#) a brokerage event held in Singapore between September 21st and 22nd, 2016.

TECHINNOVATION is a premier technology-industry brokerage event organized by IPI – Singapore for the fifth time. It brings together international technology providers and seekers to explore technology and business collaboration opportunities through open innovation. Koç University provided information to participants about Technologies developed by faculty members and students at the university that include:

[Adjustable Bone Plate](#), [Device for decreasing internal bleeding](#), [High quality silver quantum dots](#), [Laparoscopic light source](#), [Nano Resonator for new generation oscillators](#), [Non-invasive device diminishing Parkinson Symptoms](#), [Smart Polymeric Materials for Controlled Drug Release](#), [Trocator with enhanced maneuver capability](#).



2nd Annual Kite Festival (Basant) by Pakistani Student Association (PSA) and ICO



Were you one of the students, faculty, family member or staff or Euroserve Personnel flying a colorful kite on that day? Well, it felt like the whole campus community was there. Surely though, kids had the most fun. No no, that's not so true! Whoever was next to a Pakistani student had the real fun, because they had the best kite, and danced the best dance. People flew kites, danced and ate delicious Turkish food. We thank our Pakistani students for bringing their culture to campus and doing something that is unbeatably fun to everybody in this world. Basant marks the commencement of the Spring season and it is considered as a secular seasonal festival of kites celebrated by people of any faith. Look out for next Spring's Basant Festival on www.ico.ku.edu.tr.



Discovering Asia

Visit from BITS Pilani Dean of International Programmes, India

Prof. Hakan Ürey and his team at the [Optical Microsystems Laboratory](#) hosted [Prof. Suman Kapur](#), Dean, International Programmes and Collaboration Division of BITS Pilani, India on June 12-16, 2016. Prof. Kapur is a Senior Professor in the Biological Sciences Department at the Hyderabad Campus of this prestigious Indian university.

Koç University had visited BITS Pilani in Fall 2015 as part of an introductory visit to explore cooperation activities. This visit allowed for our institution faculty members to discuss more specific research collaboration opportunities related to the topics of point of care device development and identified joint work on 3 follow up projects as well as the possibility of Exchange of graduate students in sciences, engineering and health sciences.



Koç University participation at the T-20 Gateway to India Dialogue, Mumbai

Prof. Sumru Altuğ of Koç University's Department of Economics and former director of the Koç University- TUSIAD Economic Research Forum was invited to participate in the T-20 Gateway to India Dialogue as part of the "Trade and Investment" panel on the topic of "New Globalization" on June 13-14, 2016 in Mumbai, India.



The event was a joint T-20/Gateway of India Dialogue. The T-20 is being organized under the auspices of China's G-20 Presidency.

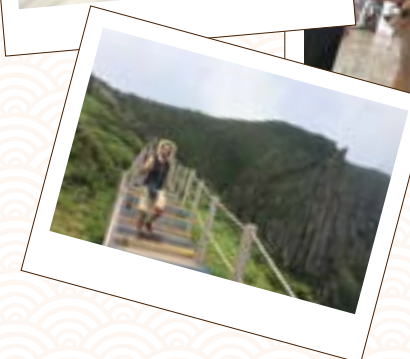
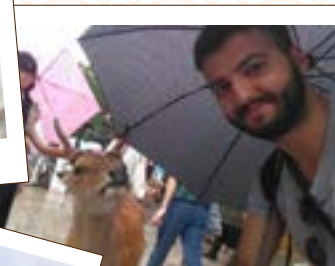
Her participation in Mumbai follows previous presentations she was invited to deliver at the T-20 opening event in Beijing in December 2015 and a Freidrich Ebert Stiftung event on China's G-20 presidency in Shanghai in April 2015.

You can find more information about Prof. Altuğ's research and recent work [here](#).

Koç Students are exploring Asia!

I was in Beijing, Cuandixia, Pingyao, Xi'an and Datong for Summer 2016. I've climbed the Great Wall and seen the Terracotta Warriors at my 21. In Fragrant Hills, I've already made a wish from Buddha to come again.

Hasan Basri Çifci
Summer Exchange 2016
China University of
Political Science and Law



Korea is one of the safest countries all around the world. People are really nice and kind. For weeks of summer school at Pusan National University was really easy-going, relax and informative.

Atılcan Kebapçı
Summer Exchange 2016
Pusan National University
South Korea

Discovering Asia

I grew up! I learned to find houses in the cities, where I cannot speak their languages or even read their alphabets. I had to chance to be a student in the best universities of the world. Thanks to these universities, I have met with the general managers of companies and very successful academicians.

Cansu Ünalır

*Fall 2015 – Hong Kong
University of Science and Technology*



An amazing journey, culture and experience... Two weeks in China has become one of my best weeks in my whole life. I've never thought that I can have such fun with not being able to eat anything and not understanding even one word in a language!

Dilan Tulan

*Summer Exchange 2016
Southwestern University of
Finance and Economics*



It was a great opportunity for me to make the best time of my summer. I have found my self in a completely different culture and learned local traditions of China. I travelled all over Beijing and tasted lots of interesting foods, such as frogs and scorpions.

Cem Ulaç

*Summer Exchange 2016
Renmin University of China*



Ni Hao! I have joined the summer exchange program of Renmin University of China. Experiencing another culture with people from all around the world was a delightful experience for me.

