

THE OPENING RECEPTION OF THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION'S NEW OFFICE

The Turkish Fulbright Commission has two offices in Turkey - a head office in Ankara and, since 1986 a branch office in İstanbul. Our Ankara Head Office moved three times in the years following the Commission's opening in 1949, but for the past 28 years, operated out of an apartment in the Çankaya district of the city, near the presidential palace. This spring the Commission was able to relocate to a newer, safer, and more easily accessible location in the Tepe Prime İş Merkezi, on Eskişehir Road.



(From left to right) Mr. Adam Erel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational & Cultural Affairs; Prof. Sababat Kaymakçalan, one of our first grantees; Dr. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission; Mr. Ali Babacan, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and a Fulbright Alumnus; Mr. John T. McCarthy, the Turkish Fulbright Commission Board Chairman, ING Bank Turkey; Mr. Francis J. Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey

Dear Fulbright friends,

We have great news to celebrate with this 4th issue of our Newsletter—we have moved into our new office space. We are one of the oldest Commissions in the world, and now we are located in one of the newest buildings! I would like to thank everybody who helped in making this move possible: the U.S. and Turkish governments, the Commission Board Members, and the staff here at Fulbright. As you will see on the following pages, we have had a busy and productive year so far, with interest in Fulbright and in our services growing faster than ever before. We are now re-energized to take on even bigger goals from our new Fulbright home, which is, of course, also your new Fulbright home, so be sure to come visit us and be a part of it. Have a good summer.

Dr. Ersel Aydın
Executive Director
The Turkish Fulbright Commission

Launch of Our New Web Site



On May 3, 2013, the Commission's new website was launched with a completely new design. Changes include the addition of photos, both recent and old, from Commission activities; a brand new feature called 'Inspiring Stories', which presents interviews with Fulbright Alumni; and the integration of an 'Online Advising' section to provide immediate and up-to-date information for anyone interested in research and study opportunities in the U.S.A.

SCENES FROM THE OPENING RECEPTION

The honorary guest of the opening reception was Prof. Sabahat Kaymakçalan, who went to the U.S.A. in 1951 as one of our first grantees. Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Ali Babacan and Prof. Sabahat Kaymakçalan each received a plaque for being Fulbright Alumni.



Mr. Ali Babacan, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister, receiving his plaque as a Fulbright Alumnus



Prof. Sabahat Kaymakçalan, one of our first grantees, receiving her plaque as a Fulbright Alumna

Highlights of the opening were speeches by three of our distinguished guests, U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Mr. Adam Erel, and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Ali Babacan. In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Ricciardone (Fulbright '73), emphasized the many success stories that have emerged from Fulbright exchange programs over the years, noting as an excellent example of this, Deputy Prime Minister Babacan. He went on to express how Fulbright offices like these therefore embody 'life-changing' spaces.

Visiting from the United States, Mr. Adam Erel praised the Turkish Fulbright Commission's accomplishments in recent years. He also expressed his pleasure at being present for the opening reception and at being able to show Washington's support not only for the Turkish Fulbright Program but also for the special partnership between the United States and Turkey.



Mr. Adam Erel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational & Cultural Affairs, giving his speech



Mr. Ali Babacan, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister, giving his speech; Mr. Francis J. Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey

In the final address of the evening, Mr. Ali Babacan pointed out the long-lasting impact that education has on people, and how this helps explain why the Turkish Fulbright Commission has been so effective for so many years. He stated his happiness with the growth of the program—both in terms of numbers of American Fulbrighters coming to Turkey and with Turkish students and scholars going to the United States for educational purposes. He too noted the Turkish government's satisfaction at being able to contribute to the Fulbright Program. Turning to his personal experiences, he talked about the tremendous enrichment he gained as a Fulbright scholar, and the on-going satisfaction and pride he takes in discovering and visiting with the huge network of Fulbright Alumni around the world.

AMERICAN PROGRAMS

End of Year Evaluation Meeting for the U.S. Grantees



Senior Lecturers, Senior Researchers and Student Researchers attended the End of Year Evaluation Meeting with the Board Members in Antalya between May 31 - June 2, 2013.



Fulbright U.S. Grantees, Commission Board Members and Fulbright Staff took a boat tour in the Mediterranean.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission organized an End of Year Evaluation Meeting for the 2012-2013 U.S. Grantees who are finishing up their academic year in Turkey. The meeting was held in Tekirova, Antalya between May 31-June 2, 2013. The main objective of the meeting was to enable the grantees to share their academic and cultural experiences in Turkey and to evaluate their overall Fulbright experience. All grantees made presentations about their experiences, which showed how fruitful they spent their year at their host universities.

Present at the End of Year Evaluation Meeting were the U.S. Grantees and their family members as well as Board Members and staff of the Fulbright Commission.

Stories from our U.S. Grantees

Dr. Gülhan Ünlü

2012-2013 Senior Researcher
University of Idaho, Idaho / Middle East Technical University

“My Fulbright Adventure at Middle East Technical University”

I have been working with Prof. Gürakan in the Department of Food Engineering at Middle East Technical University (METU) since February. My Fulbright research deals with kefir, a functional dairy beverage with probiotic microorganisms. Kefir is becoming more popular in the world due to its affirmative health benefits.

My research at METU has been a rewarding experience. In April, I had the chance to present our findings at the First Annual Probiotics Prebiotics and Functional Foods Congress. I also had the opportunity to speak about my ongoing research efforts in the U.S. My invited seminars at METU and Hacettepe University were well received. It was certainly a privilege to visit the



Dr. Gülhan Ünlü with Prof. Edwards and her colleagues from Middle East Technical University

National Food Reference Laboratory and discuss mutual research interests.

