Need to Know: Turkey

Objective of the “Need to Know” Document
The Need to Know document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for an EAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the UCEAP Program Guide from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or Need to Know document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/contact/advising

Choosing a Program
Boğaziçi University (Istanbul) – International Summer School, Fall, Year & Spring
Boğaziçi University is a public institution and one of the most prominent universities in Turkey. UCEAP students enroll in Boğaziçi University’s international summer school alongside Turkish and other international students and can choose from a wide variety of subject areas, including social and natural sciences, history, language, engineering, and education. Students can also enroll in an immersion program for a semester or the academic year.

Koç University (Istanbul) – Fall, Year & Spring
Koç University is a private institution and a center of excellence in higher education and research. Koç University is one of Turkey’s newest universities and offers courses in a wide variety of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Archaeology and art history, business/economics, comparative literature, media studies, and engineering are particularly strong. Koç is located outside the city center but it is accessible by many public transport options.

Bilkent University (Ankara) – Fall, Year & Spring
Bilkent University is a private institution and a major center for research and teaching. Of particular note are offerings in the Department of Archaeology and History of Art. Bilkent University also offers strong academic opportunities in the Faculty of Engineering.

Application

Bilkent.
Students must submit all required application items to the BSA Office by the application deadline. After you have received your BSA selection notification, you will be sent a separate link to the Bilkent online application. Do not delay in completing and submitting the online application. When completing the online application, be sure to list at least five course choices on the Tentative Study Plan. See Bilkent's Online Academic Catalog for course codes and course names. The five courses should equal 15 UC semester units, which also equals 15 Bilkent units. At the time you submit the Bilkent online application; you must also scan your official transcripts plus your passport information page and email them as attachments to exchange@bilkent.edu.tr.

Bogazici
Students must submit all required application items to the BSA Office by the application deadline, including the Bogazici Host University Application (Item #12 of the application checklist). Do not mail your application directly Bogazici. Follow the detailed instructions provided on the BSA application checklist.

International Summer School, Bogazici University
Students must submit all required application items to the BSA Office by the application deadline, including the Bogazici Host University Application (Item #9 of the application checklist). Follow the detailed instructions provided on the BSA application checklist.

Koc
Students must submit all required application items to the BSA Office by the application deadline. After you have received your BSA selection notification, Koc University will email you a link to a separate online Koc application which you should not delay in completing. You will need to scan and upload a passport-sized color photo, the identification page of your passport, and your official transcripts into the online application system. Note that you will also indicate your choice of on-
or off-campus housing at this time. After submission, the Koc registrar's office will email you a link to another online Koc form where you will pre-register for courses and indicate choice of specific campus housing. Full housing details will appear on this form.

Curriculum
Boğaziçi University, Koç University and Bilkent University provide rich opportunities for students in many fields. Courses are taught in English, with the exception of music courses at Bilkent University. Teaching practices and grading are similar to those used in the United States. For more information about courses and academics, see the Program Guide.

When selecting courses, students should be aware that courses that are required for the Turkish student majors are far more likely to be offered each year. Elective offerings, on the other hand, are much more variable; only a small percentage of the total elective options listed in the catalog may be offered in any given semester and some may be offered infrequently, if at all. Students should take this into account when planning course options and identify multiple backup courses in the event that first choices are not offered.

Language Study & Language of Instruction
Students are required to take one Turkish course at the appropriate level during the Fall and Spring programs. Turkish language study is not required during the summer but is recommended.

Although all courses are taught in English, student socialize in Turkish and may ask questions in class in Turkish. Staff members in the International Student Offices speak English, but staff members in the dorms and other administrative offices may only speak Turkish. Students are encouraged to learn as much Turkish as possible before departing for Turkey.

Internships and Research

Bilkent
Research and Independent study for academic credit may be possible in this program. Once accepted, contact the instructor you would like to work with directly. The instructor will decide if he/she accepts you as a student. Contact the Office of International Students and Exchange Programs if you have problems contacting a professor. Arrangements are generally made at the Study Center after arrival at the host institution. Pre-departure preparation may be required.

Bogazici
Only course-based research internships are possible. Once accepted, contact the Office of International Relations at Bogazici University as soon as you know you are interested in doing a research internship. Internship courses are not open to visiting students but students are placed in university research labs on a case-by-case basis.

International Summer School, Bogazici University
Internships, research, and independent study are not an option through this program.

Koc
Research and Independent study for academic credit may be possible in this program. Arrangements are generally made at the Study Center after arrival at the host institution. Pre-departure preparation may be required. Contact the International Student Mobility Coordinator at the Koc University International Office as soon as you know you are interested in an internship or a position as a research assistant. You can participate in an internship only if you enroll in course ISP 450 Internship and Practicum for Exchange Students. Your enrollment in this course, however, depends on being placed as an intern. You cannot enroll in this course before getting placed. Within the first two weeks of each semester, interviews between students and companies as well as NGOs are organized. When students are accepted as interns, they can register in the course.

Housing
Boğaziçi University provides accommodation to summer students in university dormitories. Students studying at Koç University, Bilkent University and Bogazici University (during academic year) are recommended to consider on-campus housing for all three universities. The variation among dorm options is much wider than is typically the case at UC campuses. It is recommended that students avoid the temptation to save money by choosing the least expensive options. Generally, the mid-range to expensive options offer conditions that would be comparable to what is found on a UC campus, with the most expensive offering the best conditions.

Students may encounter strict regulations in campus dormitories, including curfews and visitor restrictions. These regulations are being eased by the host universities according to recent reports. You are responsible to reserve and pay for your own housing, either on- or off-campus, directly to the housing provider.

Bilkent
UCEAP students will receive free housing (double room in dormitory) if applying by the housing application deadline (and subject to availability). Students who prefer a single dormitory room would pay only the difference in cost between single and double rooms. Bilkent will send you a housing form along with the acceptance letter and other materials. Complete and return the form as soon as you receive it. Payment is made upon arrival.

*Bogazici*

The 16-17 housing application will be available late February or early March. The housing costs will be posted with the updated application. At that time, go to the Bogazici accommodation webpage, read all information, and follow all links to the Bogazici Accommodation Form. Email the completed form directly to the address given, as accommodation is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment is made via bank (wire) transfer.

*International Summer School, Bogazici University*

Bogazici University Summer School will email you concerning online course registration and your accommodation request. EAP students DO pay for housing directly to Bogazici. Make your housing payment online directly to the Summer Term office by the deadlines indicated by Bogazici. You can disregard any generic email response from Bogazici asking you to pay a registration fee or tuition fee. You will pay your tuition and registration fees directly to UCEAP.

*Koc*

Students should indicate their choice of on- or off-campus housing when submitting their online Koc University application. After submission, the Koc registrar's office will email you a link to another online Koc form where you will pre-register for courses and indicate choice of specific campus housing. Full housing details will appear on this form.

**Special Demands of the Program**

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Turkey, particularly security and motor traffic. Students should review the Program Guide to familiarize themselves with risks associated with participation on the program.

Students should familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Turkey, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. LGBTIQ students are invited to reference the UCEAP LGBTIQ Community Resource Page to learn about host country laws and norms.

Given the special demands of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants meet with the BSA adviser prior to submitting an application.