



Exchange Reports

Koç University Istanbul, Turkey

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Teaching and Learning Environment

- I took 4 courses: International Commercial Arbitration, International Human Rights Law, Roman Law, and Constitutional Law. There are a few courses available in English, but the choices are very limited. Courses were marked on the basis of participation, midterms, finals, and class presentation in some cases. In Roman Law, I just had one final paper. In Constitutional Law, I just had two papers to write at the end of the term. The instructors were helpful. I had a midterm and a final for International Commercial Arbitration and International Human Rights Law. All of them were easy courses requiring minimal work.
- Took 4 courses; Course selection for English courses was not great (only 6-8 English law courses we could have taken); Instructors were great, lecture-based style; Assessments were midterms, in-class exams, and take-home exams.

Quality of Administrative Support for Students

- We were able to find an apartment on our own and had no major issues related to academics or registration, so we did not need any assistance from the administration. Everything seemed to work out fine. Orientation was great as we were able to meet many other exchange students. In general, Turkish people are very helpful.
- Registration was confirmed in June/July of the summer; had to find housing off-campus myself; great academic and general support available.

Campus Facilities

- The university was small so there was only one library and one gym (smaller than Queen's). The facilities were better than adequate. We had access to computers and printers. There was a variety of restaurants and food options on campus. There was 24x7 free transportation available between the dorms and the main campus. The law buildings/classes are at the very end of the campus which means that it is a lot of walking.
- Great school facilities (good library with late hours); law school somewhat removed from downtown area of Istanbul; gym facilities great.

Student Accommodation and Food

- I lived off campus, about 10 mins walk from the dorm. I paid the same amount I would have paid had I lived in a dorm. Most exchange students live in the dorm so it would be ideal to find a place within 10 mins walking from the dorm as it would allow you to interact and build friendships with other exchange students from other countries more easily. Living in the dorm means you would have to share your room with at least one other Turkish student and the bathrooms are communal. You would have to share the shower and the bathroom areas. I ate food in the dorm cafeteria which had different options and was very cheap. But most of the time, I ordered food through an Uber eats Turkish equivalent app called Yemeksepeti. I would highly recommend downloading this app as it expands the number of good food options you can have. There's no delivery charge and food in Turkey is very cheap.
- Found an off-campus home (but was a very difficult process); there are on-campus accommodations available, but you will be sharing a room (which I didn't want to do); Rent was inexpensive compared to Canada; Food was very cheap; great on-campus food and off-campus options; Would recommend living off-campus to avoid sharing a room (same price as dorms).

Travel to Downtown and Environs

- Travelling downtown was a hassle. I would take a cab to the closest subway station and then take the subway down to the downtown. The cab ride would be about 10 mins and the subway ride would be about 25 mins. Getting a subway transit card is very useful and practically a necessity. It can be used on the buses and the subway. I also travelled to many cities within Turkey of which I would recommend Kapadokya, Antalya, Fethiye, Bodrum and Trabzon.
- Traveling downtown was long but convenient (only a bus and subway); Took many trips around Turkey and surrounding countries including Morocco, Bosnia, and Albania; Public transit is very good in Istanbul.

City Life Highlights

- I would recommend getting a sim card from Turkcell. They have good plans and great signal. Phone plans are very cheap in Turkey. Food is also very cheap as well as transportation including taxicab rides. Would highly recommend going to Taksim and Besiktas area for a good time to hang out with friends. I would also recommend Nusr-et in Etiler for the saltbae restaurant as well as Burak Hatay Restaurant close to Etiler. For desserts, Mado and Hafiz Mustafa are great places to go.
- Buy phone SIM when you land at the airport (relatively cheap); rent was \$500 CAD/month; would recommend living downtown but commute to school will be 50 minutes to an hour.

Student Life

- Living close to or in the dorm is a great way to meet other exchange students. There are also events, trips, and parties where you can meet other exchange students. The exchange students are all there to have fun and they will be great company to be with during exchange.
- The exchange office at Koc was very involved, lots of activities including an orientation week to get exchange students to know each other; lots of resources to be connected to the student community

Additional Comments

- Great experience overall