



Relocation Handbook 2021-2022

Welcome to MEF International School (MEF IS). We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growth with our students and staff and are happy to be welcoming you to our community. The purpose of the relocation handbook is to help orient new members to the MEF IS school community as well as Istanbul and surrounding areas as we know that you will need information available to you to help you adjust to your new home in Turkey. Our hope is to ensure that you experience a smooth transition and are enthusiastic about joining the MEFIS learning community. Please do send some time going through some of the information here to help you take your first steps joining us.

At MEF IS we believe in our motto, "Building Bridges between Countries and Cultures" and we pride ourselves on both the diversity of our students representing approximately 46 different countries as well as our highly qualified and diversified staff. When you join our community you will get to know more about the mission and vision of our school, feel included in our warm and caring community, and learn about our programs and curriculum.

In the meantime, welcome once again to our community and we hope the following pages, which have been put together by our faculty and staff, will help you with some of the information that you are looking for in making the move to your new home and new school if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, we would be more than happy to answer them and be support.

Elvan Tongal
Assistant General Manager

INDEX

<u>An Overview of our School</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">MEF International School-Istanbul	3-4
<u>Adjusting to a new country</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stages	5
<u>Safety and Organizing Personal</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Affairs Prior To Your Departure	7
<u>Common Misconceptions about Turkey</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clothing AttitudeClimateAlcoholFoodSympathy to Foreigners	10 10 10 10 10
<u>Frequently Asked Questions:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local cash machines.Using your credit card.Opening a bank account.Mobile phone in Turkey.Traffic in Istanbul.Local currency.Visitors dress in Turkey.Foreign driving license in Turkey.Main supply voltage.Do I need to know Turkish?Opening times for shops/services.Time difference.Tap water drinkable.	12 12 12 12 12 12 13 13 13 13 13 13
<u>What to bring?</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Electrical Power AdaptorsOther recommendations	15 15
<u>Setting-up Home</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">HomewaresDrinking WaterSupermarkets	17 19 20
<u>Home Entertainment</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">TVInternet	22 22
<u>Ordering In</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food & BeveragesOther	23 23
<u>Medical Information</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Covid-19 Medical ServicesEmergency NumbersHospitalsMinistry of Health Mobile AppsChemist/PharmacyDentist	25 25 26 27 28 28
<u>Intercity Transportation</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transportation AlternativesIstanbul Card	29-30 31-33
<u>Turkish Language</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Survival LanguageLearning TurkishLanguage Schools	35 37 38
<u>Getting Out & About</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">FoodParks	39-40 41
<u>Entertainment & Culture</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Historical SitesShopping MallsMoviesMuseumsArt Galleries and LibrariesPerformance Halls	42-43 44-45 46 46 47 48
<u>Getting to and from the airport</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Airports	49
<u>Travel Within Turkey and Abroad</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Touristic RegionsBeachesWeekend GetawaysSki Resorts	51-52 53 54-55 56
<u>Embassies & Consulates</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consulates	57

An Overview of our School



MEF International School-Istanbul is built on 9 acres of land in Istanbul, sharing its campus with the MEF National School. MEF Schools is a private educational institution, founded by a Turkish Science teacher, Mr. İbrahim Arıkan. The school is owned by Arıkanlı Holding, which operates 25 different companies in the sectors of education, tourism, organic food, logistics, transportation, media and insurance. Of the four MEF Schools, two are international schools: MEF International School Istanbul and MEF International School Izmir. MEF University was added to this group of schools in September of 2014, opening with 5 different faculties including engineering, architecture and education.

The school is governed by the Executive Board. There is a General Manager who is responsible for all MEF Schools and an Assistant General Manager responsible for all MEF Schools and mainly works with the international schools, with an administration team made up of a Principal, Deputy Principals, IB PYP and DP Coordinators and a secondary Academic Dean.

MEFIS-Istanbul is located in between the Ulus and Ortaköy neighbourhoods of Istanbul, close to the center of the European side of the Bosphorus. Its authorized Primary Years Program (PYP) in the Primary School & IB Diploma Program (IBDP) in the Secondary school are structured to provide quality education to students from ages 3 to 18. MEF IS is a fully authorized Cambridge International Center (CIE) offering Checkpoint and IGCSE in the Secondary School.

The focus is on students constructing meaning, becoming



inquirers and being enthusiastic about discovering knowledge on their own. The school provides a first class English medium international education, complemented by French, Spanish and Turkish Host Country Studies. The Student Support Team provides support to students and teachers to help students reach their highest potential. The team comprises of English Language Learning, Support, Guidance and College Counselling.



MEF IS aims to provide quality international education for “the whole child”. The focus in the curriculum is helping children to become inquirers who are enthusiastic about finding out how the world works. The mandate of the school is to promote in children love of learning, an appreciation of other languages and peoples and global understanding in order to create life-long learners and global

citizens. In addition to the IB and Cambridge accreditations, MEF International School is accredited by the CIS (Council of International Schools) and the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). MEF IS is also a member of the European Council of International Schools. The school is authorized and accredited by the Ministry of Education in Turkey.



Adjusting to a new country

As exciting as it is to move to a new country and experience a new way of life, many people at some point begin to go through common stages of culture shock. Culture shock is the feeling of being confused or anxious that you get when you move to a different place. It's important to be aware of the various stages of culture shock because it can help you work towards adjusting and finding ways to support yourself during this challenging, as well as exciting adventure.

In brief, the stages are as follows:

Stage 1: The Honeymoon (or Tourist) Stage

Stage 2: Shock

Stage 3: Adjustment

Stage 4: Acceptance or Acculturation

Stage 5: Re-entry Shock

For more detailed information, you can research the stages of culture shock online www.jetprogramme.org



Safety and Organizing Personal Affairs Prior To Your Departure:

The following is the US State Department's website that provides a traveling checklist and safety tips in preparation for your departure and will support you after you've arrived in Istanbul: <http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html> You can also research the travel advice from your own country by googling your country name + Turkey travel advice.

It is suggested that foreigners register with their consulates in order to receive current updates and safety information. For US citizens, it is recommended to register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to ensure that the consulate has updated information in the event an emergency contact is required.

Prior to departing, below is a list of documents and info to consider leaving with a trusted contact:

- ★ Passport numbers and dates of issue
 - ★ Bank account numbers
 - ★ Credit card numbers
 - ★ Insurance policy numbers
 - ★ Driver's license number
 - ★ Social Security numbers
 - ★ Current prescription, including eyeglasses
 - ★ Contents and location of safe deposit boxes
 - ★ Names and addresses of business and professional contacts
- (adapted from US Dept. of State Website, 2013, www.state.gov)

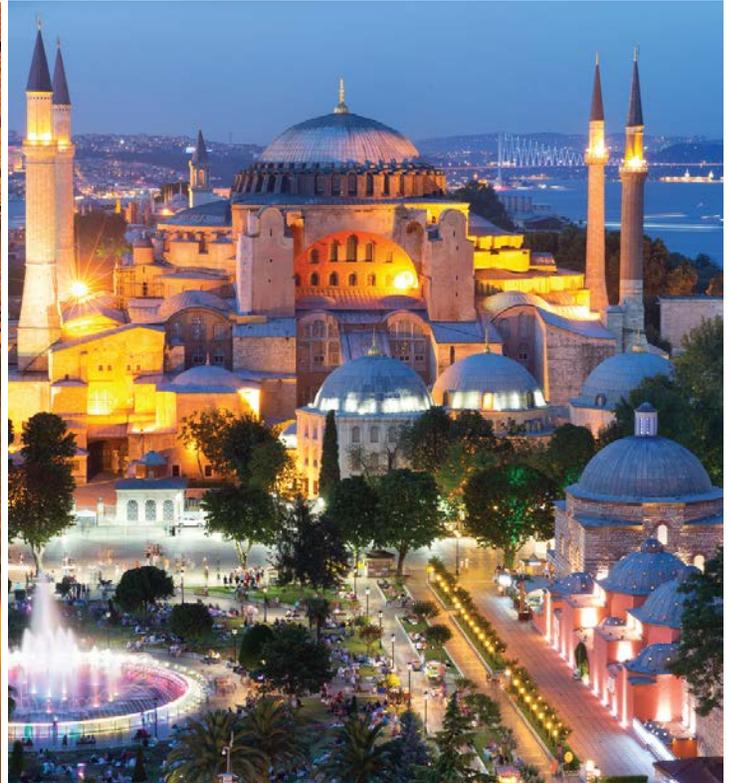
The following website also has important information and tips regarding earthquakes and steps to take:

<http://www.fethiye.bel.tr/dosya/earthquakes.pdf>

What were your first impressions of Istanbul?

