



# Programmes supporting outward student mobility in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkey

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# Azerbaijan Scholarship programs: Challenges and Opportunities

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## Content:

- **Quick facts about Azerbaijan – Land of Future**
- **UK and US alumni initiative became state program that funded already 2700 students.**
- **We are already listed and we have good number of students, any tips?**
- **We were ‘in’ and ‘out’ and we are ‘in’ now, but need your advice on mobility**
- **These are great opportunities, but we are not listed. So what do you advise?**
- **You say that the program finishes next year, so what will be then?**

## Quick facts about Azerbaijan:

**Population:** 9.477 million (2014)

**GDP per capita:** US \$ 7.812 (2013)

**Capital city:** Baku

**Urban population:** 54,1%

**Population between 15 and 29:** 2.6 million

**Main study abroad destinations:**

Turkey, Germany, UK, US, Russia, Sweden

**New streams:**

Canada, Australia, Italy, China, Korea, Netherlands

**# of students for UG and PG programs for the UK:**

450-500 (Per year last few years)



## UK and US alumni initiative became state program that funded already 2700 students.

The country President signed the program for 2007-2015 that aimed to send 5000 students abroad. This initiative was actively promoted mostly by the UK and US alumni studied early 2000.

Almost 30-40 % of the students are going to the UK are funded by the scholarship program in recent years. UK is number of destination in the program with 724 students, which is 27 percent.

Azerbaijan is oil and gas country. Current government priority is to develop non-oil and gas sector, including information technology, tourism, agriculture, construction industries and etc.

Quite number of the program alumni are working for the new staff of the Ministry of Education currently, after new Minister of Education was appointed. Quality assurance is a big challenge.

Beside state Scholarship program SOCAR also offers scholarship program for Economics, Finance and Engineering areas. So far 124 students were sent to the UK through the program.

## We are already listed and we have good number of students, any tips?

Quality assurance and success of the alumni seems to be monitored by the Ministry of Education. You are recommended to provide the Ministry with relevant reports on the students progress.

If you can build partnership with Azerbaijani universities, that would be worth for you. It may possible even to get scholarship for the students studying in Azerbaijan at the joint programs.

Have at least two visits to the market during a year: spring and autumn. As the market size is small you may lost your share if you are not in the market. Word of mouth is important in Azerbaijan.

We recommend you to work with your alumni to promote your university brand awareness in the market. Even simply mentioning the university name in the interview for local media is very important.

Be aware that the list is updated every spring. We had 48 universities in the list by May 2013. Suddenly it was decreased by 27, and only this spring they increased the list to 40 universities.

# We were 'in' and 'out' and we are 'in' now, but need your advises on mobility.

If you are currently listed in the program you are recommended to prepare report on the students numbers and progress and send to the Ministry of Education together with official letter.

If you have special programs and proposal for government organizations for short and long term courses present them to Ministries, Committees through agents, British Council, alumni.

Joint programs, partnership, organizing cooperate events are also recommended for you. It will help you to be mentioned in the different reports and Ministry will take it into consideration.

Agents partnership is important. But please be aware that agents cannot guarantee any students will get the scholarship by the government. It is fraud and manipulation by the agent if they promise.

If you are not UK Top 10 universities then you have to increase your brand awareness in the market by your visits, marketing and PR activities.

# These are great opportunities, but we are not listed. So what do you advise?

The list is updated every year, and probably it will be revised when new program will be announced for 2015-2020. January and February is good time to introduce you to the Ministry.

The list is approved by the Presidential Administration, but you are recommended to send an official letter to the Ministry of Education that manages the program.

The letter doesn't guarantee that you will be listed, but it can help you to be taken into consideration if you have marketing plan for Azerbaijan, success stories with other countries' relevant programs.

Ministry of Education invites UK institutions to develop partnership with Azerbaijani educational institutions. If you have any projects and future plans it is very important to mention it in the letter.

The letter is not the only way to approach to the Ministry of Education. You can have face to face meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Education while visiting Baku.



# You say that the program finishes next year, so what will be then?

President signed “Azerbaijan - 2020: Outlook for the future” concept and it says that new state program on the education of young people in foreign countries in 2015-2020 will be adopted.

SOCAR continues its program as the oil giant of the country is aimed to become international cooperation and human capacity is key factor to achieve the organizations goals.

Of course, there are potential risks on the decreasing number of students for UG students, as the officials of the Ministry of Education mentioned that they will focus mostly on PG students.

