A Uniquely High-quality International Experience in Turkey
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Observing and understanding the world from the heights above the Bosporus, Koç University provides access to a rich academic world, whose founding vision is to be a center of excellence. We are an international university, where the East and West meet, where a global perspective blends with the multi-dimensional dynamics of Turkey and its regional culture. Guided by a strong sense of social responsibility and the ambition to elevate both the individual and the collective, Koç University offers you the perfect view.
pillars of excellence and innovation

Koç (pronounced “Coach”) University focuses on creating competitive, dynamic and confident leaders who contribute to society and succeed professionally. Koç University (KU) is considered to be among the elite institutions of Turkey.

Highlights

- 96% of the classes are taught in English
- 16 of the 90 members of the Turkish Academy of Sciences are from Koç University
- Leader in research and innovation (with the highest number of National Awards in 2010)
- Low student-faculty ratio (10:1)
- 95% of our faculty members have advanced degrees from top-tier US and European institutions, adding a rich and global perspective to their teaching and research
- State-of-the-art resources and beautiful campus

- Incoming exchange students’ satisfaction: students have access to all resources and opportunities provided for domestic students, plus guaranteed housing and programs specifically designed for exchange students—Koç University is one of the few Turkish institutions that continually hosts more students than it sends abroad
- Parallels the Liberal Arts approach found in US programs, providing a comprehensive, well-rounded education in tandem with specialization
- With Colleges of Social Sciences and Humanities, Administrative Sciences and Economics, Science, Engineering, Law, Nursing and Medicine, Koç University offers 22 undergraduate, 24 graduate and 13 PhD programs.
Three years after the founding of Turkey, Vehbi Koç set up his first company and—as more and more Koç companies emerged—established Koç Holding in 1963. Today, the holding is responsible for approximately 15% of Turkey’s annual GDP and employs over 70,000 people.

With the goal of furthering the family’s contributions to society, the Koç family established a philanthropic institution, the Koç Foundation, in 1969, making it the first large-scale private foundation in Turkey and the leading proponent of sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices. Guided by the notion that “If my country exists, I exist” the foundation has made outstanding contributions to Turkey, particularly in its areas of emphasis: culture, education and health.

Due to the foundation’s success, the Koç family was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Philanthropy in 2009. Considered to be the “Nobel Prize” of philanthropy, other recipients of the award include the Rockefeller, Gates and Packard families as well.

The university operates with the support of an endowment from the foundation; but, at the same time, it is a decisively independent entity, led by the President.
Koç University’s **guiding mission** is three-fold:

- To provide a world-class education to its students
- To create new knowledge through research and successfully apply this knowledge to society
- To instill in its students a foundation of ethics, social responsibility and global awareness.
bring the international and local community together

International Programs At Koç

The driving vision of Koç University’s Office of International Programs (OIP) is to create innovative, high quality, mutually beneficial and socially aware programming that gives students and their institutions pathways towards high-level, effective and horizon-expanding opportunities. Our activities concurrently strengthen exchange activity and introduce new dimensions to existing and prospective collaborations.

Our international partnership strategy involves fostering ties that directly and tangibly elevate the standards, breadth and possibilities for all involved.

OIP serves as a central resource for leveraging the many dimensions of Koç University. Utilizing the institutions academic excellence, strength in research, community and corporate ties, logistical expertise and focus on social responsibility and innovation, the OIP actualizes programming and multi-dimensional partnerships that bring the international community and local community together.
Study trips, summer programs, conferences, seminars, social responsibility projects, service learning projects, student-led initiatives, joint club and sport activity, avenues into faculty-level discussion and cooperation are among the many new possibilities.

Beyond strong partnership and exchange program development, we are at the helm of over twenty projects this year alone.
creative teaching and participatory learning

Academics

Koç University embraces the Liberal Arts paradigm, creating an academic design that allows students to specialize in their given field while also being exposed to diversity in knowledge and thought. There is heavy emphasis on teaching, not only the facts, but the notion of an “inquisitive mind,” encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As an institutional policy, Koç University takes a “Creative Teaching/Participatory Learning” approach to education. Teachers move away from didactic methodologies and toward a dialogue between teacher and student, employing a variety of teaching tools to engage students in the learning process. The university supports training in and implementation of innovative teaching methods that foster teamwork, leadership, oral presentation skills and creativity.
unique dimensions to your academic repertoire

Social responsibility, interdisciplinary thought and global awareness are interwoven throughout the curricula.

