



ORTA DOĞU TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2025 August (last updated on 11.08.2025)

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICE

Dear all,

First of all, congratulations on your academic success, patience, and dedication, which have paved the way for your admission to the undergraduate programs at METU Ankara Campus. We understand that this has been a long and stressful journey for you and your families, and we are happy to say that it is now behind you. You are just one step away from officially becoming a member of the METU family.

We also understand that you may have many questions about the next steps—such as registration, tuition fees, dormitories, visas, and more. Below, we have provided brief information addressing some of the most common concerns. In the coming days, our office will send you more detailed and timely updates via email. Therefore, we kindly ask you to check your inbox (and spam/junk folders) regularly to stay informed.

If your question is not addressed below, please do not worry. We will cover all essential topics at the appropriate time. For this reason, we kindly ask that you refrain from sending case-specific or individual-specific inquiries for now, as most of your questions will likely be answered in upcoming messages.

Due to the high volume of work during this period, our office may not be able to respond to emails promptly. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

1: Deferring Admission

Please note that deferring your admission to the next semester or academic year is not possible. Your admission is valid only for the 2025–2026 Fall Semester. However, if you are unable to begin your studies in the 2025–2026 Fall Semester, you may request a leave of absence **after completing your pre-registration at METU**. This can be done by submitting a petition to your department secretary. A leave of absence allows you to retain your student status at METU without enrolling in courses for one semester or one academic year. For more information, please refer to Article 40 of the undergraduate regulations, available here: <http://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/middle-east-technical-university-rules-and-regulations-governing-undergraduate-studies>

2: Changing major

The placement decision for the program stated in your acceptance letter is final, and it is not possible to change your major at this stage. You may only register for the program to which you have been officially admitted. However, at the end of your first year, you may be eligible to apply for an internal transfer, a minor, or a double major. Please note that eligibility to apply does not guarantee acceptance. These opportunities are subject to limited quotas, competitive selection, and strict academic criteria. For more information about these options and their requirements, please visit the Registrar's Office website: <http://oidb.metu.edu.tr/>

3: Pre-Registration and Required Documents

The pre-registration form will be available between August 25–29, 2025 at the following link: <https://iso.metu.edu.tr/en/registration-form-2025-2026>

Please note that this is only the pre-registration form. You will be required to submit the official hard copies of the documents you upload once the semester begins. **Failure to submit these documents without a valid excuse will result in cancellation of your registration.** Detailed instructions regarding the submission of hard copies will be shared via email at a later date.

The form consists of four steps and must be completed in one sitting. You cannot save your progress and return later, so please ensure you have all the necessary documents (if applicable) ready before you begin.

Important: You will not upload documents one by one. Instead, you are required to merge all your documents into a single PDF file and upload only that one PDF to the form.

Even if you submitted some of these documents during your initial application, we must receive all the required registration documents together in this format.

Documents to Include in Your PDF File:

- Passport-size photo
- Passport
- Turkish ID Card (only for those with Turkish citizenship)
- Residence Permit Card (only for those residing in Türkiye with a permit)
- Blue Card (only for those who have renounced Turkish citizenship)
- High School Diploma and its official translation into Turkish or English
- High School Transcript and its official translation into Turkish or English
- Equivalence Letter (issued by a Turkish Embassy or Provincial Directorate of National Education in Türkiye)
- English Proficiency Document (TOEFL, PTE, or METU EPE – if applicable)
- Other exam results used in your application (e.g., SAT, WAEC, ACT, AP, GCE A-Level, YKS, TR-YÖS, IB, DIM, etc.)*
- Letter of Financial Guarantee

We appreciate your attention to detail during this process. Please make sure to follow the instructions carefully to ensure a smooth registration experience.

