



ISTANBUL AYDIN
UNIVERSITY

20 Years

Edition I

STARLIGHT

MAGAZINE

Campus
Chronicles

News & Events For
International
Students

Student
Spotlight





STARLIGHT, proudly accredited by the UNESCO Chair in Education for Sustainable Peace and honored as the UNESCO Chair's project, is a platform where you are invited to delve into the stories of our charming international students here at IAU.

With a mission to inspire every reader who engages with our magazine, STARLIGHT continues to showcase the remarkable journeys, achievements, and obstacles faced by our students.

Consider STARLIGHT your compass in navigating the academic, cultural, and all the other captivating elements of student life.

In short, STARLIGHT is your guide towards a brighter future

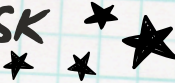


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization





UNESCO Chair in Education
for Sustainable Peace,
Istanbul Aydın University,
Istanbul, Turkey

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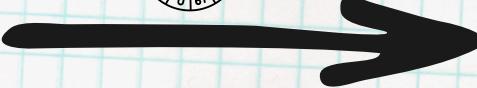
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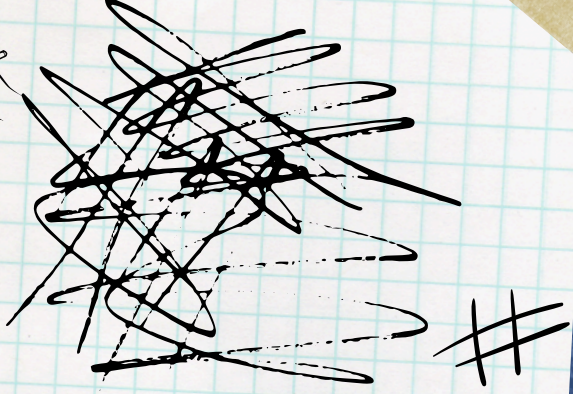
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DAILY SABAH & TRT



SEND US YOUR
QUESTIONS!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa AYDIN
Istanbul Aydın University President

Today more than ever, there is a need for a generation that can respond to the expectations of society, dominate the use of information and technology, speak at least one foreign language in business life, research, inquire, and produce; renew itself in every area as well as the information necessary for life, that is participant, can think and work independently in universal dimensions.

Istanbul Aydın University is a higher education institution that will bring you the knowledge, awareness, entrepreneurial, and creative spirit that the 21st century requires with its expert teaching staff, privileged, contemporary, and constantly renewed programs, vocational English language preparatory school implemented for the first time in Turkey, contemporary technical equipment, ergonomic physical structure, distinguished solution partners, international education cooperation, freedom of unlimited learning which provides undergraduate education and its continuing education process, and its rich social structure.

THE RECTORATE



Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Hakkı AYDIN
Rector at Istanbul Aydın University

Internationalization in higher education remains one of the most important agenda items of global higher education, demanding special focus to ensure our universities are equipped for the challenges of a globalized world. Individuals confined within their geographical boundaries find it increasingly challenging, even almost impossible, to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world. In this context, international education provides our students and academicians with a global citizenship identity.

At Istanbul Aydın University, we believe in the transformative power of international education, swiftly preparing our dear students, who come from various countries, to succeed in this ever-evolving world. We have full confidence that our international students, who serve as voluntary ambassadors for our country, will effectively represent us both at home and abroad, thanks to the high-quality education they receive at our institution. I sincerely want to emphasize that our international students, whom we consider as our children, are very precious to us.

I extend my appreciation towards all those who contributed to the preparation of the magazine and wish them success in all their future endeavors.



To our precious international community, As the Institutional Advisor of our esteemed university, I am honored to extend warm regards to each of you who brings a unique perspective, culture, and ambition to our campus. Our university stands as a beacon of education and research, with a profound commitment to societal advancement and regional development. With my extensive managerial background in higher education and research projects, I am dedicated to fostering innovation and providing progressive solutions to the challenges we face.

Prof. Dr. Nigar Demircan ÇAKAR

Institutional Advisor

Diversity is the very essence of our university's richness. With students hailing from over 125 countries, our campus thrives as a mosaic of cultures, ideas, and experiences. Turkey, our beloved host country, embodies cosmopolitanism, offering a vibrant array of traditions and identities. Yet, our vision transcends borders; we aspire for our students to emerge not merely as regional graduates but as global citizens equipped to compete and thrive in the world.

We actively strive to break down barriers through student-led initiatives, fostering collaboration and understanding between national and international peers. Through projects like "Management by Objective," we collaborate closely with heads and deans to ensure a nurturing environment where every student can flourish.

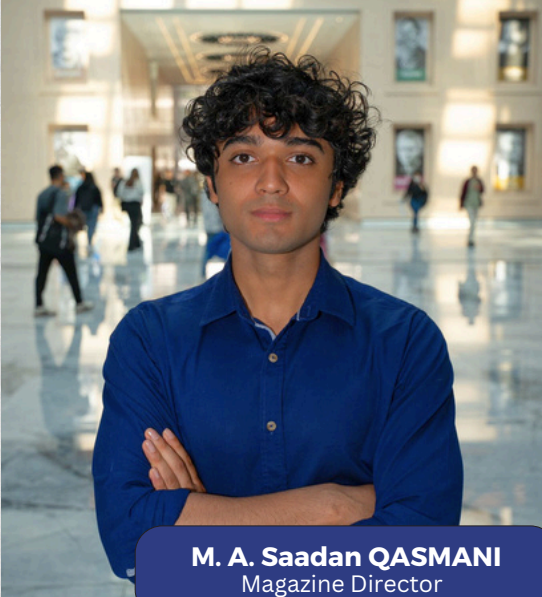
I urge each of you to embrace empathy and collaboration, recognizing the collective responsibility we hold for one another's well-being. Our university hosts regular meetings with international communities, providing a platform for every voice to be heard and needs addressed. Additionally, we endeavor to alleviate your burdens by providing support for basic necessities, ensuring that your focus remains on your academic and personal growth.

