

VISIT FROM ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY TO MARMARA UNIVERSITY RECTOR PROF. MEHMET EMIN OKUR

Prof. Bahri Şahin, Rector of Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU), paid a congratulatory visit to Prof. Mehmet Emin Okur on the occasion of his appointment as the Rector of Marmara University. During the visit, Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli, Secretary General of IGU, and Prof. İzzet Gümüş, Director of the Graduate Education Institute, accompanied Rector Şahin. The meeting involved a fruitful exchange of ideas on potential future academic collaborations, joint research projects, and initiatives to enhance educational quality between the two universities.

Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin emphasized that mutual solidarity and academic sharing play a vital role in the development of higher education. He congratulated Prof. Mehmet Emin Okur on his new appointment and extended his best wishes for success.

Prof. Mehmet Emin Okur, Rector of Marmara University, expressed his pleasure with the visit and thanked the IGU delegation for their kind gesture and well wishes.

STRATEGIC VISIT FROM CANADA TO ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY: STEPS TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH UFV

In line with its internationalization vision, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) hosted an important collaboration meeting. On October 7, 2025, Daryl Smith, a representative from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), one of Canada's distinguished higher education institutions, visited IGU. The visit marked a strategic step towards strengthening academic and cultural ties between the two universities.

FROM THE EAIE CONFERENCE TO A CAMPUS VISIT: A GROWING COLLABORATION

Daryl Smith's visit followed an initial meeting with IGU's International Exchange and Cooperation Coordinator Alisa Usubova, held during the EAIE Conference in Sweden between September 9–12, 2025. The meeting was also attended by Scientific Research Projects Coordinator Serap Yeşilkır Baydar, UDIO-K Assistant Specialist Yaren Ergenç, and UDIO-K Assistant Murat Emre Şensoy.

As part of the visit, Daryl Smith met with IGU Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Necmettin Maraşlı and received information about the university's international vision and potential for cooperation. Following the official meetings, a campus tour was organized to introduce IGU's infrastructure and academic environment.

COIL PROGRAM AND ERASMUS+ MOBILITY ON THE AGENDA

During the meetings, particular attention was given to the COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) program implemented by the University of the Fraser Valley. This innovative model aims to foster teamwork, intercultural interaction, and interdisciplinary perspectives among students through online courses and joint projects between universities.

Discussions also included Erasmus+ student and staff mobility, with a focus on potential exchange programs in the Faculty of Business, Faculty of Fine Arts, and Faculty of Social Sciences. Both parties expressed a strong commitment to expanding and sustaining collaboration.

MOU AND BILATERAL AGREEMENT PROCESS INITIATED

At the end of the visit, both universities agreed to initiate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a bilateral agreement. These agreements are expected to provide a solid foundation for transforming academic cooperation into concrete projects.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY EXPANDS ITS GLOBAL NETWORK

This visit by Daryl Smith marks the University of the Fraser Valley's first official institutional visit to Istanbul Gelisim University. It represents a significant step towards establishing a lasting and meaningful academic partnership. IGU continues to emphasize its internationalization vision through such strategic engagements as part of its goal to expand its global collaboration network.

IGU MAINTAINS ITS SUCCESS IN THE 2026 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has achieved another significant success in the 2026 World University Rankings announced by the international higher education ranking organization Times Higher Education (THE). According to the 2026 results, IGU maintained its position in the 1001–1200 band worldwide, ranking 9th among foundation universities, 16th in Türkiye overall, and 2nd in Turkey in the Research Quality category. In the international visibility category, IGU ranked 6th, right after Bogazici University, strengthening Turkey's position in global higher education with its research strength and international impact capacity.

IGU STOOD OUT WITH ITS RESEARCH STRENGTH IN THE 2026 RANKINGS

This year, the Times Higher Education 2026 World University Rankings evaluated 2,191 universities from 115 countries, including 137 universities from Türkiye.

In line with its vision of becoming a "Research University," Istanbul Gelisim University has achieved a lasting momentum globally in recent years through investments in research infrastructure, qualified human resources, and international projects. This determined progress was once again confirmed by the university's stable position in the 1001–1200 band.

According to THE 2026 results, IGU ranked 16th overall in Türkiye, 9th among foundation universities, and 2nd in the Research Quality category. In the international visibility category, IGU ranked 6th, just after Bogazici University. These results once again highlight IGU's strengthening position not only at the national level but also in the global higher education arena.

"WE DO NOT COMPROMISE ON OUR GOAL OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE"

IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin made the following statement regarding the THE 2026 results:

“Maintaining our place in the 1001–1200 band in the Times Higher Education 2026 World University Rankings, ranking 9th among foundation universities, 16th overall in Türkiye, and 2nd in Research Quality, is a reflection of our strong academic structure based on scientific output. This success is the result of our sustainable research policies, internationalization strategies, and the collective efforts of our qualified academic staff. As Istanbul Gelisim University, we not only take part in the field of higher education but also contribute to global science by producing high-impact scientific outputs with strong research quality.

Our goal is to further increase our research capacity, move beyond this band, and strengthen Turkey's global representation in world university rankings. With the dedicated efforts of our academic staff, the scientific curiosity of our students, and the support of our stakeholders, we are moving confidently toward this goal. I thank all our academics, administrative staff, and students who contributed to this achievement.”

