

ICO Monthly Newsletter

The latest news and announcements for the KU International Community

In This Issue

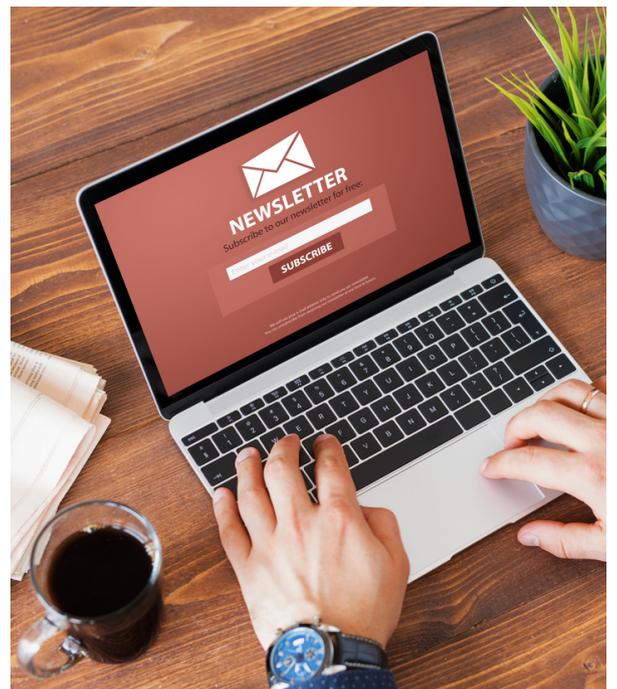
COVID-19 Cases Decreasing in Turkey and Normalizing *p2*

International Staff Week & Study Abroad Fair
9-13 May *p3*

Istanbul Comes Alive!: The Tulip Festival *p4*

ICO Staff Exchange - Lebanon *p5*

Upcoming Events *p6*



ICO's New Monthly Newsletter is Here!

cont'd p1

ICO's New Monthly Newsletter is Here!

The successful information flows ICO provided to the KU international community through its Bi-Weekly News, formerly known as News Updates, inspired the office to create its own Quarterly Newsletter. The main motivation behind this decision was the great interest that the KU community showed in the Bi-Weekly News, the will to brief the community about the news from the office, and to generate an online archive on ICO's website.

Upon receiving your most valuable feedback this academic year, the ICO has decided to combine the much-beloved Bi-Weekly News and Quarterly Newsletter to bring you the new and improved Monthly Newsletter which aims to keep you updated with news for the KU International Community from Türkiye, Istanbul, KU and the ICO on the first week of each month.

Email ico@ku.edu.tr if you would like to be added to the mailing list!



COVID-19 Cases Decreasing in Turkey and Normalizing



Although the COVID-19 epidemic still maintains its importance, it no longer poses as great a threat to Turkey as it used to be. With the death rate falling **below 20**, a big step was taken for the normalization process after the meeting of the Coronavirus Scientific Advisory Board. Minister Koca said it would be **"one of the most important meetings"** of the board.

After the board's decisions, Turkey **abolished the mask requirement in all closed areas**, except for health institutions and mass transit. Also, the government plans to end the one-week mandatory quarantine for coronavirus patients.



Also, the World Health Organization (WHO) awarded Turkey for its success in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: [Daily Sabah](#)

International Staff Week & Study Abroad Fair

Office of International
Programs will organize the
5th Annual International
Staff Week between
9-13 May 2022

During this week, the participants from different institutions will get a general overview of Koç University, participating universities, and how institutions create a welcoming climate for **both students and staff** from all backgrounds with thoughtful cross-cultural experiences.

As part of the program, participants will also present their institutions to Koç University students during a day-long **Study Abroad Fair** on **May 11th** at the **Winter Garden on the Rumelifeneri Campus**.

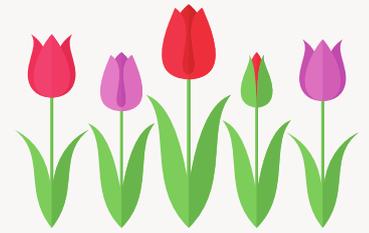
Led by OIP, the Fair gives the chance to connect with KU students directly and to increase awareness of the diverse mobility opportunities with our esteemed partners all around the world.