Education increases its value in Azerbaijan and parents are looking for quality education for their children to guarantee successful career for them. We expect increase for self-funded students

British Council continues its projects in Azerbaijan to promote UK Education. We mention the benefits of the studying in the UK in different events that attended by the government officials.

## References and links

1) 'Azerbaijan 2020: look into the future' Concept of Development

[http://www.President.Az/files/future\\_en.Pdf](http://www.President.Az/files/future_en.Pdf)

2) State scholarship program:

<http://xaricdetehsil.edu.gov.az/c-dphaqqinda/universitetler/>

(Choose, *Birləşmiş Krallıq*)

3) SOCAR scholarship program:

<http://www.socar.az/socar/en/careers/scholarship-programs/study-abroad-program>

4) Oil fund report on the scholarship program:

[http://www.oilfund.az/uploads/state%20program\(1\).pdf](http://www.oilfund.az/uploads/state%20program(1).pdf)



# Scholarship programmes in Kazakhstan

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## BOLASHAK INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



Source: [www.bolashak.gov.kz](http://www.bolashak.gov.kz)

## Recent updates

2005 -2011

Number of Bolashak fellows rose up to 3,000.  
Quotas for public servants, rural youth, teaching and research staff introduced.

2011

Bachelor's degree scholarships were terminated.  
Program-target method of fellowships introduced.

2012

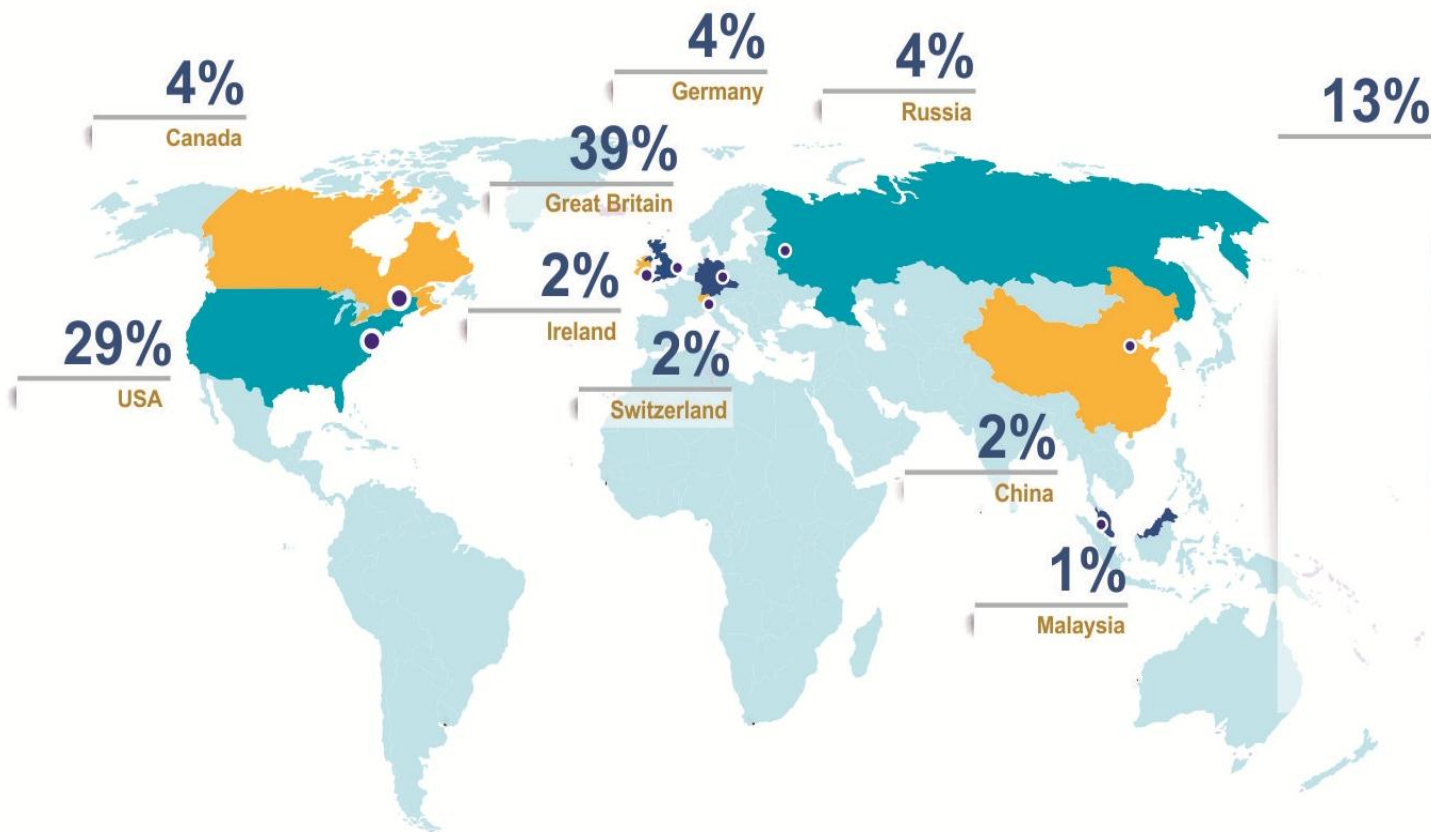
Qualification upgrading programs ("Fellowships") for teaching staff, research fellows, engineering-technical specialists and medical professionals

