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Special Graduation Issue

BİLKENT NEWS

Tuesday, June 21: Sunny 13°C / 28°C
Wednesday, June 22: Sunny 15°C / 29°C
Thursday, June 23: Sunny 16°C / 30°C
Friday, June 24: Sunny 16°C / 30°C

Weekly Newspaper of Bilkent University

Highlights of the 2021–2022 Academic Year



Today, the members of the Bilkent University class of 2022 receive their diplomas. The graduation ceremony celebrates the successful conclusion of their studies; at the same time, it marks a new beginning, as students move on to the next phase of their lives.

We offer our congratulations to each and every new graduate, and our best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

Distinguished Teachers Honored

The University is pleased to announce the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Awards for 2022. Hüseyin Can Aksoy, Ercüment Çiçek, Hande Ilgaz and İlker Temizer were chosen for demonstrating outstanding teaching abilities and for contributing to students' academic and intellectual development. Please see page 2 for the 2022 Distinguished Teaching Award recipients' statements.


Hüseyin Can Aksoy


Ercüment Çiçek


Hande Ilgaz


İlker Temizer

University Administrative Changes

On May 30, Bilkent University's new administrative team was introduced at an informational meeting held in the Bilkent Concert Hall for university faculty and staff. The team is headed by Prof. Kürşat Aydoğan, who was nominated by the Bilkent University Board of Trustees in March to become the university's new rector.

During the meeting, which ceremonially marked the handover of responsibility from one administration to the next, Board of Trustees President Gülsev Kale expressed the Board's gratitude to Prof. Abdullah Atalar "for his work carried out with merit and superior success in line with the aims, mission and vision of our University" over the 12 years of his term as rector.

Prof. Atalar and Prof. Aydoğan both spoke at the meeting, discussing the university's progress up to now as well as plans for the future. In addition, the new administration's three vice rectors were introduced: Prof. Orhan Aytür as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs (Provost); Prof. Erdal Erel as Vice Rector for Administrative and Financial Affairs; and Prof. Ezhan Karaşan as Vice Rector for Student Affairs.


During the information meeting on administrative changes held on May 30 at the Bilkent Concert Hall From left to right: Orhan Aytür, Kürşat Aydoğan, Gülsev Kale, Erdal Erel, Ezhan Karaşan, Abdullah Atalar

Prof. Aydoğan, who was previously Vice Rector for Administrative and Financial Affairs, began serving as Acting Rector on May 25 following the end of Prof. Atalar's term as Rector. He will hold the title of Acting Rector until his appointment as Rector is approved by the office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.

2021-2022 Declared 'Sustainability Year' at Bilkent



Believing that Bilkent University should assume a leading role in engaging with one of the most vital issues of our time, the university administration designated the 2021–2022 academic year as "Sustainability Year," encouraging the Bilkent community to focus on this issue.

Responding to this call, faculties and departments presented seminar series, courses and other academic offerings that explored the topic of sustainability, while students, instructors and researchers undertook a variety of projects and initiatives with the aim of contributing to a more sustainable future.

Detailed information about these activities may be found at **http://web3.bilkent.edu.tr/sustainability/index.php**.

NEWS & EVENTS OF 2021-2022

Bilkent Selected to Participate in YÖK's Research Universities Program



Last December, the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) held a meeting in order to share with the public important regulations made within the scope of the council's Research-Oriented Mission Differentiation Program and to announce the names of the universities selected for participation in the program. The meeting took place in Ankara.

Foundation universities were included in the program for the first time this year. Previously only state universities were granted this title. Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank presented a "Research University" certificate to the rectors of the 23 universities – 20 state universities and 3 foundation universities, including Bilkent – taking part in the program.

Bilkent Leads the Way in Gaining YÖKAK Accreditation

Bilkent became one of the first two universities in Turkey, and the first among the country's foundation universities, to receive full accreditation under the Institutional Accreditation Program recently implemented by YÖKAK (the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council). The accreditation will remain valid for five years.



The Institutional Accreditation Program, which implements a quality assurance system for evaluating universities, covers areas including education and training, research and development, contributions to society and administrative procedures. The ultimate goal is to increase universities' contributions at the national level in Turkey, as well as to raise their profile internationally.

FBA's AACSB Accreditation Extended for the Third Time

The Faculty of Business Administration, having successfully completed the AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) Continuous Improvement Review process, received a renewal of its AACSB accreditation on June 28, 2021.

The faculty received its initial accreditation in 2006, becoming the first accredited business school in Turkey and the region. This year marks the third time its accreditation has been renewed, following previous renewals in 2011 and 2016.

TÜBİTAK's 2021 Entrepreneurial and Innovative University Index

The 2021 TÜBİTAK Entrepreneurial and Innovative University Index, which lists the top 50 universities in Turkey as ranked on the basis of performance in the areas of entrepreneurship and innovation, was released last December. Bilkent University, with 68.3 points, was ranked fourth in the index, which includes 191 universities in total.

The intent behind the index is to develop the entrepreneurial ecosystem by increasing entrepreneurship and innovation-oriented competition among universities.

Full Accreditation for THM

On April 13, the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management was awarded full accreditation by the Tourism Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (TURAK), a national accrediting body recognized by Turkey's Higher Education Council.



Upon this action, Bilkent became one of the first universities in Turkey whose tourism program received such accreditation. The accreditation will remain valid for five years.

Distinguished Teachers Honored

Hüseyin Can Aksoy (LAW)

I am very humbled and honored to be one of the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2022.

The simple reason why I teach is that I love it. I very much enjoy being in the classroom with my students. I like challenging them academically and encouraging them to push their limits. For me, witnessing their improvement is an incomparable pleasure. In fact, it's a privilege to have the opportunity to touch young people's lives and experience their growth.

Information is infinite. A teacher cannot – and should not try to – burden his/her students with too much information. All he/she can do is teach them the vital basics, the sources of information, and how to critically process information to procure knowledge. I believe that in a classroom I have two primary duties: to teach my students how to learn, and to always try to make them think critically, analytically and creatively. Finally, I think that a teacher can only assist students in their journeys of learning. Therefore, I do my best to let my students know that I am there and ready to help.

