

International Relations Office 2024-2025

- Partnerships and Mobility
- Internships
- Admissions



International Collaboration and Partnerships

Expanding Global Network

302 active global exchange partnerships from **53** countries

Collaboration with **49** universities ranked in the world's **top *200**

22 agreements initiated in 2025

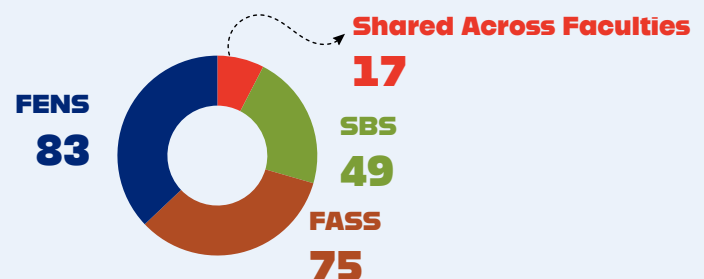
FENS: 8
FASS: 5
University-wide: 9

* Times Higher Education (THE) Data:
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings>



Total Active Agreements (**302**)

Distribution of Faculty-based Agreements (**224**)



Some of the newly established exchange agreements:

- Universita Roma Tre
- University of Oslo
- Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- Università degli Studi dell'Aquila
- TU Sofia
- University of Western Macedonia
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
- Leipzig University
- EDC Paris Business School
- Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg
- Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS
- Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST)
- Universidad ICESI
- University Stuttgart
- Saarland University
- Audencia Business School

Some of the high level contacts established in recent years:

- Imperial College London
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- EPFL (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne)
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- Northwestern University
- The University of Edinburgh
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
- City University of Hong Kong
- Durham University
- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
- Xi'an Jiaotong University
- Dalhousie University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
- Baku Higher Oil School

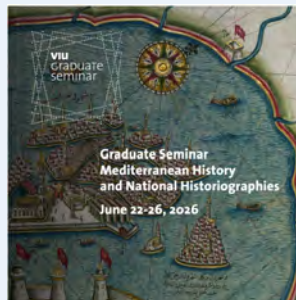
International Collaboration and Partnerships

New Initiatives



As part of the **Core-Curriculum Excellence Program**, **6 students** who demonstrate outstanding academic performance will be granted the opportunity to participate in the **Venice International University (VIU) Summer Sessions**

- **5 participants** (PhD students and postdoctoral researchers) joined VIU Graduate Activities.
- **9 students** attended the VIU Globalization Summer Session.
- **1 student** completed a semester at VIU within the Globalization Program.
- Prof. Kemal Kılıç delivered the course “Surviving and Thriving in the Transforming World: The Digital Mindset & Skillset” at VIU in August 2025, highlighting our university's academic leadership in an international setting.
- **3 grad activities** accepted



Mobility



The leading foundation university with the highest Erasmus+ grant budget per student



The highest budget among foundation universities in Erasmus+ KA171 non-European mobility projects.

37.6% of our students have international education or internship experience abroad before graduation

896 applications
mobility of **489**
Individuals*

*Including Incoming and Outgoing Students and Staff

€1,296,718
Erasmus+ Mobility
Total Budget

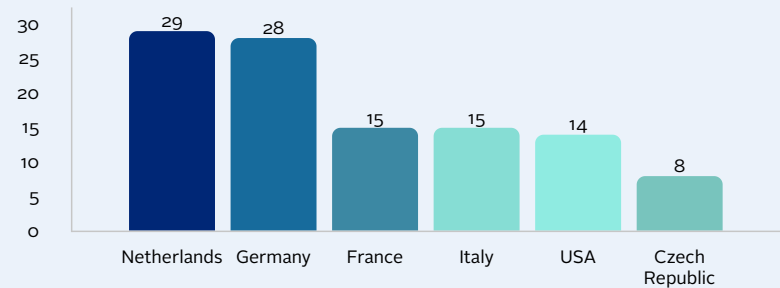
\$50,000 financial aid
provided to

20 students for global
exchange programs

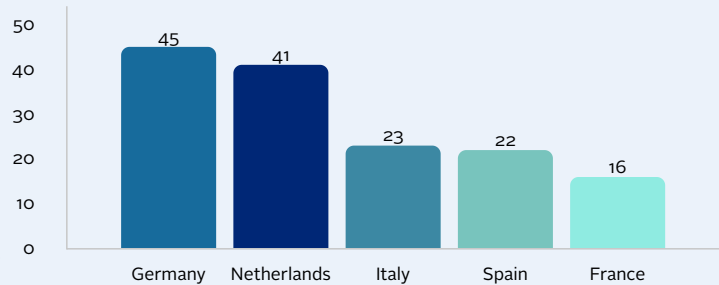
International Collaboration and Partnerships