Note about the exam verifications:

To complete your registration, we need to verify the exam results you submitted with your application. We will use a combination of methods depending on the exam:

- **SAT:** Please make sure to send your official score report to us using the institution code 6383.
- **TR-YÖS:** No action is required. Simply upload a copy of your score sheet. We will verify your score using the verification code on your score sheet.
- **IB** (International Baccalaureate): Ensure that the IBO sends your official results directly to our office.
- **Cambridge A-Levels:** No action is required. Simply upload a copy of your score sheet. We will verify your grades through the official Cambridge CIE Direct system.
- **TOEFL:** Please send your official TOEFL score to us using the institution code 0692.
- **METU EPE:** No action is required. Simply upload a copy of your score sheet.
- **Other Exams:** We will invite you to a Zoom call and ask you to log into the official exam website to verify your result.

Note: Verification of SAT, TOEFL, and IB scores can also be done via Zoom if you are unable to send them directly to our office.

Note about the Equivalence Letter

The equivalence letter is an important document that verifies your high school education is recognized by the Turkish Ministry of Education (M.E.B.) as equivalent to a high school education in Türkiye.

Who Needs It?

All students whose diplomas do not bear an M.E.B. (Turkish Ministry of Education) stamp must obtain this letter—even if they graduated from an international high school in Türkiye. If you studied in Türkiye or at a Türkiye-affiliated high school abroad and are unsure whether this requirement applies to you, please consult:

- Your school administration
- A Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Education
- A Turkish embassy or consulate in your country
- Or contact our office for guidance

How to Obtain It

- If you are currently in Türkiye:

You can apply for an equivalence letter online at: <https://edenklik.meb.gov.tr/?culture=en-GB>
After completing your online application, schedule an appointment with a Provincial Directorate of National Education and attend the appointment in person to receive your letter.

- If you are currently outside Türkiye:

Please contact the nearest Turkish embassy or consulate in your city/country. If they provide equivalence letter services, follow their instructions and obtain your letter there.

If this service is not available at your local consulate, you will need to obtain the letter after your arrival in Türkiye. In this case, you will be granted additional time to submit it.

Timing & Submission

If you cannot provide the equivalence letter at the beginning of the semester (when official hard copies of documents are submitted), your registration will **not** be affected. However, you will be asked to sign a "missing document" statement and given a deadline to submit it later. For a smoother registration process, we strongly recommend obtaining the equivalence letter before the semester begins.

Important Note for Turkish Citizens:

Students who hold Turkish citizenship and completed their high school education abroad must submit the equivalence letter during the registration period. **Late submission will not be accepted for Turkish students.**

Note about the letter of financial guarantee:

To complete your registration, you are required to submit a Letter of Financial Guarantee. This letter must be completed and signed by a person or institution that agrees to serve as your financial guarantor for the duration of your studies, covering your tuition fees, accommodation, travel, and other expenses. You can find the document template at the following link: https://iso.metu.edu.tr/en/system/files/financial_guarantee_letter_qr.pdf Both you and your financial guarantor must fill out and sign the document. Additionally, the guarantor must attach a copy of their identity document (e.g., passport or national ID). Please note that this document is based on the guarantor's declaration and does not require further proof of financial capacity such as bank statements or other evidence of assets. During the online pre-registration process, upload a scanned copy of the completed and signed document.

4: Visa

Please be reminded that you must have legal status in Türkiye by the time you submit the official hard copies of your registration documents.

If you do not hold legal status at that time, your registration cannot be completed, and you will be asked to leave the country and re-enter with a valid visa or entry permit.

We strongly advise you to plan your travel and visa/residence permit arrangements accordingly to avoid any disruptions in your registration process.

To check the visa regulations that apply to your country, please visit the official website of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

Some countries are exempt from visa. If your country is exempt from visa requirements by the Republic of Türkiye, then you may enter Türkiye without a visa, only using your passport.

If your country is not exempt from visa requirements by the Republic of Türkiye, then you will need to get a visa. **Please note that you are allowed to enter Türkiye with a tourist visa as well; a student visa is not mandatory for entry.** To apply for a Turkish visa, you may use your acceptance letter, which can be downloaded from the application system. This letter includes a QR code and a YÖK Acceptance Letter ID, which are sufficient to verify your admission to METU.