RESEARCH POWER RISING WITH A GLOBAL VISION

Istanbul Gelisim University does not limit its research ecosystem to scientific production alone; it supports it with industry collaborations, innovative projects, and global funding sources to increase Türkiye’s international visibility and expand its scientific impact.

With these strategic steps, the university is deepening its research-oriented growth and progressing toward becoming a permanent force in the global academic arena. In this direction, IGU aims to rise to higher bands in future THE rankings through its strong academic staff, interdisciplinary collaborations, high-quality publication performance, and participation in international research networks.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS BAKIRKÖY MUNICIPALITY'S BARRIER-FREE LIFE HOUSE

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) participated in the opening ceremony of the Barrier-Free Life House project, initiated by Bakırköy Municipality. The ceremony was attended by IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin, Vice Director of the Vocational School of Health Services Asst. Prof. Nurcihan Tan Erkoç, and Head of the Digital Health Systems Technician Program Lect. Ebru Cengiz. As part of the project, IGU will develop a special educational program to provide various training courses for individuals with disabilities. The programs, conducted by IGU academicians, aim to support the active participation of disabled individuals in social life and enhance their quality of life.

"WE CONSIDER SOLIDARITY WITH ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY AS OUR DUTY"

Speaking at the opening, IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin emphasized the university's commitment to social responsibility:

"A barrier-free life is achieved not only through physical arrangements but also through education, art, employment, and awareness initiatives. At Istanbul Gelişim University, we consider it our duty to maintain solidarity with all segments of society. Through this collaboration with Bakırköy Municipality, we will launch projects that reveal the potential of individuals with disabilities and make them more visible in every area of life."

Bakırköy Mayor Assoc. Prof. Ayşegül Ovalıoğlu highlighted that the Barrier-Free Life House is not just a physical space but a reflection of social awareness:

"The Barrier-Free Life House was established based on the principle that every individual has an equal right to life. Through activities organized here, we aim to help our citizens with disabilities participate more actively in social life and contribute to society as productive individuals."

IGU CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECTS

Through training programs led by IGU academicians, the project will provide practical activities aimed at developing the physical, artistic, social, and professional skills of individuals with disabilities. These efforts are designed to help participants engage more actively in social life, contribute to society as productive members, and strengthen their independent living skills.

Aligned with its vision of “an accessible future for every individual”, Istanbul Gelisim University continues to contribute to projects supporting full and equal participation of disabled individuals in society. From education and social awareness to sustainable development and volunteer activities, IGU actively plays a role in building a barrier-free society, demonstrating its commitment to inclusive social progress.

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPLEX

The Opening Ceremony of the 2025–2026 Higher Education Academic Year was held at the Presidential Complex with the participation of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. During the ceremony, which brought together university representatives from across Türkiye, the importance of the internationalization of the higher education system, the capacity for scientific production, and the qualified human resources being trained in the defense industry were emphasized.

At the ceremony, which was attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) Prof. Erol Özvar, ministers, state officials, ambassadors, academics, and students, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) was represented by Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin, Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli, and Director of the Graduate Education Institute Prof. İzzet Gümüş.

INTERNATIONALIZATION ON THE AGENDA

In his speech, YÖK President Prof. Erol Özvar emphasized that the progress made by universities in Türkiye in line with their internationalization vision clearly demonstrates the level that the higher education system has reached.

“Turkish universities have made remarkable progress in recent years in terms of international visibility and reputation. This development, which is also reflected in international rankings, indicates that our universities will achieve even greater success in the future.”

IGU BEGINS THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WITH INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The internationalization goals highlighted in the speeches at the ceremony align with İstanbul Gelişim University’s recent achievements. Maintaining its position in the 1001–1200 band in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026, IGU ranked 9th among foundation universities and 16th overall in Türkiye. The university also achieved 2nd place in Türkiye for research quality and 6th place in international visibility, marking a strong global start to the new academic year.

İstanbul Gelişim University will continue its commitment to enhancing research capacity, strengthening international visibility, and contributing to Türkiye’s higher education vision throughout the 2025–2026 academic year.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY PREPARES FOR BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN WITH THE GOAL OF A GOLD MEDAL IN 2025

Standing out with its initiatives that strengthen social responsibility awareness, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) is once again preparing to host a comprehensive blood donation campaign this year. The university aims to raise its donation target in 2025 to achieve the Gold Medal. Before the event, teams from the Turkish Red Crescent visited IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin in his office. During the meeting, the Silver Plaque—awarded to the university for its successful blood donation campaign in 2024—was presented to Prof. Şahin. The visit also highlighted the importance of sustainable blood donation initiatives in fostering social solidarity.

TARGET: 1,500 UNITS OF BLOOD IN 2025

IGU first achieved the Bronze Plaque by collecting 500 units of blood and then earned the Silver Plaque in 2024 with 1,300 units—marking a significant accomplishment. This year, the goal is even greater: 1,500 units of blood to earn the Gold Medal. The university will demonstrate a strong example of solidarity by engaging academics, administrative staff, and student clubs as volunteers in the campaign.

CAMPUS-WIDE EVENT ON NOVEMBER 11–13

The blood donation campaign is scheduled to take place on November 11–13, 2025, on the university campus. Throughout the event, students and staff will have the opportunity to voluntarily donate blood to Red Crescent teams. The university administration emphasized that the event is not only a contribution to public health but also a meaningful step in strengthening the culture of solidarity.

Through this important campaign, Istanbul Gelisim University aims to deliver a strong message of social responsibility to both its students and the broader community.