

Rotary



BAU
Bahçeşehir University

BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

THE OTTO AND FRAN WALTER ROTARY PEACE CENTER



COHORT 1 FELLOWS COURSE HANDBOOK

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CONTACT INFORMATION



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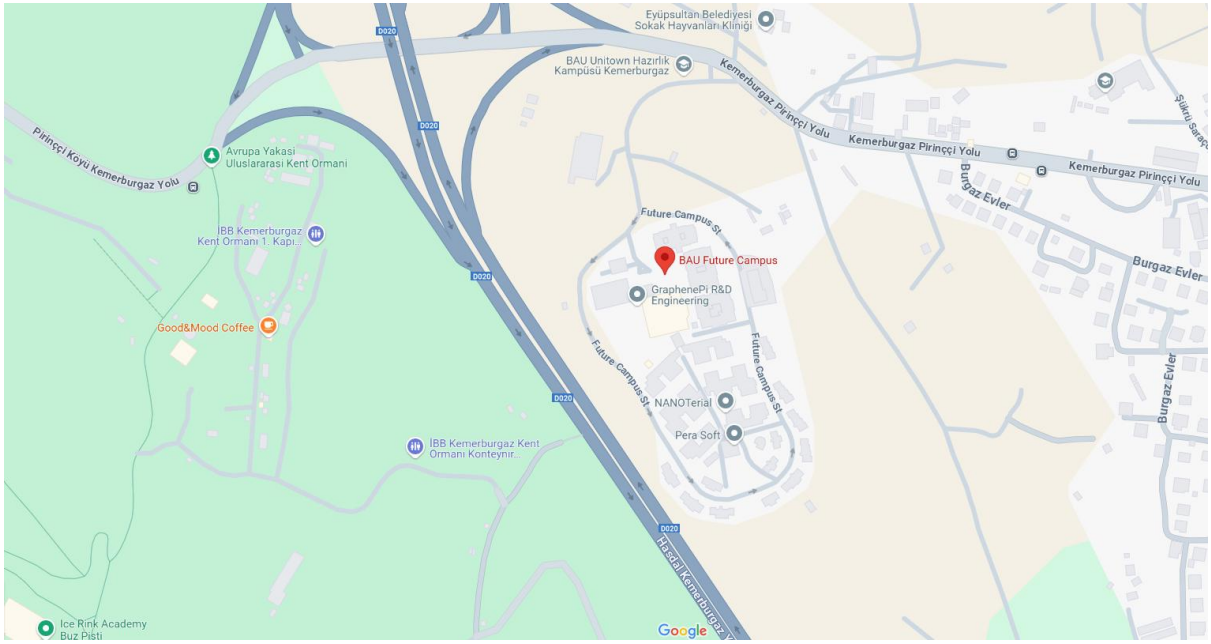
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Official Name: Republic of Türkiye

Founder: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Date of Foundation: 29.10.1923

Form of Government: Presidential Representative Democracy and Constitutional Republic

Capital: Ankara

Area: 302,535 square miles (783,562 square kilometers)

Population: 85,257,239

Official Language: Turkish

Currency: Turkish Lira/TL or ₺

Banknotes in Circulation: 200₺, 100₺, 50₺, 20₺, 10₺, 5₺

Coins in Circulation: 5₺, 1₺, 50 kuruş (50x2=1₺), 25 kuruş, 10 kuruş, 5 kuruş, 1 kuruş



Türkiye is a country that bridges the continents of Europe and Asia (Anatolia). It is surrounded on three sides by the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Aegean Sea.

Türkiye's climate is varied. The inland Anatolia plateau experiences hot summers and cold winters with little precipitation, in contrast to the milder climates of coastal regions. The Black Sea coast experiences the most rainfall, while the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts have cooler temperatures with rainy winters and hot, partly dry summers.

Türkiye has a very diverse culture that is a blend of various elements of the Eastern Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and Middle East traditions. The country has hosted many civilizations and has many ethnic origins on its lands. The fact that it is home to many communities that have left traces of religious, ethnic and cultural origins has played a major role in the formation of this culture. Different cultural elements, traditions, beliefs, languages or dialects of that region live in each city of Türkiye.

PRE-DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Visa Procedures

Fellows should check their visa requirements based on different citizenship through the following website. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

Citizens of countries who are allowed to enter Türkiye with their national IDs in accordance with “European Agreement on Regulations governing the Movement of Persons between Member States of the Council of Europe” are listed as follows: http://www.mfa.gov.tr/countries-whose-citizens-are-allowed-to-enter-turkey-with-their-national-id_s.en.mfa

For short-term education or certificate programs in Türkiye, Fellows should apply for a “Short-Term/Education Visa.” The education visa is usually issued for a 90-day period, thus it is important to confirm the appropriate visa type based on the program duration.

