EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION
Faculty: Art and Social Science  Major/Minor: International Studies
Host university: Koc University  Host Country: Turkey
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) 09/2018 to (month/year) 01/2019

TRAVEL
Approximately how much did air transportation cost? 500-700 CAD one way (layover at London)
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? 165TL(Uber), 25TL(bus/metro/shuttle)
Do you have a recommended routing or airline?  No  Yes
If yes, please describe:

VISAS
What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canada
Did you need a student visa/permit?  No  Yes: What was the cost? 60 USD
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Did you need a visitor visa/permit?  No  Yes: What was the cost? Passport number
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Where was your immigration documentation processed? online
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit?
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)?  No  Yes
If yes, please comment: Resident permit completed with host university

AIRPORT RECEPTION
Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university?  No  Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university?  No  Yes
Please comment: I landed in SAW I took an Uber (around 1 hour), but public transportation is possible. SAW -> Bus SG-2 -> Metro from Levent to Haciosman -> Bus 150 get off at Sarıyer Evleri (around 3 hours)
What is the closest airport to the host university?  İstanbul havalimani (IGA)

ORIENTATION
Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university?  No  Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session?  No  Yes, how much?
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate?  No  Yes
Please comment: Orientation is mandatory as you will get vital information on residents permit, schooling, a lesson on survival Turkish and meeting your mentor.
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  □ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, how long is it? 2 hours/ 4 months

Is there an additional cost for language training?  □ No  ☑ Yes: How much?

Please comment: Survival Turkish class (2 Hours long) part of orientation  
Basic Turkish class offered during the semester as a regular courses.

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**ACCOMMODATION & LIVING**

Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  □ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  □ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  □ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, please describe:  

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  Sponsor by host uni

Is there a meal plan?  □ No  ☑ Yes: How much is it?

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  □ No  ☑ Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus?  5 minutes by car, 45 minutes on foot

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

School wifi available but spotty in my dorm room. I bought a ethernet cable and used my laptop as a hotspot.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  □ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, how did you arrange this?

Is off-campus housing easily available?  □ No  ☑ Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:

Off campus housing can be found through various websites, including facebook groups. Usually prefer by students  
Pro: Cheaper rent, have cooking facilities in apartment, can have people over/ drinks, usually closer to city centre, can pick their own roommates  
Con: Far from school, no “school community vibe”

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals?  800 TL

Any other comments on accommodation:

I didn't have to pay for accommodation but the above is around how much I spent a month.

24/7 gate security and doctor/nurse available. Exchange students are placed in 2/ 3 person dormitory rooms with local students, usually in their first year. Bathrooms and showers are shared with the whole floor. Dorms are 15 minutes away from the main campus by bus/ free shuttle. Common kitchen is in separate building so is very inconvenience. Cleaning service included.
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? □ No □ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, traveler's cheques, local currency)?
- Bring enough TL for the first week, the rest bring USD or EUR
- Or use debit cards at ATMs

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? □ Cash □ Debit □ Credit card
Please comment: Many places also accept credit cards but usually European bank’s card doesn’t work. Most online/app accept everything (sometimes including cash)

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No □ Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:
Similar to the go.sfu.ca website. Done as part of orientation week with mentors but was very intense. Many courses require pre-requisites, however, it is relatively simple to request a waiver from professors. A lot of exchange students from other schools didn’t get into some of the courses they wanted because they weren’t fast enough.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? International Relation
What is the language of instruction in your courses? English
If not English, are English-taught courses available?
Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.
Class size is much smaller than SFU. Quality of instruction depends on the professor but in general the material is easier but there are more small assignments. University has very good resources, with comparable online database (excluding topics censored by the government). Maybe is the classes I took, but some classes only have local students that are male. Almost all classes are taught in English however since some local students are not good at English the professor often spoke Turkish.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
Smaller class size allow for greater professor engagement. As an International Studies student I gain a new prospective on world events and Middle East/European politics. I learned another language.

Submission Instructions:
1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.