

Incoming ERASMUS+ Visitors Guidelines

Contact

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Visa and Invitation Letters:

International Relations Office provides invitation letters for incoming staff. You should apply for a visa in a timely manner.

The following information is required for a visa letter to be issued:

- Full name as written on your passport
- Date of birth as written on your passport
- Full title and position at your home university
- Exact travel dates

KHAS Campus Tour:

Please, let us know if you would like to get a campus tour (free).

REZAN HAS MUSEUM:

Hosting genuine exhibitions and cultural activities since 2007 in the frame of its vigorous museum studies, Rezan Has Museum has become a museum site connecting the past to the future with its Ottoman structure dated back to 17th century and Byzantine cistern to 11th century. The Museum enriched its collection by acquiring documents and objects belonging to Cibali Tobacco and Cigarette Factory in 2009 along with its collection of archeological artifacts with nearly a history of 9,000 years. You can visit the museum for free of charge.

Directions:

Please check <https://www.khas.edu.tr/en/access-to-campus/> to see how to arrive to our campus.

Electrical Requirements:

In Turkey the standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Turkey, if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V (as is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). Manufacturers take these small deviations into account. If the standard voltage in your country is in the range of 100 V - 127 V (as is in the US, Canada and most South American countries), you need a voltage converter in Turkey. You can also consider a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.

Security:

Istanbul is a warm and hospitable city. Everyday life is followed normally without any restrictions.

The entire KHAS Campus is protected by a professional security company 24/7. In case of an emergency please contact the number 1555 (inside the campus) and 155 (outside of campus)

Climate

The climate of Istanbul can be defined as transitional Mediterranean, in fact it has fairly cold winters, but otherwise it has Mediterranean characteristics: the rainiest seasons are autumn and winter. Winter months can be cold with some snow but not that much extreme as some other areas of Turkey and it is not more than 10-12 days in a total winter period. Summer is usually hot and sunny, with very little rain, especially July-August.

During summer, air temperature can go up to 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), highest recorded temperature in Istanbul was 45 degrees (113 Fahrenheit). During winter, the temperature is around 10 degrees (50 Fahrenheit) with much colder nights, lowest recorded temperature was -15 degrees (5 Fahrenheit). Average temperature in Istanbul, in a year, is around 14 degrees (57 Fahrenheit) with average relative humidity of 76%.

Cultural Tours:

Istanbul, the city where East meets West is a mixture of important historical sites and contemporary wonders. Therefore the city offers a variety of options for tourists to enjoy. If you would like to learn more about the history and the culture a lot of tours are offered by travel agencies.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Products-g293974-zfg11866-Istanbul.htmls.

If you prefer to explore the city on your own, feel free to ask and we will give you some information about the main spots.

Public Transportation

Istanbul stretches over 5,000 km², therefore moving is not always easy. There is currently a major project in the city to develop public transport in Istanbul. This project is mainly in the development of the Istanbul metro and connecting the two continents.

During your stay we recommend that you use public transport. This will allow you to move quickly and cheaply saving time because Istanbul is really congested. During peak hours (between 8 and 9:30 and between 5 and 8 pm) it is very difficult to move.

To use all public transport in Istanbul (boats, subways, buses, trams, funiculars) you will need the Istanbul Kart. You will find it in the small kiosks near all metro stations, piers, and also bus stations. It costs 25TL, you will then add credit as you know. Most trips cost 8TL each way.

Another way to move in Istanbul is the dolmuş. It is a yellow shared taxi or minibus that operate in Istanbul. They are an easy and quick transportation for small rides to and from destinations just outside the city center. It is a shared taxi that seats maximum 8 passengers. They drive day and night. Therefore, the dolmuş normally only sets off when all the seats are taken. You can either go to dolmuş departure point for a certain route, or flag them down on the street. If you want to get out before the shared taxi reaches its final destination, just shout "inecek var" (somebody wants to get out). The driver will stop at the first convenient spot available and probably open the door beforehand. By all means, do not jump out before the minibus comes to a complete standstill.

You can also use a Taxi in Istanbul. You can use plenty of application in Istanbul. The most popular ones are: Uber, Bitaksi and iTaksi. You can calculate all fares to point of arrival from your location via these apps to not be defrauded. Besides, you can pay with credit card or cash.

Currency

The Turkish Lira is the currency of Turkey. The currency code for Lira is TRY, and the currency symbol is TL.

You can obtain currency before travelling to Turkey or on arrival. Exchange rates are usually better in Turkey and all international airports have exchange facilities. Usually, cash can be exchanged without charging commission in exchange offices, banks or hotels. Travelers' cheques can be exchanged in banks.

ATM are available in most areas, which accept major credit and debit cards and give instructions in English. It may be a good idea to inform your bank in advance that you are travelling to Turkey as some will automatically put a stop on cards after the first usage in an attempt to combat fraud.

It is common to tip in Turkey. As a rule of thumb, you are expected to tip 5-10% in restaurants, cafes and bars. Turks don't tip taxi drivers, but round up cab fares.

Food

Istanbul has been a central component of the global food and spice trades for thousands of years and nothing makes that more obvious than stepping inside a food market or restaurant in Istanbul. Incredibly varied, historically interesting and very delicious, the best food in Istanbul pulls influences from all over the world. A full list of all the best food in Istanbul would fill a book, here are some foods you need to try: firstly simit, it is round bread covered in sesame seeds. You will find simit almost everywhere. Secondly kumpir, which is a baked potato mixed with butter, cheese and then topped with a large selection of toppings. Thirdly börek, which are flaky pastries stuffed with cheese, meat or vegetables. As dessert, the most famous one is Baklava, made of incredibly thin layers of dough stacked on top of each other and then coated in a sugar-syrup.

However, Istanbul is also home to some unique drinks. Çay (tea) is very famous in Istanbul, whether you have a meal, a snack or just shop in a store, you can get tea everywhere. Furthermore, there is Turkish Coffee, made from very finely ground coffee beans in a specific pot. Turkish Coffee is very strong and tasty.

Water

It is not recommended to drink water in Istanbul other than on campus fountains. Bottled water is available in every shop and recommended instead.