As you navigate your journey abroad, I encourage you to seize every opportunity, treating each experience as a valuable step for your future success. Remember, your time here is an investment in your future, one that promises to yield invaluable dividends in the global arena. And since you are spending significant time away from your family, ensure that every moment is worthwhile, enriching your personal and academic growth.

Together, let us forge ahead as ambassadors of unity, understanding and excellence, embodying the very spirit of our diverse university community.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Edition I



M. A. Saadan QASMANI
Magazine Director

As the Magazine Director for STARLIGHT, I am privileged to lead a dynamic team of passionate individuals committed to the mission of promoting education for sustainable peace, a cornerstone of UNESCO's initiatives. Our magazine provides a platform for international students to share their diverse perspectives, experiences, and initiatives aimed at fostering understanding, empathy, and collaboration across cultures and borders. Through compelling articles, thought-provoking interviews, and captivating visuals, we strive to amplify the voices of those working towards positive change in their communities and beyond. With each issue, we seek to spark meaningful dialogue, raise awareness about pressing issues, and inspire action towards building a more peaceful and sustainable world.

By harnessing the power of storytelling and the collective wisdom of our global community, we aim to cultivate a culture of peace, resilience, and mutual respect, paving the way for a brighter future for all.

It is with immense pleasure and pride that I introduce to you the latest edition of Starlight, Turkey's first international student magazine. As we continue to evolve and grow, I am thrilled to announce our affiliation with UNESCO.

Starlight has always been more than just a magazine; it's a platform for our international students to share their voices, to be heard, and to feel a sense of belonging. Together, as we continue our journey of storytelling, we find it important to express our gratitude to our reading community. None of our achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our incredible readers. Your dedication and enthusiasm drive us forward, and for that, we remain grateful.



Noor EMAN
Magazine Chief Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

We have some exciting new announcements. First and foremost, we are proud to announce the launch of our very own Literary Society, additionally, we are excited to share details of our upcoming workshops in collaboration with esteemed partners, the Daily Sabah and TRT WORLD. In this issue, gear up to be captivated by the stories of not just the students but also our esteemed faculty members in "Meet Our Professor" section, where you'll gain insight into the lives and contributions of the individuals who shape your life. As you navigate through our world of stories, don't miss the opportunity to uncover fascinating details in our "Did You Know?" section.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural
Organisation

UNESCO Chair in Education
for Sustainable Peace,
Istanbul Aydin University,
Istanbul, Turkey

At Istanbul Aydin University, the UNESCO Chair, Prof. Dr. Tarık OĞUZLU, and Vice Chair Dr. Osman GÜLTEKIN serve as beacons of commitment to advancing UNESCO's goals, particularly in promoting sustainable peace through education. Their leadership has been pivotal in organizing Model United Nations (MUN) events, providing students with a platform for diplomacy, critical thinking, and engagement with global issues.

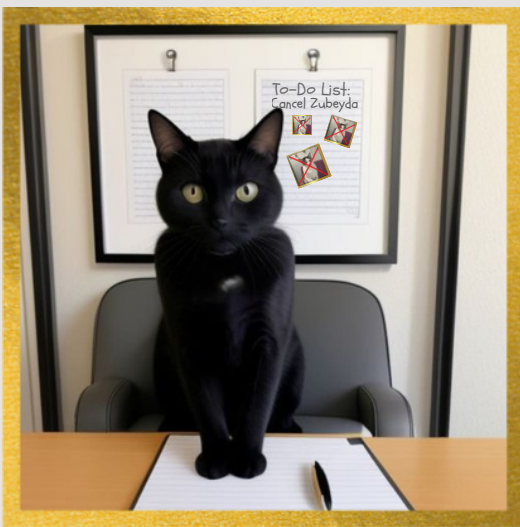
Furthermore, Dr. OĞUZLU and Dr. GÜLTEKIN have actively devised comprehensive plans to enhance education on sustainable peace within the university. By integrating UNESCO's values into the curriculum and extracurricular activities, they foster a culture of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding among students and faculty.

A UNESCO Chair is crucial for a university as it signifies a commitment to UNESCO's mission of promoting international collaboration in education, sciences, and culture to foster peace and sustainable development. It allows universities to align their initiatives with UNESCO's goals, enhancing their reputation and contributing to global citizenship and cooperation for a more peaceful world.

SHER KHAN'S CAT-EYE VIEW



A CAT'S PAWSPECTIVE



Hello, international students! I am Sher Khan, your new feline columnist here at the International Student Magazine. Some of you may remember my predecessor, Auntie Zubeyda, but fear not, I am here to fill her paws with even more purrs and insights.

Now, let's address the elephant in the room, or should I say, the mouse? Auntie Zubeyda was a fine feline, but let's be honest, she lacked the flair and wit that I bring to the table. Plus, she had a tendency to nap on the job, quite literally. But let's not dwell on the past. I'm here now, and trust me, you're in for a treat.

Speaking of treats, let's talk about Ramadan. While you all were fasting, I had the luxury of indulging in my favorite treats without any guilt. It's a tough job being the only one not fasting, but hey, someone's got to keep the treats in check, am I right? Also, Eid just passed and I received no gifts. Disappointing. I must remind you all that gifts are always appreciated. A little something for your new feline columnist wouldn't hurt, eh? Don't forget me on the next Eid.

Now, let's get down to business. I've been keeping a close eye on the international student community, and let me tell you, you're a lively bunch. From Model United Nations conferences to cultural festivals, there's never a dull moment. I may not be able to participate directly, but I'm always here to offer my insights and observations.

