



INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION



Turkey: New Trends, New Opportunities, Greater Diversity, and Cooperation

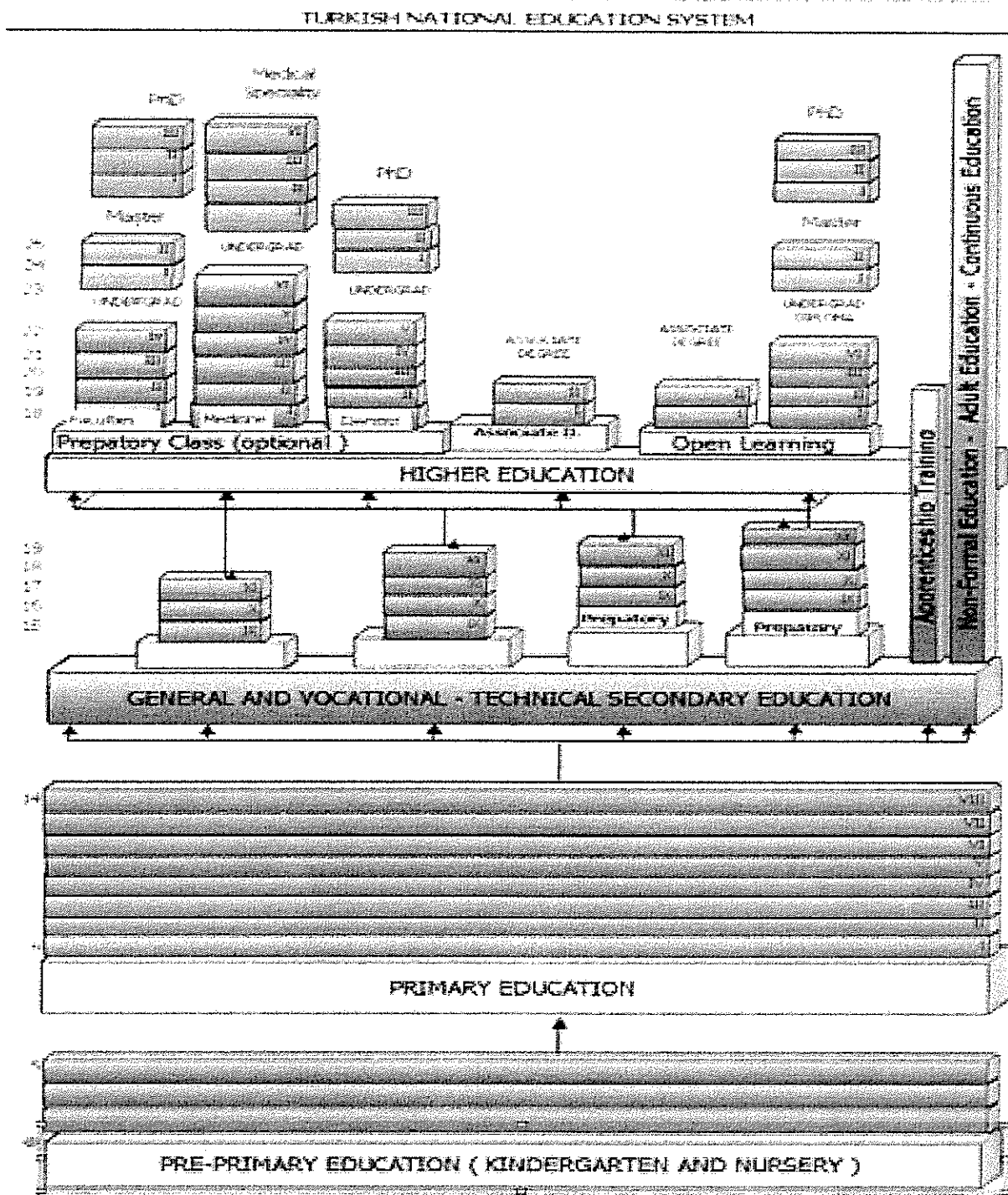
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New Trends, New Opportunities

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Overview of Turkish Education System



What is New at the Secondary Education Level?