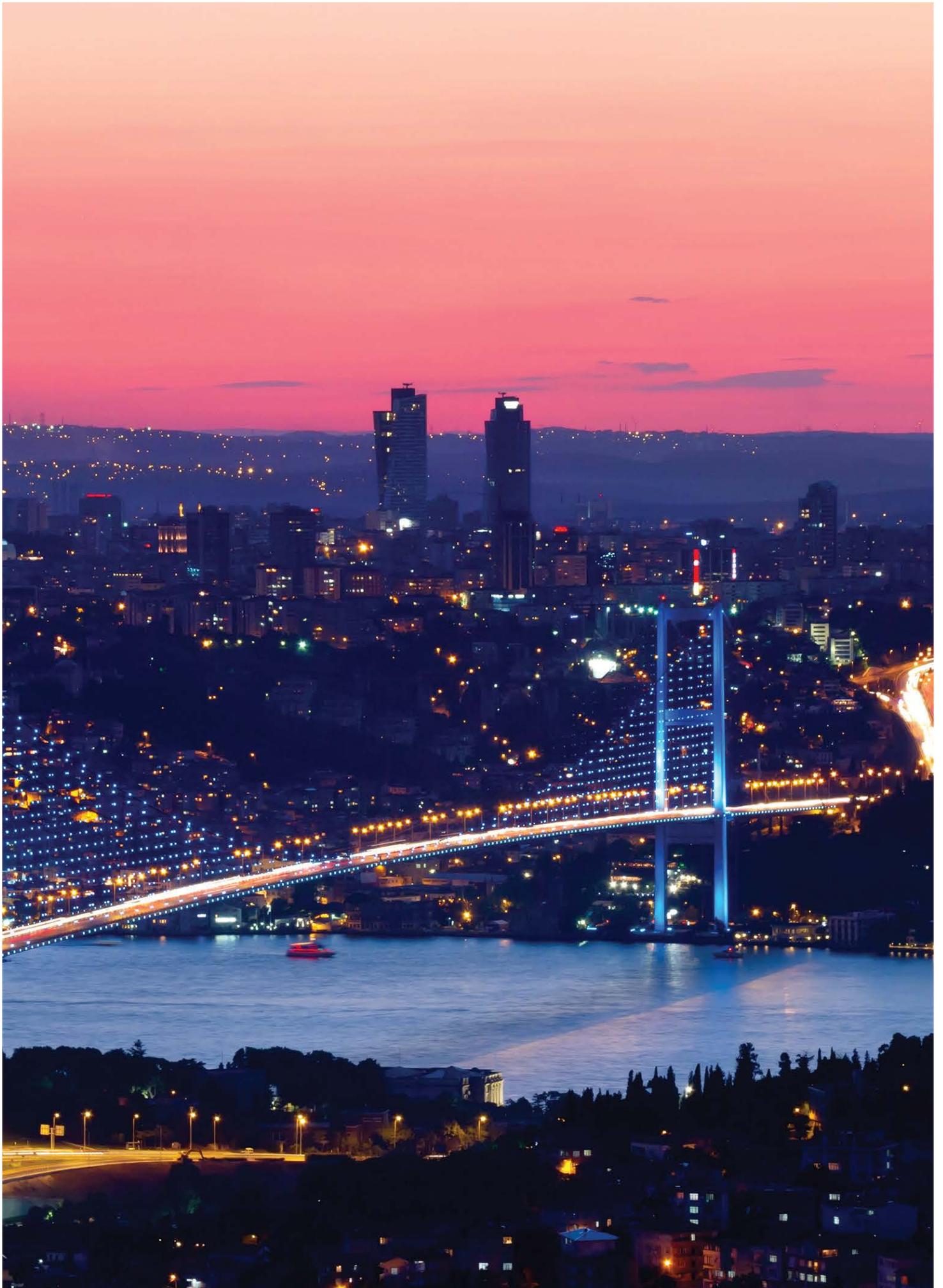
"When I arrived I wanted to get some essentials for my flat and had to look no further than the charming neighbourhood of Ortakoy right on our doorstep. The walk from the apartments to the Bosphorus is straight down the Ortakoy hill which is a bustling shopping street along which you can find butchers, bakers and candlestick makers - pretty much anything you need and worth a leisurely explore. There is a good bureau de change on the left near the bottom and a parallel street on the right called Old Garden Street (Eski Bahçe sk.) full of charming cafes; I highly recommend having a traditional Turkish breakfast consisting of many plates of breads, cheeses, eggs, olives and jams. At the bottom of the hill you can finally get to Ortakoy quay and mosque which is an exquisite piece of design. Epope cafe-bar offers stunning views of the mosque, bridge and Bosphorus from their rooftop terrace. The little wooden ferry pier on the quayside has a yellow machine outside from which you can buy your Istanbulkart travel card which you use to beep onto any bus, tram, ferry or metro in the city. From that point on, Istanbul is your oyster."

-MEF IS Teacher



"The first things that struck me were the rolling hills and trees welcoming me into the city. Coming from a flat and sparsely vegetated city, I was so happy to see green again! My second memory is how welcoming the teachers of MEFIS were when I arrived. They showed me around Ortakoy and the surrounding neighborhoods. They made sure I felt safe and comfortable moving about the city. We ended the day with dinner on the beautiful Bosphorus, a memory I'll always cherish."

-MEF IS Teacher



Common Misconceptions about Turkey

You may have been to Turkey before; you may have not. There are some common misconceptions that deserve explanation...

The women all wear burqas and headscarves: Turkey is a secular Republic founded in 1923 by a modern left-of-center leader by the name of Mustafa Kemal (better known as Atatürk). Very few Turkish women wear burqas. While headscarves are commonly worn by some segments of society, many Turkish women do not wear them. There is no pressure for foreign women to assimilate to such practices.

It's a hot, desert climate and everyone rides a camel and speaks Arabic: All climates exist in Turkey. The Black Sea region is cool and rainy much like the Pacific Northwest in the US, for example. While camels can be found in some touristic areas, camels are not commonly seen in Turkey. Finally, while there are a few minority populations in southeastern Turkey who speak Arabic, Arabic is not commonly known. Instead, the Turkish language is widely spoken throughout the country.

You can't drink alcohol, find pork or eat during Ramadan: Yes, you can drink alcohol and eat pork, and you can also eat during the Ramadan season. However, it would be unwise to eat or drink on the street during fasting hours. General rules of respect and common sense suggest that if you are to drink during Ramadan that you should do so in designated areas – restaurants and bars that serve drinks. Pork, on the other hand, can be found, but is expensive.

The food is spicy: While the kebab culture of southeastern Turkey may include a pleasing spicy warmth, Turkish food is not typically hot. Cuisine in the Marmara and Aegean regions is much more similar to Greek food with fish, fruits, vegetables and, of course, olive oil commonly used. Common throughout Turkey is roasted lamb, beef and lamb kebabs, kofte meatballs, grilled fish, manti ravioli and the varieties of pizza known as pide and lahmacun.

The Turkish population dislikes foreigners: The Turkish population is a very proud, nationalistic population. However, it is a far from xenophobic population; on the contrary, the Turkish people pride themselves on being tolerant and warm towards foreign populations. Most Turks are extremely interested about life outside of Turkey and will want to learn about you and your country of origin.

Turkish hospitality is legendary, so don't be surprised if the local shopkeeper pours you a glass of tea.

Sources consulted:

<http://www.gadling.com/2013/03/07/not-constantinople-9-misconceptions-about-istanbul-turkey/>

http://www.numbeo.com/crime/rankings_by_country.jsp



Frequently Asked Questions about Turkey...

Can I use the local cash machines?

Cash machines (ATMs) are available throughout Turkey, accepting major credit and bank cards and instructions are often available in English. It is advisable to inform your bank in advance that you are travelling to Turkey to double-check on specific regulations.

Can I use my credit card?

International credit and debit cards are widely accepted in shops and restaurants throughout Turkey. When selecting a credit card, you may want to find a bank that does not charge an extra fee for international purchases. In addition to a credit card, it is advisable also to carry cash for taxis, smaller shops and cafes, particularly in more rural areas.

How can I open a bank account?

Banking is a booming business in Turkey with many foreign banks either setting up or setting up joint ventures with the local banks.

Once your work visa application is approved and the card is received you will be eligible for opening a bank account in Turkey. You are able to do telephone and Internet banking with most services being provided in English.

Will I be able to use my mobile phone in Turkey?

The Turkish government taxes phones brought into the country. For this reason, many people choose to buy a new phone in Turkey and avoid this tax. If you wish to use your current phone you will need to take your mobile phone and passport to a Turkish mobile phone shop where your SIM along with your handset's IMEI number and your personal information will be registered. You will also need to make a payment (240 Euro / 2170 TL) to the assigned bank for this purpose. This process needs to be completed within 4 months of entry into Turkey. (Unregistered phones will be blocked and unable to receive or make calls). The major GSM operators in Turkey are Turkcell, Vodafone and Turk Telekom. Using Vodafone enables access to Vodafone TV from which Premier League football is viewable, for the football fans among you. Turkcell has the best coverage of rural areas.

What should I expect as far as terrain and traffic in Istanbul?

Some people are surprised by the hilly terrain in and around the MEF campus. Located in a beautiful setting on the hillside of Ulus, you will soon build up strength walking up the hill. As well as the 7 hills of Istanbul, there are some beautiful walks along the Bosphorus and in different neighbourhoods.

What is the local currency?

The local currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira (TL) available in the following denominations: banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 & 200 TL; coins: 5, 10, 25 & 50 kuruş and 1 TL. Cash can usually be exchanged without commission at bureau de changes ('döviz'), banks and hotels.

How should visitors dress in Turkey?

There are no hard and fast rules but it is best to use common sense when deciding what to wear.

Can I drive in Turkey?

A foreign driving license can only legally allow you to drive for 6 months from your arrival date in Turkey. If you wish to drive after that time then you must get your license converted into a Turkish driving license or exit and enter the country. All of the major international car rental companies are located in Turkey, so you are able to rent a car. Foreigners are also able to purchase automobiles known as 'blue plate cars' (see <http://blueplatecar.com/>)

What is the main supply voltage, will I need an adaptor?

The main voltage for electricity is 220V and 50Hz. Central European type wall sockets (two-pin plugs) are standard in Turkey. Adaptors are sold in large department stores and at small shops specializing in electrical goods ('elektrikçi').