To support your visa process:

- We will share a list of admitted students with Turkish embassies and consulates worldwide.
- We will also inform consular authorities that certain documents—such as a full tuition payment receipt or proof of accommodation—may not yet be available, as these processes will begin after most visa applications are submitted.
- If embassy or consulate staff request these documents, you may explain this situation accordingly.
- If you encounter a problem not addressed above, feel free to contact us via email. If the matter falls within our authority, we will do our best to assist you.

Important Note for Students Under 18:

Even if you are allowed to enter Türkiye without a visa or with a tourist visa, we strongly recommend that students under 18 apply for a student visa. Having a student visa will simplify your residence permit application. Otherwise, you will be required to submit additional documentation, as outlined on our webpage: <https://iso.metu.edu.tr/en/residence-permit> (see point #10)

5: If you have a registration in another Turkish university...

If you currently have an active undergraduate registration at another Turkish university, please be aware that you must cancel your existing registration before enrolling at METU. According to Turkish regulations, students are not permitted to hold active registrations at more than one university at the same level of education.

However, we would also like to highlight an important point: If you cancel your current registration too early, it may negatively affect your residence permit status in Türkiye. To avoid any legal or administrative issues, we will allow you to complete your initial registration to METU without immediately canceling your registration at your current university. That said, you must finalize the cancellation of your previous registration by the time of interactive course registrations, which will take place between September 24–26, 2025. Please plan accordingly and ensure that the cancellation is completed by that time.

6: Transferring previous courses and credits

If you have previously studied at another university and wish to transfer courses and credits to your program at METU, you must submit a written petition to your department starting from the first week of September (after you complete your preregistration to the program).

Your petition should include:

- Your official transcript from your previous university
- Detailed course descriptions or syllabi of the courses you wish to transfer

Your department will evaluate your request, and a decision will be made regarding whether the courses can be transferred and, **if approved**, under which course categories they will be counted within your METU curriculum.

Please make sure to prepare your documents accordingly and follow up with your department for submission guidelines and deadlines.

7: English Language Requirements and Preparatory Year

As you know, the medium of instruction at METU is English, and the university offers an English preparatory year before students begin their departmental courses. To be exempted from the preparatory year and start your departmental courses directly, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- You are a citizen of a country where English is the official language, and you have completed your high school education in an English-medium school, (**still requires the approval of the University's related units**) or
- You have achieved the required score on one of the English proficiency exams recognized by METU (see the last line for all programs except the Foreign Language Education program) listed here: <http://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/equivalence-table-english-language-exams-recognized-metu-undergraduate-and-graduate-students>

Please note:

- Other exams such as IELTS and Duolingo or simply having English as the medium of instruction throughout your previous education do **not** qualify for exemption.
- TOEFL and PTE Academic exams taken within Türkiye must be taken at **a state university exam center** to be accepted by METU. If taken elsewhere, these scores will not be valid for skipping the preparatory year.

METU's English Proficiency Exam (EPE)

- METU administers its own English Proficiency Exam (EPE), which is free of charge for newly admitted students.
- The main exam date is September 12, 2025 at 10:00 am.
- You do not need to apply or register separately for the EPE. During pre-registration, you will be asked about your English proficiency status and preferences, and you will be guided accordingly.
- Please ignore any other exam application deadlines you might see elsewhere or hear about.
- If you plan to take the EPE, please arrange your arrival on campus before or on September 12, 2025, to be able to take the exam on that date.

Late EPE Exam

- A second EPE exam will be held on October 3, 2025, but only for students who have completed their pre-registration on time but arrive late on campus with a valid excuse.
- If you take the late exam and pass, you will only be able to complete your course registrations during the add-drop period.
- Arriving late without a valid excuse will cause administrative delays and difficulties in arranging your first-semester courses.
- Students who take the EPE on September 12 cannot retake it on October 3.