Ekin Alp

*Summer Exchange 2016
Renmin University of China*

Latest on Global Partnership and Presence Overseas

Beyond Erasmus+ Student & Faculty Mobility: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master

Psychology of Global Mobility, Inclusion and Diversity in Society

Global-MINDS is the European Master in the Psychology of Global Mobility, Inclusion and Diversity in Society. It is a comprehensive 2- year study programme with 120 ECTS focusing on insights from Social and Cultural Psychology for contemporary social and societal issues. Universities from five countries jointly deliver the Global-MINDS programme in English and award graduates with a joint master degree:

- ISCTE – Lisbon University Institute (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal, [School of Social Sciences](#)
- University of Oslo (UiO), Norway, [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)
- [University of Social Sciences and Humanities](#) (SWPS), Poland
- [Koç University](#) (KU), Turkey
- [University of Limerick](#) (UL), Ireland

Koç University is very proud to be part of this pioneering joint Master degree program.

KU has been awarded with Erasmus+ KA107 Funding

The Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission promotes the mobility of students and teachers. The action Erasmus+ KA107 of this program provides funding for mobility with partner countries. Koç University has been awarded with funding under the action KA107 therefore students, faculty members and administrative staff from our partner universities have the opportunity to fund their exchanges to our institution.



[ADA](#), Azerbaijan
[Chinese University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University](#), Hong Kong
[American University of Beirut](#), Lebanon
[University of Cape Town](#), South Africa
[University of Montevideo](#), Uruguay

KU at EAIE 2016, Liverpool

The 28th Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition took place between 13–16 September 2016 at the ACC Liverpool this year. The conference hosted a packed agenda with back-to-back seminars, hour-long workshops, receptions and an all-day exhibition with 5200 participants from over 80 countries around the world. With a delegation of four, OIP participated as members and reviewers in sessions, met partner universities from all over the world and attended sessions on internationalization. All together we managed to reach out to our partners through our meetings ensuring that the student perspective got a platform at this year's EAIE and addressing the topic of the future of higher education in Europe.

Koç University together with [ITRU](#) Group universities organized a reception for our common partners at a vibrant bar on the waterfront/Liverpool.



2016 Forum on Education Abroad in Atlanta

The Office of International Programs attended [Forum on Education Abroad 12th Annual Conference](#) held in Atlanta for the first time. Education abroad is a field of intersections. In every program, different national identities, learning models, values, disciplines, languages, traditions, institutions and organizations encounter each other in distinctive ways that create the unique cultures of education abroad. Education abroad lives and thrives at the intersections of these ideas and realities.

The Forum's 12th Annual Conference sought to address these and other questions unique to education abroad. The Team Leader of Exchange Programs and Partnerships and Coordinator for International Special Projects attended to many panel sessions and round table discussions, and learn from the good practices.

Meetings were held by KU representative with the representatives from Northwestern University, University of California System, Michigan University, George Washington University, Rice University, Boston College, University of South Carolina, Georgia Tech

Latest on Global Partnership and Presence Overseas

from USA, and Antwerp University from Belgium, James Madison University from Canada, Glasgow University from UK, Paris College of Art from France.

Following the conference, Team Leader for Exchange Programs and Partnerships visited Duke University and North Carolina University (UNC) at Chapel Hill in North Carolina. We'll start exchanging students with UNC at Chapel Hill next year.

2016 NAFSA Conference in Denver



NAFSA (Association of International Educators) 2016 Annual Conference & Expo is one of the largest events in international education that gives an opportunity to develop partnerships among universities and other HEIs. Koc University's OIP participated through the following activities:

Koç University has attended NAFSA for 6 years to meet with existing and prospective partners. We gained useful insights from international speakers and colleagues about emerging trends in internationalization through keynote lectures and dedicated sessions on student mobility, research collaborations, strategic partnerships and sponsored student administration. We held meetings



to establish new partnerships that will serve the needs of our students and faculty. We o-hosted a lively and well-received breakfast reception with [ITRU](#) universities (METU, Bilkent, Boğaziçi, Koç, Sabancı) for our common partners in the US, Europe and Asia. The reception provided an opportunity to showcase KU's strengths as an international research partner.



American University of Beirut (AUB) Study Abroad Fair

Koç University Office of International Programs Director, Mrs. Burcu Sarsilmaz, visited [American University of Beirut \(AUB\)](#), Lebanon in early October. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the details of the Erasmus+ ICM funding that Koç University has received to fund exchange students and staff members. In addition to holding an info session about Koç University for AUB students, our Director also represented Koç University at AUB's Study Abroad Fair. AUB students were very interested about Koç University and they were thrilled to learn the details of the Erasmus+ ICM funding. AUB Office of International Programs and students extended a very warm welcome to our Director and we're looking forward to exchanging students and staff members.



International Community at Home

International Fellows and Ph.D's Eager to Further Socialize

Dr. Andrea Rossi, a post-doc fellow from Italy and Dr. Amir Mottalabzadeh, another fellow from Iran invited all international post-doc fellows and Ph.D students to an evening of socializing at Engineering Lounge on Oct. 19th. Sponsored by [International Community Office](#), the full house meeting brought together many scholars from different disciplines and backgrounds. Post-doc facebook group, begun by Amir last Spring seems now to have more members following the event. The group welcomes international post-doc fellows and Ph.D students and to join one must send a request to the admin. [Facebook group](#).



