

## **Global Engagement Certificate (GEC ) – Overview**

Koç University students live in a world more interconnected than ever before, where global and local forces intermingle. Under these dynamic circumstances, critical success factors are: an individual's ability to handle complexity, adapt quickly to change, and create a positive impact on their surroundings. Other qualities, such as curiosity, openness, and integrity, are traits of humane and confident global citizens. Together, these characteristics are crucial components in the toolkit for global leadership in the 21st century.

The GEC program offers an interdisciplinary co-curriculum that develops global leadership in the following ways: international experiential learning, via study abroad programs and internships; hands-on activities (speaker series and workshops) with global leaders from across all sectors, representing both local and foreign institutions; and activities that foster cross-cultural understanding.

The GEC is meant to complement the academic course of study through its *experiential approach to the development of key global competencies: global leadership, active citizenship, intercultural communication, and critical thinking*. Taken together, the GEC process encourages *personal growth* and builds a strong foundation of *professional skill development*.

In addition the global leadership, the GEC puts a premium on participants acquiring: *high level visual and virtual communication skills* through regular, multimedia documentation and sharing of their GEC activities (*collected in an "e-Portfolio"*); and active engagement – *through volunteerism and service learning* – with campus-based groups and clubs as well as community organizations that have international aspects to their work and missions.

Beyond personal growth, these forms of global engagement are attractive to recruiters from today's forward thinking companies – those looking to assemble a diverse workforce in a globally competitive organization. Generally speaking, the most sought after graduates are those students who have gone above and beyond their academic course load during their years at university. GEC participants will exit the program with a track record demonstrating competencies related to global engagement, and CV that includes with extracurricular activities and experiential learning opportunities in an international setting.

The GEC will pilot in the Spring 2014, and will be the first certificate of its kind in Turkey, for undergraduates seeking skills and experiences related to core competencies of global engagement.

### **How will GEC improve internationalization efforts at KU?**

- ✓ Increased awareness of global issues
- ✓ Increased interaction with international peers, faculty members, global leaders
- ✓ Regular consultation (monthly) between participants and GEC Advisors (from Office of International Programs and the Office of the Dean of Students)
- ✓ Clear target goal to achieve certificate

- 200 total activity points + E-Portfolio + Capstone Project = Certificate of completion
- ✓ Structure (“Core Colloquia”) and flexibility (“My GEC”) built in to the program
- ✓ Unique opportunities to meet and network with global leaders(local and foreign) across a range of disciplines

Certificate programs are becoming more and more popular as a way to show accomplishment in a certain subject area. Certificates for undergraduate in universities are typically described as being like a cross-disciplinary minor program, and should receive just as much prestige and recognition as a minor. Also similar to a minor, there are certain requirements that must be met in order for students to fulfill and receive a certificate. These are goals we are building toward with the GEC: 1) future minor in global leadership, available across undergraduate departments; 2) backbone of a future “Honors College” within Koç University.

### **How Will Students Apply for GEC?**

GEC aims to onboard 18 participants to the pilot cohort, beginning in the Spring Semester of the 2013-14 academic year.

There is a twofold approach to the selection of students for the pilot cohort of GEC: 1) Faculty nominations from across undergraduate colleges; and 2) Open applications by students.

For the GEC, the OIP will request recommendations from deans and faculty across all academic colleges. At the beginning of the Fall Semester, OIP will also present GEC in the Orientation program – an open call to eligible undergraduates to learn about, make inquiries, and apply to GEC.

### **Eligibility:**

- Current students who have completed at least 30 credits

Application requirements include:

- Completion of application questions (available at [gec.ku.edu.tr](http://gec.ku.edu.tr))
- Personal Statement
- Current CV

### **Notes:**

2013-14 is the pilot year, so GEC applicants, and later, students selected to participate in GEC will work closely with the GEC Advisory Team. Shaping the GEC roadmap for each individual who participates in GEC will be a joint effort – a mutual learning process has students and advisors alike.

In time, students who have advanced past the first 100 points toward their certificate, as well as GEC “graduates” will comprise a mentorship corps for students entering the first year of their GEC experience.

### **Certificate Program Structure**

GEC participants have their undergraduate career to complete all requirements of the GEC. As it is a co-curricular program, GEC commitments stand alongside departmental academic commitments. The GEC is entirely voluntary from the side of the participant.

For participants that make a personal commitment to the GEC, there are two areas of activity: “Core Colloquia” and “My GEC” activities.

“Core Colloquia” include special activities and events that have been determined and arranged by the GEC Advisory team. Each of these represents a unique opportunity for GEC participants to enhance their understanding and application of knowledge or skills related to global leadership development.

“My GEC” is the special part of the overall program where individual participants use their creativity to design a roadmap of success according to their personal goals and interests. While the GEC structure outlines areas for “My GEC” activities, the specifics of these activities should be conceived of and initiated by the participants themselves. Then, working in close collaboration with GEC Advisors, participants can petition for points for the activities they’ve identified as productive, innovative steps in the GEC process. “My GEC” activities should be, above all, personally edifying, inspiring to others, and fun.

All activities that participants complete in pursuit of the GEC have corresponding point totals attached to them. To receive the GEC at graduation, a participant must have at least 200 points.

Activity areas and point totals are detailed below:

#### **GEC Retreat (20 points)**

All students admitted into the GEC program will attend a 2-day retreat, outside of Istanbul, aimed at fostering community and respect among the select group of GEC participants, as well as introducing the path ahead for the program. A combination of fun and deep exploration, the GEC Retreat is the beginning the journey.

