Turkish Summer School 2018

More than 3000 students representing 57 countries and spread across 81 cities throughout the 7 regions of Turkey since 2009
Turkish Summer School
2018

700 students representing 57 countries and spread across 81 different cities throughout the 7 regions of Turkey

Dear Students,

Yunus Emre Institute’s Washington, D.C. branch is the institute’s first branch in the United States. Since 2009, more than 3,000 people from around the world have participated in our Summer School program. The Summer School is all inclusive, including airfare. You will be staying in guest houses and university dormitories.

The Summer School will consist of Turkish classes every morning, Monday through Friday. After class, students will get the chance to experience Turkish culture and practice their language skills through fieldtrips that include site visits, tours, and time to explore the city in which they are staying. On the weekends, students will take trips to different cities across Turkey where they will be able to explore the cities and experience each one’s unique culture. The last week of the program, students will travel to Ankara and to the Presidential Palace, Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi in Turkish, for the Summer School’s closing ceremonies. While there, students will be able to meet all of the other students who were studying Turkish in cities across the country.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Yunus Emre Institute, Washington, D.C.
Yunus Emre Institute is a non-profit organization that works to promote Turkish culture and the Turkish language around the world. Founded in 2007, the Yunus Emre Institute now has over 40 cultural centers across the globe. The Institute in Washington, D.C. aims to educate the American public about Turkish culture through cultural events and language classes. The aim of the Institute is to promote Turkish culture and the Turkish language across the world through peace.
Yunus Emre Institute’s Turkish Summer School

Since 2009, the Yunus Emre Institute has offered students from around the world the opportunity to study the Turkish language in Turkey. Students are able to attend classes that correspond to the level of their skill in the Turkish language. Students who have never taken Turkish before, as well as those who have studied it for years, are able to improve their language skills through classes that are taught entirely in Turkish, allowing for an immersive experience.

Last Summer, 700 students representing 57 countries partook in the Summer School. The groups were able to visit the 81 different cities throughout the 7 different regions of Turkey, allowing each group to have their own unique experience. At the end of the program, the groups came together in Ankara, Turkey for the closing ceremonies of the Summer School. Afterwards, the groups travelled to Istanbul together for the last three days of the program.
Program Details

The 2018 Turkish Summer School will run from July 16 to August 12, 2018. The entire cost of the program, including the flights to and from Turkey and the meals on the program, will be covered by the Yunus Emre Institute. Those between the ages of 18 and 35 are eligible to apply.

Students will be separated into groups and will live in cities across Turkey. With seven regions comprising of 81 cities, every group will have their own unique experience during the program. Scattered across Turkey, each group will live in their own city. From that city, they will venture out on the weekends to experience more of the region that they are living in and the unique subcultures that can be found in each one. During their stay in Turkey, students will be housed in either university dorms or guest houses. Every morning, Monday through Friday, students will have

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class for two and a half hours. The classes are taught entirely in Turkish, allowing for an immersive environment. During the first half of each class, students will learn how about Turkish grammar and its structures, along with vocabulary. During the second half of class, students will apply what they learned in the first half through speaking, reading, and writing exercises. Students will also participate in hands-on activities that will test their vocabulary and speaking ability. Class will also include cultural activities, with students learning traditional group dances and how to make authentic Turkish cuisine from various regions across Turkey.

