

## **Do not make your preference before visiting the university**

Stating that the number of students who won the university last year but did not register was over 100 thousand, Educator Abdulkadir Gayretli emphasized that students should research the university of their choice thoroughly and said: “Do not make your preference before visiting the university. If you do not enroll even though you have been placed in a university, do not forget that your Secondary Education Success Score will decrease. Do not risk your chance of being placed in a university.”

## **DOUBLE MAJOR, MINOR AND TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES**

Stating that the students do not research their preferred universities sufficiently, Istanbul Gelisim University Chairman of the Board of Trustees Abdulkadir Gayretli stated: “Do not make your preference before visiting the university. Visit universities' preference and promotion days, which are held in accordance with safe distance rules due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Get together with mentor experts and academics. Research all the details. If you do not enroll even though you have been placed in a university, do not forget that your Secondary Education Success Score will decrease by half next year. Do not risk your chance of being placed in a university. Do not worry if you enroll in a department you do not want. With double major, minor and transfer opportunities, every student can now study the department they want easily.”

## **"BARRIERS ARE REMOVED"**

Reminding the Head of CoHE Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç's statement ‘the quotas at universities will be completely full’, Gayretli said: “Being a university student has been made easy. All the obstacles before the students have been removed so that they can study the department they want. Studying in the departments they want will benefit both students and the country. One should never stop learning new things.”

## **"SET YOUR GOALS HIGH"**

Advising that students should set their goals high, Gayretli spoke: “Trust yourself and broaden your horizon. Provide opportunities for yourself by using all the opportunities of the time you are in. Remember that great success requires big dreams.”

## **Universities also shape the values of individuals**

Pointing out that universities are not only the institutions where vocational and technical education is given, but also the leading institutions where future generations understand their roles in society as individuals and shape their values and beliefs, Asst. Prof. Dr. Aslıhan Güzin Selçuk said: “Education forms the basis for a culture of tolerance and the building of peaceful, stable and prosperous societies ensuring social gender equality, supporting healthy living awareness, preventing violence.”

Selçuk reminded that Istanbul Gelisim University became 1st in Turkey out of 34 Turkish Universities evaluated and was recorded in top 100 in the World in the category of 'Quality Education' under the Times Higher Education World University Ranking (Impact Ranking 2020) where 676 universities of the 82 countries were evaluated.

Selçuk said: "Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Ranking is the first and only ranking in the world based on the responsibility and added value that universities have undertaken in the local, regional, national and international arena in line with the 17 sustainable development goals set by the United Nations (UN)."

**"UNIVERSITIES' SOLE RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT ONLY TO GIVE QUALIFIED EDUCATION TO STUDENTS."**

Pointing out that higher education plays an important role in the sustainable development of societies, Asst. Prof. Dr. Aslıhan Güzin Selçuk said: "Universities are not the institutions where only vocational and technical education is given, but also the leading institutions where future generations understand their roles in society as individuals and shape their values and beliefs. For this reason, it is an active player in sustainable development. Today, the only responsibility of universities is not only to provide qualified education to their students and to train competent graduates. At the same time, it has perhaps the most important responsibility to transform students into active individuals who are aware of the steps they need to take in line with sustainable development goals, who have the power to transform the society and are ready to take responsibility. However, the responsibility area of universities does not end here either. The society that struggles with inequalities, needs support and wants to improve itself has a great responsibility towards all segments. At this point, the importance and difference of Times Higher Education Impact Rank emerges. The ranking of impact is a very valuable ranking in which respected universities strive to take place in terms of evaluating the quality and opportunities of education that universities provide to their students, as well as the support they give to the sustainable development of societies in the national and international arena."

**"THE MOST IMPORTANT POWER AGAINST POVERTY AND INEQUALITY"**

IGU Sustainable Environment and Community Center Manager Selçuk, who stated that education is the primary reason for the existence of higher education institutions, so the competition in this area is also very high, said: "Quality education is one of the

most important areas in the ranking, as it is one of the most important tools of sustainable development policy and is also critical to the realization of other sustainable development goals. Inclusive and equitable quality education is a fundamental human right for every member of society. An educated society is the most important force against poverty and inequality as it represents an entrepreneurial, innovative, productive workforce that is open to technological developments. At the same time, education is the basis for ensuring gender equality, supporting healthy life awareness, preventing violence, and building a culture of tolerance and peaceful, stable and prosperous societies. The field of quality education in the impact list evaluates the inclusive and equitable education opportunities offered by universities to their students and society, and the responsibility undertaken by universities within the scope of realizing the philosophy of lifelong learning. In this context, it is very valuable to see that IGU has an important place among the respected world universities, both in terms of showing that we are on the right track and the extent of our support to the sustainable development of the society.”