Since I was an undergraduate student in the Bilkent University of Faculty of Law, it has been a dream for me to receive this award. I would like to sincerely thank my dean, Ece Göztepe, not only for nominating me for the award but also for creating the peaceful, democratic and collaborative work environment that I work in. I am grateful as well to my outstanding professors, who lighted my way to becoming a teacher. I also thank my beloved wife Pınar and son Arda for their continuous love and support. Last but not least, I am grateful to my current and former students for their flattering comments and letters of support during the nomination process. You are the reason I love my job so much!

Docendo discimus!

Ercüment Çiçek (CS)

I am honored and humbled to receive one of the 2022 Bilkent University Distinguished Teaching Awards. First of all, I would like to thank the Department of Computer Engineering Teaching Award Committee and the Faculty of Engineering for the nomination and the Bilkent Teaching Award Committee for selecting me for this award. I also would like to thank the students and colleagues who supported my candidacy with their comments and letters. I feel privileged to join the distinguished group of scholars who have been presented with this award over the last 25 years.

I am very lucky for having met great teachers who helped shape my career and my life. The late Richard Hanson of Case Western Reserve University was one of them. A world-renowned researcher, he once said, "Looking back on my career, I think the real impact I made was through teaching." I hope that I will also have had such an impact by the end of my career. This award further motivates me to achieve that goal and do my best in teaching. Once again, thank you.

Hande Ilgaz (PSYC)

I am greatly humbled and honored to have been selected as one of the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award. I thank my students, colleagues, department chair and dean for their support in nominating me. Knowing that I am among countless colleagues who share the same passion for teaching and learning makes this award even more meaningful. Along the way, I have learned immensely from great teachers whom I strive to emulate as well as teachers who fell short of my expectations. I thank them all.

As a student, I enjoyed educators who respected their students and provided safe pedagogical structure in their courses, where any hard-working student who participated in learning activities could advance themselves. I take this as a base model for my teaching. As a researcher, I adopt a social constructivist approach to cognitive development and aim to practice what I preach. I see myself as a facilitator of thinking and learning. In my view, I am only one critical component of the learning that happens in class. Every class, my students, with their questions and comments, contribute to my thinking and their peers' learning. There has been many a class where I walked out of the lecture hall with an adrenaline high, armed with new questions for experimental inquiry. I feel incredibly fortunate to work with Bilkent students either in the lab or in class to discover, learn and experiment. I treasure their passion for learning and honest efforts to exceed themselves. I will repeat what I always tell prospective students when they ask me, "Why Bilkent?" There are many good reasons. For me, it is the students.

İlker Temizer (ME)

I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of this award, and would like to thank the Department of Mechanical Engineering for the nomination. Many students and colleagues kindly provided invaluable letters of support, for which I am grateful.

A lot has changed in my courses since the first time I offered them. I have done my best to steer those changes toward creating a better learning experience on the students' part and a better teaching experience on my part. Along with the content of the courses, my teaching philosophy has evolved as well. The major practices that have guided my teaching efforts have allowed flexibility for change, but change cannot be realized unless one also recognizes its necessity. Indeed, I now believe that the key ingredient in any teaching philosophy is being able to acknowledge the need for change as well as to have the willingness to seek its direction and the resolution to steer toward it effectively. More broadly, in my view, a teaching philosophy constitutes an umbrella under which the course content flourishes in response to students' needs.

Teaching is a personal journey. I truly enjoy a successful teaching effort and value each step of the process to achieve a satisfactory outcome. I recognize that there are many paths to a good teaching experience, and I am willing to search for them, even if that means straying away from what seems to be a good path or taking a more tiresome one at times. My personal journey has certainly been rewarding. Looking back, I see that I have climbed higher and that my teaching philosophy has a clearer view of what is involved in good learning. Looking forward, I anticipate many new, exciting challenges to be addressed in order to adapt to ever-changing needs.

AWARDS

National and International Recognition for Bilkent Faculty Achievements

● Assoc. Prof. Can Alkan of the Department of Computer Engineering received a Horizon Europe grant for a project that has the potential to speed up genome sequence analysis. This was the first project grant to go to a Bilkent researcher under the EU's Horizon Europe funding program for research and innovation, successor to the Horizon 2020 program.

● Prof. Tolga Mete Duman of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Assoc. Prof. Ömer İlday of the Departments of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Physics, the Neuroscience Program and UNAM also had projects selected for Horizon Europe funding, after submitting proposals in response to the European Research Council 2021 advanced grant call. The total budget for their two projects will be nearly 5 million euros.

● During a launch event held by the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) in İstanbul to mark the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe, awards were presented to 29 Turkey-based coordinators of Horizon 2020 projects, among them Asst. Prof. Lutz Peschke of the Department of Communication and Design. Dr. Peschke received his award for coordinating the Horizon 2020 project PandeVITA.

● Asst. Prof. Burçin Çakır of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Asst. Prof. Seçil Gönültaş of the Department of Psychology were awarded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral fellowship grants through the Horizon Europe program.

● Two Bilkent faculty members, Asst. Prof. Emel Özdora Akşak of the Department of Communication and Design and Research Asst. Prof. and Aysel Sabuncu Brain Research Center Associate Director Hulusi Kafalıgönül of UMRAM and UNAM, received 2022 Distinguished Young Scientist (BAGEP) awards. The awards are given annually by the Science Academy Association (Bilim Akademisi Derneği) to recognize highly promising young scientists and assist them in furthering their investigations.

● Asst. Prof. Fatih İnci of the Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology received one of this year's Outstanding Young Scientist Awards from the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA). TÜBA introduced the Program to Award Young Scientists (GEBİP) in 2001 to recognize and support outstanding young researchers working in the natural and social sciences, engineering and medicine.

● Asst. Prof. Urartu Şeker of UNAM received an award from TÜBA for the work of his research team in developing a rapid method for detecting the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. TÜBA Special Awards for Combating the COVID-19 Global Epidemic are being given to support and honor scientists who have produced outstanding research focused on developing original methods and products for use in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Şeker received first prize in the area of diagnosis for his work in developing an RNA switch system for SARS-COV-2 detection.

● Assoc. Prof. Tolga Çukur of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and UMRAM received an award from TÜSEB (the Health Institutes of Turkey). Named after Nobel laureate Aziz Sancar, the TÜSEB awards honor outstanding work by the country's researchers in fields related to the health sciences. Dr. Çukur was the recipient of a TÜSEB Aziz Sancar Incentive Award.

