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

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# **New Trends, New Opportunities**

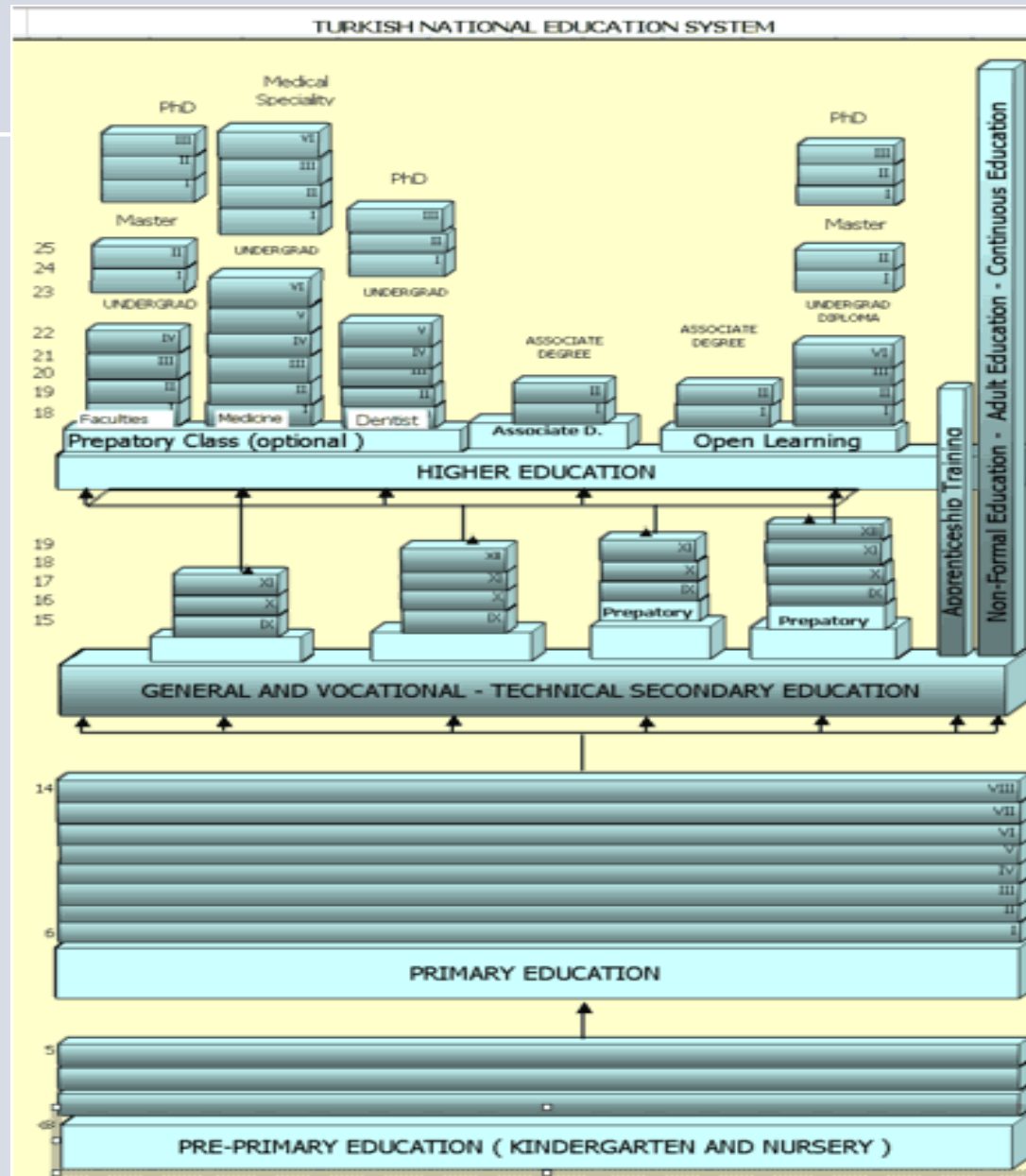
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# Overview of Turkish Education System



