

## **GREAT SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN THE FINAL EXAM WEEK FROM ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY!**

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) continues to provide both physical and moral support to its students during the final exams. The university continues to be with the students before the final exams to be held between 10-21 June 2025. The Health Sciences Library (SBK), located in the Rectorate Building (A Block), provides 24-hour uninterrupted service on weekdays during the exam week. Hot soup is offered throughout the night for students who use the library between 17.30 and 08.00.

### **BOTH STUDY AND BREAK AREA**

Students preparing for the finals can take pleasant breaks with different types of soup while studying in a quiet, comfortable and technologically equipped library environment. This helps students both maintain their energy and reduce their exam stress to a certain extent.

Drawing attention with its high-speed internet connection, equipped computers and wide range of resources, SBK provides students with easy access to information and becomes an important support center especially for students working at night with its 24-hour opening.

### **A TRADITION: SOUP BREAK**

The hot soup served by Istanbul Gelisim University during exam periods has become a tradition among students. This is welcomed with increasing satisfaction every semester. It also provides students not only physical but also emotional support.

University officials wished success to all students during the exam period, stating that such services will be maintained in order to increase students' motivation and make the study process more efficient.

## YOUNG TALENTS PERFORM AT THE 2ND HARVEST TIME SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The second Harvest Time Short Film Festival, organized by Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) Faculty of Fine Arts (GSF), Department of Radio, Television and Cinema together with the Film Design Club, took place with intense participation and colorful events. Organized with the support of Cheyni, the external stakeholder of the department, the festival brought film lovers together in Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall. This year's festival hosted the productions of both university students and young filmmakers at the high school level.

### FIRST SESSION OF THE DAY: "FALLOW"

The festival program started with the "Fallow" session, where the graduation films of the 2023-2024 academic year were shown. Then, the "Hocalarımızın Filmleri" session, which includes short films produced by Asst. Prof. Emre Doğan and Res. Asst. Eda Türkay, academicians of the Department of Radio, Television and Cinema, met with the audience.

### CINEMA EXPERIENCE DEEPENED WITH WORKSHOPS

Two practical workshops were held simultaneously within the scope of the festival. The Script Writing Workshop conducted by Savaş Hamarat and the Special Effects, Makeup and Prosthetics Workshop in Cinema conducted by Hazal Tanrıverdi provided important information about the cuisine of cinema art to the participants.

### RACE TO THE LIMIT IN TWO CATEGORIES

The competition sections of the festival brought together short film producers at university and high school levels.

- In the "End of Harvest: IGU Films Finalists" section, the films of the students of the Department of Radio, Television and Cinema competed.
- In the "First Harvest: High School Film Finalists" section, the works of young filmmakers from various schools such as Mimar Sinan Fine Arts High School, Şişli Terakki High School, Robert College were evaluated.

## FESTIVAL AWARDS FOUND THEIR OWNERS

Award ceremony of the festival started with Istanbul Gelisim University Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin's opening speech. Then, the Head of the Radio, Television and Cinema Department Asst. Prof. Emre Doğan gave information about the purpose of the festival and the vision of the department.

### FOUR MAIN AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AT THE CEREMONY:

- End of Harvest: IGU Films Jury Special Award was given to the film "Blind Spot" directed by Mustafa Uyduran. The award was announced by Rifat Özçöllü, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Apart Sanat Association.
- First Harvest: High School Films Jury Special Award went to Şişli Terakki High School with Barış Kuzey Yılmaz's "Kapı (The Door)" film. Award was given by Faculty of Fine Arts Vice Dean Assoc. Prof. Murat Doğan.
- End of Harvest: IGU Films Best Film Award was given to the film "Goal" directed by Deniz Doğan. The statement was made by GSF Dean Prof. Şükran Güzin Ilıcak Aydınalp.
- First Harvest: High School Films Best Film Award found its owner with İlkim Dila Şahin's film "Psychedelia". The award was given by IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin.

### FULL SUPPORT FOR ART AND YOUNG TALENTS FROM IGU

Istanbul Gelisim University, which aims to raise individuals who can think productively, critically and have a universal perspective in the fields of art and communication, allows students to develop their creativity, think interdisciplinarily and gain sectoral experience with such activities. As part of this vision, the Harvest Time Short Film Festival, which has become a tradition within the Faculty of Fine Arts, continues to support young filmmakers, make their productions visible and create a strong space for interaction through art.

