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### **Mevlana Exchange Programme**

Mevlana Exchange Programme is a programme which aims the exchange of students and academic staff between the Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions of other countries. With the regulation published in August 23, 2011 (num: 28034), students and academic staff exchange between Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions of other countries has been possible.

The programme includes all higher education institutions throughout the world without discriminating between the geographical borders. The higher education institutions of EU countries benefiting from Erasmus programme will not be included in Mevlana Exchange Programme in 2013-2014 academic year.

Students may study abroad for one (minimum) or two (maximum) terms and academic staff may lecture abroad from one week (minimum) to three months (maximum). Accordingly, students and academic staff from any country may benefit from this programme being hosted by Turkish higher education institutions in order to study or lecture.

## 2

### **Mevlana (Rumi)**

The original name of Mevlana, from whom the name of the programme is inspired, is Muhammed Celaleddin. Mevlana was born in 1207 in Belh of Horasan distinct that is now in the border of Afghanistan. The name “Mevlana” was used by Sultan Veled, Şems-i Tebrizi and his lovers, and virtually is a universal symbol which identifies with him. Also, he is known as Rumi by the western people.

Mevlana lived in the 13th century, but as a sufi who got beyond the ages with his works, did not make any discrimination between people as indicated in his verse “Come, come whoever you are”. As well as his mercy, voluntary and unlimited humanity, he had endless tolerance and he impressed not only the world of Islam but also the whole humanity. He is accepted worldwide as an intellectual with his point of view to the people and life. UNESCO, due to the 800th anniversary of Mevlana’s birth, declared the year 2007 as Mevlana and Tolerance year.

Throughout his education, he visited the educational institutions of various cities in different countries not only as a student but also a scholar. Mevlana attributed great importance to “change” in his philosophy throughout his life.

He is also the author of the important works like Masnavi, Divan-i Kebir, Fihi Mafih, Mektubat and Mecalis-i Seba.

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#### **The Objectives of Mevlana Exchange Programme**

The primary objective of Mevlana Exchange Programme is to exchange students and academic staff between the Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions of other countries. Additionally, Mevlana Exchange Programme aims;

- Making Turkey a centre of attraction in higher education area,
- Increasing the academic capacity of Turkish higher education institutions,
- Contributing to the globalization process of higher education,
- Sharing the historical and cultural heritage of Turkey in a global scale, enriching the culture of respect and tolerance to differences by increasing intercultural interaction

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#### **Mevlana Student Mevlana Exchange Programme**

Students,

- are willing to recognize and perceive their regions and the world better,
- are open to change,
- are qualified and self-confident,
- have a strong sense of competition,
- have global knowledge and responsibility.

The students, who benefited from Mevlana Exchange Programme, can also benefit from other ex- change programmes before/after participating in this programme.

The students, who participate in the programme after having the requirements, will be given non-re- fundable scholarship during their study abroad. The students do not pay any tuition fee to the host institutions during their exchange period.

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#### **Its Difference From Other Exchange Programmes**

The current international and regional exchange programmes executed by some countries and regional organizations have limited contribution to the “globalization of higher education” approach of Turkish Higher Education Council. Students who apply to Mevlana Exchange Programme, a significant means of global higher education vision, will have the opportunity to study at a university they desire in any part of the world.

Additionally, all academic staff who work in a national or foreign higher education institution, on condition that the higher education institutions signed a bilateral Mevlana Exchange Protocol, may benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme. This mobility includes educational activities to be performed in host institution.

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### **The Benefits of Mevlana Exchange Programme to Students and Academic Staff**

Mevlana students who have the opportunity to study abroad will be able to express themselves on the international level and will have both analytic and comparative point of view. The students who will study abroad thanks to this programme will have the chance to recognize cultures of their host countries in addition to the academic experience they will gain. These students, who make new friends and improve their foreign language proficiency, will have great advantage for achieving their career goals thanks to their international experience at their studies.

Academic staff, who will benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme, will have the opportunity to do researches with new academic perspectives in addition to lecturing abroad. They can continue their cooperation by the mutual interaction via various conferences, projects and seminars after returning their home institutions.

## 7

### **Who can benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme?**

The students registered in formal education programmes in Associate Degree, B.A, M.A and PhD level at higher education institutions in Turkey (on condition that the higher education institutions signed a bilateral Mevlana Exchange Protocol) may benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme.

