# Turkish-Gulf Youth Network (25-28 October 2021)

## Call for Application

This project aims to spread the intensified political, economic, and military relations between Turkey and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to the social level. It seeks to boost cultural interaction among the societies of the (GCC) countries and Turkey. In this context, it aims to host eighteen students from six Gulf Cooperation Council member countries in Turkey. One undergraduate, one graduate, and one Ph.D. student from each country will be selected. Through various events, it aims to introduce Turkey’s culture and bilateral relations with the Gulf countries.

The interest among the students of the Gulf countries to pursue education in Turkey has been increased in recent years. Ensuring that this dimension is mutually established and students in Turkey are aware of the educational developments in the GCC countries have the potential to contribute to the institutionalization of bilateral relations.

Within the project’s scope, students will visit and get to know the important institutions that play a vital role in making and implementing Turkish foreign policy. In the following days, cultural trips will be organized in Istanbul, Abant, and Sapanca. The project aims to introduce Turkish cultural and historical richness among the participants.

Increasing interaction among the young generation from GCC countries and Turkey; strengthening tolerance and pluralism among the young generation; enabling the young generation to get to know different cultures; is mainly the project’s objectives.

## Who Can Apply

1. Undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. students
2. Applicants should have a good command of English to listen, comprehend and discuss the program’s topics.
3. Applicants should be the citizens of the GCC countries listed below and also study there
4. The program has an age limitation for applicants. The upper age limit for undergraduates is 25, for postgraduates is 28, and for Ph.D. students is 30.
5. Applicants must have a vaccination certificate accepted by Turkish authorities in accordance with the Covid-19 measures.

**Countries**

* Bahrain
* Kuwait
* Oman
* Qatar
* Saudi Arabia
* United Arab Emirates

## FAQs

### What am I expected?

You are expected to interact with other students, make a presentation about the topics presented below, introduce your country to other students, be open to learn from them and contribute to discussions during the seminars.

### How can I apply?

All the applications should fill the form and send it to turkishgulfyouth@gmail.com

### How many people will participate?

Eighteen young students from different Gulf countries will have the right to participate in the event.

### What are the selection criteria?

The first criterion is the quality of your abstract on the vision of the youth about the stability, security and peace in the Middle East. The referees will evaluate all the submissions and decide the best 18 to invite the program. Therefore, you are advised to pay attention to the academic quality of your submission. Secondly, the program aims to bring the youngs from different Gulf countries of MENA together. It means the referees will consider the country diversity also. As a third criterion, the referees will consider gender equality.

### When will the results be announced?

The chosen submissions will be announced on September 27, 2021. The project team reserve the right to change the deadline. The applicants will be notified about the results through e-mail.

### Important dates:

Deadline for Applications: September 24, 2021

Announcement of Accepted Participants: September 27, 2021

The Dates of the Program: 25-28 October 2021

### What about travel, food, and accommodation?

The program will provide arrival and departure flight tickets without charge. The travel inside your country for the airport will not be met. Your flights will be from your domestic airport to Istanbul, and you will be welcomed at the airport. You will travel to Sakarya by bus, which lasts three hours.

The program will also cover accommodation and food (lunch and dinner). If you have to stay one or two days more in Istanbul or Sakarya because of your flight dates and times, you are advised to have money with you. The project team will help you with arrangements, but you need to cover your expenses out of event dates.

### Will I have time to wonder in Turkey?

The program will provide Abant, Sapanca, and Istanbul trips for the participants on the third and fourth days of the event. You will visit the historical and natural beauties of Turkey.

## Program

The program will last four days and take place in different cities in Turkey. There will be seminars on Turkey’s Middle East policy, Turkey-Gulf relations, and Turkey’s democratic experience at Sakarya University Middle East Institute (ORMER) on the first day. There will also be discussions about the Middle East’s current issues. On the second day, students will visit essential institutions in Ankara. On the third day, there will be trips to Abant and Sapanca, which always attract tourists from Gulf countries. On the last day, students will visit historical places in Istanbul.

## Contact

turkishgulfyouth@gmail.com

## Application Form

<http://bilgikultur.org/uploads/files/application_form.doc>

## Additional info about Covid-19 travel restrictions:

<https://www.turkishairlines.com/en-us/announcements/coronavirus-outbreak/travel-restrictions/>

<https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>

## Supporting Institutions

**Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB)** established on April 6, 2010, has the task to coordinate the activities for Turks living abroad, related (sister) communities, and Türkiye Scholarship Program, and develop the services and activities carried out in these fields.

With the efforts of the Presidency, the relations with our citizens living abroad and also with the sister communities are strengthened and closer economic, social and cultural relations are established. Also, Türkiye Scholarship holders and alumni became our volunteer ambassadors all over the world.

For further information, please visit <https://www.ytb.gov.tr/en>

**Bilgi Kültür Merkezi (BKM)** is a civil society organization founded in 2003. It aims to internationalize university students and help international students to adapt to the city. It organizes events, panels, workshops, and conferences. It realized many projects with institutions. It contributes to the cultural transformation of the city and introduces multiculturalism. Here are some projects of the BKM.

* Sakarya International Students Academy: Cultural, Academic and Vocational Education Project (2015 to 2019)
* 2014 Youth Bridges Program: Vocational Education and Cultural Interaction Project for Sakarya University International Students with Türkiye Scholarship
* 2013 Complementary Education and Cultural Interaction Program for International Students Studying at Sakarya University

For further information, please visit [www.bilgikultur.org](http://www.bilgikultur.org)

**Middle East Institute (ORMER)** was founded in 2014 as Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Sakarya University and became an institute in June 2015 as Middle East Institute. The institute offers several graduate programs of study at the levels of MA and PhD. The courses are taught in three languages ​​(Turkish, English, and Arabic) by lecturers and researchers who are experts in their fields relating to the Middle East.

ORMER unites Middle East Studies in a more corporate structure. This structure has already become a center of interest for many disciplines related to the Middle East, including Politics, Economy, International Relations, Sociology, Theology, and History. This interdisciplinary mindset can provide a more viable and extensive analysis on both local and global scales. Additionally, ORMER trains researchers and keeps the academic activity alive through MA/PhD programs and various events.

ORMER advances both specialized knowledge and public understanding of the Middle East. ORMER acknowledges the assets of carrying out interdisciplinary and social science research, combined with real regional expertise. The multidisciplinary nature is reinforced by close collaboration with departments and individuals in the region.

For further information, please visit <https://www.ormer.sakarya.edu.tr/>