



THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION
NEWSLETTER

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Issue 2

Inspiring Story

Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar

Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry in 2015

“
...from my experience, Fulbrighters never [forget about their country] and they take the positive things they learned in the U.S. to Turkey with them. This is the main reason I support Fulbright wholeheartedly.”

New Grant Program

The Fulbright Turkey PhD Award in Honor of Professor Aziz Sancar

/RESEARCH PROGRAMS
L. EVALUATION MEETING



Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, visits the Turkish Fulbright Commission

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Dear Fulbright Friends,

Welcome to the 14th issue of our biannual newsletter. As another academic year wraps up, we're happy to be able to share with you once again updates and information from the Commission, stories by current grantees, and news about our alumni. I would like to draw your attention to a couple of stories in particular among those you'll read on the following pages.

This fall the first recipient of the Fulbright Turkey PhD Award in Honor of Professor Aziz Sancar, Ms. Nazlı Değer, will be heading to North Carolina to start her work alongside Dr. Sancar. We're extremely happy to have Dr. Sancar being so actively a part of the Turkish Fulbright program, and we look forward to working with him in the upcoming years. Prof. Aziz Sancar is featured in this edition's "Inspiring Story".

We're also excited to announce the re-opening of our English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program. For many years we ran one of the largest ETA programs in the world. After a couple of years break, we are now starting it up again this fall on a more modest level, with American ETAs being placed at several public universities in Ankara. We look forward to welcoming the new ETAs and celebrating the resumption of this popular program.

At the end of June we'll be holding our annual reception to celebrate the outgoing Turkish Fulbrighters, both students and scholars, who will be leaving for the U.S. this fall to study, teach, and conduct research. This reception has become an annual tradition in recent years, as a chance not only to say goodbye to the new grantees but also to acknowledge and thank our hard-working jury members, many of whom are themselves Fulbright alumni. It's also a family get-together for all friends of Fulbright, including representatives from both supporting governments and the universities with which we work, as well as, of course, a chance to thank the hard-working Commission staff for their commitment.

Finally, by the time you read this we will have held our end-of-year meeting in the Çeşme Sheraton with our American Fulbright grantees. This year we'll host both our honorary Board Chairman, current Chargé d'Affaires (Acting Ambassador) Philip Kosnett, and a special guest from Washington, Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, who is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), the bureau that supports and administers the worldwide Fulbright Program. Ms. Galt will have the chance to meet with our grantees and with Commission Board members. Her presence is a great indication of how critical Fulbright Programs in Turkey are for both countries.

For now, I wish all of you a relaxing summer holiday season, and I hope you enjoy the newsletter.



Prof. Ersel Aydınli

An Inspiring Story

Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar was born in Savur, Mardin, in southeast Turkey. He was the seventh of eight children. Although his parents had no education, they considered education important for their children. Prof. Sancar studied Medicine at İstanbul University. He then went to the U.S. for graduate study and received his Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology at the University of Texas, Dallas in 1977. Prof. Sancar specialized in DNA repair, cell cycle checkpoints and the circadian clock. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015 along with Tomas Lindahl and Paul L. Modrich for their mechanistic studies of DNA repair.

Prof. Sancar works at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. Our Commission contacted Prof. Sancar to start a new Ph.D. award program in honor of him. The Fulbright Turkey PhD Award in Honor of Professor Aziz Sancar accepted its first applications in 2017, and the first recipient will start her studies this fall.

(You can read our interview with Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar on pages 10-16)



News from the Commission

Visit by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) for ECA

Our Commission was delighted to welcome Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). It was a special honor to host such a high-ranking member of the ECA leadership. During her visit, Ambassador Galt also joined in our Commission Board's meeting, which was conducted alongside the American grantees' end-of-year gathering. She had the opportunity to address the Board and tell the members in person how much the U.S. government values Fulbright and how they are committed to working with their Turkish counterparts to preserve and uphold the meaning, image, prestige and universal high standards of the Fulbright initiative.

During the Board meeting, in addition to regular Board business and updates, Ambassador Galt was briefed on our Commission's safety and security mechanism, as a Best Practice example. She also had the opportunity to discuss with the Board possible ways and venues for celebrating the upcoming 70th anniversary of our Commission.

Ambassador Galt's visit highlighted both governments' unwavering commitment to educational and cultural exchange between Turkey and the United States, which is the longest uninterrupted area of cooperation between the two countries, even preceding their NATO partnership.



Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt

Charge d'Affaires Philip Kosnett

Prof. Ersel Aydınli

Mr. John Thomas McCarthy



from left to right:

Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, Mr. John Thomas McCarthy, Ms. Aslı Başgöz, Mr. Scott Weinhold, Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, Prof. Ersel Aydınli, Ms. Funda Kocabıyık, Charge d'Affaires Philip Kosnett, Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi, Mr. Jeffrey J. Anderson, Ms. Ayşegül Gökçen Karaarslan, Prof. Muhsin Kar, Ms. Zeynep Öçgüder.



Breakfast with Grantees

On Friday, June 9, 2018 the American Programs grantees for the 2017-2018 academic year enjoyed a breakfast gathering with Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt. Ambassador Galt asked our grantees about their impressions of Turkish culture and society over breakfast, and our grantees discussed their grant periods and their experiences in Turkey, while they also got the chance to hear from the former Ambassador about her experiences as a career member of the Foreign Service.

Annual Meeting of the Executive Directors

Our Executive Director attended the yearly European Fulbright ED meeting, held this year in Budapest on April 18-20. The conference took place on the Central European University campus. There the EDs discussed the future of Fulbright, including addressing contemporary challenges and proposed solutions. Special presentations were made on data privacy compliance under the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and on archiving of past Fulbright material. The president of Central European University, Dr. Michael Ignatieff, also had a special session with the EDs, during which he talked about the future of internationalization in higher education. Also joining the EDs at the meeting was Ms. Deborah Guido, who serves as the European Programs Branch Chief at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). Professor Aydınlı also had the chance to meet with the current Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC) in Europe, Ms. Gordana Mirchikj, to talk about advising and EducationUSA issues.



“Why Fear Dragons: Ursula K. Le Guin and Her Legacy” Seminar

Our Commission hosted an event called “Why Fear Dragons: Ursula K. Le Guin and Her Legacy” that was organized by two of our Fulbright alumni, Assoc. Prof. Mine Özyurt Kılıç and Funda Bilgen Steinberg on May 11, 2018 in Ankara. The event speaker was Dr. Kristin Jacobson, who was invited and hosted by our Commission under the Intercountry Travelling Seminar Grant Program. Dr. Jacobson is Professor of American Literature at Stockton University, in New Jersey and also is a Fulbright U.S. Scholar of the Greek Fulbright Commission. The event brought around 35 distinguished guests from American and English literature departments of many universities in Ankara. Following the opening remarks and presentation by Dr. Jacobson, a reception was held for our guests.



A Warm Goodbye

Mr. Jeffrey J. Anderson, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul and one of our Commission's Board members, has completed his service in Turkey. We thank him for his enthusiastic participation in many of the Commission's events and for his commitment. We wish him all the best and know that he will be sorely missed.



English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program

We are thrilled to be welcoming a new cohort of English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) grantees to Turkey for the first time since 2016. Formerly the largest program of its kind globally, the ETA Program is a vital example of the Fulbright mission-in-action as grantees engage in a process of mutual learning with their colleagues and students. During the 2018-2019 academic year, ETA grantees will provide university-level English-language instruction at public universities in Ankara. We are looking forward to building on past successes as we start a new chapter in this critical program.

In Memoriam: Prof. Carle C. Zimmerman

Prof. Carle C. Zimmerman, a distinguished sociologist best known for his classic work “Family and Civilization” was a Fulbright U.S. Lecturer at Istanbul University in the 1963-64 academic year.

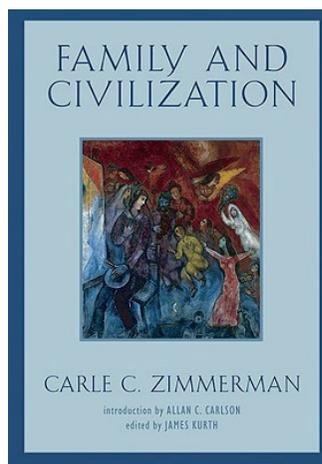
Prof. Zimmerman was born to German-American parents in a Cass County village in Missouri in 1897, studied at the University of Missouri and spent the bulk of his career at Harvard University, where he was an inaugural member on the faculty of the university’s Department of Sociology. He studied rural and international social dynamics, lectured extensively, conducted research, and wrote many books. He is best known for his work *Family and Civilization*, an analysis of the impact of evolving family structures on the health of civilizations.

Prof. Zimmerman also counselled the governments of Siam (Thailand), Cuba, Canada, and the USA; in addition to his Fulbright in Istanbul, Turkey, he was a visiting professor in Göttingen, Germany, and again as a Fulbright Visiting Researcher in Rome, Italy. His many works include “*Principals of Rural-Urban Sociology*”, (with Sorokin) 1929; “*Siam Rural Economic Survey*” 1932; “*Family and Society*” 1935; “*Consumption and Standards of Living*” 1936; “*The Changing Community*” 1938; “*Systematic Source Book in Rural Sociology*” (with Sorokin and Galpin) 1939-1942; “*Outline of Social Change*” 1946; “*Family and Civilization*” 1947; “*Family Tomorrow*” 1949; “*Graphic Regional Sociology*” 1952, “*Marriage and the Family*” 1956, “*Successful American Families*” 1960.