● Dr. Tuğba Bayar of the Department of International Relations was awarded Jean Monnet Module funding from the European Commission for her project "International and European Protection of Human Rights." A Jean Monnet module is a short teaching program in the field of European studies at an institution of higher education.

● Asst. Prof. Selim Hanay of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and UNAM received two awards, one from TÜBİTAK, and the other from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Turkey Section. TÜBİTAK presented an Incentive Award to Dr. Hanay on the basis of his internationally recognized work on the physics of nanomechanical systems, while the IEEE Turkey Section gave him a Research Incentive Award in recognition of his contributions to sensor technologies based on nanoelectromechanical systems and microwave resonators.

● Two Bilkent faculty members, Res. Asst. Prof. Hulusi Kafalıgönül of UNAM and UMRAM and Asst. Prof. Türker Özsarı of the Department of Mathematics, were recipients of METU Prof. Dr. Mustafa Parlar Foundation Research Incentive Awards.

● Prof. Semih Koray of the Department of Economics was one of three recipients of the Academic Service Plaque awarded by Türkiye Ekonomi Kurumu (the Turkish Economic Association) this year. The plaque was instituted by the association to honor exceptional academic achievements and consistent service to the economics community and society at large.

● Assoc. Prof. Ferdi Karadaş of the Department of Chemistry received a Georg Forster Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, following his nomination by Friedrich Schiller University and the Leibniz Institute for Photonic Technology in Germany. Dr. Karadaş was recognized for his pioneering work on the development of low-cost, robust catalytic systems for water splitting.

● The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) selected Asst. Prof. Amir Bahrami of UNAM to receive an EMBO installation grant. Dr. Bahrami is establishing his research group, which focuses primarily on theoretical modeling and simulations of soft/active matter and cellular/biological systems, at UNAM.

● Prof. Hilmi Volkan Demir, director of UNAM and a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Department of Physics, and the Materials Science and Nanotechnology graduate program, received the Turkish Physical Society's International Special Honor Award for 2021. Prof. Demir works in the field of semiconductor nanocrystal optoelectronics and nanophotonics.

● Several Bilkent faculty members received special recognition from the IEEE Turkey Section. The section's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award went to Prof. Abdullah Atalar of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, while Prof. Tolga Duman, chair of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, was the recipient of the Board of Directors Service Award. Prof. Hilmi Volkan Demir, director of UNAM and a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Department of Physics and the Materials Science and Nanotechnology Graduate Program, was presented with a 2021 Certificate of Appreciation.

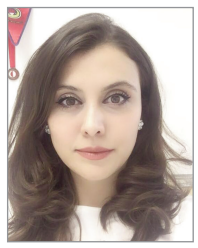
● Assoc. Prof. Seçkin Köstem of the Department of International Relations received an incentive award from Uluslararası İlişkiler Konseyi (UİK)/ the International Relations Council. The council initiated the UİK Incentive Award program in order to identify, recognize and support promising young researchers in the field of international relations in Turkey.


Emel Özdora Akşak


Can Alkan


Abdullah Atalar


Amir Bahrami


Tuğba Bayar


Burçin Çakır


Tolga Çukur


Hilmi Volkan Demir


Tolga Mete Duman


Seçil Gönültaş


Selim Hanay


Ömer İlday


Fatih İnci


Hulusi Kafalıgönül


Ferdi Karadaş


Semih Koray


Seçkin Köstem


Türker Özsarı


Lutz Peschke


Urartu Şeker

SPOTLIGHT ON BİLKENT GRADUATES

From Engineering to the Arts, Bilkent Graduates Make a Name for Themselves



Burçin Türkkan, a 1997 graduate of the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management, assumed leadership of Skål International, having been elected president of the organization for the year 2022. Ms. Türkkan is a founding partner of ITEC (International Talents and Experiences Canada) and has been its chief executive officer since 2021.



Sitare Sezgin



Elif Çapçı

The weekly business magazine Ekonomist featured a cover story that listed the "Most Powerful Women CEOs" in Turkey. Among those included were Bilkent alumnae Sitare Sezgin (MAN/'97) and Elif Çapçı (MAN/'94).

To compile the list, the Ekonomist looked at the accomplishments of 100 female CEOs of companies that declare their turnover publicly. Ms. Sezgin, CEO of Teknosa, ranked seventh, and Ms. Çapçı, CEO of Beymen, ranked ninth.



Mert Hidayetoğlu, a graduate of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (BS '13, MS '15) who is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was named one of two 2021 recipients of the ACM/IEEE-CS George Michael Memorial HPC Fellowship. The fellowship honors exceptional PhD students throughout the world whose research focuses on areas including high-performance computing and large-scale data analysis.



Nur Özkaya



Nisan Dağ

Two graduates of the Department of Communication and Design won awards at the 28th International Adana Altın Koza Film Festival, held September 13–19.

Nur Özkaya, who graduated last year, received the award for Best Animated Film by a Student for her 2021 graduation project "Sudan Çıkmış Balık" (Fish Out of Water).

Nisan Dağ, a 2008 graduate of the department, won the Turkish Directors Society's Best Director Award and was also named Best Director by the festival's main jury; the Best Screenplay award went to her film "Bir Nefes Daha" (When I Am Done Dying). In addition, cast members of the film received the festival's Most Promising Young Actor, Türkan Şoray Most Promising Young Actress and Best Supporting Actor awards.



Dr. Ali Cengiz Beğen, a 2001 graduate of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, is a member of a group that won a Technology and Engineering Emmy Award this year. Presented by the US National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in Las Vegas on April 25, the award recognized the MPEG Systems Working Group for their work on the development of the MPEG DASH standard used by digital video distribution applications.



Three Bilkent Department of Performing Arts graduates had key roles in the production of the play "Toplu Hikayeler" for the Turkish State Theater. The cast of the two-character play consisted of Sükun Işıtan (THEA '93) and Elif Kaman (THEA '17). The directing assistants for the play were Burçak Kaya (THEA '19) and Ege Tolga, a current student in the department. A translation of the work "Collected Stories" by American playwright Roni Marguiles, "Toplu Hikayeler" was directed by Asst. Prof. Jason Hale, chair of the Department of Performing Arts. Ankara performances took place at Şinasi Sahnesi in February.



