

Koç University

fall / spring / academic year



archaeology / art history / biological sciences / business / chemistry / comparative literature / economics / engineering / history / international relations
literature criticism / mathematics / media and visual arts / music / philosophy / physics / psychology / sociology / turkish language



program snapshot

- Study in a country that offers a unique blend of East and West—rich in history and tradition, yet undergoing rapid social transformation
- Study and live with local and international students on a beautiful campus near the Black Sea and the Bosphorus; take Turkish language courses and participate in weekly practice sessions with peer language tutors
- Engage in weekly discussion sessions, guest lectures, and visits to NGOs and cultural sites

what you'll learn

The goals of the Arts and Sciences program are to enable students to pursue a wide variety of academic fields and gain a deeper understanding of Turkey as a society undergoing rapid urbanization and social transformation. Through studies at Koç University, one of the best private universities in Turkey, as well as through participation in innovative CIEE program activities and excursions, students learn firsthand about this fascinating country's history, traditions, and people.

thoughts from abroad

Your hands are warmed by endless cups of *çay*; your ears become attuned to the sounds of the call to prayer, *arabesk*, and pop *alaturca*; your feet get used to walking on marble ruins, ancient pathways, and the uneven and crowded pavement of city streets; your mouth becomes accustomed to the phrase “*Inshallah*” and the sweet taste of baklava; your eyes are delighted by the striking variety and beauty of the country and its historical and cultural sites; your mind is challenged by the contradictions experienced in your daily encounters with Turkish people and society.

Istanbul is a microcosm of Turkey, reflecting the diversity and complexity of the nation’s ethnic, religious, and cultural identities. The forces of rapid urbanization, gentrification, and globalization are clearly visible in the city’s public spaces and in the lifestyles of its inhabitants. From its skyline dominated by the minarets of the Blue Mosque, the dome of Hagia Sophia, and modern skyscrapers, to the synthesis of middle eastern and western motifs in the music and clothing sold on the city’s famed Istiklal Caddesi, Istanbul offers a feast for the senses and the opportunity to explore a nation trying to balance tradition with modernity in an age of rapid social transformation.

— Kathryn Bourgeois, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Originally from California, Kathryn Bourgeois has been a resident of Turkey since 1997. She comes to CIEE with many years experience in the study abroad field and is particularly adept with issues surrounding cross-cultural communications. Kathryn has served in study abroad capacities with Pitzer and Scripps Colleges in the U.S. and in Turkey. She also has experience both as a classroom teacher and program administrator. Kathryn holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Scripps College, has completed graduate work in Sociology at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, and is a Certified Teacher of English as a Foreign Language (CTEFL).

About Other CIEE Staff

A native of Istanbul, Program Coordinator Koray Unur is completing his Master’s degree in the Cultural Studies Department at Bilgi University. His area of research is the construction and representation of history in photography, particularly the case of Izmir in the 19th century. Koray assists the Resident Director in all aspects of program management and student support.

Defne Karakaya, Program Assistant, hails from the Black Sea city of Samsun. She received her B.A. in both History and Sociology from Koç University and her M.A. in Gender Studies from Central European University in Budapest.

about istanbul

Spanning the continents of Europe and Asia and over 3,000 years of history, the city of Istanbul is the largest in Turkey with a population of over 14 million. Once the seat of both the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, Istanbul is transforming rapidly with the forces of migration, urbanization, and globalization. The CIEE Study Center at Koç University provides students many opportunities to experience how the influences of the past, present, and possible futures have and continue to shape the physical and cultural landscapes of Turkey.

academics

Academic Program

Established in the fall of 2009, the CIEE Study Center at Koç University provides a rigorous academic program through direct enrollment in Koç University language and area studies courses. In addition to Turkish language courses students select from regular Koç University courses in the social sciences, humanities, natural and physical sciences, business, and engineering.

Academic Culture

All Koç University courses are taught in English and combine lecture and discussion formats. Most courses are quite small, allowing for maximum interaction between students and faculty. Some introductory-level courses combine large weekly lectures with smaller discussion sections. The Turkish language courses are small and include weekly practice sessions with peer tutors for optimal language acquisition. Most courses meet three to four hours per week. Students may take any course offered as long as they have completed the necessary prerequisites and received permission from the instructor.

Nature of Classes

Participants take Turkish language alongside other CIEE and international students at Koç University. For all other classes, participants

enroll directly in host University courses and take classes with Turkish and other international students.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Turkish, Resident Staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to Turkish language proficiency and understanding of Turkish society develops.