Confronting Immigration Bureaucracy for International Students

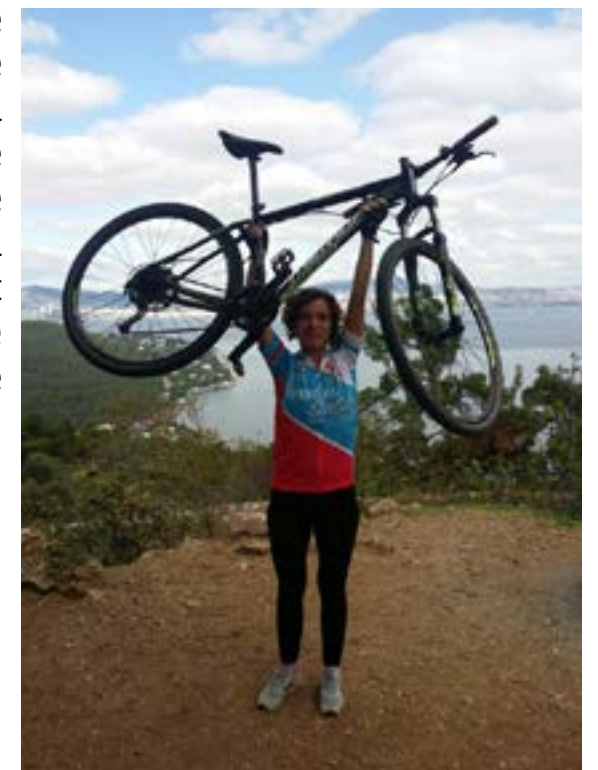
The International Community Office (ICO) began preparing for Fall 2016 student immigration procedures months ago with the usual anticipation of ever changing rules and regulations at the Migration Management Directorate of Turkey. Truthfully, not only did the rules change but there have been serious changes with the way immigration procedures and logistics work now. Just to give a quick example; applicants can now make their own applications in multiple languages and pay online, plus they can renew a residence permit online without visiting the immigration office. To confront all these changes and "new" stuff, ICO personnel made a video tutorial with a voice over by one exchange student, Jasmin Tobias Thomas of San Francisco State University for the online



application form. The form is in English but it is too long with some non-required fields. "We wanted to show students how they should fill out the form fast and right" said Ayhan Seker, the External Affairs Specialist at ICO. All students received the pre-arrival emails including the [new video](#) very well followed the instructions and did everything right. The application process was very successful thanks to Turkish exchange mentors and international students were happy to complete everything without going to the immigration office. This semester residence permit applications were accepted on campus on October 5th. The Chief of the Student Immigration Department thanked our ICO staff for organizing the process and making necessary arrangements in advance both for incoming international students and themselves.

ICO & Cycling Club's II. Annual Prince Island Tour

KU Biking Club organized their bi-semesterly grand biking event. Prince Island Tour is a complete festival in itself. Students meet on main campus, hop on shuttles to the pier in downtown Sariyer and board the boat. Good breakfast, big laughter, good talk, new friendships all the way through and big BBQ party on the way back. It's a day-long event. Those who don't have a bike rent one from the shop that is previously arranged for tour participants and the great Island ride begins. All students love this activity and it's one of the hottest social and sporting events for all international students alike. "We fully encourage and support this type of student activities because they are healthy and they involve cross-cultural exchange, acclamation of new students to student life and responsibility" says Mert Sanivar, the coordinator of the ICO. We, as OIP always advocate student leadership and student collaboration this is why we do our best to sponsor student activities or projects that incorporate international students and meeting of cultures in our community. Cycling Club also assumes a social role for Istanbul residents, that is they aim to raise awareness for bikers' road rights in Istanbul's highly populous traffic. We spoke with the President of Cycling



International Community at Home

Club, Oguz Belci, 3rd year Maths major and here is an excerpt from our conversation with Oguz: "As KU Cycling Club, our goal is to foster biking culture at KU and bring together people who want to taste this experience of liberty while on a bike. This is also an athletic activity and we are trying to promote biking for each individual on our campus while raising awareness about Bikes in Istanbul traffic. We organize weekly rides in Istanbul where we especially invite international students so they have a chance to visit some finest biking routes in Istanbul while having fun."



International Faculty, Family and Students on a Day Trip to Igneada and Dupnisa Cave in Kirklareli!



NEW!

Fall 2016 saw two new additions to OIP's line up of diversity + engagement programs.

As part of ICO's integration initiatives, we focused on arrangements to bring together domestic and international community for cultural and language exchange. 1) Host family program: International students were matched with local families (see more details under heading "Turkish Host Family Program") 2) Local Friends Program: We accepted applications from local and international students to partner with each other to become friends and let international students practice Turkish and learn about Turkish culture with a local. Hence the name of this new program. Program contact Mr. Mert Sanivar (msanivar@ku.edu.tr).



Experiencing Diversity



ALESSA FLORES VELA
Tecnologico de Monterrey
Mexico

Definitely, studying in Istanbul is a life-changing experience and Koç University makes your experience even more valuable in the country. Thanks to this, in a short period of time I've been able to live unforgettable moments in Istanbul; because anywhere I go, I can always find a place to discover the cultural and historical richness of the city and experience the warm environment of Turkish hospitality.

Being in Istanbul is a life-changing opportunity that will open your mind to multicultural reality, it will win your heart with its richness and open the door to new experiences.

My life as a erasmus student in KOC have been awesome so far. I have been on several trips and made a tons of friends. Mixing fun with school is working out very well, so i dont feel any stress at all. This is a picture from one of my lates trips, where i got my diving certificate.

FREDERIK HOJ HANSEN
Aarhus University
Denmark



A journey of self-discovery and personal growth filled with unforgettable memories and friendships for life.



TİLBE KAYA
Aarhus University
Denmark



DANIEL TOBIAH WALLINGER
University of Mannheim
Germany

Last summer I needed to justify myself to German friends, family and home university: Together with my Turkish soccer mates I was the only one still convinced that going to Turkey in these times is a great idea.