2014

Training of personnel for Mass Media, cultural field and arts.

During the period from 1993 through 2013 Bolashak International Scholarship has been awarded to **10,346** Kazakhstanis for studying at the top **200** universities of **33** countries of the world.

# UK as a top country for study: Bolashak scholarship trends 2010-2013



## Priority areas

- Physical and Mathematical Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Technical Sciences
- Agricultural Sciences
- Historical Sciences
- Economics and Management
- Philosophical Sciences
- Philological Sciences
- Arts
- Psychological Sciences
- Humanities
- Political Sciences
- Cultural Studies
- Earth Sciences
- Medical Specialties
- Law
- Pedagogical Sciences

## How does the selection process take place?

- I stage      Foreign Language test
- II stage     State language test
- III stage    Psychological testing
- IV stage    Personal interview with the National Expert Commission members
- V stage     Session of the Republican Commission for Overseas Staff Training

1 week . 3 intakes – June, August and December 2014  
JSC “Centre for International Programs” (CIP)



## How can universities enter the list?

- **List of Priority Majors, target need**
- **Intergovernmental Agreement, commission of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan**
- **List of Recommended Education Institutions**
- **International, national academic rankings**  
(top 200 universities according to the Times Higher Education, QS, Shanghai Jiao Tong university rankings)

**Possible changes:** next year – national rankings will be considered; flexibility  
For fellowship program – no need to be included into the list

## Masters degree – who can apply?

- **Civil servants** – civil service work experience at least 2 years, including the last 12 months in the civil service, average diploma score at least 4.0 degree(GPA – 2,67).
- **Scientific and pedagogical staff** - work experience as a scientific and pedagogical staff at least 1 year, average diploma score at least 4.0 degree(GPA – 2,67).
- **Graduate 2014-** at the time of applying candidate must be a scientific or faculty staff of the university which candidate finished, average diploma score at least 4.0 degree(GPA – 2,67).
- **Self-placed** - general work experience at least 2 years, average diploma score at least 4.5 degree(GPA – 3,37).
- **Mass Media, cultural field and arts sphere staff** - work experience at least 1 year, average diploma score at least 4.0 degree (GPA – 2,67).
- **Possible changes:** applicants who have already obtained Masters degree can also apply for Bolashak scholarship (not possible up to now)

## Phd programme

**Duration:** from 3 to 5 years

**Who can apply ?**

**Self-placed –**

general work experience at least 2 years, average diploma score at least 4.5 (GPA – 3,37).

**Changes in 2014:**

Conditional offer from foreign organization can be accepted (e.g. with requirement to achieve a certain level of English).

## Fellowship program/training

**Duration: from 1 to 12 months**

### Who can apply for fellowship?

- Pedagogical staff
- Scientific staff
- Engineering and technical specialists
- Medical specialists

### Requirements for candidates?

**General work** experience at least 3 years, including experience as specified employee at least 12 months.

**Unconditional letter** from foreign organization.

Any leading organization in the selected field can be a partner.

## Pre-course ELT program changes

Previously pre-course language training programs for all Bolashak scholarships were conducted abroad.

Starting from the next summer up to 6 months PCELT will be provided in Kazakhstan, organized by the British Council and UK providers partners (working through English UK).

And the following up to 6 months will be carried abroad (possibly in the country of final study destination or where the language of the studies will be taught).

The overall duration of the PCELT is up to 12 months (down from 18).