Applicants should apply through the Turkish consulate or embassy in their home country. In cases where there is no Turkish consulate, applicants may need to travel to a neighboring country where one is available.

Some countries have Visa Application Centers (VACs) that process applications on behalf of the Turkish government, for example: <https://gatewayinternational.com.tr>

Türkiye offers an “e-visa” system for some countries, but education visas usually require applying through the consulate. Applicants must schedule an appointment for their visa application either through the consulate’s website or an authorized center.

The following documents are generally required, but applicants should verify the updated list from their local Turkish consulate:

- Passport (valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel)
- Visa application form (usually completed online)
- Acceptance letter from the certificate program in Türkiye
- Travel health insurance (valid in Türkiye)
- Accommodation details (hotel reservation or document from the hosting organization)
- Proof of financial resources (bank statements, scholarship certificate, etc.)
- Flight reservation or travel itinerary

Flight Arrangements

Fellows are expected to make flight arrangements from their country to Türkiye through The Rotary International Travel Service (RITS) based on procedures outlined by The Rotary Foundation. Fellows are expected to share their flight information with the Rotary host area coordinator.

Packing Guidelines

Important Travel Documents

Fellows are recommended to keep with them at all times these essential documents: Passport, two photocopies of your passport (photo and visa page) stored separately from your actual passport, 6 passport photos.

Training Materials

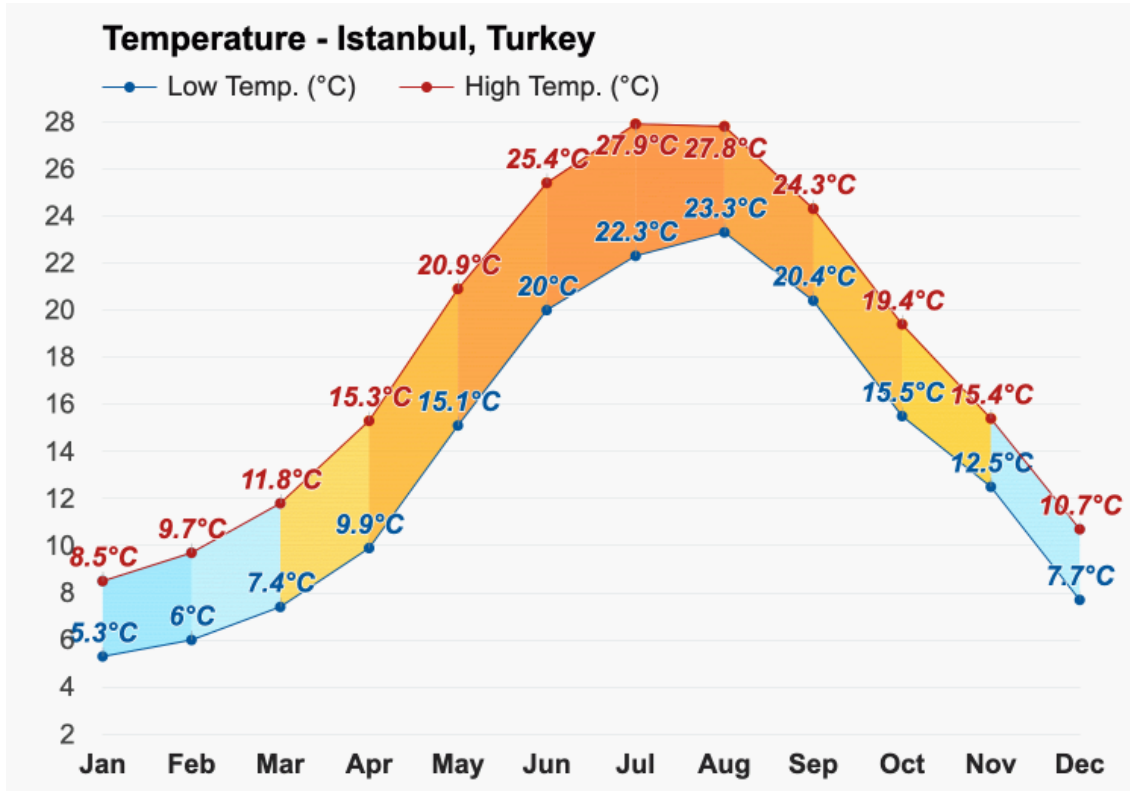
It is recommended that Fellows bring their tablets/laptop computers with them, if they have any. It may also be useful to prepare an audio-visual file to share music and photos of their country and family. Basic stationary will be provided by the Peace Center and, in case of need, Fellows can buy extra from the Campus Bookstore.

