NEWS FROM SABANCI UNIVERSITY

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Sabancı University 2025 Graduation Ceremony Held on 29 June 2025

Sabancı University celebrated its 23rd undergraduate and 26th graduate commencement ceremony.

Founding Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı Addressed New Graduates at the Commencement Ceremony:

"While using artificial intelligence to make life easier, you should not ignore developing and evaluating your own brain and all your competencies. You are now at the center of the transformation. You have access to information, critical thinking skills and a sense of responsibility. Remember, while building the future, it will be your duty to add conscience and spirit to technology as well as to develop it."

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Sabancı University and Imperial College London Announce Major Collaboration

Sabancı University organized a joint workshop with Imperial College London, one of the top universities in Europe and the world, on November 2-3. At the event, held on the Tuzla Campus, important decisions were made between Sabancı University and Imperial College London regarding seed funding, student exchanges, and research collaborations.

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Science-Based "Anticipatory Leadership Summit" in Collaboration with Sabancı University and GESDA

Held in Istanbul from October 20 to 23, the Anticipatory Leadership Summit, organized with Sabancı University and the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA), brought together leaders from academia, business, the public sector, and international organizations to explore the future of science-informed leadership.

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Sabancı University graduated its 23rd undergraduate and 26th graduate students in its 25th year. This year, nearly a thousand students from the faculties of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences, and Sabancı Business School received their diplomas at the ceremony held on the Tuzla campus. Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı, Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, faculty members, and families of the graduating students attended the ceremony.

Addressing the young graduates at the ceremony, Founding Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı said the following in her speech: "As you graduate from Sabancı University, you are now entering a new period of your life. You have worked hard and succeeded. Remember that the human brain establishes, thinks, feels, and makes thousands of connections at every moment. A mind nourished by love, kindness, and curiosity is more open and productive."

Emphasizing the importance of technology, Güler Sabancı particularly drew the attention of young people to the subject of artificial intelligence and stated that how and for what purpose technology is used is of great importance today, and said, "While using artificial intelligence to make life easier, you should not ignore developing and evaluating your own brain and all your competencies. You are now at the center of the transformation. You have access to information, critical thinking skills and a sense of responsibility. Remember, while building the future, it will be your duty to add conscience and spirit to technology as well as to develop it."

Güler Sabancı, who also called on young people for social responsibility, said: "The world is going through a very turbulent and difficult period in recent days. Wars, inequalities, climate crisis... No matter how difficult the conditions are! No matter how difficult the times you are going through! Never give up on contemporary values, human rights, equality, the rule of law, and the path to peace."

Finally, Güler Sabancı, who drew attention to the importance of young people's skills and thanked the Sabancı Family and the Sabancı Foundation, concluded as follows: "Life does not always go upwards, sometimes you may fall. But a good education and strong skills give you the strength to get back on your feet in those moments. You were raised in a free and egalitarian environment at Sabancı University. You will be remembered among the most successful young people of Türkiye and the world. May your path be clear!"

"Our students' success rankings are increasing every year"

Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, in his speech at the commencement ceremony, said, "I would like to proudly say that the success rankings of our new students joining our university continue to rise every year. According to university exam results, we have more than doubled the number of students we have accepted from the top 1000 in the last 5 years.

Stating that the rate of female students at the university exceeding 40% this year is another source of pride, Leblebici said, "97% of our graduates start working in the sector they want as soon as they receive their diplomas or continue their postgraduate education in the country they want. In terms of international visibility, we are in a better position than many well-established universities in Europe. It gives us great pride to have climbed 112 places in one year in the QS rankings, which include more than 1,500 universities worldwide."

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Leblebici emphasized that despite being a young university, the point Sabancı University has reached is pleasing, and said, "We are moving forward with firm steps towards the goal of reaching and exceeding the level of contemporary civilization indicated by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Knowing that we are one of the institutions carrying this flag at the forefront makes us very happy."

Finally, Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici wished the graduates success in their career journeys and said, "From now on, you will be an ambassador of Sabancı University in every environment you go to. The people around you, your colleagues will see you as the quality, well-educated, self-confident individuals raised by this university. Our only expectation from you as your old home is to do the best you can do and give the best you can give."

Faculty Top Students Were Awarded

During the ceremony, awards from the fund established according to the will of the Honorary Chair of the Board of Trustees, the late Sakıp Sabancı, were also given to the faculty top students. Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences top student Anıl Şen, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences top student Mariyam Binte Azmat, and Sabancı Business School top student Selin Nazlı Çene received their awards from Sabancı University Founding Board of Trustees Chair Güler Sabancı.

Murat Gürbüz, a graduate of the Industrial Engineering Program of Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, emphasized in his speech on behalf of the graduates that graduating in this meaningful year, in which Sabancı University celebrates a quarter of a century, carries a special pride and responsibility for them. Gürbüz stated that at Sabancı University, they learned not only academic knowledge but also the strength to fight against difficulties, the determination not to give up, and to look to the future with hope. Sabancı University Graduates of 2025 showed their happiness by throwing their caps in the air at the end of the ceremony.

Progressing Towards Becoming A Globally-Recognized Research University

32% of Sabancı University graduates continue their education or career abroad. Sabancı University, which is the strongest university in Türkiye in terms of graduate employability, has proven its success in this field at the international level. Sabancı University, which is among the top 250 universities worldwide in the 2023-2024 Global Employability University Rankings and Survey published by Times Higher Education, ranked 355th in the overall evaluation made among 1904 universities. Sabancı University, which has an active project budget of 63.4 million dollars, currently has 244 research projects. Sabancı University is taking firm steps towards becoming a true research university recognized and appreciated all over the world.

QS World University Rankings 2026 Announced

QS, a London-based higher education ranking organization, has announced the 2026 World University Rankings.

Sabancı University ranked 404th (last year ranked 516th) out of 1501 universities in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, which is considered one of the most prestigious university rankings in the world, and 5th (last year ranked 6th) out of 26 universities from Türkiye included in the ranking.

In the overall rankings, the top 3 were Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), Imperial College London (England), and Stanford University (USA).

In the QS ranking, in which 8467 universities from the world were evaluated and 1501 universities were included, Sabancı University achieved a remarkable success by climbing 112 places in one year. Compared to last year, the university's academic reputation score increased by 36%, its employer reputation score by 40%, its scientific citation score by 102%, and its international research network score by 37%.