Prof Zimmerman was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a founder of the Society for Social Research.

In 1963, he was invited by the Department of Sociology at the Istanbul University School of Economics, to lecture and study the present state of the Turkish Family. He examined the social changes resulting from rural-urban migrations and interactions in the framework of methodologies he employed in similar studies. The Istanbul University Press published a translation of his lectures titled “*Yeni Sosyoloji Dersleri*” in 1964.

“*Family and Civilization*”, his magnum opus, published in 1947, demonstrated the close and causal connections between the rise and fall of different types of families and the



rise and fall of civilizations, particularly ancient Greece and Rome, medieval and modern Europe, and the United States. Zimmerman rejected the linear, evolution-inspired theories of his predecessors, arguing that the historical record showed that familial communal life had not followed a singular track of progression. He instead traced the evolution of family structure from tribes and clans to extended and large nuclear families to the small nuclear families and what he called the broken families of his present day. Zimmerman theorized the existence of three basic family types: “trustee”, predominating in agrarian societies, “domestic”, as a middle category found in civilizations undergoing rapid development, and the “atomistic” which he argued emerged as normative in so-called advanced civilizations.

Many scholars have critiqued Zimmerman’s work and the assumptions his works were rooted in at that time until the present; nonetheless, his work on family has continued to influence many other scholars and has been adopted by many, particularly conservative schools of thought. Some evangelical and far-right communities in the United States regard his analyses predicting many of today’s cultural and social controversies and trends to be chillingly prophetic.

“We cannot make people civilized”, he said in his last book, “but we can tell them how to make themselves civilized.”

News from Our Alumni

Alumni Gathering in İzmir

The Fulbright Alumni Association organized a gathering which was arranged by Prof. Ayfer Yalçın of the Ege University Pharmacology Department on March 31, 2018 in İzmir. Prof. Yalçın went to Harvard University in 2008 as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar and is serving on the Fulbright Alumni Association's Advisory Board. Our Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, was also at this gathering with around 15 alumni from İzmir and neighboring cities and 4 of the Association's board members from İstanbul. As part of this gathering, there was a lunch at the Ege University guest house and during the lunch, the Rector of Ege University, Prof. Necdet Budak, also joined the group and talked with the Fulbright alumni. The alumni group had a fruitful session in the afternoon. They discussed possible opportunities to establish a strong alumni network in the İzmir area, how to organize events under the Fulbright umbrella, and how to serve their students and community better.



The Traditional Humphrey Alumni Association Cocktail Party



This year's Humphrey Alumni Association cocktail party, organized by the Humphrey Alumni Association of Turkey, was held on Friday, April 27, 2018 at the Turkish-American Association Art Gallery. It was a very pleasant evening with the participation of many Humphrey Program alumni, as well as our Commission staff and U.S. Embassy representatives, the president of the Fulbright Alumni Association, and U.S. Department of State's Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program alumni. The Humphrey Program alumni got to catch up with each other and became up to date about their most recent work and projects. Our two new Humphrey Program candidates for the 2018-2019 academic year also attended the cocktail party and had the opportunity to gather some useful information about the program through its alumni.

Re-entry and Networking Meeting

Our “Re-entry and Networking” meeting, which is organized for our Turkish alumni who completed their Fulbright programs in the U.S.A. and have recently returned to Turkey, was held in İstanbul on February 9, 2018. This year, thirty-four alumni of Fulbright Ph.D., Master’s, Ph.D. Dissertation Research, Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship (FLTA) and Community College Initiative (CCI) Programs came together for this meeting.

The opening speech was made by our Executive Director Prof. Ersel Aydınli. In his speech, Prof. Aydınli mentioned the fact that the Fulbright Program in Turkey has had an uninterrupted history despite constantly evolving political relationships between the two countries. He emphasized the importance of being a member of the Fulbright family and the contributions Fulbright alumni can make to their communities.

Since one of the main goals of this meeting is to enable our new alumni to think of ways to make contributions to their communities and shape their careers, we





organized a panel of three speakers, all of whom are alumni of different Fulbright Programs. Assistant Prof. Dr. Fırat Sarsar, Fulbright PhD Program alumnus; Attorney Ece Başaran Küçük, Fulbright Master's Program alumna and Ms. Evin Taş, Humphrey Program alumna talked about their own career paths and provided information about the sectors in which they are now working. Following this panel, we informed the participants about effective ways to make a successful job application.

In the afternoon, Dr. Ümit Yazman, a Hubert H. Humphrey Program alumnus '96 had a session during which he focused on the re-entry process, reverse culture shock, and how best to overcome the problems associated with these challenges. After Dr. Yazman's session, members of the Fulbright Alumni Association informed the new alumni about their activities and membership process.

At the end of this year's "Re-entry and Networking" meeting, alumni including our Visiting Scholar alumni, were presented with their Fulbright certificates. In the evening, our Executive Director Prof. Dr. Ersel Aydınli and U.S. Consul General Jennifer L. Davis hosted a reception. Among the guests were the chairman and members of our Commission Board, Turkish and American alumni and current and former American grantees in İstanbul. Prof. Dr. Nermin Abadan Unat, one of the second group of Fulbright PhD Program alumni ever from Turkey, also participated in this reception and gave a speech on the importance of the Fulbright scholarships and her academic work upon her return to Turkey. This reception enabled our alumni and current grantees to get to know each other better.

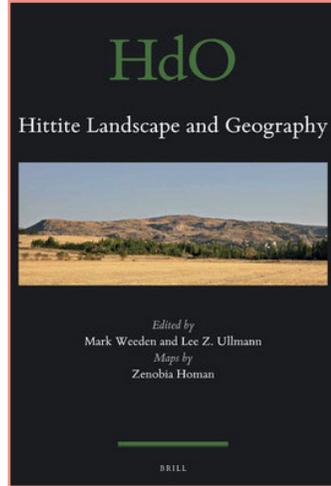
Books by Our Alumni

Dr. Lee Ullman

U.S. Student Researcher Program Alumnus 2007

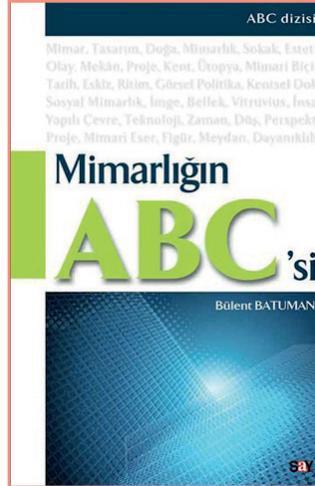
Hittite Landscape and Geography

Dr. Lee Ullman is the co-editor of this book which is a result of his Ph.D. dissertation whose research was done while he was on a Fulbright in Turkey. This book is considered to be the first comprehensive book on Hittite landscape in almost 50 years, and it brings together authors from all over the world who work on Hittite studies.



Assoc. Prof. Bülent Batuman
Visiting Scholar Program Alumnus 2018

Mimarlığın ABC'si



One of the objectives of this book is to remind the reader that architecture is a part of our daily lives and that everyone has an idea about architecture. According to Assoc. Prof. Batuman, we are all users and consumers of architecture and thus producers and critics of it at the same time.

Voluntary Service for Student Refugees

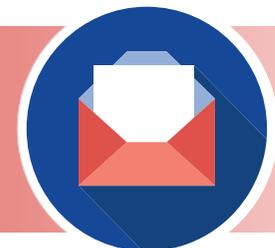
Fulbright alumni are dedicated volunteers in many social issues concerning humanity. One of our FLTA Program alumni Ms. Ayşe Tolunay, who completed her FLTA Program at Boston University in 2015, is now pursuing



her Master's degree at the University of Copenhagen in Advanced Migration Studies. Since January, she is working voluntarily for a student-driven project named Student Refugees to assist people with a refugee status in accessing higher education programs in Denmark and supporting them after they have been accepted. Ms. Tolunay has organized a workshop for writing statements of purpose as part of her volunteer work since she was a teacher of English in Turkey when she applied for the FLTA Program.

This student-driven project has received broad attention from several institutions including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which interviewed the volunteer team.

Please share your Fulbright experience and stories with us at:
newsletter@fulbright.org.tr



An Inspiring Story: Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar



Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar in front of Carolina Türk Evi (Turkish House)

(continued from page 2)

We hear a lot of things about Nobel prize-winner Prof. Aziz Sancar through the internet and the media. Can you talk about yourself briefly? What we really wish to learn is who the “real” Aziz Sancar is, perhaps little-known aspects of your life.

I was born in 1946 in the town of Savur in Mardin. I graduated from primary and secondary school there. I completed my high school education in Mardin and worked as a medical doctor for 2 years after graduating summa cum laude from Istanbul Medical School. Then I came to the United States, and I earned a PhD degree in Molecular Biology here. My life is quite straightforward really, I do not have much to add to what is already out there on the internet and on social media.

As someone who has reached the highest honor in academic success, has been involved with distinguished scientific research and has set a great example to thousands of students, in your opinion, what is success, and what are the secrets of being successful?

Success means doing your job in the best way possible, and is something you have to work really hard for. Especially if you are doing science and trying to do it on the highest level. This is my formula for success.

How did you decide to become a medical doctor? What kind of advantages or disadvantages has the medical training you received in Turkey brought you?