Electronics

The electricity supply voltage in Türkiye is 220 volts and may require plug adapters.

Clothing

The dress code for classes is mostly smart casual. For business meetings, knee-length dresses and skirts may be acceptable, while men are encouraged to wear ties and jackets. Fellows may want to carry their national dress or costume to introduce their country during social events.



Temperatures can be quite variable in Istanbul between February and May. Accordingly, Fellows may bring jacket and coat, lightweight sweaters and cardigans, long sleeve T-shirts and blouses, trousers and jeans, raincoat and umbrella, light tracksuits and sportswear, sneakers and boots, casual shoes and sandals, shawl and scarf.

Giresun-Kulakkaya visit site is located in the Black Sea Region and features a rainy and cool climate in winter. Temperatures generally vary between 5-10°C.

Located in Southeastern Türkiye, *Mardin, Gaziantep and Hatay* generally have a temperate and dry climate during spring. Between March and May, temperatures vary between 15-25°C and sunny days are frequent.

The capital city of *Ankara* is located in Central Anatolia, where the summers are warm, dry, and clear and the winters are very cold, snowy, and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from -5°C to 30°C.

Since *Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus* has a Mediterranean climate, there is mild and pleasant weather in the spring months. Between March and May, temperatures vary between 15-25°C and sunny weather is generally observed.

Fellows are expected to bring their personal care products and health items. Toiletries are also available from the mini market at the campus.

Arrival

Each Fellow will be assigned a Host Rotary Club and Host Counselor. The Host Counselors will serve as guides and mentors throughout Fellows' stay in Türkiye. They will also facilitate Fellows' arrival from the airport to the Peace Center. Upon arrival, Fellows will be provided with a campus entry Card, e-mail address and password to access to the Wi-Fi and the library network.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS AND UNIVERSITY

Accommodation



All Fellows are housed at the BAU Guest House located in the Future Campus during on-site portions of the program.

The Guest House features single rooms with bathroom, offering 24/7 security, weekly cleaning services, kettle and minibar, shared laundry room and kitchen, breakfast, as well as automats or snacks and drinks.



Transportation

Coming from the Istanbul Airport or Gayrettepe (not far from Beşiktaş Campus), Fellows can take “Gayrettepe-Istanbul Airport Metro Line (M11)” metro line and get off at Kemerburgaz Metro station.

Buses numbered “48U Bahçeşehir University-Kemerburgaz” and “48G Göktürk-Mescidi Selam” also operate between Kemerburgaz Metro station and the campus (bus stop name: Kemerburgaz Kampüs).

Please [click here](#) to view the bus timetable for 48U and [click here](#) for 48G.

There is a free shuttle operating between the Kemerburgaz Metro Station and the campus, and another paid shuttle between Beşiktaş Campus and Future Campus.

**SHUTTLE
TIMETABLE**

Kemerburgaz Metro Station
↔
BAU Future Campus

From Metro to Campus Pick-up Point: Metro Station Exit	From Campus to Metro Pick-up Point: Car Park at Campus Exit
08:10	15:45
08:30	16:05
08:50*	16:25
09:10	16:45
09:30	17:00
09:50*	17:20
10:10	
10:30	

* Kampüs içine girmez, yolcuları nizamiye bölgesinde indirir. /
The bus drops off passengers at the campus entrance checkpoint,
without entering the campus.

GURSEL

**Shuttles
Between
Beşiktaş &
Future Campus***

from **08:20**
Beşiktaş &
to Campus **09:30**



15:45 from
& **16:45** Campus
to Beşiktaş

Scan this
to see the
pick-up
location in
Beşiktaş



* The shuttle service is provided by Gürsel Turizm as a paid service.

Campus Facilities

At the campus, the Fellows will enjoy ample outdoor space, free Wi-Fi access, ATM, library, sports center, medical center, hairdresser, mini market, one dining hall and a variety of cafeterias.

Teaching

Teaching will take place between 10.00-12.30 and 14.00-17.30 on weekdays, except for Fridays, which is reserved for community engagement activities. There will be no teaching during these extracurricular activities and field trips.

