

NEWSLETTER

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ISTANBUL SUMMER ABROAD PROGRAM 2015

Welcome to the Summer Abroad Program in Turkey! This will be the eighth year for this program and it should be an exciting summer. We will have law faculty, business faculty and practicing lawyers from Turkey and the Middle East teaching this summer. I will be the Director of the Program and can be reached at wdball@gmail.com. My bio can be found at <http://law.scu.edu/faculty/profile/ball-w-david.cfm>.

The on-site Turkish Coordinator and contact person is Nilüfer Akpınar of the Koç (pronounced Koçh or “coach”) University. Her email address is NAKPINAR@ku.edu.tr. Her phone number is +90 0549 778 65 82.

As soon as you know your flight arrival time in Istanbul, please let me know by email so that we will know when to expect you at the campus dorm. All rooms are available beginning **Saturday, May 30**. You should plan your arrival accordingly. If you get here before that day, you must find your own housing until May 30. **We will be having orientation and dinner on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. (19:00).**

BOOKS AND MATERIALS:

All material for classes will be provided by the instructors. (Note: I want to get this out today but I might have you all buy Heaven’s Bankers. Still reading it to make sure it’s worth your while, though.)

ARRIVAL AT ISTANBUL AIRPORT:

You need to buy an e-visa before arrival. <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>
You will get a 90-day **tourist visa**. **You should just state tourism as your reason of visit. You do not have the documentation for a student visa as you are not enrolled in a Turkish school but in SCU’s summer program.**

After you have gone through passport control you will collect your baggage and then you can get a taxi to the campus. The taxis are lined up outside the arrivals hall. The taxi costs about 60-70 New Turkish Lira (TL) or about \$30-40 [THIS MIGHT BE OUT OF DATE], to go to the Istinye area of Istanbul. An alternative is to book a car in advance to pick you up. The advantage is certainty as the driver will meet you right outside of Customs and the driver will know where to go. I found that the taxi drivers in Istanbul will know the major tourist locations but

not always the more obscure places. If this option is too expensive, you can also use the shuttle services of Havas (a company providing bus services for Ataturk Airport) to get to Taksim (the transportation hub of all Istanbul) and then take a cab from Taksim to the Istinye campus which should cost about TL 25, but that would only save you about 10TL. A map of the Istinye campus is in the attached .png file. [NOTE: There is a main campus further North—you must specify the Istinye campus. It is next to the Migros supermarket in Istinye, and many drivers will be familiar with the Istinye Migros.]

HOUSING:

We will be at the Istinye campus of Koç for the duration of the program. The classroom is right there also. The Istinye Campus is in an urban setting and is convenient to downtown Istanbul and a five-minute walk to the Bosphorus and local restaurants. Students will have single rooms with private bath at the Istinye campus. Housing is air conditioned. There is free wifi and free laundry (a bonus in the summer)! There is a large grocery store right next to the campus. There are meals served at the dorm but it will be your choice as to eat there or elsewhere near campus. Meals are NOT included in the price of housing. This year, we are not collecting any housing deposits and ask that you simply pay for the housing directly. The daily rate is \$50 for single rooms and \$60 for doubles [Please confirm these prices with Nilufer].

When you have time, you should visit the main campus of Koç University, which is in a more rural setting farther north up the Bosphorus near the town of Sariyer and the Black sea.

The address of the Koç University Istinye Campus is: Çayir Caddesi No. 65, 34460 Istinye-Istanbul, Turkey. Telephone:+90 212 229 87 86 / 1020. Please show this to the taxi driver.

SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER 2015:

The Schedule of classes is attached. Classes are Monday to Friday from 9-1:00 for the first week. For the second and third week, the Monday classes will be in the afternoon from 1-5:00. This is to give you time to get away during the weekend. Please be ON TIME for classes. Since you are living a few steps away from the classroom, there is really no excuse for tardiness.

There will be field trips scheduled in some afternoons, probably once a week. We will visit sites such as a court, a law firm and maybe a business. I will notify you on site.

The evening of Sunday, May 31, there will be an orientation and welcome dinner at 19:00. Our final class is on Wednesday, June 17. There is a final take home exam that is due Wednesday, June 24.

Students who have requested internships must make arrangements for their own housing and travel to the internship locations. Students can earn three units for their internship. One internship credit requires fifty hours of work per credit hour and the internship usually lasts 4 weeks.

LIVING IN ISTANBUL:

Taxis are metered, and generally, drivers appear honest. Some speak English but it may be quite minimal. Writing down where you want to go in Turkish is recommended unless it is a well known attraction. Taxis in Istanbul are plentiful and relatively inexpensive.

Turkish currency is the lira (YTL). As of mid-April 2015, one dollar equaled about 2.59 "New Lira." (Be alert; there are old lira bills still in circulation. If the bill has many zeros it will be the old lira.) Prices are often quoted in both lira (YTL) and the Euro. Some institutions will accept the Euro. **Dollars do not work so do change your money into Lira. Rates are not always uniform so shop around. The ATM is a good solution for some cash for taxis when you first arrive at the airport.**

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Istanbul is a clean, safe city by Western standards. Physicians and health care facilities are on par with those found in Western European cities. Most physicians speak English, and many were trained in the United States or Western Europe.

Generally, the standards of health and hygiene are equal to those found in Western European cities. Of course, travelers are advised to adjust slowly to tap water and use extra caution in the countryside. Bottled water is widely available and recommended.