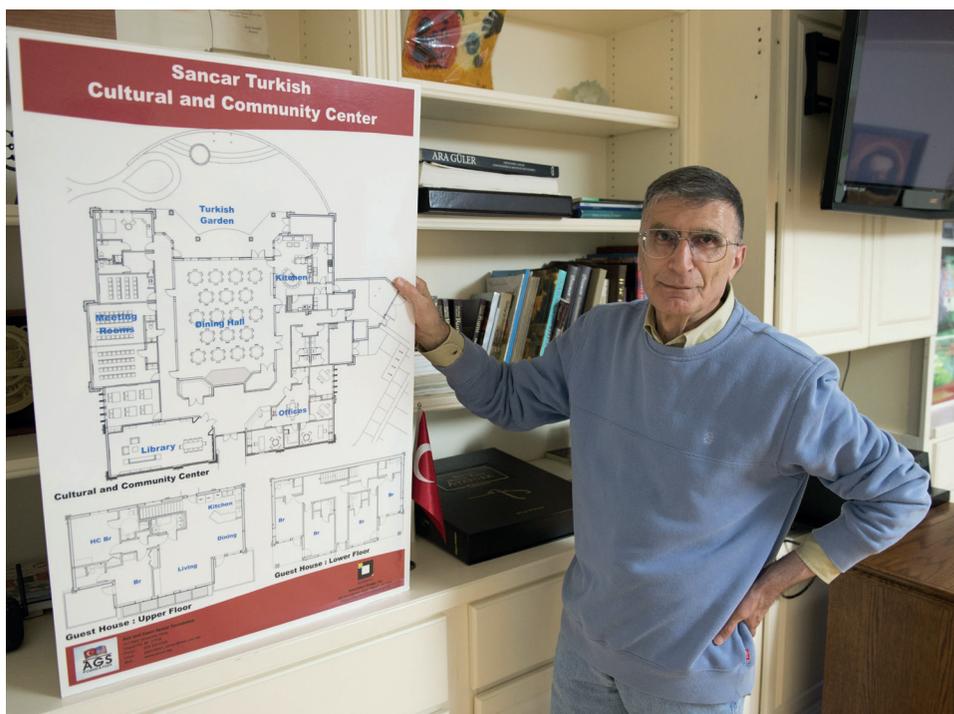
I actually did not want to be a medical doctor, I aspired to become a chemist. I had a great chemistry teacher in my junior year at high school and I



wanted to be a chemist because of his influence. However, university entrance exams in İstanbul were held separately for each faculty back then. I took exams for both chemistry and medical school, upon the insistence of my friends. I got into both schools. I was going to enroll in chemistry department but five of my high school friends from Mardin insisted that we all enroll in medical school, so I could not resist, although I really wanted to become a chemist from the very beginning. İstanbul University Medical School provided me with an excellent education in both basic sciences and clinical sciences. Therefore, I was theoretically prepared in all areas when I came to the U.S. Of course, it was quite difficult to do experimental science in Turkey due to the circumstances of the period. Our facilities to carry out experimental research were limited, but also in medical education, there really were not very many opportunities to conduct experimental research — but I was educated really well in terms of theoretical knowledge while in Turkey.

How did you come to the decision to continue your education abroad? How did you choose between clinical work and research?

I was in my second year at medical school when I learned about DNA and DNA's double helix structure. As soon as I learned of these, I decided to become a biochemist. However, [first] I completed my medical training. I talked to my biochemistry professor in my fifth year and I told him that I wanted to specialize in biochemistry. He told me "Aziz, someone who has studied medicine has to practice it for at least a few years. So it is my advice to you to be a doctor for a while". So I became a doctor in a village in Savur and I am glad I took his advice because the best memories of my life are of being a



doctor in the villages of Savur. However, as I said before, I decided to specialize in biochemistry in the second year of medical school. After that, thanks to the recommendation of my internal medicine professor Muzaffer Alpsoy, may he rest in peace, I came to the United States. One of the factors that helped me come to the U.S. was that I was awarded the NATO scholarship and came to the United States with that scholarship. I experienced some difficulties here for a while. Eventually, I went to Texas and got my Ph.D. there.

When did you first come to the United States and what did you go through on your first days?

I came to the U.S. in the summer or fall of 1972. Actually, I did not experience huge differences from my life [in Turkey] as İstanbul was a cosmopolitan city and I had studied medicine there. The U.S. was no different in that sense and all I did in İstanbul was study and that's what I did in the U.S. as well. However, there were two differences. First of all, in

İstanbul of course, I spoke Turkish with everybody but I could not speak English [when I initially came] here because I learned French in high school. So in that sense, I experienced a great difficulty as I did not speak English even though I had come here to the U.S.

Students who come to the U.S. with a Fulbright grant can also experience some difficulties at first. What kind of difficulties did you face and what challenged you the most?

Most Turkish students experience difficulties with the food. This was not a problem for me as I got by with bread and cheese during the medical school and it was the same in the U.S. So the food was no problem at all. But I had no friends. When I was in medical school, I spent most of my time studying but I had 4-5 close friends. I could meet with them whenever I liked so I had that support, which I did not have in the U.S. so there were some psychological problems related to this.



How did you get over this friend problem?

I first came to Johns Hopkins, then I went to Texas. I had learned to speak English by the time I went to Texas and I had matured a bit more. As I had begun to think that Americans were not superior to Turks and Turks were not superior to Americans either, my relationship with other people became more normal. I made friends in Texas and, as you know, one of these friends was Gwen and we eventually got married.

Was there an interesting incident you had while you were a Ph.D. student in Texas? If so, could you briefly describe it?

My wife Gwen had never heard of the Ottoman Empire and this was very odd to me. But now, she has “Turkish House” written on her license plate, and she is an honorary ambassador for Turkey here. What I mean is that Americans as a whole, not only Gwen, do not know Turkey or the Turks. The person filming this interview asked me who this man is, when I wanted to place Atatürk’s picture here and I told him it was Atatürk. He had never heard of Atatürk. This saddens me greatly.

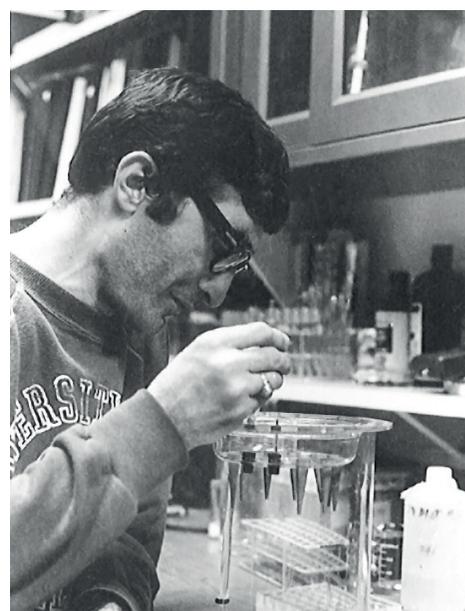


Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar with his wife Gwen Sancar

The Americans know nothing of us. This was both saddening and unexpected. Most Americans know Gandhi, Mao, Mandela. However, Atatürk was a pioneer preceding them all and they were all influenced by him. The man who started the idea of “wars of independence” all around the world is hardly known. As I always say, if you want to be respected by the people you meet, you must respect yourself first. In my relationship with

Gwen, I told her about our people, our culture and our history. She was not content with only what I told her, she also read about us and did research on both Turkish and foreign sources for objective information. She saw that we are a great nation who has achieved great things and Atatürk was an exceptional statesman. She now knows all of this and does what she does for the Turks from her heart. She is now more “Turkish” than most Turks. →

“ **Thanks to Fulbright, many of our bright children have come to the U.S. for more than 60 years and have experienced how advanced science and research are conducted first-hand...I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Fulbright Program as I have heard from many Fulbrighters that this program has truly helped them.** ”



In the lab of the UT Dallas Biology Department, 1975



Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar at Anıtkabir (Mausoleum of Atatürk in Ankara)

“I thank the Commission officials for establishing the first contact. They told me that as I place such great importance on education, especially the education of girls, that they wanted to send one Ph.D. student to me every year and name this grant after me.”

How has your life changed after the Nobel Prize? How has your academic and daily life been affected by the Nobel? Does the intense interest people initially showed still continue?

After the Nobel Prize, I started to receive about 2 international invitations every day, and the fee for giving a speech ranges from \$10,000 to \$20,000. However, I promised myself that I would not be giving speeches anywhere other than Turkey, Turkic Republics, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In that sense, the Nobel Prize has not had an effect on my travels and work. However, I receive a lot of invitations from Turkey, about 2 every day. I have to decline some of these invitations from universities and students but it is difficult to turn them down. Even when I decline, this is still time-consuming as you have to write a personal letter to each of them, and I cannot turn everybody down. However, after receiving the Nobel Prize, we continue to work and publish our studies like we have always done, which makes me happy. There’s also the fact that all Turks coming to the U.S. want to visit me, and even when I turn them down, they still come to my office. I thank them for their affection, but I have work to do. The Nobel Prize is a scientific prize but, as you know, I dedicated this prize to Atatürk, to the Turkish Republic

and to my country. I said, I owe this honor to my country. When I said all these things, the whole Turkish community has shown an interest, which leads to more demands. I do not know how to meet them but I think they have a point as well. I now see myself not only as a scientist for Turkey and the Turkic world but as a person who has dedicated himself to Turkism, which is another big responsibility. That’s why I pray to God to not give me responsibilities which I cannot bear.

