

Safety in Study

Dear colleagues,

Your concern regarding travel study safety for faculty and students planning the fall semester abroad is shared wholeheartedly with all of us at Yeditepe University.

As you know, over the last few years we have seen terrorist attacks in many parts of the world with tragic results, the deaths of hundreds of innocent people, and such events all around the world, mostly occurring in Europe, have acutely touched the lives of us all.

Everyone is shocked by these unforeseen events –in “peaceful” Norway the Brevik attack killing more than 80 persons, - the attacks at Brussels Airport, Maalbeek metro station, mass murders in Paris before and after Charlie Hebdo attacks (Bataclan and others), then with the recent attack in Nice during July 14 celebration with almost a hundred deaths and many seriously wounded; and earlier the bomb attack at Atocha station in Madrid, or London knife-stabbing last winter, and many others are in our memories. The spring attack by an axe in a Deutsche Bahn train near Würzburg and then most recently the shooting at a shopping mall in Munich, another bomb attack in Anspach, Reutlingen and many others ..the list is unbelievable since we entered the 21st century.

In the United States in the wake of the Boston Marathon deadly explosions, the shooting of students in schools or university campuses; attacks in California (San Bernardino, San Diego), Georgia, Minnesota, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Orlando Night Club attack and many other places are becoming periodic events. Such horrific happenings are being keenly and sensitively observed.

The recent coup attempt in Turkey and some other terrorist attacks in Ankara, Reyhanlı and Istanbul airport have raised questions for our Erasmus students about safety in Turkey; likewise, the dilemma of sending our students to study abroad.

This calls for our evaluation of the situation.

We believe that in this day and age one cannot qualify any particular place in the world as 100% safe. One cannot know where and when a terror action may occur. Statistics show that Istanbul is one of the safest mega cities in the world with **more than 15 million inhabitants**. Indeed, over the last decade we have been host to over three thousand Erasmus students without any incident whatsoever.

Yeditepe University is a safe self-contained campus; Ataşehir and Kadıköy where most of our students stay are considered the safest areas of Istanbul. However, we consistently advise students not to stay out late at night, to be “connected” with friends and family, and always be aware of where they are, be alert, and be careful. Istanbul is a big city.

Be that as it may, under no circumstances can one state that nothing may happen in the future.

All this makes us think that nobody can say that this or that particular city or country is absolutely safe.

Although our daily routines are continuing as usual, most conferences are ongoing, and those who are enjoying a summer holiday in Turkey already, continue to do so.

We thank you for your care and solicitude and diligently join you in following up on all developments world wide in hope that the coming weeks and months will show positive progress and less tension everywhere for everyone.

Very sincerely,