More details will be available on the Department of Basic English website:
https://epe.metu.edu.tr/index_en.htm

Other Important Notes

- If you plan to take a new TOEFL or PTE Academic exam before the semester starts and want to use it to skip the prep year, please contact us.
- Students who both had English as the medium of instruction in high school and are citizens of countries where English is the official language can be automatically exempt from the preparatory year as native speakers. These students will receive a separate email with further details upon the approval of the University's related units.
- Regardless of your English proficiency or exemption status, all METU undergraduate students must take two compulsory English courses: ENG101 and ENG102. There are no exemptions for these courses.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

8: Tuition Fees

Tuition Fees for Undergraduate Programs at METU

- Faculty of Engineering: 1200 USD per semester
- Faculty of Architecture: 1200 USD per semester
- Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Statistics (Faculty of Arts and Sciences): 1200 USD per semester
- Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences: 800 USD per semester
- Faculty of Education: 800 USD per semester
- Sociology, Psychology, History, Philosophy (Faculty of Arts and Sciences): 800 USD per semester

Important Notes on Tuition Fee Payment

- Tuition fees are paid per semester and within specific periods designated in METU's academic calendar.
- For example, the payment period for the Fall 2025 semester is from September 22 to September 28, 2025. (<https://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/metu-ankara-and-erdemli-campuses-2025-2026-academic-year-calendar>)
- You will not be able to register for courses unless your tuition fee is paid on time.
- Tuition fees are announced in USD but will be converted to Turkish Lira according to the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye's effective selling rate exactly one week before the payment period starts.
- You will pay the tuition fees in Turkish Lira during the designated payment dates.
- Any down payment you have already made will be deducted from your tuition fee for the Fall 2025 semester, and you will pay the remaining balance by the deadline.

Tuition Fee Exemptions and Discounts

- If you have been granted a tuition fee exemption or discount, it will be clearly stated on your acceptance letter. If you don't see this information, it means no exemption or discount has been awarded to you at this time.
- Tuition fee exemptions and discounts are awarded on a yearly basis based on your academic performance at the end of each academic year. Based on your success, you may receive a full tuition waiver or a 50% discount for the following academic year. Conversely, your current exemption or discount may be reduced or withdrawn depending on your academic standing. For more details, please visit: <https://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/middle-east-technical-university-implementation-principles-regarding-ankara-campus-tuition>
- If you qualify for a tuition fee exemption based on the high school you graduated from, you have already been notified via email. The list of eligible high schools is available here: <https://iso.metu.edu.tr/en/tuition-fee>

9: Usercode, ID Card and Wi-Fi

You will be able to receive your user code and apply for your ID card **only after you have received a confirmation email regarding your pre-registration (in late August, early September). Therefore, please wait for our email before proceeding with these steps. **Kindly do not attempt to apply for a username or ID card at this time.****

GETTING YOUR METU USERNAME AND PASSWORD

- All METU students have a student ID number, which is indicated on your acceptance letter. This number will be used for all official processes during your studies at METU.
- Newly registered students should complete the form and follow the instructions at <https://useraccount.metu.edu.tr/newstudent/index.php?lang=EN> to obtain their METU username and password. You will need this username to access all online services provided by the university, including online exams.

GETTING YOUR METU ID CARD

- Students can apply online for their METU student ID card via the following link: <http://cardinfo.metu.edu.tr/>
- To apply for an ID card, you must first obtain a METU username and password.
- Newly admitted students are not required to pay any fee for their ID cards.
- You can track the status of your ID card application on the same website.
- Once your card is ready, you will be able to collect it from your department secretary.
- For more detailed information, please visit: <http://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/student-id-cards>

If you have forgotten your METU password, you need to visit the following page to reset it:

<https://faq.cc.metu.edu.tr/faq/i-forgot-my-password-where-can-i-apply>

CONNECTING TO METU WIFI NETWORK

- Visit <http://netregister.metu.edu.tr/>
 - Log in with your METU username and password.
 - Follow the path: Wireless Network > Meturoam
 - Create a password (pay attention to the password requirements)
- After setting your password, find the Meturoam network among available wireless networks and connect using:
 - Username: e.g., e123456@metu.edu.tr
 - Password: The one you just created for Meturoam
- If you need help, check the "How to connect Meturoam?" section on the same website.

