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## The Istanbul Project June 21-July 19, 2012



### What is The Istanbul Project?

It's a four-week international journalism program sponsored by **ieiMedia**, **San Francisco State University**, and Turkey's **Bahçeşehir University**. A select group of university students and young professionals will spend an intensive month living in one of the world's greatest cities, where they'll practice working as foreign correspondents. Students will report, write, blog and shoot basic video about Istanbul's culture, neighborhoods, politics, life, people and arts, and create a web magazine and book about their experience. The course awards up to six transferable undergraduate credits; several internships for graduating seniors, graduate students and working professionals are also available.

**What is Istanbul like?** The Ottoman Turkish Empire ruled the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa for nearly 800 years, and the cultures, languages and religions of this vast territory



converged in the cosmopolitan capital Istanbul. Considered one of the world's most beautiful cities, Istanbul is criss-crossed with sumptuous palaces, mosques and gardens where the sultans played; it's also an energetic modern city of Greek, Armenian, Russian, Arab, religious and secular influences, where people from around the world still come to make their fortunes. It's easy to explore by public transportation, and on foot.

**What will the web magazine be about?** The web magazine "**Istanbul Stories**" will be a window into the life of the city you are covering, featuring your reportage, blogs, photography and video. Go to [www.istanbulstories.net](http://www.istanbulstories.net) to see our work in 2011.

**What is the topic of the book?** Students in 2011 produced the book **Faces of Istanbul**, a collection of profiles of people in the city. You'll interview people from all walks of life, and your best work will be featured in an anthology.

You'll receive a complimentary copy of this print-on-demand book. Copies will also be made available to family, friends and prospective employers.

If your stories achieve the requisite level, we'll also help you place them professionally.

**What academic credit is available?** The program offers six transferable undergraduate credits from **San Francisco State University's College of Extended Learning**. All students must sign up for JOUR 667 International Reporting (3 credits), which encompasses training in international reporting, visual journalism and Turkish language and culture. Students also may enroll in an optional three-evening-per week course in Travel Writing. Check with your university to learn how to transfer credit.



**How many students will participate in the program?** The Istanbul program can accommodate up to 19 students.



**Are there opportunities to travel?** Students will have three-day weekends (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) free to explore the city, or to travel within Turkey. Those who want to tour extensively should plan travel time before or after the program.



**Where will we study?** The program will be based on the campus of **Bahçeşehir University**, one of Turkey's top universities, in Istanbul's attractive and centrally-located Beşiktaş neighborhood.



**Where will I live?** Students will live in attractive dorms in an upscale neighborhood in central Istanbul. The single and twin dorm rooms within suites are equipped with high-speed Internet, TVs, kitchens, washing machines and dishwashers. There is 24-hour security. Cafes, restaurants and shops are plentiful nearby.



**What is ieiMedia?** The Institute for Education in International Media was founded by **Andrew Ciofalo**, a professor emeritus of communication and journalism at Loyola University Maryland who has been leading summer study-abroad programs since 2002. The Istanbul Program was founded in 2011. Other programs have been based in Cagli (2002-2008), Camerano (2006) and Urbino, Italy (2009, 2010); in Perpignan, France (2010); and in Armagh, Northern Ireland (2007, 2009). More than 400 students have participated in the programs.

**Who are the faculty?** Our faculty <http://ieiimedia.com/blog/faculty> work at leading universities and news organizations.

**Mary D'Ambrosio**, the founding editor of Big World Magazine, will serve as program director. Prof. D'Ambrosio has taught at New York University, Columbia University and New School University, and spent a decade covering international affairs in Latin America, Western Europe and Turkey. She has a B.S. in journalism from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications, and an MSc in economic history from the London School of Economics.

**Venise Wagner**, chair of the San Francisco State University journalism department and a former reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner, specializes in diversity in media, and coverage of minority issues. She holds an M.A. in international policy studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.



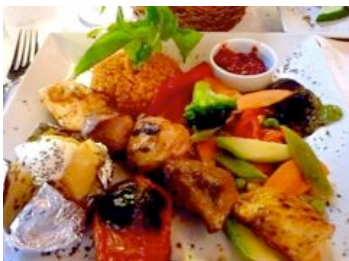
A videography professor, a professor of Turkish language and culture, and other Istanbul-based professors, journalists and speakers will also participate in the program.

**Where do students come from?** IeiMedia students have come from universities around the United States, among them New York University, UCLA, San Francisco State University, the University of Nebraska, the University of Maryland, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Temple University, Gonzaga University, Loyola College, Winston-Salem State University, San Jose State University, Humboldt State University, San Diego State University, Rice University and

Baylor University. Students from Japan, the United Kingdom, Puerto Rico and Trinidad have also joined us.

**Do I have to have to be a journalism major?** No. Most IeiMedia students are majoring in communications or journalism, but students of English, languages, political science and history have also been very successful in our programs. We do recommend that you complete one basic journalism course, or get experience on a campus or other publication, before you arrive.

**Do I need to know how to speak Turkish?** No. All instruction will be in English. You'll have daily instruction in introductory and "survival Turkish," but will work with interpreters while reporting.