# What is New at the Secondary Education Level?

- Ministry of Education (MEB - [www.meb.gov.tr](http://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 Curriculum

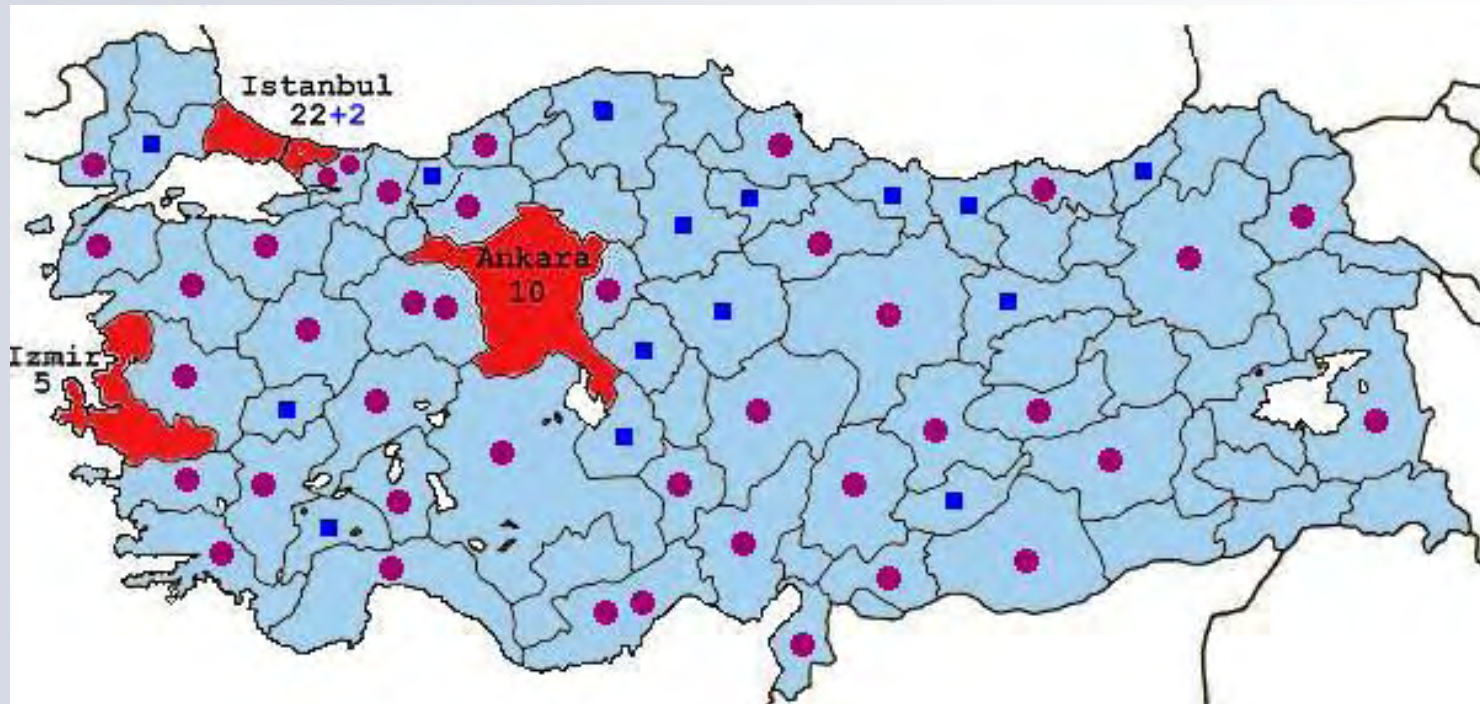
- Four main concentrations
  - Turkish – Math
  - Math - Sciences
  - Turkish - Social Studies
  - Language, usually English
- Curriculum
  - University entrance exam drives curriculum
    - Test and memorization oriented education
    - Less focus on English proficiency
    - Lack of critical writing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