10: Accommodation

Long-Term Dormitories (Open only during Fall and Spring semesters | Monthly payment)

- New students who wish to stay in campus dormitories must apply online via: https://basvuru-yurtlar.metu.edu.tr/basvuru_en.php
- Please note:
 - Select your class as PREP or 1; it is not important.
 - In the “Grades” section, fill in only the “Your grade in entrance exams for METU” field.
 - The form will not require you to select a specific room type. It is intended for a general dormitory application. Room allocations will be made by the Dormitory Management later.
- The application deadline is **01.09.2025**.
- Long-term dormitories are expected to open in the last week of September.
- Placement is primarily based on age and exam/diploma scores.
- **Due to high demand, completing the application does not guarantee immediate placement. The Dormitory Management may not be able to assign a room right away, so it is strongly recommended to arrange a backup accommodation plan—at least temporarily. In recent years, increasing demand has extended the average waiting period.**
- Dormitory prices and details are available at: <https://yurtlar.metu.edu.tr/en/room-facilities-and-prices> (*prices will be updated for the new academic year)
- There are two types of long-term dormitories at METU:
 - **Regular Dormitories** – Apply now via the link above.
 - **Dormitories under Guesthouse Status** – These require a separate reservation process, which will be announced later by the Dormitory Management. However, even if you plan to stay in a guesthouse-status dormitory, you must still complete the regular dormitory application before the deadline using the same link. Those who do not apply for the regular dormitories will not be able to apply for the guesthouse-status dormitories.
- Once you complete your dorm application using the link provided above, there is no need to take any additional steps—such as contacting the Dormitory Management—to confirm your application. The first placement list will be announced on the Dormitory Management’s website around September 20th.

Summer Dormitories (Temporary stay before fall semester | Payment per night)

- Starting with late August and until the long-term dormitories open (approx. last week of September), students may stay in summer dorms temporarily.
- To do so, you must first submit the long-term dorm application using the link above.

- Summer dorm registration is conducted in person at the main Dormitory Management Office (Dorm No. 2).
- You can calculate the nightly fee by dividing the monthly dorm fee by 30.
- Only students who have completed their pre-registration are eligible to stay.
- Relatives or friends are not allowed to stay in the dorms.

Important:

- Staying in the summer dorms does not guarantee a spot in a permanent dorm.
- Due to limited capacity, you may be required to leave the summer dorm before the permanent dorms open and wait until your name appears on the future dormitory placement lists.

Please note that the International Students Office is not responsible for dormitory-related matters. Our role is limited to sharing a list of registered students, along with their age and exam scores, with the Dormitory Management for placement purposes.

For any questions or issues related to dormitories, you must directly contact the Dormitory Management. (ym@metu.edu.tr)

Additional Notes on Housing

- METU is located on the M1 metro line. If you plan to look for off-campus accommodation, make sure the location is well connected to the metro system for easy access to campus.
- "100. Yıl" is the neighborhood located right next to the METU campus and is home to many of our students. If you're considering renting an apartment, this is a great place to start your search: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/LJP6K2XKuEdq1igj8>
- When looking for apartments, always verify that the person renting the property is the official owner or has the official authorization to rent.
- When considering private dormitories, ensure that they have a valid license to operate as a student dormitory.
- If you have any doubts or concerns about a rental, dormitory, or housing arrangement, please feel free to contact us before making any decisions.

11: Orientation and Host Students

- On 22.08.2025, we will have an online session where you and your parents are invited. In this session, we will go through this pre-arrival guideline and try to answer frequently asked questions. The meeting link will be shared with you later.
- Experienced international students at METU are also ready to assist and inform you about your potential questions. After the pre-registrations, we will share a link to join a Telegram group, where you will meet other newly accepted students and also experienced METU students.
- After the pre-registrations, we will also assign host students to each of you based on your match according to department, nationality, language, etc. These hosts will be your first contact for your questions throughout the first semester.
- Also, there will be an orientation program for the newly registered international students between 22.09.2025-24.09.2025. The details of the orientation program will be announced later. The orientation will be face-to-face and on campus.