One thing I must mention, though, is my sacred time in the sun. As much as I enjoy interacting with you all, there are moments when I simply need to bask in the warmth of the sun without any interruptions. So, please, if you see me lounging in my favorite spot, let me be. It's my version of meditation, you see.





RECAP

ISTANBUL EURIE SUMMIT



CANVA STOR

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CANVA STORIES

CANVA STOR

CANVA STOR



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CANVA STORIES

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CANVA STORIES

CANVA STOR



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RECAP

MOROCCO CONSUL IAU VISIT

IAUMUN

HOW IT ALL STARTED



NAME:
Tala ALLULU

The journey to realizing IAUMUN's first conference was incredibly rewarding. Challenges arose, but seeing everything come together was truly amazing. More importantly, the connections forged – with my dedicated team, the passionate

delegates, and the wonderful chairs – will undoubtedly last a lifetime. IAUMUN wasn't just a successful event; it marked the beginning of a lasting legacy. Nelson Mandela eloquently captured the essence of IAUMUN when he said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." By fostering critical thinking, diplomacy, and global understanding, IAUMUN empowers students to be agents of positive change. Looking ahead, I have unwavering confidence that each IAUMUN conference will surpass the last. We've built a strong foundation, and with continued dedication, this platform for learning and growth will continue to thrive for years to come. Here's to the hope that this legacy continues to inspire and empower future generations!



NAME:
Saadan QASMANI

Embarking on the pioneering journey to initiate the first-ever Model United Nations (MUN) at Istanbul Aydin University was driven by a deep-seated commitment to fostering global awareness and intellectual growth within our academic community. Teaming up with the visionary founder and president, Tala M. K. Allulu, our collaboration crafted an immersive experience aimed at challenging perspectives and promoting diplomacy. As the event unfolded, we found ourselves overwhelmed by its resounding success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated, from passionate delegates to dedicated organizers, whose enthusiasm and dedication made this endeavor possible. Together, we've set a precedent for constructive dialogue and impactful action, inspiring a new generation of leaders to confront the world's challenges with empathy, understanding, and resolve. This remarkable achievement serves as a testament to our collective commitment to shaping a brighter, more interconnected future.



IAUMUN

RESOLUTIONS



The UN Security Council passed a resolution addressing human rights breaches in Gaza. It established the UN Office of Donation Processing and Humanitarian Aid, urging member states to provide aid through this body. The resolution emphasized disarmament, creation of a specially authorized region within Israel for Palestinian lands, and transparent communication to prevent further escalations. It also affirmed the neutrality of Jerusalem and approved rulings on sovereignty breaches and war crimes. The resolution aimed to foster stability, peace, and reconstruction efforts in the conflict-affected region.

In the Turkish Grand National Assembly's committee on the New World Order and Turkey's Grand Strategy, delegates engaged in dynamic discussions aimed at aligning Turkey's national interests with evolving global dynamics. Delegates scrutinized Turkey's foreign policy goals, emphasizing the importance of strategic positioning in the international arena. Proposals centered on fostering economic resilience, bolstering regional stability, and enhancing diplomatic engagement. Additionally, delegates explored avenues for international cooperation, recognizing Turkey's potential to play a pivotal role in shaping the future global order. The committee's deliberations underscored the significance of proactive measures to secure Turkey's prominent position in the ever-changing geopolitical landscape.



The UNEP resolution emphasized COP-26's importance, reaffirmed Paris Agreement commitments, condemned unchecked carbon emissions, supported NDCs and LEDS, opposed leveraging geoengineering for political gain, and suggested sanctions for violators. It stressed education, awareness, festivals, and community action. Proposals included emission taxes, sustainable transport, renewable energy promotion, and a global climate finance mechanism. The resolution endorsed CAA support for developing nations, biochar use, and public climate funds with transparent reporting. Passed measures focused on emission reduction, financial aid, and global cooperation to combat climate change.



The resolution by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women addressed Iranian women's rights post-Mahsa Amini's death. It highlighted the impacts of protests, gender disparities, and health rights violations. It proposed measures like wage equality enforcement, establishing a UN women's hospital, psychological evaluations for students, and legal reforms against underage marriage. It advocated for a hotline, investigations into underage marriages, and supporting feminist activists. The resolution emphasized gender equality laws, political participation, and sanctions for non-cooperation. Overall, it aimed to safeguard women's rights, enhance healthcare access, and combat discrimination in Iran.

The General Assembly addressed UN reform, led by Oman with support from Columbia, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and Belgium, along with signatories. Acknowledging sustainable development goals, addressing outdated UN rules, and noting refugee crises, they focused on human rights, gender equality, and environmental stability. Measures included strengthening monitoring mechanisms, establishing gender equality task forces, truth and reconciliation commissions, reparations for colonized countries, flood prevention infrastructure, educational reforms, refugee support, and a UN Funding Pool System for financial cooperation. They aimed to foster collaboration, transparency, and equity while actively engaging in these efforts.



As tensions escalated within the International Crisis Ad hoc Committee (ICAC), delegates faced the daunting reality of a stolen nuclear device activated by a newly emerging Jewish group. Despite tireless efforts and diplomatic maneuvers, the committee found itself ensnared in a web of irreconcilable demands, geopolitical complexities, and escalating violence. As the crisis deepened, the stark realization dawned that traditional avenues for resolution had faltered. Despite the committee's best intentions and expertise, the gravity of the situation proved insurmountable. Ultimately, the dissolution of the ICAC mirrored the grim reality of an unresolved crisis with far-reaching consequences, leaving the world to grapple with the aftermath.



INTRODUCING THE LITERARY SOCIETY



It brings us immense joy to announce the launch of the Istanbul Aydin University's Literary Society.

A UNESCO project, the literary society is a unique initiative that caters to readers, writers, storytellers, and any one and everyone with a passion for literature.