## CIP and British Council

- **Webinar Series organized in partnership with Center of International Programmes “Bolashak”**
- **February 2015** - “Q&A with the Expert of the Bolashak Fellowship team (recruitment, list of priority specialties and universities, non-degree fellowships, etc.)”
- Education UK exhibitions 2013 and 2014, Almaty and Astana – more than 3000 people attending each year – CIP is main partner.
- British Council runs IELTS exam sessions for Bolashak applicants.
- From 2014, language preparatory programs in partnership with British Council and other UK providers.

## Contacts:

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# Global Education Programme, Russia

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## Programme definition

The Global Education Programme is a federal educational grant programme which allows students to carry out innovative cutting edge research at the one of the top 150 universities of the world (28 UK HEIs).

## Programme aims

- To maintain and expand the existing personnel resources in several areas, including science, engineering, medicine, education and management in the social sphere.
- To support the citizens of the Russian Federation admitted to the leading foreign HEIs and complying with the Programme employment regulations in accordance with the qualifications obtained.

## Potential participants

- citizens of the Russian Federation who have university degrees (bachelors or specialists)
- who are already admitted to the leading foreign HEIs for master programs, PhD programs or residency training
- who intend to pursue a career in leading Russian companies which conduct activities in one of the programme's priority areas.

## Key facts

Programme duration: **3 years (2014-2016)**

Amount of finance: **4,41 billion roubles (1,47 billion per year)**

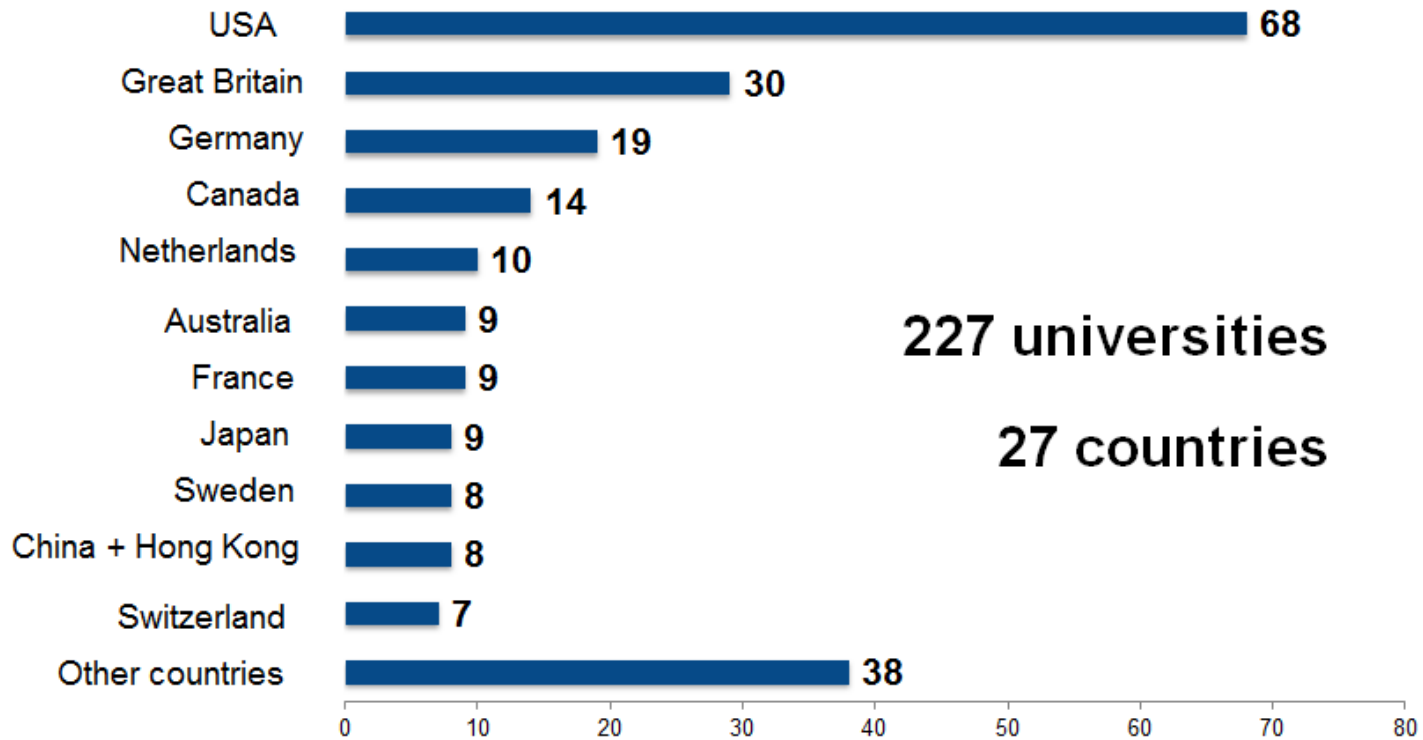
Limit of finance per participant: **1,38 million roubles per year**