Utku Barın | Selahattin Bilgen | Sevengül Karadağ | Cengiz Konukoğlu | Bora Yalınay

On February 22, Turkey's "50 Most Effective CFOs" were honored at a ceremony that took place during the 2022 CFO Summit in İstanbul. The summit was organized by the executive search firm DataExpert in partnership with Milliyet Executive magazine.

Among the honorees were five Bilkent graduates: Utku Barın (IE '01) of Memorial Health Group; Selahattin Bilgen (ECON '03) of İGA İstanbul Airport; Sevengül Karadağ (IE '94, MBA '96) of CarrefourSA; Cengiz Konukoğlu (MAN '98) of Sanko Holding; and Bora Yalınay (ECON '97) of Doğan Holding.

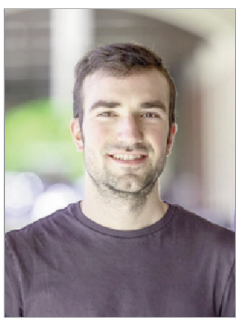


Works by Özge Üçoluk (GRA/'22) were selected for display in the 2021 Graphic Design Exhibition organized by GMK (the Graphic Designers Professional Association). The exhibition, held while Özge was still a student, took place at MSGSU Tophane-i Amire Culture and Art Center in İstanbul.



Bilkent graduate Dr. Onur Erdem (EE, BS '13, MS '15, PhD '20) received the 2021 Leopold B. Felsen Excellence in Electromagnetics Award for his PhD thesis studies, which were conducted at UNAM under the supervision of Prof. Hilmi Volkan Demir.

EMC Turkey and the Leopold B. Felsen Fund (headquartered in Boston, in the US) have bestowed this award since 2007, for the purpose of promoting contributions to the field of electromagnetics.



Okan Atalar, a 2016 Electrical and Electronics Engineering graduate and currently a PhD candidate at Stanford University, was the first author of a paper published in Nature Communications that describes an important breakthrough in image sensing. The research team he is part of, working in the Arbabian Lab at Stanford, developed a high-frequency, low-power compact optical device that allows virtually any digital camera to perceive depth.



Sedat Nizamoğlu



Barış Çakmak

Two Bilkent alumni, Assoc. Prof. Sedat Nizamoğlu (BS EE '05; MS PHYS '07; PhD EE '11) and Asst. Prof. Barış Çakmak (BS PHYS '08), were recipients of METU Prof. Dr. Mustafa Parlar Foundation Research Incentive Awards.



Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics 2004 graduate Elif Nur Fırat Karalar received two awards in 2021.

Dr. Fırat Karalar received a 2021 TÜBİTAK incentive award and the Sabri Ülker Science Award for her work in the field of cell biology and rare genetic diseases. She is currently an associate professor in the Koç University Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics.



Burcu Seçmeer, a 2002 graduate of the Department of Performing Arts, took the stage in a one-woman, two-act play adapted from her book "Önemli Bir Gün" (An Important Day). The 80-minute dramatic work comprised two separate stories from the book: "Fısıltı" (Whisper) and "Önemli Bir Gün."

The performance took place in April at Doğan Taşdelen Çağdaş Sanatlar Merkezi in Ankara.



Each year, as part of the curriculum requirements in their departments, Bilkent senior students complete a wide variety of projects involving independent research, innovative thinking and creative execution. The images on these pages were captured during some of the many poster presentations, departmental exhibitions and other events showcasing senior projects – as well as during the award ceremonies and receptions held to congratulate the projects' creators on a job well done. Most of the photographs were taken by Aydın Ramazanoğlu.