Do I need to know Turkish in order to communicate?

English is Turkey's second widest spoken language and you will easily find English speakers in the major cities and holiday resorts. Restaurant menus and other information for foreigners are often printed in English.

What are the opening times for shops and other services?

Museums: 9am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Pharmacies: 9am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday. 24-Hour duty pharmacies are available on a rotation basis so that the names and addresses can be found on any pharmacy door. Banks operate 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Supermarkets and shopping centers usually operate from 10am to 10pm. Please note that the working times may vary due to the pandemic.

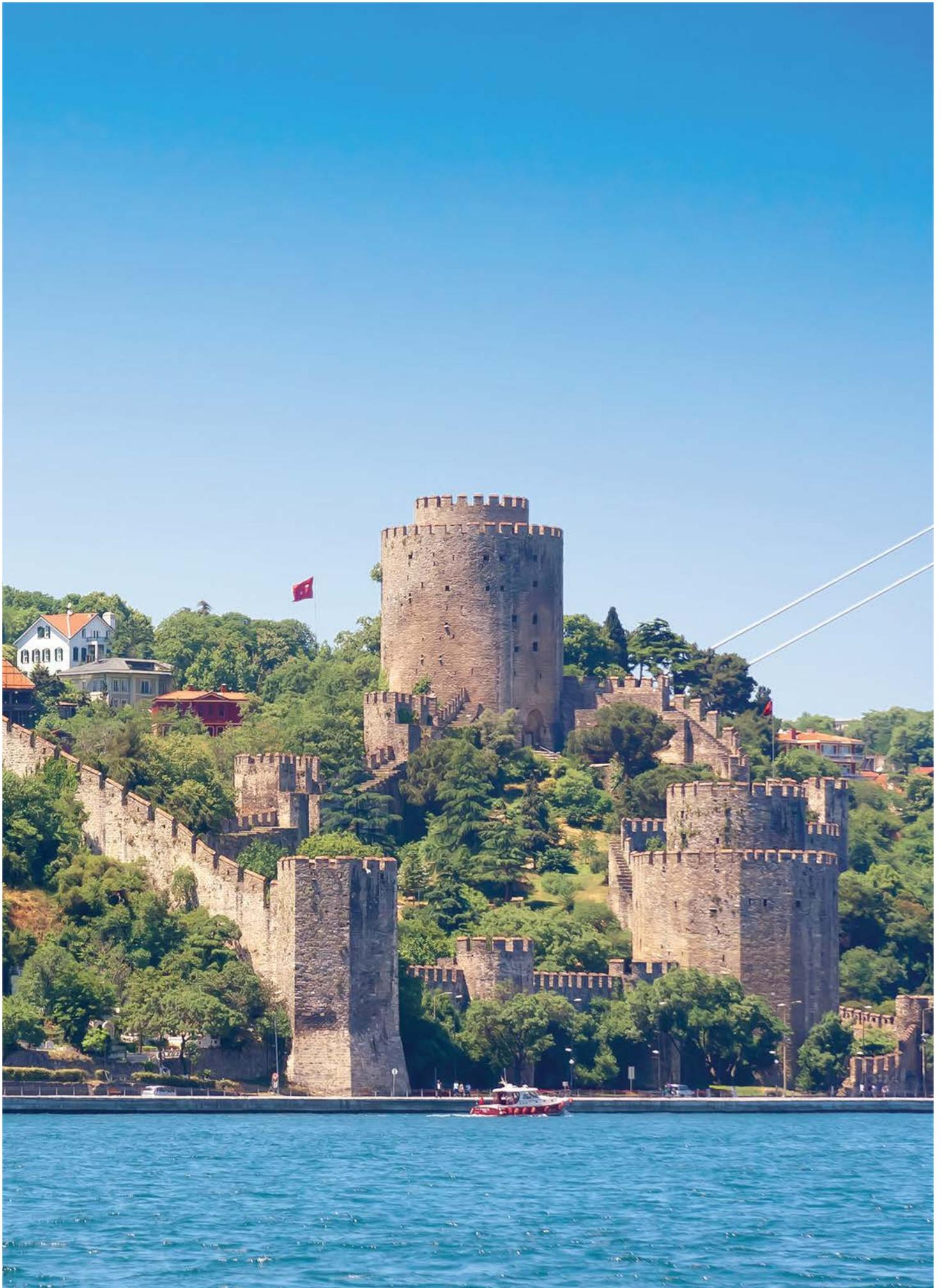
What is the time difference?

Turkey is GMT/UST+3.

Is the tap water drinkable?

Officially, yes, the tap water is drinkable, as it is treated by the municipalities. However, everybody purchases drinking water from local water vendors who deliver to your door. See the *settling in your home* section for more information.

Sources consulted: <http://www.goturkeytourism.com>



What to bring...

You can find almost anything in Istanbul, so we would recommend bringing the bare minimum. However some of the following items will prove useful as you start to adapt to your new surroundings. We suggest you bring with you any medication that you take regularly for at least the first month.

Electrical Power Adaptors

Turkey's electrical grid utilizes 220 volts, 50 Hz system, requiring a round-prong European-style plugs that fit into recessed wall sockets. Upon arrival, and prior to plugging in your devices from home, it is worthwhile to double check their voltage rating. Some items are multi-volt, meaning they can operate with either 110-125 V or 220 – 240V. If this is the case you will typically see writing on the appliance or its power adapter that indicates input: 110-240V. With the use of a plug adapter, you can freely use your devices in Turkey. Other devices are strictly 110-125V, and if plugged in without the use of a POWER ADAPTER / TRANSFORMER, you will burn out your device and create a brand new door stop. International travel power adapters are a wise purchase and can be picked up at most major electronics retailers prior to departure for Turkey.



Other recommendations passed on by members of our faculty are;

- ★ Bring comfortable walking shoes. There are plenty of hills so this is a must.
- ★ There are plenty of places to shop, from high end malls to more affordable outdoor clothing markets so don't feel you need to bring your entire wardrobe.
- ★ Do bring any medical information, records, vision prescriptions, information about pre-existing conditions, doctor's reports, etc.
- ★ Don't bring your hair dryer or any small electrical items that need an adaptor. Wait and purchase those items here.
- ★ Do bring a few photos from home. They provide comfort during those cycles of culture shock that will come in the natural course of things.



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TAKSİM - TÜNEL

410

ASILMAK YASAK
VE TEHLİKELİDİR

ASILMAK
VE TEHLİKELİDİR

TURKCELL

Setting up home

When you move home, and in the case for many, move to another country, it is often not long before you start missing some of the things from home. It goes a long way to start adding a stamp on your place to turn it from an apartment into a home. Some picture frames, a few photos of your loved ones or places you have been, and a few ornaments will help you do this. There are lots of home shops available in Turkey including Mudo, Crate & Barrel and Tepe Home to name a few. But there are a couple of main, affordable places that you can go to, to add those personal touches to your apartment.

Cazip Home

Cazip Home (Cazip means favorable in Turkish) is one of our staff's favourite homeware stores in Ortaköy by walking distance from the school. You can find everything you need to beautify your new home. You can visit on its Instagram page here:

<https://www.instagram.com/caziphome/?hl=en>

Koçtaş (Kochtash)

Koçtaş is both a hardware and also homeware hypermarket. There is one located in a nearby shopping center by the name of Cevahir, located in Mecidiyeköy. The website is in Turkish, but clicking on a few random links will give you an idea of what is available. Most of the products are affordably priced. <http://www.koctas.com.tr>

IKEA

Surely there is no need to introduce the Swedish furniture / homeware power house, but it is worth mentioning a few points. There are two IKEA stores in Istanbul, one located in Bayrampaşa (European side), the other in Ümraniye (Asian side). The other option available is internet shopping with delivery right to your door.

Hepsiburada.com

Hepsiburada.com ("all here" in Turkish) is the largest online shopping center in Turkey providing products such as supermarkets, electronics, home furniture, clothes, cosmetics, etc.

Hepsiburada.com official web address: <https://www.hepsiburada.com/>



Drinking Water

Though the official word through the municipalities is that the drinking water in most of the major cities of Turkey (including Istanbul) are at an international standard, and suitable for consumption, most people opt to buy natural Spring water to drink.

You can buy drinking water in glass or PET bottles in most supermarkets when you are out and about or you can opt to carry water in your own water bottle from home. You can order large water bottles (19L) or have water delivered right to your door from a variety of vendors at an approximate cost of 15TL (which is approximately 2 USD).

Some of the more popular ones used by our faculty:

Erikli - <http://www.erikli.com.tr/> - 444 0 222

Pinar (available in glass) - <http://www.pinarsu.com.tr/> - 444 9900

Abant (available in glass) - <http://www.abantsu.com.tr/> - 444 0743

In addition, "BiSu" ("SomeWater" in Turkish) is also available as a mobile application that you can easily order your water from any brand that you want once you subscribe. Please note that some of the drinking water suppliers on this app may service during the regular working hours and during the weekdays.

Official website: <https://bisu.com.tr/>

Supermarkets

There is a wide array of goods available from supermarkets. The main supermarkets that our faculty shop from are: Macrocenter, Migros and Carrefour. Each of these supermarkets has the facility for online internet shopping, which is especially helpful when you are making large item purchases such as cleaning products. There is a very small surcharge associated with the internet option. And you can also specify the date and time for the delivery within a window of three days. There are more and more international selections of products available in Turkey and it is growing all the time.

Macrocenter has the widest range of international products on offer and is under the umbrella of Koç – major company in Turkey, which is also the owner of the Migros and the Koçtaş brand.