# 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)

# Universities in Turkey

- Higher Education Council ([www.yok.gov.tr](http://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



# **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
    - 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

# Turkish Student Mobility

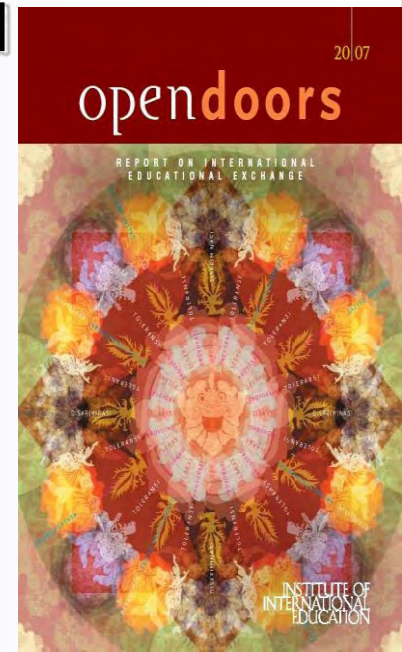
- 30,000 Turkish students studying abroad
- Top Destinations- Germany, US, France, Austria, UK
- Why Europe and not US?
  - Closer
  - Easier & quicker admission – no GRE, GMAT
  - Less costly
  - Financial aid opportunities: Jean Monnet, Chevening
  - 1 year Master's degrees

# New 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)
- Work and Travel is very popular

# 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](http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org)





# Turkish Students in the US 2006-07

- Turkey is 8<sup>th</sup> 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   6.2%  
  Training

**Taken from *Open Doors 2007***

# **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

# **DIVERSITY**

**Mevlude Bakir**

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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