- Ministry of Education (MEB - www.meb.gov.tr)
- High Schools
 - Private high schools: *Kolej* (College), some offers International Baccalaureate
 - Public HS
 - "Regular" Public HS
 - Super HS
 - Anatolian HS
 - Vocational HS (both public and private)
 - Science High School (both public and private)
- High School Length
 - 4 years (some +1 yr English prep)

Secondary Education Volume

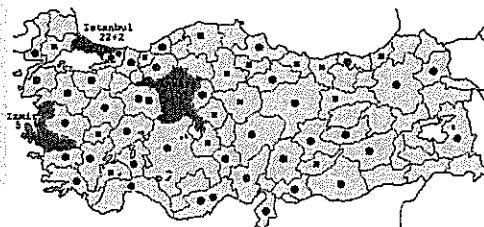
- Overall population - 75 million
- 1.64 million June 2008 (1.77 million in 2007)
 - As of 2005 HS education is 4 yrs, fewer graduates this year
- 346,924 students scored the minimum to enter a 4 year university and 207,328 were placed in 2007 and approx. 85,000 were placed in two year programs
 - Additionally, higher vocational school entrants
 - "Open University" – mostly distance learning (35 programs)

Secondary Education Curriculum

- Four main concentrations
 - Turkish – Math
 - Math - Sciences
 - Turkish - Social Studies
 - Language, usually English
- Curriculum
 - University entrance exam drives curriculum
 - Test and memorization oriented education
 - Less focus on English proficiency
 - Lack of critical writing proficiency
 - Curriculum to be reformed by MEB

Universities in Turkey

- Higher Education Council (www.yok.gov.tr)
- 15 new universities recently established, more coming!
- 96 (68 State + 28 Private Universities/foundation universities)
- The majority of universities are in the 3 major cities



Some Facts about Turkish Higher Education

- 4 year bachelor's degree
- Private vs Public
 - Costs--\$1,000 vs. \$20,000 or more
- Double major possible in many universities
- Exchange programs available
- Professional degrees (*Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Architecture*) – start day 1 of bachelor's program
- Open University – earn degree, credit or simultaneously work on 2nd degree

Turkish Student Mobility

- 30,000 Turkish students studying abroad
- Top Destinations- Germany, US, France, Austria, UK
- Why Europe and not US?
 - Closer
 - Easier & quicker admission – no GRE, GMAT
 - Less costly
 - Financial aid opportunities: Jean Monnet, Chevening
 - 1 year Master's degrees

New Trends: Turkish Student (Im)Mobility

- Foundation universities grant scholarships to the best and the brightest
- Improved quality of academic programs in Turkish universities
- Institutional partnerships: dual diploma (SUNY Program) exchanges
 - 9 Turkish Universities/9 SUNY campuses
 - Started with 350 students in 2003 – 4 universities
 - 1500 students currently enrolled – 9 universities in 4 cities
 - Graduates as of June '08: 261
- EU exchange programs (Erasmus) – since 2004 - 8,468 students participated (Germany, Netherlands, France, Poland, Italy, Belgium are the top destinations)
- Bologna Process – standardization, diploma supplements

New Opportunities

- EU opportunities
- New programs (PhD, CC, OG, etc.)
- Increased funding for Fulbright Programs
 - send nearly 70 graduate students per year
- US Embassy-funded programs such as Student Leadership Program (6 week summer program)
- Dual degree programs
- More money available to more students
- Work and Travel is very popular

Fulbright - PhD now funded for 2 yrs.