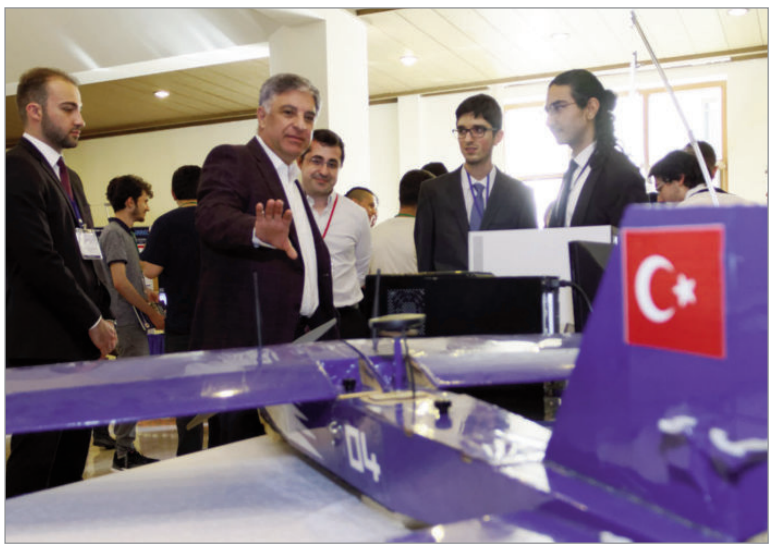




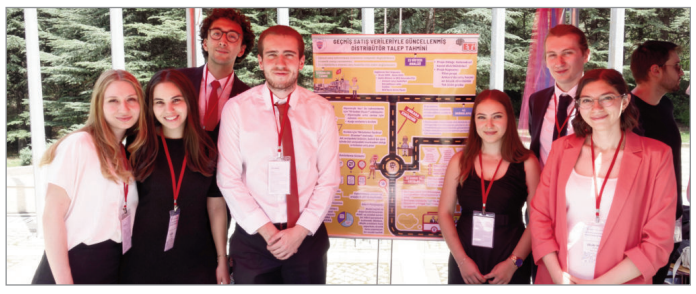





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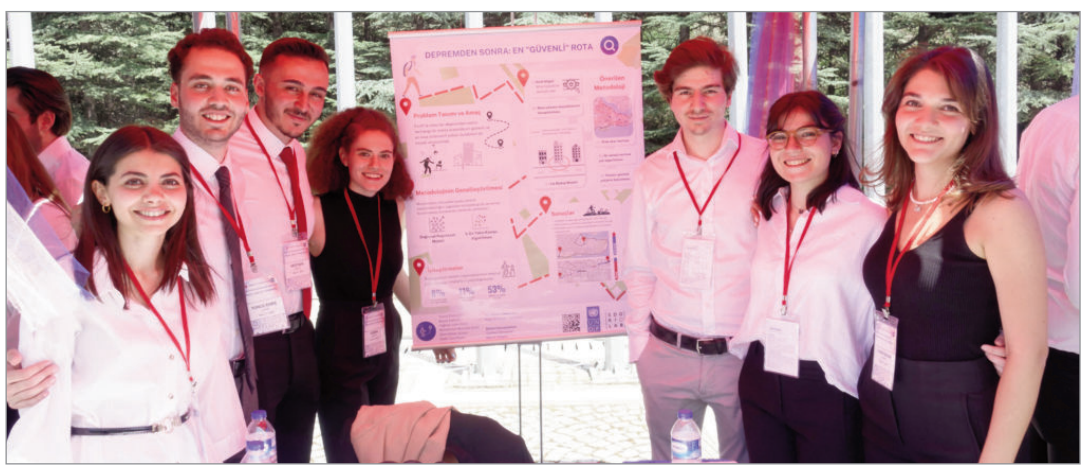




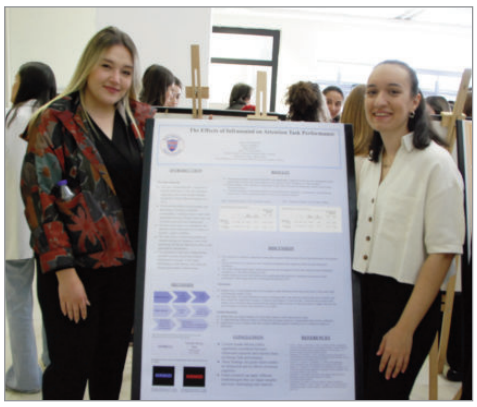





TEAM 10
Recycle IT
Search. Find. Coll. Recycle.


DEPREMDEN SONRA: EN "GÜVENLİ" ROTA










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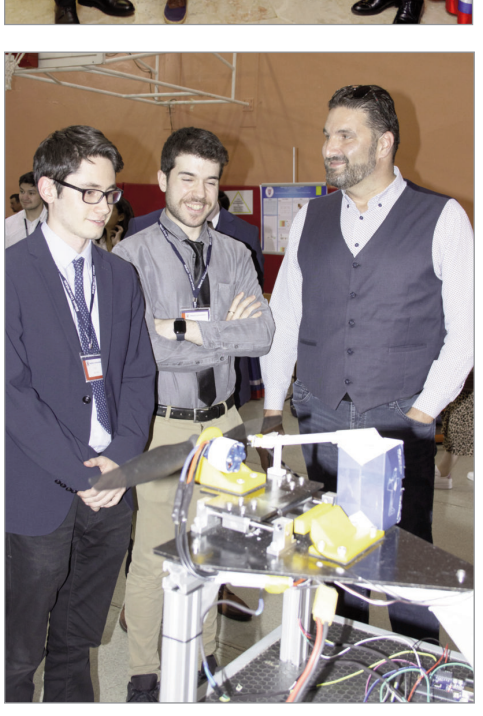















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NEWS & EVENTS OF 2021-2022

UNAM Researchers Work to Develop a Diagnostic 'Laboratory in a Chip'



A team led by Asst. Prof. Fatih İnci at the Bilkent University National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) is developing nanotechnology-based "laboratories" that can diagnose various diseases, including cancer and other serious disorders, in 15 minutes. The team has designed a smart chip, made using domestically produced materials, that can be employed to analyze a drop of blood or other bodily fluid placed on top of a sensor contained in the chip.

Oğuz Tansel Research Library Opens



The Oğuz Tansel Research Library, named in honor of poet, folklorist and educator Oğuz Tansel (1915–1994), opened at the Oğuz Tansel Center for Turkish Literature las December.

The center, named after Oğuz Tansel (1915–1994), was established to conduct research and other projects in all fields related to Turkish literature, from cultural studies and comparative literature to the digital humanities and contemporary literary criticism.

Chemistry Freshman to Attend Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting



İsmail Yaşar Kökçüler, a first-year student in the Department of Chemistry, was selected to attend this year's Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, which will take place June 26–July 1. These annual meetings, held for the purpose of promoting global scientific exchange, bring young scientists together with as many as 30–40 Nobel laureates in Lindau, Germany. Participants are selected based on nomination by national research bodies. Most of the 611 young scientists from around the world who have been invited to attend are graduate students and postdoctoral researchers; İsmail is one of relatively few undergraduates chosen to participate.

With BİL-CAR, Engineering Students Aim for Energy Efficiency



The Bilkent University Electric Car Society, a 13-member team of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Mechanical Engineering students, has designed and produced an electrically powered automobile. Dubbed BİL-CAR, this is the first such vehicle produced by Bilkent students. The little two-seater weighs 250 kg and has 3.3 KW of power.

The vehicle has been approved by TÜBİTAK in the context of its Efficiency Challenge Competitions, which are held regularly in Turkey to evaluate vehicles' energy efficiency.

Bilkent Patent Licensed to Industry



A patent registered under the name "Enrichment of Samples Inside Microchannels Using Magnetic Particles" and owned by Bilkent University and Adana Science and Technology University was licensed to Tekgen Healthcare Systems Inc. through the TÜBİTAK 1702 program.

The patented technology was conceived and developed by Assoc. Prof. Barbaros Çetin of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and ME graduate Utku Hatipoğlu (BS'17, MS'19) in collaboration with Asst. Prof. Güneş Kibar of Adana Science and Technology University.

Law Students Work to Help Prevent Violence Against Women



The Violence Against Women Legal Clinic, an initiative of the Faculty of Law, works to help prevent violence against women by raising awareness of the issue. Since the 2020 spring semester, volunteer law students have been sharing their knowledge with various groups on campus in order to inform them about the types of violence that exist in society and the plight of the real-life victims of such violence that they encounter through the Clinic. In addition, the Clinic helps victims connect with other institutions and organizations that are active in addressing this issue.