# 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

# Diversity

- 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

# 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](http://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



# 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



■ *Fulbright Corners:*  
10 universities



# 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

# 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*



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

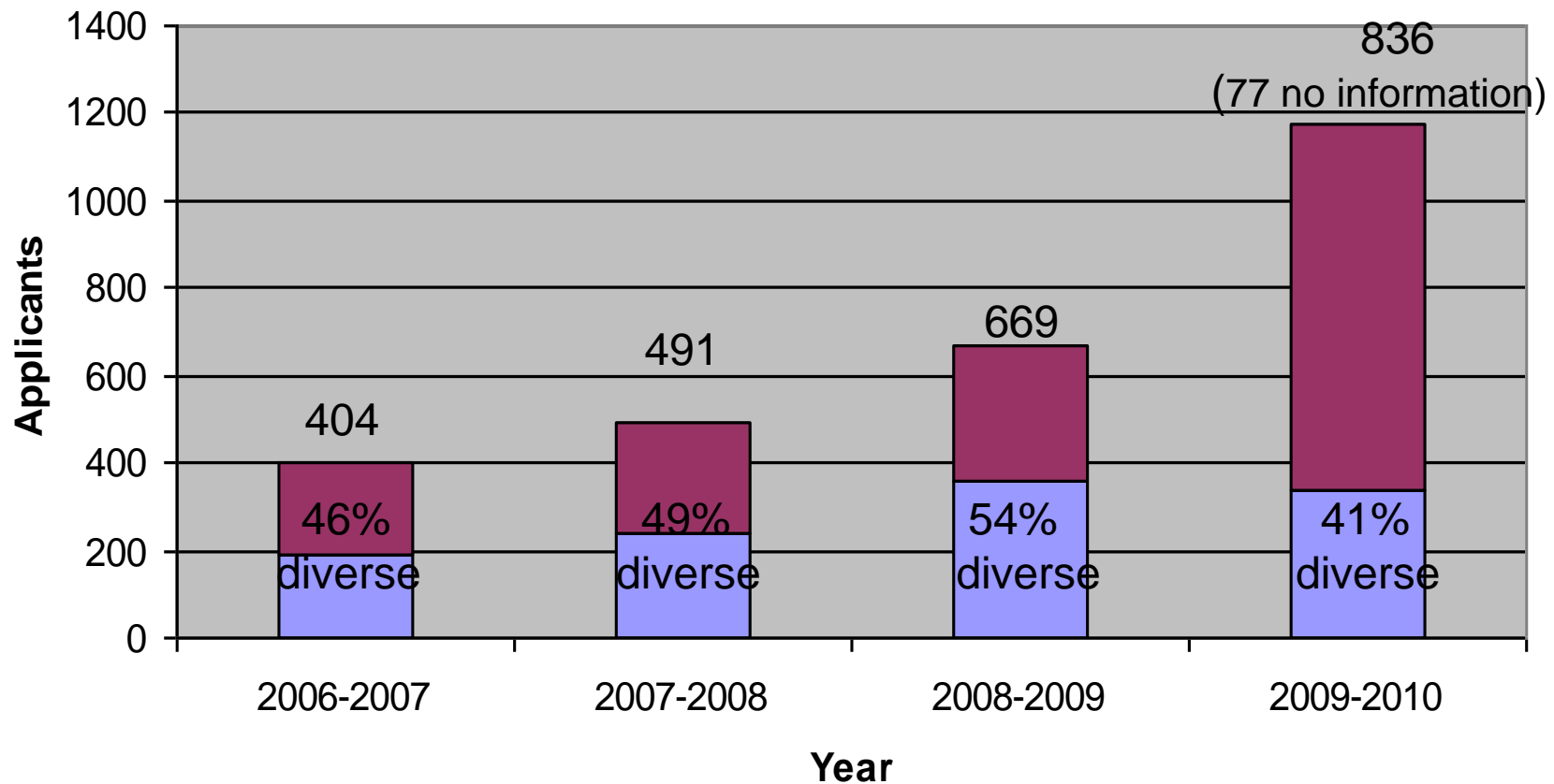
- Students of potential but modest means
- All academic levels
- Started December 2007
- OG Countries: Belarus, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, and Venezuela.
- Funding can be used for one/some/all of these:
  - \* Test prep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