Helps to know who they are and where they come from

- IIE collects and publishes student mobility data annually in *Open Doors*, with support from the U.S. Department of State
 - 58 years of trend data on international students and scholars on U.S. campuses
 - 20 years of data on U.S. students abroad
- New data is available
www.opendoors.iienetwork.org



Full Scholarships Available

- Ministry of National Education (MEB)
- Turkish Education Foundation (TEV)
- TUBITAK
- TUBA
- Young Academic Training Program for Newly Established Universities (ÖYP)
- Private Scholarships
- Turkish Government institutions-staff
- FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

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Turkish Students in the US 2006-07

- Turkey is 8th leading place of origin
 - 11,622 Turkish students studying in U.S
- Academic level
 - Undergraduate 28.7%
 - Graduate 57.2%
 - Other 7.8%
 - Optional Practical Training 6.2%

Taken from *Open Doors 2007*

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DIVERSITY

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Greater Diversity

"More money, more diversity"

We want to access more of these students as the Fulbright Commission and as EducationUSA advisers in Turkey

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Diversity

- Students from provincial regions
- Students with modest family means and background
 - lower middle class families
 - children from "blue collar" families
- Limited opportunities to improve English skills
- Less exposure to foreign environments but with potential and motivation to pursue study abroad

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What Do We Mean By Diversity?

- Diversity is hard to define in Turkey, a country where ethnic and religious differences are difficult to evaluate.
- In Turkey "diverse" students are:
 - Those from outside the three major cities: Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir
 - Those from underprivileged areas
 - especially from the eastern and southern areas of Turkey

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How Do We Reach *Diverse Populations*?

- Special trips to schools in provincial areas
 - give presentations on higher education in the US, Fulbright Programs, other funding opportunities
 - distribute handouts in Turkish-our web site is in Turkish www.fulbright.org.tr
- Send department chairs and deans scholarship announcements offered to students in their fields
- Ask department chairs to nominate promising students
- Enlist the help of Fulbright alumni

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Reaching *Diverse Populations*

- Through media
 - newspaper advertisement / publicity
 - TV and radio interviews, presentations and information programs
 - articles in educational magazines
 - inserting links to university web and other web sites
 - poster blitz to universities and individual departments
- Inviting media to outreach events

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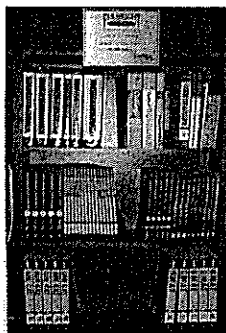
Reaching *Diverse Populations*

- Cooperating with *American Corners*
- Established *Satellite EducationUSA Centers*
- Introduction of Fulbright Programs during ambassadorial and U.S. Embassy staff visits to various cities
- English Teaching Assistants and English Language Fellows at provincial universities to improve the quality of English teaching

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Reaching *Diverse Populations:*

- *Fulbright Corners:*
10 universities



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Reaching *Diverse Populations*

- Revised Fulbright application requirements
 - no standard test score requirements prior to applying
 - 3.00 minimum GPA instead of 3.20
- Turkish Ministry of Education (MEB) (1,000 graduate scholarships/yr)
- *Word of mouth*

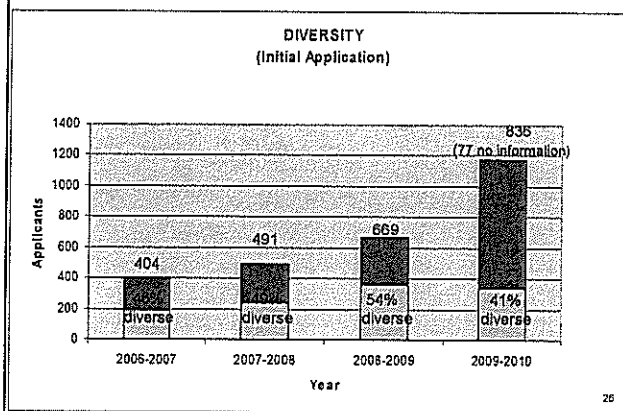
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Reaching *Diverse Populations:* *The US Dept. of State: Opportunity Grants*

- Students of potential but modest means
- All academic levels
- Started December 2007
- OG Countries: Belarus, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, and Venezuela
- Funding can be used for one/some/all of these:
 - * Test prep classes
 - * Visa fees
 - * Test fees
 - * Travel to the US
 - * Application fees
 - * Settling in allowance
 - * Postage expenses
 - * Tuition supplements.