What do you think about the Fulbright Program?

Thanks to Fulbright, many of our bright children have come to the U.S. for more than 60 years and have experienced how advanced science and research are conducted first-hand. There is a lot to learn here and Fulbright helps them through it. It also helps Turkish and American people to get to know each other. Therefore, I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Fulbright Program as I have heard from many Fulbrighters that this program has truly helped them. Our expectation from those Turks who come to the U.S. with a Fulbright scholarship or any other means is that they do not forget about their country. But from my experience, Fulbrighters never do that, and they take the positive

things they learned in the U.S. to Turkey with them. This is the main reason I support Fulbright wholeheartedly.

How did you cross paths with the Turkish Fulbright Commission? How did this idea of starting a program named after you come about?

I thank the Commission officials for establishing the first contact. They told me that as I place such great importance on education, especially the education of girls, that they wanted to send one Ph.D. student to me every year and name this grant after me. I was obviously very pleased. This is such an honor, and through this grant we will raise a new generation. My first student is a female student, which makes me happy. I hope this grant program continues.

Is there a message you wish to convey to our grantee who will begin her Ph.D. studies with you in the framework of the Fulbright-Prof. Aziz Sancar Ph.D. Grant?

Yes, Nazlı Değer. I have had the chance to correspond with her, and offered her my congratulations as it’s not easy to be a Fulbright grantee. However, I also told her that we work really hard here and she should be prepared to work just as hard. But her professors also informed me about how driven she is, so I believe she will be successful.



As you know, today is May 19th, the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day. What do you, as a Nobel Prize-winning scientist, recommend to young people in Turkey who aspire to advance in their academic careers?

My advice is never to forget the reforms Atatürk initiated and the importance he attached to science. As Atatürk has so succinctly put it, “We founded the Republic but you will be the ones who will make it thrive, and the only way to make it thrive is through science.” This is what we expect from the Turkish youth. I hope that this generation and the generations that will come after advance our country even further, and that we can do science on the same level as the U.S., Europe, and the Western world as a whole. I would also like to add that May 19th is a very special day for me, as on this day we

“As Atatürk has so succinctly put it, “We founded the Republic but you will be the ones who will make it thrive, and the only way to make it thrive is through science.” This is what we expect from the Turkish youth.

said “Stop” to the West for the first time since the defeat in Vienna in 1683, and founded the Republic. We carried out numerous scientific and social reforms after that, and thanks to these reforms, we have reached this level. But it is not enough, and we have to advance further. As I previously

said, I attach such an importance to May 19th that we decided to open the Turkish House (established through his family’s foundation on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) on this date when we first founded it. So today is the 10th year anniversary of its foundation.



Prof. Dr. Aziz Sançar receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015



“ Huge investments are being made in education and research in Turkey, this is an undeniable fact. However, it is also true that the science we produce is not on the same level as the Western world. ”

What is your opinion on the Turkish education system? What do you recommend to be put in place urgently so that our current education system can be competitive in the international arena?

Firstly, I want to say something positive. Huge investments are being made in education and research in Turkey, this is an undeniable fact. However, it is also true that the science we produce is not on the same level as the Western world. The important thing is that science should be based on merit not on who you know or to whom you are related. Second,

scientists should also be free in their research. Third, religion and politics should be left out of the scientific sphere. This does not only mean the government or religion should not interfere with scientific research, but also scientists should not meddle with politics and religion as these must be kept separate. However, this has not been the case either for our governments, or for our scientists. This was a problem even when I was in university. If professors did not agree with a decision the government made, they would put on their academic regalia and robes and go to Atatürk's Mausoleum (Anıtkabir) to protest. In

my opinion, you either do science or you govern the country; this should be a two-way process. Social scientists have valuable opinions on governance and democracy and they should be listened to, of course. But if scientists working on natural sciences such as physics, chemistry, molecular biology and other fields try to govern the country, then we will never succeed in reaching the level we desire. To sum up, there are three aspects that should be implemented: freedom of scientific research, science based on merit and support for accomplished scientists, separating science from politics and religion.



As a result of the studies on DNA repair, how close are we to use this method as a treatment for humans? What do you think about the future of your research?

Our article on this subject was published last week, and we detected what part of what gene is being repaired on what time of the day after we gave a cancer medication to mice. We mapped out at what time of day the 20,000 genes of mice are repaired. The second phase of this research is to implement this to human cancer produced in mice, and that's what we are doing now. Unfortunately, progress in science is slow and is only possible phase-by-phase. For instance, this research we are carrying out on mice started 7 years ago, and it is only now we have been able to finish it. From that perspective, I cannot answer that question definitively but we have a plan, a method and we will follow up on it.

What do you miss the most about Turkey?

I miss everything about Turkey and I miss its people the most. We are truly boisterous people but really warm as well and I miss that. In terms of food, I have simple preferences. I miss simit (Turkish bagel) and Aegean figs. One time I called them İzmir figs and people of Aydın were not happy about that, so I call them Aegean figs now. I studied medicine in İstanbul for 6 years. When I was commuting downhill from Tarabya every day, I used to see the Süleymaniye Mosque and would get teary-eyed. I am a sensitive person and I miss those mosques, those magnificent mosques.

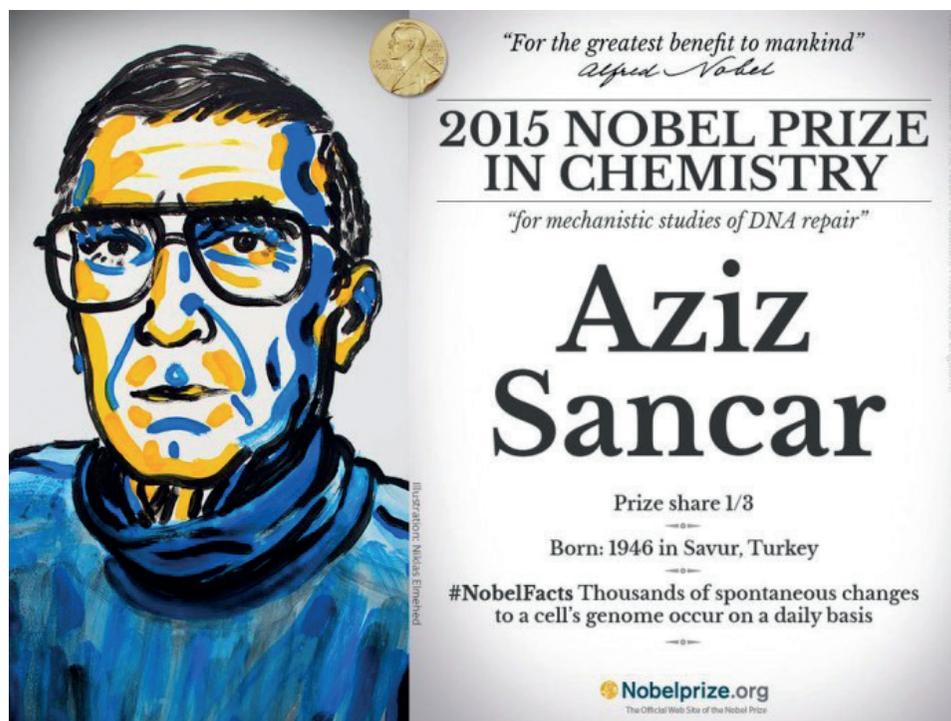
Is there anything you would like to say more to Fulbright students?

What I wish to say to Fulbrighters is to work, work hard as you are not only representing yourself and your family

“
I miss everything about Turkey and I miss its people the most.
”

but also Turkey and the Turkic world. There is now a Turkic world after the collapse of the Soviet Union. You are representing them too. I visited Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus last month. There is a consciousness about being Turkish in those places and they are following what we are doing closely. We are representatives of them too. For this reason, do not forget them. ■

“
What I wish to say to Fulbrighters is to work, work hard as you are not only representing yourself and your family but also Turkey and the Turkic world.
”



The image shows a stylized portrait of Aziz Sancar on the left, wearing glasses and a blue turtleneck. To the right is a graphic for the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. At the top right of the graphic is a gold Nobel medal and the text: "For the greatest benefit to mankind" *Alfred Nobel*. Below that, it reads "2015 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY" and "for mechanistic studies of DNA repair". The name "Aziz Sancar" is prominently displayed in large black letters. Underneath, it says "Prize share 1/3", "Born: 1946 in Savur, Turkey", and "#NobelFacts Thousands of spontaneous changes to a cell's genome occur on a daily basis". At the bottom, it features the "Nobelprize.org" logo and the text "The Official Web Site of the Nobel Prize".

American Programs

We are delighted to announce that grant candidates have been selected in five distinct categories to complete grants under the supervision of the American Programs Unit during the 2018-2019 academic year. In the coming year, we are looking forward to welcoming individuals who will teach and conduct research in Turkey.

American Programs grantees come from a vast array of disciplines to teach and conduct research on topics ranging from theatre to biological sciences, from engineering to history to irrigation, and everything in between. Interested in learning more? For questions or for more information, please contact the American Programs Unit of our Commission at amprog@fulbright.org.tr.

