

ISTANBUL GELİSİM UNIVERSITY WINTER ACADEMY BROUGHT TOGETHER MORE THAN 500 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Istanbul Gelisim University's Have Your IGU Coach (İGÜ Koçun Olsun) - High School Winter Academy, offered free of charge for high school students, was held on 3, 5, and 6 February 2026 at the university's Avcılar Campus. Organized on three separate days, the program aimed to help students better understand themselves, discover their interests and abilities, and shape their future education and career plans more consciously. Overall, the Winter Academy brought together more than 500 students on campus.

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS SUPPORTING CAREER AND MAJOR SELECTION

The High School Winter Academy was designed to evaluate students' individual characteristics using scientifically grounded methods and support them in identifying suitable career paths and academic majors. As part of the program, the Vocational Orientation test and the Holland Career Interest test, administered and interpreted by expert trainers, were used to assess students' interest areas, strengths, and personal inclinations.

Students also had the opportunity to experience the university environment firsthand and received comprehensive information about the educational approach and academic opportunities of Istanbul Gelisim University.

Participants came from Science and Anatolian High Schools, Vocational and Technical High Schools, and private schools. The majority consisted of 11th- and 12th-grade students as well as recent graduates, accompanied throughout the process by school psychological counselors.

UNIVERSITY INTRODUCTION AND CAMPUS EXPERIENCE COMBINED

During the Winter Academy, students participated in computer-assisted vocational assessment sessions. Individual and group evaluations were conducted based on their test results, and an informative seminar was delivered on the university and its academic departments.

In addition, campus tours covering the university grounds, library, and social areas were organized to enhance students' awareness of university life. All program components were structured to help students understand themselves better and shape their future plans.

A PROFESSIONAL TEAM LED THE EDUCATION PROCESS

The program's training sessions and test implementations were carried out by psychologists and psychological counselors. Throughout the process, experienced trainers and the guidance team provided students with one-on-one support.

The Have Your IGU Coach - High School Winter Academy was implemented as a guidance model aimed at supporting students during their transition to university with accurate and effective direction. Through this program, Istanbul Gelisim University seeks to help students recognize their interests and abilities at an early stage, experience the university environment, and make informed educational choices.

ISTANBUL GELİSİM UNIVERSITY AND BAKIRKÖY MUNICIPALITY COMMEMORATED THE FEBRUARY 6 EARTHQUAKES

A commemoration program was held in collaboration between Istanbul Gelisim University and Bakırköy Municipality to honor those who lost their lives in the February 6 earthquakes, preserve collective memory, and strengthen disaster awareness. Hosted by Bakırköy Municipality, the event attracted significant attention through its academic contributions, artistic works, and awareness initiatives.

EXHIBITION, COMMEMORATION, AND SOLIDARITY IN ONE PROGRAM

The commemoration program was organized by the IGU Vocational School of Health Services Career and Alumni Commission. The earthquake photography exhibition titled “February 6: What Remains of That Day”, curated by Lecturer Ebru Cengiz, was presented to visitors.

The exhibition featured photographs documenting the earthquake experience, captured by Assoc. Prof. Nuri Sezer from the IGU Faculty of Fine Arts, Asst. Prof. Kemal Çipe, and Asst. Prof. Özden Toprak from Hatay Mustafa Kemal University.

Additionally, a dedicated panel displayed the personal reflections of IGU students who directly experienced the earthquake, adding a powerful testimonial dimension to the exhibition.

As part of the program, 11 olive saplings were planted, symbolizing the 11 provinces affected by the February 6 earthquakes. The planting ceremony honored the memories of the lives lost while emphasizing solidarity and healing.

PANEL: “IS BAKIRKÖY READY FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?”

Within the scope of the commemoration program, a panel titled “Is Bakırköy Ready for an Earthquake?” addressed the realities of earthquakes from scientific, psychological, and administrative perspectives.

Speakers included Bakırköy Mayor Assoc. Prof. Ayşegül Ovalıoğlu and Asst. Prof. Bülent Tansel from the IGU Department of Psychology, who delivered a presentation titled “Disasters and Humans: Coping Mechanisms for Earthquake Trauma.”