Beyond the guiding principles of KU academics, the courses as a whole reflect a thoughtful balance of standard academic concepts; courses that allow students to explore several themes within their majors or highly specialize in one or two themes; and courses that highlight the unique expertise of Koç University and its global perspective. Particularly for international students, the course offerings enable one to concurrently maintain regularity in one’s academic progress while also benefiting from specialized courses.

For example, an international exchange student majoring in Economics can take care of a few basic requirements, such as *Econometrics* and *Mathematics for Economists*, while also absorbing the nuances of such courses as *State and Society in the Middle East*, *US-Turkish Relations* and *Political Philosophy*.

An international student with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Archeology, Art History and related fields can immerse herself in KU’s PhD in Archeology and History of Art or a Masters in Comparative Studies in History and Society.
With both Masters and PhD programs offering full scholarships, taught within a competitive and rich academic environment, bolstered by cutting-edge research possibilities, and nested in the cultural, social and historical mosaic that is Turkey, KU gives students an alternative and highly specialized avenue into deeper academic and professional pursuits.

An international Engineering student is exposed to an academic program that matches the rigor and expertise of the most elite institutions in world, while she also has the opportunity to participate in such research projects as *Investigations on the Implantable Miniature Heart Pump* and *Nano and Molecular Communications*.

With Koç University’s established excellence in research, a student’s research activities can contribute to publications in some of the world’s most elite journals and to award-winning research that contributes to business and to society.

Regardless of major, all international students have access to the full spectrum of KU course offerings. Thus, Engineers and Scientists have the opportunity to take electives from Social Sciences and Business, adding unique dimensions to their academic repertoire.
established excellence in research

Research

From the perspective of KU, the importance of research is linked directly to the successful application of research outcomes to society. KU believes that fostering university-industry ties that mutually support each other’s mission, not only is an institutional goal, but an institutional responsibility.

To that end, KU’s research priorities are largely determined by the extent of their potential impact on advancing society.

Koç University’s resources—be it the strong supporting infrastructure or its state-of-the-art laboratories—attract researchers with high levels of success in their fields. Further, the Vice President’s Office for Research and Development (VPRD) strengthens research activity by providing a central infrastructure.

Koç University is one of the few institutions around the world which is at once providing an elite education and fostering strong research activity. All professors at KU are also active researchers. This dynamic keeps professors tied into the latest developments of their field. The result is a stronger learning environment and research opportunities that enrich student’s ability to learn and apply knowledge in different ways.

The active research environment and the extent of its success enable KU to be highly selective in accepting research projects.
Our excellence in research has **many measurable markers**, including:

1. We are one of the top three institutions in Turkey in terms of publication rate for the past five consecutive years.
2. For 2010 and for the last five years in total, Koç University has won the largest number of awards of any university in Turkey from both the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA).
3. Koç University is home to the largest number of faculty members in the Turkish Academy of Sciences as an institution—of the 90 or so members, 16 are from Koç University.
4. Our research is eclectic and on the cutting edge of many scientific advances, ranging from the development of new analysis techniques within archeology, gender equality and economic research.
5. Our wealth of research and policy centers offers avenues for thematic research and student specialization at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Our research centers include:

- Koç University Center for Gender Studies
- Migration Research Program
- Dr. Nusret-Semahat Arsel International Business Law Application and Research Center
- Social Policy Implementation and Research Center (newly formed)
- Koç University Surface Science and Technology Center
- Koç University Photonics Research Center
- Center for Computational Biology & Bioinformatics
- Manufacturing Automation and Research Center
- Koç-IBM Supply Chain Research Center

Due to the exceptionally high level of expertise and success in research, KU has created several programs that focus on developing research skills in others.

The VPRD’s **Summer Research Program for Undergraduates** is open to students around the world. Students are given a list of research projects and apply to be Research Assistants in the projects that match their expertise. While the students stay in KU’s dorms free of cost, professors mentor these young students in best research practices.