Mid-Year Evaluation Meetings

Every year, we organize Mid-Year Evaluation Meetings to fall around the halfway point of the academic year grant period. In addition to being a fun way to catch up and learn about the exciting discoveries our grantees have been making, the Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting also provides them with the chance to provide feedback and comments about their grant experiences. Grantees came from their host cities in the Aegean and Mediterranean regions, as well as Central Anatolia to join the Ankara-based grantees for the first iteration of the meetings, which was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018. A second meeting was held with our İstanbul-based grantees at our İstanbul Branch Office on Monday, February 26, 2018. Grantees shared interesting and amusing anecdotes with the Program, and we wished them success for the duration of their grants.



Visits by the Program Officer

Our grantees were visited in their cities by the American Programs Officer Ms. Mevlüde Bakır during the spring semester. Different activities organized in each place with the grantees corresponded with the kinds of cultural offerings available in their cities. Grantees and staff enjoyed seeing unique archaeological sites in Muğla and İzmir, the grantee in Eskişehir took advantage of the city's extensive museum offerings, Ankara-based grantees enjoyed a symphony concert with a visiting piano virtuoso, and the İstanbul grantees enjoyed a tour of the Bosphorus.



Final Evaluation Meeting Program

The Final Evaluation Meeting for American Programs grantees was held on June 7-10, 2018 in Çeşme, İzmir. Grantees in the U.S. Scholar Program including Senior Lecturers and Senior Researchers, as well as Student Study/Research grantees were joined by the members of the Commission's Board including representatives of both governments for a weekend of academic and cultural sharing, interaction and learning.

At the meeting, welcoming remarks were given by our Executive Director Prof. Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Mr. John T. McCarthy, Chairman of the Turkish Fulbright Commission Board, Mr. Philip Kosnett, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Ankara and Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Presentations were made by each grantee about their grant periods, including the research, teaching, or studies they conducted as well as their cultural experiences living, studying, working and researching in Turkey. Grantees presented on a variety of topics ranging from architectural theory and ceramics engineering to critical media studies and ecological history.

During the meeting, grantees and board members also had the opportunity to visit the ancient city of Erythrai and the

neighbouring village of Ildır. There they learned about the history of the Aegean region, including the continuity and rupture of settlements in this unique region. They also visited the town of Alaçatı where they enjoyed coffee, tea and sweets made with local mastic. Special dinners were held each evening where classic traditional Turkish foods and unique Aegean dishes were served. When asked about the weekend, Student Research Grantee Caitlin Miles said, "It was meaningful to come together in such a scenic place to talk about nine months of research and impactful cultural experiences."



It was meaningful to come together in such a scenic place to talk about nine months of research and impactful cultural experiences.

Ms. Caitlin Miles

Stories from U.S. Grantees

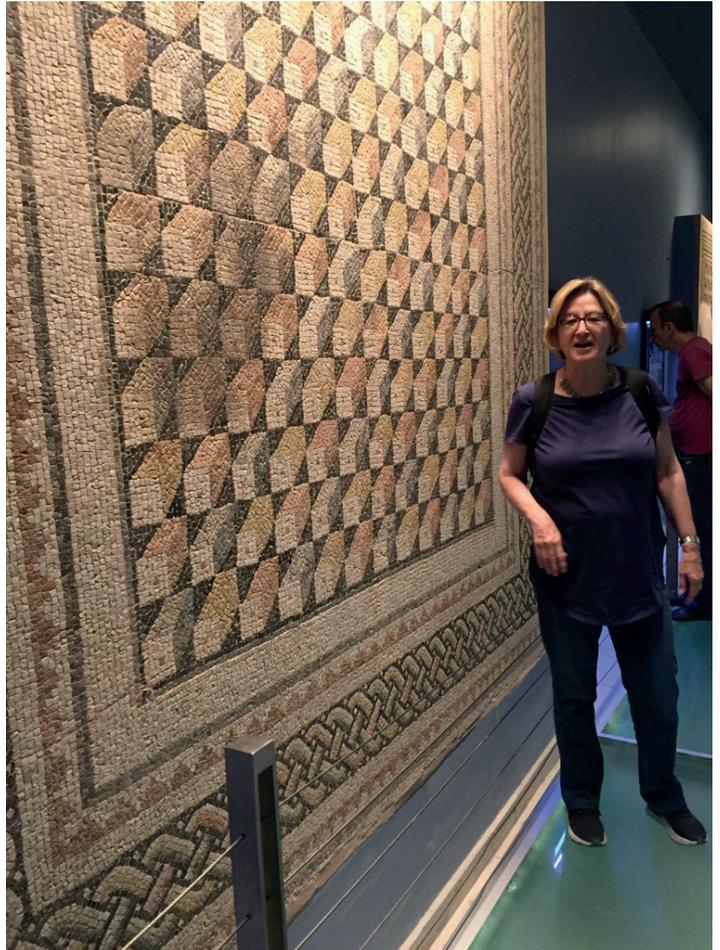
Prof. Julie M. Peteet

2017-2018 U.S. Senior Researcher
University of Louisville, Kentucky / Middle East Technical University, Ankara

Why Then? Why Now? Bathing through the Ages

Why Then? Why Now? These two questions have guided my research on public or collective *hamams* (baths). Both concern history, ritual, concepts and practice of hygiene, bodily aesthetics, leisure, relaxation, and wellness. Water is the key element tying it all together. Sacred or profane, water cleanses, purifies, and relaxes. To understand the current re-invigoration of *hamams* in Turkey, and elsewhere around the Middle East and Mediterranean, requires an excursion through history: its flows, currents, transformations, and exchanges from the Hittites and Mesopotamians to the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the early Arab Muslims, the Seljuks, the Ottomans and the contemporary era of what might be dubbed as spas. Often found in up-scale hotels, these hybrid forms (baths and spas) combine loped-off parts of the traditional *hamam* with the contemporary, globalized forms of bodily care and leisure, spatially organized as a set of choices and a global romp from a Finnish sauna to a steam room to the contemporary Jacuzzi and from a Thai, Balinese, or Swedish massage to the *kese* (scrubbing) and light massage of the *hamam*. Always hard to discern and rarely uni-linear or chronological, questions of origins are more fruitfully sidelined by a search for general antecedents, ruptures and continuity, and the syncretic. For example, however seemingly novel, hotel *hamams* have antecedents in the Seljuk caravanserais that once dotted the Anatolian landscape and provided a *hamam* for weary and dusty travelers.

Through the ages, two things remain constant: water, its availability and increasingly complex technologies for capturing, heating, and distribution, and, secondly, the *hamam* as an enveloping sensorium. Entering the *hamam* activates all the senses - sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste – from the ubiquitous sounds of slippers slapping the marble floors, water running out of intricately molded bronze taps into glistening white marble basins, and the continuous splashing of water over the body from *hamam* bowls repeatedly dipped into the basins and poured over the body to the shouting, bantering and bickering among workers and bathers, who on occasion break into song, all of which echoes off the gray-ish white marble walls and the high plastered dome, to the evocative smell of olive oil soap to the taste of sweet tea, juices, or *gazoz*,



“ **The hamam in Turkey was nearly moribund until its recent re-invigoration in part to meet the demands of tourists, both local and international.** ”

throughout the festival, put on both by SDU's students and visiting companies. Some noteworthy productions included the Western Languages and Literature's *Romeo and Juliet*, which will soon be available in MIT's open access Global Shakespeare video and performance archive; and the department's Sonnet recitation, which gave presenters the creative agency to design the delivery of select Shakespearean sonnets. Students from SDU's Performing Arts department staged a fantastically choreographed adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, called *Hırçın Kız (Combative Girl)*, where three couples role-play the physically-demanding, unpleasant encounters between the referenced title-character and her potential suitors. Visiting performances included Boğaziçi University's *Selam Sana Shakespeare (Hello to you, Shakespeare)*, which introduces the playwright's popular plays, early modern theatre-going, and considers why we continue staging and viewing performances today. Perhaps the most anticipated production of the festival was Bülent Emin Yarar's one-man *Hamlet*, where the sole-actor takes on the personas of the traditional cast, their various identities and aspirations.

Scholars from Turkey, the US and the UK contributed to the festival. Professor and translator Dr. Özdemir Nutku gave a talk on Shakespeare and Turkish translation; Dr. Hülya Nutku on contemporary English and Turkish adaptations. International contributions included a video talk from Dr. Stephen Greenblatt of Harvard University, whose discussion on absolute power in *Richard III* invited listeners to reflect upon its dangerous traces today. Dr. Peter Donaldson of MIT Global Shakespeare held a video conference, discussing the MIT video archive, its resources, and aspirations for the database; and Dr. Stanley Wells of the University of Birmingham and Dr. Paul Edmondson of the Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust discussed the future of global Shakespeare performance.

The festival and the international community that powered it reaffirmed the timeliness and importance of my project; as these texts and performances thrive in educational and creative spaces around the country, so too will there be the necessity of accounting for the various histories of integration, translation, and performance.



“The festival and the international community that powered it reaffirmed the timeliness and importance of my project.”

ETA Success Stories

English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program participants come to Turkey from a myriad of backgrounds and with a wide variety of interests and attractions leading them to the program. We have enjoyed watching their paths converge here, and then re-scatter all over the United States and the globe as they pursue training and careers in a variety of fields. This spring has brought us a wave of news of graduations from the ETA classes who were in Turkey in the early 2010s. We are delighted to share some of their success stories with you below.