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Sabancı University continues to foster international collaborations as part of its internationalization strategy. Our university held a workshop to discuss new collaboration opportunities with Imperial College London, ranked second in the world and first in Europe in the QS 2026 World University Rankings.

Guests at the two-day event held at the Sabancı University Tuzla Campus included Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı, Eczacıbaşı Holding Chair of the Board Bülent Eczacıbaşı, Eczacıbaşı Holding Executive Board Member Emre Eczacıbaşı, Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, and Imperial College Provost and Deputy President Peter Haynes.

The first day of the event began with presentations by faculty members from Sabancı University and Imperial College London. Nur Mustafaoğlu, Canan Atılgan, Onur Varol, Dilara Keküllüoğlu, Ali Rana Atılgan, Polat Göktaş, Sinan Yıldırım, Umut Şahin, Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk, Mehmet Emre Özfatura, Burç Mısırlıoğlu, Öznur Taştan, Mina Namvari, Tülay İnan, and Özge Akbulut from Sabancı University presented their ongoing projects and research.

Representing Imperial College London were Fırat Güder, Periklis Pantazis, Lucia Lombardi, Cariny Polesca, Sergei Kucherenko, Shahin Jalili, Arnab Majumdar, Mengxing Tang, and Brenna Parke, who also gave research presentations. At the end of the day, the delegation visited the Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center (SUNUM).

Many other academics and administrators from Sabancı University, including Cem Güneri, Mehmet Yıldız, Erkay Savaş, Yusuf Menceloğlu, İnanç Arın, Mehmet Ali Gülgün, Alpagut Kara, Fevzi Çakmak Cebeci, Levent Öztürk, Serkan Ünal, Burcu Saner Okan, and Mert Umut Özkaynak, also participated in the workshop. The British Consulate General in Istanbul was represented at the event by Ece Tanış, the Consulate's Science and Technology Officer.

President Leblebici Delivered The Opening Remarks

The second day of the workshop began with an opening speech by Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, who stated that Sabancı University attaches great importance to international collaborations with the goal of strengthening its position among the world's leading research universities. He pointed out that the long-term visions of the two institutions regarding interdisciplinary research and internationalization are complementary, and stated his belief that a very productive collaboration can be achieved. Underlining the fact that productive academic collaborations are usually not the result of top-down roadmaps imposed from above, but rather the result of a bottom-up, mutual understanding and agreement between the academics who will actually conduct the work, Leblebici emphasized that the workshop was a very important step in this direction.

Bülent Eczacıbaşı: Long-Lasting Bridges Will Be Built

Bülent Eczacıbaşı, an Imperial College graduate, stated, "I believe this meeting will mark the beginning of a journey bringing together two universities dedicated to science, engineering, and discovery." Eczacıbaşı emphasized that Imperial's interdisciplinary approach, which brings together physicists and biologists, data analysts, and engineers, is reflected in the fact that it ranks second in the QS rankings. Regarding Sabancı University, he said, "Since its founding 25 years ago, Sabancı University has earned a special place among universities characterized by innovation, technology, and excellence. Its interdisciplinary education model has eliminated departmental boundaries, given students the freedom to explore their own academic paths, and fostered strong collaborations between academia and industry. Sabancı University has earned a well-deserved reputation among Turkish universities for its research quality and societal impact." Eczacıbaşı added, "I believe that this collaboration between Sabancı University and Imperial College will build long-lasting bridges that will bring together young scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to address the world's needs."

Peter Haynes: Two universities are collaborating to share the future

In his speech, Imperial College Provost and Deputy President Peter Haynes said, “This collaboration between Imperial College and Sabancı University will open a path for researchers in various fields to realize their potential and create new opportunities for them. It will create opportunities for both parties to share networks. Our collaboration, which begins today, is not merely an academic one; it is part of the investments made by both universities to share the future.”

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both institutions in recent weeks, concrete steps were also taken for establishing seed funding mechanisms, student exchanges, and collaboration agreements aimed at supporting research between Sabancı University and Imperial College. The event concluded with a visit by a delegation from Sabancı University and Imperial College to the Composite Technologies Center of Excellence in Istanbul Teknopark.

Representatives of Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyUHK) Visited Sabancı University

On 17 June 2025, representatives of Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyUHK) visited the Sabanci University campus and met with the university administration.

The visiting team consisting of Prof. Ben Young (Vice President for Student and Global Affairs), Prof. Geoffrey Shen (Associate Vice President for Global Partnerships) and Mr. Gavin Ngai (Deputy Director of Global Engagement) presented joint research and education opportunities that would be developed between the two universities, in the near future - including student exchange programs in the undergraduate and graduate levels, joint PhD programs, and exchange of researchers and faculty members.

Sabancı University has recently joined the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) that is being managed by PolyUHK, and the existing MoU between the two universities is being expanded.

According to the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) global ranking results, PolyUHK ranks 54th among 1501 universities worldwide. In Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings, PolyUHK has risen from rank 192 in 2016 to rank 84 in 2025. The university has 32,100 students and 875 full-time academic staff.

The "Anticipatory Leadership Summit," organized in collaboration with Sabancı University and the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA), was held in Istanbul on October 20-23. Hosted by Sabancı University's Executive Development Unit (EDU), the summit brought together prominent figures from academia, business, public sector, and international organizations to address the future of leadership informed by science.

The Anticipatory Leadership Summit, is an extension of GESDA's "Global Curriculum for Anticipatory Leadership (GCAL)" initiative. As one of the five official pilot centers of GCAL worldwide, Sabancı University is among the institutions positioned globally in the fields of science-based anticipation and strategic leadership.

Four Days at the Intersection of Science, Diplomacy, and Leadership

Throughout the summit, topics that will shape the future world, such as quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, chip technologies, energy transition, biodiversity, food security, science diplomacy, and cybersecurity were addressed from an interdisciplinary perspective. Designed around the Future Map (Radar) developed by GESDA, the program provided participants with the opportunity to discuss leadership, decision-making, and collaboration models based on possible scenarios for the next 5, 10, and 25 years.

Key contributors of the event included Güler Sabancı, Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sabancı University, Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, GESDA Chairman of Board, Dr. Enrico Letta, former Italian Prime Minister and Dean of the IE School of Politics, Economics, and Global Affairs, Guillaume Scheurer, Ambassador of Switzerland, and Stéphane Decoutère, GESDA Secretary General.

