

IGU CONTINUES TO STAND OUT WITH ITS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE URAP 2025–2026 RANKINGS

The 2025–2026 Türkiye University Academic Performance Ranking, prepared by URAP (University Ranking by Academic Performance), has been published. In this ranking, which is based on academic productivity, 198 universities were evaluated. In the list that highlights the scientific production potential of universities, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) ranked 15th among non-medical foundation universities, 34th among all foundation universities in Türkiye, 47th among all universities without a medical school, and 137th overall in Türkiye.

EVALUATION BASED ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The URAP ranking was prepared based on 15 different academic indicators such as the number of articles and citations per faculty member, total number of scientific documents, number of national and international co-authored articles, the number of projects funded by TUBITAK, and the ratio of doctoral students. Data published by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) was used in the evaluation.

STRONG PROGRESS WITH THE VISION OF A “RESEARCH UNIVERSITY”

Continuing its strategic steps to enhance research capacity and increase academic productivity, IGU remains committed to contributing to the higher education ecosystem through its scientific activities. The university administration emphasized that these results are a significant reflection of its research-based growth vision.

Commenting on the matter, Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin highlighted the university’s research-oriented strategic approach, stating:

“Our university’s presence in the URAP rankings is a concrete indication of the academic activities we carry out in line with our strategic plan and our research-based growth strategy. We aim to continuously improve our academic productivity through qualified human resources, strong infrastructure, and international collaborations. By enhancing our scientific production capacity, we are determined to contribute to our country’s higher education vision and to become a more visible research university on a global scale.”

VISIT FROM BATH SPA UNIVERSITY TO ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY

In line with its vision for internationalization, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has signed another significant academic cooperation agreement. Prof. John Strachan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research at Bath Spa University in the United Kingdom, visited IGU to explore various academic and institutional collaboration opportunities between the two universities. As part of the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the institutions. The agreement covers areas such as academic collaboration, joint research projects, cultural exchange, and student and academic staff mobility within the scope of Erasmus+. Preliminary discussions were also held regarding participation in the GALA Network.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE VISION OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

The meeting was attended by IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin, Vice Rector for Quality, Accreditation and Internationalization Prof. Arda Öztürkcan, and Vice Rector for Research and Development Prof. Necmettin Maraşlı. The agreement aims to provide IGU students and academics with opportunities for education and research experiences in the UK, while also diversifying the university's international partnerships.

This step toward strengthening academic and institutional cooperation is expected to further enhance Istanbul Gelisim University's international visibility.

IGU AND UZBEK UNIVERSITIES COME TOGETHER FOR JOINT PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH

Aiming to strengthen international academic collaborations, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) hosted an 11-member delegation of scientists and professors from Uzbekistan. During the visit, both sides discussed opportunities for bilateral cooperation, knowledge exchange, and potential future joint projects, particularly in the field of health.

MEETINGS HELD ON COLLABORATION IN HEALTH SCIENCES

In the meeting between the delegation and IGU officials, ideas were exchanged on education, research, and practical studies in the field of health sciences. Following the discussions, the delegation visited IGU Health Laboratories and the IGU Dental Hospital, where they had the opportunity to observe the university's infrastructure firsthand.

Participants from Istanbul Gelisim University included Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin, Vice Rectors Prof. Arda Öztürkcan, Prof. Necmettin Maraşlı, and Prof. Nuri Kuruoğlu, Head of the Department of Public Relations and Promotion Asst. Prof. Bülent Deyirmenci, Coordinator of International Exchange and Cooperation Alisa Usubova, Director of International Students Office Umedjon Haitmurodov, and Asst. Prof. Ergash Juma.

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVES FROM UZBEKISTAN ATTENDED THE VISIT

The visit was attended by academic representatives from the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Termiz State Pedagogical Institute, Berdakh Karakalpak State University, Mamun University, and Urgench State University. The delegation included distinguished academics, department heads, and vice rectors, as well as experts conducting significant research in Colloid Chemistry and Industrial Ecology.

AIMING TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION CAPACITY

It was emphasized that such collaborations provide new research and experiential opportunities for students and academics. With this visit, IGU aims to expand its international academic network, establish new partnerships in the field of health sciences, and enhance its scientific production capacity.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE (IGU TTO) ATTRACTED GREAT INTEREST WITH ITS AGRICULTURAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (ZİHA) PROJECT

Istanbul Gelisim University Technology Transfer Office (IGU TTO) participated in the 1st Innovation and Science Festival organized by Avcılar Municipality, showcasing the university's innovative projects. The Agricultural Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ZİHA) project displayed at the IGU TTO stand attracted great interest from visitors.

YOUTH MET WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hosted by Avcılar Municipality, the festival brought together young people, entrepreneurs, and academics. Throughout the event, various workshops, robotics demonstrations, project presentations, and talks were held. Participants had the opportunity to closely observe the practical applications of innovative ideas.

ZİHA PROJECT DREW GREAT ATTENTION

The Agricultural Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ZİHA) project developed by IGU TTO attracted particular interest from young people, representatives of the agricultural sector, and local administrators. This innovative aerial vehicle system, capable of performing autonomous pesticide optimization in agricultural areas, stood out as a remarkable example of sustainable agricultural practices.

“TRANSFORMING TECHNOLOGY INTO SOCIAL BENEFIT”

In a statement made by IGU TTO, it was noted:

“Our ZİHA project is a strong example of our university's vision of transforming technology into social benefit. The great interest we observed at the festival once again demonstrated how curious young people are about innovation and science.”