Top Exchange Countries

Incoming Students:



Outgoing Students:



Incoming Staff:

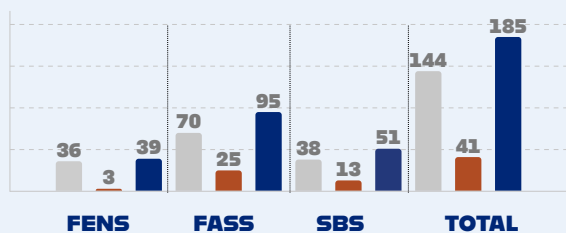
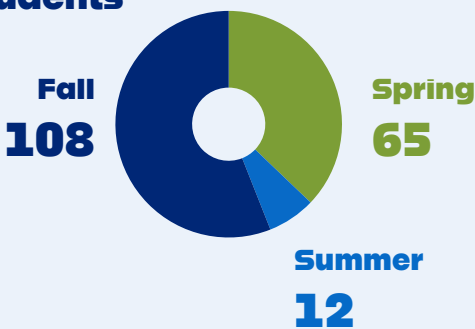
Romania [3], France [2], Finland [1], Italy [1]

Outgoing Staff:

Germany [9], France [4], Italy [4], Greece [3], Jordan [3]

Incoming Students

185
students



UG
GR
TOTAL



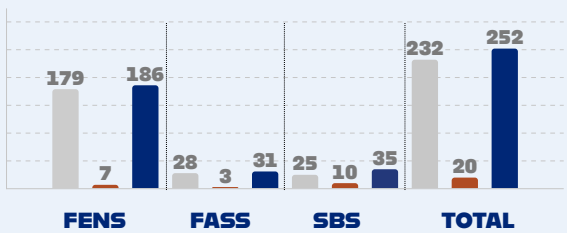
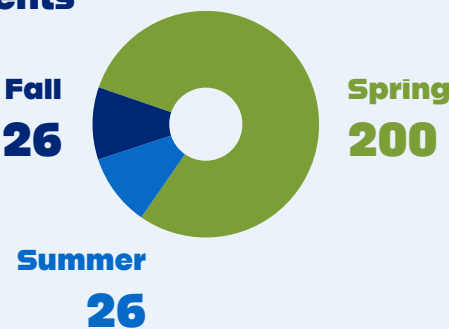
27% of these are from universities ranked in the **top 200** in the world



91% satisfaction rate among incoming exchange students

Outgoing Students

252
students



UG
GR
TOTAL



33% of these went to universities in the **top 200** in the world



91% satisfaction rate among outgoing exchange students

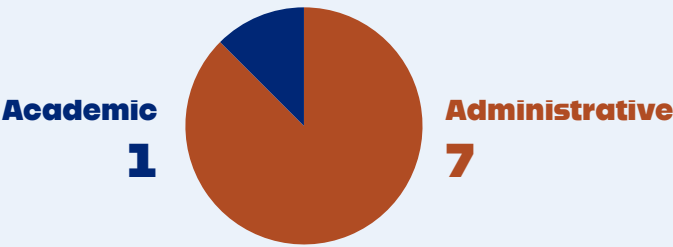
International Collaboration and Partnerships

Staff

8 Incoming Staff

Receiving Units are:

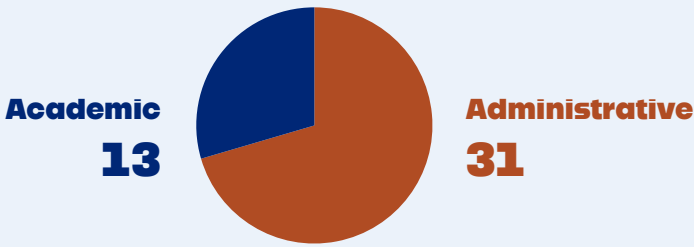
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center
- International Relations Office
- Student Resources