#### **“Global Civics” Worksop (20 points)**

#### **Core Colloquia (60 points)**

(Each GEC participant should complete 2 activities from each of the 3 types of colloquia below, for a total of 60 activity points.)

- 1) Global Perspectives” – Global Speakers Series (10 points)

Respected local and foreign leaders from the worlds of business, culture, media, technology, civil society, and government will speak on themes relevant to global leadership and cross-cultural understanding

\*\*\* minimum of 2 speakers events required

- 2) “Action Learning Co-Labs (10 points)

Strategic Thinking Workshops & Intercultural Communication workshops

Multinational and top domestic companies regularly recruit talented, forward-thinking Koç graduates. In these workshops, GEC participants will learn about building global competitiveness, shared value, and stakeholder engagement through collaboration with representatives from leading domestic companies and multinationals on real-life scenarios that further global strategic goals.

\*\*\* minimum of 2 leadership workshops required

- 3) Global Diplomatic Series (10 points)

GEC participants will visit consulates and embassy, and meet with experienced diplomats to understand the wide range of perspectives and challenges for policymakers and members of the global diplomatic corps. These unique opportunities offer students a first-hand look at the delicate, exciting world of international and intercultural relations.

\*\*\* minimum of 2 diplomatic series events required

## **My GEC (100 points)**

- 1) Electives from Selected GEC Course List (see Appendix A)

(10 points for each elective within your department / college; 20 points for trying something new in a different college of the university)

With a wide range of qualifying electives to choose from, GEC participants can expand their range of knowledge and diversify their interests. Courses such as these touch on integral aspects of global leadership.

Examples:

- “Innovation and Entrepreneurship”
- “Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)”
- “International Negotiations”

- “Intercultural Communication”
- “Chinese I: Beginners”

2) Study Abroad  
(points)

(60)

Visit the Office of International Programs (OIP) to learn about exciting, enriching study abroad opportunities. Gain experience with international travel, foreign languages and cultures, expand the academic and social networks through new relationships with faculty and students at globally-minded universities outside Turkey. A semester abroad can lay the foundation for a career in an international company, and certainly provide the setting for a wider perspective of global themes and challenges.

\*\*\* See Appendix B (below) for full list of “Study Abroad” choices.

3) International Internships

(30 points – up to 1 month; 50 points – longer than 1 month)

To learn about the range of opportunities, participants may inquire at the OIP, and speak with GEC Advisor directly about this subject.

\*\*\* See Appendix B (below) for the list of “International Internships” choices.

Examples:

- Erasmus Internships
- Intern positions for Koç student at the Washington Center (Washington, DC, USA)
- Become a member of AIESEC, and choose from hundreds of possibilities around the world
- Required internships from colleges (for Engineering students)

4) Service Learning / Campus Engagement / Volunteerism with a global component

(20 points per semester of involvement)

Examples:

- Enroll in the “Local Impact” Certificate track program, offered through the KU Social Impact Forum (KUSİF)
- Leadership role in an on-campus club or student organization, (e.g., KU Global Aid)
- Joint project with incoming exchange students (e.g., co-hosting a program on KU Radyo, multicultural events through KU clubs, international days on campus, etc.)
- Volunteer experience with a civil society or a community organization (e.g., WWF)

\*\*\* See Appendix C (below) for the list of “International Service Learning”, “Campus Engagement”, and “Volunteerism” choices.

#### 5) Participation in international conferences, competitions, and special programs (10 points)

There are numerous opportunities to apply for or attend international activities that demonstrate individual commitment to academic, professional, cultural, and personal advancement. Here are some examples from recent years:

- Hult Prize – International social enterprise business plan competition that sends top applicants to major global cities like Shanghai, Dubai, London, and Sao Paulo
- Beijing Forum – for youth leaders to visit China and join the dialogue about new directions in global leadership and policy issues
- Carroll Round – held annually at Georgetown University, for undergraduates who want to conduct original economic research, write papers, and present them at a conference of peers and leading experts from around the world
- International scientific conferences and research forums
- Stanford Summer School – for Koç students who apply and are accepted
- Peacemakers Conference – held every year at KU, brings together academicians and student to debate with dignity pressing regional geopolitical challenges

\*\*\* See Appendix D (below) for list of possible international conferences, competitions, and special programs.

### **E-Portfolio**

Portfolio is a collection of Reflection Forms (submitted through Moodle) and multimedia content that will be reviewed by the GEC Advisors as way of tracking progress, and attaining points for GEC activities.

### **GEC Virtual Learning Environment – Moodle**

GEC will use the Moodle Virtual Learning Environment as the gathering point for announcements, event registration, material submission, appointment setting, and open forums among GEC participants and advisors.

Big Blue Button is another technology that will be used as a means for students to communicate directly – especially from abroad – with their fellow GEC participants and with the GEC Advisory Team.

### **Certificate Program and Koç University**

The Global Leadership Certificate (GEC) program will enhance Koç University's global standing, particularly in terms of Koç University's commitment to internationalization across the campus and curriculum. As a first-of-its-kind certificate program in Turkey, the profile of the university will rise. But more importantly, as an additional piece to the overall student experience at Koç University, the GEC will become a sought after program among a large community of undergraduates who wish to distinguish themselves above and beyond their academic achievements. The changing dynamics of local and global job market call for a new toolkit of skills and experiences to be competent and competitive. The GEC provides the foundation for building our future students – and bolsters Koç University's current standing and reputation as a leading university in Turkey and the world.