Although the Future Campus has a library of its own, the university's main library is located at the Beşiktaş (South) Campus, featuring the majority of print, audio-visual and e-resources.



Meals and Dining

Fellows will have breakfast at the Guest House. They can enjoy their lunch and drinks in the dining hall and cafeterias on campus. Rotary Peace Center offers complimentary tea/coffee service during breaks. They may choose to dine on campus or elsewhere in the surrounding area. The cost of meals on campus varies from 250 to 500 Turkish Liras.

Kemerburgaz neighborhood hosts many small restaurants and cafes. Special or restricted diets may not always be accessible. Fellows can also choose food delivery by online shopping: [Getir](#) and [Yemeksepeti](#) are useful applications.

There are shopping malls by taxi (Vadi İstanbul), at Kağıthane Metro Station (Axis), and at/near the Gayrettepe Metro Station (Zorlu, Kanyon, Özdilek) featuring a variety of restaurants, as well as international and local brands, and entertainment venues.

Safety, Security and Support

Bahçeşehir University is a prominent and quality higher education institution with its campuses located in safe areas. BAU Future and Beşiktaş Campuses have their own security staff and measures in place, including controlled access to campuses and buildings.

There are healthcare professionals on campus for emergencies. In cases of serious cases, it is strongly recommended that Fellows notify the Center for delivery to the nearest hospitals and healthcare institutions.

Fellows with disabilities will be provided with the support they require. Others having problems with adjustment issues may notify the Assistant Specialist to receive counselling services.

Code of Conduct

Bahçeşehir University is committed to offer a productive learning and working environment to all members under its roof, and thus create a model for the society. In order to achieve and maintain that culture, BAU prioritizes to form a diverse and inclusive environment free from all kinds of discriminatory and violent behavior. The University upholds the principle of anti-discrimination against race, gender, disability, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, religion, language; supports academic freedom and rights; and counters abuse, harassment, corruption and bribery. For more details, please [click here](#).

Victims of any misconduct are encouraged to contact with the Assistant Specialist as soon as possible for confidential support and assistance. The Executive Director will assist Fellows requiring legal, medical or police assistance, translation services, counseling and other support services.

In Turkey, smoking is illegal on public transport and in all indoor workplaces and public places. Smoking is also restricted in some outdoor areas where cultural, artistic, sports or entertainment activities are held. These rules apply in all BAU campuses.

Alcohol and drug consumption/selling carry serious safety and legal risks. They are prohibited on all BAU campuses in alignment with the Turkish Higher Education Council regulations.

Other prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to damaging buildings, property and other materials as well as the information system within the University; theft/attempted theft of personal or University property; furnishing false information to the Center; loud noise or music after 10 p.m. and unregistered guests in rooms.

Fellows can travel to other parts of Türkiye during weekends, provided that they keep the Center informed about their whereabouts at all times. They are advised to refrain from engaging in political activities during their stay in Türkiye. Any contact with the press should be communicated to the Center, who will seek the appropriate terms and conditions of contact from Rotary International.