44 Outgoing Staff

Sending Units are:

- Center of Individual and Academic Development
- Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences
- Financial Affairs
- Foundation Development Unit
- Information Technologies
- International Relations Office
- Research and Development and Technology Transfer Office
- Sabancı Business School
- School of Languages
- Services
- Student Resources



Erasmus+ Staff Weeks at SU: Growth over the years



2 Jointly Supervised Double PhD Degree (Cotutelle)



Mathematics–PhD
[**Advisor: Mohammad Sadek**]



Computer Science and Engineering–PhD
[**Advisor: Erkey Savaş**]

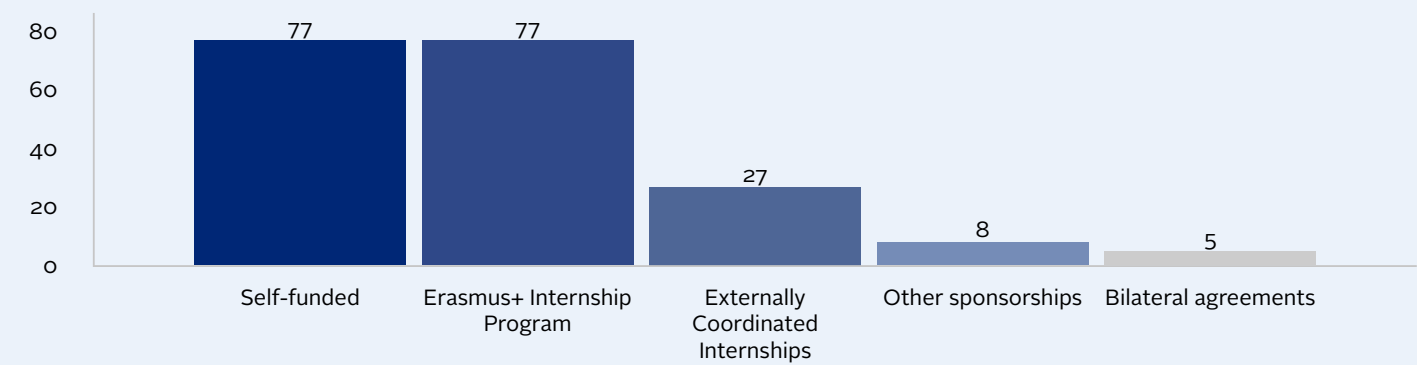
International Collaboration and Partnerships

Erasmus+ Internship

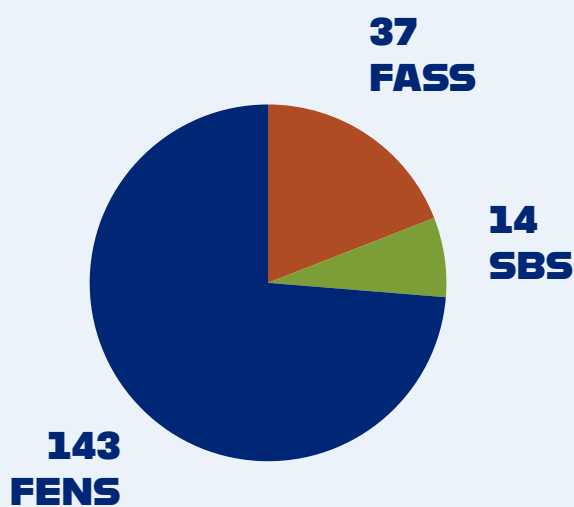
Funding Sources in International Internship Programs