The Literary Society is dedicated to nurturing the creativity and brilliance of the literary world for all those who hold a love for storytelling. Through the realm of storytelling, our community aims to ignite the imaginations of students, allowing them the opportunity to explore deeper philosophies, engage in illuminating conversations, and come closer to understanding the world around them.

We as a society aims to create a welcoming and inclusive community within the university where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together. Recognizing the unique challenges and experiences of international students, the literary society provides a space for them to share their stories and perspectives. Building a supportive environment where all students can connect with each other and feel heard. By encouraging the sharing of personal narratives, we aim to fosters a deeper understanding of different perspectives and life experiences. This, in turn, helps break down stereotypes and prejudices, promoting a more inclusive and open-minded community. Serving as a platform for meaningful, thought-provoking conversations.



The core purpose of the society is to provide individuals with a space to tell their stories, pursue their interests and help them make the right connections. This not only gives a voice to the students but also offers them the opportunity to reflect on and share their personal journeys, challenges, and successes. We encourage a love for literature by ensuring the availability of English novels in the university library. Moreover, we help bridge the gap between students and faculty members. It offers a relaxed yet intellectual setting where students and faculty can come together, fostering cross-disciplinary discourse and encouraging positive interactions.

Journalistic storytelling is another significant aspect of the Literary Society, to help students navigate their career paths in their respective fields. Journalists play a central role in shaping narratives and ultimately the society. Our students are torchbearers who one day will take over as the storytellers and through connecting with leading publications as well as media outlets we aim to create ample opportunities for them, provide them the right guidance and support in order to understand their true potential as well as the responsibility that falls on their shoulder when pursuing a career in journalism.

Get ready to join us for exciting upcoming events that cater to your need of improving your writing and becoming better equipped for intellectual discourse.

Our team, affiliated with the UNESCO, wishes to foster change and growth one book at a time. From open mics, movie screenings and creative writing competitions to specialized workshops with renowned journalism giants like TRT WORLD and Daily Sabah, the Literary Society welcomes you to a space where you are free to let your aspirations flow.



Workshops

↓ JOIN US ↓

DAILY SABAH

Journalism in Post Truth Era

Segment 1

- Insights from professionals on their journey into pursuing journalism as a career and the challenges they encounter with upholding integrity and combatting misinformation.
- A breakdown of the challenges and opportunities presented by the advancements in AI technology.
- Exploring pressing questions in journalism, such as discerning truth amidst the deluge of content and identifying underlying agendas.

Segment 2

- An interactive session focused on explaining the art of storytelling and exploring ideas to overcome writer's block.
- Insights on how to navigate the competitive job market, securing internships and gaining valuable work experience.
- Importance of fostering integrity, courage, and a commitment to truth-telling among future journalists amidst challenges to freedom of speech and the prevalence of propaganda.



April
18th



10:30 AM
to
12:00 PM



Mehmet ÇELİK
EDITORIAL
COORDINATOR



Batuhan TAKIŞ
MANAGING
EDITOR



Workshops

↓ JOIN US ↓



TRTWORLD

Broadcasting in the Era of noise

Segment 1- Global issues

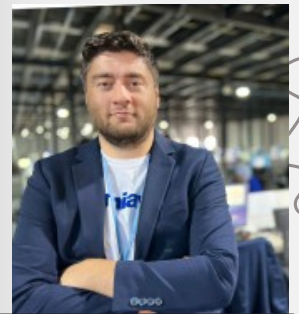
- Insights about the journey into pursuing journalism as a career and the challenges encountered with upholding integrity and combatting misinformation.
- What it's like to report from warzones.
- Experience and stories about working in warzones, the safety concerns faced by journalists in warzones and how they deal with it.

Segment 2 – Case Study of Türkiye

- How Turkish Foreign Policy is being covered, production stages
- Documentary on related topics, and news PKGs
- Interactive session on how to navigate the competitive job market, securing internships and gaining valuable work experience. **How to build a career in Journalism.**



Priyanka NAVANI
TRT World Correspondent



Naim ONGOREN
TRT World field producer



Esteemed Guests
Tanya Goudsouzian
International Journalist
TRT WORLD

Nurhayat Kizilkan
Interview Producer TRT
WORLD



MEET OUR PROFESSOR



At Istanbul Aydın University, Prof. Dr. Tarik OĞUZLU embodies excellence as the UNESCO Chair, esteemed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and dedicated full-time professor in International Relations and Political Science. Yet, behind these prestigious titles he remains a man of humility. Dr. Tarik sees himself not just as an academician, but firstly as a student of International Relations.

Prof. Dr. Tarik OĞUZLU

UNESCO Chair in Education for Sustainable Peace
Dean of Faculty of Science and Literature

"Whatever happened outside our borders always caused me to study those events in a detailed manner"

"My journey in academia has been fueled by an innate passion for the social sciences," Dr. Tarik reflects, his passion for the subject led him to excel in national university examinations, ranking 19th in Türkiye and securing a full scholarship. Dr. Tarik's early interest in understanding global events drove him to pursue both bachelor's and master's degrees in International Relations from Bilkent University, Ankara. Reflecting on his time at Bilkent, he fondly recalls the multinational and multicultural environment that shaped his academic journey.

Driven by a thirst for knowledge, Dr. Tarik furthered his education with a master's degree from the London School of Economics, an experience he describes as profoundly transformative. This was a learning experience that truly in essence shaped him into the academician he is today. He likes to describe these two years period as the "greatest contribution" to his life. Following his PhD, he embarked on a distinguished career as a professor, contributing to institutions such as Bilkent University and Antalya Bilim University before joining Istanbul Aydın University in 2022.