LIFE IN ISTANBUL

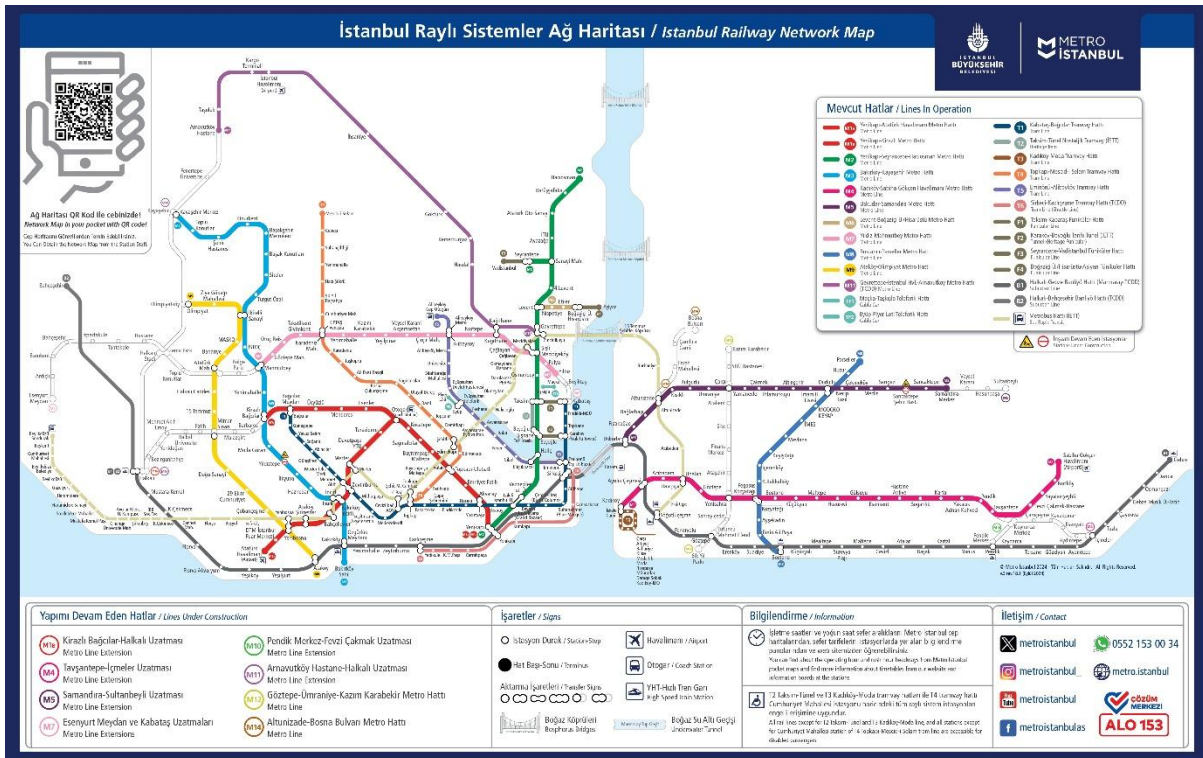
Istanbul, with its almost 20 million residents, is the most crowded city in Türkiye. It is the “cultural and economic capital” of the country as a transcontinental city situated at the Bosphorus which divides Europe and Asia. Acting as a bridge between the East and the West, it symbolizes understanding, communication and peaceful coexistence. It hosts a multitude of academic institutions, think tanks, research centers, international organizations, NGOs, and foundations dedicated to peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

For details, please refer to the Istanbul Directorate of Culture and Tourism [website](#).