It is helpful to know about the Discount cards in supermarkets which are available to you. The card for the Koç group of supermarkets is called "Money Card" and can be used both at Migros and Macrocenter. You must present the card at each purchase to be able to access the discounts in the store, and you also get "money points" for each purchase you make, that you can buy free groceries once you have "saved" a larger amount. The Carrefour card operates a little differently, their discounts are available without the presentation of the card, however, they have different promotions at different times that you can access with the card.

In terms of pricing, Macrocenter is the most expensive, then comes Migros and the most affordable tends to be Carrefour. There are smaller supermarkets also available that you will see when you are out; ŞOK, BİM, A101, these supermarkets also offer similar products at a much reduced rate, so you can look out for these too.

Turkey is famous for the local “bakkal”. The “bakkal” is your local small shop that stocks most of the necessary items that you might be looking for. The “bakkal” more often than not delivers straight to your door. The items that you purchase are usually a little more overpriced than what you would normally pay at a bigger supermarket. However, it is often useful, if you don't feel like venturing out, you are ill, or you have visitors and you need something delivered to you.

Macrocenter

Official website: <http://www.macrocenter.com.tr/>

Macrocenter online shopping: <http://online.macrocenter.com.tr>

Migros

Official website: <http://www.migros.com.tr/>

Migros online shopping: <http://www.sanalmarket.com.tr> (available in English)

Carrefour

Official website: <http://www.carrefoursa.com.tr/>

Carrefour online shopping: <https://www.carrefoursa.com.tr>

Getir

Getir ("bring" in Turkish) serves through its mobile app. It offers an on-demand "ultrafast" delivery service for grocery items, in addition to a courier service for restaurant food deliveries. They deliver anywhere (your home, your workplace or a park where you enjoy the sunshine with friends and need something to eat or drink), in an average of 10 minutes, in any time day and night!

Official website: <https://www.getir.com/en/>

Farmer's Market

Each suburb in Istanbul has its own Farmer's Market where sellers come together to sell fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, cheeses and delicatessen products, clothing, footwear and homeware products. Each suburb has its farmer's market on a different day of a week. The local one in Ortaköy, close to the school, runs every Wednesday. The fruit and vegetables at the farmer's market are fresher than those in supermarkets and are also better priced. You can sometimes find brand name clothing at a fraction of the cost. It is certainly worth at least one visit.



Home Entertainment and Internet Cable TV

The options for home entertainment have converged with a number of providers offering connectivity to both traditional cable packages as well as Internet connectivity. For cable TV the most widely subscribed service is DIGITURK. Digiturk offers a basic subscription package at an introductory price and allows users to pay for additional packages of channels based on their interests: music, movies, sports, children etc. A bundled service with cable TV and Internet are also available. The Digiturk website is (<http://www.digiturk.com.tr>). Given that the details are available only in Turkish, your best bet will be to call 4737373 in order to speak with one of the English speaking reps to arrange for installation and set-up of your service. Technicians will come to your residence and set up the system for you based on a prearranged date and time. After initial installation, changes to service can be facilitated through contact via telephone with one of their English speaking customer service representatives. If you use Netflix, switching your subscription to the Turkish version will be cheaper than in most other countries.

Internet

In addition to Digiturk, the three most frequent internet service providers (who also offer various cable TV programming options) used by our faculty would be TTNET (Turkish Telecom Network – ADSL service www.ttnet.com.tr Tel: 444 1 444), TURKCELL SUPERONLINE (fiber, ADSL and DSL services available depending on area of residence <http://www.superonline.net/> Tel: 0532 532 00 00) and TurkSAT (DSL service that requires a basic cable subscription in addition to the internet package <https://www.turksatkablo.com.tr> Tel: 126 or 0850 804 4444). Most if not all of the service providers noted above have English speaking operators to assist with your service installation and account upkeep needs.

Please note that, in order to be able to set an internet service in your name (which you should have) you must have your work & residence permits approved. You may not have home internet until you get your visas approved which may take a few months. During this process you can use the school's internet while you are on the campus for your urgent issues or to contact your family back in your home country.

Ordering In

There are some amazing options that are available for Turkish and international cuisine available out and about. There are some delightful taste sensations to be enjoyed.

However for the times that you decide to stay in, and are not up to cooking up a storm then let us introduce you to a faculty favorite website: **Yemek Sepeti** (translation: Food Basket); <http://www.yemeksepeti.com/en/istanbul> which is available in English. Basically this is a portal linked to many different restaurants that are able to deliver to your door. There is a whole plethora of options available; from café style food, international and Turkish cuisine, to fast foods and pizza.

You can also order from the “**Getir**” (Bring in Turkish) which is the second most preferable online food delivery service. You need to download its mobile application and register yourself (your name, address, credit card info etc.) for the first time, so it will be easy for you to order your food, drink or supermarket needs by pressing a few steps.

Official website: <https://www.getir.com/yemek/>

Restaurants:

Kebabçı Mehmet Usta is suggested for a better kebab experience which is just 1.270 meters away from the school. They provide home delivery. You can find more on their website for more details: <http://kebacimemet.com/>

One of our staff's favorite restaurants is **Ginza Ginza** which is only 460 meters away from the school. Ginza Ginza is the first and only restaurant in Turkey with an authentic Vietnamese and Southeast Asian menu. They provide home delivery. Please check their website for more information: <http://ginzaginza.com/>

Mavii's Authentic Indian Food is another alternative that our faculty members prefer.



Mavii's Authentic Indian Food
Vegan options available!

Chicken biryani 50tl pp			Wheat Roti 5tl pp
Butter chicken 40tl pp			Chicken Tikka 50tl pp

NO ADDED MSG, FOOD COLOR OR PRESERVATIVES
Call 0544 6702463



Medical Information

Covid-19:

Due to the pandemic situation that the whole world is currently facing, a file has been prepared for the school community so that they can know what to do when needed.

Please click the links below to reach the Covid-19 related documents and explanations.

- [Covid-19 Protocols](#)
- [HES Codes](#)

Emergency Numbers:



Hospitals:

The health care services provided in Turkey are truly world class. People fly in from all over Europe and the Middle East to get treated in Turkey. Your health is in good hands.

When you go to a hospital you need to show your Turkish ID Card or your passport for patient registration. If you have a Turkish Health Insurance, you don't need to carry your Health Insurance Card with you since they are already registered on the hospitals' system. However, you may need to provide your Health Insurance Number.

Private Hospitals:

A Network Hospitals:

All of these hospitals have English speaking doctors available for consultation. These hospitals are the top luxury class hospitals which have an agreement with the school's group health insurance company.

B Network Hospitals:

You can prefer the hospitals under the B network according to your health needs. Especially when you have small health issues these hospitals are more reasonable and they don't ask you to go through a series of unnecessary tests for a small health problem.

Public Hospitals:

Those who are registered with the Turkish Healthcare System (SGK), can benefit from the government hospitals for free by providing their social security or TR ID numbers. You may be charged since these hospitals are quite crowded, please make sure you make an appointment before you visit.

MHRS (Merkezi Hastane Randevu Sistemi / Central Hospital Appointment System) is the most practical way to make an appointment from a public hospital which works in link with the e-devlet (e-government). You can also view or download your laboratory results or your health history based on your visit to the government hospitals.

Please click to visit the website: <https://www.mhrs.gov.tr/>

Ministry of Health Mobile Apps:

In order to be able to benefit the Turkish Healthcare System properly, you should download the following four mobile applications on your mobile phones which you will find very useful during your stay in Turkey.

E-devlet (e-govern) is a government run official website and mobile application provides digital government services such as your Turkish ID and visa information, employment, tax, SGK (Social Security), health, personal deeds of your real estate / property (home/land) in Turkey, your vehicle and driving licence information in Turkey and includes all government services. Once your work visa is approved, you will be eligible to enter the system with your TR ID number and your e-devlet password which you can get from the PTT (Turkish Post & Telegram Organisation). If you go to the PTT and ask for an e-devlet password, they will give you one for around 2 lira. The nearest branch is by Ortakoy ferry. You need to change your password at your first login and must not share your password with third parties.

Official website: <https://giris.turkiye.gov.tr/Giris/>

E-nabiz (e-pulse) keeps your health records which is an official application provided by the Ministry of Health that you can view all of your health database such as your doctor appointments, medicines, test results etc. You will need your TR ID number and your e-nabiz password that you need to create during your first sign-up.

Official website: <https://enabiz.gov.tr/>

Provides English application.

MHRS (CDAS: Central Doctor Appointment System) is also a Ministry of Health run platform to make doctor appointments online across the country wherever you are in Turkey.

You will need your TR ID number and your MHRS/CDAS password that you need to create during your first sign-up.

Official website: <https://www.mhrs.gov.tr/>

Provides English application.

HES (Hayat Eve Siğar / Life Fits Home) has been created due to the pandemic by the Ministry of Health in order to reduce the risk of contamination that you will encounter during the time you spend in the shared public areas. You will need your TR ID number and your HES password that you need to create during your first sign-up. You need to create a HES Code which links to your TR ID Card on your first login.

HES code serves only to reduce the risk of contamination that you will encounter during the time you spend in all areas such as government buildings, public transportation, shopping malls, private corporate buildings (e.g. MEF also asks HES code for all visitors and parents who want to enter its premises.).

Official Help Page: <https://hayatevesigar.saglik.gov.tr/index-eng.html>

Chemist / Pharmacy (Eczane in Turkish):



Pharmacies in Turkey use a standard signboard to be easily visible (please see the picture on the left).