It was two years ago, in 2022, when Dr. Tarik was initially approached to take up the position of the UNESCO Chair Education for Sustainable Peace at Istanbul Aydın University, a role that perfectly aligned with his lifelong commitment to international relations. Dr. Tarik firmly believes in education's potential to foster sustainable peace and is dedicated to crafting initiatives that advance this noble endeavor.

"Education remains our most potent tool, and the aim is to harness its power to cultivate a strategy where education becomes a catalyst for sustainable peace," Dr. Tarik emphasized, highlighting the profound impact education can have in fostering harmony on a global scale.



Under his leadership, UNESCO initiatives at IAU aim to create a more inclusive environment for international students, fostering greater visibility and participation in academic and extracurricular activities. Notably, IAU's inaugural Model United Nations conference, organized as part of UNESCO's efforts, reaped significant participation and contributed to meaningful discussions on global affairs.

For Dr. Tarik, being a professor exceeds mere employment; it's a calling where one gives more than they take, it's a job that requires one to adapt to one's intellectual capacity every day. Dr. Tarik firmly believes that educators play a crucial role in expanding students' academic horizons and fostering their intellectual growth. He underscored the necessity for staying informed about global developments. "The more knowledgeable you are," he asserts, "the greater your impact in expanding students' academic horizons. To truly contribute to their intellectual growth, one must first embody such dedication". Dr. Tarik remarked, highlighting the role of educators in shaping the next generation of leaders.

"Our role as educators extends beyond the classroom," he emphasizes. "We must empower our students to become global citizens equipped with the knowledge and skills to effect positive change in the world."



His commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars is evident in his teaching endeavors, including UNESCO-affiliated elective courses and participation in the Delightful Istanbul summer and winter school programs.

In every interaction, Prof. Dr. Tarik OĞUZLU continues to exemplify dedication, humility, and a profound passion for education and peace-building. His charm resonates not only through his teachings but also through the enduring impact he leaves on the minds and hearts of those privileged to be his students. He continues to inspire and guide his students, his words serving as the guiding light of wisdom and encouragement. Dr. Tarik's advice to all students is to understand the value of their time, maintain interdisciplinary learning, and an active engagement with global developments.



Hashim's narrative embodies resilience, adaptation, and unyielding determination in the pursuit of his dreams. Hailing from Khobar, Saudi Arabia, to Palestinian parents, Hashim's formative years were influenced by the generosity and kindness of the Saudi community. Raised in Jeddah, he discovered refuge in the benevolence of his environment, cultivating a deep sense of belonging and security. Nevertheless, as he matured, Hashim confronted the truth that his ambitions for further education would demand venturing beyond Saudi Arabia's confines.

At the age of 18, Hashim made the bold decision to move to Turkey, drawn by its affordability and cultural resonance with other Islamic nations. Despite the allure of new opportunities, the transition was not without its challenges. Accustomed to the familiarity of Saudi Arabia, Hashim grappled with the language barrier and the logistical complexities of navigating a new environment. The once short drives between destinations were replaced by lengthy commutes on public transport, testing Hashim's patience and adaptability.

Upon his arrival in Turkey, Hashim's expectations of university life were colored by Hollywood depictions of mentorship and camaraderie. However, the reality proved to be vastly different. Finding himself devoid of guidance outside the classroom, Hashim took it upon himself to forge connections and establish communities among fellow students. Collaborating with peers from Syria, Jordan, and Palestine, he organized cultural events and excursions, fostering a sense of solidarity and camaraderie amidst the challenges of cultural adaptation.



As Hashim immersed himself in university life, he discovered a passion for e-commerce and digital marketing, inspired by his uncle's catalog from China. Leveraging his expertise in graphic design and video editing, Hashim embarked on a journey of entrepreneurship, launching his first online electronics store in 2020. Through trial and error, he honed his skills as a marketing manager for an e-commerce company, recognizing the transformative potential of digital marketing in empowering small businesses.

Driven by a desire to democratize access to digital marketing expertise, Hashim emerged as a mentor and advocate for aspiring entrepreneurs. Recognizing the importance of soft skills and adaptability in navigating the competitive business landscape, he sought to empower others to realize their entrepreneurial ambitions. Through mentorship programs and community initiatives, Hashim endeavored to create a supportive ecosystem where individuals could thrive and succeed.

Looking towards the future, Hashim envisions establishing an Arabic online academy to provide comprehensive training in e-commerce and digital marketing. Embracing the ethos of lifelong learning, he emphasizes the importance of skill-based education in an increasingly digitized world. With a track record of building successful businesses and uplifting others along the way, Hashim is poised to make a lasting impact on the entrepreneurial landscape, one mentorship at a time.



As Hashim continues to advocate for the integration of AI tools and soft skills development, his journey serves as a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and community in overcoming adversity. From humble beginnings in Saudi Arabia to entrepreneurial success in Turkey, Hashim's story is a testament to the transformative power of pursuing one's passions with unwavering determination and a commitment to uplifting others along the way.



Erasmus Institutional Coordinator
MARIANA ASTEFANOAIÈ

THE IAU EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE



Erasmus+

INCOMING



“I thought Istanbul would be an opportunity to explore a completely different world than the one I know”.