Speaking at the "Common Solutions to Global Challenges: Science Diplomacy" session held on the first day of the summit, Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici said, "We are proud to be one of the five pilot centers of this global curriculum, which is being implemented simultaneously in different regions of the world." Leblebici continued, "Sabancı University, with its interdisciplinary approach to education, research strength, and the global success of its graduates, is among the world's leading universities. Our university has proven itself as one of the leading higher education institutions in Türkiye, the region, and the world. "

In his speech at the summit, GESDA Secretary General Stéphane Decoutère stated: “GESDA was established at the initiative of the Swiss government and Geneva authorities to keep pace with the dizzying pace of science and technology. Our goal is not only to anticipate the technological challenges of the future, but also to develop concrete projects that can transform these challenges into opportunities. We believe in expanding the circle of beneficiaries of scientific and technological advances; that's why we work with all stakeholders, from academia to the private sector, from public institutions to citizens. This approach is part of GESDA's DNA. Our goal is to view science not merely as a field of discovery, but as a solution tool integrated with diplomacy, security, and economic impact.

Marga Gual Soler, a leading figure in developing science diplomacy as a global field of research, policy, and education, spoke on "The Importance of Anticipation in Science Diplomacy and Global Governance," while Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University, assessed today's multi-crisis environment and new opportunities. Later sessions addressed the challenges of accessing accurate data in an age of information overload and the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in global scientific transformation. The "Science Diplomacy" panel featured former Italian Prime Minister and Dean of the IE School of Politics, Economics, and Global Affairs, Dr. Enrico Letta, and Ambassador of Switzerland, Guillaume Scheurer, as well as three leading scientists in key areas such as particle physics, bioengineering, and life sciences. The day concluded with a joint reception by the Embassy of Switzerland and Sabancı University.

Discussions on People, Society, and the Planet

The second day, themed "Scientific Anticipation," and the third day, themed "The Future of People, Society, and the Planet," focused on future-shaping issues such as energy, food security, artificial intelligence, and quantum technologies, as well as the societal impacts of scientific developments and the dimension of global responsibility. Held on Sabancı University's Tuzla Campus, the sessions brought together academic knowledge with policy and business perspectives.

In the "Energy of the Future" panel held within this scope, energy security, transformation, and climate policies were discussed with the participation of Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency.

“Leadership is about people and collective intelligence”

Speaking on the last day of the summit, Güler Sabancı, Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sabancı University, stated that the university's founding 25 years ago with an interdisciplinary vision is today reflected as an example of "anticipatory leadership." Sabancı emphasized that leadership is not limited to anticipation or setting objectives; it gains meaning through building a team, trust, cooperation, and collective intelligence.

She stated: “We are in an era where science, technology, diplomacy, and humanity must come together. We cannot produce solutions without the intertwining and collaboration of engineering and social sciences. Together, these fields form a collective intelligence. New scientists no longer work solely in their own laboratories but as part of global networks, contributing to collective intelligence worldwide."

Güler Sabancı was accompanied by Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, GESDA Chairman of Board, Yusuf Leblebici, President of Sabancı University, and Stéphane Decoutère, GESDA Secretary General, at the closing session, which addressed how science, diplomacy, and cooperation can shape the future.

A global leadership vision

GESDA, founded by the Swiss Federal Government and the Canton of Geneva and supported by Wellcome Trust, is recognized as one of the world's most innovative platforms for advancing anticipatory science, diplomacy, and global collaboration. Sabancı University's collaboration with GESDA reinforces the university's strong position in the international scientific community, while contributing to the tangible realization of its proactive leadership approach in the fields of education, research, and societal

Sabancı University's Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. R. Umut Şahin Awarded the 2025 Eczacıbaşı Personalized Medicine Award

Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences faculty member Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. R. Umut Şahin was honored with an award in the "Targeted Therapies" category of the 2025 Eczacıbaşı Medical Awards for his work entitled "Discovery of New Therapeutic Targets for the Treatment of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)"

The awards, presented regularly by the Eczacıbaşı Group since 1959, aim to support innovative research conducted in Türkiye in the fields of medicine and biomedical sciences. This year's award in the "Targeted Therapies" category honors Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şahin's pioneering work in elucidating the function of the NEK1 gene, which plays a role in ALS, and the toxic effects caused by its mutations, leading to targeted treatment approaches.

Project Receives Support from Türkiye and Europe

Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. R. Umut Şahin and his team are conducting multidisciplinary research in their project, supported in Türkiye and Europe, combining cell biology, biochemistry, proteomics, genetics, and experimental animal models to unravel how mutations in the NEK1 gene lead to ALS pathogenesis.

The team has developed an innovative therapeutic strategy that targets toxic proteins resulting from NEK1 mutations and clears these proteins from motor neurons with interferon (IFN) therapy. This treatment approach is notable for its potential to slow the progression of ALS and alleviate its clinical manifestations.

Sabancı University in Numbers: A Journey Growing Stronger over 25 Years

As Sabancı University celebrates its 25th anniversary, it stands out for its academic originality, research achievements, rich campus life, and international collaborations. These achievements, expressed in numbers, illuminate the university's quarter-century journey.

Since its inception in 1999, Sabancı University has been notable for its innovative approach to higher education in Türkiye. Some of the key points of our university's 2025 academic achievements are as follows:

Academic Structure:

- Sabancı University is Türkiye's first and only "department-free" university, where students have the freedom to choose a program after experiencing different disciplines.
- The university consists of three faculties: **Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Business School.**
- It offers **12 Undergraduate Diploma Programs, 52 Master's Diploma Programs, and 17 Doctoral Programs.**
- 30% of students continue their education in a program different from their initial program selection.