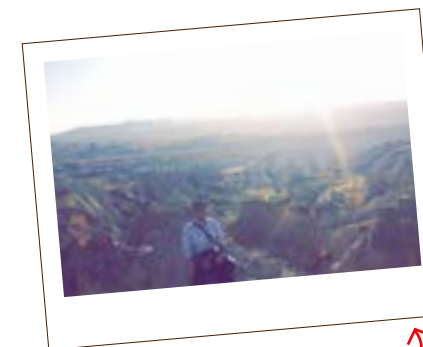
During the first weeks I got to know lots of open-minded people, always willing to help in one of the many moments I felt lost in Turkish language, paper work and traffic. It's also thanks to the great team of mentors at Koc and my new Turkish friends that the biggest "danger" during the last weeks was to eat too much of the delicious Turkish food - ... and maybe I should also add driving dolmus.

My exchange period in Istanbul so far has been great! People are really nice and especially the student mentors are amazingly helpful ;). The scuba diving trip to Kaş and our visit to Cappadocia were definitely worthwhile. The university has a wide range of cool facilities such as ice skating and a gym, free of charge.

Also, most Turkish people outside of university do not speak English very well, but this is not too much of a problem and it stimulates you to practice your Turkish language.



DAVY GROFFEN
Tilburg University
the Netherlands



HUSSEIN SHAYTO
American University of
Beirut, Lebanon

A multicultural experience that will change how you look at the world. Istanbul is a beautiful city with a lot to discover and Koç University is a top tier research university with elite teaching staff. I feel that this combination between a beautiful city, people, and esteemed university make the whole exchange experience a not-to-miss. Exchange programs are engineered in such a way that they would change you as a person and that is an essential asset every student needs to have prior to graduating . If you want to witness the feeling of getting out of your comfort zone, then this is the right place for you to do just that.

Experiencing Diversity

Turkish Host Family Program

This semester we gave a chance to international students to experience Turkish culture and Turkish language by visiting carefully selected Turkish families by OIP. There were a wide variety of opportunities from having a student for a family meal, to staying during a semester or a whole academic year. These are:

- Visiting a Turkish family for an evening, a few days or a week
- Staying with a Turkish family for a semester or an academic year
- Having dinner at a family atmosphere
- Teaching a foreign language to the families' children or family members
- Meeting a group of Turkish students out for dinner

It has been a great opportunity to get to learn more about Turkish culture. Here is one of the testimonials from an exchange student:

"I am currently visiting Mr and Mrs Alaca weekly on Tuesdays, in the evening. Most of the time, I would 'babysit' their son as I would play with him and teach him basic Mandarin. Thereafter, they graciously have me over for dinner where we get to know more about each other. They are really warm and hospitable and as they have had similar arrangements with Singaporean exchange students previously, they understand Singaporean culture to a greater extent too.

I would receive a small stipend at the end of each month for spending time with their son. Also, we could possibly have plans to visit other less touristy parts of Istanbul in the near future.

Thank you so much for arranging this visitation, it is certainly a memorable experience I greatly treasure! I think this programme should be continued to expose future exchange students to Turkish culture as experiencing it first hand is very meaningful." Yong Zhi Nathanael Long, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

If you are interested in this program you can contact with Ms. Arzu Yılmaz at arzuylmaz@ku.edu.tr

Fall 2016 Incoming Exchange Orientation Week

The orientation week, held on 19 – 26 September, has been a great opportunity for our exchange students to get to know Koç University. With the help of their mentors, they had a chance to move in to their dorms and find out what Istanbul offers.

On the first day of the orientation, KU staff provided information regarding the dorm management, residence permit, course registration. Thus, the General Meeting was useful for our lovely incomings' adaptation! They also had one hour Survival Turkish class which gave them a chance to focus on basic Turkish words and phrases relating to daily life, shopping, personal introductions, numbers etc.

On the second day, we had a traditional Turkish Breakfast on the side of the Black Sea. During and after this event, exchange students got to know their mentors and soon-to-be-friends while enjoying bal – kaymak!

On the third day, incoming students got enrolled in the courses which were previously announced on the OIP website.

On the fourth day, we had a Bosphorus tour planned for our new guests. Keeping good connections with weather finally paid for itself! We had a chance to see the old town listening to our guide.

The last day of the orientation was the most important one.

We helped our students to apply on the residence permit online, and got their documents ready for them, as a preparation for the residence permit application day due October 5th.

Head Mentor - Ayşegül Yamak



Incoming Exchange Students Exploring Turkey

Diving Trip Experiences in Kaş, Antalya 14 – 16 October from a mentor!



Students with their mentors took the bus from in front of Koc West Campus and arrived in Kas at 9 am in the morning. In Bora (both the name of their instructor's son and the boat), they had their first instructions as to what tasks to complete upon their first dive. They were learning how to basically communicate with their instructors, how to inflate

Experiencing Diversity



and deflate their vests, and how to balance their ear pressure.

After a one-to-one session with the designated instructor, they had a quick lunch in the boat to get more energy and dive again. This time, they dived with their body.

At night, they had a barbeque in the terrace of their hotel where the instructors also joined them. Since all of them were tired, most of them went to sleep except a group of super energetic fellas!

The second day, after a super filling open buffet, they were again on the boat for a new adventure.

On their final day, they dived into 18 metres! In the first dive, some students had a chance to see a baby caretta caretta! On the second dive they went down next to a mural down in the sea. It was a bit frustrating since they had no idea how deep the mural went! Being very tired from three days' diversings, students came back home sleeping all the way.

Thanks to OIP for contribution to the trip and financing our transportation and efforts of Kusas (Koç University Underwater Sports) to organize everything in the trip.