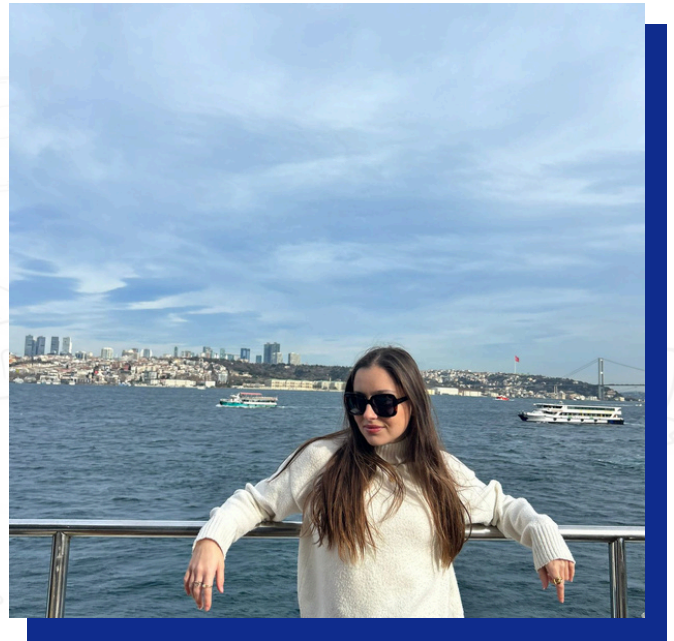
Meet Fatima, a travel enthusiast, coming from the University of Vigo, Spain. Starting her journey with a conflict of opinions already thrust at her, she decided to take the bold step of choosing Türkiye as her Erasmus destination. Although her friends discouraged her from traveling to Türkiye, based on the false narratives seeded in their heads, she rebelled against and came anyways. Holding the belief that things are often more than what might seem from the outside.

Being a travel enthusiast, Fatima has travelled across various countries in Europe and now wanted to try something different. Having heard the stories of her parent’s vacation in Istanbul the previous year sparked in her a desire to explore the city. “I heard about Istanbul from my parents and I wanted to have a similar experience but for a longer stay”.

Upon arriving in Istanbul, Fatima was struck by the bustling streets and the warmth of Turkish hospitality, “the roads are more crowded, the traffic is crazy and the people are super kind, this place is so full of life”. “Everything is so different, so at the beginning I was a little bit lost but now I am getting used to it, I met my friends and I am having new experiences” she shared. Coming from a catholic background she had never seen a mosque, and visiting a mosque for the first time is one of the many experiences she recalled that left her in awe. A catholic girl named Fatima from Spain, this sentence in itself seems rather ironic. Fatima is a well-known Muslim girl’s name so the first thing that everyone tends to ask her upon hearing her name is “WHAT”. “It’s an elephant name in Spain, you will not find many or anyone named Fatima there” she humorously shared.

As a family-oriented person, the story behind her name is an important part of her identity. When Fatima’s mother was pregnant with her, her now grandfather got diagnosed with cancer and her mother went for a pilgrimage to the catholic holy site called Fatima, to offer her unborn child’s name to God in exchange for health. Her grandfather, coincidence or not, did in fact beat cancer.

At IAU, Fatima is studying Business administration, when asked about the difference between the courses offered here and at her home university, she happily expressed her satisfaction, “I am still exploring what I want to pursue but I like numbers and here the courses are more practical when compared to the theoretical stuff I am used to studying back home, since I came here I am starting to like a bit of accountability and numbers part of business, and I am considering getting into marketing”. Although still exploring her options, coming from a family of a business-oriented family background, choosing business subject was but obvious to her.



Fatima is an introverted person so part of the reason behind coming for an Erasmus exchange program was to get out of her comfort zone and socialize. “When I came here, I was alone but with time I found my group of friends and when I go back, I know that I have made friends for my whole life not just for this semester”.

Through this Erasmus exchange program, she met Sofi her now best friend. Sofi is from Mexico and they speak the same language. According to Fatima if Sofi wasn't here, she would've gone back because it's Sofi that brings the fun element into her Erasmus journey. Alongside Sofi she expressed her gratitude towards Yazid, the Erasmus coordinator, “he has been super kind to everyone and he helps us with all our problems, we know he's always there and Sofi and Yaz are the two people I think of when I think when I think of someone here”.

Her first month here was difficult, everything seemed extremely different and the home sickness kept creeping in, but soon she met her people and now she's having the time of her life. In Istanbul Fatima spends her time exploring the city with her friends and in the coming weeks plan on traveling more of Türkiye. “I have made friends from across the globe, coming from different cultures and it has helped me get out of my shell and socialize more, for which I am grateful”

She expressed how desperately she needed this experience and encourages anyone with doubts to take the leap. “If you have an opportunity to go on an Erasmus trip you must do it, even if you are scared about going alone, I think it's a must, Erasmus is an experience I would recommend to everyone”.





OUTGOING

STUDENT FROM ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY



Caner is a 22-year-old student majoring in Translation and Interpreting at Istanbul Aydın University. As a creative person with interests ranging from languages, music composition to history, Caner's decision to participate in the exchange program stemmed from a deep-seated curiosity for the world beyond his familiar surroundings.

When questioned about his choice of course, Caner revealed a desire to channel his creativity into his academic endeavors. Inspired by mentors like Cala and Melike Ahmed, Caner found fulfillment in pursuing a path aligned with his passions, pursuing a career in game localization.

Stepping outside of his comfort zone and embracing new experiences, Caner's journey through the Erasmus exchange program is a learning experience that he holds dear to him. Through the Erasmus exchange program, Caner's travelled to SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland, where he immersed himself in a vibrant international community. Despite initial challenges adjusting to the unfamiliar climate and cultural nuances, Caner found solace in the warmth of friendships forged both old and new. "It looks like such a nice post-soviet country" remains his first impression of the country.

Before heading to Warsaw, Caner was fortunate enough to cross paths with some polish locals at a festival, which turned out to be a lifesaver when he arrived. Upon arrival, Caner's roommate, an Indonesian, surprised him with his kind nature. Caner laughs as he recalls, "Our meeting story is quite fun. When I got there with a friend from the festival, we were trying to figure out how to get a SIM card, and my roommate was just watching. His first words were, 'I can help.'" It was the start of a good friendship.