Research and Innovation:

- The university employs **339 full-time** and **122 part-time academics.**
- **244 research projects** are ongoing; 55% of these projects are EU-funded, 18% are TÜBİTAK-funded, and 15% are private sector-funded.
- Academics have produced over **9,500 scientific publications.**
- **365 patent** applications have been filed, a significant portion of which are internationally registered.
- The university contributes to the entrepreneurial ecosystem with **20 active Inovent portfolio companies.**

Student and Campus Life:

- **4,114 undergraduate and 869 graduate students are enrolled.**
- **12% of students are international.**
- **56% of students are accepted on scholarships.**
- **The campus has a dormitory capacity of 3,075, the highest capacity ratio in Türkiye relative to the total student population.**
- **The campus offers a vibrant and green environment with more than 70 student clubs and over 350 plant species.**
- **The university has exchange agreements with more than 290 partner universities; 34% of graduates gain experience abroad.**

Alumni and the Business World:

- **19,479** students have **graduated** to date.
- 91% of graduates find a job within a year of graduation; the employer satisfaction rate is 93%.
- 36% of graduates are accepted to prestigious universities abroad for master's/doctoral studies (MIT, ETH Zürich, LSE, Carnegie Mellon, Politecnico di Milano, etc.).
- Companies that employ the most graduates include **Akbank (134), Ford Otosan (102), Turkcell (66), and Amazon (50).**

Sabancı University Hosts the 2nd Quantum Computing and Quantum Information Theory Workshop

Sabancı University hosted the 2nd Quantum Computing and Quantum Information Theory Workshop on Friday, August 15, 2025. The event, held on the Altunizade Digital Campus, brought together international researchers, students, and industry representatives to discuss the future of quantum technologies.

The workshop began with opening remarks by Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici and Vice President for Research Mehmet Yıldız. The speeches emphasized the university's role in advancing quantum science and its commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations.

The day-long program featured six invited speakers covering mathematics, physics, electrical and electronics engineering, computer science, and industrial applications of quantum technologies.

The opening presentation was by Prof. Markus Grassl of the International Center for Theory of Quantum Technologies (ICTQT) at the University of Gdansk. Grassl, who also participated in the workshop in 2024, this year gave a talk on the potential and challenges of quantum information processing , covering topics such as quantum algorithms, quantum key generation, and Grover and Shor algorithms. He outlined the advantages offered by quantum systems, as well as the challenges encountered in practical applications.

Following this, Dr. Solomon Brhanu Samuel of the Department of Theoretical Physics at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics presented on the classification of generalized quantum measurements, focusing on POVMs, mutually independent bases, and the geometric structures that shape quantum measurement theory.

Continuing the morning session, Prof. Kadir Akın of the Quantum Center Engineering Unit at ETH Zurich discussed the relationship between quantum computation and FPGA technology, neural networks, and superconducting qubits, highlighting new engineering-based acceleration methods.

After the lunch break, industrial applications were the focus. Yuval Boger, Chief Commercial Officer of QuEra Computing Inc., introduced Aquila, the company's first and currently only publicly available neutral atom-based quantum computer. Boger explained the value quantum computing can create, from climate modeling to corporate solutions and public research. He explained the value quantum computing can create for daily life, providing examples such as how quantum computing systems can be used to develop comprehensive climate system models that require significant investment. Boger also outlined the expectations and needs of customers across corporations, high-performance computing centers, and governments. He emphasized that quantum computing could offer tangible benefits within 2-3 years, and that institutions that prepare will gain a competitive advantage.

In the afternoon computer science sessions, Dr. Yixin Shen (INRIA Rennes) presented on collision detection methods using quantum walks, focusing on cryptography. Dr. Özlem Salehi Köken (Sabancı University; Algorithmiq) concluded the workshop with a talk entitled "An Introduction to Quantum Optimization."

Throughout the workshop, participants discussed how theoretical advances, algorithmic innovations, and hardware developments can combine to bring quantum computing closer to the real world.

Collaboration of Academy and Industry: Digital Manufacturing Ecosystem is Developing with DiMAP

The DiMAP - Direct Digital Manufacturing Platform Project, carried out within the Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SU-IMC) of Sabancı University, Istanbul, has been launched, with the participation of the Minister of Industry and Technology.

The DiMAP - Direct Digital Manufacturing Platform Project, funded under the Competitive Sectors Program of the Ministry of Industry and Technology with the financial cooperation of the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye, has been launched. The opening of the project, carried out within the Sabancı University Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SU-IMC), was held at Teknopark Istanbul Turgut Özal Event Center with the participation of the Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye, Mehmet Fatih Kacır. At the event, hosted by Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı and Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, Ministry of Foreign Affairs EU Presidency Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation Director General Bülent Özcan, and SU-IMC CEO and DiMAP Director Devrim Özaydın also made statements about the project.

"DİMAP is highly valuable for SMEs to achieve an international structure"

Bülent Özcan, Director General of Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation of the Presidency for the European Union, spoke as follows: "We have used approximately 10 billion euros of European Union resources as grants in Türkiye between 2002 and 2020. In this context, we have provided financing for European Union projects in many different areas of Türkiye, from transportation to the environment, from climate change to regional development. Within this scope, competitiveness and competitive sectors were among the important issues. The DİMAP Project is very valuable for SMEs to achieve an international structure.

Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye Mehmet Fatih Kacır made the following statements in his speech at the opening of the event: "Manufacturing power and technology development capability determine the direction and speed of countries' development journey. Investments in innovation and R&D studies constitute the key point of sustainable growth and international competitive power. Strengthening Türkiye's brand value in the aviation, automotive, and mobility sectors will be possible by increasing the competitive power of our SMEs in the supply chain of these sectors and by including new SMEs in the ecosystem. It is our priority that our SMEs in these two sectors, which are based on high technology, complete their digital transformation, adopt data-driven and smart manufacturing technologies, and acquire test and analysis infrastructures that will allow them to manufacture at international quality standards."

"We attach great importance to public-industry-academia collaborations"

Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı began her speech by stating that Sabancı University attaches great importance to public-industry-academia collaborations, referred to as the triangle of success. Güler Sabancı, who emphasized that DİMAP is a great example of this success triangle, said, "Becoming a world university primarily requires taking part in the right projects with its structure, flexibility, innovation, and research-oriented identity. Sabancı University, as one of the leading research universities of our country and the world in the past 25 years, has been undertaking projects that emphasize its pioneering position with transformative effects on science and society.

"We are determined to leave permanent works in the field of engineering"

Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici said in his speech, "At Sabancı University, we are determined to leave permanent works, especially in the fields of scientific research and engineering. In this context, the DİMAP platform that we are opening here today is a very important step. In the coming years, DİMAP will serve not only the research groups operating at the university, but also SMEs and Türkiye's industrial manufacturing capacity.

