ERASMUS PROGRAM

The Erasmus program is a sub-program which, at the level of higher education, organizes cooperation among the LLP programs which are amongst EU Education and Youth Programs. The purpose of the program is to improve the quality of higher education in Europe and to enhance European dimensions. This purpose can be summarized as presenting effective exercises in some European countries to the use and benefit of the whole of Europe. The Erasmus Program supports the abovementioned purposes by encouraging university exchange agreements among countries, organizing exchange of students and lecturers, providing academic recognition of the studies and degrees achieved in the participating countries, and supporting the development of transparency.

AIMS AND TARGETS OF THE PROGRAM

The Bologna Declaration from June 1999 states that the Erasmus program seeks to establish a more complete and far-reaching Europe, in particular, building upon and, strengthening its intellectual, cultural, social and scientific, and technological dimensions. Among the concrete goals we want to increase the number of students who attend university in another member state and complete study requirements there, expand and increase the cooperation between the universities across the borders, and promote the mobility of professors and researchers.
WELCOME TO IKU

Istanbul Kültür University believes education to be a lifelong experience. Alongside the academic steps from associate degree to doctorate, IKU also offers training and counselling, through its Academic Centers, to meet the needs of society. Academic education is carried out on three campuses located in Şirinevler, Ataköy and İncirli. The lecture rooms, studios, seminar halls and labs are all designed for better, more beneficial educational practices. All three campuses have their own libraries to support the students with their courses and research activities. Istanbul Kültür University had 8800 students in its 7 faculties, 19 departments, 13 programs, 3 vocational schools, 3 PhD and 28 postgraduate programs. Our university’s student/instructor ratio is 10. The courses and activities are held within small groups, making sure that every single student has an active role.

FOUNDATION AND HISTORY OF IKU

Istanbul Kültür University was founded in July 1997 as a public entity Foundation University. In the first year of the operation only the programs of natural sciences were offered, but a year later social sciences programs were also introduced and the number of the enrolled students increased accordingly. In 2000 the first research centers of the university were opened, among which are: Atatürk’s Principles and History of the Turkish Revolution Research and Application Center, and Fine Arts Research and Application Center. After a series of inspections Istanbul Kültür University was considered worthy of government support for the first time, in 2001. In 2004 female students dormitory was put into service at our Şirinevler campus. More and more faculties and departments have been founded almost every year up until now and some of them moved to the new campus in Ataköy.

LOCATION

Istanbul Kültür University has three campuses: the main campus is located in Ataköy (Yenibosna), one is located in Şirinevler (law faculty) and the one that has the vocational schools is located in İncirli (Bakırköy). All the campuses are close to Atatürk Airport. It is accessible by Metro (red line), Metrobus and Autobus depending on which area you chose to live in. For anyone who has never been to Istanbul, there is no "center". You can say that each area has its own "center" or its own particular qualities. All areas with easy access to the Metrobus would be ideal to reach the University (you can check the various areas and how long it takes to get to the University here http://www.iett.gov.tr/en/index.php).

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

In the beginning of every semester, we organize an “orientation week” for incoming students. We expect your participation to this organization. Our orientation program lasts for one week, it is 2 ECTS credits and is usually placed on the week before the start of term, you will be informed about the exact date and the timetable by your Coordinator. You may add this on your learning agreement, although it does not have a course code. Full Attendance is compulsory to achieve the credits.
ACADEMIC PACKAGE

please see http://www.iku.edu.tr/EN/ects.php

GETTING TO IKU CAMPUSES AND DORMITORIES

For the ones, who will arrive in Istanbul by Atatürk Airport: After arriving at the airport (look at the first map. Number 7 is written on it), you can use the subway system. Metro station is inside the airport. Use the metro and get off the train in “Yenibosna” station (Number 6 on the map). As you can see, university is very close to “Yenibosna Metro Station”. (University is marked with number 1 on the map) You can reach the main campus on foot in 7-8 minutes.

