



ISTANBUL, TURKEY

2012 Dates and Fees

- January 2 - 29, 2012
- March 5 - 30, 2012
- April 30 - May 25, 2012
- June 18 - July 13, 2012
- September 17 - October 12, 2012
- December 3 - 28, 2012

Istanbul Course Fee: EUR 1300

Accommodation: EUR 300

A transcontinental nation straddling both Asia and Europe, Turkey is a democratic and strongly secular country with one of the most fascinating histories. The once-Ottoman Empire stretched to over three continents and controlled a majority of Southeastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa - spanning from the Strait of Gibraltar in the west to the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf in the east from the edge of Austria, Slovakia and parts of the Ukraine in the north to the Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and Yemen in the south. Considered the epicenter of communications and relations between what we know as the Eastern and Western world for some six centuries, present day Turkey is an amazing example of influences coming together to form one of the most spectacular countries on earth. With Byzantine, Roman and Ottoman monuments seeable in just about all parts of the country, Turkey's past and present can be the perfect educational background for the TEFL student looking to begin a future abroad.

Istanbul historically Byzantium and later Constantinople is the largest city in Turkey, largest city and second largest metropolitan area in Europe, and fourth largest city in the world with a population of 12.6 million. Istanbul is also a megacity. Istanbul is the cultural and financial center of Turkey. The city covers 27 districts of the Istanbul province. It is located on the Bosphorus Strait and encompasses the natural harbor known as the Golden Horn, in the northwest of the country. It extends both on the Europe (Thrace) and on the Asia (Anatolia) side of the Bosphorus, and is thereby the only metropolis in the world that is situated on two continents. In its long history, Istanbul served as the capital city of the Roman Empire, the East Roman (Byzantine) Empire, the Latin Empire, and the Ottoman Empire. The city was chosen as joint European Capital of Culture for 2010. The historic areas of Istanbul were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

TEFL Training Center:

Earn your TEFL certification in Istanbul - a university city boasting some of the most reputable educational institutions, Istanbul is an ideal setting for students looking to further their educational horizons. The center is based in the Kent English School which was founded in 1988 and is specialized in teaching English as a foreign language. Kent is a member of Ozdilder, the representative body of private language schools in Turkey and is accredited by the Turkish Ministry of National Education.



Teaching English in Turkey:

There are numerous English schools in Istanbul that cater to adult students, and these are definitely easier to find a job in than the primary schools. This means that you will likely work evenings and weekends, but this leaves your day free to explore this diverse city. There are language schools in other cities, such as the capital, Ankara, but Istanbul is the cultural, historical and social centre of the country. Positions are available within the Kent English School for students passing the course with a high grade. There are numerous English schools in Istanbul that cater to adult students, and these are definitely easier to find a job in than the primary schools. This means that you will likely work evenings and weekends, but this leaves your day free to explore this diverse city. The salaries are reasonable, and the cost of living is very low, but you aren't likely to leave with a huge savings account. Any extra money is usually spent on exploring Istanbul, trips around the country, or maybe on a Turkish carpet!



The Importance of English in Turkey:

As to why the Turkish people want to learn English, the reasons are numerous and varied. But there are a few common threads. Perhaps the single most important reason the Turkish people are signing up for English language courses is a very practical one: English has become the de facto international language of business, education and diplomacy. Even if you are doing business with a European, German or Japanese person, chances are that your common language will be English. And as is true in a large and growing number of countries, the Turkish people are exposed to English at an early age.

Most Turkish primary schools provide a basic English language course or courses as part of their curriculum. This is even truer at the university level, where most students are either required to do a year's worth of preparatory English coursework or where a sizable percentage of courses, typically around 30 percent, are taught in English.