Other speakers were Prof. Haluk Eyidoğan, Assoc. Prof. Burcu Zeybek from Istanbul University, Res. Asst. Remzi Soytürk from the IGU Disaster and Emergency Management Coordination Unit, and Haluk Özener, the Istanbul Provincial Director of AFAD. The panel explored earthquake realities, risks, preparedness processes, and institutional responsibilities.

A short film featuring footage from the February 6 earthquakes was also screened.

“THIS IS A RESPONSIBILITY WE ALL SHARE”

During her speech, Bakırköy Mayor Assoc. Prof. Ayşegül Ovalıoğlu stated:

“If we are still at this point, we truly need to confront this painful reality. What are we leaving incomplete? I believe we must progress quickly in this field. As a new member of the Healthy Cities Union, I would like to express that we will take part in these efforts with pride and enthusiasm. This is a holistic project, and this responsibility belongs to all of us.”

The commemoration program once again highlighted the importance of collaboration between Istanbul Gelisim University and Bakırköy Municipality in fostering disaster awareness, strengthening societal consciousness, and supporting sustainable preparedness efforts.

A COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED BETWEEN ISTANBUL GELİSİM UNIVERSITY AND MARSİFED

Abdülkadir Gayretli, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University, paid a visit to Osman Akın, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Marmara and Central Anatolia Industry and Business Federation (MARSİFED). During the meeting, a cooperation protocol was signed between IGU and MARSİFED with the aim of strengthening interaction between the fields of education and business.

Through the cooperation protocol signed during the visit, various educational opportunities, including scholarship possibilities offered jointly by Istanbul Gelisim University and Gökkuşığı College, were introduced for MARSİFED Board Members and the member associations affiliated with the federation. The protocol aims not only to support students' academic and professional development but also to foster stronger ties with the business world.

The meeting concluded with the shared hope that this meaningful collaboration, which supports equal opportunity in education, will create long-term value for all stakeholders, particularly the university, the business community, and students.

QUALITY RECOGNIZED, SUCCESS ACHIEVED: APPRECIATION CEREMONY HELD FOR IGU FEA ACADEMICS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO ABET ACCREDITATION

The ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation of Istanbul Gelisim University's (IGU) Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (FEA) has been extended through September 30, 2031. Following a comprehensive evaluation process conducted by the ABET Committee, an independent, US-based non-governmental organization, the engineering programs within the faculty have once again been certified as meeting international quality standards. In celebration of receiving accreditation for the second consecutive time, an appreciation certificate presentation ceremony was held for the academics of Istanbul Gelisim University's Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

"WE ARE IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS THE WORLD'S LEADING UNIVERSITIES"

Speaking at the ceremony, Istanbul Gelisim University Board of Trustees Chair Abdülkadir Gayretli emphasized that this achievement carries great significance for the institution's development:

"Receiving ABET Accreditation for the second time is a truly meaningful accomplishment. It demonstrates our professionalism as an institution and shows that we stand in the same league as the world's leading universities."

Noting that this success marks the beginning of new goals rather than a final destination, Abdülkadir Gayretli highlighted how the quality of academic output strengthens the university's international standing:

"Being ranked first in Türkiye and sixth in Europe in terms of citations in the QS rankings, sharing sixth place with Imperial College and standing alongside a university that was ranked first in the world last year, is an extremely important indicator of success for us."

Drawing attention to the strong relationship between increased academic output and rising rankings, Abdülkadir Gayretli continued:

"The harder we work, the more disciplined and high-quality our efforts, the greater the return on our academic output. As we raise the quality of our projects and publications, we firmly believe that our standing in the rankings will strengthen accordingly and that our university will reach even greater milestones. That is why we view this achievement not as an endpoint, but as the starting point for even greater ambitions."

"SUCCESS IS TRULY A TEAM EFFORT"

Also addressing the ceremony, Istanbul Gelisim University Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin drew attention to the team spirit behind the accreditation process:

"Success is not individual, it is truly a team effort. The dedication and effort you have shown in the pursuit of quality are invaluable to us. This achievement, particularly through the accreditation process, represents a critical milestone for our university. The number of universities in Türkiye that have successfully completed this process is quite limited, and we are proud to be among them."

