



EDUCATION

Education in Turkey is made up of two main aspects: formal and informal education. Formal education covers pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education institutions, while informal education covers all education activities organized in addition to formal education activities.

Education institutions are for everyone regardless of their language, race or religion. No individual, family, group or class is given any privilege in education.

You have to be entitled to legally stay in Turkey to benefit from the right of education in Turkey.

Fundamental Principles of Turkish Education System

No person in Turkey shall be deprived of the right to education guaranteed by the Constitution. In addition, compulsory education is free of charge in state schools. It is a crime to restrain a person's right to education.

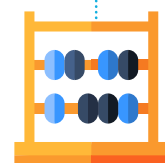
Fundamental principles of Turkish education system:

- ▶ *Universality and equality,*
- ▶ *Fulfillment of social and individual needs,*
- ▶ *The right to choose,*
- ▶ *The right to education,*
- ▶ *A lifelong educational planning,*
- ▶ *Scientific approach.*



Kindergartens and Day Care Centers

Education in Turkey starts with the early childhood education under the responsibility of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of National Education. This type of education is available in kindergartens and day care centers for children aged 0 to 36 months. Kindergartens and day care centers are paid and registration is optional.



Preschool Education

Preschool education is offered by independent nursery schools for children aged 36 to 66 months and nursery classes as part of formal and informal education institutions for children aged 48 to 66 months.

While education for children aged 48 to 66 months is free in state schools, education for children aged 36 to 66 months is paid out of state schools.



Compulsory Education

Compulsory education in Turkey lasts 12 years in three stages. The first stage is 4-year primary school. The second stage is 4-year secondary school. The third stage is 4-year high school. 12-year education is compulsory for all children from 6 to 17 years of age in Turkey.

All children in Turkey are entitled to access the fundamental training services offered by state schools. In addition to state schools, there are private schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education. Unlike state schools, they are not free of charge and the education fee is determined by the school.

All primary schools in Turkey have the same curriculum. Registration to religious vocational schools are optional for secondary education. High schools are called "lise" and include science high schools, social science high schools, Anatolian high schools, fine arts high schools, sports high schools, Anatolian



religious vocational high schools, Anatolian Vocational and Technical high schools, multi-program Anatolian high schools, and Vocational Training Centers for apprenticeship, semi-skilled labor and craftsmanship training. Students are placed to such schools based on their degree of success and interests in primary education.

For further information about compulsory education system, you can visit www.meb.gov.tr or consult Directorates of National Education in your province.

There are special education schools for those who have special education needs in Turkey. A person is directed to the most suitable special education unit based on their disability, and their physical, psychological and social development characteristics. You can refer to the Directorate of National Education in your province for further information.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

Vocational Training Centers that offer 4-year education in total are included in formal education. Students attend the school for a day in a week and practice for the remaining 5 days in a workplace. Age restrictions do not apply to registrations. Registration is available year-round. They are paid at least 30 percent of the minimum wage during the period of education.

You can register to a Vocational Training Center by registering to an A1 grade Turkish Language Course in a Public Education Center if you hold a secondary school degree or above, or by completing A1 grade Turkish Language Course and registering to an A2 grade Turkish Language Course in a Public Education Center if you are not able to document your educational background. If you already have a job, you can continue working and attend Apprenticeship Training at the same time.

School Registration

In order to register your child to any school, you need to have a document with your children's identity and foreigner identity number.

If you hold a degree received from a country other than Turkey, you can apply to the Equivalence Commission of the Directorate of National Education in your province to receive a certificate of equivalence and register to a relevant school with that certificate. If you are not able to prove your educational background with a certificate, you have to apply to the Equivalence Commission of the Ministry of National Education to take a placement test. The result of that test will be used for your placement.

If you have to interrupt your education, you will be issued upon request a document that indicates your duration and level of education in Turkey.

Higher Education/University

Higher education institutions are universities, faculties, graduate schools, vocational schools of higher education, conservatories, and research and application centers. It is necessary to be a secondary education graduate and successful at the university placement test to enroll in a higher education institution. Students who are entitled to file a preference form for a university after the placement test, are admitted to one of the universities they applied depending on their order of success. Since there is a difference between the number of students who are entitled to submit preferences following the university placement test and the student quotas of universities, make sure that you identify your preferences realistically. For further information, see the university preference guide annually published by ÖSYM or visit www.osym.gov.tr.