Teaching and advising of the bright and talented METU students has been an exciting component of my tenure at METU. I have served as a research co-advisor for

two students and presented guest lectures in food engineering courses. As part of my outreach efforts, Prof. Edwards from Washington State University gave an invited seminar at METU followed by a reception. He was extremely pleased with his experiences in Turkey and wishes to initiate research collaborations.

My “Fulbright Adventure” at METU is about to end, but I have fond memories to take with me! I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Fulbright and METU for their generous support and to send my best wishes to my fellow Fulbright Alumni and the outstanding members of Fulbright Turkey.

Olivia Valentine

2012-2013 Student Researcher
The School of Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois / Middle East Technical University

“My Fulbright Experience”

As an artist, I have been thrilled to be able to spend a year working in Turkey. My time here has been spent on three related projects: An exhibition in İstanbul, running Flash Atölye, an art project space in İzmir, and the new work and research I am currently developing in Cappadocia.

Along with my husband and co-director, Fırat Erdim, we initiated Flash Atölye in the Karşıyaka Çarşısı in September 2012 as an art studio and project space. Together we made the first project, called “Second City,” which was a minimal painted installation, creating light from a skylight that does not exist. Since that first project in September 2012, we have hosted over ten artists in the space, both from Turkey and abroad. Most of the projects have engaged the pasaj community in some way; most recently



From the opening event for Moment to Moment / An be An, a participatory project and exhibition by Nicole Seisler, which opened on December 15, 2012.

through Yeni Mao’s project 1725 Sokak No. 43. Mr. Mao worked with some of the vendors of the pasaj to create visual archives

of their goods and working tools, which resulted in an architectural installation.

Through our work at Flash Atölye, I was introduced to the artist initiative Pasajist, formerly located in a commercial pasaj on İstiklal Caddesi in İstanbul. I created an exhibition for their now former space this winter, entitled “Panorama”. This installation is based directly on my research that I have been conducting in Turkey on textile and architectural edge ornamentation, and is loosely based on a strand of *İğne Oyası*, enlarged to an architectural scale.

I am currently developing new work in the landscape of Cappadocia, where I will be residing until the end of June. I am also working with some of the village women here to learn their techniques for making “oya” - point lace.

The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program



2012-2013 ETAs

The Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting of the 2012-2013 English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program was held in Ankara between February 22-23, 2013.

The opening ceremony to welcome the ETAs was held with the participation of the Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, Dr. Ersel Aydınli, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Francis J. Ricciardone, and a Board Member of the Council of Higher Education, Prof. Mehmet Şişman.

All 67 ETAs who have been teaching English at 30 different Turkish universities attended the meeting and shared their experiences as well as evaluating the program and discussing their individual views and suggestions for future practices.

The meeting also created a platform to witness the grantees' enrichment gained through their academic and cultural exchange in Turkey.



John Paul Choi, during an interview with Russell Guajardo in Balıkesir.

On May 14, 2013, second year renewal ETA John Paul Choi, together with a cameraman, set off to Eskişehir to start filming the ETAs in three different cities.

The main purpose of the project was to document the educational and cultural integration of the American grantees to Turkey as part of the Fulbright-Council of Higher Education (YÖK) ETA Program.

The filming started in Eskişehir and then continued in Uşak and Balıkesir. During the whole process it was a pleasure to see everyone enjoying teaching at their universities and how well they were all adjusted to the Turkish Culture.

Stories from our ETA Grantees

John Paul Choi

2012-2013 ETA Grantee (Renewal)
Boston College, Massachusetts / Uşak University

Reminiscences About a Unique Experience

It all started with a 4 a.m. bus ride from Uşak to Eskişehir. I was happy to finally make a trip to Eskişehir. I heard that it was a great college city and it lived up to its name. The social night life in Eskişehir and the tranquil stream that ran through the city made it feel so peaceful. I was nervous and excited about filming the Fulbright video. I did not know what to expect but I was excited to show off and promote the Turkey ETA Program. Having Aslı (ETA Program Administrator) with us in Eskişehir was reassuring because once again I did not really know what the film project would look like. After starting the filming and interviewing with Cassie, Allison, and Caitlin I was certain that this video would turn out great. Moreover, Russell and Greg shared their unique and intriguing two-year experiences as renewal grantees. I was lucky to be working with such a great Fulbright team.



John Paul Choi interviewing Eskişehir ETAs

The girls in Eskişehir had great enthusiasm and energy during the interviews. Aslı was composed and encouraging. The guys in Balıkesir had great stories and friends

surrounding them. Umut the cameraman was decisive and thoughtful. My newly wedded wife Hemin was supportive and helpful. Uşak was nice because I was promoting and presenting my town, my home, and my Fulbright experience. I was the only Fulbrighter there, and I was excited and eager to show and tell about my amazing Fulbright experience. I was excited to show my favorite cafe, Bahçenaz and my favorite restaurant, Gülçin Pide. I was eager to introduce my Uşak family --Halil, Kenan, and Funda-- to Fulbright. I showed how I fell in love with Turkey. I showed how much I love Turkey and how much Turkey has loved me. The hospitable and welcoming Turkish people have made my Fulbright time priceless and unforgettable. I will definitely be coming back to Turkey in the future--hopefully sooner than later.