On this map, dormitory is marked with number 4. After leaving “Yenibosna Metro Station”, you can go there on foot in 10 minutes. As it is seen on the map, you should go to the other side of main road to find dormitory. When you reach number 4, you will see “Law Faculty (Hukuk Fakültesi)” of our university. Next to it, you will see “Ataköy Hospital (Ataköy Hastanesi)”. Behind these buildings you will find the dormitory. The address of dormitory in Turkish is “Hürriyet Mahallesi, Sümbül Sokak, no 27, Şirinevler”. You can give this address to the taxi driver if you come from a different direction and with a cab. Remember that the main road you see on the map is called “E5” and it is easy to find both the main campus and dormitory once you are on this road. (By the way dormitory is called “Yurt” in Turkish. If you wish to take help from a Turkish citizen, on a piece of paper write “İstanbul Kültür Üniversitesi Öğrenci Yurduunu arıyorum”. If the taxi driver (or bus driver) doesn’t know the address written above, just tell him to leave you at Istanbul Kültür University. You can find the dormitory by following the instructions written in this e-mail. (Keep in mind that Law Faculty is not the main campus. Main campus is marked with number 1)

On the map, the place marked with number 5 is “Şirinevler Metro Station”. You can also get off the train on this station and walk to the dormitory. But if you will come directly to the university, you should prefer “Yenibosna Metro Station” since it is closer.

Another easy way of reaching the university and dormitory is using the “metrobus” system. Metrobus has a long course on E5 road and is a very fast way of transportation. If you wish to use metrobus, you can get off the bus on “Yenibosna” metrobus stop. This stop is marked with number 3 on the map.

If you wish to use “public bus” to reach the university, you can get off the bus in “Kültür University bus stop”. That bus stop is marked with number 2 on the map.

The address of our main campus is “İstanbul Kültür Üniversitesi, Ataköy Kampüsü, Bakırköy”. You can give this to the driver if you use a taxi or bus. Remember that main campus is on E5 road (“E5 Karayolu” in Turkish). Next to our main campus (where EILC will be held), you will see “Airport Shopping Mall” (Airport Alışveriş Merkezi). The picture of our main campus is attached to this message.

If your airplane lands on Sabiha Gökçen Airport (which is on the other side of Bosphorus), the best way of transportation is using shuttles called HAVATAS shuttles. HAVATAS buses are right outside of Sabiha Gökçen Airport and will take you to Taksim Square which is at the city center.

Taksim Square is not close to the university. If you take a cab, it may cost around 50 Turkish Liras. You can reach university by using public bus which moves from Taksim Square. Buses with numbers “73” and “76 D” will take you to Şirinevler. 76 D will take you to Kültür University bus stop (remember number 2 on the map) and 73 will take you to Şirinevler or Yenibosna Bus Station (Yenibosna Bus Station is next to Yenibosna Metro Station marked with 6 on the map).
You can also use Metrobus to reach our university. From Taksim Square, enter the subway station. From Taksim metro station, take the train and leave it in Mecidiyeköy metro station. In Mecidiyeköy, you will see the “Mecidiyeköy Metrobus Station”. In this station, take the metrobus and go until you reach Yenibosna Metrobus Station (remember marked with number 3 on the map).

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
The Academic year at IKU normally starts in the middle of September. The fall semester ends at the end of January and spring semester starts at the beginning of February. The 2014-15 Academic Year will start on the 8th of September 2014. You can find detailed information following this link: http://www.iku.edu.tr/EN/akademik_takvim.php

ACCOMODATION
The dormitories at Kültür University aim to give the students a clean, comfortable, secure and civilized atmosphere which enables them to reach their goals. Social and cultural activities organized in the dormitories also contribute to their success.
Rooms for one, two, three and four persons are available....
Our dormitories are located in the Şirivevler Campus which is about a 15-minute-walk from the Ataköy Campus. For those who do not fancy walking there is also a shuttle every 20 minutes, making it possible to attend the classes on time. Our dormitories are only a 5-minute-walk from Yenibosna Metrobus and various bus stops while the subway is only 10 minute walk away. It takes only 10 minutes to reach Atatürk Airport by taxi and you can arrive at the bus terminal in 30 minutes by subway.

Our university has two dormitories; one for boys and one for ladies. You can stay there by making early reservation. First, the rooms in the dorm have beds, drawers, wardrobes and desks in them for students. The kitchen and showers are common used, but the authorized personnel in the dorms said it was not a problem so far.

You can do the laundry in the dorms; there is a laundry room and it is free, but each student is responsible for his/her own laundry. I mean it is not provided as a service, but it is provided as a facility that you yourself can use.