KU also offers **training seminars** to both its students and the public regarding sound research methodology. In Summer 2011, both the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics and the School of Medicine will be running seminars in this area.
Located in what was once the picnicking ground of the Sultans, Koç University’s centralized campus creates a retreat-type setting for students, where a plethora of extra-curricular opportunities are available for growth and discovery beyond the classroom.

**Clubs**

All of KU’s 40+ student clubs were formed through student initiative, and—particularly the most active clubs—operate essentially as small businesses (responsible for all aspects of planning, funding, budgeting, project management, etc.). In addition to empowering student voice, club activities foster student leadership skills, creativity and entrepreneurship.

As an institution, KU ensures that students have building blocks for their activities. Though carefully supervised, KU’s Student Development Office deliberately minimizes their direct involvement in club events, allowing students to face and solve challenges on their own and celebrate successes as their own as well.

**Sports**

As does any well-run athletic program, KU’s athletic department encourages students to be active and physically healthy, while also nurturing leadership skills, commitment and effective teamwork and student voice. Many of our athletic teams—including our American Football and Ice Hockey team—were a product of students advocating for their presence on campus.
encouraging students’ creative expression and cultural understanding

Though the athletics teams are competitive, KU allows most interested students—including international students—to participate in the teams. Regardless of athletic skill, the university believes that other critical skill sets are nurtured through participation in the athletic programs. Beyond team sports, KU offers health and fitness activities for all facets of KU, including group exercise classes and personal training. Convinced that “healthy body creates a healthy mind,” the overarching intention of KU’s athletic offerings is to give students yet another way to develop themselves.

Culture on Campus
KU’s rich campus life includes a diverse set of programming outside the classroom. There is constant activity on campus, including such events as Dance Festivals, Theater Week, the Spring Festival (attracting nearly 6500 people each year), guest speakers, active seminar series, poets, international artists and many student group performances.

True to KU’s mission, these programs, not only create a dynamic energy on campus, but they also encourage students’ creative expression, cultural understanding and further fortify the university’s ability to graduate world-class and well-rounded individuals.

Campus Facilities and Support Services
KU’s centralized campus is fully equipped with essential student services. Several cafeterias serve healthy meals to students throughout the day. The cafeteria services are supplemented by to-go options and grocery store. Additionally,
KU houses a hairdresser, Campus Store, bookstore, student lounges, a Student Center and a library with such features as subject-specific librarians and on-demand availability of electronic resources.

KU’s main dormitories are integrated into the campus. Each building has a kitchen on the top floor, student lounges, housekeeping service, and computer labs. For a lower cost, students can also opt to stay at our West Campus, which is 5 minutes from the main campus. We offer free shuttle services, with a schedule customized each semester to the needs of the students on the West Campus, from West Campus to Main Campus and back.

KU has a Health Center, with doctors on site 24/7 and its own ambulance to ensure immediate action in times of emergency. Beyond basic medical care, the Health Center houses KURES, which is the psychological resource center for students. Services at KURES include basic psychological care, as well as resources for people with disabilities and crisis prevention.

The Koç Office for Learning and Teaching (KOLT) has a two-fold goal: (1) to implement innovative and creative teaching practices on campus by working with professors on teaching techniques and innovative paradigms and (2) to assist struggling students through tutoring and programs intended to develop such basic skills as time management and successful test taking.
at least 300 exchange students to campus

Student Exchange At KU

To cut to the chase of it, international exchange students love their time at KU. In fact, we are one of the few Turkish institutions that welcome more students to our campus than we send abroad. Our incoming numbers are growing rapidly each year, due mainly to the word-of-mouth support we get from international students who have come to KU for exchange. Though we are a smaller-scale liberal arts school, we nonetheless welcome at least 300 exchange students to campus per year.

Incoming exchange students are guided through the semester, not only by our office, but also by our supplementary Mentorship Program, which gives each student a key contact point to secure their successful adjustment to life in Istanbul. We guarantee housing to all our incoming exchange students. We have designed Turkish language/culture classes specifically with exchange students in mind, even allowing students to test into Intermediate Turkish. Our incoming exchange students can maximize their stay on our lively campus with participation in our active student clubs and international environment. Professors are always available for consultation, and all the offices within the Dean of Students have an open-door policy.