Throughout the event, other innovative projects conducted in various fields by Istanbul Gelisim University were also introduced to participants. The university continues its efforts with the goal of producing the technologies of the future and offering them for the benefit of society.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY (IGU) 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR OPENING CEREMONY WAS HELD

Opening Ceremony was held at the Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall on the Avcılar Campus with the participation of academics, students, administrative staff, and many guests in a vibrant atmosphere. Many distinguished figures from public institutions and organizations took part in the protocol. The opening speeches were delivered by Minister of Trade Prof. Ömer Bolat, IGU Chairman of the Board of Trustees Abdülkadir Gayretli, and IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin. In their speeches, they emphasized Türkiye's economic goals, the strategic importance given to education, and the university's international vision.

“NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HAS REACHED 375 THOUSAND TODAY”

In his speech, Prof. Ömer Bolat stated that the investments made in education and healthcare have begun to yield results, saying, “Türkiye has become a hub for international education. While the number of international students was around 5,000 in 2002, today it has reached nearly 375,000. These students contribute approximately 3 billion dollars annually to our economy. However, the most important gain is that these young people become individuals who love Turkey as a result of the education they receive here.”

Minister Bolat noted that the topic of the first lecture held this year at Istanbul Gelisim University was “Gaza and the Israeli Genocide.” He shared information about the period of the Ottoman Empire's rule in Palestine and the events that followed, discussing the historical processes of Palestine. Bolat explained that with the 1993 Oslo Peace Agreement, a Palestinian state emerged with its governmental center in Ramallah, and that this state has been officially recognized by over 150 countries, including Türkiye. However, he also pointed out that not every country has an embassy there, emphasizing that Türkiye, with its sense of historical responsibility, continues to make great efforts for Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque, the holy sites in Palestinian territories, and the Palestinian people — and that these efforts and protection will continue.

“OUR UNIVERSITY ALWAYS KEEPS ITS DREAMS BIG WITH INNOVATIONS NOT FOUND IN THE WORLD”

Abdülkadir Gayretli, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University, stated that the university’s founding story began with a dream, saying, “Istanbul Gelisim University is the result of a journey that started with the dream of a high school student. We are a university guided by ideals of raising generations who are loyal to their homeland, future, flag, and the Qur’an. In this regard, we rank among the top three both in the academic community and among students in Türkiye. As a university that creates added value for our country and leads our future, we continue our journey.”

Gayretli mentioned that they were inspired by then-Prime Minister and current President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s 2012 call, “Is there a brave person to produce a domestic car?” He said, “The night I heard this announcement, I gathered my professors the next morning and said, ‘We must be that brave one.’ In just eight months, we succeeded in producing a completely 100% electric car that recharges its battery through kinetic energy as the wheels turn.”

Emphasizing that they oppose the common mindset in Turkey that says, “You can’t do it,” Gayretli added, “As a university, we produced an electric car that recharges its battery through kinetic energy, no matter the cost, to break this perception. You might remember the flying cars from The Jetsons we watched as kids; our next goal is to make that a reality. We are pursuing innovations that do not exist in the world.”

Gayretli underlined that Istanbul Gelisim University continues its path with a vision that is innovative, productive, and fueled by big dreams, saying, “Our university continues to grow as an institution that aims to pioneer innovations not found anywhere else in the world.”

“WE ARE THE UNIVERSITY THAT CONTRIBUTES THE MOST TO THE COUNTRY’S INTERNATIONALIZATION GOAL”

Prof. Bahri Şahin, Rector of Istanbul Gelisim University, stated that the university began its educational activities in 2008 with a vocational school, but as of 2025, it has reached 39,000 students. Şahin emphasized that 11,000 of these students are international, saying, “We are the university that contributes the most to our country’s internationalization goal, and we rank first in Turkey in this field. We expect the number of international students to increase further once registrations are complete this year.”

Reminding that there are a total of 375,000 international students in Türkiye, Şahin said, “One out of every 40 of these students studies at Istanbul Gelisim University. Therefore, we make the maximum contribution to both our country’s and the Council of Higher Education’s internationalization goals in education.”

Şahin also mentioned the university’s structure, stating that it comprises two vocational schools, one school, one graduate education institute, and seven faculties. He said, “We have about 14,000 students in associate degree programs, 24,000 at the undergraduate level, and around 2,500 in graduate programs, including 300 doctoral students. With 860 academic staff and around 550 administrative staff members, we shoulder the educational responsibility of our country.”

Highlighting the importance given not only to the quality of education but also to research and development activities, Şahin added, “Our Technology Transfer Office is actively operating. We make great efforts in university–industry collaboration. Our achievements are recognized and rewarded by national and international ranking organizations.”

OPENING LECTURE: “GAZA”

The first lecture of the new academic year was dedicated to the people of Palestine under the title “First Lecture: Gaza.” The lecture was delivered by Asst. Prof. Ali Semin, who drew attention to the historical and humanitarian dimensions of Gaza, emphasizing the importance of students developing awareness of global events.



A STRONG START TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The 2025–2026 Academic Year Opening Ceremony of Istanbul Gelisim University reflected both the sensitivity shown toward economic and social issues and the university’s internationalization goals, marking a strong start to the new term. The messages conveyed during the ceremony once again highlighted the university’s pioneering role in education, science, and social responsibility.