Berfin İraf



Traditional Cappadocia Tour (21 – 23 October)

Our most favorite trip of all times started with an overnight bus ride to Cappadocia. Arriving at Aksaray, students had traditional Turkish breakfast and started their magical tour. After having some photo stops to capture beautiful landscapes in Derbent and Monks Valley, they had lunch in an amazing cave restaurant. They had a quick visit to a local pottery shop where locals showed them how to make potteries- even let them try making some! After the visit, there was a Hamam (Turkish Bath) activity and those who didn't go to Hamam went to the hotel to have some rest.



The second day started early for some of them to join hot air balloon activity which Cappadocia is famous for! After having breakfast, they left to discover Cappadocia more. They visited Göreme Open Air Museum and enjoyed so much seeing antic churches and graveyards which lasted around two hours. Once their lunch was done, they visited Red Valley and took great pictures. Some of them took the ATV tour and the rest went back to our hotel. They all had dinner together before leaving for Turkish Night where they enjoyed Turkish food & various traditional Turkish dances.

On the last day, students left their hotels early as they had a long day ahead! After visiting Kaymaklı Underground City, they had a two hours bus ride to their next stop Ihlara Valley. Even though we had to climb down (and of course up!) so many stairs, they all loved Ihlara Valley as the air was so fresh there. The last stop was Salt Lake where the scenery was fascinating and they took so many fascinating photos. They all enjoyed the trip very much and arrived to Istanbul around 11 pm with great memories.



Ece Şanlı

International Projects and Conferences

The use and management of internationalisation data and indicators in universities – HEIDA Project

On September 22-23, 2016 over 50 colleagues from higher education institutions from Turkey, Europe and Africa gathered in Istanbul to learn more and contribute to the HEIDA Project's final conference.

The HEIDA Project is 2 year joint initiative led by Koç University (Istanbul, Turkey) in collaboration with Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain) and International School for Social and Business Studies (Slovenia) and funded by the Erasmus+ Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education program.

The conference offered those working in internationalization at universities an opportunity to reflect and gain new knowledge on the topics of management of data in higher education institutions and specifically how internationalisation data can be used for decision making.

It was also an opportunity to showcase the free online software tool and training module that was developed as part of the HEIDA project and raise interest in the use of the tool amongst the participating institutions.

More information about the HEIDA Project can be found here: <https://heida.ku.edu.tr/> and you can find the conference presentations and videos there too!

If your institution is interested in testing or using the HEIDA online tool please email heida@ku.edu.tr



Urban Political Ecology on the Road: City's Nature and Nature's City through Istanbul

Having become a popular program among both international and Koç students, we repeated this program in the summer of 2016. Although this program was originally designed for grad-level students and young professionals, this year we also opened it to undergrad students due to significant demand. It has proved to be extremely creative and useful for its participating students! Also, as another new feature of the course this year, students were granted access to the studios and technical facilities of our university's media and visual arts department for their video assignments. As a part of the "on the road" concept, the flow of the class adopts a hands-on approach to the city and benefit from a series of guided fieldworks as well as readings and discussions. The course is enriched through discussions with several social leaders that we host as guest speakers.

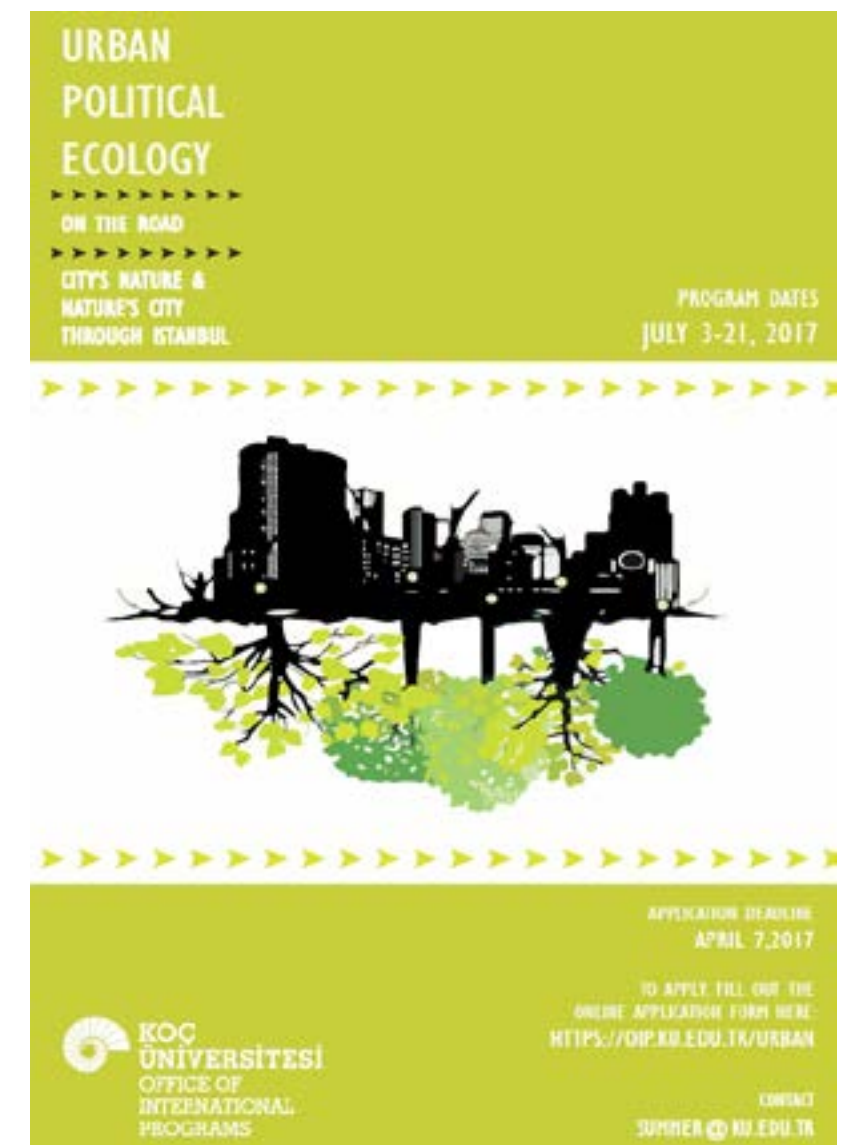
"The best thing about the course was honestly the academic diversity of my fellow classmates. I learned as much from them as any other aspect of the course." said former student Erin Tolman.