## **ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY CONTINUES ITS RISE IN SUSTAINABILITY IN THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2025**

According to the 2025 Impact Rankings results announced by Times Higher Education (THE), Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) once again demonstrated its performance in the field of sustainability. In the ranking prepared in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, IGU was in the 601-800 band worldwide. Having made a significant leap from last year's 801-1000 band with this success, IGU has once again proven that it continues its steady progress in the field of sustainability.

### **EVALUATED BETWEEN 2526 UNIVERSITIES**

In the ranking, in which 2526 universities from 130 countries applied and 2318 of them were evaluated, more than 220,000 evidence was collected from universities and more than 3.7 million articles on the SDG were examined. During the evaluation process, 75 metrics, 251 indicators and more than 230,000 criteria were analyzed. In the current list announced, 112 universities from Turkey were listed.

### **GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT IN SUSTAINABILITY: AT THE TOP IN THE FIELD OF ACCESSIBLE CLEAN ENERGY!**

Istanbul Gelisim University entered the general ranking by scoring in the following four SDG areas in its 2025 evaluation:

- SDG 7: Accessible and Clean Energy – 1st among foundation universities in Turkey
- SDG 4: Qualified Education – 3rd in Turkey
- SDG 10: Reducing Inequalities – Shared 3rd place with Bilkent University across Turkey
- SDG 17: Partnerships for Purposes – ranked 4th among foundation universities in Turkey; in the 401-600 band worldwide

## RISE IN OVERALL RANKING, STRATEGIC SUCCESS IN SDG AREAS

Istanbul Gelisim University made significant progress in the overall ranking in the 2025 Impact Rankings results, ranking in the 601-800 band worldwide. IGU ranked 19th among all universities in Turkey and 4th among foundation universities. This success was a strong indicator of the university's steady rise in sustainability.

IGU, which obtained remarkable results on the basis of the SDG titles evaluated, was ranked in the 101-200 band worldwide while maintaining its ranking among the foundation universities in the field of SDG 7: Accessible and Clean Energy. SDG 4: It was ranked 3rd in Turkey in the Qualified Education category and ranked in the 301-400 band in the world ranking.

SDG 10: While it ranked 15th in Turkey in the field of Reducing Inequalities, it was among the top three foundation universities. SDG 17: In the Partnerships for Purposes category, it ranked 13th in Turkey and 4th among foundation universities, and shared the 401-600 band with Boğaziçi, Hacettepe, Istanbul-Cerrahpaşa and Marmara Universities on a global scale.

On the other hand, IGU, which ranked in the world in the range of 801-1000 in the field of SDG 3: Health and Quality Life, ranked 2nd among foundation universities and 7th in Turkey in the title of SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Istanbul Gelisim University, which presented reports in five fields last year, has managed to increase both its diversity and contribution level by preparing reports within the scope of six different sustainable development goals this year. This development coincides with the university's goal of expanding sustainability-oriented academic production.

“WE CONTINUE OUR SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES FOR THE FUTURE”

Vice Rector for Quality, Accreditation and Internationalization Prof. Arda Öztürkcan stated the following in his evaluation on the subject:

"We have been ranking every year since 2020 in the rankings that started to be announced in 2019. In SDG 4 Qualified Education, we were the first in Turkey for the first three years in a row, and then in SDG 7 Accessible Clean Energy in 2024 and 2025, we managed to take the first place in the foundations. It is very pleasing for us to be able to rise in the rankings attended by more universities from both the world and Turkey. We aim to increase our number of reports and to rise in the rankings. We have published 6 reports this year, we plan to publish reports in 7 SDG areas next year. Together with all our academicians and students who support us in these studies, we continue our sustainability studies and work for the future."

Istanbul Gelisim University continues to demonstrate the importance it attaches to sustainability with its increasing number of reports, expanding impact area and rising ranking achievements.

## **ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY SHOWS STRONG REPRESENTATION AT GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS 2025**

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) participated in the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2025 held in Istanbul in cooperation with the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) between 16-19 June 2025, under the leadership of Vice Rector Prof. Arda Öztürkcan with a team of 10 people consisting of academic and administrative staff.