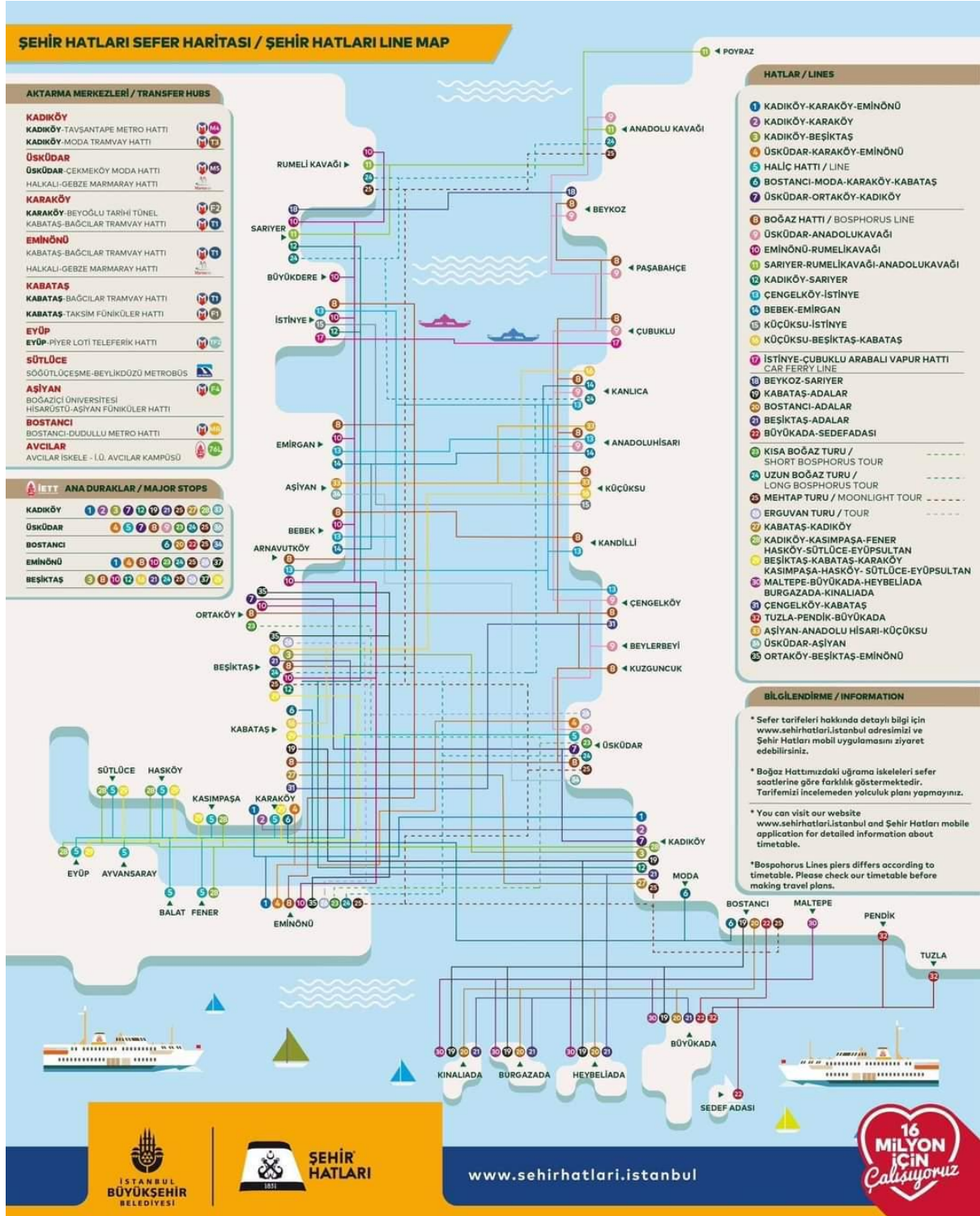




Transportation



Please [click here](#) for larger map.



Please [click here](#) for the Railway Network Timetable.

Please [click here](#) for the Ferries Timetable.

Shopping

Shopping in Istanbul is a delightful experience, offering a mix of traditional bazaars and modern malls. Many sightseeing and shopping venues are located on the European side. In general, Istanbul is famous for its bustling markets like the Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar in the Old City, where you can find unique souvenirs, spices, and handmade goods. Contemporary shopping districts like Nişantaşı and shopping malls like Zorlu and Istinye Park (in Sarıyer district) offer luxury and high-street shopping. Additionally, districts like Kadıköy (Asian side) and Beşiktaş provide vibrant local markets and boutique stores.

There are numerous currency exchange offices (In Turkish: Döviz Bürosu) throughout Istanbul, especially in tourist areas like Sultanahmet, Taksim, and Grand Bazaar. These offices often offer competitive rates. Banks also provide currency exchange services. While the rates might be slightly less favorable compared to exchange offices, banks are a secure option. Many ATMs allow you to withdraw Turkish Lira directly using your foreign debit or credit card. ATMs can be found throughout the city.

Credit and debit cards are also widely accepted, though cash is still preferred, particularly in smaller stores and markets. MasterCard and Visa are frequently used. American Express may also be accepted in some locations. Contactless payments and smartphone payment methods are growing in popularity. In case your credit or debit card is lost or stolen, contact your bank immediately to block the card.

Safety and Security

Turkey's largest city, Istanbul, welcomes millions of visitors every year and Fellows should keep in mind at all times the safety and security concerns listed below:

- *Petty Crime:* In crowded places, particularly in popular tourist destinations like the Grand Bazaar, Istiklal Street, and public transportation, pickpocketing and bag snatching can happen. Pay attention to your possessions.
- *Scams:* Be watchful for inflated prices for services, fake products.
- *Traffic:* Istanbul's traffic can be extremely chaotic at times. When crossing streets, be careful because cars may not always stop for pedestrians.
- *Political Demonstrations:* Occasionally, political demonstrations and protests can occur. It is best to avoid these gatherings as they can sometimes become confrontational.
- *Terrorism:* Istanbul has previously seen terrorist attacks, as have many large cities. It is essential to keep up with the latest security updates from reputable news sources and travel advisories issued by your country.

Safety Tips

- *Stay Alert:* Always be aware of your surroundings and avoid displaying valuables openly.
- *Use Reputable Services:* Stick to well-reviewed accommodation and tour services. Use licensed taxis or ride-sharing apps.
- *Secure Your Belongings:* Use anti-theft bags and consider carrying a photocopy of your passport instead of the original when you are out and about.

Cultural Sensitivity

- *Dress Modestly:* While Istanbul is relatively liberal, dressing modestly is appreciated, especially when visiting religious sites.
- *Respect Local Customs:* Familiarize yourself with Turkish customs and etiquette. For example, removing shoes when entering someone's home and using polite forms of address.

