

Bi-Weekly News for KU's International Community

The latest news, views and announcements

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Anıtkabir, the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Ankara

Photo: [Hürriyet Daily News](#)

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Turkey Marks Ramadan Bayram (Eid al-Fitr) under Nationwide Lockdown

Turkey celebrated the first day of Eid al-Fitr, a three-day Muslim festival celebrated after the fasting month of Ramadan, on May 13th under the shadow of strict measures to stem the spread of COVID-19 disease for the second year in a row.

Unlike the Eid celebration held before the pandemic, streets were not crowded this time due to the ongoing full lockdown. People celebrated the holiday at home with their immediate family.

Ramadan Bayram in Turkey

- In Turkey, Eid al-Fitr is known as **Ramadan Bayram (Ramazan Bayramı)** or **Candy Festival (Şeker Bayramı)** and is usually a three-day holiday. The tradition is to give children sweets or money wrapped in handkerchiefs.
- Since it is an official holiday, schools, government offices, banks, and private establishments are closed for three and a half days starting from noon the eve (arife) of the holiday. Arife is the day to get ready for the holiday.
- It is important to honor the elderly; therefore, mostly the younger generation visits the older ones. Kissing the right hand of the elderly and placing it on the forehead is a custom to show respect and greet them for the Bayram.



Traditional Turkish hand-kissing, a sign of respect and love



To learn more about the Turkish Ramadan (Candy) Bayram, please click [here](#). For more information about the Bayram under restrictions, please click [here](#).

COVID-19 Restrictions: Turkey may Ease the Restrictions After Bayram



A street in Istanbul during the coronavirus lockdown in Turkey

Photo: Ali Kabaş

Millions await to hear what will happen when the 17-day lockdown is set to end next week. Authorities are basing their plans on the number of daily COVID-19 cases. But the president has implied that a gradual lifting of the restrictions is in store.

In a video message to celebrate the Ramadan Bayram (Eid al-Fitr) holiday on Wednesday, Erdoğan said they would gradually ease lockdown restrictions after the holiday as coronavirus cases and fatalities continue to drop nationwide.

"Hopefully, by bringing the pandemic under control, we will take normalization steps in a controlled manner after Bayram."

"... good days are ahead even though we are having a bitter holiday due to the problems caused by the pandemic."



For more information, please click [here](#).

Turkey Celebrates the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day

The Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day in Turkey features state ceremonies and sports events throughout the country on **May 19th** each year. Young Turkish athletes carry the Turkish flag from Samsun, a Black Sea port city, to the country's capital to commemorate Turkey's War of Independence (1919–1923).

It is an official public holiday. The government offices, schools, and most businesses are closed.

Background

The founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, arrived in Samsun on May 19th, 1919, to start a popular uprising against the decision of the World War I allies to divide many territories of the defeated Ottoman Empire.

Turkey presently accepts the date of Atatürk's arrival in Samsun as the starting date of the Turkish War of Independence.

Following Atatürk's wish, the Turkish government declared May 19th to be Youth and Sports Day and made it an official holiday in 1938. The day received its present name, the "Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day", in 1981, which became the 100th anniversary of Atatürk's birth.

For more information, please click [here](#).



Customs

In the run-up to the May 19th celebrations, young Turkish athletes carry the national flag from Samsun, a Black Sea port city from where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk started Turkey's War of Independence in 1919, to Ankara, the country's capital. The marathon usually takes about 10 days. The Turkish president accepts the flag at a ceremony on May 19th.

Various sports events take place on May 19th throughout Turkey. Many people celebrate this day by watching athletes perform at their local stadiums or by participating in sports events that are open to the public, such as half-marathons. University students usually prepare special programs for their teachers and parents on this day.

Many Turks also observe May 19th as Atatürk's birthday. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, Atatürk used to say he was born on May 19th (referring to the beginning of the national struggle in 1919). Many people lay wreaths to Atatürk's monuments and hang Turkish flags outside their windows.

Residence Permit Document Submission

ICO will be accepting the residence permit (RP) application documents **on Thursday, May 20th, between 1-3 PM.**

If you are planning to submit RP application documents, please notify us at ico@ku.edu.tr. We will list the visitors and inform the security office so that they can enter the main campus. ICO is in the Student Center, lower 3rd floor, room B398.

RESIDENCE PERMIT DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Date: Thursday, May 20th
Time: Between 1- 3 PM (Sharp)

Important notes:

- We have a [special WhatsApp group for May applicants](#) to make it convenient for everyone during the pandemic. Please join the group following the group link here or on our website. (PLEASE ONLY JOIN IF YOU WILL MAKE AN RP APPLICATION IN MAY)
- You can [renew your RP](#) if there is 60 days or less time to the expiration of your RP
- **Late submissions will not be accepted.** Please mind the time. Missing 3 PM means waiting for the June document submission date.
- **Applications with missing documents or data will not be accepted.** Please make sure you double-check the list of required documents. Having a missing paper will cause you to wait until next month's document submission day. If your visa or permission to stay without a visa period expires, this delay may result in a fine that you will need to pay. So, this is very important to make sure your documents are complete.
- It is mandatory to use **biometric (in ICAO standards) photographs** in the residence permit applications. The head-shot you upload to your online permit application form must be in the ICAO standards, too. You can find [the ICAO standards](#) on our website, in the list of required documents on the relevant pages.
- Please make sure you **have a stamp on your permit card fee payment receipt** if you make the payment through one of the given government banks.
- You should stay in Turkey until your application gets evaluated. If you depart before, your application will get rejected automatically.
- If you are making a late application, please make sure that you write and attach a **letter of excuse**.
- HES code is a must to enter campus. Please click [here](#) to learn how to obtain one

Continue to Reach Us

Please contact us if you have any questions.

We are working from home Mon-Fri 8:30 AM- 5:30 PM.

We keep our advising hours (between 3- 5 PM) for online advising during each workweek. If you would like to have a live meeting with us, please make an appointment in advance by sending an email to ico@ku.edu.tr. Each meeting will be limited to 15 minutes.

 <http://ico.ku.edu.tr>



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Available for WhatsApp within office hours.



COVID-19 Task Force:

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