## WIDE PARTICIPATION FROM ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

At the congress, where sustainable development goals were discussed on a global scale, the following names were included in the team of Istanbul Gelisim University:

- Vice Rector Prof. Arda Öztürkcan
- Quality Coordinator Prof. Hasan Hakan Bozkurt
- Head of Nutrition and Dietetics Department of the Faculty of Health Sciences Assoc. Prof. Hatice Merve Bayram
- Dean of Students Asst. Prof. İbrahim Halil Yaşar
- Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences Asst. Prof. Özlem Tuğçe KELEŞ
- Technology Transfer Office Director Yahya Kemal Kıran
- Vice Dean of Students Lecturer Enes Kalyoncu
- Vocational School Mechanical Department Lecturer Bilge Yılmaz
- Faculty of Health Sciences Department of Child Development Res. Asst. Kübra Aldırmaz
- Quality Specialist Şule Ekuklu

## IGU REPRESENTATIVES PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THEIR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

Each participant in the congress actively participated in the sessions related to his/her field of expertise. IGU representatives, who exchanged information in discussions in critical areas such as education, health, reducing inequalities, digitalization, energy, and food security, also came together with academicians, higher education institutions, international organizations, private sector representatives, and non-governmental organizations from all over the world and had the opportunity to establish international cooperation and networking.

## MORE THAN 110 COUNTRIES, 400+ SPEAKERS

More than 120 hours of content and more than 400 speakers attended the congress with the participation of more than 110 countries. At the congress, which focuses on transformations towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), many panels and presentations were organized under the themes;

- Cities and Communities
- Digital Innovation
- Education
- Inequalities
- Energy and Industry
- Food, Land, Water and Oceans
- Health and Wellbeing

In addition, special events such as the Global Sustainable Leaders Summit, THE Data Workshops, Higher Education Sessions with Refugees and the Global Sustainability Exhibition attracted great attention.

“I AM VERY HAPPY TO REPRESENT OUR UNIVERSITY WITH A TEAM WORKING DECISIVELY IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABILITY”

Vice Rector Prof. Arda Ozturkcan who attended the congress held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last year, shared his views on the congress with the following words:

“I am very happy to represent our university with a team working decisively in the field of sustainability at this important congress organized for the first time in Turkey in cooperation with YÖK and Times Higher Education. The public presentation of THE Impact Ranking, which was announced in Malaysia last year, in Istanbul this year is a proud development for our country.”



## MEETING WITH COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION (YOK) CHAIRMAN PROF. EROL OZVAR

Chairman of the Council of Higher Education Prof. Erol Ozvar, YOK International Relations Department Head Mustafa Efe, Vice Rector Prof. Arda Ozturkcan and Dean of Students -- İbrahim Halil Yasar exchanged ideas together on sustainability policies and practices in higher education. Sharing the pride of hosting such a prestigious international organization in Istanbul, Prof. Ozturkcan extended his thanks to Prof. Erol Ozvar.

## ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH THE GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Within the scope of the congress, Prof. Öztürkcan met with Phil Baty, who is a Director of Global Relations at Times Higher Education. During the meeting, ideas were shared on ways for higher education institutions to contribute to sustainable development goals, data-based measurement systems and ranking methodologies.

## IGU'S RANKING SUCCESS ANNOUNCED

THE Impact Rankings 2025 results announced within the scope of the congress were welcomed by the university team as a concrete indicator of IGU's achievements in the field of sustainability. The excitement and happiness of witnessing this important achievement together were shared among the participants.

## CYBERSHIELD INNOVATORS PROJECT MEETING HELD IN DUSSELDORF, GERMANY

Within the scope of the cyber security training project titled "Cybershield Innovators: Pioneering the Future of Digital Security", coordinated by Istanbul Gelisim University and supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a project meeting was held with the Proficiency Institute, the partner of the university in the project, on June 17, 2025 in Düsseldorf, Germany. The meeting, which was held due to the transition to the online training phase, was important in terms of clarifying the implementation process and strengthening corporate cooperation.

Istanbul Gelisim University was presented by Rector Prof. Bahri Sahin, Vice Rector Prof. Necmettin Maraşlı, Head of Software Engineering Department and Project Training Coordinator Asst. Prof. Serkan Gönen and International Exchange and Cooperation Coordinator and Project Administrative Coordinator Alisa Usubova. Proficiency Institute, on the other hand, is run by Alper Ece.

## PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS AND INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

Despite the short-term application period, a total of 1265 students applied to the Cybershield Innovators project. This number revealed the high access capacity and international appeal of the project.