The Project aims to increase the manufacturing capacity of industrial companies

DiMAP, with a total budget of 9.8 million euros, aims to develop additive manufacturing processes supported by data-based smart manufacturing systems and integrate these processes with testing, characterization, and quality control elements. The platform aims to support the digital transformation journey of industrial companies, especially SMEs operating in the civil aviation, automotive, and composite sectors, to increase their capacity to manufacture functional parts by utilizing advanced manufacturing techniques such as additive manufacturing and to enable them to carry high value-added prototypes to the operational environment. In line with this goal, the project directly touches the regional industrial ecosystems in the leading cities of Türkiye in industrialization, Istanbul, Bursa, and Kocaeli. The project covers not only the technical infrastructure and product development processes, but also the support of the basic needs of companies such as certification, human resource development, and access to financing.

A Light of Hope for Early Diagnosis and Treatment: Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar from Sabancı University Receives the Eczacıbaşı Medical Science

Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar, a faculty member at Sabancı University, has been awarded the 2025 Eczacıbaşı Medical Science Award. Prof. Dr. Koşar was recognized for his "cavitation on chip" technology, which he developed using liquid flows at the micro and nanoscale.

The Dr. Nejat F. Eczacıbaşı Medical Awards, initiated in 1959 to contribute to the development of medical and pharmaceutical sciences, were given 66th time this year. A ceremony was held to present the Eczacıbaşı Medical Awards, considered one of the most prestigious awards in Türkiye in their field. At the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, received the Eczacıbaşı Medical Science Award.

A New Light of Hope for Early Diagnosis

Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar was awarded the 2025 Eczacıbaşı Medical Science Award for his work paving the way for next-generation biomedical devices that can be used in the early diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer, prostate, and kidney stones, with his "cavitation on chip" technology, which he developed using liquid flows at the micro and nanoscale.

Sabancı University - Sabancı Holding Collaboration: Artificial Intelligence & Cybersecurity Workshop

An Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Workshop was held on September 11th with the participation of Sabancı University academics and employees of Sabancı Holding companies.

The workshop, held on Sabancı University's Altunizade Digital Campus, addressed collaboration opportunities in the fields of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. The event, which aimed to encourage young talent to develop joint projects and increase knowledge exchange, identified concrete areas for collaboration, training needs, and new project topics through various simultaneous sessions.

The workshop's opening remarks were delivered by Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Dean Erkay Savaş, and TeknoSA Board Member Mehmet Fırat. The workshop was attended by Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences faculty members Erchan Aptoula, Orçun Çetin, Polat Göktaş, Vahid Khalili Param, Mehmet Emre Özfatura, Çağlar Tunç, and Sinan Yıldırım; instructor Atıl Utku Ay; and researchers Alperen Doğan, Zeki Doruk Erden, Kübra Kaytancı, Emre Koçer, Seyedpayam Seyedkazemi, Elif Ecem Şamlıoğlu, Mehmet Umut Şen, Nasim Tavakkoli, and Ceren Yıldırım.

Participants from Sabancı Holding companies including AgeSA, AkçanSA, AkSigorta, Bulutistan, EnerjiSA, EnerjiSA Üretim, KordSA, SabancıDx, TeknoSA, TEMSA, and BRİSA came together.

Sabancı University Once Again Among the World's Best

The Times Higher Education (THE) has announced its World University Rankings. Sabancı University is one of three Turkish universities to rank among the World's Top 400 universities this year.

The Times Higher Education, a UK-based higher education ranking organization, has announced its "World University Rankings 2026," which evaluates the performance of higher education institutions worldwide. The rankings, which include an increasing number of universities each year, included 2,191 universities from 115 countries and regions worldwide this year. Türkiye, represented by 91 universities last year, now features 109 universities, an increase of 18 universities.

Sabancı University, as in the previous year, ranked in the 351-400 band in the THE 2026 World University Rankings, becoming one of three Turkish universities to rank among the top 400, along with Koç University and Middle East Technical University.

The World University Rankings, announced annually by Times Higher Education (THE), are calculated based on five main dimensions with 17 sub-indicators: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, Industry, and International Outlook. Sabancı University's scores in the "Teaching," "Research Environment," and "Industry" dimensions have increased compared to the previous year's results (2025).

Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences Presented at Ceremony Held as Part of the Year-End Program

The **Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences,** which aim to make the university's academic output and social contribution visible, were presented at a ceremony held for the first time this year as part of the Sabancı University Year-End Program. The ceremony, held within the framework of the year-end program, marked the beginning of a new award tradition that highlights Sabancı University's achievements in academic and research fields.

The awards were presented by **President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Dean of Sabancı Business School Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Toker, and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Prof. Dr. Erkay Savaş.**

Before the award ceremony, Sabancı University President **Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici** addressed the audience, giving a presentation to comprehensively evaluate the university's academic, research, and institutional development for the year 2025. Leblebici, who shared up-to-date data on student profiles, graduation figures, research outputs, and international collaborations, provided information about **the Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences**, which were held for the first time this year, in the final part of his presentation.

In his speech, President Leblebici touched upon the process of the creation of the Awards in Arts and Sciences, stating that the program was brought to life as a result of a participatory process that began in December 2023 and took shape with the active participation of faculty members over approximately one year. He stated that the program design was developed by a working group established within the University Research Council (URC), and that the process was fine-tuned with feedback from relevant boards and officially approved in January 2025. He emphasized that the awards aim to make visible not only individual academic achievements but also works that prioritize interdisciplinary interaction and societal impact.

Shaped within this framework, the **Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences** stand out as a holistic program reflecting the university's research-oriented vision, both in its scope and evaluation approach. The aim, categories, and evaluation process of the award are defined as follows:

The aim of the Sabancı Awards in Arts and Sciences

Sabancı University Awards in Arts and Sciences aim to encourage and reward research excellence in the fields of Arts and Sciences, highlighting scholarly contributions that have a global impact. This program, which aims to publicize groundbreaking research to national and international audiences and ensure its visibility, awarded prizes in three categories this year, selected with the highest academic rigor, as follows:

Outstanding Scholar Award: **Erhan Budak**
Lightning Scholar Award: **Nur Mustafaoğlu**
Societal Impact Award: **A. Betül Çelik and Özge Akbulut**

Evaluation Process

A shortlist is created based on field and category from among the applicant faculty members by the Evaluation Panel consisting of a chairperson and a minimum of five and a maximum of seven university members. Three members of the Evaluation Panel are selected by the Faculty Boards, and the remaining members are selected by the University Research Council. To ensure an objective and independent assessment, the evaluation panel considers the opinions of three internationally recognized experts in the relevant field for shortlisted candidates.