Linens will be provided on the condition of returning it when you are leaving. Here are the prices for dormitories regarding the 2013 – 2014 Academic Year (Prices include VAT - prices are valid for one semester – Spring, prices will be calculated for each semester and be announced at the beginning of the semester):

Room for four (per person): 2.475 TL
Room for three (per person): 3.800 TL
Room for two (per person): 4.350 TL
Room for one person: 5.450 TL
Room at Girl’s Flat for one person: 8.300 TL
Room at Girl’s Flat for two person: 6.000 TL

Also, if you want us to publish your flat search on the facebook group, so that other Erasmus students who are already here, or on ESN Istanbul page, please tell us your intention.
If you would like to go through a company, there are private companies that provide housing for Erasmus students. But keep in mind that, these organizations have no connection with our university and we don’t guarantee anything about living conditions, security or quality of these places. You can also go through an estate Agent but they will charge you for their services.

As with any situation please be careful, scams can happen everywhere and all the time. Here are some pointers about how to spot a scam:

If the Landlord asks for a Money Transfer or a Deposit before you have seen or moved into the house. Make sure you give them their deposit and rent ONCE you have moved in. Check the address that is given on the website.

If you communicate only by email, ask them to meet, if not possible, then ask for a phone number and communicate with them that way. Make sure you speak to them several times before handing over any money or bank details.

**CAFETERIAS AND RESTAURANTS IN THE CAMPUS**

There is a restaurant and a cafeteria in the main building of the Şirinevler Campus. While hot meals are served in the restaurant only at lunchtime, you can get other things from the cafeteria at any time during the day. Hot meals are provided by Fesleğen catering. In the Ataköy Campus there is a restaurant which can seat 400 people and a cafeteria, both of which are managed by Fesleğen catering. Other than the aforementioned services, there is a VIP dining hall run by Fesleğen. It is big enough for 150 people and it is for the exclusive use of Professors and the University Staff. Fesleğen also manages another dining hall for both students and lecturers and this can seat up to 250 people. The cafe next to the VIP dining hall (on the 6th floor) serves all day as well. In 2007 Starbucks Cafe opened a branch in our Ataköy Campus and has been serving our students since then (it can be found on B1).

**HEALTH CENTER**

The university’s modern medical centre offers free physical examinations and general medical assistance to all students and academic staff in accordance with University Health Care Regulations. Cases requiring special care or in-patient treatments are referred to Ataköy Hospital located next to the Şirinevler Campus. The centre provides free psychological counselling as well, with a staff of psychiatrists and therapists who support and coach the students in their daily life issues.

**LIBRARIES**

Republic of Turkey Istanbul Kültür University Library was founded in the academic year of 1997-1998 in order to support the education and research activities of our university, and to meet its information and document needs. The Istanbul Kültür University Library serves its users through 2 libraries: Ataköy Campus Library and Şirinevler Campus Library.

**EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

The European and International Center is dealing with all international projects and exchanges that the university is involved with. Being an international student at IKU you will submit all your necessary papers to the Center which is located in the 5th floor of main building in Ataköy Campus, C corridor. Moreover, if you face any problems or dilemmas during your stay in Istanbul, do not hesitate to contact employees in the office who will be always ready to help you.
The European and International Center was founded in 2002 with the objective of deepening the internationalization of the educational network the university is included in, and thus offer its students more possibilities to gain knowledge and academic experiences while studying abroad. The educational and administrative reforms that needed to be carried out in order for our University to be able to participate in the Socrates/Erasmus Program, were realized. So far, we are proud to announce that our University has become an integral part of the European higher education space. One of our biggest challenges will be to discover new funding and cooperation opportunities beyond this space.

The European and International Centre at Istanbul Kültür University is responsible for the realization of international education that takes place at the university. Thus, since its foundation in 2002, the number of foreign exchange students in our classrooms as well in our offices has obviously increased. The challenge of the internationalization of education is to provide available programs, tools and opportunities in order to enable students to recognize and seize the opportunities offered by globalization while, at the same time, help them to develop intercultural competence and empathy as well as global social awareness and responsibilities. The biggest inspiration for us is to observe how our students – both our IKU students and our exchange students –benefit from these new intercultural experiences. Especially how new horizons and possibilities, as well as challenges, in terms of academic and personal achievement, have opened up for them and have allowed them to take another important step toward becoming a responsible “world citizen”, which is one of the principal goals of our University.

ESN KÜLTÜR

ESN (ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK) is an organisation created for Erasmus Students: http://www.esn.org/.