Academically, Caner found himself immersed in a world of new challenges and opportunities. The courses at SWPS University were remarkably different from what he was accustomed to, encompassing business, management, academic writing, and even British history. Despite the initial adjustments, Caner appreciated the quality of education offered, finding the experience enriching and rewarding. Polish language lessons provided him with a basic understanding of the local tongue, further facilitating his integration into Polish society.

Caner fondly reminisces about his early encounters with small Erasmus programs from high school, stating, “When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to participate in two small Erasmus programs. I visited the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and those experiences inspired me to pursue Erasmus in university as well because it was truly the most memorable time of my life.” This Erasmus journey allowed him to satisfy his curiosity for cultural immersion, exploring diverse countries like Italy, Germany, Sweden, and Norway. He embraced the chance to uncover the rich history and heritage of each place he visited.

One memory that really sticks out for Caner is visiting the cathedral in Milan. He's still in awe of the details he saw there. “It was really impressive,” he says. “And seeing the structures in Rome up close was the best part—just amazing.”



Despite all the fun, there were moments when Caner felt homesick. As a Turkish guy, he missed the hospitality and, of course, the food. “I missed my family, my friends, my food,” he admits. But being away also made him appreciate his roots more. In the end, his Erasmus trip wasn't just about discovering new places—it was about rediscovering where he comes from and where he belongs. This period of introspection served to deepen Caner's appreciation for his roots, reinforcing his sense of belonging to his homeland. In the end, his Erasmus experience not only broadened his horizons but also reaffirmed his connection to Turkey—a reminder that home is not just a place but a feeling of belonging and identity.

Reflecting on his Erasmus journey, Caner emphasized the profound impact it had on his personal growth. From navigating cultural differences to confronting challenges head-on, Caner's experiences abroad instilled resilience and broadened his perspective on life. Fond memories of camaraderie and adventure underscored the transformative nature of his time abroad, reinforcing the importance of cultural immersion and proactive engagement with the local community.

From academic pursuits to cultural adaptation, Caner's experiences abroad have shaped him into a more resilient, compassionate, and worldly individual. As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, Caner carries with him the invaluable lessons and cherished memories of his Erasmus journey.



COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

DS

Daily Sabah Workshop



Law Simulation



TRT World Workshop



Creative Writing Competition



The Dead poets Society
Movie Screening



Pertevniyal MUN

DID YOU KNOW



↓ ROCKY'S STORY ↓



The story behind the statue of ROCKY on our main campus dates back to the university's construction days. ROCKY, the faithful furry companion of IAU, roamed these grounds long before the university took shape. Legend has it that on a chilly, rain-soaked day in 2003, when the campus was being defined, ROCKY stood there seemingly proclaiming "This land is mine!"

With an air of regal authority, he surveyed the construction work, almost as if the land answered to him alone. Like a monarch, he presided over the campus, dedicatedly overseeing every aspect of its growth for the next decade.

As time passed, ROCKY's kingdom expanded with the campus itself. After ROCKY passed away the statue was erected in his memory, serving as both a tribute and a symbol of gratitude towards his loyal service to the intuition.

HOROSCOPES

FACULTY OF LAW

The MUN was crazy fun, wasn't it? You have the stars to thank for steering you toward this enriching experience. As lawyers, you love bickering, relishing every opportunity to sharpen your argumentative skills. So, this month the universe has a new activity prepared just for you, a fresh platform for you to flex your rhetorical muscles. The Law Club at IAU is organizing a TBMM simulation, where young Kerens like you will all argue. Gear up to delve into a world full of parliamentary procedures along with the other young Kerens. Be ready to do some more of that arguing and make sure to take out your frustration in the sessions so your friends can get a much-needed break.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND LITERATURE

As you stay up night after night, your thoughts dancing in your mind, whispering sonnets into your ears take hold of your pen and allow it to dance across the lonely pages of your journals. Allow them their much-craved company by filling page after page with the warmth of your wordvomit, forming prose as smooth as Shakespeare's soliloquies and poetry as enchanting as Wordsworth's verses. Listen not to the stars as if they seek counsel, for their wisdom transcends mortal comprehension. Instead, obey their decree: cast aside doubt and unleash the wings of your creativity.

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

"You are not a doctor", the stars are aware that this phrase causes you much pain and rightfully so. Dentists are underappreciated but do not let that demotivate you. Remember, dentistry is a vital component of the medical field. Without your expertise, many would endure not only the physical discomfort but also the psychological distress of unsightly and unclean teeth. Your role of alleviating pain and restoring smiles is invaluable, even if it sometimes goes unnoticed. Keep shining bright, for your work truly makes a difference in people's lives.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Let the stars swiftly recount an ancient tale of Socrates, the renowned philosopher. A disciple once journeyed to Delphi seeking wisdom from the Oracle, who declared Socrates the wisest of mortals. Intrigued, Socrates set out to understand why. He discovered that while others possessed vast knowledge, they were blinded by their own ignorance. From this, Socrates realized his wisdom lay not in knowledge, but in admitting his ignorance: "I am the wisest because I know that I know nothing." Let this tale remind us that wisdom is found in acknowledging our limits and embracing the pursuit of understanding, not as a destination, but as an eternal journey.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Oh, steady there, one little mistake and it could cost someone their life. Every decision you make carries weight, for in the field of medicine mistakes are too costly, a single misstep could lead you in much distress. Confidence must be your constant companion, guiding your every move with unwavering certainty. Yet, amidst your relentless pursuit of mastery, you must not lose sight of the world beyond the confines of your textbooks. Take ownership of your time, for the nourishment of your soul your social life is as vital as your academic pursuits.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Your inner child is dead. Revive it before it's too late. Working around machines has made you into one of them. Break free from the mechanical routine, breathe in the essence of existence, and allow yourself to feel and express the full spectrum of human emotion. Wake up. Live. Feel. Express. However, amidst the call to embrace life's vibrancy, the stars also bring forth a warning for you. Take heed, something terrible comes your way.