Allison Marie Meyer

2012-2013 ETA Grantee
Simpson College, Iowa / Anadolu University

From Iowa to Eskişehir: A land of comfort and hospitality

Coming from Cedar Rapids, a small city in Iowa, I had no idea what to expect upon my arrival in Turkey. Firstly, in the farms and rolling hills which is Iowa, my world consisted of asphalt highways and knee-high rows of corn. Many in these parts have rarely left the Midwest. Some questioned my sanity, while others who had visited Turkey looked on me with envious eyes as they described its beauty. It was these ideas that I clung to as I began my departure for the land of Turkish delight and Ottoman houses. And upon my arrival, I knew exactly which group of Iowans to believe.

Once I settled down in the city of Eskişehir, I knew Turkey was a perfect fit. Even though I did not expect it, there was a place



Allison making "manti" with her friends in Eskişehir

waiting for me. I have found my niche here in Turkey. Not only is the city comfortable and easy to live in, but the people are as

kind and hospitable as those back home, if not more so! Yes, life is different, and there are not corn fields beside a grocery store, but the sight of a tractor meandering down the street brings thoughts of home. I may not have my family in close proximity, but I have created a family of Americans and Turks alike. Thoughts of home come my way, but the golden haze over Eskişehir remains and keeps out the clouds of homesickness.

If I had to put a word to Eskişehir, or Turkey in general, it would be "comfort". Life here is comfortable. That's what Americans need in this life full of demanding occupations and stressful situations. Comfort. I found mine in Turkey.

TURKISH PROGRAMS

The Student Core Program provides grants for graduate study in the United States for Master's Degree, Ph.D Degree and Ph.D Dissertation Research and is the largest program of the Turkish Fulbright Commission.

Applications for the 2014-2015 Fulbright Student Core Program Cycle were received until March 22, 2013. The Commission has received applications from 42 different fields of study. The selection committees evaluated the application dossiers and students have been invited to the interviews. The selection process will be completed by the end of June and an orientation meeting will be held in July for the newly selected students. Meanwhile, the placement process for the 2013-2014 nominees continues. So far, 44 students have been placed in various compatible programs at U.S. universities and the rest are waiting to receive admission decisions from the schools that they applied for. A Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar will be held for the students on June 27, 2013 and grantees will begin their programs in August 2013.



Mr. Arthur Austin making a presentation to the Turkish Fulbright Grantees in Ankara.


Mr. Arthur Austin, Assistant Director for the Institute of International Education Foreign Fulbright Programs Division of Europe and Eurasia, visited the Fulbright Offices in Ankara and İstanbul and gave presentations to the selected 2013-2014 academic year Fulbright Student Core Program Grantees. During his presentations, Mr. Austin talked about the placement process and answered grantees' questions.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Humphrey Fellowship Program is offered to young and mid-career professionals in leadership positions who have a commitment to public service and the potential for professional advancement. The recipients of this grant undertake academic study and attain related work experience for one year. Public officials, private sector employees, and non-governmental organization employees who work for public service can apply for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program until **August 29, 2013** to start their studies in the 2014-2015 academic year. Applicants

are required to have a Bachelor's Degree; a good command of English; a minimum five years of substantial, full-time professional experience in the public sector; evidence of leadership qualities; limited or no prior experience in the United States; and must not be older than 45 at the time of application.

Two mid-career professionals from the fields of Teaching English and Communications have been selected as the Humphrey Program grantees for the 2013-2014 academic year. The grantees have been placed at Boston University and Arizona State University.



AMERİKA BİRLEŞİK DEVLETLERİ'NDE

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BURS PROGRAMI

Son Başvuru Tarihi:
29 Ağustos 2013

BASVURU ŞARTLARI:

- Türkiye Cumhuriyeti vatandaşı olmak.
- Üniversite veya 4 yıllık bir yükseköğretim kurumunda olmak.
- Son başvuru tarihinde 45 yaşından büyük olmamak.
- İyi derecede İngilizce bilmek.
- En az 5 yıl kamu görevi yapmış olmak ve bu alan bir kamu, özel sektör veya sivil toplum kuruluşlarında yerli bir kurumda uzman, yönetici veya planlama olarak çalışıyor olmak.

BURS VERİLECEK KONULAR:

- Temel ve Kural Kurumu
- İstisna ve Geçerlilik
- Medya Başvurusu/Bürode, Tedavi ve Kararın Yürütmesi
- Ekonomik Kalkınma/Finans ve Bankacılık
- Öğretim Yöntemleri/Planlama ve Politika
- Yüksek Öğretim Yöntemleri
- HIV/AIDS ile Mücadele Politikaları ve Kararın Yürütmesi
- İnceleme Yöntemleri
- Hukuk ve İnceleme
- Dışişleri Bakanlığı/Çevre Yöntemleri ve Bilim Değişikliği
- Sağlık Politikaları ve Yöntemleri
- Kamu Politikaları/Analizi ve Kararın Yürütmesi
- İngilizce Öğretimi
- Teknoloji Politikaları ve Yöntemleri
- İnceleme Yöntemleri/Çevre Yöntemleri/Politika ve Uygulanması
- Sektör ve Bilgi Politikaları

Humphrey Burs Programı, 2014 - 2015 Akademik Yılında Amerika Birleşik Devletlerinde öğrenim için ilgililere, pratik çalışma ve araştırma yapmak isteyen KAMU GÖREVLİLERİNE, KAMU HİZMETİ VEREN ÖZEL SEKTÖR ve SİYİL TOPLUM ÇALIŞANLARINA yinedir.