Emphasizing that they produce projects in the local, regional, national and international arena with the participation of students under the guidance of the road map prepared by the Presidency in line with the 2030 goals, Selçuk listed the priority targets in this field as follows:

“To establish safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments,

To prevent gender inequalities in education and to support equal access of all vulnerable groups to education at all levels,

To increase the number of young people and adults with these skills by focusing on critical skills for sustainable employment,

Supporting girls, women, the poor, the disabled, immigrants and other groups to access inclusive and equitable quality education,

To support all segments of the society with the knowledge and skills required to support sustainable development in the fields of sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, peace and nonviolent culture, world citizenship, and cultural diversity.”

### **One out of every 4 people in the world will have water shortage by 2050**

Pointing out that in the clean water and sanitation goal report of the Sustainable Development Goals created by the United Nations, it is estimated that one in every 4 people in the world will have water shortages by 2050, Asst. Prof. Dr. Nevruz Berna Tatlısu said: “Currently, water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people in the world.”

Tatlısu reminded that Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has ranked 201-300 among the world universities and 8th among the participating universities from Turkey

applying in the field of clean water and sanitation according to the report of Times Higher Education (THE), which evaluates the contributions of universities to the sustainable development of communities within the scope of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG6- Clean Water and Sanitation).

Tatlısu stated: “Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Ranking has the feature of being the first and only ranking in the world based on the responsibility undertaken by universities in the local, regional, national and international and the added value it produces areas to achieve these goals in line with the 17 sustainable development goals set by the United Nations (UN).”

#### "PRIORITY TO SAVE THE PLANET"

Mentioning that the Sustainable Development Goals created by the United Nations are primarily global goals created to save the planet and protect the life of every living, Tatlısu spoke: “It is a call to action created from 17 subjects titled as no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being; quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action, life below water, life on land; peace, justice and strong institutions and partnerships for the goals. The main goal to be reached is to provide a sustainable world in every area and every moment of life.”

Expressing that the determined goals are interconnected, Tatlısu said: “It must be thought of like a chain or a honeycomb, it requires continuity and durability. A goal that cannot be reached in any of them negatively affects the goal in total. For this reason, Istanbul Gelisim University did not only aim at one goal when taking steps for clean water. Successful steps were taken and have been taken by creating a holistic solution set that includes every step affecting the cause and outcome of the problem with an educational approach that adopts a multidisciplinary approach.”

#### "ONE IN EVERY 4 PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WILL HAVE WATER SHORTAGE UP TO 2050"

Emphasizing that water is indispensable in ensuring sustainability for life, Asst. Prof. Dr. Nevruz Berna Tatlısu said: “The effects of global warming, population growth, developing industry and grayed cities now became obvious more and they trigger climate changes and natural events together. The depletion of potable clean water resources is a universal fact that affects all continents. Even in some countries, these resources are running out. In the Sustainable Development Goals' clean water and sanitation target report, it is estimated that one in every 4 people in the world will have water shortages by 2050. Currently, water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people in the world. In order to eliminate the negativities caused by this ordinary change, it is very important to take valuable steps to produce new ideas for sustainable consumption and production, to produce new ideas and to offer a quality life.”

### “WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN”

Stating that the university has a water management plan for a sustainable future and has made significant improvements to evaluate and reduce water consumption, Tatlısu said: “Conducting water consumption analyzes is very important in determining the amount of water consumption of the institution. In order to reduce water use, the average fixed water consumption should be determined first. At the university, faucet taps with sensors are currently used in order to reduce the continuous water flow and tap aerator to reduce the excess flow of water. In addition, separate meters are used to monitor the water used for green areas at our university. This is an important activity to evaluate the necessity of non-green areas and to generate ideas for reducing use.”