In case of problems, Fellows should immediately contact the Assistant Specialist.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The professional development certificate in Peace and Development Studies is a multidisciplinary one-year program grounded in theory and practice for sustainable Positive Peace in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It is designed to train future changemakers who are from the region, have worked in the region, or have worked elsewhere around the world with communities or initiatives related to the MENA. Fellows will learn how to use their experience to create meaningful change in societies through groundbreaking ideas based on participatory approaches.

Fellows will focus on issues of particular relevance to the Middle East and North Africa, including, among others, land and identity disputes, climate change, food insecurity, refugee integration, and economic and community development. By the end of this program, they will be equipped with the conceptual and analytical tools they need to design and implement projects related to conflict transformation and sustainable development together with communities in crisis situations.

The one-year program includes a one-week online preliminary course, a 10-week on-site course with community engagement activities and field trips, a nine-month implementation period for a social change initiative (with interactive online sessions), and an on-site capstone seminar.

Timetable

Week 0 (Feb. 3-7, 2025): Online Orientation

ARRIVAL ON FEBRUARY 8-9, 2025

Week 1 (Feb. 10-14, 2025): Introductory Classes

Week 2 (Feb. 17-21, 2025)

Week 3 (Feb. 24-28, 2025): Giresun-Kulakkaya Field Trip, February 27-28

Week 4 (Mar. 3-7, 2025)

Week 5 (Mar 10-14, 2025)

Week 6 (Mar. 17-21, 2025): Mardin-Gaziantep-Hatay Field Trip, the whole week

Week 7 (Mar. 24-28, 2025): Ankara Field Trip, March 27-28

Week 8 (Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 2025): Mar. 31 & Apr. 1 fall on Ramadan Break (online self-work)

Week 9 (Apr. 7-11, 2025): Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Field Trip, April 7-8-9.
Return on April 10.

Week 10 (Apr. 14-18, 2025): Preparation week for Social Change Initiative

DEPARTURE ON APRIL 19-20, 2025

COHORTS I AND III WILL ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL ON JAN. 31-FEB. 1, 2026

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026: Cohort I – Capstone Seminar & Cohort III Introductory Classes and Networking

Modules and Courses

Online Orientation

- Various documents and audio-visual material for Fellows to get prepared for the program.

Introductory Module

- Critical/Academic Writing and Referencing
- Competencies for Psychosocial Interventions in Humanitarian Situations
- Peace and Development Studies & MENA

Sustainable Development Module

- Putting Sustainable Development into Practice
- Socio-economic Development
- Gender, Peace and Development
- Migrants/Refugees, Peace and Development
- Environment, Peace and Development
- Case Analysis: Sustainable Development Issues in the MENA
- Case Analysis: Best Practices in the MENA

Conflict Resolution Module

- Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation: 3P+R (Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation)
- Negotiation and Mediation for Inclusive Peace
- Women in Conflict Resolution and Transformation
- Role of Cultural Intelligence in PVE/CT (Prevention of Violent Extremism/Counterterrorism)
- Middle Eastern Conflict Resolution Mechanism
- Evaluating Interreligious Dialogue in the MENA
- Community-led Conflict Transformation in the MENA
- Youth in Conflict and Transformation

Diplomacy-Cooperation Module

- Modern Challenges and New Diplomatic Practices
- Normalization Diplomacy
- Media for Peace
- Humanitarian Diplomacy in the MENA
- Refugee Diplomacy in the MENA
- Science Diplomacy in the MENA
- Sports Diplomacy in the MENA

Extracurricular Activities

Six community engagement activities will take place on Fridays in different corners of Istanbul. They include, but are not limited to, music, culinary and sports events and visits to NGOs. Fellows are also strongly encouraged to attend local Rotary Club activities if they are invited.

Field Trips

It is mandatory to attend four field trips organized within the scope of the program. Fellows will thus experience peace and development studies not only in the academic setting but also in vital historical and practical contexts. Each trip is planned to last 2-5 days, and accommodation, transportation and meals will be covered by the Peace Center. Where accommodation facilities are shared, Fellows will be asked to choose whom to share with. Fellows are responsible for their own personal expenses, covering telephone calls, internet usage, hotel room mini bar and laundry, among others.

Fellows are not allowed to travel individually or ahead of the groups. Also, Fellows are not allowed to bring their families or friends with them during the field visit.

Fellows are recommended to take note of key events, observations and questions throughout the field trips. It is also advised to pack lightly for field trips.