Bilgi: www.fulbright.org.tr
Sorularınız için: advising@fulbright.org.tr
Ankara Merkez Ofisi: (0312) 427 13 60 - İstanbul İrtibat Ofisi: (0212) 244 11 05

www.facebook.com/FulbrightTurkiye www.twitter.com/FulbrightTurkey

*The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship
Program Recruitment Poster*

AMERİKA BİRLEŞİK DEVLETLERİ'NDE
**DOKTORA SONRASI
ARAŞTIRMA BURS**



Son Başvuru Tarihi: 11 Ekim 2013

Bilgi: www.fulbright.org.tr
Sorumuz için: advising@fulbright.org.tr
Ankara Merkez Ofisi: (0312) 427 13 60 - İstanbul İtibat Ofisi: (0212) 244 11 05

Burs 2014-2015 Akademik Yılından itibaren geçerlidir.

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*The Visiting Scholar Program
Recruitment Poster*

The Visiting Scholar Program

The deadline for applications for the 2014-2015 Visiting Scholar Program is **October 11, 2013**. The Turkish Fulbright Commission increased the grant length from six months to twelve months beginning with the 2014-15 academic year. Scholars who are awarded this grant do research in their fields at an institution or a university in the U.S.A. Applicants must have an excellent command of English in order to do scientific research and to attend educational and cultural events. Applicants must have started a Post-Doc research project and must have completed

the research part in Turkey. The program is open to all fields except for fields and projects which require clinical research. Turkish scholars who have held a Ph.D degree for a minimum of three years are eligible for the program.

13 researchers were nominated for the 2013-2014 academic year and are now getting ready to go to the U.S.A. starting in July, 2013.

Scholar-in-Residence Program

The Scholar-in-Residence Program is administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, a division of the Institute of International Education. The program aims to bring visiting scholars and professionals to lecture at U.S. colleges and universities. The application deadline for the next cohort of Scholars-in-Residence Program is **October 15, 2013**.

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program

FLTA is a nine-month, non-degree program that aims to strengthen foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities and some high schools, while providing future

foreign teachers of the English language with the opportunity to refine their skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of U.S. society and culture. The program is open to English Language Teachers between the ages of 21-29. The selected FLTA grantees work at U.S. universities as Teaching Assistants in Turkish Language Teaching Programs and while in the U.S.A. the grantees are allowed to take two graduate courses in their field.

The nominees of the 2013-2014 academic year are waiting to be placed at U.S. colleges and universities.

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program

The Commission selected 12 candidates for the 2013-2014 academic year for the Community College Initiative Program. The selected Turkish Vocational School students are waiting to be placed in U.S. Community Colleges for one academic year. The grantees will start to depart for the United States beginning from June, 2013. Upon completion of their programs the grantees will receive a certificate.

News from Our Grantees

İbrahim Burak Ölmez, University of Georgia
2012-2013 Master's Degree Grantee in Mathematics Education

I heard the name of "Fulbright" for the first time when one of my professors at Boğaziçi University mentioned about her Fulbright Scholarship at Columbia University. At that time, I was a junior student in Mathematics Education. A year later, I applied for the scholarship, but I thought that my chances of being selected were low. On the other hand, after the Fulbright interview, I felt that I would be a Fulbrighter because my interview went really well. The moment I read the e-mail about my acceptance to the scholarship was one of the happiest memories of my life, because receiving such a prestigious scholarship has been the most important achievement throughout my life.

During the application process to the schools, I had four preferences, and the University of Georgia (UGA) was my second preference. Since it is very prominent in Mathematics Education,



İbrahim Burak Ölmez at an American Football Game

I always wanted to get accepted to this university, so I was very happy to be admitted.

When I started my Master's Degree at UGA, people always acknowledged that I am a Fulbrighter at the meetings that I

attended. People at the university perceive Fulbrighters as successful students. I really appreciate the Fulbright Scholarship and thank you very much for regarding me as one of the members of the Fulbright Family.

Firuzan Melike Sümertaş, Princeton University
2012-2013 Ph.D Degree Grantee in History

The Fulbright Scholarship is one of the greatest opportunities for continuing your academic studies in the United States. It provides you with an opportunity to encounter not only the U.S. culture, values and people, but also cultures and people from different parts of the world. Such an encounter changes your perception of the world and understanding of your position within that world. It gives you a new global perspective. This was exactly my experience at Princeton University. Moreover, through my journeys around the country I had the chance to enrich this experience. It was through Fulbright that I have developed strong friendships not only with Turkish Fulbrighters, but also with the other fellow Fulbrighters from all over the world with whom I have met in different occasions hosted by the Fulbright Program.



Firuzan Melike Sümertaş in Washington D.C.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Fulbright Alumnus Received the Best Entrepreneurial Academician Award

Prof. Zafer Durusoy is currently a faculty member in the Department of Physics Engineering at Hacettepe University and was a Visiting Scholar Program Grantee in 1992. Prof. Durusoy and his colleagues developed a space simulator, which can test whether electronic devices that will be sent into space will be able to operate in space without any problems. Theirs is the first space simulator designed in Turkey, and with this simulator, Prof. Durusoy received the “Best Entrepreneurial Academician” award given by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology.



Prof. Durusoy receiving his plaque from the Minister of Science, Industry and Technology



*Dr. Kızıltan with Dr. Ersel Aydınli,
Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission,
on May 23, 2013 in Ankara.*

Visit from a Fulbright Alumnus

Dr. Bülent Kızıltan, who was one of our Commission’s Master’s Program grantees in 1998, is now a senior research associate and a teaching fellow at Harvard – Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He is also affiliated with the Institute for Theory and Computation at Harvard University and the Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research. He gave a talk at the TEDx Fulbright event in Cambridge Massachusetts on April 24, 2012. His talk was titled “Our Connection to the Cosmos”. He is currently doing research on the evolution of compact objects (e.g. Neutron stars) which serve as unique tools for probing the fundamental laws of Physics.