### “IT WILL GIVE US A GREEN WORLD”

Tatlısu mentioned that important activities are carried out at the university in order to raise awareness of the youth, which is essential to understand the importance of sustainability in order to live a sustainable life and continued as follows: “Providing education to teach students the concepts of knowledge, skills and competence and enabling them to evaluate the situation can be an effective way for them to become conscious consumers with competence acquisition. With courses such as Introduction to Sustainability, Sustainable Environmental Management, Sustainable and Green Logistics, Environmental Economics and Sustainability, we raise the awareness of students and enable them to review their consumer habits in the name of their own future. For the sake of society sustainability, increasing awareness of each individual's water consumption and being included in the chain will bring us a greener world. A greener world is the golden key to a sustainable life.”

### “MORE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN”

Reminding that the university has taken important steps to increase water efficiency and is making waste utilization plans, Tatlısu added: “Especially, it carries out activities with projects for the recycling of wastewater and other waste recovery, which is a very important issue. The collection of rainwater in tanks to be reused in dry periods or reuse of waste water through filtering are sustainable movements. For a sustainable life, it is necessary to consider the goals together and to take more steps. Taking enough care and returning it will no longer be sufficient for the irrepressible increase of the population. For this reason, it is common for all our sustainability goals to be able to make an upcycle rather than recycling that was brought with a rapidly developing and changing world in order to ensure continuity.”

## **The prerequisite of qualified education is a teacher**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Derya Kavgaoğlu, who made suggestions to teachers after the transition to distance education due to the Covid-19 epidemic, stated that qualified education is a public right regardless of the method and said, “Everyone has the right to get education. A precondition for a qualified education is a teacher.”

Stating that the first condition of a strong instructional design for distance education is to determine learning outcomes, Asst. Prof. Dr. Derya Kavgaoğlu from Istanbul Gelisim University said: “Unlike a common misconception, distance education does not mean that information will be given only by rote. In this sense, cognitive teaching designs that focus only on the processing of information should not be preferred when designing distance education. Psychomotor and affective acquisitions should also be kept among the target gains. In addition to intellectual capacity, motor skills and value sets should be supported with the projects and performance tasks to be given.”

### **“IT DECREASES THE LEARNING PERFORMANCE IF IT IS NOT DESIGNED CORRECTLY”**

Stating that considering the scope of the course as an indivisible body of knowledge is a subject-oriented traditional teaching style, Kavgaoğlu said: “Especially when distance education is not designed correctly, it increases the cognitive load and decreases the learning performance. Designing the curriculum as theme-based research questions, assigning students interesting research problems that they have to answer or solve during the semester will enable distance education to integrate active learning from the first level.”

### **“IT WILL INCREASE PARTICIPATION RATES”**

Stating that distance education works in harmony with the cooperative purpose structure compared to competitive or individual learning structures, Kavgaoğlu said, “The use of competitive or individual learning structures also undermines social learning, which is considered to be an important disadvantage of distance education. Establishing cooperative expertise groups and taking initiative will give students the experience of being in the center and learning together, making them happy, and increasing the voluntary participation rates.”

### **“FLEX YOUR TEACHING STYLE”**

Suggesting teachers to flex their teaching style, Kavgaoğlu said: “The distance education process is a very important opportunity to abandon communication practices that are constantly reproduced in face-to-face education and reinforce the traditional role, and move to learner-centered education. The most practical way to do this is to differentiate in the teaching and learning strategies, methods and techniques preferred in the process and evaluation processes of the course.

According to the level of education, both the curriculum prepared by the Ministry of Education and the National Core Programs that can be accessed from the Department of Education of YÖK offer alternative methods in this sense.”

Kavgaoğlu concluded her speech as follows:

“Considering that the student groups are the Generation Z born in 2000 and the following generation Alpha in the classes administered by teachers of Generation X and Y, it is possible to say that these students can have competencies above their teachers in digital media management and using digital tools. In this sense, in order to manage distance education, teachers should not spend all of their time and effort to learn and teach new digital technology tools perfectly. Instead, distributing the responsibility to the students, allowing them to teach their teachers and the classroom when necessary, provides more effective and meaningful results. This strategy, on the one hand, will reinforce the student's self-esteem and self-efficacy, enable them to experience a democratic classroom climate in social sense, and on the other hand, neutralize the classroom hierarchy and enable the student and the teacher to enjoy the learning experience together.”

### **Our university contributes to the reduction of environmental pollution**

Prof. Dr. Bedri Yüksel reminded that Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has ranked 100-200 among world universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 'Affordable and Clean Energy' category. Yüksel evaluated the ranking as a major success in terms of Turkey's image and said: "This evaluation also shows the contribution of our university to clean energy and reduction of environmental pollution on an international and national basis."