This year's Evaluation Panel consists of seven highly productive and recognized members of the university: Zehra Sayers, Ayşe Kadıoğlu, Nihat Kasap, Mehmet Baç, Yusuf Menceloğlu, Ferruh Özbudak, and Nebi Sümer.

Award Design

During the award design process, Onur Yazıcıgil and Christopher Çolak from Sabancı University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences supported us by contributing to the conceptual design of the awards and designing the typography of the inscriptions featured on them. Building on this contribution, we aim to collaborate with a different artist each year to create a distinctive award. This year, we worked with glass artist Kadriye Camcı to shape the award's artistic interpretation.

About the award winners:

Outstanding Scholar Award: **Erhan Budak**

Prof. Dr. Erhan Budak is a globally recognized leader in machining and machine tools. A distinguished Fellow of CIRP (Collège International pour la Recherche en Productique) and AET (Academy of Engineering and Technology), Prof. Dr. Budak has produced pioneering research that advances science and influences industry and engineering education. He has secured significant research funding from national and international sources and has transformed his research into successful technological innovations through entrepreneurial activities and start-ups.

The establishment of the **Manufacturing Research Laboratory** and the development of the **Manufacturing Engineering Program** at Sabancı University, among other lasting academic contributions, are tangible evidence of his scientific and institutional leadership.

Lightning Scholar Award: **Nur Mustafaoğlu**

The main goal of the research conducted in the laboratory of **Dr. Nur Mustafaoğlu**, a faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, is to decipher the blood-brain barrier (BBB). To this end, she utilizes organ chip models, stem cell technologies, and nanotechnology. By uncovering the unknown aspects of the interaction between the BBB and brain diseases such as epilepsy, cancer, and Alzheimer's, she aims to pave the way for the development of innovative strategies for the treatment of these diseases.

The research conducted in Mustafaoğlu's laboratory is progressing within the framework of international collaboration. Three of the original projects supported by national and international funds have been completed, and 11 are ongoing. Most recently, the META-Brain Project received €1.5 million in funding from the European Research Council (ERC). This project investigates how lung cancer cells metastasize to the brain by crossing the BBB.

Societal Impact Award: **A. Betül Çelik**

Dr. Çelik is a nationally and internationally recognized academic working in the field of peace-making and conflict resolution, one of the most pressing issues of our time. Her work stands out for transforming academic knowledge into practical proposals and concrete initiatives; particularly empowering the voices of marginalized communities such as displaced refugees and victims of war.

In this process, she places special emphasis on empowering women and ensuring their active participation in conflict resolution initiatives. She conducts her work in alignment with concrete goals such as gender equality and the establishment of peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Overall, Prof. Dr. Betül Çelik's work has played a decisive role in improving the lives of numerous people to date. This clearly demonstrates her strong social contribution and her ability to translate her scientific research into long-term public benefit.

Societal Impact Award: **Özge Akbulut**

Dr. Özge Akbulut, as one of Sabancı University's first graduates, is an academic who has attracted attention with her successful work on national and international platforms. Since the beginning of 2012, she has been demonstrating an exemplary entrepreneurial approach in transforming the research outputs she has been conducting in the field of materials science and engineering at our university into tangible products. Her work on the design of breast simulators, or silicone-based composite breasts, for the training of young surgeons who want to specialize in breast-conserving surgery (oncoplasty), at the request of

Dr. Akbulut founded Surgitate, a company producing synthetic breast models developed through collaboration between surgeons, designers, and industrial mold makers. Surgitate's breast model is considered the gold standard globally today and holds 75% of the breast model market. Surgitate touches the lives of 50,000 women worldwide every year.

Her initiatives to raise public awareness about breast cancer are also noteworthy. Posters explaining how women can perform self-examination and tactile breast models pave the way for early detection.

As an academic CEO and Chief Scientific Officer at Fark Labs, Dr. Akbulut continues her work with the goal of "improving human life and the environment through science and technology." She is a valuable scientist who has succeeded in building a strong bridge between academia and the business world.

Sabancı University Informatics Days 2025 Took Place

The Informatics Days, held for the fifth time at Sabancı University, brought together university and high school students with academics, alumni, and industry professionals working in the field of information technology. Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, Vice President for Education Cem Güneri, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Erkay Savaş, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Hüsnü Yenigün, and our faculty members Albert Levi and Kamer Kaya attended the event. Throughout the day, parallel sessions were held on topics such as software, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, academic careers, interview processes, and international experiences.

Global Experiences and Career Journeys Highlighted at the Opening

Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici delivered the opening speech of the event. Sharing examples from his own academic and professional journey, Leblebici said, "This meeting is a tremendous opportunity to obtain firsthand information, instead of filtered information you hear from the media or social media, so that you can make informed decisions about your career choices in the field of information technology." Drawing attention to the existence of quality job opportunities in Türkiye and abroad, Leblebici stated that access to accurate information is important for students to make decisions that suit their own criteria. He noted that a significant portion of Sabancı University graduates have successful careers in leading institutions both in Türkiye and abroad.

Selim Önal, a Sabancı University graduate and an active participant in the Informatics Days organization for five years, shared the process of the birth of Informatics Days and the framework of this year's program with the participants. Recounting his own education and career journey, Önal emphasized that the uncertainties experienced by students considering a career in computer science are natural. Önal stated that his experiences in different sectors and companies showed him that a career can change direction over time, describing this process with the metaphor of "a ship voyage whose course is updated over time." He added that the Informatics Days, which have been organized since 2019, aim to awaken curiosity about the field of information technology, especially among high school students.

Parallel Sessions Throughout the Day

As part of the Informatics Days, parallel sessions were held throughout the day, addressing various career and specialization topics in the IT field. The program focused on topics such as software engineering careers, Silicon Valley experiences, algorithms and optimization, artificial intelligence applications, entrepreneurship, and academic careers and postgraduate education options abroad. Academics, Sabancı University alumni, and industry representatives shared their experiences and answered participants' questions.

Sessions dedicated to interview and application processes covered preparation for technical and behavioral interviews, resume writing, and internship opportunities at major technology companies; while research-focused sessions discussed specialized areas such as generative artificial intelligence, supercomputers, data science in the gaming industry, and genomics.

