
TURKISH GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP



TÜRKIYE BURSLARI

The Complete Guide to Winning the Turkish Scholarship

Application · Research · Interview

The method that puts every
chance on your side

- ✓ Criteria, calendar and documents explained
- ✓ Write a letter of intent that stands out
- ✓ Compose your 12 program choices wisely
- ✓ Ace the interview: questions and pitfalls
- ✓ If rejected: alternative strategies

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Free sample

Introduction: How to Use This Guide

Every year, more than two hundred thousand people apply for Türkiye Bursları. Around five thousand are selected. The vast majority of applicants who fail do not fail for lack of merit, but for lack of understanding of how the process actually works: what is evaluated, in what order the stages unfold, and what separates a selected application from a rejected one.

This guide has a single purpose: to close that information gap. It does not promise to secure the scholarship, as no guide can. It provides the method, the real criteria, and the preparation needed to present the strongest possible application, and then to approach the interview under the best conditions.

The document is organized into four parts that follow the logical order of the journey. The first part explains what the scholarship really is and who can apply. The second details how to build the application file, from the calendar to the recommendation letters. The third is devoted to the interview, a decisive and often underestimated stage. The fourth covers what comes afterward, whether the application succeeds or not.

One principle runs through the whole guide: procedures change. The allowance amounts, the cycle dates, the exact list of documents, and the specific conditions of certain programs are revised each year. This guide provides the durable method and the underlying reference points. The specific figures, however, must always be confirmed through official

channels when preparing an application. Wherever information is likely to vary, the text flags it and refers to the official source rather than misleading the reader.

An application to Türkiye Bursları is prepared over several months. This guide is therefore best read well before the portal opens, to allow time to gather documents, develop the project, and practice for the interview.

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING TÜRKİYE BURSLARI

Chapter 1: What Türkiye Bursları Really Is

A fully funded state scholarship

Türkiye Bursları, "Turkey Scholarships" in English, is the flagship scholarship program of the Turkish government for international students. It is administered by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, known by its Turkish acronym YTB. The program funds studies at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, as well as short-term research programs and certain specializations, in more than two hundred higher-education institutions across Turkey.

What sets this scholarship apart from most comparable programs comes down to one point: it is not limited to a financial payment. It combines funding with university placement. In other words, a successful applicant does not merely receive money; they are also assigned a university and a program of study. This feature completely changes the logic of applying, as we will see later.

The program in its current form was created to consolidate several earlier Turkish scholarships into a single, selective, merit-based system. It is part of Turkey's broader strategy to welcome international students: their number in the country has risen from a few tens of thousands a decade ago to several hundred thousand today.

What the scholarship covers

The scholarship is described as fully funded, and that description matches the reality of the program. The coverage includes several components that, together, meet most of a student's needs throughout their studies.

The first component is full coverage of tuition fees. It applies both in public universities and in private universities, called foundation universities in Turkey. The recipient pays no tuition, regardless of the institution to which they are placed.

The second component is a monthly allowance paid directly into a bank account that the student opens on arrival in Turkey. For the 2026 cycle, the reference amounts are around 6,500 Turkish lira per month at the bachelor's level, 9,500 at the master's level, and 12,500 at the doctoral level. Research programs carry a higher amount still. These amounts are adjusted periodically and can be confirmed on the official portal. One point deserves attention: recipients of the merit program, distinguished for their academic excellence, receive a monthly allowance that is double the standard amount.

The third component is accommodation. Bachelor's students may be housed in university residences for the entire duration of their studies, with costs covered. Master's and doctoral students are entitled to residence accommodation for the first year. For subsequent years, a housing allowance of around 6,500 Turkish lira per month allows them to rent accommodation.

The fourth component is health insurance, with coverage for emergencies, hospital care, and most medical prescriptions.

The fifth component is the airline ticket. The scholarship provides a ticket on arrival, at the start of studies, as well as a return ticket at the end of studies. The recipient is thus covered for both the arrival journey and the return once the degree is completed.

The sixth component is the year of Turkish language study. Recipients admitted to a program taught in Turkish, as well as those admitted to an English-taught program without a recognized English certificate, complete a full year of Turkish language training at a TÖMER center before beginning their program. An exception applies to recipients admitted to an English-taught program who provide a valid English certificate: these are exempted from this year and begin their program directly.

To these components are added support for residence-permit procedures throughout the program, as well as access to academic and cultural activities.

The real length of the commitment

An applicant must understand that Türkiye Bursları represents a long commitment. Between submitting the application and the first day of class at university, nearly two years elapse. The selection process itself spans several months, from January to August. This is followed by the year of Turkish language preparation, before entry into the program proper.

The total funding period covers the entire journey, including the language preparation year, amounting to several years of continuous support depending on the level and program. It is a considerable investment of time, to be weighed before applying.

What comes next in the complete guide

This sample ends here. The complete guide continues with the true level of competition and what it concretely implies, then unfolds the 16 chapters that cover the entire journey, from application to interview:

The detailed eligibility criteria, level by level, with the grade thresholds and score equivalences.

The exact list of documents to provide according to the level pursued, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate.

The method for writing a letter of intent that stands out, with concrete examples of weak and strong wordings.

The strategy for composing your twelve program choices without closing doors on yourself.

The real unfolding of the interview, the most frequent questions, and the pitfalls to avoid.

A complete CV example and a full set of research-project answers, for a fictional profile.

What to do in case of admission, and how to bounce back in case of rejection.

Everything you need to present the strongest possible application, and put every chance on your side.