

8 October 2001

Application for ESST Travel Studentship

By The Institute of Social Sciences of Istanbul Technical University

This is to apply for the “Travel Scholarship” to cover the travel expenses of ESST students for the second semester that was made available for 3 students who have special conditions and difficulties to cover second term expenses this year, in accordance with the decision taken at Administrative Board meeting in Oslo, May 2001. We, as the Institute of Social Sciences of Istanbul Technical University, believe that it would be the most appreciated and fruitful if at least one of the above-mentioned scholarships is provided to a Turkish student, because of the worst economic conditions that Turkey is going through this year in her entire history. As the result of the economical crises, which started in February 2001, Turkish Lira has suffered an enormous decrease in it’s value versus other foreign currency (the devaluation rate of Turkish Lira has now reached to 140 % since February), salaries have been decreased by half, businesses have been shut down, unemployment has been significantly increased, even those who could keep their jobs have been forced to take unpaid leaves.

As a member of ESST, the Institute of Social Sciences of Istanbul Technical University, had started the STS Master Degree Program last year with 7 students. In the first year, all of the students’ second term education and living expenses have been covered by the grant that was obtained from a Turkish Company (Garanti Bank). Additionally, one of the students was awarded by the ESST Travel scholarship. For our second year, we succeeded to recruit 17 students who are all very good students. However, due the conditions of the economic crises in Turkey that was described above, this year the total amount of the scholarship grant which is provided by Garanti Bank has been significantly reduced and with the increased number of students, the scholarship will be able to given to each student for the second semester is reduced to the level that the students will, unfortunately, have to face serious financial difficulties in their second semester study. Moreover, for most of the students it is almost impossible to work during this first semester and accumulate some income for the second semester due to the above mentioned economic conditions in Turkey and the financial support that students can receive from their families for second semester expenses has also diminished as a result of the enormous devaluation of Turkish Lira.

Considering the distance between Turkey and the other European Countries, and hence the high travel costs, and the present economic conditions in Turkey, we certainly hope that at least one of the three ESST travel scholarships will be given to a Turkish student.

With best regards,

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