**I've already graduated from college. Can I still participate?** Yes. The Istanbul program is also open to recent graduates, and graduate students with independent projects. Please contact us to let us know what we can do for you.

**What is the food like?** Istanbul's extraordinary and varied cuisine ranges from elegant dishes developed for the sultans, such as smoky lamb stew over creamy eggplant, chicken with walnut sauce, and dedicated plentiful addictive spinach or cheese-like manti and of ubiquitous revolving knives, meant to look janissaries, the soldiers.



desert houses, to the street food, such as stuffed pancakes, ravioli-course *doner kebab*, the spits of meat cut with big like the swords of the Muslim sultan's Christian

**What's the weather like?** Summers in Istanbul are generally warm, with highs in the 70s and 80s. It's usually sunny, but there may be occasional rain.

**What clothing should I bring?** Bring both professional clothing for urban reporting in a sophisticated city, and casual clothing for after hours and weekends. Women should bring several modest dresses, and men several dress shirts and ties, plus a suit jacket and dress shoes.

Both men and women should bring sturdy walking shoes, and favor daytime clothing that covers their knees, and arms to the elbows. Women should also bring several scarves, for covering their heads when visiting mosques and other religious sites.

Shorts, mini-skirts and skimpy tops are fine for weekends at the beach or in the park, but generally unacceptable as daytime wear in the city (they'll also mark you as a tourist!) Nights can be cool, so bring a sweater or jacket. All this said, it's best to pack as lightly as possible.

**Should I bring traveler's checks or credit cards?** We recommend that each student have a credit card, or combined credit card/ATM. This will enable you to obtain money through ATM machines in Turkey. ATM machines are plentiful, and simple to use. Be sure to bring your pin number for the ATM and/or credit card, and alert your bank that you'll be traveling. The exchange rate is usually fair, and there are minimal surcharges per transaction. Though a credit card or credit card/ATM is the most convenient way to get cash, you may also bring traveler's checks.

**What travel documents will I need?** You will need to have a current passport valid for at least six months after your entry date into Turkey. (For example, if you enter the country on June 24, 2011, your passport must be valid through at least December 24, 2011.)

If you do not have a passport, you can obtain an application at AAA, county courthouses, post offices, or directly from the Federal Passport Agency. The Federal Passport Agency can take up to six weeks to process your application and issue you a passport, accordingly.



Make copies of all passport, credit card, license, insurance home and bring one suitcase.

U.S. citizens will also need a visa. Three-month visas are issued to tourists as a matter of routine, as you pass through Turkish customs at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport. At this writing, the visa costs \$20, or 15 euro. It's usually easiest to pay this in cash. The visa will then be stamped inside your passport.

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important documents: phone card, driver's card. Leave one copy at set to leave in your

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**How much does the program cost?** The cost for the 3-credit program is \$4,995 plus airfare. This includes all instruction, lodging, welcome and farewell dinners at the beginning and end of the program, website creation, editing and posting of your work in our web magazine, plus publication of your work, if accepted, in an anthology about the city, and one handsome copy of the book. Additional copies of our book will be made available for purchase by families, friends and prospective employers. An optional 3-credit travel writing class will be also offered three evenings per week, for an additional \$850.

**Are there scholarships or financial aid?** A limited number of modest scholarships are available. Be sure to also check with your university's financial aid office for more information.

Two organizations that provide funding for study abroad are:

- [The Fund for Education Abroad](#) offers scholarships for U.S. citizens interested in studying abroad.
- [The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#) provides awards for U.S. undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college or university to participate in study-abroad programs worldwide.

A student in the Istanbul 2011 program came on a full Gilman Scholarship. Turkey is one of the state department's "critical languages" – so you may have an excellent chance of winning an award!

**Other funding sources**

Local, regional and national groups sometimes provide scholarships for independent study projects or study-abroad programs. These include:

- Heritage groups that have interests in specific countries (e.g. National Italian American Foundation)
- Civic groups (Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs)
- Agencies and foundations
- Professional and business clubs
- Sororities and fraternities (local and national chapters)
- Charitable, ethnic, religious and campus organizations

Some students have also had luck applying directly to a relative, friend or other private donor. Write a letter to the group or individual specifying how you intend to spend the funds (airfare, program fee, tuition, personal travel, etc.) and what you hope to gain from the program. In exchange for the financial support, you should pledge to give something back, such as regular updates while you are abroad or making a presentation about your experiences when you return.

**Other fundraising ideas include:**

- Requesting financial gifts or loans instead of holiday, birthday or graduation gifts
- Finding out if your parents' employers or your employer have a scholarship program
- Asking family members to donate frequent flyer miles.

**How do I apply?**

**Applications are available on the [ieiMedia](#) Web site.**

Students must fill out the application and submit one letter of recommendation, along with a \$500 deposit. Deposits will be refunded only if a student is not accepted into the program.

**Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.** Students are encouraged to apply early, since our programs often fill quickly. Late applications will be considered if spots are available.

**Where can I learn more?** Email [editor@bigworldmagazine.com](mailto:editor@bigworldmagazine.com) with your questions, and to join the program updates list.

**Or call program director Prof. Mary D'Ambrosio at 212-920-5625.**