While 982 of the applications came from Turkey, the candidates showed interest in the project from more than 65 cities and over 151 universities. 223 applications from abroad include countries such as Poland, Germany, Romania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, England, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Georgia, Ukraine, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Estonia and Lithuania.

Wide participation reveals that the project prioritizes not only technical education, but also intercultural interaction and inclusive development in the digital field.

## MAIN AGENDAS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

The following topics were discussed in detail at the meeting:

- Curriculum of online trainings to be carried out in the period of June-September 2025
- Final structure of trainer and mentor staff
- Participant selection process and distribution between countries
- Academic validity of the certification process and compliance with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
- Career support services, employment referrals and long-term sustainability plans

It was emphasized that the project aims not only to gain technical competence, but also to support the development of participants in ethical values, professional awareness and cultural diversity.

#### A FIRST IN TURKEY: THE FIRST CYBERSECURITY TRAINING PROJECT SUPPORTED BY EIT

Cybershield Innovators is the first cybersecurity training project supported by EIT among universities in Turkey. In this respect, it offers an important example of success for Istanbul Gelisim University both nationally and internationally.

At the end of the meeting, the project partners expressed their satisfaction with the process and expressed their openness to new collaborations in the future.

With its structure that gives priority to women participants, applied training model, internationally valid certification system and sectoral employment-oriented approach, Cybershield Innovators is on its way to becoming a model of education in the field of digital security throughout Europe.

#### **IMPORTANT WARNINGS TO PARENTS BEFORE YKS : "IT'S NOT TIME FOR PRESSURE, IT'S TIME FOR SUPPORT"**

One day before the Higher Education Institutions Exam (YKS), both students and families are under intense exam stress. According to experts, the attitude of parents as well as students in this period can directly affect the success of the exam. Istanbul Gelisim University Psychological Counselor Mehmet Döngeloğlu shared the attitudes that parents should avoid and the healthy forms of communication they should establish with their children.

## UNREALISTIC EXPECTATION, COMPARISON AND LAST MINUTE PRINTING ARE AMONG THE BIGGEST MISTAKES

Emphasizing that students go through a mentally tired and emotionally sensitive period, especially in the last days of the exam process, Döngeloğlu stated that parents may harm their children without realizing it. According to Döngeloğlu, the behaviors that parents should definitely not are as follows:

- Imposing unrealistic expectations,
- Comparing them with their friends,
- Reflecting the parent's own exam anxiety to the child,
- Saying "study a little more" although there is very little time left for the exam,
- Making the exam seem like the only way out of life,
- Interrogating him/her as soon as he/she finishes the exam.

## COMMUNICATION CAN BE AS DECISIVE AS THE EXAM

Dongeloğlu said, "Students need not only information but also understanding in this period. Parents' communication with their children is very significant. In order for this communication to be healthy, he made the following suggestions:

- Listen actively instead of constantly giving advice,
- Sincerity should be at the forefront instead of motivation: sentences such as "I see your effort" should be preferred, not "You are the best",
- Arguments should be avoided,
- Emotional support should be maintained after the exam.

## IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND NOT TO SUPPRESS STRESS

Underlining that stress is a natural part of this process, Döngeloğlu said, "Being excited and anxious shows how much effort the student puts into this process. These feelings need to be understood, not suppressed."

Some points that parents should pay attention to in this process are as follows:

- Sleep, nutrition and general physical needs of the student should be supported,
- The home environment should be peaceful, safe and predictable,
- The student should not be burdened with social tasks that he/she does not want,
- Issues such as what to eat on the morning of the exam and what time to get up should be planned in advance.

## EXAM DAY IS A CALM TIME, NOT A CRISIS

Emphasizing the importance of parents behaving "normal" on the day of the exam, Döngeloğlu summarized what needs to be done that morning as follows:

- Make the day ordinary, do not remind the importance of the exam,
- Emphasize the effort, not the result,
- Complete preparations (exam entry document, breakfast, etc.) in advance,
- Avoid last-minute repetitions,
- Do not reflect your fuss on the child. Because emotions are contagious.

## "THE EXAM IS NOT A RESULT; IT IS A PROCESS"

Completing his words to the parents, Istanbul Gelisim University Psychological Counselor Mehmet Döngeloğlu, "In this process, I tried to help you, our esteemed parents, about what you should pay attention to in the last days of the exam. You worked hard for a whole semester, for better or for worse. Now there is very little time left for the exam. I hope you have a good exam process in which you get the value of your efforts."