Turkish Population's Genetic Structure Revealed by Bilkent-Led Study



Research conducted under the leadership of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics elucidated the detailed genetic structure of Turkish society. In a project conducted over the course of 10 years with a budget of 10 million US dollars, investigators examined the DNA of approximately 4,000 individuals originating from all 81 provinces of Turkey.

The results, which were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States on September 7, indicated that the Turkish population has overall genetic unity while at the same time containing a high level of genetic diversity. Prof. Tayfun Özçelik, dean of the Faculty of Science and chair of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, served as coordinator of the project.

Donors Fund Scholarships for Bilkent Students

During the 2021–2022 academic year, a large number of Bilkent students received scholarships funded by contributions from donors based in Turkey and abroad.

The Şermin Savaşçı Education Fund, established by Ms. Savaşçı to support students in the Faculty of Engineering, provided scholarships for 10 students.

Donations from Department of Industrial Engineering alumni funded 11 Erasmus Support Scholarships for IE students.

Eleven Industrial Engineering students received Aylin Özden Toper Scholarships, funded by donations from IE alumni as well as friends and family members of Ms. Toper (IE '96) in her memory.

Two Computer Engineering students and two Industrial Engineering students were recipients of Invent Analytics Merit Scholarships, contributed by Invent Analytics, a company founded by IE graduate Gürhan Kök (BS '96, MS '98).

Three Department of Mathematics students received this year's Orhan Alisbah Fellowships; the fellowships, given annually, were established by the Alisbah family in memory of Prof. Alisbah, one of Turkey's best-known mathematicians.

An MA student in the Faculty of Education's Curriculum and Instruction With Teaching Certificate program received a Bilsel Alisbah Fellowship; this fellowship, also presented annually by Alisbah family, honors the memory of Prof. Alisbah's son Bilsel.

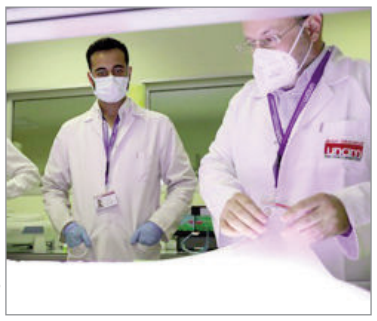
Two scholarships for students in the Faculty of Business Administration benefited 19 recipients; 15 Sinan Karacadağ Scholarships were awarded, while 4 students received scholarships given in memory of 2005 Faculty of Business Administration graduate Caner Güner, funded on the basis of donations from Mr. Güner's family.



In addition, 16 scholarships funded by the Bridge to Türkiye Fund, 16 scholarships funded by the Bright Future Fund and 32 scholarships funded by the Career Fair Support Fund were awarded to Bilkent students during the 2021–2022 academic year.

NEWS & EVENTS OF 2021-2022

UNAM Leads Large-Scale Technology Platform Program



The National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) is spearheading a TÜBİTAK-funded large-scale program aimed at developing advanced material technologies. A consortium of organizations from industry and academia is working together for co-creation on the program, which has been named the A1-Platform.

Turkey Represented at ICPC by Bilkent CS Students



A team of Computer Engineering students represented Bilkent University and Turkey at the world finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), held October 1–6 and hosted by the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. Team members Oğuzhan Özçelik, Orhan Uysal and İkbal Kazar were coached by Asst. Prof. Ercüment Çiçek. They were the only team from Turkey to compete in this year's finals, and only the second team from Turkey to participate in the finals during the 44 years the event has been held.

CIRE Grants for Students





Ela Fasllija, a PhD candidate in the Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design, and Gülnihan Atay, an MSc student in the Department of Architecture, were each selected to receive an international student grant from the Committee on International Research and Education (CIRE) of the Acoustical Society of America.

Law Students Receive Awards in Future Arbitration Counsel Competition



A team of Bilkent University Faculty of Law students made it to the quarterfinals in the fifth Future Arbitration Counsel Competition, held by the İstanbul Arbitration Center last July. In addition, team member Özgür Kurt was singled out to receive the "Future Arbitration Counsel" award.

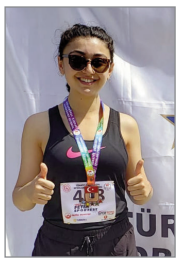
The other members of the Bilkent team were Orkun A. Apan, Ö. Y. Ogeday Demirer, Kutalmış H. Ersoy, A. Segenay Kerimoğlu and Meltem Sarıtaş.



In the sixth Future Arbitration Counsel Competition, held May 12–15 of this year, Faculty of Law students Boran Akyıldız, Beril Kösegil, Ece Ataseven, Gökçe Laleoğlu and Hüseyin Taha Kaya represented Bilkent University. Coached by two members of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Bilgin Tiryakioğlu and Elif Gökçen Toksoy, the Bilkent team was one of more than 60 teams from universities across Turkey taking part in the competition. Gökçe received this year's "Future Arbitration Counsel" award.

Two Sports, Two Medals for Bilkenters



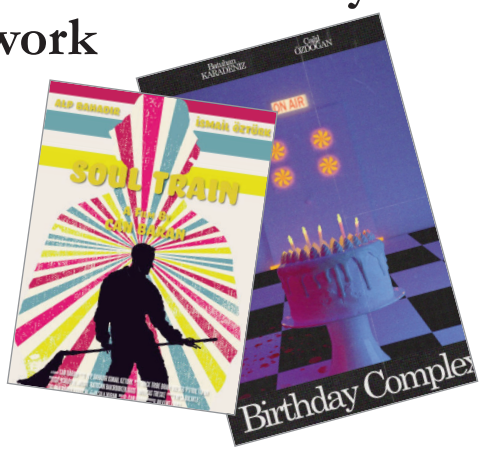


During May, two Bilkent students placed among the top three in national competitions for university students.

Department of Computer Engineering student Ahmet Turgut Taflan took second place in Turkey in the sabre category of the Turkish Interuniversity Fencing Championship. Representatives of 28 universities took part in the event, held on May 17.

On May 29, at the Fetih Sporfest Turkish Championship event in İstanbul, Department of Information Systems and Technologies student Aybüke Yaren came in third in the road run, an event in which athletes from 10 universities participated.