Law



Our recent ETA alumni have been enrolled in and receiving law degrees from fine law schools at universities like Yale University, Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and George Washington University, and Brooklyn College, among many others. Mr. Samuel Leist (2014-2015, Pamukkale University, Denizli) reports to us that following his recent graduation from University of Notre Dame Law School, he, “will be joining an international litigation boutique firm in Chicago in the fall. In the future, I will also be taking asylum cases pro bono for the National Immigrant Justice Center, which offers free legal services to immigrants and defends deportees in court against the Department of Homeland Security.”

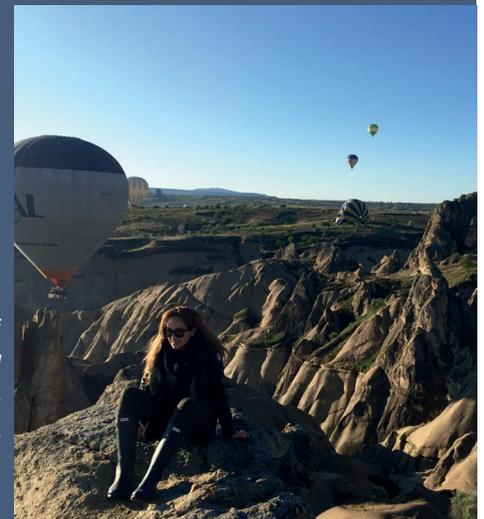


This photo features four ETAs from the 2014-2015 academic year, two of whom graduated from law school this spring. Mr. Leist is pictured second from the right.

Education



Following her ETA grant at Sakarya University during the 2015-2016 academic year, Ms. Hogai Aryoubi relocated to Cambridge University, where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Education. She wrote to share that she “got awarded the American Association of University Women dissertation fellowship, which is a \$20,000 scholarship and fellowship. I also got selected to be a part of the Leadership for Educational Equity Policy and Advocacy Summer Fellowship for 2018.”



Ms. Aryoubi is pictured here visiting Cappadocia during her grant period.

Medicine



A number of our ETA alumni are now pursuing careers in medicine and public health. Mr. Khalid Khayr, M.D. (2011-2012, Osmaniye Korkut Ata University, Osmaniye) received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health this spring, and will soon begin his internal medicine residency at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

We congratulate our former ETA grantees on all of the challenging and rewarding steps they are taking in their educational and professional lives, and wish them much success with future endeavors.

ETA alumni who have recently graduated and want to share graduation pictures or photos with us can do so using the hashtag **#ETATurkeyGrad** or by sending us an e-mail at alumni@fulbright.org.tr

Our staff connected with Prof. Thomas Lovejoy, one of Fulbright Program's 50th anniversary lecturers, who informed us about his work.

Prof. Thomas Lovejoy is the ecologist who coined the term "biological diversity" in 1980. He dedicated his life to the field of environmental sciences, and he previously served as the Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations Foundation, as the Chief Biodiversity Advisor to the World Bank as well as Lead Specialist for the Environment for the Latin American region, as the Assistant Secretary for Environmental and External Affairs for the Smithsonian Institution, and as Executive Vice President of World Wildlife Fund-U.S. He came to Turkey as a Fulbright Program's 50th anniversary lecturer, and stayed in Istanbul where, as he says he "spent a few wonderful days". When he was in Istanbul he gave lectures and participated in the events with the Fulbright community in Turkey. One of the things he says he cannot forget about Istanbul is the Bosphorus and the boat trip he took with with an authority on architecture, who explained what they were seeing.

Prof. Lovejoy was born and grew up in Manhattan. He was always outside and was fascinated by animals. When he was 14, he went away to school and was smitten by Millbrook School in Millbrook, New York because it had a zoo. But he didn't know he would be fascinated by biology until three weeks of taking biology in his first year at Millbrook. In his Biology class he learned the outline of life on Earth, which is now called biodiversity, before he was 15 and has never been able to get enough since. Not surprisingly, Prof. Lovejoy majored in Biology at Yale, went on a Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History



expedition in Southern Egypt in the 1962-63 academic year, and then decided to try for a Ph.D. During his Ph.D. he ended up doing his research in the Amazon rainforest and received his degree in 1971.

Since all his mentors also cared about conservation, when he had a chance to work for the World Wildlife Fund's U.S. (WWF-U.S.) team as employee #13 in 1973 it was a logical step – an experiment that lasted 14 years, instead of the two he originally had in mind. He first testified in the 1970s on the Endangered Species Act, and he wrote the projection of species extinctions where he first used the term "biological diversity" in the Global 2000 Report to the President. What's more, he is one of the earliest conservationists working for conservation in the Amazon rainforest, where the forces of destruction have been enormous, nevertheless, today more than 50% of the Amazon is under some form of protection. He says "we now know the Amazon is an anchor in the world climate system and that it must be managed as a system to maintain its hydrological cycle – at 20% it is close to a tipping point of flipping to savannah rather than a forest."

Prof. Lovejoy worries a lot about the impact of climate change and believes the world would become hard to manage biologically if it warms more than 1.5 degrees Celcius. According to him, to stop at 1.5 degrees Celcius seems impossible, but a lot of CO2 in the atmosphere comes from past destruction and the degradation of modern day ecosystems. However, he has hope in the youth and is happy to say that young people make a difference at events like the Earth Summits or UN Climate Change Conferences.



Turkish Programs

Congratulations to All Fulbright Graduates!



Gözde Tosun, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's



Utku Evcı, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's



Gamze Mercan, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's



Cem Tecimer, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's



Nesrin Öztürk, SCP, 2013-2014, PhD

 WARMEST
CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OF OUR GRANTEES ON
THEIR GRADUATION AND
BEST WISHES FOR THEIR
NEXT ADVENTURE!



Özlem Erden, SCP, 2013-2014, PhD



Merve Görgüner, SCP, 2013-2014, PhD



İbrahim Alp Çınar, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's



Abdullah Altıntaş, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's



Zeynep Köylü, SCP, 2012-2013, PhD



Ahmet Burak Aktaş, SCP, 2015-2016, Master's



Abdurrahman Erkam İlhan, SCP, 2016-2017, Master's

The Pre-Departure Orientations for Our Grantees

We are once again getting ready to say goodbye and wish good luck to all of our new grantees, who will soon embark on a great adventure in the United States. We will be sending off approximately 115 Turkish grantees to the United States under 10 different grant categories in the forthcoming 2018-2019 academic year.

The Pre-Departure Orientation is the time when we help prepare our grantees for their journey ahead by providing a balanced introduction to opportunities and expectations in the United States. We provide valuable information and tips to help ease their academic, personal, social, and emotional transition and adjustment, which proves helpful while grantees are settling into their new homes in the United States. This is most definitely one of the bittersweet moments that we look forward to most each year.

The Pre-Departure Orientation Meeting for our 2018-2019 Student Core Program grantees will be held on June 19, 2018 in Ankara. The Meeting will be followed by a Reception in the evening to honor all of our new Fulbright grantees in various grant programs.

We organized a separate Pre-Departure Orientation for our Community College Initiative Program grantees on June 4, 2018 at the Commission's Ankara Head Office. Grantees took their second TOEIC Bridge test on the same day to assess the improvement on their English language abilities.

The Pre-Departure Orientation Meetings for the 2018-2019 Visiting Scholar, Humphrey, and FLTA Program grantees will be scheduled throughout the month of July.



Open Applications for 2019-2020 Grants



The Humphrey Fellowship Program is a non-degree program for experienced mid-career professionals interested in strengthening their leadership skills through a mutual exchange of knowledge and understanding about issues of common concern in the United States and Turkey.

The Visiting Student Researcher Program is a one-year Ph.D. dissertation research grant for Ph.D. students enrolled at Turkish universities. The grantees of this program do research for their Ph.D. dissertation at U.S. universities.



The Fulbright Postdoctoral Program is designed for young scholars who have recently received their Ph.D. degrees. The grantees of this program conduct research in their academic field in the U.S. for one academic year.

Stories from Our Turkish Fulbright Grantees

Gamze Mercan

2016-2017 Master's Program Grantee

İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University, Ankara / University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

As a person who prefers warmer places for living, when applying, what mattered the most for me, were 1) the quality of the program that could challenge me intellectually, 2) the opportunities available to change my career direction, and 3) the global footprint of the institution so I could have greater global exposure. Each of these criteria was very well-satisfied by the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. I was not a perfect fit for the Michigan climate, but I didn't let that deter me from my decision to study there. I was super nervous, and wanted to perceive my two-year MBA program like a countdown... rewarding to reach the finish.

Now that I am done with this once perceived challenge, I want to be honest with all my feelings. Was it a tough time for me, especially weather-wise? Well, I can't say no. I do recall several times when the weather was a bit intense. Like when I wasn't even able to twirl my wrist to open my apartment door on a December night with -5 Fahrenheit outside or when I tried to convince my parents that I wasn't really crying but that it was due to lovely winds of Ann Arbor during our FaceTime calls. However, looking back on these two years that passed by very quick, I can never discount the importance of the tremendous, as well as, borderless support I had helping me to get out of this countdown mindset. I had an amazing Fulbright community with scholars from all over the world that I got to meet during my Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Houston, and the many other locations I had a chance to visit. In addition, the Turkish Fulbright Commission was



only a phone call away with their sincere support. I met hundreds of modest Ross Wolverines with whom we shared many important moments together while dealing with a tough academic curriculum and recruiting season simultaneously. Among many others who supported me were the Emerging Markets Club's eager board and members, who I used to work with as President of the club, as well as, the top-notch faculty, with whom I had many eye-opening conversations.