Higher education services are provided in state and private universities. While state universities are free of charge, private universities determine their respective amounts of tuition fee. However, state universities may claim tuition fees from foreign students. You can apply for "Türkiye Bursları" for higher education programs in Turkey. You can visit www.turkiyeburslari.gov.tr for further information about "Türkiye Bursları".

TÜRKİYE BURSLARI

“Türkiye Bursları” are publicly-financed higher education scholarships granted to international students by the Republic of Turkey. Foreign students who come to Turkey as part of the projects implemented with the European Union, mutual agreements of the Higher Education Authority or by the scholarships offered by universities are not covered by “Türkiye Bursları”. service organizations providing.

If you did not complete your secondary education in Turkey, you must take the tests organized by universities for foreign students instead of the central university placement test. In addition, you cannot submit your university preference to the central system, and you must apply to the universities in person. Universities will ask you to document your educational background and other details during application. You can visit www.yok.gov.tr for further information about such documents and procedures.

If you are under temporary protection in Turkey, you can apply for training programs in Turkish or foreign languages in various universities. You need to take a proficiency test if you apply for such programs for undergraduate transfer and you do not have an equivalence document.

Master's and Doctoral Degrees

In addition to other fields of education, Turkey offers many opportunities for an academic career. The demand for master's and doctoral degrees after an undergraduate degree is on the increase. Fulfilling this demand, Turkey ranks among the top in terms of the quality of education it offers.

Once you are awarded an undergraduate degree, you should decide on the department and university from which you would like to obtain your master's degree. Keep in mind that each department and university may have its respective conditions of admission. Even if there are differences between universities and programs in terms of the conditions of admission, a sufficient score at a basic scientific test (ALES, GRE, etc.) is requested for admission to master's and doctoral programs.

For further information about the tests you should take for master's and doctoral programs, you can visit www.osym.gov.tr or the registrar's office of the university that you consider for application.

If you received your undergraduate degree outside Turkey, you may have to have your diploma accredited for equivalence before applying for a master's program. The same applies to master's degrees you were awarded outside Turkey during application for a doctoral program.

The diplomas for associate, undergraduate and master's degrees received outside Turkey are accredited for equivalence by the Council of Higher Education in Turkey. The award of equivalence for such diplomas will help you with job applications as well as academic positions. You can visit the “Equivalence Unit” on www.yok.gov.tr for details of the equivalence procedure and document requirements.

Distance Education

Those who are unable to complete their formal education may register for schools of distance education in order to complete their secondary education. If the same applies to you, you can apply for registration to the Directorate of Public Education Center after obtaining a certificate of equivalence from the Directorate of National Education in your province. Units of distance education are as follows;

- ▶ *Secondary Schools of Distance Education; offer an opportunity to complete primary education for elementary school graduates and those who quit primary education at any grade.*
- ▶ *High Schools of Distance Education; offer an opportunity to receive education for those who completed their primary school education but did not continue with their secondary education. Those who received education on abroad may register for high schools of Distance Education provided that they prove their educational background specified in their equivalence certificates.*
- ▶ *Religious High Schools of Distance Education; grant admission to those who completed their primary education, did not continue secondary education, and to higher education graduates.*
- ▶ *Vocational and Technical Schools of Distance Education; provide citizens with an occupation by means of remote education or face-to-face education when necessary for those who completed their primary education and above. Such schools also grant admission to foreigners in Turkey.*



The Public Education Centers are service organizations providing training services to people of all ages and levels of education.

Persons who have not completed their formal education can, if they wish, be enrolled in open education schools in order to complete their compulsory secondary education.

UNIVERSITIES OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

If you want to receive an associate or undergraduate degree but you are not able to obtain admission to formal education programs of universities for any reason, you can register for Distance Education programs for certain departments of certain universities within the scope of equal opportunity principle in education. Once you have completed a Distance Education program, you will have a diploma equivalent to those awarded by formal education programs.

The most common practice among Distance Education programs is executed by Anadolu University. For further information about the programs covered by the Distance Education systems and the admission conditions of such programs, visit www.aof.edu.tr.

Public Education Centers

Public education centers are organizations that offer education without any condition of age or educational background. Such organizations offer more than a thousand programs. The most popular programs are Turkish and foreign language courses, vocational courses, sports and performing arts programs. You can join one of these programs. You can simply apply to your local Directorate of Public Education Center to join such programs that are offered free of charge in almost any part of Turkey.

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

EDUCATION SYSTEM

in TURKEY

www.goc.gov.tr
www.liveinturkey.gov.tr

A Guide to
Living in
Turkey