194 Students **158** Institutions **44** Countries

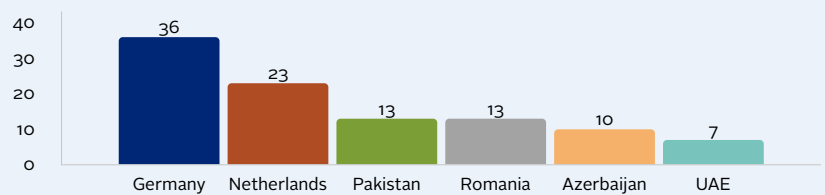
77 students benefited from Erasmus+ Programs



by Faculty



Most Preferred Countries



Most Preferred Institutions

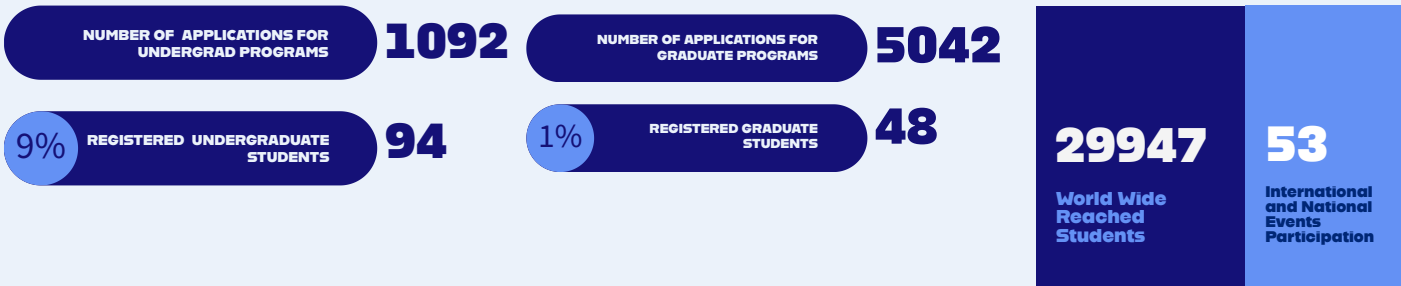
IHP GmbH	8
Max Planck Institute	4
Leiden University	3
Munich Institute of Robotics and Machine Intelligence	3
University of Groningen	3
University of Twente	3

Ongoing Partnerships: Expanding Internship Opportunities

- Sponsored Internships : Up to 5 students can now complete their summer internships at Bekaert in China (Engineering Programs).
- Human Resocia, our partner institution in Japan, conducted on-campus recruitment interviews, leading to the full-time employment of 4 students.
- A collaboration with PERSOL Consulting in Korea has been established, providing our students with internship and full-time employment opportunities.

International Admissions

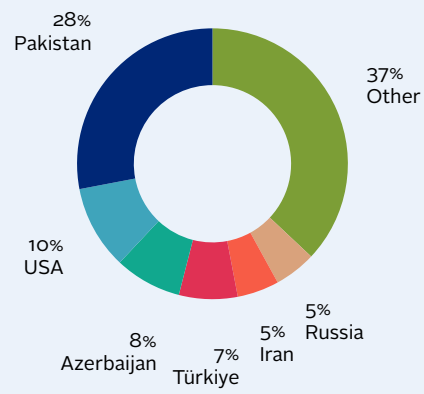
Admissions in Numbers



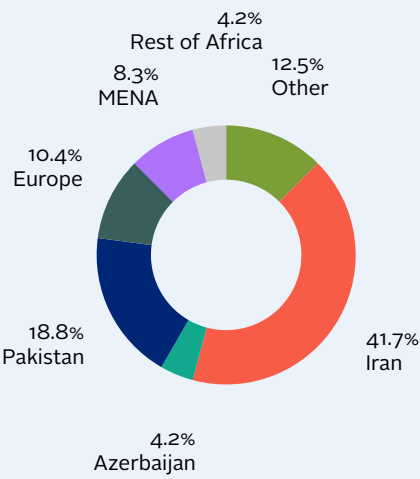
Source: Sabancı University Online Application System

Country Breakdown

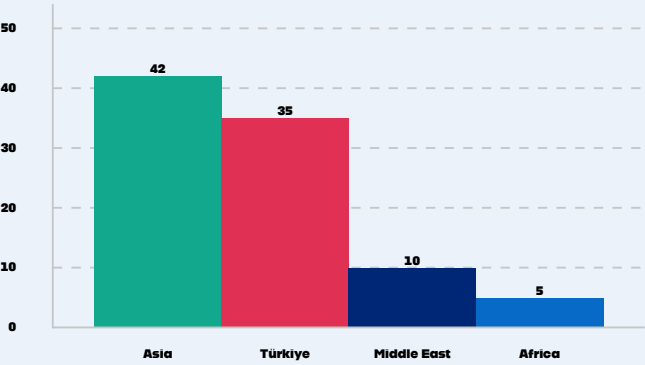
Newly Registered Undergraduate Students by Nationalities