Applications are now open for 2017 Summer. Visit our [website](https://oip.ku.edu.tr/urban) to apply and find more information.

Application Deadline:

April 7, 2017.

Program dates: July 3-21, 2017



URBAN
POLITICAL
ECOLOGY

ON THE ROAD

CITY'S NATURE &
NATURE'S CITY
THROUGH ISTANBUL

PROGRAM DATES
JULY 3-21, 2017

APPLICATION DEADLINE
APRIL 7, 2017

TO APPLY FILL OUT THE
ONLINE APPLICATION FORM HERE:
[HTTPS://OIP.KU.EDU.TR/URBAN](https://oip.ku.edu.tr/urban)

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INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS

KONUK
SUMMER @ KU.EDU.TR

International Projects and Conferences

International Migration and the Crisis

2016 has marked the launch of a high quality, and, apparently, an already popular international program! This new summer program on International Migration and the Crisis received great interest from students worldwide! The array of students who came to Koç for this program included individuals from Korea to Germany, from the United States to Australia, from Russia to Singapore, from Netherlands to Pakistan!

The course was an amazing learning opportunity for me. Due to the geo-strategic importance of Turkey with regards to the Syrian Refugee Crisis, Istanbul and Koç were the most appropriate places to get a sophisticated understanding of this issue.



Abdullah Naveed

Fascinating and insightful. The course not only focused on global issues behind migration but provided insight into Turkey's situation with refugees which is highly pertinent given the current problems facing Turkey and the EU at the moment.

Caitlin Power

The chance to meet everyone and learn about migration – a timely topic – was an invaluable experience that I would highly recommend to everyone. The programme itself involved diverse activities such as guest lectures and field trips that allowed me to see a different side of the city, and to appreciate its richness and culture.

Aditya Kurtakoti

Field trips were helpful because without the programmes, I could not see the realities about the refugees. Guest lecturers were really passionate! Just to study in Koc was my unforgettable chance to experience Turkey.

Jungin Bae

Applications are now open for 2017 Summer. Visit our [website](#) to apply and find more information.

Application Deadline: April 7, 2017. **Program dates:** July 3-21, 2017



Left behind PEACEMAKERS 2016:

"Migration and Securitization of Europe: Views from the Balkan Corridor"

[Peacemakers](#) is an annual international event composed of a conference and a series of workshops organized by OIP since 2012. Until now, more than 100 young leaders from Turkey and around the world have participated in the interactive, evidence-based and intensive Peacemakers workshops.

The focus of this year's Peacemakers was on a highly sensitive global issue from a regional perspective. The participants were first, familiarized with the notion of conflict, negotiation, key differences between migrants and refugees, legal and political problems of the European Union states. In order to improve the sustainability and reach of the program, this year's Peacemakers Workshop was designed in the "train the trainer" format. During and after the workshop, participating students were able to apply this theoretical knowledge into practice, to the Balkan case.

As in 2016, this year's workshop was also by Dr. Govinda Clayton, a professional in the field of International Conflict Analysis, with an award for teaching innovation. Click on the image to watch this year's highlights



International Projects and Conferences

Peacemakers said:

Since I am a PhD student, I have found especially interesting the conceptual part, linking the theoretical with the practical aspects of the peace building and conflict management.

– **Dragana Svraka**



I liked the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives.

– **Giulia Scavuzo**

The profiles of the participants were very well elected, because it was based on multidisciplinary approach of the participants background.

– **Milena Sasic**



The best part was the negotiation skills. Being myself an academic, this section opened new ways on how to perceive and interpret certain issues which was highly relevant for my doctoral dissertation.

– **Viktorija Jakjmovska**



Everyone that attended had either an impressive professional career or was a brilliant academic. . I really enjoyed spending time with this diverse group of people.

– **Thomas E. Lord**



My favorite subject was about conflict mapping and the exercises, especially the one in which we played the role of a government and needed to find solutions (crises management activity).

– **Melina de Siqueira**

Peacemakers workshop serves its purpose well.

– **Meena Pillai**

KU GlobalAid : Unforgettable Adventure in Zimbabwe

A junior student majoring at international relations Tutku Aküzüm shares her [KU Global Aid](#) service learning experience at Kufunda Village, Zimbabwe:

“That was definitely a life-time experience for me and my friends. We all can say that we have a home and a big family in Kufunda Village. In our visit of one month, beside of our experiences on local lifestyle which are full of challenges and fun stories, we took an education on Oasis game which we followed its process and rules for creating the most efficient social projects for the Green Valley community. This community that we aimed to make a social impact for, was one of the poorest neighborhoods in the capital city of Zimbabwe. We studied in Kufunda to learn the theoretical part of the Oasis game, went to visit some organizations in town such as SHDF and Social Entrepreneurship Bootcamp and observed what they have done or still work on for developing Zimbabwean community and especially youth.