After class, students will have lunch and then will depart for their daily activity. Activities may include guided tours of historical sites, horseback rides, cooking classes on authentic and regional Turkish dishes, visits to the local market, or free time to explore the city. These daily field trips encourage students to use their language skills that they learned in the classroom, and provide them with the opportunity to experience every aspect of Turkish culture. On the weekends, students will travel to cities across Turkey, allowing them to experience the unique heritage of each city and region.
On the last weekend, students will travel to Ankara, Turkey, the capital city, for the closing ceremonies of the program. Located in the heart of Anatolia, Ankara was declared the Turkish capital in 1923 with the founding of the Turkish Republic by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. During Turkey’s war for independence from 1920 to 1923, the city served as the base of operations for the Turkish military. Being the capital city, it is now home to the Turkish parliament, as well as the country’s Prime Minister and President. Notable sites include the Ankara castle and the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The closing ceremonies bring together all of the students from the Yunus Emre Institute’s Summer School who studied Turkish throughout the seven regions of the country. Prior to the ceremonies, students have the chance to connect with one another through their shared knowledge of Turkish. The closing ceremonies include musical and dance performances from artists hailing from different regions of Turkey, allowing students another glimpse into the diversity and complexity of Turkish culture. Following the closing ceremonies, students will travel with the other groups to historical sites across the city. Not only will students learn about the rich history and importance of the capital city, but they will also have the chance to forge lasting bonds of friendship with their colleagues from around the world as they converse in Turkish and share their experiences.
After two days in Ankara, all of the students will travel to Istanbul, Turkey. Situated on Bosphorus Straight, which connects the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea, Istanbul is a city on two continents. The Western side of the city located in Europe and the Eastern side in Asia, allowing for a blend of cultures. Originally known as Constantinople, the city was established in 330 AD as the new capital of the Roman Empire by emperor Constantine the 1st. From the 4th century to the 13th century, Constantinople was the wealthiest city in Europe. In 1453, Constantinople was conquered by Mehmed II and renamed Istanbul. Established as the new capital of the Ottoman Empire, it would remain as such until the founding of the Turkish Republic in 1923. Home to both the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, the city of Istanbul is rich with history. Once they arrive in Istanbul, students will spend the remainder of the program visiting important and historical places such as Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and Topkapi Palace. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the various neighborhoods of Istanbul on both the European and Asian sides of the city.
General Program Activities

- Marmara region
  - Visit Basilica Cistern and Blue Mosque
  - Picnic in the Belgrad Forest
  - Boat tour of the Bosphorus

- Aegean region
  - Visit the ancient Greek city of Ephesus
  - Boat tour of the Gulf of Izmir

- Black Sea region
  - Learn about and perform folk songs from the Black Sea region
  - Traditional Turkish archery lessons
  - Learn how to make dolma, stuffed grape leaves, in an introductory cuisine course

- Mediterranean region
  - Visit Kuyucak village, known as the village that smells of lavender
  - Learn how to make flat bread with meat, the traditional food of the city of Konya

- Central Anatolia region
  - Horseback riding through Cappadocia
  - Learn about the whirling dervishes and the Mevlevi Order firsthand
  - Visit the underground cities
  - Take a hot air balloon ride during sunset

- Eastern Anatolia region
  - Visit Mount Ararat
  - Visit Erzurum’s twin minaret madrasah, the symbol of the city

- Southeastern Anatolia region
  - Learn how to make Gaziantep’s most famous cuisine, baklava, lahmacun, and kebabs
  - Visit Mardin Castle and look out over the plains of Mesopotamia

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Required Documents

- Personal statement that details why you are interested in the program and how the Summer School would benefit you academically and/or professionally
- Health report containing information on allergies, medications, and disabilities
- Emergency contact information
- Student information form
- Student agreement
- Resume
“This summer was a fascinating one – where I, along with more than a dozen other Americans, were given the opportunity to learn a new language and discover a profound culture and history.”—Hassan Rassmy, California (USA)

“The opportunity to interact with the locals and to use the Turkish language every day was truly amazing. I could feel my language skills improving every single day.”—Victor Hibbeln, Michigan (USA)

“I had such great experiences that I felt like a stranger when I returned to my own country.”—Djengis Demirov, Skopje (Macedonia)

“Our instructor was excellent. It was clear that he had a strong passion and love for people and for teaching Turkish. He was an invaluable part of our time spent in Turkey.”—Zoha Javed Islamabad (Pakistan)

“This city [Giresun], university, and its people have touched my heart. The highlands, scenery and the sea that took our breath away will forever remain in my memories...I think Turks are born hospitable, it is in their blood. They invited us to their homes without knowing us and offered us tea, they helped us when we felt unwell, gave us advice when we were in a difficult situation. The month felt like a day.”—Olya Ilchenko, Kiev (Ukraine)

“Turkish brought together students from 57 different countries and we became a family. We laughed together, cried together, and got wet in the rain together. I spent the best days of my 22 year life in Turkey.”—SUREYYA MEMMADOVA, Baku (Azerbaijan)

“The future of Turkey is our future too.”—Najma Gindhe, Mogadishu (Somalia)

“Turkey has become my second homeland and my friends my second family.”—Dariia Tarasenko, Rome (Italy)

“I got along great with my teachers and friends. I’ve discovered new people, new places. I have made many friends thanks to this journey.”—Saad Zuber, New Delhi (India)

“I already knew that Turks were altruistic, helpful, hospitable and loving, but I never thought that you would show such love and respect to us. I cannot help but cry seeing such love and respect.”—Sohyun Lee, Seoul (South Korea)