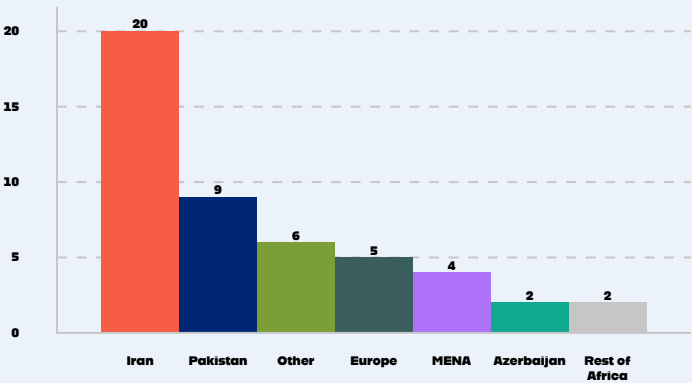
Newly Registered Graduate Students by Nationalities



Newly Registered Undergraduate Students by Region

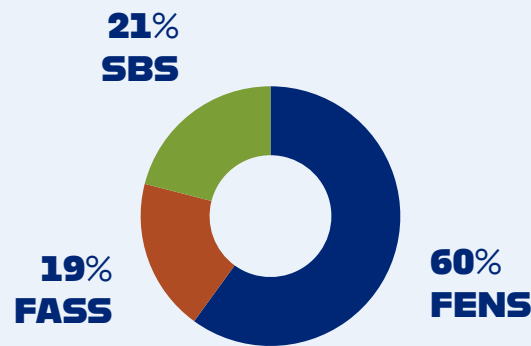


Newly Registered Graduate Students by Region



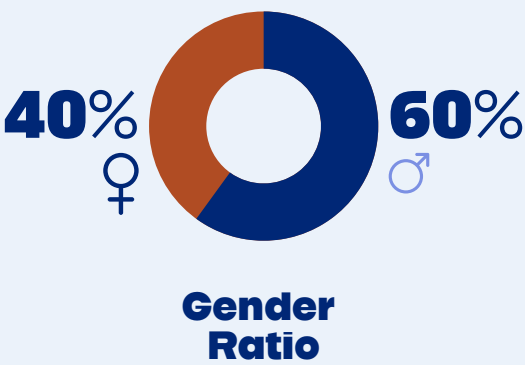
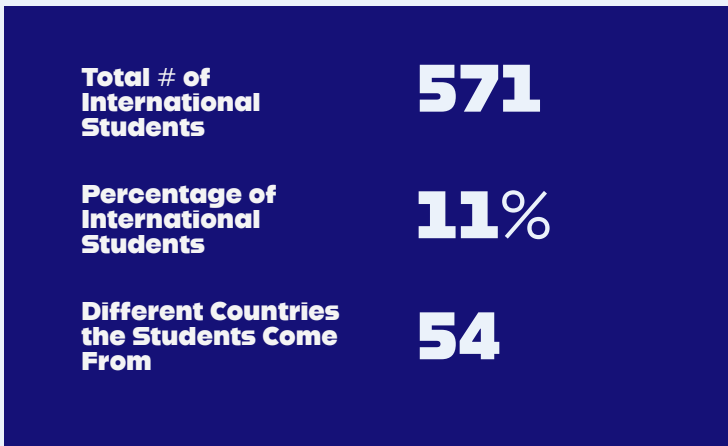
International Admissions