Grading System

As the Koç University curriculum was initially based on a U.S. academic model, the grading scale follows an American model of letter grades A-F with pluses and minuses, based on a scale of 100. Courses include mid-term and final exams and, depending on the course, additional assignments such as a research paper or a class presentation. Attendance and class participation are also incorporated into the final grade for the program courses. Attendance is mandatory in all classes.



where you'll study

Founded in 1993, Koç University is a private university located on a beautiful hillside campus overlooking the Black Sea, near the Sariyer district of Istanbul and approximately 45 minutes from the central part of the city. A liberal arts university, courses are taught in English, and most of the faculty received their graduate degrees from universities in North America and Western Europe. The campus includes facilities consistent with those found on U.S. campuses, and there is a vibrant student campus life offering numerous clubs and special activities.

living

Housing and Meals

Participants live in residence halls on the Koç University campus. Students typically share a double room with a Turkish roommate. The residence halls are close to all campus buildings and include laundry and kitchen facilities. A limited number of homestays are available for academic year program participants during their second semester on the program. All homestays are carefully recruited and screened by CIEE staff. Host families provide two meals daily and a private room. All other participants on the program continue to live in the Koç University residence halls with local roommates.

Meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Students can prepare their meals in the residence hall or eat at on campus or neighborhood restaurants and cafés. The University has its own small grocery store and several restaurants and cafés.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientation

Students begin their study abroad experience in Istanbul before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and the site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions

before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

The mandatory weeklong on-site orientation program introduces students to the country, culture, language, and academic program, as well as provides practical information about living in Turkey. The orientation includes a Koç University international student orientation, as well as specially designed CIEE activities, city tours, and discussions designed to help students adjust to life in Istanbul. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have access to the Internet throughout the Koç University campus, including all academic buildings and residence halls. Students can use the University computer labs or can access the Internet with their personal wireless-enabled laptop computer. Students are assigned a Koç University email address upon arrival.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75

duration

Fall

19 weeks: early September—mid-January

Spring

19 weeks: early February—mid-June

Academic Year

38 weeks: early September—mid-June

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

Visits to NGOs and places of historical and cultural interest are a regular part of the program. Local field trips include visits to the main Byzantine and Ottoman monuments on the Seraglio Point, including Hagia Sophia, the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, and Topkapi Palace. The program also introduces students to places of worship and to such cultural centers as the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Eyüp Mosque, the Sephardic Jewish Museum of Galata, and the Galata Mevlevihanesi (center for whirling dervishes). Visits to community centers, art centers and museums, research centers, and NGOs enable students to develop different perspectives on various elements of Turkish society. Participation in both local and international music, art, film, dance, and theater festivals is also part of the program each semester.

CIEE group excursions provide students the opportunity to explore and compare the varied regions of Turkey. Excursions typically include a day visit to a village or organic farm, visits to important historical and cultural sites in Istanbul, and two or three weekend trips to different regions of Turkey. Past excursions have included Cappadocia, Çanakkale, Konya, Mardin, Kars, and Van. Students can be reimbursed for some cultural activities such as concerts, films, football games, or a Turkish bath via the program's Cultural Interaction Fund.

Mid-Semester and End of Semester CIEE Program Retreats

These two, mandatory day-long retreats facilitate student reflection on their experiences in Turkey and foster a positive group-learning environment. The retreats are typically held off-campus and include group meals, activities, and discussions as well as the chance to relax.

engagement

Volunteering

In consultation with CIEE staff, students may take part in non-credit community service/volunteer opportunities. Students may volunteer in various NGOs, schools, and community centers. Placements are competitive and cannot be guaranteed. Former CIEE students have done a variety of volunteer work, including teaching English to children in low-income neighborhoods and developing websites and brochures for local organizations. There is also an active volunteering club on the Koç campus which students may join.

Student Clubs

There are a variety of student clubs that organize both on-campus and off-campus events and volunteer opportunities on a regular basis.

Koç Student Mentors

Upon arrival, CIEE students are paired with Koç student mentors who assist students with settling into life on campus and in Istanbul.

Peer Language Tutors

As part of the Turkish language course CIEE students are assigned peer language tutors with whom they meet once a week for language practice.

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$15,900

Spring 2012: available 8/15/11

Academic Year 2011–12: \$30,300

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include tuition, housing, optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, orientation, cultural activities, host institution identity card, peer language tutors, comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which includes insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,250
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,100
Meals	\$ 1,900
Books and Supplies	\$ 250
Local Transportation	\$ 600
Visa Fees	\$ 60
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 6,160

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

All students are required to enroll in a Turkish language course at their level and four additional courses at Koç University. Students may also enroll in the CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–17 semester/22.5–25.5 quarter hours and for the academic year, 30–32 semester/45–48 quarter hours.