Target number of participants: **1500 people**

## Grant distribution

- The limit of finance for one participant is up to **1.38 billion roubles** per year (including up to **690 thousand roubles** for the compensation of related expenses)
- Compensation of the cost of education
- Compensation of related expenses, including:
  - Transportation to study destination and return home
  - Residence
  - Medical insurance
  - Food
  - Course books

## Universities



## Eligibility

To be in the list, higher education institutions should be in top 300 of the 3 major international university rankings :

- QS
- ARWU
- THE

The list of the institutions will be revised annually in compliance with the above mentioned rankings.

## Educational Areas

AREAS	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS*
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<u>Biological Sciences</u> , <u>Physics &amp; Astronomy</u> , <u>Mathematics</u> , <u>Chemistry</u> , <u>Computer Science</u> , <u>Environmental Sciences</u> , <u>Earth &amp; Marine Sciences</u> , <u>Materials Sciences</u> , etc.
<b>ENGINEERING</b>	Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Information and Computer Engineering, Power and Energy Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, etc.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<u>Education Administration</u> , School and University Management, Education Policy, Educational Psychology, Special Education, International and Comparative Education, <u>Curriculum Development</u> and Instruction, etc.
<b>MANAGEMENT IN THE SOCIAL SPHERE</b>	Health Sector Management, Public Administration, Public Affairs, Social Work, Social Welfare, Social Policy, <u>Community Development</u>
<b>MEDICINE</b>	Medical Sciences, Clinical Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Public Health, Health Care Sciences and Services, Nursing, etc.

\* The full list of programs will be approved by the Supervisory Board and published shortly on the Program website.



## Quotas

- The target number of participants **for the year 2014 is 150 people** without any quotas
- The targeted number of participants **for the year 2015 is 850 people** with the following area quotas:

AREA	MASTER	PhD	RESIDENCY TRAINING
SCIENCE	126	102	-
ENGINEERING	200		-
EDUCATION	126		-
SOCIAL MANAGEMENT	126		-
MEDICINE	170		

## Participation procedure

1. Registration in the electronic queuing system on the programme website
2. Online submission of an application and supplementary documents
3. Submission of certified copies of supplementary documents
4. Competitive selection procedure
5. Approval of the list of selected participants by the programme Supervisory Board
6. Signing an Agreement and transferring the grant
7. Studying at a foreign HEI
8. Employment

## Criteria

- The number of the candidate in an electronic queue
- Professional experience
- Results of studies and developments published in academic periodicals indexed by Scopus or Web of Science (only for SCIENCE programs)
- Previous study in a leading foreign higher education institution

## Employment

- The Programme participant is obliged to return to Russia within 30 days of graduating
- The participant is obliged to join one of the employer organizations within 3 month's time upon returning to Russia
- The participant can choose any organization from the programme list and make his or her own arrangement on employment terms
- The employer organizations are not obliged to hire the participants of the programme
- The operator assists with the employment process (advises on open vacancies, arranges interviews)

## Employment

- The number of participants employed in Moscow and Saint Petersburg together should not exceed 10%
- The participant is obliged to work for an employer organization for a term of at least three years
- The participant is allowed to switch employer organizations from the programme list no more than twice
- In case of violation of the programme terms the participant is obliged to return the sum of the grant, and also to pay a penalty twice the sum of the grant

## List of employers

- The approved list of employers includes 529 companies:
  - Around 300 Russian companies, including Rostec, Rosatom, Rusnano, UAC, USC, UEC, RUSAL, etc.
  - Over a hundred higher education institutions
  - Over a hundred scientific organizations
- The list of employers should be extended and renewed on a regular basis

## Expected results

The programme is aimed at preparing talent for the Russian economy, providing highly qualified professionals who are eager to facilitate the social and economic development of Russian regions. There will be a special focus on the Russian Far Eastern Federal District.