And then based on those knowledge and shared experiences, we went to field where we firstly were assigned to harvest the community's dreams, aims for their family and society. This period was called the gaze and affection, that was exactly getting closer to the community and understand the needs and what we have already within the community for making a social change without having a financial source. After we collected all the ziroccos (dreams) from the local people, we made some fun events like talent show, plays with children etc. to be better integrated into the society and remove the barriers between locals and murungus(white people) .

We visited three different regions in Zimbabwe by bus and stayed in each about two–three days, the most amazing



International Projects and Conferences

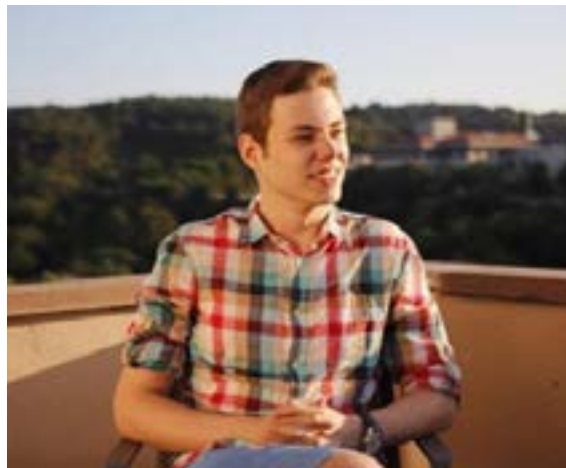
was the Safari in Hwange National Park for me. Also the courageous ones have experienced the world's longest bungee-jumping in Victoria Falls. Whatever we ate after Kufunda's very fixed menu "sadza", were very tasty for us; we ate crocodile meat, impala meat, kudu meat and some other exotic foods. I think nobody from the team can squeeze our adventurous journey into two paragraphs. That was the greatest opportunity that I could have in my life so I thank to Koç University and my club coordinator for my transition into a wiser person."



Tutku Üzümlü – International Relations

Dalai Lama Fellow: Want to Reimagine Leadership?

Egemen Filiz, President of Koç University Entrepreneurship Society and Electrical & Electronics Engineering student, was awarded with [Dalai Lama Fellows](#) grant for his Project. He created an alternative clothing brand aiming to transform the



unconscious consumption habits to social impact while embracing organic and fair trade principles. The project aims to rebrand fashion as a tool for self-expression in social causes and alter the donation perception in young generation. For each clothing item bought, the individual will be able to support the solution of a social cause and be a part of the community. [Reflect](#) picks its designs from the "heroes" of the social change through various art activities. To stay updated to be the part of a change, follow them on [Facebook](#).

Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC) Info Session at Impact Hub Istanbul!

[GSVC](#) pushes entrepreneurs to scale and transform their ideas. The info session took place in [Impact Hub Istanbul](#). Approximately 40 people attended and the background of attendees was quite diverse. It shows how diverse the social innovation ecosystem field is. The info session had started with the presentation of the director of [Koç University Social Impact Forum](#), Dr. Gonca Ongan. She discussed the importance of social enterprises and the Social Innovation culture in Koç University. After Dr. Ongan, Mert Cetinkaya from the [Office of International Programs at Koç University](#) presented the prerequisites of the competition and the opportunities such as mentoring, consultancy etc. provided to the competitors. After co-founder of Impact Hub Istanbul, Ayşe Sabuncu, gave a speech about the importance of places on the ideation process and working efficiency, participants were able to listen to previous semi-finalists of GSVC who the founders of Longi and discussed the importance of the process and the impact of the competition on their ideas by telling the experiences they had during the pitching session during the semi-finals and ask questions about the competition process.



KU Staff Exchange Abroad

Koç University offers opportunities for both Outgoing and Incoming Faculty and Staff Exchange Programs.

Here are some of our Staffs Exchange Experiences:

Week at Rennes by Ahu Erkmen

I am working at Koç University College of Social Sciences and Humanities, as Administrative Assistant to the Dean. I spent nearly a week at University of Sciences-Po Rennes between the dates 1-7 May 2016.

During my exchange I participated at the meetings with each departments, they made presentations to me which were really very professional and I got to understand their systems well. I also talked about our University, my position, our system in Turkey. I also attended some classes every day, with the students which was very nice, to observe their education model. The colleagues were very kind, friendly and helpful.

I really appreciate staff exchange program as it gives us a chance to know another culture, system and people who does the same job with you. It was a great pleasure for me and I feel so satisfied about my Staff Exchange experience.



Helsinki, the Land of the Midnight Sun and a Librarian by Sina Mater



During very hot summer days in Istanbul, I visited Helsinki where the weather gives you a nice breeze in June. As a Librarian I have always wondered about highly developed and modernised World Libraries and their buildings with aesthetic architecture. Staff Exchange Program gave me this opportunity to explore Helsinki Libraries and meet with their warm and polite staff members. I stayed in Helsinki

between June 27 and July 1. I visited, Helsinki City Library, Espoo Entresse Library, Sello Library, Kallio Library, Rikhardinkatu Library and Helsinki University Library. I also attended one of the most important Librarianship Conference LIBER ((Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche – Association of European Research Libraries) which is the main network for research libraries in Europe hosted by the National Library of Finland, Helsinki University Library and the Finnish Research Library Association. It was a remarkable experience for my librarianship career.

I would like to give my gratitude again to the staff members of OIP Office and my Managers for helping my dreams come true.

P.S.: If you like to chat about it; I welcome you all to the Suna Kiraç Library to my office, located on the Second Floor.