At the fair, you will have the opportunity to...

- talk to incoming exchange students and returned KU exchange students to find out all about the universities and countries you are interested in
- discover how you can fit an exchange opportunity into your study plan
- get advice from partner university representatives and OIP
- meet with the representatives from consulates and institutions
- speak with Outgoing Exchange Advisors about what you need to know before studying abroad.

All KU students and staff members are invited. Make sure to mark your calendar!

Istanbul Comes Alive! The Tulip Festival



The tulip is one of Istanbul's traditional symbols, and for a while, Istanbul has been holding a yearly festival of its own. Every April since 2006, the city government in Istanbul has planted millions of tulips in Istanbul's parks, avenues, traffic roundabouts, and anywhere there is open ground. In recent years, the total number planted has been 30 million.

The Istanbul Tulip Festival is not just about tulips, however. Other flowers, pansies, bluebottles, etc. are planted in contrast and for variety in shape and color. The displays are breathtaking.

The Tulip Festival takes place in parks all over the city. There are some recommendations if you want to visit this breathtaking festival:

- Emirgan Park (Emirgan Korusu)
- Gülhane Park
- Sultanahmet Square
- Çamlıca Hill
- Göztepe Park
- Yıldız Park



Source: [Turkey Travel Planner](#)

ICO's First Staff Exchange since the Beginning of COVID

Beirut, Lebanon



Our very own ICO Specialist Zikri Mert Demircan visited KU's Erasmus+ Worldwide partner, the American University of Beirut, on the second week of April. This exchange was meaningful for us since it is the first staff exchange from OIP after the launch of COVID measures back in 2020.

Let's explore his exchange in his own words:

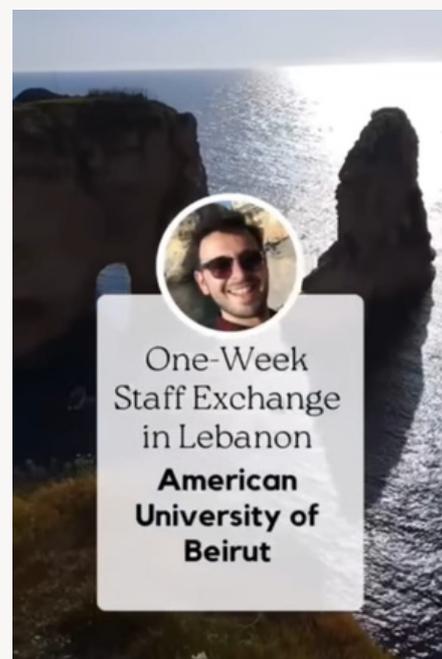
"Beirut is one of the cities that one must experience at least once in a lifetime. An exchange period at our partner university in Lebanon, the American University of Beirut (AUB), can serve great in this purpose."

The OIP team of AUB is welcoming, professional, and always there to support international affiliates. The team and its mentor students are very warm and dedicated. I highly recommend that KU students, faculty, and staff members experience AUB, and thus the Lebanese culture.

In particular, the meetings with the OIP team members were very beneficial in terms of sharing and discussing practices and experiences. My takeaways will be useful for us to plan our future activities and programs for sure! Stay tuned!

Personally, it was a unique experience for me, especially tasting Lebanese cuisine and feeling the exceptional atmosphere of Our Lady of Harissa.

I can honestly say that I left a piece of my heart there, and will definitely go to collect it someday. A highly recommended destination it is!"



Don't miss watching the [Instagram reels](#) to see Beirut from his eyes.

Upcoming Events

May 2022

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- 7 The White Buffalo Concert →
- 7-8 KUPSYC PSYCDAY →
- 11 Study Abroad Fair →
- 16-17 KUDANS Dance Festival →
- 21 Spring Festival →
- 23 Soen Concert →
- 25 Deep Purple Concert →
- 27 Oscar and The Wolf Concert →
- 28-29 Babylon Soundgarden Festival →
- 15-28-29 EFG London Jazz Festival →



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