

## **General Information Pack about 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.

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.

### **Who is Mevlana?**

The original name of Mevlana, from whom the name of the programme is inspired, is Muhammed Celaledin. 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-ı Kebir, Fihi Mafih, Mektubat and Mecalis-i Seba.

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

The students registered in formal education programmes 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.

## **Application Requirements of Mevlana Exchange Programme for Incoming Students**

In order to be a Mevlana Exchange Programme student:

- The students must 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 o 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.

## **Application Requirements of Mevlana Exchange Programme for Incoming Staff**

A Mevlana Exchange Program Protocol between the related Turkish and foreign university concerned be in place. Applications should be made during the related period (14 February–3 March 2019) for the 2019-2020 academic year. Application documents are as follows:

- 1- The filled in Application Form
2. CV
3. Academic Portfolio that includes documents giving details of publications relevant to the department in the field of the Mevlana application, projects participated in, projects carried out, planned projects, and projects for courses given or planned.

## **Project-based Programs**

Since the beginning of the academic year 2016-2017, the Project-Based Mevlana Exchange Program has come into effect within the terms of the priority areas which had been specified by the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) for the mobility of students and academic staff. International projects submitted by academic staff are now supported as part of the Project-Based Programs. A project can contain either outgoing academic and administrative staff members or students of a Turkish university, or may be a mutual exchange between both Turkish and foreign institutions. The duration of the Project may be from 1 week to 2 years.

**Sample Project Activities:** Teaching Mobility, Training Mobility, Laboratory Work, Workshops, Researches, Physical Site Visits, Seminars, Participation in Conferences

## **Application Requirements**

In order to submit a proposal for a project, a “Mevlana Exchange Program Protocol” between the related Turkish and foreign university concerned must be in place.

Applications will be made to the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) via university rectorates in Turkey together with all required information and documents from both universities.

It is required that Project Application Form be filled in details, indicating the number and duration of participating (outgoing/incoming) students and staff.

Applications should be made during the related period.

Project offers will be decided by the CoHE Executive Committee.

Within the projects that are approved to be supported, exchange durations, application conditions, payments for counterparties, participating in the exchange and other issues will be done according to “*Mevlana Exchange Program Regulations*” and “*Guideline of Amounts to be transferred to Higher Education Institutions Usage, Basis and Procedures Concerning Other Issues Regarding Payments to be done.*”

## **Country-Based Programs**

In 2017, the Country- Based Mevlana Exchange Program was initiated by the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). The objective of this program is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between Turkish and Foreign higher education institutions of specific countries by supporting the mobility of graduate students and academic staff. Call for projects will be on annual basis.

Based on this program all state universities from Turkey and recognized universities of the partner foreign country are eligible for the project submission. The partner universities have to submit the same project to the CoHE in Turkey and the related authority of the foreign country at the same time. Joint applications will be submitted on prescribed form (for the Turkish part on the website of the CoHE and for the foreign partner country on the website of its focal point authority). A joint committee of the CoHE and the related foreign authority will be the responsible for the final selection of the proposed projects. Mutually selected projects will be co-financed by Turkey and the foreign partner country.

Contact person for the program in Turkey is: Mrs. Aysegul Kutay Gundogan, Director of Academic Exchange and Support Program Division, Council of Higher Education (CoHE), Email: [aysegul.kutay@yok.gov.tr](mailto:aysegul.kutay@yok.gov.tr)

### **How should a student, who has the requirements, can 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 properly.

### **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 can not 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).

**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.

**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. For the academic year 2019-2020 incoming students to Turkish higher education institutions from other countries will receive a grant of 1000 TL monthly. The scholarship amount to be paid to the Mevlana Exchange students might differ 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. 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, 80% of the scholarship amount is paid monthly at the beginning of his/her study. 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.

## **Scholarships During the Mevlana Exchange 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. Here is the table about the anticipated amount of money for the academic staff mobility.

<b>REGIONS / CONTINENTS</b>	<b>AMOUNT (PER DAY) FOR INCOMING ACADEMIC STAFF</b>	<b>AMOUNT (PER DAY) FOR OTHER TITLES</b>	<b>TRAVEL ALLOWANCE</b>
Asia Pacific, Latin America, North America	50 TL	40 TL	4400 TL
Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia	50 TL	40 TL	3300 TL
Europe, South Caucasus, South Asia, Middle East and North Africa	50 TL	40 TL	2500 TL