

Istanbul, Turkey
Bogazici University
September 2024 - September 2025



Bachelor, Economics (5th Semester)

List of Courses:

- International Economics
- Growth and Development
- Business Ethics
- Globalization and International Management
- Sp.tp. Leadership & Creativity
- Tennis

For further questions find me on LinkedIn: Emre Kuyumcu

Recommended Apps: moovit, bitaksi, Otobüsüm Nerede?, Porty, VPN apps

PS: I have double Citizenship so some things weren't needed for me like Insurance or Residence Permit. So I am not talking about it.

Preparation

After you have prioritised your choice and received the acceptance from the WISO ZIB office, you will need some documents to apply to the BOUN. The following documents are required: Transcript of Records, CV, statement of purpose, language certificate. After I was confirmed in the University, I had to upload once a month something. It is very easy. The course registration was frustrating, because you need to be fast in it. If you don't get into the course you want, it is still possible, but you need to beg the professor. After begging, they let you in.

Housing

Most people booked the first week a hotel and looked in this week for apartments. But the easiest way is Airbnb. I wrote to some Airbnb owners privately and we negotiated a long term price. I can recommend to live in Besiktas, Sisli and around the university. Kadiköy and Üsküdar are also nice, but the way to the university will take too long.

Arriving in Istanbul

I arrived at the "old" Sabiha-Gökçen Airport and had to go to the European side from there, as my flat was located centrally in Besiktas. A Taxi cost around 1100tl (30€) to Besiktas (But Prices can change due the years). Generally, I would not recommend taking a taxi as there are Bus companies, Havas and Havaist which drive from the airports to the most important areas of Istanbul for way cheaper. The Metro is also possible to take. When I arrived I took the Havaist Bus to Kadiköy. There I took the ferry to Besiktas and walked around 10min to my home.

University Life

The Bogazici University is one of the best universities in Turkey. So if you talk with a Turkish citizen and say you are from Bogazici, they're mimic changes. I also asked some students what their High School ranking was of about 2 million students. The most of the students I met are in the top 10 thousand of the 2 million. Everyone can speak fluently English and some also did an Erasmus in Europe.

The ESN of Bogazici is also really good. They organized every week around 2 Events and 2 Trips (Fethiye & Kappadokya). So you have lots of opportunities to meet and find new friends and see Turkey in it.

Finally the Campus is really Beautiful. You have a directly view on the Bosporus. It is located behind one of the expenses street in Istanbul (Etiler). Furthermore because of the American founder the buildings have an American art style.

Courses

International Economics:

- Semi-Interesting Topics
- Seems in the beginning hard, but I appreciated the course at the end
- 1 Midterm & 1 Final. The topics seem in the beginning hard, but the exams were easy – Learned 3 days for each of them and passed with BA (1.5)

Growth and Development:

- Very Interesting topics
- Seems in the beginning easy, but it has many topics
- 1 Midterm, 2 Response Paper & 1 Final – Learned around 5 days for each exam. The topics are really Interesting, but you have to be into it and read also the lectures to pass the exam.
- If you have time take it

Business Ethics:

- Semi-Interesting Topics
- Seems in the beginning easy and its easy
- 1 Midterm, 1 Project, 1 Final – Learned 1 day for everythig and passed

Globalization & International Management:

- Semi-Interesting Topics
- Seems in the beginning easy and its easy
- 1 Midterm, 1 Project – Learned 1 day for everythig and passed

Sp.tp. Leadership and Creativity:

- Interesting Topics
- Seems in the beginning easy and its easy
- No Exam but lots of Papers you have to hind in

Life in Istanbul

Public Transport

Istanbul offers a wide range of transportation options. There are buses, metro lines, trains, ferries, and the so-called Metrobus. While most transportation services are state-operated, there are also private options like Dolmuş and Minibüs. For all state-operated transport, an “Istanbulkart” is required, which can be recharged at small shops throughout the city.

For instance, I live in Beşiktaş. To get to Eminönü (Ayasofya), I can take the ferry, a bus, or a Dolmuş to Taksim and then transfer to the metro. There are numerous ways to reach any destination. Personally, I preferred using the metro, Metrobus, and ferry over buses because they are less affected by traffic, which can be heavy between 5 PM and 7 PM. Among these, the ferry was my favorite option it's more enjoyable and you have always a nice view of Istanbul.

Daily Life

Istanbul is undoubtedly one of the richest cities in Europe when it comes to history, culture, food and nightlife. There's always something new to discover, and the list of places worth visiting feels endless. Even after three months of exploring Istanbul, I continued to find new and surprising places. After my Erasmus experience, I can confidently say that one semester is not enough to fully explore every part of this incredible city. This is part of what makes Istanbul so special, you can never truly get bored here. With a population of 16 million (unofficially 20 million), each district in Istanbul feels like a city of its own. For example, each major football club (Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray, Beşiktaş) has its own unique district and stadium. When exploring the city, I preferred not to switch between districts too often, as the distances can be significant and the days quite exhausting. There is also the district Fatih, which is also a must-see because it houses many of Istanbul's famous mosques and museums. Personally, I enjoyed spending time in Kadıköy, Beşiktaş, and Üsküdar. These districts are lively and vibrant, staying busy well into the night. Lastly, Taksim is known as the go-to district for nightlife and clubs.

Safety

Istanbul is a safe city, as long as you know where to spend your time. The central districts like Üsküdar, Beşiktaş, Kadıköy, Karaköy, and Eminönü are very safe. There's no need to feel afraid, whether you're walking alone as a woman or a man. Of course, like in any large city, there are areas of Istanbul that you should avoid at night. But realistically, what reason would you have to go to a remote part of the city in the middle of the night?

Conclusion

I would highly recommend anyone considering a term abroad in Istanbul to go for it. Especially if you are not very familiar with Turkish culture and history, Istanbul offers an incredibly enriching experience. In my opinion, due to its size and the diversity of its districts, Istanbul is the most beautiful city in Europe. One moment, you'll hear the call to prayer from the mosques and the next moment the bells of a nearby church. The city has a remarkable variety that is often not shown in the media. Overall, I had an amazing experience and completely fell in love with Istanbul. I encourage everyone to give it a try, you simply cannot get bored here. Every day offers something new to see, explore, or experience.