Publication from an Alumna

Prof. Ayfer Yalçın, Department of Biochemistry, Ege University, who was awarded a Visiting Scholar Program Grant in 2008, coauthored an article which has recently been published in one of the most renowned journals in Neuroscience, the *Journal of Neurochemistry*. The Turkish Fulbright Commission was acknowledged in the article. The title of the article is “Gamma-glutamylcysteine ethyl ester protects cerebral endothelial cells during injury and decreases blood-brain-barrier permeability after experimental brain trauma”.



Prof. Ayfer Yalçın in İzmir

Two Novels by a Fulbright Alumnus

Beyazıt Akman, 2004 Fulbright Student Core Program Grantee, authored two novels in Turkish which were published in 2012. The first novel, “Dünyanın İlk Günü” and the second novel, “Son Sefarad” are tow novels in the series “İmparatorluk”. Beyazıt Akman is currently teaching World Literature at Illinois State University in Illinois.

ADVISING PROGRAM

The Advising Section of the Turkish Fulbright Commission is run by an Advising Coordinator and three Educational Advisers who provide information about both the Fulbright Grant Programs for citizens of the Turkish Republic and general information about study in the U.S.A.

In the 2012-2013 academic year, the Educational Advisers of our Commission made presentations at 88 universities in 40 cities of Turkey in order to give information about the Fulbright Grant Programs and higher education in the U.S.A. Many undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty members attended these presentations and asked questions. In 12 cities these presentations were on “Effective

Fulbright Applications”, which aimed to inform the students about how to fill in the Fulbright Student Core Program application form.

Apart from these presentations in different cities, the Advising Section continued providing advising services in our offices for students who are planning to study in the U.S.A. Students are always welcome to consult our Educational Advisers. They can ask their questions via e-mail or phone. For one-on-one advising, an appointment has to be made.

In addition to the services mentioned above, the Advising Section held sessions on “How to Write a Successful Statement of Purpose”, TOEFL/GRE/GMAT seminars for graduate study, and TOEFL/

SAT/ACT for undergraduate study as well as sessions on IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and PTE (Pearson Test of English) in Ankara and İstanbul. Also, with the help of our American Grantees the Advising Section organized a Conversation Club activity in Ankara and İstanbul once a month.

Like previous academic years, Educational Advisers attended international education fairs that were held in Ankara, İstanbul and İzmir to provide objective information about study in the U.S.A.

All the activities of the Advising Section are announced on the activity calendar on the Commission’s web site, www.fulbright.org.tr.

New Advising Services for Students



On the Commission’s new web site, the Advising Section has started providing two new services for students. One of these is the “Online Advising” service. Three times a week our Educational Advisers are online for one hour, and

students who would like to ask questions about study opportunities in the U.S.A. can register to the system by clicking on the “Online Advising” box on our web site. Students can also leave offline messages to our Educational Advisers.

The second service is the “Virtual Adviser”, which existed on our previous web site, but has been revised and turned into a more student-friendly system. Students who would like to get general

information about different options to study in the U.S.A., internships and scholarship opportunities can use this system. After reading the information on Virtual Adviser, students can send their questions to advising@fulbright.org.tr to receive detailed information.



EDUCATIONUSA

EducationUSA is a global network of advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. EducationUSA advising centers provide accurate, comprehensive and current information about how to apply to accredited U.S. colleges and universities.

The EducationUSA Connects Sessions are organized on a regular basis and cover a variety of topics from researching options to applying for a student visa and preparing for departure. There are special sessions which are about specific fields of study such as Engineering, Law and Management.

The EducationUSA Weekly Update is released every week and informs students and scholars about the scholarship and financial aid opportunities of U.S. universities and colleges. For detailed information about the Connects Sessions and Weekly Update please visit www.educationusa.info or www.fulbright.org.tr

SCENES FROM THE COMMISSION'S ADVISING ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL VISITS



Effective Fulbright Application Seminar at
Anadolu University in Eskişehir



Conversation Club Activity in Ankara



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at
Cumhuriyet University in Sivas



Olgun Cengiz, 2009-2010 student grantee joined our Effective
Fulbright Application Seminar at Ege University and shared
his Fulbright experiences with the attendees.



Effective Fulbright Application Seminar at the
İstanbul Branch Office



Fulbright Student Program Presentation at
Dicle University in Diyarbakır



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Ankara University



Question & Answer Session in Ankara



Ankara Head Office Educational Adviser at an Educational Fair in Ankara



Radio Program at Anadolu University in Eskişehir



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Bilecik Şeyh Edebali University in Bilecik



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Yüzüncü Yıl University in Van

Workshop for International Relations Office Staff of Universities in İstanbul



Workshop participants with the Advising Section Staff of the Commission

The Advising Coordinator Ms. Mevlüde Bakır and Educational Advisers in our İstanbul Branch Office, Ms. Halide Ülkü İnal and Ms. Merih Uğurel organized a one-day long workshop for the directors and representatives of the International Relations Offices of the universities in İstanbul. The workshop was held on January 22, 2013 at the Cibali Campus of Kadir Has University. We would like to thank the Rector and the International Relations Office of Kadir Has University for hosting the workshop on their campus.