Prof. Şahin underscored that the university has embraced a vision of sustainable rather than coincidental success, and drew attention to the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan:

"We are not pursuing short-term or incidental achievements, we aim for sustainable success. Our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan was prepared with this understanding. It is vitally important that each unit aligns its own objectives with this plan and clearly demonstrates how its work contributes to the university's overall goals."

Noting that research quality is one of the university's greatest strengths, Prof. Şahin also touched on the growing culture of project development:

"This year, we submitted a record number of TÜBİTAK student project applications, and we anticipate that a significant portion will be accepted. A project culture is taking root across our university, and through the training programs and certificate initiatives offered, we are progressing in the right direction. Today, we are a university that holds a place in world rankings. We are achieving consistent, mutually reinforcing results across THE, QS, and other international ranking systems."

Prof. Bahri Şahin concluded his remarks by stating that sustaining these achievements is only possible through shared goals and a strong team spirit.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION AT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The extension of ABET accreditation through 2031, as part of the evaluation process conducted by the ABET Committee, powerfully demonstrates that IGU has embraced a sustainable, research-oriented higher education vision backed by international quality assurance.

Following a comprehensive evaluation across multiple dimensions, including educational infrastructure, academic staff qualifications, research outputs, and quality assurance systems, IGU's renewed ABET Accreditation once again certifies that the university meets world standards in engineering education. Appreciation certificates were presented to the FEA academics whose contributions made this important achievement possible.

A STRIKING EXHIBITION ON KANT AND GAME SPACE AT ISTANBUL GELİSİM UNIVERSITY'S SATMER

As part of the SATMER Arts Events organized by Istanbul Gelisim University's Center for Art and Design Practice and Research (SATMER), a solo exhibition by animation artist and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Asst. Prof. Volkan Davut Mengi opened its doors to art enthusiasts. The opening ceremony was attended by Istanbul Gelisim University Faculty of Fine Arts Dean Prof. Şükran Güzin Ilıcak Aydınalp, SATMER Director Asst. Prof. Mustafa Günay, and numerous academics and students. The exhibition, which drew considerable interest, presented 20 works by the artist to visitors.

The exhibition opened with a speech by curator Lecturer Ömer Faruk Söyler, who touched on the artist's academic and artistic background and drew attention to Asst. Prof. Volkan Davut Mengi's interdisciplinary practice.

"DOES SPACE PRECEDE EXPERIENCE, OR DOES EXPERIENCE SHAPE SPACE?"

Following the opening remarks, artist Volkan Davut Mengi shared the conceptual framework of his project with the audience. In his work titled "Video Games and Kant's Theory of Pure Space," Mengi explained that he revisited the notion of "pure space", as articulated by Immanuel Kant in the Critique of Pure Reason, through the lens of video games, emphasizing that the creative process behind the exhibition was shaped by this philosophical inquiry:

"According to Kant, space is not something derived from experience but an a priori form that serves as its precondition. In this project, I aimed to strip away the aesthetic and narrative layers of video games, leaving behind only the geometric skeleton. When empirical elements such as color, texture, narrative, and interactivity are removed, the pure spatial structure underlying the game becomes visible."

The artist noted that by abstracting video games from their playability, he invites viewers into an intellectual inquiry, framing the exhibition's central question as follows:

"DOES SPACE PRECEDE EXPERIENCE, OR DOES EXPERIENCE SHAPE SPACE?"

The exhibition features 20 horizontally oriented, framed digital prints measuring 50×70 cm, encompassing a broad technical range, from 3D modeling and rendering to generative artificial intelligence applications, and from inpainting and outpainting to matte painting and digital post-production. This multi-layered production process brought the Kantian concept of a priori space into dialogue with contemporary digital art practices.

PHILOSOPHY, PLAY, AND DIGITAL AESTHETICS UNITED

The exhibition stands out for its approach to video games not merely as a medium of entertainment, but as a platform for philosophical, aesthetic, and ontological discourse. By reinterpreting Kant's concept of "pure space" through contemporary digital production techniques, the project invites viewers to question both the mechanics of play and the fundamental conditions of perception.

Organized under the umbrella of SATMER, the exhibition offered a compelling example of interdisciplinary production within the university, bringing art and academia together in meaningful dialogue.