Faculty Interests of Newly Registered Undergraduate Students



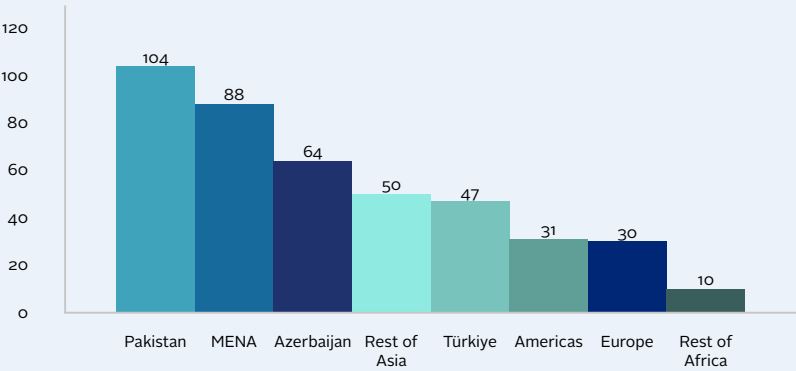
Active Students in Numbers

Fall 2025

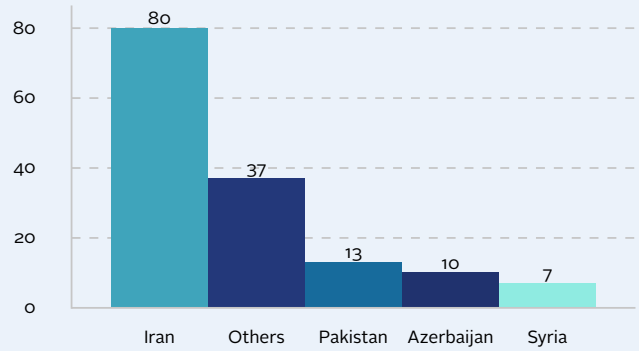


Regional Breakdown of Active Students

Active Number of International Undergraduate Students



Active Number of International Graduate Students

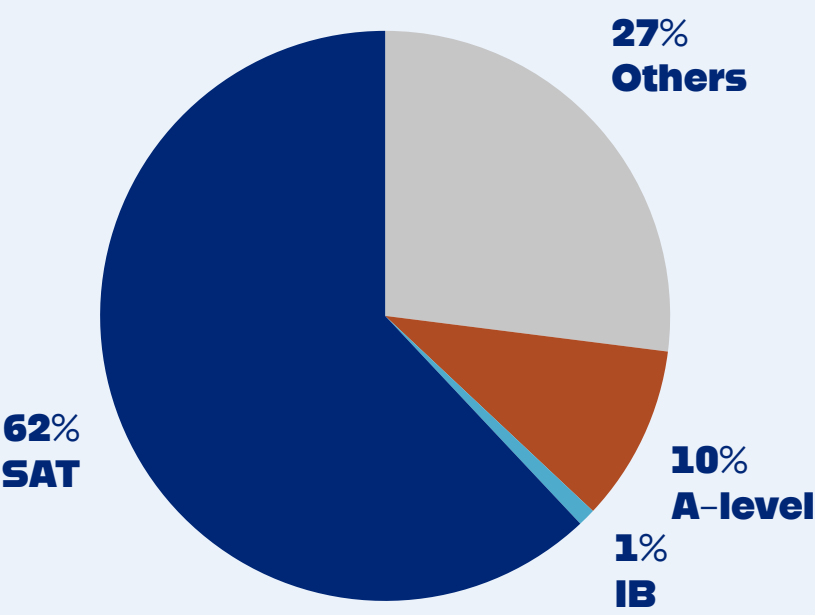


International Admissions

Active International Students from Scholarship Programs



2025-2026 Registered Students Test Score Distribution



International Relations Office

Event Photos



International Staff Week



Study Abroad Fair- International Day



Historical City Tour with Incoming Exchange Students



Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Summer Term Welcome Lunch with the Dean



Agencies Networking Event



High School Counselors Fam Trip



Agency Fam Trip

International Relations Office

Testimonials - Staff

Erasmus+ Staff Training Mobility at KTH Royal Institute of Technology



My visit to the Research Support Office (RSO) at KTH Royal Institute of Technology — one of Europe's leading universities in EU funding programmes — was a highly valuable professional experience. Through a well-organized and intensive five-day programme, I had the opportunity to observe KTH RSO's approaches to grant processes, to exchange experiences, and to establish new connections for potential collaborations by participating in internal team meetings and attending presentations by KTH RSO colleagues. I also had a meeting with KTH researcher Prof. Zeynep Gürol, which provided a valuable researcher's perspective on R&D funding experiences in Sweden and at KTH.

In addition to gaining insights into alternative systems that could be applied to similar processes in my own work, I also observed how common many of the challenges encountered in international project development can be. The programme also included a visit to the Office for Research, Engagement and Innovation Services (REIS) at Stockholm University, which further enriched the experience.