At this moment, words are not enough to express how happy I am with the decision I made two years ago, and how grateful I am to the Fulbright Program and the University of Michigan for helping me achieve my goals—even though the weather wasn't always the warmest. It is not that I just realized this, but I got to see better that what should matter the most in the long term is our fit with the community we will live with. After Ross, I updated my selection criteria for wherever I would land in moving forward with an addition of "cultural fit and the community".

Michigan, get ready. I will miss you a lot, your people, your streets, your Ross and yes, even your bone-chilling winds and drifts. Someone told me that people always meet twice in life. So this is not a good-bye. Until we meet again... Go Blue!

I had an amazing Fulbright community with scholars from all over the world that I got to meet during my Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Houston and many other locations I had a chance to visit.

Vural Burç Çakır

2017-2018 Master's Program Grantee

Ankara University, Ankara / California State University, Long Beach



It's clear that the countries which were able to discover the most efficient ways of transferring knowledge and skills to their future generations are also the ones that are today known as the 'well-developed countries'. Lots of students around the world suffer from losing interest in studying due to factors unrelated to their majors, such as unfair grading, overly strict rules in classes, or even being misled by false data. One of my first observations in the USA was how flexible and indulgent the instructors are in terms of what they teach and

“**One of my first observations in the USA was how flexible and indulgent the instructors are on what they teach and the way they teach.**”

the way they teach. Virtually all professors I took classes from were humble enough to allow students into the class when they were late, or to let the students take a break out of the class when they felt the need to do so, without even asking for an excuse. Even though there is always a 'safe distance' between the professor and the student, it's very common in the US that students call the professor by his/her first name. Such leniency from the instructor strengthens the bonds between the student and the subject being taught; whereas forcing students to obey purposeless rules ceases the passion of learning. Even more importantly, rather than grading depending solely on exams, professors ask for presentations, projects, assignments and contribution during classes from the students. Needless to say, having other opportunities to compensate for an unlucky exam reduces the pressure and stress on the student, allowing him/her to perform better at exams. Shortly, providing the students with a comfortable and a relaxed environment for learning pays back with raising as many scientists as possible from the population. For this reason I believe the U.S.A. is one of the countries that has contributed to the history of science with many valuable scientists from a wide range of nations.

Enes Umur Gökçek

2017-2018 Master's Program Grantee

Istanbul Technical University, İstanbul / Northwestern University

Designing a Project for the 3rd Biggest Non-Profit Organization in the USA

For one of my classes called "Human-Centered Service Design," we partnered with "Feeding America," the third biggest non-profit organization in the US, to design new ways to deliver "rescued food", which means food about going to be disposed in retails but saved for donation to be given to people who are experiencing food insecurity. After seeing a lot of people facing hunger through all stages of

my life, it was a unique and meaningful opportunity for me to work on solving hunger by providing valuable and innovative solutions.

As human-centered designers, we started our project by talking with people from various backgrounds with different cultures, different traditions, and different values



to understand their needs and their desires from current service. It is always fascinating for me to see how people from different cultures have different needs and also different desired outcomes from a service. I always feel lucky to be able to understand and empathize with people from different cultures throughout the design process, since as a Fulbright scholar, I have a lot of opportunities to interact with people from all around the world with different backgrounds, languages, and values. Additional to numerous benefits, these opportunities provide Fulbright scholars with incredibly crucial skills, which include empathy and a broad vision of the world.

With the help of these skills that I gained throughout my Fulbright journey, I was able to deeply empathize with users to uncover their needs in the current system on a common framework. In that way, my team and I designed a new service called “NeighbourFood” which consists of a rescued food home delivery program that utilizes the existing food

“ **I always feel lucky to be able to understand and empathize with people from different cultures throughout the design process, since as a Fulbright scholar, I have a lot of opportunities to interact with people from all around the world with different backgrounds, languages, and values.** ”



insecure network to provide food to individuals with limited mobility. As a result, we provide new opportunities to make the rescued food more accessible and empower people from various background and cultures to trust and support each other in the US.

Through this project, I understood once again the privilege of being a Fulbright scholar which supports my academic career in such a way that I can become closer to be a universal, and most importantly, an empathetic designer who can design for all people from different walks of life.

Güneş Tunç

2017-2018 Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program Grantee
Ege University, İzmir / University of Notre Dame

While teaching Turkish as a Fulbright FLTA at the University of Notre Dame, I participated in a community engagement program. I taught Turkish language and culture at Perley Fine Arts Academy, which is an inner-city public school for children aged 5-10. Working with the kindergarteners every day for a week, four times a semester was such an enlightening experience which has opened a new window, a new way of looking at teaching for me. It was the first time I was working with this age group, and, their multiplicity of perspectives made me gain invaluable insights.



At the beginning of the semester, students did not know anything about Turkey. First, I introduced students where Turkey is on the map and then in our following classes, I taught them how to say numbers, animals, and colors in Turkish. I talked about traditional art, dance, music and food in Turkey. While introducing the Turkish cuisine, I baked *simit* for students, made them taste Turkish delight and showed them how to make Turkish coffee. At the end of the semester, we, as FLTAs, prepared a show with the kids at a museum.

“

It was the first time I was working with this age group; however, multiplicity of perspectives grown out of multiplicity of enriching experiences and teaching at Perley made me gain invaluable insights.

”

During the show my students sang a song in Turkish. It was amazing to see them performing in Turkish.

Teaching at Perley not only afforded me the opportunity to introduce my culture to children but also to learn more about American educational system. During my time at Perley, I also paid close attention to the school/classroom design, and the teaching methodologies that teachers use. I worked with two great teachers, Ms. Bassett and Ms. Johnson. Thanks to them, I learned a lot about how to design effective classes that appeal to kindergarteners.

I am so happy to be involved in this community engagement program. Being a cultural ambassador and creating a mutual understanding between people was exciting. I do hope that all my students at Perley will grow up with the idea that there is a lot to learn about the cultures around the world and that they will never lose their curiosity and awe.

Seyit Deniz Yilmaz

2017-2018 Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program Grantee
Uludağ University, Bursa / University of California, Santa Barbara

The Nature and People in California



One of the most surprising observations I have made in California is the amazing nature and, more surprisingly, how the people of California appreciate it. They are so aware of its beauty and perhaps there is a reason: the nice and warm climate. The spectacular national forests and beaches are so legendary and very-well protected by the California State. The local government takes any advantage to make people be in touch with nature and learn about it. The national forests such as Yosemite, Sequoia, or Death Valley are full of hiking paths, observatory points, and natural museums. It is possible to visit a museum related to local sea-life by the eye-catching beaches from San Diego to San Francisco. One of the common weekend activities is to visit California wineries and taste local wines which are exported all around the world and have become world-famous. You can



find nice hiking paths or camping areas even in the desert areas around Los Angeles. It can be one of the most exciting or peaceful nights in someone's life in the middle of a desert looking up at the sky full of stars. One can also easily understand why there are so many opportunities to discover the nature in California just by strolling in a supermarket, which sells a lot of camping and hiking-related products. Additionally, many fund-raising or volunteering organizations devote themselves to protect the nature. Also, the

local companies are investing in technological devices or vehicles which can work with recyclable energy. These efforts show how people are deeply interested in the nature around themselves and appreciative of it, which is unfortunately not very salient or common in Turkey. Establishing facilities and activities for public use in the nature, and encouraging people to engage in them would definitely make us more sensitive about not only the nature, but also about ourselves and each other.

Furkan Batuhan İlhan

2017-2018 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program Grantee
Istanbul Aydın University, Anadolu Bil MYO, Istanbul / Northern Virginia CC, Alexandria

CCI? Community College Initiative Program? "What is that?" "In the United States?" "Are you kidding me?" "No, no way!" "I cannot go there, it is so far!" Yes, I was telling these things to myself, but here I am! I'm sitting in my most comfortable chair(!). There is a classical music in the background. Looking outside and thinking, (read slowly, and feel it) "Where am I?"

In the first two weeks, I thought, "I'm on the other side of the world," which was a culture shock. Far from my family, friends, easy life, habits, everything. In the beginning, it feels like you are really forgotten somewhere in the world— although I've been to some other countries before, but the United States was out of my target. I mean, I've never thought of coming here, studying, TRAVELLING! You never know what will happen, so the future

can scare you and also excite you. Try to see the exciting part and be curious about it, because I started to do it since I arrived in the United States. I really didn't have any, even the slightest idea about the United States. Of course, I knew things from the media and the movies, Hollywood movies? Those movies make me disappointed.

When I was in Europe, I learned how to travel, which is very important when you are a student. So, after overcoming the culture shock, I started to implement my travel experiences here in the US. My best travel buddy, Yusuf from Houston, and I started to travel to every single famous place in the US. Every day, we were buying tickets, looking for cheap accommodation, and while we are traveling, we realized that we didn't know how to speak English. We were learning different accents from different states and believe me it is really EXCITING. Every single part of the US has different people with different cultures, and different lifestyles. This is called "diversity". Yes, this is the word which tells me a lot about the US. Before coming to the US, I had heard about diversity, but I really didn't know that it would affect my life deeply. We have a diverse population in Istanbul, but Istanbul has around twenty million people. The US has three hundred and twenty-five million people. It still shocks me every single day. People can approach you on the street and speak a language that you haven't even heard of before.