COMD Students' Films Screened by Lift-Off Global Network



Two short films by third-year students in the Department of Communication and Design were selected for showing by the Lift-Off Global Network in its First-Time Filmmakers Online and Global Sessions. "Soul Train" by Can Baran and "Birthday Complex" by Aslı Çakmak were shown during the network's screenings and online sessions held March 21–April 4 and April 25–May 9.

Antiviral Protein–Based Nasal Spray to Prevent Coronavirus Developed at UNAM



A nasal spray containing a protein that prevents the coronavirus from entering the cell was developed at the National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) at Bilkent University in cooperation with Ankara and Hacettepe universities, under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Urartu Şeker of UNAM. With preclinical studies having been completed successfully, investigation of the spray will continue with clinical studies on volunteers after approval from the Ministry of Health.

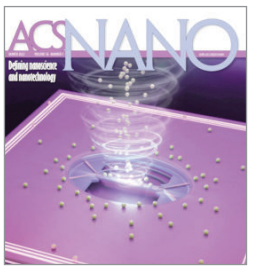
Award for Engineering Students' UAV



A team of six Bilkent engineering students received a third-place award at Teknofest 2021 for their entry in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Fighter competition category.

The Bilkent team, founded in 2020 and competing under the name Gökordu, consisted of Ahmed Bircis Aydın (EE), Emre Bektaş (ME), Utku Koca (ME), Erdem Koçer (EE), Alpsencer Özdemir (CS) and Yavuz Alp Sencer Öztürk (CS).

Hanay Group's Breakthrough Chip Technology to Probe Nano World



A paper by the research group led by Asst. Prof. Selim Hanay of the Department of Mechanical Engineering describing their invention of a new measurement technique was featured on the front cover of ACS Nano, a leading journal in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. The work outlined in the paper demonstrated the weighing of single nanoparticles and viruses under atmospheric conditions for the first time.

Bilkent to Partner in EC-Funded Quantum Computing Project



Bilkent University will be one of 11 partners in a European Commission–funded project researching the potential advantages of quantum computing, with Asst. Prof. Cihan Okay of the Department of Mathematics serving as principal investigator.

Men's Tennis Team Wins Angora Cup



At the 17th annual Angora Cup Interuniversity Sports Festival, held at Bilkent during April and May, the Bilkent men's tennis team took first place in their sport.

Farewell to Bilkent's Departed

The Bilkent community bids these dear departed members a fond farewell. May they rest in peace.



Ali Beyhan, a fourth-year student in the Department of Information Systems and Technologies, Faculty of Applied Sciences, passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2021.



Reyhan Göktaş, a 1994 graduate of the Bilkent University Department of Computer Engineering and a system administrator with the Bilkent Computer Center, passed away on Sunday, May 1, 2022.



Ogan Ocalı, a member of the Bilkent University Board of Trustees and a 1995 PhD graduate of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, passed away on Monday, April 11, 2022.

A Sampling of Books Published by Bilkent Faculty and Staff During 2021–2022



● Asst. Prof. Luca Zavagno of the Department of History published his third monograph, "The Byzantine City From Heraclius to the Fourth Crusade, 610–1204." The book was issued by Palgrave Macmillan as part of its "New Approaches to Byzantine History and Culture" series.

● A new book by Dr. Gül Kurtuluş of the Department of English Language and Literature, titled "Convention and Contravention in Ben Jonson's Three Comedies," was released on October 29 by the Switzerland-based academic publishing house Peter Lang.

● Burak Tokcan, a writer in the Communications Office and a MAN '01 graduate, published his second book of poetry, "Kırılgan Yüzler Albümü" (A Collection of Fragile Faces). The book, printed by Klaros Yayınları, took second place in Kemal Özer Poetry Awards in 2021.

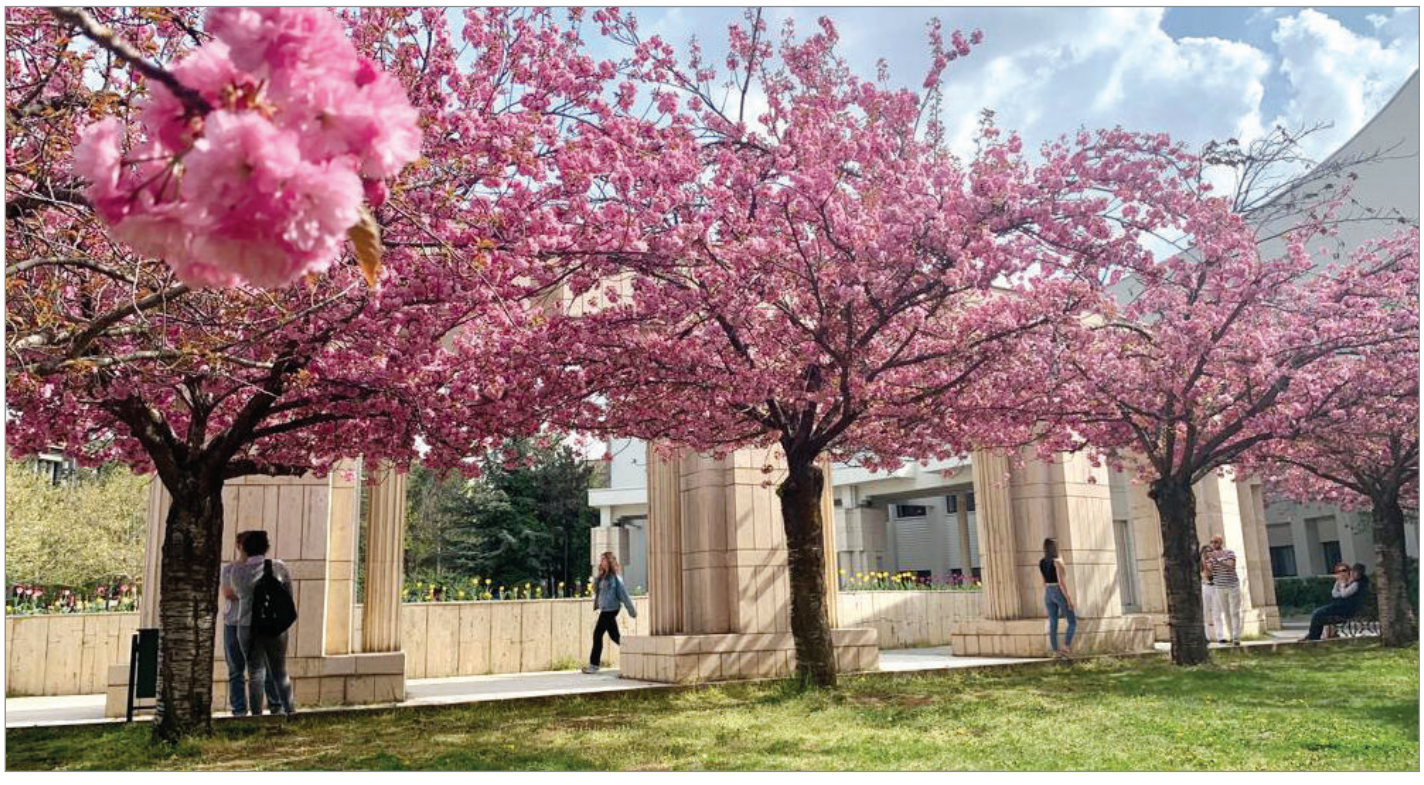
● Palgrave Macmillan published "Bargaining: Current Research and Future Directions," a book coedited by Assoc. Prof. Emin Karagözoğlu of the Department of Economics.

