M.Ed. In TESL Program
Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Country: Turkey
Author: Kim Marchand

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)
Turkey
Location

• Turkey is mostly in Southwestern Asia with the area west of the Bosporus being part of Southeastern Europe

• Borders Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, and Syria

• Borders the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea

• Thirty-seventh largest country and just barely larger than Texas (783,562 sq. km)
People of Turkey

Population: 80,694,485 (est. 2013)

Ethnic Groups: Turkish 80% Kurdish 20% (est. 2008)

Literacy Rate: Male 97.9% Female 90.3% (est. 2001)

Languages: Turkish (official), Kurdish, Dimli, Azeri, and Kabardian

Poverty Level: 16.9% living below the poverty line (est. 2010)
Political Information

• “Turkey is a secular parliamentary republic founded on the principle of the division of powers into legislative, executive and judiciary. The Constitution is the supreme law of the country.” (setimes.com)

• Current President: Abdullah Gul
  - “The President has the power to promulgate or return laws to parliament for reconsideration, to call public referendums, to call new parliamentary elections, appoint the Prime Minister or accept his resignation; appoint or remove ministers; ratify and publish international “ (setimes.com)

• Current Prime Minister: Recep Tayyip Erdogan
  - Heads the Council of Ministers
  - The Council of Ministers issues regulations on the application of laws or other matters, provided that they do not conflict with existing laws and are examined by the Council of State. (setimes.com)
Primary School

- Children start school around age 7
- One teacher teaches the same students from first grade through all 8 years of their primary schooling
- General studies include Turkish, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Literature, and Religion
Education

High School (Lyceum)

• About 3 years
• Specialist teacher for each subject

Types of high schools

• Anatolian (foreign language)
• Science
• Social Science
• Pedagogical
• Military Academies
• Imam-Hatip (religion)
• Vocational
• Private
Students and Teachers

Students wear uniforms

Average number of students in a classroom is 20-40

Students show respect for teachers

• Addressing them as “sir” or “teacher”
• Standing up as a class when the teacher enters the classroom
Classrooms

• Due to the large number of students and small classrooms school is held in two sessions, morning and afternoon
• Classes are held mid-September through mid-June
• Above each blackboard is a portrait of Atatürk, Turkey’s first president. On one side of the portrait is his speech to the Turkish youth and the National Anthem is on the other
Ministry of National Education’s Plan for 2010-2014

- Compulsory, free, and formal early childhood education;
- Higher rates of enrollment, specifically 100 percent in primary school and over 90 percent in secondary school;
- Better equipped and technologically advanced learning environments;
- Equitable distribution of highly qualified teachers and guidance counselors;
- Development and implementation of quality standards for formal education;
- Reform of vocational technical education (VTE) in secondary and higher education levels in collaboration with economic factors as well as in response to labor market requirements;
- Establishment of inclusive education for children with special needs in all levels of formal education;
- Expansion of life-long learning opportunities;
- Reform of assessment and selection systems for each level of education to facilitate easier access and better placement.
Teacher Education

• Must pass high school exit examination
• Must apply to a university where the lisans diplomasi (teaching license) can be earned
• Must be enrolled in a pedagogy program for 4 years
• Secondary teachers must be enrolled in a pedagogy program for 5 years and declare a major in pedagogy and a major in another teaching specialization
Turkey and the United States

• The friendship dates back to the late 18th century when diplomatic relations were established between the Ottoman Empire and the U.S.
• Turkey and the U.S. stand together in the fight against terrorism
• Turkey and the U.S. have a good import/export relationship
Immigration to the United States

• Since the 1970’s more than 2,000 Turkish immigrants move to the U.S. every year
• Most settle in or around large urban centers
• Most settled areas include New York City, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, and San Francisco
• Other areas include the East Coast of Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Minnesota, Indiana, Texas, and Alabama
References

Book


Websites


Retrieved September 8, 2013, from www.everyculture.com/multi/Sr-Z/Turkish-Americans.htm (slide 14)
References

Images


M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

The M.Ed. in TESL Program at Rhode Island College
is Nationally Recognized by TESOL and NCATE