## Contacts

The Programme official website:

- [www.educationglobal.ru](http://www.educationglobal.ru)

E-mail:

- [globaledu@skolkovo.ru](mailto:globaledu@skolkovo.ru)

Hot Line:

- +7(495) 28-00-625

Facebook:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/globaleduintegration/>





# Scholarship Schemes in Turkey

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Scholarship schemes available in Turkey for studying abroad;

- ✓ Chevening Scholarships Programme
- ✓ Jean Monnet Scholarships Programme
- ✓ Erasmus + Programme
- ✓ Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) Scholarships
- ✓ Ministry of National Education (MoNE) Scholarship Programme

# Chevening Scholarship Programme

UK government's prestigious global award programme started in Turkey in 1983

## Focus

- Granted to talented individuals who demonstrate the potential to become future leaders, decision-makers and opinion formers
- 18 scholarships for 2015/16 academic year
- Candidates select three eligible UK university courses that they wish to attend, in order of preference

## Benefits

- Top students Strong Alumni Group - over 43,000 alumni globally
- The Chevening Network in Turkey is the largest in Europe with approximately 1600 alumni
- Most of the Chevening alumni today are holding leadership positions in government, media, private sector and civil society organisations

## Application Subjects

Judiciary, Democracy and Human rights  
EU accession reforms  
Counter Terrorism  
Trade/ Prosperity

Information Society and Media  
International Politics  
Migration  
Energy and Environment

# Chevening Scholarship Programme

## Jointly Funded Chevening Scholarships

Chevening/Exeter MStrat Scholarships  
Chevening/Brunel Scholarships  
Chevening/Cardiff Scholarships  
Chevening/Durham Scholarships  
Chevening/Bangor Scholarships  
Chevening/Cambridge Scholarships  
Chevening/University of Birmingham Scholarship  
Chevening/Southampton Scholarships  
Chevening/Glasgow Scholarships  
Chevening/HSBC Scholarships

### Advantages to sign an agreement;

- Raising the institutions' profile among prospective students and applicants
- Recruiting high quality students



# Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme

Funded by the EU since 1990

Implemented by the Ministry for EU Affairs

Approximately 1,800 scholars benefited

Approximately 200 scholars per academic year

## Scholarship Focus

Increasing the number of experts in the EU field

Exclusively for academic studies at graduate or research level directly related to Turkey's EU harmonisation process and the EU acquis

## Target Group

Graduates working in private sector and NGOs, academics or administrative staff

## Benefits

Attractive to top students, public-private officers

Guarantee of covering tuition and living expenses

Beneficial for the UK Universities with strong departments on EU acquis subjects

# Erasmus+ Programme for Turkish Students

Mobility programme for education activities

Turkey became an Erasmus+ Programme Country in June 2014

**Turkish National Agency** is the responsible body for the implementation in Turkey  
Actions run by Turkish National Agency for Student and Staff Mobility

## Target Group

Students (undergraduates to post-docs) and academic staff

## Criteria for Partnership

Having Erasmus University Charter

Dual Erasmus Agreement between the UK-Turkey Universities

## Benefits

Promotes knowledge transfer and multiculturalism in action

Promotes UK Universities for graduate studies

Good start as the first step to develop dual partnerships between Turkish and the UK Universities

# TUBITAK Scholarship Programme

## Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Programs & Fellowships for Visiting Scientists

TÜBİTAK provides scholarships for Turkish students seeking a graduate degree, research visit, or work in a research project abroad

### Target Group

Turkish Researchers (MSc, PhD)

### Priority fields

Materials , Biomaterials , Energy , Electric-Electronic, Optic, Nanotechnology , Nuclear Energy , Renewable Energy , Microbiology , Biotechnology, Animal and Plant Biotechnology , Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management , System Engineering, Data Security , Software Verification, development and engineering , Satellite, Space Systems

### Benefits

TUBITAK Scholarship Guarantee covering tuition, social security, living costs

UK would benefit from their scientific talent and experience through those early career researchers

Turkish Law No: 5746 has provisions that promotes the employment of those researchers

Require an agreement signed between the fellow and TUBITAK -No need of signatures and other commitments by the UK host organisation

## Ministry of National Education Scholarship Programme

### The Overseas Graduate Student Placement Programme

The official scholarship program offered by the Ministry of Education

#### Focus

To meet the skilled professional need of higher education institutions and relevant public institutions and organisations

150-200 students per year

#### Target Group

Prospective Candidates aim to study abroad for Language Training , Graduate Studies , PhD

#### Benefits

Scholarship Guarantee covering tuition, living costs

UK would benefit from their scientific talent and experience through those early career researchers

Turkish Law No: 5746 has provisions that promotes the employment of those researchers

No need of commitments by the UK host organisation



## **Neslihan Boncuk**

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