Medication is freely available in Istanbul with and without a prescription. The medication that you may currently use may be available over the counter. If your medication is not available a visit to the doctor may be in order to find the equivalent version available in Turkey. If there is regular medication that you take that is expensive, you may be eligible to get this medication for free or at a much reduced rate through the national health care system (SGK), by making a visit to the local public doctor in your suburb; please note this is only the case once your official paperwork has come through and you are registered for public health insurance.

Chemists work from 9am to 7pm from Mondays through to Saturdays. There are chemists assigned on a rotation basis for each region in Istanbul for 24-hour access and also for Sundays. You can find out which one by visiting any chemist and looking for a sign on their door to indicate which one is open or you can find an “app” called “Eczane” or “Nobetci Eczane Bul” to help you find which ones are open also.

You can also list the pharmacies (Nöbetçi Eczane) whose turn it is to be open at night or during a holiday on the web site below. Please make sure you select the right city/province (Istanbul) and District (Beşiktaş) to indicate your area. This web site belongs to the Chamber of Istanbul Pharmacists.

Website: <https://www.istanbuleczaciodasi.org.tr/nobetci-eczane/#!%C4%B0stanbul/Be%C5%9Fikta%C5%9F>

Dentist

Dental services are very good here and upon asking can receive many recommendations for staff members who have had work done.

Intercity Transportation

Please note that no cash payment is available for the public transportation in Istanbul (except taxi and dolmuş). Please refer to the following page on how to obtain a [public transportation card*](#).

Buses:

The bus network is widely used in Istanbul and is an easy and convenient way to get around the city. The main stations are in Taksim, Beşiktaş, Eminönü and Kadıköy. To get more information, please visit IETT's (Istanbul Transportation Institution) English site at <http://www.iETT.istanbul/en/main/pages/buses/156>. They have an online route planner. With this service, you can search the routes entering the 'from where to where' details. Please be informed that the length of bus trip depends on the destination and the traffic conditions.

Trains:

Haydarpaşa is the historical and main train station in Istanbul but it is inactive right now. All intercity train trips to and from Istanbul were cancelled due to a High-Speed Train (YHT) being built. This service runs between Ankara, Eskişehir and Konya and cuts the length of the journey in half when compared to an intercity bus trip. To get more information about rail transportation inside Turkey, you can visit TCDD (Turkish State Railways) English website at: <http://ebilet.tcddtasimacilik.gov.tr/view/eybis/tnmGenel/tcddWebContent.jsf>

Metro:

The underground transportation is still growing in Istanbul. It is much sought after due to its rapid transit and complete avoidance of the traffic. There are 4 main routes. You will be mostly taking the M1A (Aksaray-Atatürk Airport) and M2 (Yenikapı-Hacıosman) lines. To get more information about routes/ways, please visit Istanbul Transportation website in English <http://www.metro.istanbul/en>
Istanbul Metro Line Map: <https://www.metro.istanbul/YolcuHizmetleri/AgHaritalari>

Metrobuses:

This is another kind of rapid transit which is a city bus which has its own lane called a Metrobus, which allows you to be free of the traffic. There are 8 lines that run between Beylikduzu, Avcılar, Zincirlikuyu and Söğütluçeşme (over the Bosphorus Bridge). The fee is between 2.50 TL and 4.40 TL depending on which stop you are travelling to. To get more information, please visit the Metrobus English website at <https://www.iETT.istanbul/en/main/pages/metrobus-lines/789>

Ferries:

İstanbul Şehir Hatları (Istanbul City Lines) is the most traditional and enjoyable bulk sea transportation. It has been one of the city's historic symbols by giving a journey pleasure along with the Bosphorus' seagulls. The most common routes are Beşiktaş - Üsküdar - Eminönü - Kadıköy and the Islands of Istanbul. Official website: <https://www.sehirhatlari.istanbul/en>

Sea Buses:

IDO (İstanbul Deniz Otobüsleri - İstanbul Sea Buses) is another alternative to the bulk sea transportation which is faster than the traditional ferries. It provides the similar routes with the traditional ferries. Official website: <https://www.ido.com.tr/en>

Boats:

Boats are the most practical alternative to sea transportation that pass over the Bosphorus and serve like the dolmuş system. It is run by Dentur Avrasya and provides continuous transportation. The most popular destinations are from Beşiktaş and Kabataş on the European side and Üsküdar and Kadıköy on the Asian side. For more information about the routes and times, please visit their website. Official website:

<https://www.denturavrasya.com/en-us/hatlar.aspx?id=533>

Taxis:

Taxis generally in Istanbul are small yellow cars which allow the transportation of five people including the driver. All taxis need to have meters called a taksimetre which shows the rate you need to pay. In Istanbul day and night rates are the same. The starting rate is 5 TL and it goes up 3.10 TL for each kilometer. The price for any short distance is 13 TL. As a regulation, no tip needs to be given to the taxi driver. You can find a taxi by flagging one down, calling your local taxi rank, by downloading a taxi service app or by visiting the following websites:

(<https://bitaksi.com/> ; <http://www.onlinetaksi.com/>).

Dolmuş:

“Dolmuş” (filled, stuffed or full in Turkish) refers to the yellow shared taxis or blue minibuses that operate in Istanbul by the private providers. The yellow ones can hold 8 people whereas the blue minibuses can hold 16 and above. Every “Dolmuş” belongs to a specific route and they are easy and quick for small rides. They have no timetable, it leaves when it is full. If you want to stop one, just wave your hand. There are Dolmuş stops where they are supposed to stop only, like taxis.



Public Transportation Card*

Istanbulkart (Istanbul card) is used for fare payment on public transportation in Istanbul and it's valid for boarding buses, funiculars, LRT, subway, commuter trains, ferry boats and trams operated by the Metropolitan Municipality and some private corporate companies. Cash payment on these transport systems is not possible.



Card types, prices and application:

There are different types of the discounted Istanbul cards and they are issued upon the holder's legal eligibility.

Discounted Card	
Card Type	Explanations
Student	Student photo, student ID card from the school.
Teacher	Teacher photo and teacher ID card from the school..
Social (60+years old)	Photo and ID card.
Full fare payment card	If you are not eligible for any of the aboves you can obtain this card.
PS:	

1) The prices listed can be found in the link here: <https://www.istanbulkart.istanbul/ucretler-limitler>

2) First time purchasing card fee is 15 TL, last card renewal fee is 30 TL.

4) Discounted card (for students, teachers, senior citizens) applications can be made collectively by the school on behalf of the teachers and students, if they submit their requests to the school assistant in the month of January. Please check this with your school assistant.

5) **HES Codes must be connected with your Istanbul card in order to be able to use public transportation as of January 15, 2021.** Please visit the following link to match your HES Code with your card. <https://kisisellestirme.istanbulkart.istanbul/>
Please make sure that your ID number (TR ID / passport no) matches with your Istanbul card and HES Code. Using one ID number (TR ID no/ passport no) will eliminate any error that you may have.

How to apply for and obtain a Teacher/Student Discount Istanbul card?

Teachers/Students benefit from reduced fares on public transport

Online application process:

Step 1: Registration:

Please visit <https://bireysel.istanbulkart.istanbul/en> and register yourself first by entering your full name, TR ID number, home and email addresses, phone number, credit card, etc.

Mobile application is also available for both ios and android.

If you already have your Istanbul card, you can register your card on the system which enables you to load money to your card online and you can benefit from other online processes.

Step 2: Card Selection:

Select your card according to your eligibility. If you already have one, you can register your card online by entering its number, so this way it will be easier for you to transfer money on your card.

Step 3: School Selection:

This section is for those who choose card type (student/teacher). When you enter your TR ID number, the system will recognise your eligibility and will allow you to choose a school on the dropdown school list (all the schools in Istanbul are registered on the system).

-School Type : İlkokul (Primary), İlköğretim (Elementary), Lise (High School).

-School Name: Please type the name of your school (MEF Okulu) to choose your school on the dropdown.

Step 4: Photo Selection:

Upload your photo or take a new photo using your webcam. Please make sure that your photo has been taken within the last six months and appropriate to use for the application.

Step 5: Address Section:

You can fill in this section manually or automatically as the school name and address already listed on the system. You should indicate whether you want your card sent to your address or you will pick it up from the application center in person. If you choose your card to be sent to your address, you will need to pay a 6.35 TL posting fee.

Step 5: Payment:

Add your credit card information and pass the next section.