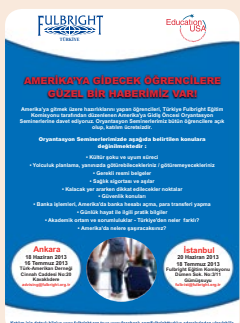
29 participants from 27 universities in İstanbul attended the workshop. The participants who attended the workshop were from Acıbadem University, Bahçeşehir University, Boğaziçi University, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University, Fatih University, Galatasaray University, Gedik University, Işık University, İstanbul Aydın University, İstanbul Bilgi University, İstanbul Bilim University, İstanbul 29 Mayıs University, İstanbul Kültür University, İstanbul Ticaret University, İstanbul

University, Kadir Has University, Koç University, Marmara University, Nişantaşı University, Okan University, Özyeğin University, Sabancı University, Süleyman Şah University, Üsküdar University, Yeditepe University, Yıldız Technical University and Yeni Yüzyıl University.

The workshop started with welcome remarks by Ms. Mevlüde Bakır. After that, the participants gave brief information about their university profiles, including the number of international students they have and

their cooperation with U.S. universities. The workshop continued with the presentation about the history and the grant programs of the Turkish Fulbright Commission. Since Turkish students who wish to study abroad generally first contact the International Relations Offices of their universities, our workshop was fruitful in terms of informing the participants about the grant programs of the Turkish Fulbright Commission and about the education system in the U.S.A.

At the end of the workshop, the participants filled out a survey about the effectiveness of the workshop. All participants stated that they benefited from the workshop a lot, and that they would be willing to cooperate with our Commission in the future. Such cooperation will include organizing seminars and presentations at their universities about Fulbright Grants and Study in the U.S.A. opportunities and announcing the deadlines of our grant programs on their universities' websites, newspapers, newsletters and radio programs, etc.



Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars

In June 2013, two Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars were held in Ankara and İstanbul. Two more will take place in July 2013. The Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars are for Turkish students of all levels who are getting ready to study in the U.S.A. In these seminars the participants get information about daily life in the U.S.A. including the health system, how to open a bank account, how to do grocery shopping and how to find appropriate accommodation. Plus, they are informed about the concept of "Culture Shock" and ways to overcome it. What's more, our academic advisers provide information about the medical forms and other documents that the students need to take with them.

Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars Poster

Success Stories from Advisees

Dağhan Perçinel from TED Zonguldak College will be studying Computer Science at the University of Maryland, College Park.

How did you learn about the advising services of the Turkish Fulbright Commission and EdUSA Educational Advisers? What kind of help did you get from our Educational Advisers?

I learned about the advising services when I was doing research on the Internet. The Educational Adviser I got in touch with helped me with determining which universities to apply to and making preparations for each of them. I visited the Fulbright Head Office in Ankara, and was informed about the application process and received detailed information about the universities. The most helpful service I received was receiving guidance about how to write my statement of purpose, which is required by universities at the time of application.

Apart from your academic standing what other areas did you develop yourself in order to be accepted to U.S. universities and to find scholarships? What kind of activities do you think were important?

Since I have an extrovert personality, I did voluntary work in community service projects. As part of these projects, I did environmental cleanup and visited the nursing home in our city several times. In addition to these, I have had a deep interest for music since I started high school, and now I can play four instruments. What's more, I was a member of the MUN Club which has been active in our school for five years. I acted as the president of that club for the last two years. We attended over seven conferences both on a national and international level as part of the activities of this club.



Dağhan at his school in Zonguldak

What would you advise to the students who would like to study in the U.S.A.?

The students should take the idea of studying in the U.S.A. seriously. Although the preparations may look easier and there may be more opportunities offered by universities, this does not mean that the whole process is easy. However, the most important thing is to give importance to self-development and to shape their future not only by tests but also by extracurricular activities. I believe that people should set realistic goals in their lives and make their preparations according to those goals.

Tuğberk Tanrısevdir a student from Antalya Koleji Fen Lisesi will be studying with scholarship at American University in the Department of Political Science.

How and when did you decide to study abroad? Did you get help and guidance from anyone during this process?

I decided to study abroad when I was in the second term of the 10th grade, because at that time I became a member of the MUN Club at Antalya Koleji. We attended an international conference and at that conference I realized how much I like interacting and spending time with people from different nationalities. My teacher at the MUN Club gave me advice on study abroad. After talking to my teacher, I decided to study in the U.S.A. She told me that it would be easier for me to adapt to the school atmosphere in the U.S.A. Thus, I started the application process.

How did you learn about the advising services of the Turkish Fulbright

Commission and EdUSA Educational Advisers? What kind of help did you get from our Educational Advisers?

When I was an 11th grade student, I was trying to get help about the application process to U.S. universities by doing research on the Internet. At that time, I found the contact info of the Fulbright Office in İstanbul. The advising service I received from the Fulbright İstanbul Office helped me a lot during the application process since the information they provided me with was reliable. They helped me find the universities that would best fit my academic background and goals, and also helped me to understand the application process. They were very willing to help me and the sources they shared with me were extremely helpful.



Tuğberk with his classmates in Antalya

How do you think studying in the U.S.A. will help you in achieving your goals?

One of the best characteristics of the U.S. universities is to give chance to the students to put theory into practice. I think that no other city in the world can provide me with internship opportunities as much as Washington D.C. What's more, studying together with people from different parts of the world and exchanging opinions with them will help me a lot in becoming a "World Citizen".