## GREAT NEWS FOR 2.5 MILLION UNIVERSITY CANDIDATES

For the students who will take the university exam tomorrow, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University Abdülkadir Gayretli and the Rector of Istanbul Gelisim University Prof. Bahri Şahin shared their tips for managing stress and achieving success. Gayretli said: "This year, the number of students taking the exam is expected to be about 2.5 million, which means less competition than in previous years." Hours before the university exam, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University Abdülkadir Gayretli and the Rector of Istanbul Gelisim University Prof. Bahri Şahin offered motivational messages and practical suggestions to the candidates. Emphasizing the importance of focusing on success without stress, Gayretli stated that students can easily achieve their goals during the exam and preference process.

"MARK QUESTIONS CAREFULLY AND GO BACK TO QUESTIONS YOU CANNOT SOLVE LATER"

"We wish success all candidates in the university exam. The exam process can be a difficult and stressful period, but this stage is now over. Now you have a new beginning ahead of you: the university preference period. In this process, we want you to be calm and relaxed and to make decisions without losing yourself to stress. We have a few suggestions for the exam day: Have a nice breakfast in the morning, relax by breathing deeply, and prepare your mind clearly for the exam. In the exam, we recommend that you start with the topics you know well. For instance, if you are good at math, you can start with physics or chemistry questions. One of the most important points is not to mark the answers in the wrong rows. Mark the questions carefully and then come back to the questions you couldn't solve. In this way, you can take more confident steps towards success."

## "FOUNDATION UNIVERSITIES OFFER A GREAT OPPORTUNITY WITH THEIR INCREASING QUOTAS AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES"

Gayretli also added: "This year, the number of students taking the exam is expected to be about 2.5 million, which means less competition than in previous years." Therefore, our students are in a luckier position. Moreover, foundation universities offer a great opportunity with their increasing quotas and scholarship opportunities. Candidates have the opportunity to settle more comfortably in the departments they want. Instead of being under intense stress to get into a public university, they can take advantage of the advantages offered by foundation universities. It is also possible to transfer from foundation universities to other foundation or state universities with a base score or lateral/vertical transfer opportunities. This means flexibility and opportunity for students."

## "MAKE YOUR PREFERENCES WITH EXPERTS"

Gayretli, who recommended that students work with experienced people during the preference process, added:

"College graduates in your family or community, experienced mentors, or college officials can help you with this. In particular, foundation universities offer professional support in the field of preference counseling. Working with expert increases your chances of get into the department you want to study. Even if it is not your first choice, you can reach your target department with horizontal or lateral transfer opportunities. Foundation universities eliminate financial concerns with their wide range of scholarship opportunities. You can achieve your dreams by getting a quality education in your own city or in a nearby center. Do not be panic, focus on success. I wish you all the best on this journey."

## "VIEW THE UNIVERSITY EXAM AS A PRACTICE EXAM"

Istanbul Gelisim University Rector Prof. Bahri Sahin also suggested that students should take the exam comfortably by seeing it as a trial exam and urged families not to put pressure on their children. "Our students should take this exam as if they were taking a practice exam. Parents, let them not study anymore today, they should rest. Families should not have high expectations either. There are hundreds of tests in life, and this is just one. Success and failure are both part of life. Lifetime achievement is not measured by a single exam."

## GUIDANCE SUPPORT IN THE PREFERENCE PROCESS

Prof. Sahin also announced that they will provide guidance services for students as Istanbul Gelisim University after the exam. "After the exam, our expert guidance staff will be ready to support our students during the preference period. Our university will be with them in this process. Visionary programs for the future are opening. Students should definitely study these sections during the preference period after the exam. 20 new departments were opened in our university this year."

## ATTENTION TO ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY CERTIFICATES

Emphasizing that prospective students should definitely pay attention to whether the departments are accredited or not when choosing, Prof. Şahin said:

"Whether it is a foundation or a state university, candidates should definitely investigate whether the department they prefer has national or international accreditation. In addition, they should not forget that the sections in the ÖSYM (Student Selection and Placement Center) manual with the Turkish Qualifications Framework (TQF) logo have international validity."

Stating that Istanbul Gelisim University has received 5 years of institutional accreditation by the Higher Education Quality Board (YOKAK), Prof. Şahin added that they are one of the few universities in Turkey with this accreditation.