Step 6: Checkout:

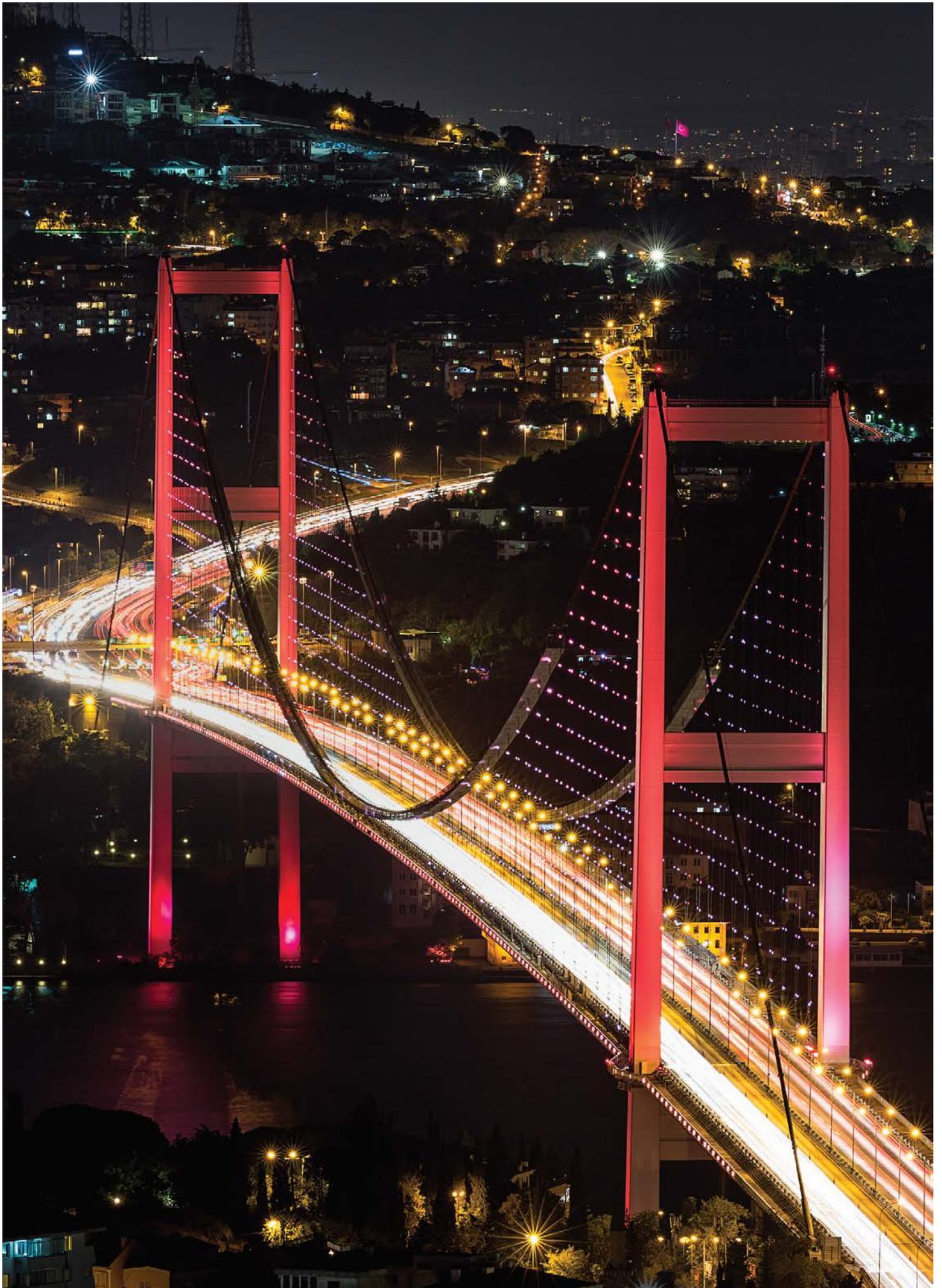
Check the information you provided and complete your online application.

Manual application process:

The student discount Istanbulkart may take time to arrive so you may wish to get an ordinary Istanbulkart in the meantime.

Manual applications are made at one of the 15 application centers in Istanbul. The nearest application center to Ulus Campus is in Beşiktaş, just beside the Beşiktaş Port and at the large bus station. Make sure you have the necessary documents (indicated above) with you, especially, if you are applying for a name basis discounted/special Istanbul card.

The nearest place to get your Istanbulkart is from the yellow machine outside of Ortakoy ferry station.



Turkish Language

The Turkish language is widely spoken throughout Turkey and is spoken in pockets throughout the Balkans and in the Middle East. It is the most commonly spoken of the Turkic languages.

The roots of the language can be traced to the Altay region in Central Asia. Altaic languages are part of a larger language group known as the Ural-Altai language group. Languages in this group include Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Mongolian, Finnish, and Hungarian to name a few, and some linguists even argue that Japanese and Korean should be included in this group.

Ottoman Turkish—the variety of the Turkish language that was used as the administrative and literary language of the Ottoman Empire—spread as the Ottoman Empire expanded in the Middle Ages. Atatürk, the founding father of the Republic of Turkey, replaced the Ottoman script with the Latin alphabet in the late 1920s and replaced many of the loan Persian and Arabic loan words that had characterized Ottoman Turkish with Turkish equivalents as an act of nation building and as an attempt (a successful one to be sure) to increase literacy.

Survival language

“A little Turkish goes a long way” is an adage nouveau that you might want to consider adopting, as a basic knowledge of Turkish will gain you much influence and respect in your daily life. While educated professionals commonly speak some English and many local shopkeepers and vendors along with children sometimes speak very basic levels of English, a little Turkish on your part will impress the host population and make your life much easier.



“**Evsiz**” can be translated to mean “**Without home**” with “**Ev**” meaning “**home**” and “**siz**” meaning “**Without**”.

Sources consulted:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language

Like Romance languages, the basic word order of Turkish is subject–object–verb. Unlike most Western languages, Turkish utilizes postpositions as opposed to prepositions.

Consequently, you may want to get started. What better place to start than the alphabet....

A B C Ç D E F

G Ğ H İ I J K L

M N O Ö P R

S Ş T U Ü V Y

7 abcçdefğğhijklmnoöprsstuüvyz

merhaba
pardon günaydın
hoşgeldin
evet
hoşçakal
nasılsın
lütfeñ
örüşürüz
hoşbulduk
teşekkür
özürdilerim
ederim iyiyim

Alphabet

A a /a/ 'a' as in father

B b /b/ 'b' as in book

C c /dʒ/ 'j' as in Joke

Ç ç /tʃ/ 'ch' as in chimpanzee

D d /d/ 'd' as in day

E e /e/, /ɛ/ 'e' as in red or 'a' as in cat

F f /f/ 'f' as in far

G g /g/, /j/ 'g' as in game

Ğ ğ /ɣ/ lengthen the vowel that precedes.

H h /h/ 'h' as in hot

I ı /w/ 'e' as in open

İ i /i/ 'i' as in machine

J j /ʒ/ 's' as in pleasure

K k /k/, /c/ 'k' as in kilo

L l /l/, /t/ 'l' as in life

M m /m/ 'm' as in master

N n /n/ 'n' as in nice

O o /o/ 'o' as in more

Ö ö /ø/ 'u' as in turn

P p /p/ 'p' as in spin

R r /r/ the 'r' as in car

S s /s/ 's' as in smile

Ş ş /ʃ/ 'sh' as in shine

T t /t/ 't' as in stop

U u /u/ 'u' as in ultimate

Ü ü /y/ 'u' as in cube

Here are a few basic words and phrases to get you started...

Hello	Merhaba
How are you?	Nasılsın?
Welcome	Hoşgeldin
Response to welcome	Hoşbulduk
Good morning	Günaydın
Good evening	İyi akşamlar
Good night	İyi geceler
Goodbye	Hoşçakal
See you later	Görüşürüz
Thank you	Teşekkür ederim
Please	Lütfen
Sorry	Özür dilerim
Excuse me	Pardon
Yes	Evet
No	Hayır

Learning Turkish

If you are interested in really getting into developing your Turkish there are some other options available.
Learning Turkish (online)

1.Turkish Language Class

<http://www.turkishclass101.com>

2.Online Turkish

<http://www.onlineturkish.com/>

3.You can also look at the Rosetta Stone series which is said to be quite successful.

Language Schools

★ **Dilmer**

Address: İnönü Cad. Prof. Tarık Zafer Tunaya Sok. No:16 , Taksim;

Tel: +90-212-292-9696

<http://www.dilmer.com/>

★ **Concept Languages**

Address: Seher Yıldızı Sokak 238 34337 Etiler

Tel: +90-212-351-18-40

<http://conceptlanguages.com/>

★ **Tömer**

Address (Taksim Branch): Sehit Muhtar Mh. Istiklal Cd. No:26 Taksim;

Tel: 0- 212-249-1648

<http://tomer.ankara.edu.tr/taksim-subesi/>

★ **International House Istanbul**

Address: Esentepe Mh. Buyukdere Cd. No:119 K:4 Nevtron Is Hanı Mecidiyekoy;

Tel: 0-212-282-9064

<http://www.turkishlesson.com/>

Getting Out and About

"My first impressions of Istanbul were more practical than aesthetic; groceries, clothes, sports equipment, etc. were familiar and great value. Transport was easy too, and there are tasty and affordable food options wherever you go. We instantly had access to a range of things to do; world class tourist destinations, interesting markets, ferry rides to beautiful islands or walks along the Bosphorus. The Turkish culture is so open and friendly, especially to children, and we instantly felt safe and ready to enjoy our new lives."

MEF IS Teacher

Food

Here are some favourite restaurants as provided by our faculty.

Arnavutkoy Sosyal Tesisleri, No:1, Arnavutköy/Istanbul

Doğatepe Restaurant, Nispetiye Cad. Dogatepe Parki No:4-6 | Rumeli Hisarustu on the edge of a hill with an unbelievable view.

Sosyal Tesisler - these are government subsidized restaurants. They are in many different neighborhoods. Stunning views, beautiful restaurants, and are cheaper than what you would normally pay for a restaurant of this caliber. Anyone can go! They do not serve alcohol.

Mangerie, Bebek. High class with excellent views across Bosphorus.CevdetPasa Cad. No:69 Bebek, Istanbul, Turkey. Serves a variety of non- Turkish and Turkish cuisine.

Pide Ban, Etiler, Nispetiye Cad. Sehit Ahmet Acarkan Sk. No: 1B Turkish Pizza and traditional black sea food. Delicious.