You can find the one linked to Kültür on facebook by typing İKU ESN into the search or through the following link ( http://www.esn.org/content/section-information?id=TR-ISTA-KUL ). It can put you into contact with other Erasmus students or provide you with help and support about the country you are visiting, cultural aspects, accommodation etc.

Also, our Erasmus Club may help you with your search. You can reach our ESN students via esnkultur@esnturkey.org

FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTS

Students are being accepted to 32 higher education programmes in 7 faculties and 3 vocational schools. Additionally, PhD and master degree programmes are carried on in 15 departments in the Institute of Social Sciences and the Institute of Applied Sciences.

Faculty of Science and Letters
- Physics
- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Psychology
- Turkish Language and Literature

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
- Economics
- Business Administration  
- International Relations  
- International Trade

**Faculty of Education**

**Faculty of Architecture**
- Architecture

**Faculty of Engineering**
- Computer Engineering  
- Electronic Engineering  
- Civil Engineering  
- Architecture

**Faculty of Art and Design**
- Interior Architecture and Environmental Design (Special Ability)  
- Communication Arts  
- Communication Design (Multimedia) (Special Ability)  
- Art Management

**STUDENT CLUBS**

As well as being one of the main places for scientific development, universities also play an important role in the cultural development of students. Therefore IKU has always supported the foundation of distinguished student clubs and the performance of their regular activities. As an incoming student you can join the following clubs upon your interest

**ARCHITECTURE CLUB**  
**ASTRONOMY CLUB**  
**ATATÜRKİST IDEOLOGY CLUB**  
**AVIATION CLUB**  
**BOSS CLUB (YOUNG BUSINESSMEN CLUB)**  
**BRIDGE CLUB**  
**CAREER CLUB**  
**CERAMICS CLUB**  
**CINEMA CLUB**  
**CONSTRUCTION CLUB**  
**CHESS CLUB**  
**DANCE CLUB**  
**EBRU CLUB**  
**ELECTRONICS AND ROBOT TECHNOLOGY CLUB**  
**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION CLUB**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB**  
**ERASMUS CLUB**  
**ERGONOMICS CLUB**  
**ETHICS CLUB**  
**FANS CLUB**  
**FOLK DANCE CLUB**  
**GRAPHIC WEB CLUB.**  
**IDEA AND CULTURE CLUB**  
**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING CLUB**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES CLUB**
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB
LAW CLUB
LITERATURE CLUB
MANAGEMENT CLUB
MARKETING COMMUNICATION CLUB
MATHEMATICS CLUB
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS CLUB
MUSIC CLUB
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
PSYCHOLOGY CLUB
SCIENCE AND ART CLUB
TRIP CLUB
SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT CLUB
SELF-DEVELOPMENT CLUB
SOCIAL COOPERATION CLUB
SPORTS CLUB
THEATRE CLUB
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CLUB
YOUTH CLUB

EVENTS
Taking into consideration that we may organise some international events or partner university activities, or even orientation programs for our Outgoing students, it may be a great idea to bring some brochures of your home university, some traditional cloth of your country and to learn some recipes before you come here.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM - WELCOME PARTY – EXCURSIONS - INTERNATIONAL DAY - INTERNATIONAL NIGHT - X-MAS PARTY – EASTER - FAREWELL PARTY

BUDDY PROGRAM
Incoming students who fill in the Buddy Form in advance will be assigned ‘buddies.’ Buddies are IKU students who will help the incoming students fit in. They will help the students during their time in Istanbul Kültür University. They will help with transportation, introduce them to friends, and help them adjust to the culture of the city and so on. There will also be activities planned for people in the Buddy Program. With this program it will be easier for international students to adapt to Istanbul and Kültür University.

For more information on the Buddy Program students can check this link: http://www.iku.edu.tr/TR/2368-2-12-9946-605-4-1/Buddy-Programi
FACEBOOK GROUP

We also have a Facebook group for incoming students, where they can share information and keep up to date with events. Through this group incoming students can easily interact with each other. Students can talk to other Erasmus students who are already studying here, which will provide the opportunity for them to learn about the daily life and academic life in Istanbul and in Istanbul Kültür University. They can also find announcements and updates in this group.

Students can join the group through this link:
http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/493373050675860/

**All incoming students should contact eic-sts-in@iku.edu.tr.**