Additionally, all academic staff who work in a national or foreign higher education institution, on condition that the higher education institutions signed a bilateral Mevlana Exchange Protocol, may benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme. In the scope of mobility, academic activities of academic staff cannot be less than total six hours weekly.

In hourly calculation of the activities performed by academic staff, courses are considered. If course hours do not complete six hours, academic activities like seminars, panels or conferences are evaluated in this context. Academic staff mobility plans which do not contain lectures shall not be considered within Mevlana Exchange Programme and accepted for the Exchange.

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### **Application Requirements of Mevlana Exchange Programme**

The requirements for being a Mevlana Exchange Programme Student are;

- To be studying at associate degree, bachelor degree, master degree or PhD degree of higher education programmes,
- Grade point average (GPA) of associate degree and undergraduate students must be at least 2,5 on a four point scale,
- Grade point average (GPA) of graduate students (MA, PhD) must be at least 3.00 on a four point scale,
- 50% language score + 50% GPA
- The students studying in their first year at associate or bachelor degree and the students of preparation classes and scientific preparation programmes of graduate degrees cannot participate in this programme at their first semester.

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### **Other Main Aspects for Execution of the Programme**

How should a student, who has the requirements, apply to the Mevlana Exchange Programme? The students may apply to the Mevlana Exchange Programme unit of his/her university after filling the required forms in <https://mevlana.yok.gov.tr> properly.

All academic staff, working in higher education institutions with Mevlana Exchange Protocol, may also apply to Mevlana Exchange Programme coordination offices of their institutions. How many times and how long can we participate in Mevlana Exchange Programme? Students may study abroad for one (minimum) or two (maximum) semesters. Semester periods may be different considering the education systems but the total exchange period cannot exceed one academic year.

Academic staffs also may participate in Mevlana Exchange Programme. Academic staff may lecture abroad from one week (minimum) to three months (maximum).

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### **Other Main Aspects for Execution of the Programme**

Do students have to pay any tuition fee when they participate in Mevlana Exchange Programme? Students do not pay any tuition fees to the host institution during the programme, but they continue to pay the obligatory tuition fees to their home institutions. They do not pay any extra fee to the host institution within the scope of the exchange programme. Do the students who participate in the programme repeat the courses/semesters taken at the host institution? As the course(s) to be taken in the host institution are officially agreed to be counted in advance within the Learning Protocol, the students do not repeat any courses/semesters when they return.

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### **Scholarships During the Mevlana Exchange Programme**

Terms and conditions for students:

Mevlana Exchange Programme students continue to take their other scholarships and grants in their home countries and they have to do registration in their home institutions. They pay tuition fee to their home institution if they are supposed to and they do not pay any other tuition fee to the host institution.

The scholarship amount to be paid to the Mevlana Exchange students differs according to the life standards of the country of the host institution. Within the context of Mevlana Exchange Programme, the programme students can be paid up to three times of the amount that is monthly paid to bachelor degree students according to the Law no.5102 on Granting Scholarship and Loan to the Higher Education Students and in the ratios determined by Council of Higher Education Executive Board.

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### **Scholarships During the Mevlana Exchange Programme**

Incoming students from other countries to Turkish higher education institutions are granted according to the ratios determined by Council of Higher Education Executive Board.

In terms of the scholarships that will be paid to the students, 70% of the scholarship amount is paid monthly. For the student's remaining grant payment, the ratio of total credits of the succeeded courses to the courses that the student is obliged to take as obligatory courses will be considered. In the event that the resources allocated for the higher education institution to exchange of Mevlana Exchange Programme student is insufficient, students may utilize their own personal means or special scholarships may be granted provided that it is in accordance with other terms of the programme. Terms and conditions for academic staff:

Within the scope of Mevlana Exchange Programme, travel allowance stated in the Travel Expense Law no.6245 may be paid to incoming and outgoing academic staff while travel allowance and additional course fees may be paid as stated in Travel Expense Law no.6245 and article 10 of the Law no.2547. CHE Executive Board is authorized to determine additional course fees due to the countries and titles.

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**For more information**

You can access more information and documents from the Academic Exchange Programmes Unit of your institution, the official web page of <https://mevlana.yok.gov.tr>, or The Council of Higher Education, Mevlana Exchange Programme Coordination Office.

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