Giresun-Kulakkaya Field Trip (February 27-28, 2025)

Lush and green throughout the year, rocky mountains, the cool waters of the coast and plantations of tea, hazelnuts, tobacco and corn, the Black Sea is a unique part of the country. Located in northeastern Türkiye, Giresun has a castle perched on a steep rocky slope, crowning the city and overlooking the beach. This is where the Roman General Lucullus saw cherries for the first time, and liked them so much he introduced them into Europe.

The touristic Kulakkaya Plateau in Giresun province stands out as a sustainable development site where workshops on local food systems, gastronomy and women's cooperatives also take place. Through various activities, the Fellows will learn how to strengthen the role of youth and women in agriculture, maximize benefits from the integration of local agricultural products into national development, and incorporate innovation into smallholder agriculture.

Mardin-Gaziantep-Hatay Field Trip (March 17-21, 2025)

With its high mountain ranges, remote plateaus, lakes and river beds splashed with colour, plus some of the best Turkish architecture anywhere, southeastern Anatolia brings history to life. Mardin is one of the few cities in the country that has preserved its traditional aesthetic architecture, and is unique also because of its unusual location on top of a hill. Gaziantep is the most important industrial and agricultural area in southeastern Anatolia, and best known for its special varieties of kebab, lahmacun and baklava, and its Antep pistachios.

The eastern part of the Mediterranean region features the Dörtyol (Issos) Plane in the Hatay province, where Alexander the Great defeated the Persian king Darius. As a result of his victory, a port city bearing his name was established which is now the modern day Iskenderun. The road leaves Iskenderun on the southeast and goes through the Belen Pass to Antakya (Antioch). This first Christian community founded by Saint Peter has given Antakya a special religious significance, and the first sermons were preached in nearby cave. It is considered a place of pilgrimage, and the city also boasts a mosaic exhibition of rare beauty in its museum.

Gaziantep and Hatay were among the 11 provinces in southeastern Türkiye hit by the earthquakes in February 2023. Home to innumerable civilizations throughout its long history and renowned for its tangible and intangible cultural heritage, this area also comprises a considerable number of the migrant population residing in Türkiye under temporary protection. This field visit will enable the Fellows to witness relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts for resilient structures, institutions and communities.

They will also visit religious landmarks, cultural centers and archeological sites surviving the disaster with no significant damage. Among them is the Archaeology Museum, featuring the world's largest mosaic exhibition in Hatay, which has hosted for centuries a variety of religions, creeds and cultures in peaceful coexistence. The Saint Pierre cave church, recognized as the world's very first cathedral by UNESCO, also remains intact in the same province.

Ankara Field Trip (March 27-28, 2025)

Ankara, the modern-day capital, is located squarely in the middle of Central Anatolia and has been planned and developed for a contemporary society. The most visually impressive structure here is the Anıtkabir mausoleum built for Atatürk, who founded the modern Republic of Türkiye by winning the War for Independence and then made Ankara its capital. The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations is among the best museums in the country, and has exhibits from Anatolian dating from 50,000 BC to the 2nd century AD.

In Ankara, the capital of Türkiye, the Fellows will visit various public institutions and international organizations related to policymaking in cooperation and development like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish Environment Agency, UNDP Türkiye, UNHCR Türkiye, and UN FAO Türkiye.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus/Nicosia Field Trip (April 7-8-9, 2025)

Nicosia, the world's last divided capital, separates the Turkish and Greek Cypriots since 1974 by UN-patrolled buffer zone. It is also the only divided city with a detailed Master Plan facilitating collaboration between conflicting parties. In 2003, travel restrictions across the Buffer Zone were eased, paving the way to local initiatives for reconciliation and conflict transformation. There the Fellows will visit the bi-communal center called Home for Cooperation, acting as a bridge-builder between separated communities. The venue hosts various artistic and educational programs and activities to foster intercultural trust in Cyprus. The PRIO Cyprus Centre also has an office in the same place, functioning as an independent platform populated by different nationalities dedicated to research and dialogue. It also maintains strong ties with research centers and NGOs in Türkiye and Greece. The Fellows will also meet officials, academics, as well as the UNFICYP authorities.

Social Change Initiative

Building off of the proposal submitted with their application to the fellowship, Fellows will develop an action plan for a social change initiative (SCI) during the 10-week on-site program. The last week is dedicated to practical exercises to assist Fellows to tailor their initial proposals into feasible and mature projects. At the end of the program, Fellows will return to the Center for a one-week on-site capstone seminar. This will be an opportunity to reconnect with cohort members, present on the progress of SCIs, and network with the incoming cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows.

The Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at **BAU**

Peace at Home, Peace in the World

H. Özalp

