

Personal Report

Istanbul Bilgi University, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB3 – International Business Administration- Bachelor

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

englisch, türkisch

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

The courses were held in English. However, many of the professors have a tendency to switch back to Turkish to explain things again for the local students. There were only few international students in the courses I chose. Almost all students were Turkish therefore I have improved my Turkish skills further.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

No

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

400€

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

It took me 15 minutes by bus if there was no traffic to reach my university which is very good. However, reaching one of the centers of Istanbul, Besiktas, took about 90 minutes and going to the Anatolian side never took less than 2 hours. Istanbul is a busy metropolis with one of the most famous traffic situations so it was predictable and it was durable for 5 months. However, I would not go back to my accommodation because it takes too long to go to most places.

Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

[Sahibinden.com](https://www.sahibinden.com)

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

My accommodation was on the European side of Istanbul, in Eyüpsultan. It is a rather small town with mostly families with children and older people. There is a famous and big mall there called ISFANBUL which is very close (8 minutes walk) where you can do most things like grocery shopping, shopping, gym, bowling etc.). It is about 11km away from besiktas and beyoglu where most the night life takes place which may not seem like a lot, but in Istanbul, 11km will take you about an hour if not more because of traffic.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

Personally I think the best arrival time depends on whether you already have an accommodation or not. If you do, then a couple days before the introduction week is fine. If not, then at least a week before the introduction week is necessary to find an accommodation and get used to the city and your accommodation a little bit.

How did you organize your arrival? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students?

When I arrived, I stayed with my aunt because she lives close and my accommodation was not ready for me to move in yet. My university unfortunately did not make getting used to the city or the university easy as they did not offer any sort of campus tour or anything. I had to find out most things on my own by trying and failing and trying again. Getting in touch with the domestic students was not easy because of online classes, but once you got in touch with them for a group project, it was a pleasant experience because Turkish students are very social and talkative. They were ready to help when you had questions. You could not count on the university to help you.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

If you want to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, I STRONGLY recommend buying them at the „pazar“ which happens once a week and consists of many stands along a street. There, people sell fruits and vegetables that come directly from farmers and they are way cheaper and so much fresher. Even though it may seem intimidating because they are yelling to attract costumers, it is a great place to do grocery shopping and an unforgettable Turkish experience. To go shopping, I would not recommend stores like ZARA and H&M because the prices are the exact same as in Europe. I would recommend visiting smaller boutiques like CORAL which you can find everywhere (its like Bershka) and ASKI which is in Nisantasi and sells amazing trendy clothes for women for very little money.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

With the semester ticket i could travel in all of Istanbul. My student life off-campus was good because there was lots of activities to do. The Mensa sold manly dishes with meat in them which was bad for a vegetarian like me, but the prices were okay. The coffee shops on campus were very expensive. The libraries were big and contained everything you needed. Their use was free. The university provided workplaces and computers and wifi. Study rooms were available. As far as I know, you could not ret rooms to study and also i could not find out about any university sports programs.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

Same as in Frankfurt.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

Nothing unexpected happened during the courses. What is different is that you have midterm and final exams and not just final exams. Also group projects and homeworks and assignments are common.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

You will probably change a lot as a person. But in a good way. This stay abroad will help you mature while also giving you the opportunity to have fun. You will be able to talk better, language-wise but also talking to strangers etc. You will get more confident and you will make unforgettable experiences. I got to spend 5 months in one of the worlds biggest metropolis and had the opportunity to study in English at a foreign university while meeting new people and going on adventures and developing into the person I am meant to be.