Sabancı University Establishes a Special Chair in Memory of Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman

Sabancı University has established a chair in memory of Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman, one of Türkiye's leading political scientists, who passed away on October 18, 2024. The "Fuat Keyman Chair" will support academic research in Turkish politics and civil society and contribute to the development of young researchers.

Sabancı University established the "Fuat Keyman Chair" to carry forward the valuable legacy of Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman, Director of the Istanbul Policy Center and Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Social Impact, in the social sciences. The Fuat Keyman Chair will honor the memory of the esteemed faculty member Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman, who passed away on October 18, 2024, and support academic research in the fields of international relations, Turkish politics, and civil society.

Within the scope of the Chair, interdisciplinary collaborations will be encouraged through the "Fuat Keyman Visiting Program," which will be jointly run by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SSBF) and the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), aiming to increase research capacity and foster interdisciplinary collaborations. The "Kemal Derviş Article Award," established within the Chair, will support high-quality academic work in the social sciences. The "Fuat Keyman Scholarship," established for students accepted into the Political Science PhD Program, will contribute to the development of young researchers. Through the Fuat Keyman Chair, Sabancı University will continue to generate social benefit and support high-quality scientific research while keeping Prof. Dr. Keyman's academic legacy alive.

He Was One of Türkiye's Leading Political Scientists

Fuat Keyman, one of Türkiye's leading political scientists, was the Director of the Istanbul Policy Center, Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Social Impact at Sabancı University, and Professor of International Relations. He specialized in globalization, democratization, international relations, Türkiye-EU relations, Turkish foreign policy, and the development of civil society. Prior to his tenure at Sabancı University, Keyman taught in the Department of International Relations at Koç University and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Bilkent University. He also served as a Visiting Scholar at Carleton University in the summer of 1997. He completed postdoctoral studies at Wellesley College and Harvard University. He received his doctorate in International Relations and Comparative Politics from Carleton University and his bachelor's and master's degrees from Middle East Technical University.

He Served on The Advisory Boards of Numerous Prestigious National and International Organizations

A member of the Science Academy, Fuat Keyman won the Strategic Visionary Scientist Award in 2013 as part of the 7th Tasam Strategic Vision Awards. As a member of the Wise People Committee, Fuat Keyman worked on the resolution process for the Kurdish issue and served on the advisory boards of numerous prestigious national and international organizations. He also served on the editorial boards of numerous prominent international academic journals and the scientific advisory boards of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIP) and the Global Center for Pluralism. Keyman also served as research director for various projects, including "Multiple Globalizations", "Sustainable Urban Policies: Cities and Regions in Türkiye in Terms of Quality of Life", and "Strengthening Checks and Balances in Türkiye". In addition to his academic work, starting from 2002, Fuat Keyman shared his thoughts and analyses on Türkiye within a global context through various newspaper columns and television programs.

TÜBİTAK TEYDEB 1709-EUREKA-EUROSTARS Support for Our Faculty Members' Project

A project of which Prof. Dr. Özge Akbulut is the principal investigator, and Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ali Gülgün is the researcher, both faculty members at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded TÜBİTAK TEYDEB 1709-EUREKA-EUROSTARS support.

The project entitled "High-resolution glass-ceramic/copper components for electronic applications with multi-material additive manufacturing", which Prof. Dr. Özge Akbulut and Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ali Gülgün carry out with the Turkish firm Simularge Technologies, has received 36-month support from the TÜBİTAK TEYDEB 1709-EUREKA-EUROSTARS grant. The project's coordinator is Lithoz GmbH from Austria, and the other partner is Additive Drives GmbH from Germany.

Sabancı University Students Select the Best Academicians and Teaching Assistants: Winners of the 2025 Teaching Awards Announce

The results of the annual **Teaching Awards Survey**, traditionally conducted at our university, have been announced. Determined by student votes, the **2025 Teaching Awards** honor academicians and teaching assistants for their achievements and contributions to education.

The awards, presented in **seven different categories**, were bestowed upon their recipients during a ceremony held at **SGM on December 23.**

Sabancı University Makes a Strong Contribution to Science: Two "TÜBA Outstanding Young Scientist" Awards

The Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) has announced the recipients of its Outstanding Young Scientist Awards (TÜBA-GEBİP), given to support young scientists. Two academics from Sabancı University achieved a significant success by receiving the award. Dr. Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk in the field of health sciences and Dr. Eren Günseli in the field of social sciences were among this year's outstanding young scientists.

Dr. Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk, a faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, conducts research on how the WNT pathway, which plays a significant role in the spread of prostate cancer, is controlled at the post-transcriptional level in her project that was found deserving of the TÜBA-GEBİP Award. The goal is to develop new cancer treatment methods by understanding these mechanisms at the molecular level. Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk also won the L'Oréal Türkiye-UNESCO Young Woman Scientist Award this year with her study entitled "Investigation of Protein Production Control Mechanism in Prostate Cancer and Its Translation into Therapy."

Dr. Eren Günseli, a faculty member at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, investigates when the brain recalls information in his project, which was awarded the TÜBA-GEBİP Award. Recent findings from Dr. Günseli's research team show that memory can make a flexible choice between energy-consuming active recall and more economical, direct, passive memory use. In this project, which was awarded the TÜBA-GEBİP Award, Dr. Günseli will examine under what conditions this flexibility emerges using behavioral tasks and EEG measurements. The project aims to reshape our current understanding of memory processes. Dr. Eren Günseli had previously won the BAGEP Award and the METU Mustafa Parlar Research Incentive Award in 2023, and the TÜBİTAK Incentive Award in 2024.

Award Ceremony on December 23rd

The TÜBA-GEBİP Awards have been given since 2001 to reward and encourage outstanding young scientists working in the fields of natural sciences, engineering, health sciences, and social sciences to continue their scientific work in Türkiye, to establish their own research groups, and to produce high-quality, internationally recognized projects and publications originating from Türkiye. This year's awards will be presented to the recipients by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the TÜBA-TÜBİTAK Science Awards Ceremony to be held at the Presidential Complex on December 23, 2025.

A New Work Added to the Sakıp Sabancı Museum Collection: Murat Durusoy's Post-Nature Studies V.2

A new addition to the Sakıp Sabancı Museum collection, the video Post-Nature Studies V.2 by contemporary artist Murat Durusoy, a Sabancı University graduate and part-time faculty member, has been presented in the halls where the Arts of the Book and Calligraphy Collection is exhibited.