Burcu Şimşek
FENS Project Partner, SUATT

Erasmus+ Staff Teaching Mobility at EM Normandie Business School



The BIP program at EM Normandie Business School on “Sustainable Strategies for the Integration of AI in Higher Education” proved far more valuable than I expected, offering a comprehensive view of academic practices across Europe and demanding five days of full focus and engagement. Throughout the program, I gained key insights into how AI is evolving into an essential infrastructure rather than a set of standalone services, how its strengths in speed, precision, and pattern recognition complement- rather than replace - human abilities in abstraction, emotional reasoning, and ethical judgment, and why its lack of consciousness and moral intent limits its autonomy in academic settings. The sessions highlighted the strategic necessity of AI adoption for institutional competitiveness, emphasized the importance of treating AI both as a technological tool and a social phenomenon when designing policies, and underscored the legitimacy challenges business schools will face in an AI-driven job market that requires clear boundaries between human and machine capabilities. Finally, I learned that AI-based student and faculty support offers scalable, cost-effective, and continuously available solutions that will only improve as generative AI technologies advance

Altuğ Tanaltay
Faculty Member, Sabancı Business School

Erasmus+ Staff Mobility at Sabancı University



I was deeply honoured to take part in Sabancı University's International Staff Week in May 2025. The event was truly inspiring. I loved the meaningful exchanges, the warm sharing of ideas, and the chance to connect with colleagues from around the world who face similar challenges. The discussions were thought-provoking, the encounters uplifting, and I left with both fresh perspectives and genuine friendships. Thank you for creating such a welcoming, collaborative space.

Floriane Lempereur
ICN Business School-Artem, France

International Relations Office

Testimonials - Students



Bilateral Agreements/ Bekaert, China



My internship at Bekaert in Wuxi, China, was one of the most valuable and instructive experiences of my university years. Stepping out of my comfort zone into a completely different environment, I initially faced language and communication challenges, but the team's warmth, patience, and support quickly made me feel part of the company. Within just one month, I delivered three projects, which showed me that it is possible to create a meaningful impact in a short time. I strengthened my technical skills in data processing, automation, and reporting, learning to turn complex data into practical tools and design workflows that truly enhance efficiency. Working amidst different habits and perspectives taught me flexibility, adaptability, and the power of communication. This experience has also shaped my academic and career goals, reinforcing my belief in the value of international collaboration and motivating me to pursue roles in global teams or abroad in the future. I highly recommend this internship to anyone seeking both professional and personal growth.

Neşenaz Yalçın

Computer Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

Erasmus+ Internship Mobility / Sweden



As a Cultural Studies MA student, I completed my Erasmus+ Internship in Sweden at Posithiva Gruppen, an organization working in the field of social support and advocacy. This internship provided a valuable opportunity to observe how different countries approach social inclusion and community-based support practices in practice. My particular interest in the experiences of migrants and refugees aligned closely with the organization's focus, allowing me to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds and to develop a deeper understanding of issues related to migration, social policy, and integration. Being in Sweden also enabled me to attend various conferences and events, where I connected with researchers and students from different universities, exchanged ideas, expanded my academic network, and gained insights that will contribute to both my academic work and future professional development.

Ali Aliyev

Cultural Studies, Faculty of Art and Social Sciences

International Relations Office

Testimonials - Students



Erasmus+ Short term PhD Mobility at University of Basel, Switzerland



Thanks to Erasmus+, I spent three weeks at the University Hospital of Basel and the University of Basel's Biomedical Engineering Department. During this visit, I met inspiring scientists working on patient-specific implants and observed the full point-of-care process—from design and 3D printing to post-processing and surgery.

I learned about cutting-edge technologies, including VR-based surgical planning tools and robotic systems that print implants directly at the wound site. A highlight of my mobility was observing two cranial implant surgeries, where I saw how precisely the custom-made implants fit the patients. This experience strengthened my motivation to contribute to similar advancements in Türkiye.

I am grateful to Erasmus+ for broadening my scientific perspective and helping me build meaningful professional and personal connections.