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

It is time that you repaint the boring canvas, your life. Yes, you go out, party and have fun but is that truly what you want to spend your life doing. Is this truly how you wish to spend your days? Can you dare to infuse your existence with meaning and purpose? Consider your aspirations, your dreams, and your deepest desires. What do you wish to achieve? What legacy do you hope to leave behind?

Add some meaning to your life, seize the palette of opportunity and paint your life with purpose. Now is the moment to map your course, to delineate your path with clarity and conviction. Time is a fleeting muse, and every moment squandered is a stroke lost forever.

FACULTY OF PHARMACY

Allow some adventure to fizz into your life. Just like how unexpected reactions lead to new discoveries, in laboratories, embrace the unpredictability of life and let yourself be swept away by the flow of the unknown.

Consider this: much like the delicate balance of compounds in a chemical solution, our social lives are a blend of diverse elements. Each interaction, like the collision of molecules in a reaction vessel, has the potential to spark something remarkable. So, dare to step outside your comfort zone, engage in new experiences, and let the adventure of life unfold before you.

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMIN. SCIENCES

Studying the night before exams is a horrible idea. Procrastination remains your toxic companion, forcing you to leave everything to the eleventh hour. With Midterms approaching, burning the midnight oil before exams might seem like a tempting shortcut, but remember my dear it's a path paved with many regrets. Regain control, resist the allure of immediate gratification that procrastination offers, for it is only leading you to long-term setbacks.

FACULTY OF ARCHITECT. AND DESIGN

Wake up? The pile of cardboard lying in the corner of your room desperately need your attention. So, roll up your sleeves, sharpen your tools, and **GET TO WORK**, make those stupid blocks and finish your project before you miss another important deadline. The coming exam is going to be joke and you need to grind harder. Hold on to the star's words, with determination and creativity as your guide, there's no project too daunting, no challenge too formidable. It's time to build your future, one stupid cardboard block at a time.

FACULTY OF H. SCIENCES

START EATING ACTUAL FOOD.

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION

Step out of the confines of your lecture hall and make some time for laughter, friendship and adventure. Go out, get some fresh air, socialize and have fun for these are the moments that will give you the fuel to endure your medical journey. let adventure fizz into your life, but let empathy be the guiding force that shapes your interactions. In this way, you will not only navigate the complexities of existence with grace and compassion but also find fulfillment in the shared human experience.

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Regardless of the remorse that follows, you find yourself stuck in this cycle of constantly delaying things to the last minute and the consequences are proving to be costly. It's time you get your shit together for real.

ASK ED



Who is Ed?



Ed, short for Editor, is meant to be your go-to Person, Noor.

- Curious about the upcoming campus events? Ask the Ed.
- Need clarity regarding university life? Ask Ed.
- Need advice on your academic journey? Ask Ed.
- Got cheated on? Sher Khan will be your Ed.

Whether it's campus events, academic insights, student life, or any other aspect of your university as well as your personal life, we are here to guide you. We aim to provide you with the information and insights that matter most to you.

Your voices matter to us, and we want to address the topics that pique your interest. So, please do not hesitate to share your queries with us. Not only will we be answering your questions but we will also be featuring them in our upcoming edition, allowing your fellow students to benefit from the knowledge and insights as well.

How to reach Ed?



The Editorial office for T block, -1 floor and there is a box outside the office, labeled 'ASK ED'. You may write your questions down on the paper provided and slip them into the box. You do not have to mention your name in case you're not comfortable with that. You may write a nickname to keep the question anonymous.

You're also welcome to submit your question or reach out to us via email

UNESCO@AYDIN.EDU.TR

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

ED ANSWERS

1 Hey Ed, how can I get featured in the magazine?

Attend university events! Take an initiative! Set an example for others to follow and we promise you won't go unnoticed.

2 Hey Ed, If you could sit down for a meal with any professor on campus, who would it be and what burning question would you ask them?"

Without a doubt, Dr. Salvatore Joseph. I'm a simp for his charm and charisma. I would ask him about his life prior to becoming a professor and all that he does on the side. I feel like he has an action movie kind of backstory.

3 Dear Ed, If you could give one piece of advice to incoming freshmen, what would it be, based on your own experiences

In the first few semesters, I would advise you to prioritize your academics over your social life so that later on you can take advantage of all that IAU has to offer, get involved with clubs and societies and not have to worry about your GPA dropping too allow.

4 Hey Eddy, If you could anonymously confess one scandalous or outrageous secret about campus life, what would it be and why?

Nothing. I would like to keep my job.

5 Yo Ed, share the most unexpected or interesting story of romance or mischief you've witnessed or been a part of on campus.

I once saw Aunty Zubeyda licking Sher Khan behind the bushes. Quite inappropriate if you ask me.

6 Ed, If animals on campus formed a secret society, which one would be the leader and why?

I can't confirm nor deny the existence of such a society; however, without a doubt, it would be the gorgeous cat in the mag.

7 Hey Ed, If you could bury a time capsule on campus for future generations, what would you include and why

This magazine, for sure. And some cat food for Zubeyda.



IAU STAR STUDENT



SEYED SEPEHR MOOSAVI

In a groundbreaking achievement, Seyed Sepehr Moosavi, a student at Istanbul Aydın University, has made history by winning the gold medal at the Canadian Inventors Competition. His innovative project, SM GLOBAL, features a fruit and vegetable drying machine operating with an electromagnetic system.

This remarkable invention can dry 4 tons of fruits daily while preserving their vitamins and freshness for years. Moosavi's success not only highlights his entrepreneurial prowess but also brings pride to our university. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to him and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.



**ISTANBUL AYDIN
UNIVERSITY**

20 *Years*

Acknowledgement

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STARLIGHT

MAGAZINE

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