Honestly, after meeting my friends and the coordinators of my CCI family, I realized that I didn't know anything about the world and different cultures. That's why, here every single day is special because we are learning something about the American culture and the cultures of other nations. We celebrate important days of both the American culture and other cultures. This makes you more knowledgeable about the cultures in the world. Now, I can say this to myself; "Yes, there are some other people in the world with their own culture, own life, own purposes, but CCI makes our paths cross." This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance and an unbelievable experience.



“Before coming to the US, I had heard about diversity, but I really didn't know that it would affect my life deeply.”

Ayça Sayı Yazgan

2017-2018 Visiting Scholar Program Grantee
Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul / University of California, San Diego

I came to San Diego as a Fulbright scholar together with my family about three months ago. I feel that it has been a great opportunity to work as a scientist at UC San Diego. UC San Diego is a base for biomedical research. In science it is crucial to have interactions with other scientists through seminars, lab meetings, and discussions over coffee breaks, etc. and I had a chance to connect with other scientists through these ways in this short period of time.

I am really impressed by how the University of California is making a major commitment to improve laboratory safety. Here the workspace safety standards are well-maintained. Also, there are basic lab safety training online courses that should be taken by all UC laboratory workers including the faculty, staff, students and visiting scholars. It was good for me to take these online trainings

as a refresher and learn about specific regulations in the US before starting to work in the laboratory.

I am happy that my lab mates have been very helpful and friendly. Even though I have lots of experience working in a laboratory, every laboratory has different regulations. Therefore, I really appreciate their assistance during this time.

“ In science it is crucial to have interactions with other scientists through seminars, lab meetings, and discussions over coffee breaks, etc. ”



Advising Program



Our Educational Advising team is in charge of providing current, comprehensive and accurate information about the higher education system in the United States and Fulbright grant programs to individuals who would like to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees, attend English language courses or do research in the United States. In order to inform more people about Fulbright grant programs and the wide variety of educational opportunities in the United States, our Educational Advisers make presentations at Turkish high schools and universities, make webinars on important topics about the admissions process to U.S. universities, organize in-center sessions, conduct online advising sessions and use social media on a regular basis.

If you would like to follow the in-center, online and outreach activities of our Educational Advising team, you can check the events section on our web site.



Visits by Representatives of U.S. Higher Education Institutions

Since our offices also serve as EducationUSA centers, our advising unit collaborates with U.S. university representatives. Representatives of higher education institutions in the USA visit our offices when they are in Ankara or Istanbul, and inform our advisers about their institutions, programs and specific funding opportunities for Turkish students, if there are any. At the same time, they receive information regarding the Turkish education system, student profiles and student potential in Turkey from our Educational Advising team. Our Educational Advisers can also help them organize school visits by recommending relevant institutions and suggesting the best times of the year to visit them. In addition to hosting U.S. university representatives in our offices, we also attend information sessions organized when U.S. university representatives visit high schools in Turkey.



Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) Test Training

The TOEIC is developed by ETS and used for evaluating the English language and communication skills of those who take it. The Turkish Programs staff of our Commission received test administration training for this test in 2015, and our Ankara office has been a TOEIC center since then. Our Advising team in Istanbul received test administration training for TOEIC Listening & Reading Test and TOEIC Bridge IP Online Test this May. The training included sessions on understanding the role and responsibilities of test center administrator and proctor, test administrations and security procedures, and specifics of computer-based tests. When the training and evaluation process is complete, our Istanbul office will also be able to administer TOEIC tests specifically for our Community College Initiative Program Grantees.



Pre-Departure Orientations in Summer 2018

We will organize six pre-departure orientations in our offices and also in webinar format in June and July. These orientations, which we organize every summer, are designed for those who will start studying in the U.S.A. mostly in the upcoming academic year. We believe that these orientations are helpful in terms of providing the participants with information about the visa application process, the medical forms schools require, what to pack, practical adjustment topics like making money transfers, finding housing and how to overcome "culture shock" and easily adapt to the new environment.

If you would like to attend these orientations this Summer, you can send an e-mail to advising@fulbright.org.tr or fulb-ist@fulbright.org.tr to confirm your attendance for in-center orientations.



AMERİKA'DA OKUMAYA HAZIR MISINIZ?

Amerika'da eğitimlerine başlayacak tüm öğrencileri Türkiye Fulbright Eğitim Komisyonu tarafından düzenlenen *Amerika'ya Gidiş Öncesi Oryantasyon Seminerlerine (PreDeparture Orientation)* davet ediyoruz.

Bu seminerler tüm öğrenci ve velilere açık olup katılım ücretsizdir.

Amerika'ya Gidiş Öncesi Oryantasyon Seminerlerimizde bilgi verilecek konular:

- Gitmeden önce yapılacak resmi işlemler (Öğrenci Vizesi başvurusu)
- Sağlık sigortası ve aşılar
- Yolculuk planlama, götürül(mey)ecekler
- Amerika'da banka hesabı açma, para transferleri
- Kalacak yer ararken dikkat edilecekler noktalar: yurt, ev, diğer imkânlar
- Günlük hayat ile ilgili pratik bilgiler
- Akademik ortam ve sorumluluklar - neler Türkiye'den farklı?
- Kültür şoku ve yeni kültüre uyum süreci

Webinar:
21 Haziran 2018, 15:00
5 Temmuz 2018, 15:00
Webinar bağlantı adresi için web sitemizi ziyaret ediniz.

Ankara Oryantasyonu:
26 Haziran 2018
24 Temmuz 2018
Kayıt yaptırmak için: advising@fulbright.org.tr
Oryantasyon yeri: Eskişehir Yolu 9. Km. Tepe Prime İş Merkezi B Blok No:124 06800 Çankaya – Ankara

İstanbul Oryantasyonu:
28 Haziran 2018
12 Temmuz 2018
Kayıt yaptırmak için: fulb-ist@fulbright.org.tr
Oryantasyon yeri: Vişnezade Mahallesi, Süleyman Seba Caddesi BJK Plaza A Blok Kat 10 No:107 Beşiktaş – İstanbul

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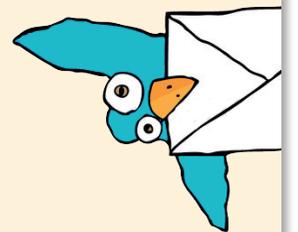
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The Turkish Fulbright Commission



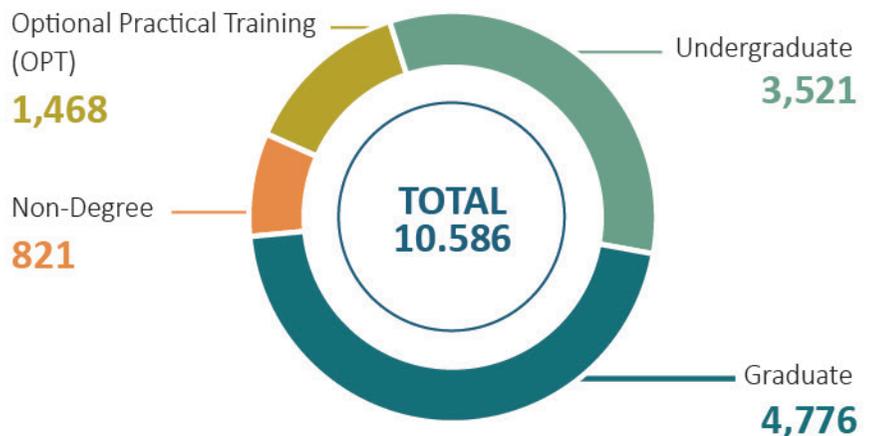
Open Doors Data – Report on International Educational Exchange

Every year, the Institute of International Education (IIE) releases a comprehensive report on international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States, and U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities. Open Doors is supported by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Below are some data on Turkish student mobility to the United States in the 2016-2017 academic year.

The number of Turkish students studying in the USA in the 2016-2017 academic year is **10,586**. With this number, Turkey is the **#15** sending country to the U.S. globally, and the **2nd largest in Europe**, following the UK.

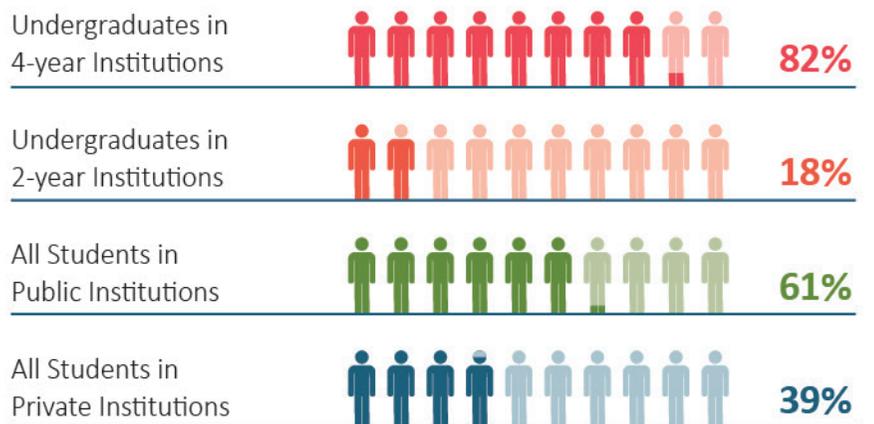
Number of Turkish Students in the U.S. by Academic Level



Top 5 Receiving States



Percentage of Turkish Students in the U.S. by U.S. Institution Type



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Please send contributions and comments to:

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