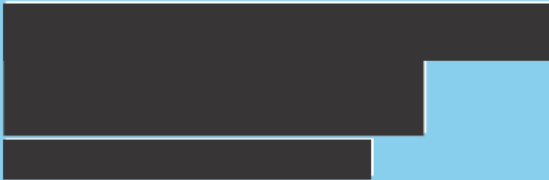


STAP / ERASMUS+
Experience Report



BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

- 2024 / 2025 -



Bachelor, Business Administration
5th semester abroad in Istanbul, Turkey
Fall - September 2024 - January 2025

UNIVERSITY

Boğaziçi University is considered one of the top universities in Turkey. As a management student, most of my classes were held on the South Campus, which boasts a breathtaking view of the Bosphorus. The South Campus is incredibly beautiful and exudes a slight American vibe—likely due to its origins as an American institution (the Robert College). If you Google Boğaziçi University, you'll often see images of the South Campus. The buildings are stunning! On and around the campus, there are plenty of spots where you can sit with friends and grab a bite to eat.



Academic experiences & requirements:

Compared to the University of Cologne, things at Boğaziçi University are quite different. All courses are, of course, taught in English. My professors and classmates had a good command of English, and I was always able to participate fully and understand everything. Since the University of Cologne requires us to submit proof of English proficiency, I can confirm that this level is more than sufficient.

The courses I chose were, in my opinion, very easy. It felt like being in high school. The professors know you, the atmosphere is relaxed, and the overall vibe is very cool. Classes were always enjoyable and largely cooperative. Some courses also grade participation, but I found that mere attendance was often enough to secure a good grade.

There was a lot of group work in my courses, and you constantly meet new people. I can assure you 100% that anyone who has completed 2-3 semesters at the University of Cologne will have absolutely no problems here and should have no worries at all.

Completed courses:

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE
AD 401	GLOBALIZATION&INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT (A-J)
AD 409	BUSINESS ETHICS (K-Z)
AD 441	CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
AD 48A	SP.TP. IN MANAGEMENT-LEADING CHANGE
PE 124	TENNIS II

All of these courses were very relaxed yet also interesting. In each course, I had a midterm and a group project with a report to submit. Here at Boğaziçi University, most courses typically include a midterm and either a final exam or a group project. The workload is very manageable. Feel free to contact me if you need any further insider knowledge! :)

Except for the Globalization course, attendance was mandatory in all my classes. Some professors place more emphasis on attendance than others, but I definitely recommend always going to class!

These courses also had many local students. You'll meet other Erasmus students through various events anyway, but these courses helped me build great friendships with Turkish students as well!





Boğaziçi University - South Campus (left building in the back is the management building)

ACTIVITIES

The Erasmus team organizes fantastic events, and you should definitely participate. This is where you'll meet your Erasmus friends ;) The Erasmus team shows you around Istanbul and also organizes trips. We visited Fethiye and Cappadocia. You'll also have plenty of time to hang out with your friends and explore Istanbul's clubs (but don't have too high expectations, haha). I also played a lot of tennis at the university. This is another great way to meet the locals. Everyone is incredibly open and super friendly. It was very easy to make new friends, probably thanks to Turkish culture.

SHORT INSIGHT

- Studying at Boğaziçi University has been an incredible experience! The beautiful campus, engaging courses, and warm, welcoming people have made my Erasmus semester unforgettable.
- My advice for future Erasmus students at Boğaziçi University: Embrace every opportunity, stay organized with deadlines, and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone to make the most of this amazing experience.

PREPARATION

Make sure to keep track of all deadlines, and everything will go smoothly! The staff at both the University of Cologne and Boğaziçi University are fantastic. They respond very quickly and are incredibly helpful. I always felt very well taken care of.

In Turkey, you will need a residence permit. This is extremely important! Pay close attention to the university's instructions, and everything will work out fine. Feel free to reach out if you encounter any problems, but the university explains everything so well that I was able to complete the process in just two days.

You will, of course, need accommodation. I highly recommend Beşiktaş. From there, you can easily reach everything, and it's very central. Check the WhatsApp groups from previous semesters or simply look on Airbnb. However, rent prices in Istanbul are also rising :(

When you arrive, I recommend using the European airport. It's also quite easy from the Asian side, though. Prefer taking the bus and train. Taxi drivers often recognize when someone is unfamiliar with the area, and the chance of being overcharged is high. Over time, you'll learn how to navigate taxis correctly :)