Noodle House: Barbaros Bulvari Akdogan Sk. No. 25, Besiktas When you are tired of Turkish food, you should like this simple, small, fairly new place. They also deliver.

Sisko Durum: Mecidiye Mh. Vatman Sk. No:26 Ortakoy Family-run business, close to Ortakoy. They are extremely friendly.

Mavi Melek: Asmalı Mescit Mh. No: 23/A. A quaint restaurant in Taksim. The food is great with a variety of Turkish food on the menu.

Kebab 54: Ulus Mah., Öztopuz Cd 22/A, Levazım/Istanbul Up the road from school, opposite the mosque. It's a family-run business with the mum doing the cooking. They deliver.

Turkish Breakfast is everyone's favourite. Each province of the country has its own unique breakfast varieties. There are lots of alternative venues where you can flourish your weekends with a long breakfast by socializing with your family and friends. "Serpme Kahvaltı"s (Scattered Breakfast in Turkish) are generally huge due to their variety. Be mindful when you are ordering; generally one breakfast will perfectly be enough for two people.

Eski Bahçe Sokak: The charming pedestrianised Old Garden Street ([Eski Bahçe Sk.](#)) at the bottom of Ortakoy and is lined with cafes, restaurants and bakeries. This is a wonderful place to while away a weekend morning or lunchtime enjoying the legendary Turkish kahvalti (breakfast).



Parks

Besiktas Park - they have beautiful cafes located inside the parks and it is very inexpensive.

Yildiz Park - great views from Malta Kosk. Nice for breakfast on the weekends.

Kultur Parki, turn right on Orkide Sokak, it's on Adnan Saygun, in Ulus.

Sanatcilar Parki, Etiler Tepecik Yolu, Etiler

Ulus Parki, Ulus, at the top of our big hill, great views, there's a nice café/restaurant.

Emirgan Park Enjoy a quiet afternoon in one of Istanbul's biggest parks hosting the Istanbul Tulip Festival in Spring.



Entertainment and Culture

Historical Sites

There are several historical sights to see in and throughout Turkey. Once a residence permit is obtained, teachers are able to obtain a Museum Card for a nominal fee of 50tl (Muzekart). muzekart.com The card allows free access to museums and archaeological sites throughout Turkey. Here is a list of top rated cultural spots in the city as rated on Trip Advisor:

- 1. Suleymaniye Mosque** Mimar Sinan Cd, Suleymaniye Mh, Istanbul, Turkey (can see this Mosque just up from Galata Bridge).
- 2. Kariye Museum** (The Chora Church) Kariye Camii Sokak, No:26 Edirnekapi, Istanbul 34087, Turkey (a bit hard to get to with a trip up the Golden Horn, but worth it).
- 3. Sultanahmet District Sultanahmet**, Istanbul, Turkey (Sultanahmet - Old City) – You can go here to see the district as well as a number of sites below including the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia Museum, and the Basilica Cistern
- 4. Rustem Pasha Mosque** Hasircilar Carsisi | Eminonu, Istanbul, Turkey (Sirkeci)
- 5. Hagia Sophia Museum / Church** (Ayasofya) Sultanahmet | Eminonu District, Istanbul, Turkey (Sultanahmet - Old City)



- 6. Basilica Cistern** Imran Oktem Cad. No:4 D:5 Sultanahmet, Fatih | Near St. Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey (Sirkeci)
- 7. Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii)** Sultanahmet, Istanbul 222, Turkey (Sirkeci)

8.Topkapi Palace Gulhane Park, near Sultanahmet Square, Istanbul (in Sultanahmet area as well)

9.Rumeli Fortress Tarabya Yenikoy Cad., Istanbul, Turkey (quick trip up the Bosphorus on bus 22)

10.Galata Tower – Easily seen just before you cross the Galata Bridge. Old tower built in 1348 with wonderful views of the city.

11.Dolmabahçe Palace – Easy access from Ortakoy before you get to Besiktas. Beautiful palace that was the location for the government under Ataturk.

12.Turkish Bath (hamam) –Some of the best are set up within an old Mosque or historic building.

13.Grand Bazaar – One of the oldest Bazaars in the world where you can literally find anything you would ever want or need. Make sure you have your bargaining hat on before you walk in and be prepared to get lost.



Shopping Centres

There are many shopping centres available in the local area surrounding the school. Many American and UK brand stores exist in Turkey, albeit a little pricier. Watching sale times at the end of each season is a good time to catch a bargain. Some of the brands that are available in Turkey include; Banana Republic, Bed and Bath, Benetton, C&A, Debenhams, GAP, H&M, Mothercare, Lacoste, MAC, Marks and Spencer, Nike, Pull & Bear, Quiksilver, Sephora, The Body Shop, Timberland, and Zara.



Akmerkez

Akmerkez is one of the first shopping centres. It has modern architecture and is in one of the most fashionable and central locations in Istanbul, Etiler, which is located right near the school's location (Ulus), a 5 minute taxi ride away. There is fashion, entertainment, recreation and dining all under the one roof.

<http://www.akmerkez.com.tr/en>

Zorlu Center

The Zorlu Center opened up in 2014, and is located just across from the school, in fact you can see its rising towers from the school campus. The Zorlu Center is a hub of activity housing a shopping mall, amazing food courts, a hotel, offices, residential property and a performing arts centre with world famous shows. The center is located minutes away from the school campus.

<http://zorlucenter.com.tr/en>



Kanyon

Kanyon is an outdoor shopping centre that has the best international and local brands together in one place. It has fancy restaurants and cafes and a pretty amazing cinema complex. It is a great outdoor shopping experience that is located in Levent (a 15 minute drive from the school's campus). <http://www.kanyon.com.tr/en/?MobileFix=0/+/home>



Istinye Park

Istinye Park, located in Istinye (15-20 minute drive from the school's campus) opened in September 2007 and has roughly 300 stores. There is an indoor and outdoor space and is an impressive piece of architecture as far as shopping centers go. There is a bazaar area, as well as your run of the mill shops, a huge food court area, along with smaller food court areas, a state of the art cinema/theatre and some high end shopping brands in the outdoor area.

<http://www.istinyepark.com/en>



Cevahir

Cevahir, located in Mecidiyeköy, (a 15 minute drive from the school's campus) is one of Europe's largest shopping centres including a cinema, food court, an entertainment park and cafes. It also has one of two Debenhams stores and is different in terms of it having a large hardware and homeware store (Koçtaş) and a large furniture store (Tepehome).

<http://www.istanbulcevahir.com/en-EN/home/29.aspx>

Movies, Museums, Galleries and Performing Arts Halls

Movies

There are movie theatres at Zorlu Center, Metro City, Ozdilek, Kanyon and other malls. There is also a small independent movie theatre right next to the main Garanti Bank in Ortakoy.

Museums



- ★ Istanbul Archeological Museum
<http://www.istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr>
- ★ Pera Museum
<http://peramuseum.org>
- ★ Sakip Sabanci Museum
<http://sakipsabancimuzesi.org/en>
- ★ ELGIZ Museum of Contemporary Art
<http://www.elgizmuseum.org/en>
- ★ Istanbul Modern
<http://www.istanbulmodern.org/en>
- ★ Museum of Innocence
<http://en.masumiyetmuzesi.org>

Art Galleries & Libraries



★ **SALT (Art Gallery and Library)**
<http://saltonline.org/en/home>

★ **Arter**
<http://www.arter.org.tr/W3/>

★ **Galeri Nev**
<http://www.galerinevistanbul.com/>

Performing Arts Halls

- ★ **Zorlu Performing Arts Center (PSM):** It is the best place in Turkey to watch the Broadway shows and it is only 650 meters away from the school.

<https://online.zorlupsm.com/index-e.html>



You may also check out the following event venues which serve both stage and club for musicals, concerts and parties with their nice cafes to enjoy and socialize before the event.

- ★ **Sanat Performance, Beyoğlu**
- ★ **If Performance Hall, Beşiktaş**
- ★ **Uniq Hall, Maslak**
- ★ **Tim Show Center, Maslak**

Getting to and from the airport

Airports

There are two airports in Istanbul, one on the European side ([İstanbul Havalimanı](#)) 40 km away from the school and the other on the Asian side ([Sabiha Gökçen Havalimanı/SGI](#)) 50 km away from the school. SGI Airport often has good deals with Pegasus, but keep in mind it's about 10 km for travel to SGI than it is to the Istanbul Airport. Depending on traffic, it can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours to travel to these airports, so you will need to time your journey according to the traffic conditions.

Taxi - Early in the morning, this is the most direct route. A typical taxi to the airport can usually be a rate of 145 TL to İstanbul Airport, and about 180 TL to Sabiha Gökçen / SGI. Taxis will always use a meter. If you need a larger taxi, Şaban Dinç has a 7 seater van - his number is 0 538 634 24 51 and can be connected by WhatsApp in English.

But during heavy traffic hours it's best to take the shuttle bus [Havaist](#) which is 30 TL from Zincirlikuyu to İstanbul airport and the [havabus](#) shuttle to Sabiha Gökçen / SGI airport which is 18 TL from Taksim.



Travelling within Turkey and Abroad

According to our faculty and staff, here are some of the hottest picks for places to travel to in Turkey. Below is a list of resources to support you with travel planning in and around Turkey as well as abroad.

You wish to visit the website of the [Ministry of Tourism & Culture](#) for more information about discovering more places to visit in Turkey.