Reflecting the high caliber of our services, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), the premier provider of study abroad/cultural immersion programs for US students, partners exclusively with Koç University in Turkey.
Job opportunities for exchange students, developed through the OIP, encourage student immersion both at KU and in the community. Jobs include Research Assistant positions, English tutoring, interning at the OIP and even babysitting. Beginning in Fall 2011, we will also provide internships and volunteer opportunities in a variety of organizations throughout Istanbul.

KU's Career Services Office also has proven success in finding internships and even full-time positions for our international students.

To further exchange students’ social and cultural immersion, the International Students’ Society works in tandem with the OIP to create programming geared specifically toward expanding the horizons of exchange students.

Collectively, these qualities speak to one of the key defining features of KU: the personalized care and attention, which, when combined with the wide availability of English taught courses, exceptionally low student-faculty ratio, excellent academics, and plethora of non-academic opportunities, means providing your students with a uniquely high-quality exchange experience in Turkey.
KU’s Neighborhood

Sarıyer is one of the 32 districts of Istanbul. It is the northernmost district, on the European side of the city. With a long shore along the water, the district boasts a beautiful coastline and lush forest. Sarıyer’s Bosphorus villages, backed by steep hills on one side and the sea on the other, were once rural fishing communities. In the Ottoman period, the Sultans came to these villages for picnics and excursions. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the coast was lined with summer residences of the wealthy foreign traders of Pera and Galata. Many foreign embassies built summer residences near Sarıyer in this period.

The coastal road running through Sarıyer is lined with fish restaurants of all kinds, ranging from the most elegant to the, equally delicious, small restaurants, many of which were formerly housed in boats moored by the sea wall.

Full of authentic Turkish atmosphere and including the beaches of the Black Sea, Sarıyer truly encapsulates the duality of Turkey, of old and new, East and West, classic and contemporary.
The true Turkish experience is in places like Sarıyer, where the village mentality (community-based, hospitable and unadorned) still persists in daily life.

At the same time, Sarıyer is the hub of main transportation lines that include minibus services, bus lines, easy access to the metro and harbor. The university provides shuttle services directly to Taksim Square on weekends and for special events.

Koç University is 20 minutes from the wonderful Black Sea villages and beach towns, from the hidden gems lying along the hills, and 5 minutes from Sarıyer’s center.
key facts and figures

4,400 students
400 faculty

22 undergraduate, 24 master’s and 13 doctoral programs

60% of students receiving the equivalent of 40% full scholarship
2,200 student dormitory capacity

More than 145 international student exchange partners

72 laboratories
key links and resources

About Koç University
The Koç University website (http://ku.edu.tr) is the best resource for understanding the many dimensions of KU.
The Academic link off the home page (http://www.ku.edu.tr/en/navigation/academics) includes:
- All academic units of Koç University and direct links to their respective websites

Koç as a Research University
The VPRD website (http://vprd.ku.edu.tr/research/home) includes:
- Information about our Summer Research Program for Undergraduates
- Past and present editions of our research magazine, FRONTIER
- Faculty awards, publications and projects

Student Life at Koç
The Koç Student link off the home page (http://www.ku.edu.tr/en/navigation/koc-student) includes:
- Links to the administrative units of KU
- Link to the Registrar’s Office, where you can find information about international student application
- Further details on student services and resources
- Student Clubs and Sports links
- Practical links to shuttle services, codes of conduct, etc.
Office of International Programs

The Office of International Programs website (http://oip.ku.edu.tr) includes:

• Soft copies of our Incoming Student Handbook
• The latest edition of our Exchange Newsletter
• Fact sheet
• PowerPoint presentation on KU (“KU Presentation”)
• Current list of international partners

Career Services

The Career Services link (http://career.ku.edu.tr) includes:

• Tools for finding internships and jobs in Turkey
• Information about the various types of services offered through the office

Campus Life

KU’s Event Calendar (http://events.ku.edu.tr/) shows the many social, cultural and educational programs happening at KU.

• To see a photo gallery of past events, go to http://sgkm.ku.edu.tr/fotogallery

Detailed information about our Dormitory Services can be found at http://dorm.ku.edu.tr

Detailed information about our Library can be found through the Library link on the KU home page.

For more information about Koç Holding and the Koç Foundation, go to www.koc.com.tr
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