

IKU COVID-19 Update for IKU Prospective Students

Dear Applicant,

Greetings from İstanbul Kültür University.

We hope you are all doing well despite the current circumstances. With this letter, we would like to inform you about the current situation at IKU.

The reality of a pandemic that has infiltrated all areas of life throughout the world has profoundly influenced the flow of our lives. During this period, we try to protect ourselves and our loved ones with individual measures. However, this is a multidimensional struggle, as we all know. In order to leave the process behind with health and safety, there is a need for solidarity mobilization at the social level as much as our existence effort at the individual. Protecting and supporting the health and wellbeing of the IKU community is a top priority. We continue to monitor the situation and follow Turkey's government advice.

More than 300 million people are no longer in their workplaces and classes due to this extraordinary situation, which was declared as a pandemic on a global scale by the WHO on March 11. Daily life and many sectors such as education, business life, economy, and tourism continue to be severely affected in this period. Even if the process is taken under control, its impact will persist in many sectors in 2021. Today a total of 7.5 million students are studying in 207 universities in Turkey, making it the second-largest country of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). YÖK (the Council of Higher Education in Turkey) acts adopting a swift management approach within the framework of the decisions taken by the government in order to manage Turkish higher education effectively in this severe pandemic period.

IKU has been strictly following up on the coronavirus (COVID-19) cases accepted by the WHO as a global pandemic and warn our students and employees about the epidemic by taking all necessary precautions within our campus. All campuses and classes are undergoing intensive cleaning which also includes disinfectant fogging that has proven effective against existent viruses including the novel coronavirus known to cause COVID-19. In order to virus from spreading the use of common areas is restricted in this period.

As IKU, we are witnessing a period when digital and remote teaching in higher education is standing out, and this new educational environment is expected to continue for a long time. There are lots of structural changes in the agenda of higher education these days. Despite all these challenges, the world has started to get used to this new system. The solid infrastructure and central coordination of IKU and plays an important role in overcoming this challenge.

We would also like to inform you about IKU's handling of the current COVID-19 situation. You can find all updates on our regulations and take measures concerning COVID-19 on our [website](#). We are currently preparing the new academic 2020/21 as usual, but kindly ask you to be aware that application and administration procedures for the winter semester 2020/21 at IKU depending on the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020-2021 Academic Year at IKU

Regarding the upcoming academic year, preparations are being made. Acknowledging that COVID-19 will still be part of our daily lives for many months to come, there are hopeful signs. The epidemiological reality in Turkey has taken a positive direction and government restrictions will slowly be lifted. Nevertheless, we will have to deal with the new normal of physical distancing and other

protective measures for a while longer. Teaching in classes will be limited, traveling may still be complicated, and the academic experience of students and staff will certainly be different. Still, we are convinced that we can shape the next academic year in a way that allows us to maintain our high standards in education and research.

Courses: We will strive to accommodate all students and to remain flexible in order to cater to individual needs and circumstances. However, we would like to inform you about some of the health measures envisaged at our campuses;

- In the 2020-2021 Fall semester, it is envisaged that 30% of the courses will be held online and 70% in the classes. The distribution of the courses will be done in the most efficient way.
- To wearing a mask will be required inside the campuses. Every individual in IKU campuses will have to wear a mask.
- If the courses are held in classrooms, the cross seating plan will be prepared with a distance of 2 meters between each student.
- All campuses and classes will be regularly cleaned with disinfectant.
- Medical disinfectants will be in every classroom, laboratory, cafe, toilet, and room within the borders of our university.

Academic Calendar: 2020-2021 Academic Calendar is decided as follows:

Registration Renewal and Course Registration Beginning: **September 7, 2020**

Beginning of Courses: **September 14, 2020**

For the full academic calendar; <https://www.iku.edu.tr/en/academic-calendar>

Accommodation: IKU dormitories will be available for students in the 2020-2021 academic year. Quotas will be limited in dormitories where all health measures are taken. For this reason, it is recommended early registration to book a dormitory. The orientation week is usually held a week before the courses begin. Students will also be informed about the orientation week.

For details; <https://www.iku.edu.tr/en/istanbul-kultur-university-dormitories>

Orientation Programmes: Orientation programmes will be planned in a way that will not endanger the health of students and it will comply with health rules. IKU aims to make it easier for students to adapt to the new academic year, which is shaped by Covid-19. Therefore, we hope that the students will be attended in the orientation programme.

Visa: Routine visa services are suspended in the current days. It is understood that missions will resume routine visa services as soon as possible, but there is no specific date set at this time. We encourage you to closely monitor visa processing time frames and consult the nearest Turkey embassy/consulate for additional information.

Flights: We encourage you to wait to buy plane tickets until there is more certainty about fall/academic year travel guidance. Be aware of your airline's waiver and refund policies. We recommend purchasing flight insurance that offers maximum flexibility should tickets need to be changed or canceled.

Stay updated: Please refer to the IKU website for up-to-date information about the university's response to COVID-19.

<https://www.iku.edu.tr/en/>

Links for Detailed Information on Coronavirus:

FAQ About Covid-19: <https://www.iku.edu.tr/en/announcements/faq-about-covid-19>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

YÖK (the Council of Higher Education in Turkey):
<https://www.yok.gov.tr/en/Sayfalar/news/2020/cohe-opens-website-on-covid-19.aspx>

Turkish Ministry of Health: <https://www.seyahatsagligi.gov.tr/Site/koronavirus>