Exchange days at University of Leeds by Zeynep N. Akçabay and Aşkın Demiryürek



Zeynep Neyza Akçabay and Aşkın Demiryürek, from Research, Project Development and Technology Transfer Directorate visited University of Leeds between 20-22 June, 2016 under ERASMUS-Staff Mobility for Training Programme. It was a great opportunity to exchange information between two universities and to share experiences for project applications and management procedures. The heavy schedule for three days, covered meetings with

EU Team of University Leeds, project managers and administrative officers.

Any interests in Erasmus Staff exchange (teaching or training) at Koç University is possible for Staff or Faculty members of a European University. Details are announced on our [website](#).

Stay in Touch

Follow us on social media!

Koç University Office of International Programs uses various social media tools such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to contact with our students and partner universities from all around the world. Using the power of different networks has been a key for us and has been a great audience connector not only with current contacts but also with prospective ones. Sharing announcements and photos from the campus on the social media attracts students and professors, and engage us with our partner universities. In addition to that, following us on social media is the best way to be immediately informed about our activities, events and announcements.



New Exchange Blog is on the way!

We are in the process of launching new Exchange Blog for both incoming and outgoing students! The blog will serve as an information tool about application processes, and All Exchange Programs. Students will be able to search for the countries, cities, and the universities to get information & suggestions about life in those places, tips about campuses from their peers. The blog will be an online platform where the content fully created by students to share their experiences with their own words. There will be also a discussion page to ask questions when they need more detailed explanations. The link will be share in our next newsletter issue!



Looking for a Project Partner?

Koç University OIP would be happy to take part in your projects (i.e. Erasmus+ Youth, Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships, etc.). Please contact Mrs. Burcu Sarsilmaz (bsarsilmaz@ku.edu.tr) if you are looking for a partner in Turkey.



Internship Opportunities Available!

As [Office of International Programs](#) we hosted two international internship during the summer period. Yvette Bolten from University of Amsterdam and Felicia Lok from National University of Singapore completed their internship at International Projects and Marketing Department.

"This opportunity did not only allow me to spend time with friends in of my favourite cities, but it also provided me with valuable hands-on experience in an international environment. It was easy to stay motivated and inspired since I was working on different kinds of projects, both alone and together with students. The time I have spent here has been valuable, challenging and pleasant. Eyvallah!"



Yvette Bolten



"My experience at the OIP has fully met my expectations of a marketing internship at a young and outward-looking university. An intern cannot expect a structured week-by-week program given the dynamics and demands of a fast-moving international relations department. While a basic level of creative competency is expected, I was never left to my own devices if I had encountered problems, and my mentor would always be prompt and happy to discuss alternatives."

Felicia Lok

If you would like to apply for an internship, or would like to co-operate on a partner level please contact us at exchange@ku.edu.tr

Credits and Contributors

The editorial staff welcomes story ideas, comments and news. Please email marketing team on rpolat@ku.edu.tr

OIP Newsletter is a semi-annual magazine brings you the latest news, events, information and more from across the University, students and partners.

Creative and Managing Editor: Rena Polat

Content Editor: Mert Sanivar

General Editor: Burcu Sarsilmaz

Contributors (OIP Team)



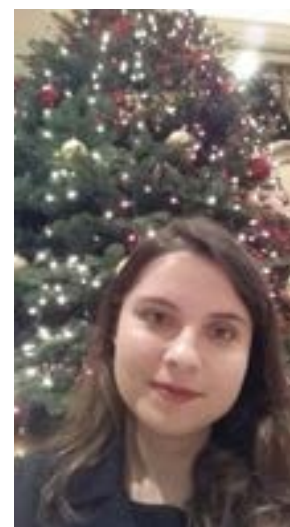
Burcu Sarsilmaz,
Director: Last new year, I received the most important gift I could have ever asked for and he has brought all the joy and love into my life! May the new year bring you love, happiness, peace and hope for the future.



Rena Polat,
International Communication and Marketing Specialist: Happiness keeps you smile, Trials make you stronger, success gets you going, and good wishes make your new year rocking! :) Wish you a happy new year!



Arzu Yilmaz, (Incoming)
Programs and Partnerships Specialist: Just like a new bloom spreads fragrance around, let the New Year fill you with happiness! New beginnings, fresh starts, sweet memories, cheerful times and lots of love- bring it on!



Sedef Erçetin,
Team Leader / Coordinator of Exchange Programs and Partnerships: May the year be brighter than the one gone by; spreading the peace all around.



Elif Çeltikçi, *Exchange Programs Outgoing Assistant Specialist:* I wish a fun and enjoyable new year.



Ayhan Şeker, *External Relations Specialist:* Happy new year!



Mert Şanivar, *International Community Coordinator:* Feliz Navidad! Have your Sangria as you please, in 2017, warm or cold, but do enjoy it!



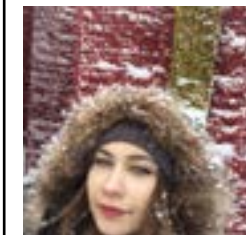
Melissa Abache, *Global Engagement Coordinator at Office of Vice President for Research and Development:* Wishing peace for Syria and for all other countries where intolerance creates pain and trauma for their youngest. Also wishing our university continues to be a safe haven for academic freedom and a beacon of light in the region.



Mert Çetinkaya, *International Project Development Specialist:* Let the keys open big locks, let simple words depict great thoughts, let your smile cure many heart blocks! Happy new year.



Nilüfer Akpınar Şahin, *International Coordinator for Special Projects:* A more peaceful world for all of us, where nobody has to flee their homes, and where we enjoy embracing all cultures with empathy and tolerance instead of prejudices.



Zeynep Ezgi Erdem, *Exchange Programs Outgoing Assistant Specialist:* Wish you best for the New Year!

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