Food and Clothing:

Dishes native to the Marmara region reflect characteristics of Mediterranean cuisine and are often rich in vegetables, herbs and fish. Commonly-used ingredients in Turkish dishes include: meat, eggplant, green peppers, onions, garlic, lentils, beans, tomatoes, nuts (namely pistachios, pine nuts, almonds, hazelnuts and walnuts) with spices such as parsley, cumin, black pepper, paprika, mint, oregano and thyme found in just about every dish - albeit a pastry for desert or lamb for the entrée. Soups (i.e. lentil, yogurt or wheat) of various makes are present in traditional Turkish meals. Also: shish kabobs are common dishes through all of Turkey.



Climate:

The climate of Istanbul has a climate classified as temperate-continental - with hot and humid summers and cold, rainy and often snowy winters. With a somewhat high humidity exacerbating the warm, summertime temperatures, the heat often feels more intense than indicated. Snowfall often occurs over the course of one or two weeks with some intensity (usually between the month of December and March). The daytime temperature between the months of June and September averages 74°Fahrenheit (23.3°Celsius). Istanbul is a significantly windy city with an average wind speed of 11 mph (17/km/h).

In summer, the weather in Istanbul is hot and humid, the temperature between June and September averaging 82°F (28°C). Summers are relatively dry, but rain does occur all year round. During winter it is cold, wet and often snowy. Snowfalls tend to be heavy, but temperatures rarely drop as low as freezing point. Istanbul also tends to be a windy city.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is provided in fully-furnished shared apartments within walking distance from the school. Homestays provide a unique opportunity to experience the way of life of local people of an area along with traditional cultures. Homestays also provide an opportunity for visitors to experience a place in an authentic, comfortable and homely setting. Individual apartments can also be provided upon request. Please contact the VL Istanbul centre for more information.

Communication, Telephone and Internet:

Bring Your Own GSM Phone & Buy a Turkish SIM Card

If your 900 Mhz/1800 Mhz GSM phone is "unlocked," and if you succeed in registering it for use in Turkey, you can buy a prepaid Turkish SIM card and call within Turkey at local rates. Istanbul Calling Station: convenient location. Friendly multilingual staff who speak: English, Turkish and Croatian (understanding of Spanish, Italian, German & Russian). International phone-cards and WI-FI available. Fast broadband connection, PC's with English keyboards

Excursions and Cultural Highlights:

At VL Istanbul we would like to make your stay as enjoyable as possible. Turkey is full of wonders and Istanbul has many interesting things to offer to its visitors. Turks are also well known for their hospitality and friendly character. For these reasons, to help you get to know the city and to help you relax after a hard week studying CTEFL, VL Istanbul offers a social program to its trainees. Some example activities from our social program are:



Bosphorus Tour

A traditional excursion by boat along the waterway which separates Europe from Asia. The shore is lined with old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. During the excursion you will pass the magnificent Dolmabahce Palace, and further along, the parks and imperial pavilions of Yildiz Palace. On the coastal edge of this park, is Ciragan Palace, 300 meters of its marble facade faces the shore. At Ortakoy a great variety of artists gather every Sunday to display their work along the street. Ortakoy is a symbol of tolerance with a church, a mosque and a synagogue existing side by side for centuries.

Whirling Dervish Night

The whirling dervish is known as a Semazen. Dervish itself means doorway to god or enlightenment. Sufism is derived from the word for a rough, woolen cloak, its material designed to diminish the superficial pleasures of worldly existence. Mevlevis are the order of Sufis that perform the whirling dervish dance, referred to as the Sema. The leader of the group is called the Sheikh; he often stands in the middle of the room, representing the sun, while the other members dance around him in imitation of the cycles of the planets. The repetition of god's name is the Zikr.



Day trip to Pile (Black sea coastal resort)
Picnic in Belgrade Forest

The activities in the social program are not included in the course fees. These activities are optional and require a minimum number of participants in order to take place.

Special Offers:

- 5% Discount from the total course fee for all the early enrollments, 3 months prior to the start date.
- € 50 discount for friends enrolling together.
- 10% discount on accommodation fee for friends sharing a room in the same apartment.
- Guaranteed job placement for trainees who complete the course successfully.