Course contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

Languages of Instruction

Turkish, English

Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty from Koç University.

courses

CIEE Course

CLST 3001 ISTA

Seminar on Living and Learning in Istanbul

The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in Istanbul is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Turkish people are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Turkey. Contact hours: 25. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours. *Instructor: Kathryn Bourgeois, Resident Director*

Koç University Courses

The following is a sampling of academic disciplines available at Koç University in which CIEE students can enroll. The Koç University website includes updated course information at www.ku.edu.tr.

College of Administrative Sciences and Economics

Business Administration
Economics
International Relations

College of Arts and Humanities

Archaeology and History of Art
Cinema
English Language and Comparative Literature
Fine Art
History
Media and Visual Arts
Music
Philosophy
Psychology
Sociology

College of Engineering

Chemical and Biological Engineering
Computer Engineering
Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

College of Sciences

Chemistry
Mathematics
Molecular Biology and Genetics
Physics

The following courses have a Turkish or regional focus and are recommended to program participants.

Archaeology and History of Art

Anatolian Archaeology I, II, III, and IV
Archaeology and History of Hittites
Art and Archaeology of Seljuk Period
The Art of Mediterranean and European Civilizations: Ancient to Pre-Modern Constantinople 1330–1453
Islamic Cities
Painting in the Ottoman Empire

Business Administration

Legal Aspects of International Business
Turkish Accounting and Tax System

Comparative Literature

Modern Turkish Literature

Economics

Economics of the European Union
Tracking the Turkish Economy
Turkish Economy I and II



History

Comparative Urban History
 European Diplomacy and the Ottoman Empire
 History of Ideologies: Nationalism, Socialism, and Fascism
 Labor History of the Late Ottoman Empire and Early Republican Turkey
 Modernization and Social Change in the Ottoman Empire
 The Ottoman World in Transition: 1566–1839
 Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union: 1917–1991

International Relations

Contemporary Issues in Turkish Politics
 Identity and Foreign Policy of the EU
 Governments and Politics of the Middle East
 International Migration in a Global World
 The Turkish Constitutional System
 Turkish Foreign Policy
 U.S.-Turkish Relations

Philosophy

Philosophy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance

Psychology

Family Studies and Turkish Family

Sociology

Social Stratification
 Turkish Society in Comparative Perspective
 Urban Sociology

Required Turkish Language Courses**Beginning Turkish: Basic Turkish I and II****Intermediate Turkish: Basic Turkish III and IV**

Students are required to enroll in a Turkish language course (i.e. Basic Turkish I) at their level. These courses focus on developing communication skills through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students are introduced to the basics of grammar and vocabulary. Readings include level-appropriate texts, including newspaper articles and other materials. Students meet one hour a week with a peer language tutor as part of the course. Contact hours: 45–60. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

Koç University Elective Course for Foreign Students**Turkish Culture and History**

The aim of this course is to introduce foreign students to the cultural and social issues which are significant in molding modern Turkey. The course covers the period from the early 19th century with specific emphasis on the cultural and social transformations in major moments and turning points. To give an overview of the history of Turkey, the first weeks of the course covers the leading issues in the history of the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic. Then, the course proceeds with selected topics that are important in understanding Turkish society.

a student's story

I often feel like I have one of the most unusual answers to the question, "Why did you choose to study abroad in Turkey?" Honestly, there are many reasons that factored into my decision. But my interest was sparked and supported by my parents' interest in Balkan folk music and dance. This interest exposed me from a young age to traditional art from Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece, as well as Turkey. Although the uneven rhythms, strange harmonies, and repetitive line-dancing rub many westerners the wrong way, having grown up with it I only love it.

CIEE took us for a weekend study tour to southeastern Turkey. One night in Gaziantep we found ourselves in a small club playing mainstream pop music. It was a pretty slow night, CIEE students representing the majority demographic with about fifteen people. Regardless, we danced and some of the locals danced with us. At some point, and I don't know when or how this transition took place, the locals were leading us in traditional line dances along to hip-hop beats and top-40 tunes. Of course, with my childhood connection to the dance and my current fondness for mainstream music the combination was glorious. But even my friends from the program, unfamiliar with the steps, were still grooving along the line to the familiar music.

This experience encapsulates so much of what Turkey has come to signify in my mind. I came to this country excited to experience the conflicts of "East meets West." Yet this encounter of supposed opposites has proved much more multi-faceted than I had expected. It's not only "Europe meets the Middle East" and "Muslim meets Christian," it's also "tradition meets modernity" and "global meets local." What has been perhaps most fascinating for me to see has been that this meeting isn't simply the domination of one lifestyle and ideology over another, as I think is often the case. Living in Turkey has really demonstrated to me that there can be co-existence of seemingly conflicting cultures. Of course, only time will tell how this interaction will play out. But for the time being I'd like to appreciate not only the wonderful new interpretations of art it bears but also the way in which shades of familiarity allow us to connect to worlds of difference.

— Ellen Robertson, Occidental College