12: IS100 and Turkish language exams

IS100

- IS100 (Introduction to Information Technologies and Applications) is an online course covering the fundamentals of information systems and is a compulsory part of all undergraduate programs at METU.
- Before the semester begins, students have the opportunity to take the IS100 Proficiency Exam. Those who pass the exam will be exempted from the course.
- The exam will be conducted **online** on 21.09.2025.
- Detailed information about the course and the exam can be found here: <http://ii.metu.edu.tr/is100>

TURKISH CLASSES

- Regardless of your level of Turkish proficiency, all students are required to take two Turkish courses as part of their undergraduate curriculum.
- A placement exam will be held **online** on 24.09.2025 to determine the appropriate course level for each student.
- Further details regarding the exam and the courses will be shared later by the instructor.

13: Important Dates

- **August 25-29:** Online pre-registration of newly admitted international undergraduate students
- **September 12:** METU English Proficiency Exam
- **September 15-16-17:** Department of Basic English Placement Examination (On-line)
- **September 21:** IS 100 (Introduction to Information Technologies and Applications) Exemption Examination (On-line)
- **September 24:** Turkish Placement Exam (On-line)
- **September 22-24:** Orientation Program
- **September 22-26:** Tuition fee payments for the fall semester
- **September 24-26:** Interactive Course Registrations and Advisor Approvals
- **September 29:** Classes Begin
- **October 3:** METU English Proficiency Exam (only for those students with a valid excuse to late register)

14: When should I arrive on campus?

This will depend on your individual preference and circumstances. There are some key dates that can guide your arrival plan:

1. If you are going to take the EPE exam, consider the EPE date.
2. If you are going to study in English prep. Year, then we recommend you arrive on campus on a date that will allow you to attend the Orientation Program as the English Placement Examination will be online.
3. If you are not going to take either EPE or English Placement Examination, then we recommend you arrive on campus on a date that will allow you to attend the Orientation Program.
4. If you are not planning to attend the Orientation Program (something we do not recommend), the first day of the classes is the day you should be on campus. The tuition fee payments and the interactive course registration/advisor approvals are possible via online channels without the necessity to be on campus.

15: METU Ankara Campus Location + Transportation

METU's Ankara campus is located along the Eskişehir Highway, approximately 7 kilometers west of Kızılay, the city center of Ankara. It is easily accessible by public transportation and well connected to key parts of the city.

Campus Gates

The campus has multiple entrance gates. The most commonly used are:

- Gate A1 – Main entrance on Eskişehir Highway; directly accessible via the metro (ODTÜ station).
- Gate A4 – Located near the 100. Yıl neighborhood.
- Gate A7 – Accessible from the Bilkent direction.

Tip: For most international students and visitors, Gate A1 is the most convenient, especially when arriving via the metro or public buses.

From Esenboğa Airport (ESB) to METU Campus

Option 1: Direct Taxi

- Duration: ~35–45 minutes
- Estimated cost: ₺1500–₺1750 (approx. \$40 USD)
- Available 24/7 at the airport exit.

Option 2: Shuttle + Metro + Campus Transfer

- Take the Airport Shuttle to Kızılay (city center).
- From Kızılay, take the M1 metro line toward Koru and get off at ODTÜ (METU) Station.
- Walk to Gate A1 and take a short taxi ride or METU Ring Shuttle to the dorms.

Option 3: Shuttle + Bus

- Take the Airport Shuttle to Kızılay (city center).
- From Kızılay, take one of the 482/411/132 buses toward ODTÜ.
- The bus enters the campus directly, so no additional transfer is needed inside.

Key Locations on Google Maps

- ODTÜ/METU Metro Station & Gate A1:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ldz4ywuhanrR5gme8>
- METU International Students Office:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dPFGiQuyF86e56Zg6>
- METU Dormitory Management:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4JoKiEb5DNd6Tmhp7>

METU Ring Shuttle Announcements

<https://tim.metu.edu.tr/en>