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OUTCOME



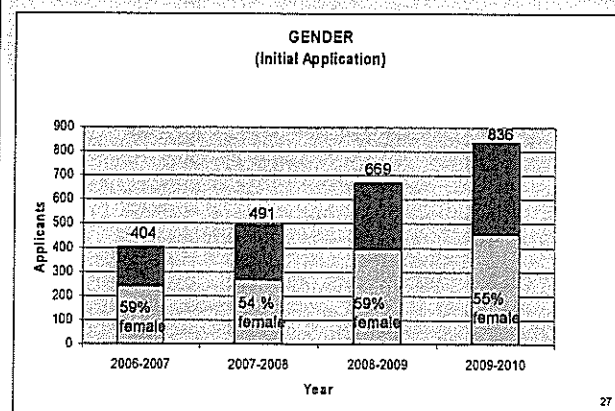
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Opportunity Grants Stats

- \$40,000 committed within 2 months
- 32 students selected
- Average funding: \$1,300 per student
- 60% placed in desired programs
- Minimum \$10,000 financial aid from schools
- **NEW!!** \$300,000 has been committed by USG to Turkey for students arriving 2008 and 2009

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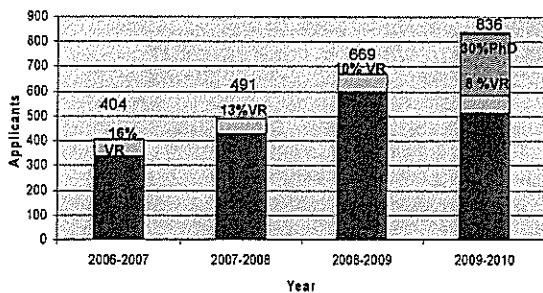
OUTCOME



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OUTCOME

DEGREE OBJECTIVE
(Initial Application)



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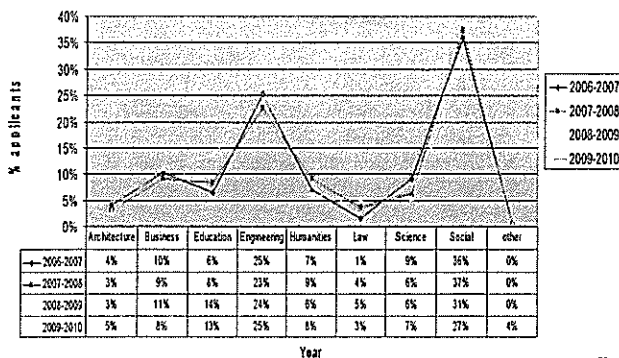
Diversity

- Turkey: for us diversity means economic and geographic variety
- Diversity efforts resulted in an increase from 25 Fulbright applications in 2005 to 836 in 2008
- We traveled to 80+ universities
- Used media and academic contacts
- Published Turkish materials

NOW WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION!

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FIELD
(Initial Application)



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FULBRIGHT

education
USA
INDEPENDENT PROMOTER

Cooperation

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Cooperation

- How can we work together
 - to help students find the best fit,
 - to help US universities attract more students, and
 - to help us all in our daily efforts?

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Challenges US Colleagues Face Dealing with International Students? (Turkish)

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| –Recruiting | –Bureaucratic |
| –Evaluating | –Financial |
| –Legal | –Health related |
| –Cultural | –Academic |
| ■ Adaptation | ■ Low English level |

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Cooperation

- Recruiters
- Admissions
- Study Abroad
- International Student Office
- Advising Centers
- Others

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Time to Cooperate!

- How can you help EducationUSA advisers?
 - participating in events
 - keeping in close contact with us
 - Information
 - Financial aid
 - How can EducationUSA advisers help you?
- Tips and collaboration ideas coming up!