Travel apps to support you in Turkey and while travelling to other destinations:

- ★ City Guides by TripAdvisor and Wikitravel: provides a list of recommended accommodations, restaurants, sights, etc. and even customized itineraries for travelling.
- ★ City Map: easy to download maps for any destination
- ★ Ever Places App

Booking accommodations when travelling within Turkey and abroad:

Booking.com is not available in Turkey. Instead you can try:

- ★ ETStur: for booking accommodations, package tours, voyage <https://www.etstur.com/>
- ★ Setur: for booking accommodations, package tours, voyage <https://www.setur.com.tr/>
- ★ Jollytur: for booking accommodations, package tours, voyage <https://www.jollytur.com/>
- ★ Prontotour: for booking accommodations, package tours, voyage <https://www.prontotour.com/>
- ★ Hotels.com: for booking accommodations and flights. https://uk.hotels.com/?pos=HCOM_UK&locale=en_GB

Booking Airfare

If you book well in advance you can get some amazing deals on airfare. Our faculty tends to favour Turkish airlines, but there are several other local airlines.

- ★ Turkish Airlines: <http://www.turkishairlines.com/>
- ★ Pegasus: www.flypgs.com/en
- ★ Onur Air: www.onurair.com

Intercity Buses

Since the prices have come down recently in airfares, intercity buses are not favoured as much as they used to be. However, the following bus companies also offer tours connected to their travel services.

- ★ Kamil Koc: www.kamilkoc.com.tr
- ★ Varan Turizm: <https://www.varan.com.tr/>
- ★ Ulusoy: www.ulusoy.com.tr

Most Attracted Tourist Regions

Cappadocia is in the central region of Turkey. If you like to hike, explore underground cities, and slip back into the 5th century, this is a place for you.

Ephesus is in the Izmir province just outside of Selcuk. It was built in the 10th century BC and is well known for its biblical history and roman ruins.

Trabzon is a city on the Black Sea coast of northeastern Turkey.

Gallipoli The peninsula runs in a southwesterly direction into the Aegean Sea. It's known for the failed offensive during World War I.

Antalya: There are very natural beauties that you can explore in the Antalya region where the green and the blue comes together. If you enjoy diving into the cold, deep and crystal clear sea, Kaş is the place where you can enjoy these features. It provides you its crystal clear and cold beaches where you can jump from wrefts.



Pamukkale is famous for its intricate series of calcite shelves and elaborate Roman spa city.



Beaches

Çeşme: A port town along the Aegean Coast. Not too far from here is Alacati, a quaint artsy town worth exploring for a day or two. The waters in Çeşme are definitely worth swimming in as there's a thermal spring feeding into it.

Bodrum is in the southwestern Aegean Region of Turkey, along the southern coast. There are plenty of beaches to choose from, historical sights to see, and an active nightlife for those who choose that route.



Ölüdeniz - Official translation is Blue Lagoon. This is a small village and beach resort about 45 minutes outside of Fethiye - It has some of the most beautiful shades of turquoise and aquamarine colors that you will ever see.

Fethiye: [İztuzu Beach](#) is a great place to see caretta caretta which is a preserved area to protect the caretta caretta.

Weekend Getaways

There are many nice places in or close to Istanbul that you can relax and enjoy during the weekends or short holidays. Here are some of the things you can discover. You can also ask your local colleagues to their favorite destinations to discover more.



Ağva

Ağva is in Şile district of Istanbul and one-hour drive away from the city. Ağva is one of the most preferable relaxation spots in Istanbul offering a variety of accommodation alternatives from camping to river-side bungalows or luxury hotels.



Adalar (The Princes' Islands)

The Princes' Islands consist of nine islands in the Marmara Sea. The four of them are larger (from largest to smallest; Büyükada, Heybeliada, Kınalıada, Burgazada) and have civil settlements which have the most tourist attractions. No motor vehicle is available on the islands.

The transportation is provided by bicycle, phaeton and electric vehicle. You can reach the islands by [ferries](#) from Beşiktaş ferry port.

Kilyos and Şile

[Kilyos](#) and [Şile](#) are the most famous with their nice beaches in Istanbul. Many Istanbulites prefer to escape from the heat of the city during the summer and spend their weekends in the cool waters of the Black Sea.

Polonezköy and Belgrad Forest

[Polonezköy](#) is on the Asian side and [Belgrad Forest](#) is on the European side of the city. These are the most preferable destinations for walking, breakfast and barbeque. Belgrad forest has the longest walking-track when it's compared to Polonezköy.

Abant

Abant is in Bolu province of Turkey and 3.5 hours drive away from Istanbul. It attracts many with its famous [Lake of Abant](#) and its natural beauties.



Ski Resorts

All seasons are beautiful in Turkey, especially the winter season. Ski season in Turkey is generally between December and March. The favourite spots of the winter holidays are always ski centers. With the cooling of the weather, those who want to have a winter holiday flock to the ski resorts. Whether you are going on a family ski holiday with gentle blue slopes and ski schools, or are on the lookout for challenging black runs, great facilities, or world class terrain surfaces, Turkey has it all.

Ski Resorts for Chasing Snow

Uludag: Uludag Ski Resort is the oldest and most popular alpine village in Turkey, situated 36 km away from Bursa province. The ski area lies between 1800-2500 m and the best season is from December to April.

Kartalkaya: Kartalkaya Ski Resort is 40 km away from Bolu in the Black Sea region. The ski area is at an altitude of 1850-2200 m. The best season for skiing is from late December and late March.

Erciyes: Located 25 km away from Kayseri province and 80 km away from Cappadocia, Erciyes Ski Resort is one of Turkey's oldest ski resorts. The ski resort is at Mount Erciyes, approximately 3915 m the highest summit of Anatolia.

Palandoken: Palandoken Ski Resort in Erzurum is one of Turkey's largest ski areas and considered by many the best, with good hotels, good conditions, good facilities, and Colorado-type powder, covered with snow during winter.



CONSULATES

It is a good idea if you register yourself with your Embassy or Consulate to get the latest information about your country, citizenship, safety and other information. You can find some of the main contacts below. If you cannot find your embassy listed, please let us know, we would be happy to assist you.

AUSTRALIA - EMBASSY

Address: Uğur Mumcu Caddesi, MNG Binası, No:88, Kat:7, 06700 G.O.P. / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 459 95 00
Email: consular.ankara@dfat.gov.au

AUSTRALIA - ISTANBUL CONSULATE GENERAL

Address: Harbiye, Askerocağı cad.,No: 15, Kat: 16, Elmadağ-Taksim / İSTANBUL
Phone: (212) 393 33 00
Email: consular.istanbul@dfat.gov.au

CANADA - EMBASSY

Address: Cinnah Caddesi, No: 58, 06690, Çankaya / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 409 27 00
Email: ANKRA@international.gc.ca

FRENCH REPUBLIC - EMBASSY

Address: Paris Cad., No:70 , Kavaklıdere / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 455 45 45
Web: <https://tr.ambafrance.org/-Francais->

IRELAND - EMBASSY

Address: Uğur Mumcu Cad.,No: 88, MNG Binası, G.O.P. / ANKARA
Phone: (0312) 459 10 00

IRELAND - ISTANBUL HONORARY CONSULATE

Address: İOŞB ESKOOP, San.Sit, A3 Blok No. 172, Bosakşehir, İSTANBUL
Phone:(212) 482 1862
Email: jim@megamekanik.com

KINGDOM OF SPAIN - EMBASSY

Address: Prof. Aziz Sançar Cad., No: 8, 06680, Çankaya / ANKARA
Phone: (0312) 438 03 92 – 440 17 96- 440 21 69
Web: <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/ANKARA/es/Paginas/inicio.aspx>

KINGDOM OF SPAIN - ISTANBUL CONSULATE GENERAL

Address: Karanfil Aralığı Sok. ,No: 16 , 1.Levent, 34330, Beşiktaş / İSTANBUL
Phone: (0212) 270 74 10- 270 74 14
Web: <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/ANKARA/es/Paginas/inicio.aspx>

REPUBLIC OF INDIA - EMBASSY

Address: Cinnah Cad., No: 77, 06680, Çankaya / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 438 21 95-98
Web: <https://www.indembassyankara.gov.in/>

REPUBLIC OF INDIA - ISTANBUL CONSULATE GENERAL

Address: Cumhuriyet Cad. , No:42 , Dörtler Apt., No:11-12, 34367, Elmadağ / İSTANBUL
Phone: (212) 296 21 31 – 32
Web: <https://www.indembassyankara.gov.in/>

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - EMBASSY

Address: Filistin Sok., No: 27, 06700 ,G.O.P. / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 405 68 61
Email: general.ankara@dirco.gov.za

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - ISTANBUL HONORARY CONSULATE

Address: İstinye Caddesi No: 38 Aslanlıköşk İstinye Sarıyer / İstanbul 34460
Email: remzigur@gurmen.com.tr

UK - EMBASSY

Address: Şehit Ersan Cad.,No: 46/A, Çankaya / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 455 33 44
Web: <https://www.gov.uk/world/turkey>

UK - ISTANBUL CONSULATE GENERAL

Address: Meşrutiyet Caddesi, No 34, Tepebaşı-Beyoğlu / İSTANBUL
Phone: (212) 334 64 00
Web: <https://www.gov.uk/world/turkey>

UNITED STATES - EMBASSY

Address: Atatürk Bulvarı , No: 110 , Kavaklıdere / ANKARA
Phone: (312) 455 55 55
Web: <https://tr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

UNITED STATES - ISTANBUL CONSULATE GENERAL

Address: Poligon Mah. Sarıyer Cad. No:75, İstinye / İSTANBUL
Phone: (212) 335 90 00
Web: <https://tr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>