● "Euro-Austerity and Welfare States" by Asst. Prof. H. Tolga Bölükbaşı of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration was published by the University of Toronto Press. The book analyzes the politics of budgetary and welfare state reform in the first episode of Euro-austerity during the 1990s.

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See You Next Semester!



Dear Bilkent News Readers,

As we say good-bye until next semester, we would like to thank our readers for their support and contributions throughout the past year.

Bilkent News would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you and good-bye to Ada Kılıçarslan, feature writer and reporter, and Burak Diker, student webmaster, who are graduating this year.

We thank all students who have contributed to the paper for their hard work and insights, and wish all graduating students much success in the future!

We wish everyone a wonderful summer!

The Bilkent News Editorial Board

BİLKENT NEWS

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*Bilkent News (**ext. 1487**) welcomes feedback from readers. Please submit your letters to **bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr**. The Editorial Board will review the letters and print them as space permits.*

100% Post Consumer

Bilkent CALENDAR



Undergraduate Recruitment Period for Prospective Students

This year's Undergraduate Recruitment Period will take place in a hybrid format.

Starting the last week of June, a series of online events will be hosted on Zoom to provide information about the university and its various departments, as well as professions and fields of work that students might enter after their time at university.

These Zoom sessions will continue after the Student Placement Examination results are announced on July 20. Starting then, prospective students and their families will also have the opportunity to visit the campus and meet Bilkent volunteer guides to get information on academic departments and all the opportunities available at Bilkent.

Details of all events will be announced soon.

For more information: **adaybilgi.bilkent.edu.tr**

Bilkent Symphony Orchestra Concerts





Sunday, June 26
8 p.m.
Bilkent Odeon

"The Orchestra Mice": A Fairytale for Children

Howard Griffiths, conductor
Selçuk Yöntem, narrator

Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3
8 p.m.
Bilkent Odeon

Fazıl Say at the Odeon
James Feddeck, conductor
Fazıl Say, piano

A. Webern | Langsamer Satz
I. Stravinsky | "The Firebird"
R. Schumann | Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54

2022–2023 FALL SEMESTER ACADEMIC CALENDAR

6 September 2022, Tuesday (09:30)	PAE Exam: 1st stage
6 September 2022, Tuesday (18:00)	PAE Exam 1st stage results announced
7 September 2022, Wednesday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-A
7 September 2022, Wednesday (15:30)	French aptitude test
7 September 2022, Wednesday (19:00)	PAE Exam 2nd stage part-A results announced
8 September 2022, Thursday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B writing exam
8 September 2022, Thursday - 10 September 2022, Saturday	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B speaking exams (by appointment)
9 September 2022, Friday - 13 September 2022, Tuesday	GE100 Introduction to Academic Life program for all new students
9 September 2022, Friday	Tuition due for all continuing students
9 September 2022, Friday	Last day for leave-of-absence applications
12 September 2022, Monday (10:00)	PAE Exam 2nd stage exam results announced
14 September 2022, Wednesday	Course registrations
15 September 2022, Thursday	Classes begin
15 September 2022, Thursday	English Preparatory Program Period 1 begins
21 September 2022, Wednesday (13:00)	Course drop deadline
21 September 2022, Wednesday (23:59)	Course add deadline
27 October 2022, Thursday - 28 October 2022, Friday	No classes
28 October 2022, Friday (12:30)	Halfday holiday
29 October 2022, Saturday	Republic Day holiday
30 October 2022, Sunday	No classes
4 November 2022, Friday (17:30)	Withdraw deadline
10 November 2022, Thursday	Commemoration of Atatürk
14 November 2022, Monday	English Preparatory Program Period 2 begins
16 December 2022, Friday - 2 January 2023, Monday	Course pre-registration
21 December 2022, Wednesday	Internal transfer applications deadline
21 December 2022, Wednesday	New minor program and second major applications deadline
23 December 2022, Friday	Last day of classes
24 December 2022, Saturday (17:30)	Deadline for submitting FZ grades for non-qualifying students
24 December 2022, Saturday (17:30)	Students who do not qualify to take final exams (FZ grades) announced
26 December 2022, Monday - 9 January 2023, Monday	Final exams
31 December 2022, Saturday	No final exams
1 January 2023, Sunday	New Year's Day holiday
6 January 2023, Friday	Registration for new graduate students
9 January 2023, Monday	Last day of Fall semester classes for English Preparatory Program
9 January 2023, Monday (09:30)	PAE Exam: 1st stage
9 January 2023, Monday (18:00)	PAE Exam 1st stage results announced
10 January 2023, Tuesday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-A
10 January 2023, Tuesday (19:00)	PAE Exam 2nd stage part-A results announced
11 January 2023, Wednesday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B writing exam
11 January 2023, Wednesday - 13 January 2023, Friday	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B speaking exam (by appointment)
13 January 2023, Friday (17:30)	Grade submission deadline for instructors
13 January 2023, Friday (17:30)	Grades announced
14 January 2023, Saturday	PAE Exam 2nd stage exam results announced

Please check www.bilkent.edu.tr for the latest updates.