Stating that the ranking is an indicator of the studies carried out by the university and the importance given to the environment in the category of "Affordable and Clean Energy", Yüksel said: “As it is known, our country imports approximately 77 percent of its total energy consumption and the negative impact of this energy import on the country's economy is considerable. It is known that the sudden increases in world energy prices in the past, especially after 1970, caused major economic crises in our country and serious problems for our country. Our country spends billions of dollars on energy imports, which has a negative impact on our country's economy.”

### **"INDICATOR OF SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES"**

Assessing the ranking as a major success in terms of Turkey's image, Prof. Dr. Bedri Yüksel spoke: “The category measures universities' research on energy use and policies in relation to affordable and clean energy, and their commitment to promoting energy efficiency in wider communities. The place of Istanbul Gelisim University in the ranking is an indication of the recent successful studies of our university and it is an honor for us.”

### **"PRODUCTION INCREASES EXPONENTIALLY "**

Stating that the measures taken by the state in recent years have increased the production and use of renewable clean energy resources, Prof. Dr. Yüksel spoke: “Electricity generation from energy sources such as hydraulic, wind, solar, geothermal and biogas, which are known as renewable energy sources, has increased exponentially and continues to increase with the incentives and laws enacted.”

**"IT ALSO SHOWS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING POLLUTION"**

Saying that since renewable energy sources are also environmentally friendly, they also contribute to the reduction of environmental pollution, Prof. Dr. Yüksel stated: “This evaluation also shows the contribution of our university to the clean energy and reduction of environmental pollution on an international and national basis. It is an important achievement that our university ranks between 100 and 200 in the world university rankings with its studies on clean energy production, use and reduction of environmental pollution.”

### **We are working for sustainable development in the field of health**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arda Öztürkcan reminded that Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) is included in the 201-300 rankings among the world universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking Good Health and Well-being category. Öztürkcan pointed out that universities’ research on key diseases and conditions, their support for healthcare professions, and the health of students and staff in this category of the rankings.

Stating that there are 620 universities from 80 countries in the ranking, Istanbul Gelisim University School of Health Sciences Vice Director Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arda Öztürkcan said: “We continue our national and international studies at full speed for the sustainable development of our country in the field of health.”

Speaking on the importance of this ranking, Öztürkcan stated: “The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action by the United Nations to end poverty, protect our planet, and ensure peace and well-being for all people. In short, these goals consist of 17 subjects and sub-headings. We are also proud being in the 4th rank in the category of Health and Quality Life, where there are 32 universities from Turkey in the ranking. Although the School of Health Sciences was established in 2012, it was awarded through 13 departments by the international accreditation of AHPGS (Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences) in 2018 in a very short time. AHPGS is a leading German Accreditation organization in healthcare. Our university and our school have now managed to have the impact of the success in



the rankings they have achieved with their approach to quality standards and targeting internationalization that have continued since the day they were founded.”

#### "REFLECTED AS THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION"

Stating that the education given to students within the scope of all quality and ranking studies and accordingly the consciousness has constantly been improved, Öztürkcan said: “In our world that tries to unite against global problems, every study in our country is very valuable. These studies are reflected in the quality of education to our students through universities.”

#### "WE OFFER APPLICATION AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES"

Stating that Istanbul Gelisim University has collaboration protocols in the field of health between all state hospitals and many private hospitals affiliated to Istanbul Provincial Health Directorate, Öztürkcan said: "In this way, while providing our students with practice and internship opportunities in all fields of health, we have proven that we have succeeded in evaluating them in international standards and trying to contribute to science together with all our staff.

Öztürkcan added: “During the coronavirus epidemic in our country, as the School of Health Sciences, we want to continue our activities with academic and scientific studies. We try to spread awareness in the field of health and increase our quality of life with all our staff and students.”

#### "EXPLORE BILATERAL COLLABORATIONS"

Öztürkcan, also gave advice to prospective students: “I recommend that all students who want to continue their profession in a globally respectable manner, thoroughly examine the preference guides offered by ÖSYM. In addition, I recommend that departments aiming to provide quality education within the scope of internationalization, examine the accreditation studies, Erasmus, international internship opportunities and bilateral cooperation, follow the university rankings and choose dynamic institutions that are suitable for such training.”