Mervenaz Şahin

Materials Science and Nano Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering and Natural Sciences

Erasmus+ Short term PhD Mobility at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain



I joined this program twice—after my sixth semester and during my final PhD year. It allowed me to meet senior researchers worldwide, build collaborations, and explore postdoctoral opportunities. The mobility helped me find a sponsor and apply for the Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, improving my grant-writing skills as well.

Even though it lasts only 30 days, the program provides a focused environment to deepen your expertise and gain new perspectives beyond your supervisor's guidance. I highly recommend it for learning new topics related to your dissertation and building connections for future postdoctoral research.

İpek Güvensoy

Social Psychology, Graduate School of Engineering and Natural Sciences

International Relations Office

Testimonials - Students

Erasmus+ Student Mobility at Universiteit van Amsterdam



I spent the Fall semester of the 2025–2026 academic year at the Universiteit van Amsterdam as part of the Erasmus+ exchange program. As a double major in Economics and Political Science and International Relations (ECON–PSIR), I applied through the Political Science department.

The university and the city of Amsterdam both offer a highly international and cosmopolitan environment, which made adapting to a new setting easier. By selecting a diverse range of courses, I was able to conduct in-depth research on different countries and broaden my academic perspective.

Moving to a new country also exposed me to significant cultural differences in academic expectations, social life, and daily living standards. Living independently abroad and adapting to these changes contributed greatly to my personal and academic development, while helping me make more informed decisions about my future plans for pursuing a master's degree or internships abroad.

Additionally, the Erasmus experience allowed me to travel during the semester. Over five months, I had the opportunity to visit approximately seven countries and many cities. Returning to Sabancı University with unforgettable memories and a broader academic perspective has been a truly rewarding experience.

Zeynep Norman
Economics, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Global Student Mobility at National University of Singapore



I spent my exchange semester at the National University of Singapore, a top 10 institution according to the QS World University Rankings, from August to December 2025. NUS offered a rigorous academic environment that challenged and motivated me, while allowing me to learn from professors with diverse academic backgrounds and teaching styles.

Beyond academics, I connected with a diverse group of students from around the world, forming meaningful friendships and gaining new perspectives. Living in Singapore's multicultural environment—from its rich food culture to its vibrant festivals—further broadened my appreciation of global diversity.

Overall, this experience has significantly shaped me both academically and personally, and I am grateful to Sabancı University for providing me with this unforgettable opportunity.

Zahra Fauzil Azim
Mechatronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

International Relations Office

Testimonials - Students

Global Student Mobility at Sabancı University



I really enjoyed my exchange life in Sabancı University and in Istanbul. The courses I chose were all great! The professors were knowledgeable, encouraged and very responsible. All the classes were inspirational in general. The semester schedule was also fine. Facilities of campus are basically convenient. In addition, I joined SuDance student club and made shows with the club in many dance festivals that were organized by different universities in Istanbul. This was definitely one of my best experiences during the whole exchange semester. The unity among students was explained through Art activity. Last but not least, Istanbul is a pretty and historic city with a lot of places and culture to explore. Nobody can fail to be impressed by the beauty of the Bosphorus. Although the economic condition made many things not that affordable, I still would say Istanbul is one of the best place I've ever been

Dantong Wu

Political Science and International Relations, Shanghai University, China

Global Student Mobility at Sabancı University



My experience at Sabancı University was nothing short of beautiful. The international office staff was very helpful, a special shout out to Gözde Doğmuş, who was also my allocated host family. The university also has diverse international students and academic staff. In addition, it was lovely exploring Istanbul and different parts of Türkiye which were gorgeous, offering different sceneries and activities. Sabancı University gave me a second home!

Kamogelo Pakgadi

Psychology, Rhodes University, South Africa

Erasmus+ ICM Mobility at Sabancı University



My exchange experience at Sabancı University was one of the most enriching chapters of my academic journey. Studying in such a prestigious and forward-thinking institution allowed me to engage with brilliant professors and students from around the world. The university's emphasis on research, innovation, and critical thinking helped me strengthen my problem-solving and leadership skills. Beyond academics, living in Istanbul exposed me to a vibrant mix of cultures and ideas that broadened my worldview. This experience has truly shaped my ambition to pursue a global career and continue learning without boundaries.

Murad Asadzade

Computer Science and Engineering, Baku Higher Oil School, Azerbaijan



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