EducationUSA

- Work under the US State Department - ECA
- Network of nearly 500 advising centers around the world
- Promote educational opportunities in the US
- Provide **complete, objective, unbiased** information
- Work with local students, local institutions, US universities and their representatives, associations
- Can be located in Fulbright Commissions, Bi-national Centers, universities, libraries, NGOs..

Recruiting & Admissions: Tips On How We Can Help You

Help promote the US and your school

- Display promotional materials in centers
- Let us know what's new!
 - New programs
 - Financial aid opportunities
- We can help your students locate funds
- Internet usage very widespread!
- Ask us about popular websites:
 - E.g. www.mezun.com

Recruiting & Admissions: Tips On How We Can Help You

- Find out if your school is accredited by Turkish Higher Education Council
 - USCS-Commercial Service- "Gold Key"
- Have sessions at our advising centers
 - Talk to **interested** students
 - Can't come? Let's have DVCs and webinars!
- Ask for our help in verifying student information, transcripts, credentials, etc.
- Get to know Turkish schools -We can help!
- Make use of our local contacts
- Learn about the local culture

Recruiting & Admissions: Tips On How You Can Help Students

- Give as much info as possible to college publications like the Collegeboard, Petersons...
- Use local alumni to help you with outreach
- Answer queries with personalized replies and promptness
- Issue I-20s quickly and ask preferred mode of delivery
- Assign (Turkish) students to (Turkish) applicants as mentors

Recruiting & Admissions: Tips On How You Can Help Students

- Put the EducationUSA link on your website
- Put triggers in your registration form:
 - Select Country—Turkey—advising center info
- Make applying easy, e.g. commonapp.org
- Ask for feedback on how user friendly your website is
- Put an **expenses calculator** on your website

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International Student Office

- Tell your admitted students about PDO (Pre-departure Orientation)
- We help students with visa application
- We can continue to support registered students from Turkey
- We can help with parent concerns ☺

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Study Abroad

- We can help you find partners
 - Turkish universities do not only comprise archeology and history departments
- Erasmus/Comenius programs very popular in almost all 90 universities
- Get help from your alumni
- USCS-Commercial Service can help you
- We can give your students an orientation in Turkey

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Meeting Needs of Diversity Students

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Student Challenges

- English proficiency to succeed in coursework
- Understanding of and adapting to academic expectations
- Understanding of and adapting to social and cultural norms and expectations
- Learning how to maneuver the system

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Special Academic Support

- Intensive English study in summer prior to enrollment
 - English language
 - Computer literacy
 - Research skills
 - Test preparation courses
- Targeted orientations
 - Coping skills
 - Managing money; managing home expectations
 - Classroom expectations
 - Social and cultural expectations

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Special Admissions Consideration

- Provisional or Conditional Admission
 - Acceptable standardized test score(s) needed by time of enrollment or by the end of the first term (*rather than at point of admission*)
 - Waive testing if minimum GPA is maintained in first term or year
 - Assign prerequisite course work
 - Provide bridge courses

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Cultural Considerations

- Ongoing mentoring support
 - Students and faculty
 - Tutoring and support centers
- Establish student groups specifically geared to diverse student populations
 - Culturally diverse living settings
- Varied range of opportunities and interventions

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Discussion

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Online Resources

- **Education in the U.S.**
www.educationusa.state.gov-- Links to 450 advising offices and wealth of information for prospective international students
- **Funding**
www.FundingUSStudy.org--Funding for U.S. Study: A guide for international students
- **Intensive English Programs**
www.IntensiveEnglishUSA.org--IIE's directory of intensive English Language Programs
- **Study Abroad**
www.iiepassport.org--IIE's directory of over 7,000 programs--both short and long-term
<http://studentsabroad.state.gov>- U.S. Department of State information for U.S. students planning to study abroad.
- **Mobility**
www.opendoors.iienetwork.org--Academic Mobility Data to and from the U.S.
www.atlas.iienetwork.org--Project Atlas: Global Student Mobility

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