The population of Turkey is mostly Muslim, but Turkey is a secular constitutional democracy. Secularism has been a key aspect of Turkish society since the founding of the Republic eighty years ago. For years Turkey has been a staunch ally of the United States. Incidents directed against Westerners and non-Muslims are no more likely to happen in Istanbul than in other major cities around the world.

In the tourist areas, you will often get offers to "show you around" or "provide directions". These are mostly owners of shops who hope you will buy from them. They are usually harmless and a polite "No thank you" will usually stop further discussions. In the Grand Bazaar and any other tourist oriented shops, some

bargaining is expected.

Before you travel, please visit your physician for a check up to make sure that you have no underlying health issues. If you do have any medical issues, you must tell us as soon as you learn about them so that we can make sure you are well cared for while you are in Istanbul.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY:

Koç University is a private, secular institution, which provides liberal arts undergraduate degrees as well as graduate and professional programs including an outstanding faculty of law.

As more than half of the law courses at Koç University are taught in English the law faculty and law students are fluent in English. English is widely spoken by the staff. Our onsite coordinator is fluent in English.

For more on Koç University see: www.ku.edu.tr

ISTANBUL:

No site is more significant to the history of Western and Middle Eastern civilization than Istanbul. Its history spans 5,000 years; its civilizations run from ancient Anatolian, through Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, to the modern, secular Turkish Republic. It is the only city on two continents, Europe and Asia, as well as being strategically located on the channel that connects the Black and Mediterranean Seas. It is here that civilizations – east and west, north and south – have met, clashed and left their cultural imprint. Istanbul's palaces, museums, and mosques are legendary. The Hagia Sophia, for example, was commissioned as a Christian cathedral in the 6th Century by the Roman emperor Justinian nearly nine hundred years before the great cathedrals of Western Europe. It was converted into a mosque in the 15th Century, and today is a state museum. The New York Times Travel Section noted that Istanbul was one of world's 10 top "hot" destinations combining culture with vibrant 24-hour nightlife.

WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND CLOTHING:

Summer weather in Istanbul is mild. Because of its location between two seas, the region is constantly cooled by sea breezes. Temperatures in the day typically are in the mid to lower 80s with low humidity (compared to the high 90s in Athens or Rome). Evenings are cool, low 70s, making outdoor dining part of the culture and very pleasant. Summer rain showers are common. This is a link to a popular site.

<http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/WhenToGo/WhatToWear.html>

Most of the time, informal clothing, similar to what one would wear to class in the United States is appropriate. However, visits to legal institutions may require business attire so please bring at least one outfit. Such visits will be announced in advance. Those participating in internships will require business attire. Visits to mosques and some religious sites may require "modest" clothing, meaning that on such visits, students, male and female, should avoid shorts and sleeveless tops. A head covering for women is required at the Blue Mosque which is a functioning mosque and not a museum.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

What'sApp is an app that allows you to send and receive SMS messages from other users of the app, all without incurring charges from your carrier. As long as you have internet, you can text other What'sApp users. You might also consider getting a Google Voice account and forwarding your regular phone to it. What's nice about Google Voice is that your voicemails and texts are available via the internet, so you can listen to and respond to them. Turkcell (and other mobile operators) sell phones in the airport; in the alternative, you might also consider getting an unlocked world band cell phone. Those who are truly adventurous can try jailbreaking an old iPhone. I did this on a pair of 3G iPhones. Neither of them works anymore, but for a while, I was stylin' with a Turkish SIM card.

Getting around

<http://www.buradanoraya.com/istanbul/en/index.htm>

The buses that stop at Istinye Merkez (the stop outside the Migros)

are:

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LANGUAGE

If you're interested in learning Turkish (or anything else, which is why I'm including even the Turkish speakers on this list), check out memrise.com. I'm using "Hacking Turkish" to learn some basic phrases, and combining it with grammar lessons here: <http://www.turkishlanguage.co.uk/index.htm>.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday, 1 June 2015 First day of class. *Introduction to Business Organizations* (KU Faculty Prof. Jacques Couvas)

Tuesday, 2 June 2015 *Introduction to Business Organizations Part II* (Prof. Jacques Couvas)

Wednesday, 3 June 2015 *Islamic Banking* (Prof. David Ball)

Thursday, 4 June 2015 *Islamic Banking Part II* (Prof. David Ball)

Friday, 5 June 2015 *Introduction to Turkish Civil Law* (KU Faculty Prof. Yiğit Sayın)

Monday, 8 June 2015 *International Project Finance Structures* (KU Faculty Profs. Turgut Cankorel & Chadbourne Parke)

Tuesday, 9 June 2015 *Law of Contracts and Foreign Investment in Turkey* (KU Faculty Prof. Zeynep Derya Tarman)

Wednesday, 10 June 2015 *Legal Aspects of Cross-Border M&A's and JV's in Turkey* (KU Faculty Profs. Yalın Akmenek–White & Case, Eren Kurşun & Gökhan Enkur)

Thursday, 11 June 2015 *Turkish Economic Overview* (KU Faculty Prof. Kamil Yilmaz)

Friday, 12 June 2015 *Foreign Investment Opportunities and Challenges in Kuwait* (ASAR Legal–David Walker)

Monday, 15 June 2015 *Introduction to Turkish Public Law* (KU Faculty Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder)

Tuesday, 16 June 2015 *Islamic Banking* (Prof. David Ball)

Wednesday, 17 June 2015 *Islamic Banking Part II* (Prof. David Ball)

Wednesday, 24 June 2015 *Final Take-home Exam Due*