AN INSPIRING STORY

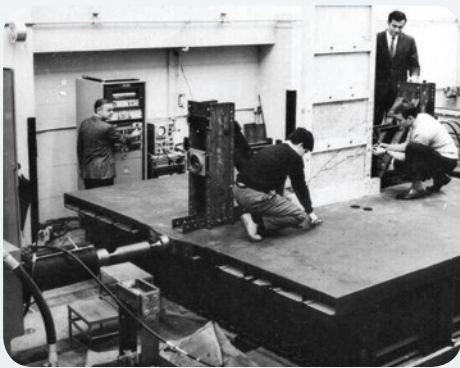
Prof. Polat Gülkan received our Commission's Master's Degree Grant in 1966. A graduate of Middle East Technical University, he served his university for 40 years upon his return from the U.S.A. Prof. Gülkan is currently a Professor at Çankaya University and the President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering.

When did you receive the Fulbright Grant? When did you go to the U.S.A.?

I heard about the Fulbright Grant for the first time in 1965 when I was a junior student at university. One day, while I was talking to a friend of mine, he reminded me that the deadline for the application to the grant was the following week. We both applied and we both received the grant. We went to the U.S.A. in 1966.

Why did you apply for the Fulbright Grant?

When I made my application, Senator Fulbright was still alive, and I was following this exchange program that he started between many countries of the world. I have always thought that the Fulbright Program is very important for U.S. foreign policy, because Fulbright Grants give people a chance to get to know different cultures. Senator Fulbright was a member of a generation who saw two world wars, and thus he chose to be a representative of moderate politics. Also, since he was a Rhodes Scholar he had a different academic background.



Illinois Shake Table, 1968

After I read his biography, with all these characteristics he was a person that I have always admired. That's why I knew that it would be a great honor to apply for a grant program that was named after him. Thus; I made my application.

You received our Commission's Master's Degree Grant. After receiving your Master's Degree, did you stay in the U.S.A. for your Doctorate Degree?

There was not much experimental study conducted on Earthquake Engineering at the university where I went for my Master's Degree, but after a year, a big earthquake hit Caracas, Venezuela. The Professor that I wanted to work with went to the earthquake site to make observations, and he gave seminars when he returned. After that, he started research projects based on experiments, and one of these projects was about bringing an earthquake shaking table to our university. I got a Research Assistantship with the help of the budget the Professor received. Thus, I started my Doctorate Degree. I received an education which shaped my professional life, and which made me who I am now. I learned a lot from the people I met during my graduate studies.

You have had many important positions in your academic life, and you received many awards and prizes including a NATO Science Prize and a TÜBİTAK Science Award. How did receiving these awards affect your work?



Playing ice-hockey

It is a pleasure to be appreciated by others and to receive an award in return. Up until now around 150-160 scientists in total have received the TÜBİTAK Science Award. Thus, receiving this award has been one of the greatest honors in my life. As for the NATO Science Prize, I received it after completing another important project funded by NATO successfully, which was about the earthquakes that hit Turkey in 1999. These earthquakes can be considered as important milestones for Turkey.

Although Turkey is a country which is prone to earthquakes, we do not think that we take enough precautions. What do you think about this?

It is not easy to be ready for an earthquake. Being ready does not only mean having extra food, water or pills with you as they say on TV. In order to be ready for an earthquake, there are things you need to do in a wider spectrum. For example, legislation concerning construction

should be revised which is a very detailed thing to do. There are many problems in the infrastructure of Turkey. We need to solve these first. Plus, it needs financial power to be ready for an earthquake, but since the earthquakes in 1999 taught many lessons, some changes have started to be made. For example, practices such as Turkish Catastrophe Insurance Pool (DASK), urban transformation, building inspection have been really helpful.

Are there sufficient number of courses and fields of specializations on earthquakes at the departments of Civil Engineering at Turkish universities?

Earthquake Engineering has become a popular field in the past five years. We can see many articles published on earthquakes in scientific journals. Thus, there is a larger group of professionals in terms of academic research, progress and consultancy when compared to the past. I hope that this will develop more in the future.

You are currently the President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) whose center is in Tokyo. Can you inform us about the activities of this association?

IAEE is a confederation of world's national earthquake engineering societies, and it currently has 57 members. IAEE has some missions. One of these is to



In Urbana on January 1, 1967

form a platform to share knowledge and experience for professionals in the field of earthquake engineering all around the world. In accordance with this mission, one of the main responsibilities of this association is to organize a worldwide conference.

Can you tell us about an unforgettable memory you have from the years when you were in the U.S.A. as a Fulbright Grantee?

Two things impressed me a lot. When I went to the U.S.A., I had just graduated from university, and the work ethics in the U.S.A. left a lasting impression on me. Even a tenured professor who is also renowned all around the world would go to work at 5 a.m. and would make his course preparations. Since people earn their professional degrees at universities, they see such a hardworking environment there, and they work hard in their later life as well. This is also a proof of why the U.S.A. is so developed as a country.

The other thing that impressed me was the social order in the U.S.A. For example, there were no traffic lights in Ankara before I left it. The police would control the traffic at important crossroads, but there were traffic lights in the U.S.A. However, since I was not used to traffic lights, I would jaywalk. One day, I was jaywalking in Chicago and the police stopped me and fined me for jaywalking. I had to pay a \$10 fine. This was of course an important lesson for me.

What would you recommend to the students who are planning to apply for the Fulbright Grants in the future? How did receiving the Fulbright Grant change your life?

Receiving the Fulbright Grant affected my life immensely. I believe that being



Prof. Polat Gülkan presenting at a conference

a Fulbrighter contributed significantly to my accomplishments and to the awards I received. It is important that the Fulbright Grantees represent Turkey and the Turkish society successfully. It is not enough to be academically successful. For example, an interviewee for the Fulbright Grant should know who Senator J. William Fulbright was. If she/he does not know anything about him, this indicates lack of interest to a certain extent. Apart from this, candidates who state that one of their career goals is to stay in the U.S.A. should be aware of the fact that they are not setting a goal which matches with the main goal of the Fulbright Program.