# 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

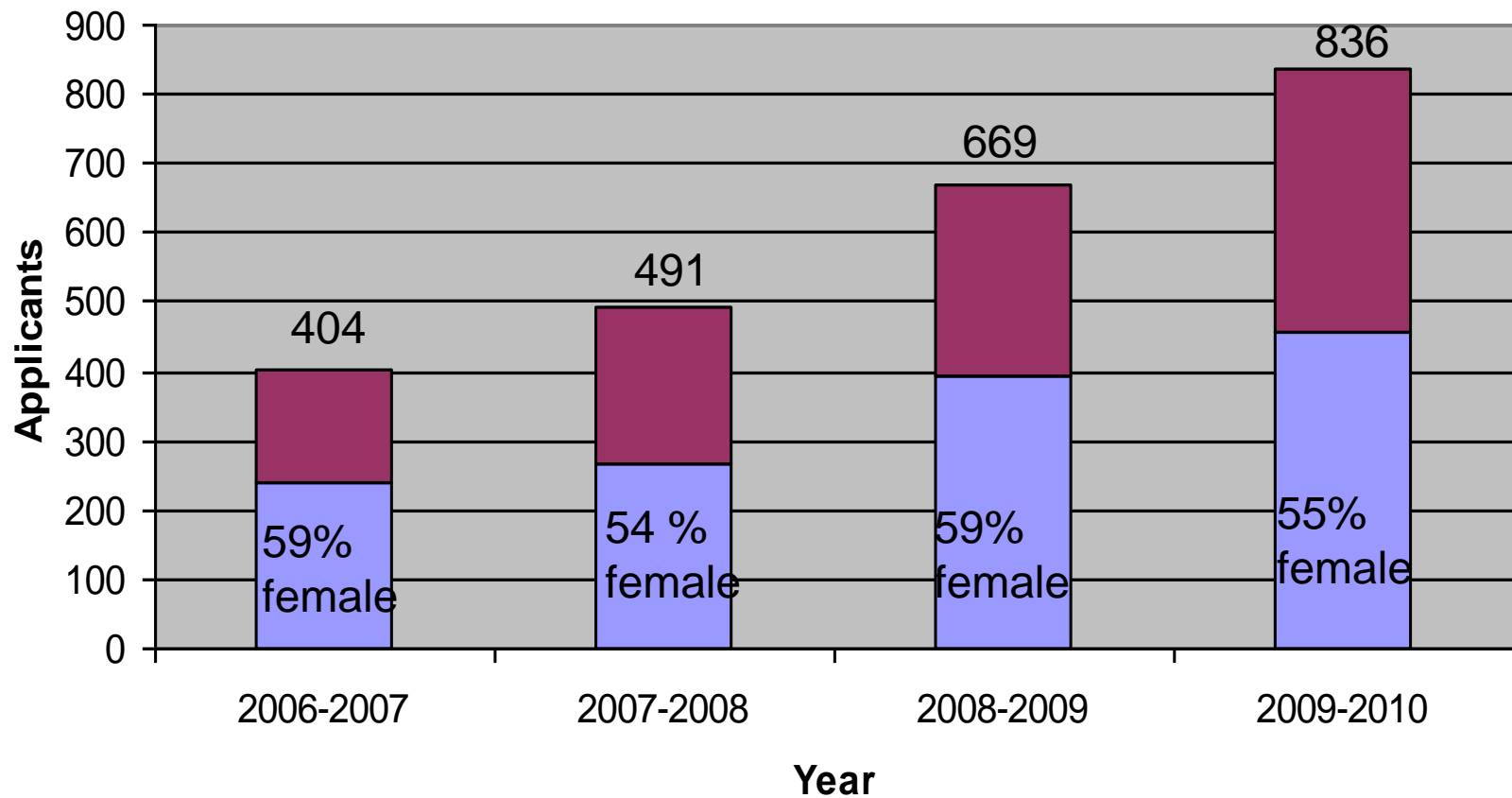
# OUTCOME

## DIVERSITY (Initial Application)



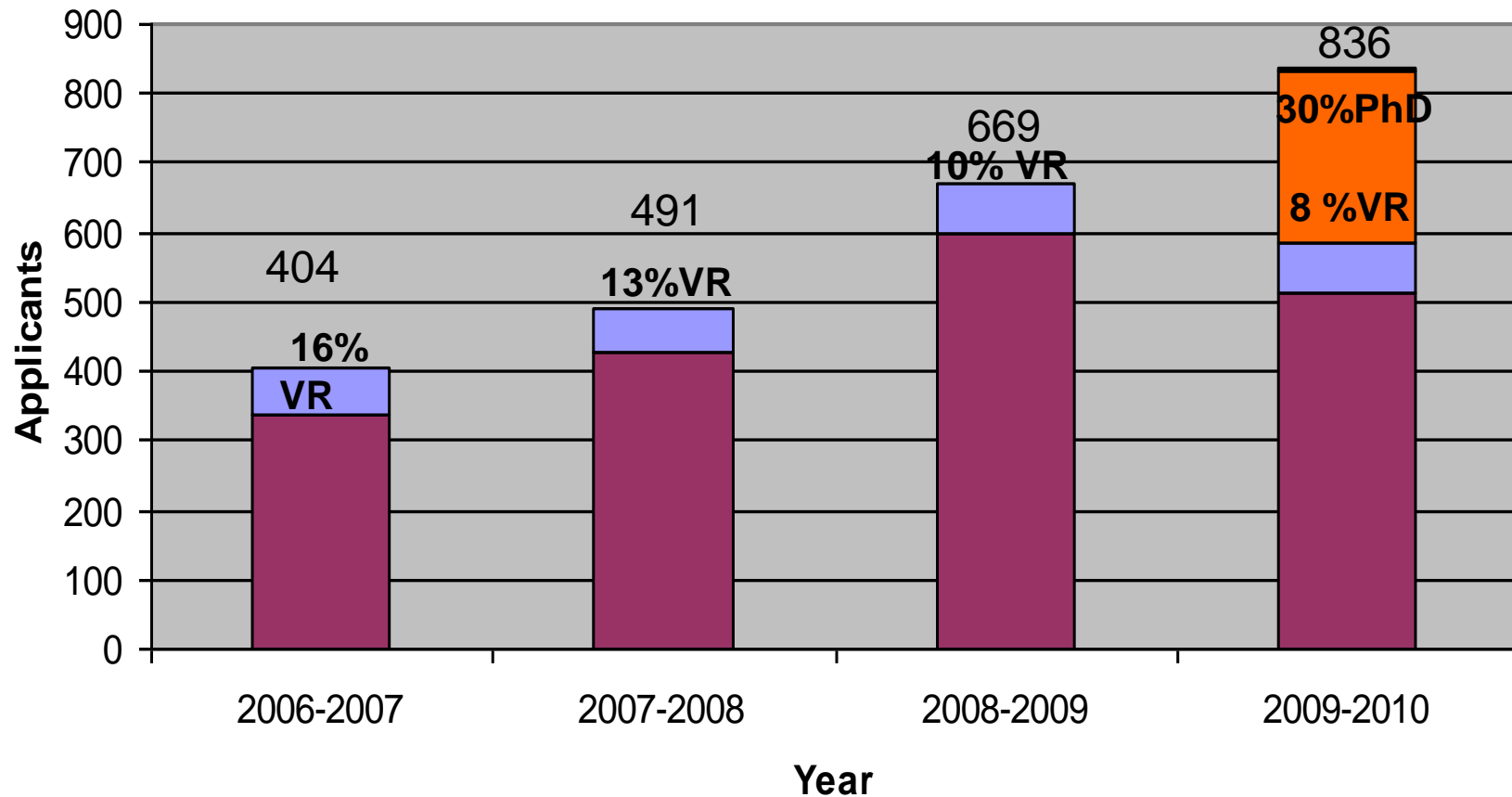
# OUTCOME

## GENDER (Initial Application)



# OUTCOME

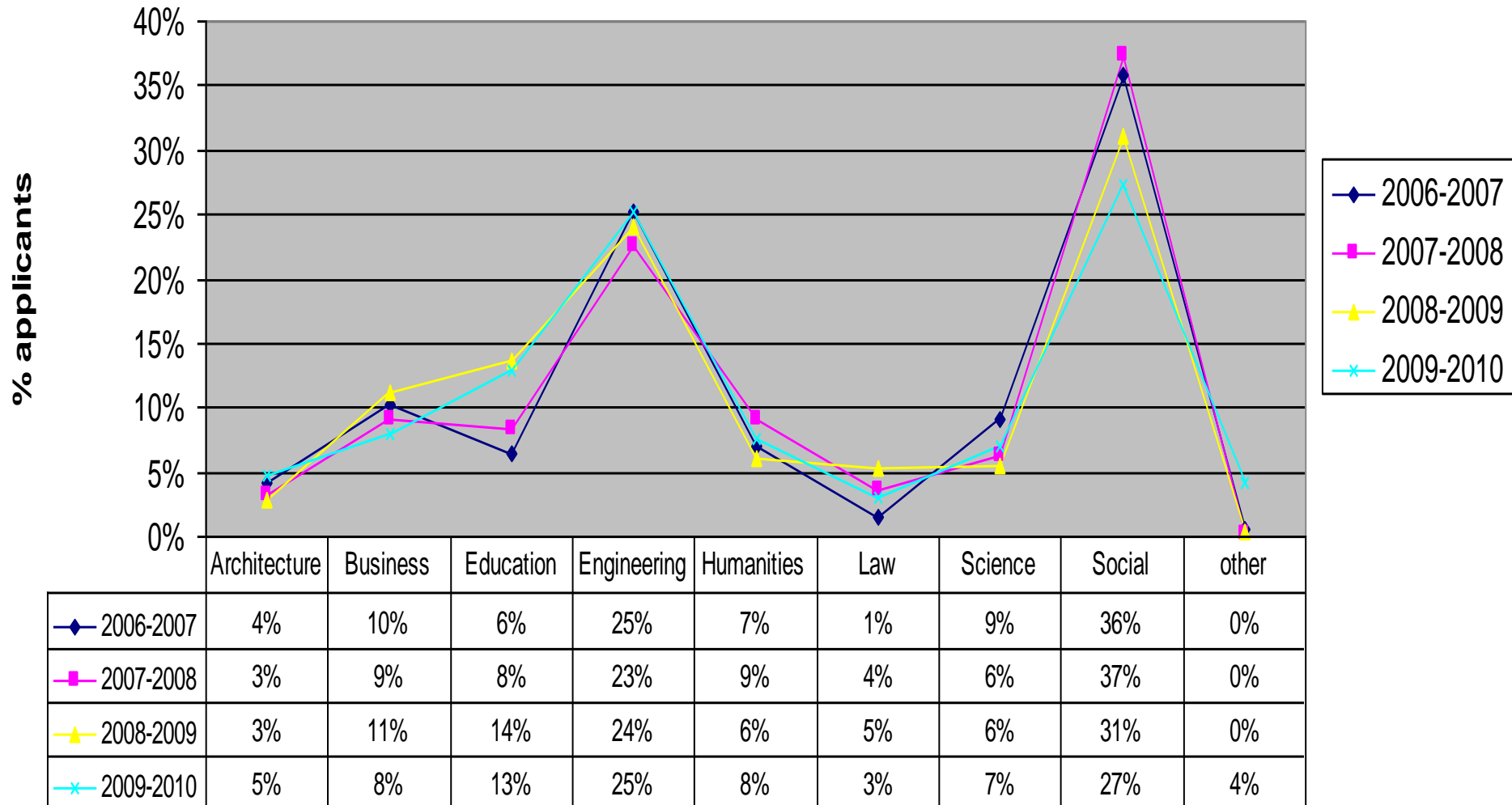
## DEGREE OBJECTIVE (Initial Application)



VR = Visiting Researcher



# FIELD (Initial Application)



Year

# 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!**

# **Cooperation**

**Lara Meltem Bilikmen**

**Educational Adviser  
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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?

# Cooperation

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

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

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

# 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.state.gov

- 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

- Find out if your school is approved 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 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](http://www.mezun.com)

# **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 application form:
  - Select Country—Turkey—advising center info
- Make applying easy, e.g. [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org)
- Ask for feedback on how user friendly your website is
- Put an ***expenses calculator*** on your website

# 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



# **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 😊

INSTITUTE OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION

# **Meeting Needs of Diversity Students**

**Linda Tobash**

**Director, University Placement  
Services**

**Institute of International  
Education, New York**



# 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

# 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

# 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

# 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

# Discussion

# **Presenter Information**

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# Online Resources

- **Education in the U.S.**

[www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)-- Links to 450 advising offices and wealth of information for prospective international students

- **Funding**

[www.FundingUSStudy.org](http://www.FundingUSStudy.org)--Funding for U.S. Study: A guide for international students

- **Intensive English Programs**

[www.IntensiveEnglishUSA.org](http://www.IntensiveEnglishUSA.org)--IIE's directory of intensive English Language Programs

- **Study Abroad**

[www.iiepassport.org](http://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](http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org)--Academic Mobility Data to and from the U.S.

[www.atlas.iienetwork.org](http://www.atlas.iienetwork.org)--Project Atlas: Global Student Mobility