What would you advise to our grantees that are in the U.S.A. right now?

Higher education is like an open buffet. While some students take food which will make them feel full, some come hungry and leave hungry. No one should be in the second group. A university student should also broaden his/her vision of the world. I advise them not to forget that a university gives perspective to an individual. This perspective is very important, and in my opinion one of the best university systems in the world is in the U.S.A. That's why; as Fulbright Grantees they should always know that they have won a big lottery, and that this grant will change their life.

NEWS FROM THE COMMISSION



Ms. Mary Kirk, Director of Academic Exchange Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Mr. Joseph McCormick, Academic Exchange Specialist at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Mr. Arthur Austin, Assistant Director of Foreign Fulbright Programs at the Institute of International Education visited the Commission and attended a reception with the Fulbright U.S. Grantees and the Fulbright Commission Staff on February 25, 2013 in Ankara.



Ms. Mary Kirk, Mr. Joseph McCormick and Mr. Arthur Austin at a meeting with the Fulbright Staff on February 26, 2013 in Ankara.

New member of Our Staff

Ms. Pınar Kılıçhan Şener joined the Commission as the new Turkish Programs Assistant in March 2013.



Dr. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, attended a meeting with the Executive Directors of the Fulbright Commissions in Europe between March 17-22, 2013 in Washington D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent trends and developments in the Fulbright Program.



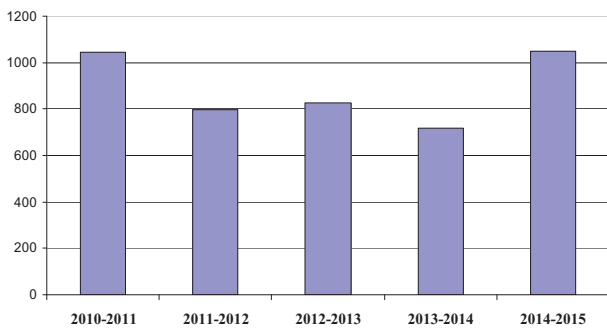
The Cultural Association of Friendship and Cooperation in the Bosphorus Atlantic and ten faculty members from the Christopher Newport University in Virginia in the U.S.A., visited the Turkish Fulbright Commission Head Office in Ankara on May 22, 2013. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the Turkish Fulbright Commission Scholarship Programs and EducationUSA opportunities for scholars and students.



Ms. Seçil Yazıcıoğlu, who worked as the American Programs Officer for the Commission for 15 years, will retire in July 2013. The Turkish Fulbright Commission is thankful for her many contribution over the years.

THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION GRANTS IN NUMBERS THE STUDENT CORE PROGRAM

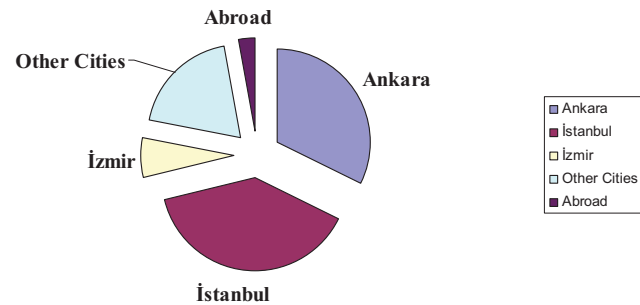
Applications from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 Academic Years



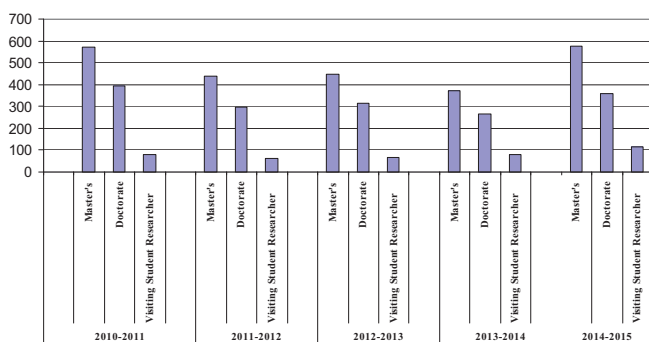
The largest grant program of our Commission is the Turkish Student Core Program, which includes Master's, Doctorate and Visiting Student Researcher Grants. The total number of applications per year since 2010-2011 academic year can be seen in the chart on the left. The number of applications for the 2014-2015 academic year is the highest in the last five years.

The deadline for applications to the Turkish Student Core Program for the 2014-2015 academic year was March 22, 2013. This year the number of applications reached a record high, increasing by 46% compared to the 2013-2014 academic year. There were applications from 40 cities of Turkey other than Ankara, İstanbul and İzmir. In addition, the Commission received applications from 13 countries around the world. Applications were received in 42 different fields of study.

2014-2015 Application Cycle Applicants' City of Application



Degree Objectives From 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 Academic Years



Turkish students who wish to pursue Master's or Doctorate Degrees or to do research on their doctoral dissertations apply for our Commission's Student Core Program. After they submit their applications online, the evaluation committees are formed and the committee members go through the files selecting candidates that are eligible for the interview. The files of those candidates who successfully pass the interview stage are sent to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in the U.S.A. for final approval. Following the approval, the next step is the placement of the approved candidates at U.S. universities. The placement is done with the help of the Institute of the International Education.

FULBRIGHT



TURKEY

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Please send contributions and comments to:

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