Located in what was once the viewing balcony of the Atlı Köşk and later repurposed as the Landscape Room after its conversion into a museum, the work draws inspiration from the Judas tree, laurel, sweetgum, oleander, and rosemary plants in the SSM Garden. These plants are transformed into synthetic polymers, circuit boards, and metal textures, creating a landscape where nature intertwines with man-made materials. It alludes to the Anthropocene Era, a time when human impact is permanently altering the planet's natural balance and the climate crisis is increasingly felt.

Durusoy's video creates an extraordinary interaction with works decorated with floral motifs from the Arts of the Book and Calligraphy Collection. Drawing inspiration from symmetrical calligraphic compositions adorned with gold foil, Durusoy reinterprets the tension between nature and technology as a "digital still life."

Murat Durusoy, an academic and contemporary artist working on the concepts of climate crisis, technology, memory, time, and imagery, constructs his "Post-Nature Studies" series as a space that not only observes nature but also recreates it through technology. By layering his own plant images with digital interventions, light refractions, and synthetic

New Turkish Book by Selçuk Artut

Artist and academician Selçuk Artut invites readers to the intersection of art, mathematics, and technology with his long-awaited new book, "Creative Coding with Geometric Patterns: Coding for Art." Published by Nesin Print House, this work is the Turkish version of Artut's book, originally published in New York in 2023. This study offers an interdisciplinary perspective on geometric patterns, which have served for centuries as the visual language of ornamentation and intellectual inquiry.

The book treats historical motifs not merely as aesthetic objects but as dynamic structures that can be re-created through computational creativity, adding a new dimension to our understanding of art history. Delving deeply into the relationship between geometric art and media art, this book encourages readers to move from passive spectators to active producers, thanks to workflows supported by creative coding methods.

With all proceeds donated to the Nesin Foundation to support education, "Creative Coding with Geometric Patterns: Coding for Art" will be an inspiring companion for anyone looking to explore the visual potential of mathematics.

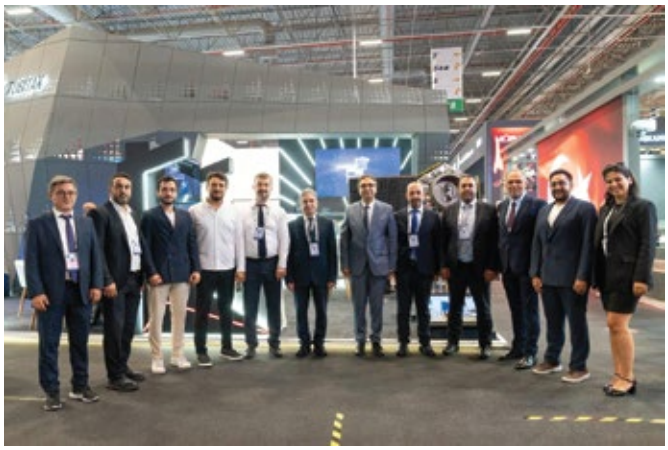
Sabancı University, EDU's Inspiring Leadership Journey for Turkish Women Leaders!

The Women in Leadership Program, which was implemented for Turkish Women Leaders in collaboration with Sabancı University Executive Development Unit, EDU, and Turkish Business Council Dubai & Northern Emirates, has been completed.

The program, which was implemented in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on May 17, aimed to provide participants with information on emotional intelligence, effective communication, storytelling, and strategic leadership, and to develop their competencies. The program, which covers the foundations of modern leadership from curiosity to reliability, leadership stance, and synergy, was held with the participation of 50 women leaders.

The four-day intensive training was not limited to simply exchanging information; it also created a valuable platform where Turkish Women Leaders could connect with each other, share their experiences, and prepare the ground for future collaborations. The 50 successful Turkish Women Leaders who participated in the program received their certificates at the end of this intense and transformative experience.

Sabancı University and TÜBİTAK UZAY Join Forces for the Production of Satellite Panels



Inovent, Sabancı University's technology transfer company, has signed a collaboration agreement with TÜBİTAK UZAY for the production of structural panels for next-generation observation satellites as part of the Satellite Constellation Development Project (TUGEP). The project, to be conducted by SU-IMC, will last approximately 20 months.

Inovent A.Ş., a technology transfer company established by Sabancı University, and the TÜBİTAK Space Technologies Research Institute have signed a contract for the production of satellite structural panels as part of the Satellite Constellation Development Project (TUGEP). The signing ceremony, held as part of the IDEF 2025 International Defense Industry Fair, was attended by Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacır, Istanbul Governor Davut Gül, TÜBİTAK President Prof. Dr. Orhan Aydın, and TÜBİTAK Space Technologies Research Institute Director Mehmet Nefes. Mehmet Yıldız, Vice President for Research at Sabancı University, who signed the protocol on behalf of Sabancı University Inovent, stated, "This strategic partnership supports Türkiye's goal of providing domestically developed space platforms. SU-IMC's competence in analysis and advanced manufacturing technologies, along with TÜBİTAK UZAY's expertise in design integration, will enable the high-technology production of TUGEP's critical components. We expect this partnership to lay a strong foundation for future university-government-industry collaborations within the national space ecosystem."

Domestic Manufacturing Capabilities Will Be Utilized to Meet The Requirements for Space-Grade Components

According to the agreement, the project, expected to last approximately 20 months, will be conducted by TÜBİTAK UZAY and Sabancı University's Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SU-IMC). SU-IMC will manufacture the structural panels to be used in the next-generation observation satellites designed by TÜBİTAK UZAY. The structural panels must be lightweight, possess superior mechanical properties, and be made from high-quality materials to ensure the equipment operates smoothly throughout the satellite's lifespan in the space environment. These panels will carry a portion of the load on the satellite's structure and also protect electronic equipment and thermal control hardware from external influences. The collaboration aims to leverage domestic manufacturing capabilities to meet the stringent requirements of space-grade components.

Sabancı University President Prof. Yusuf Leblebici Speaks at IMEC Networking Event in Istanbul

Professor Yusuf Leblebici, President of Sabancı University, delivered a keynote presentation at the Consulate General of Belgium in Istanbul during the IMEC networking event "Converging Frontiers: ASIC Innovation at the Crossroads."

In his address, Prof. Leblebici examined the rapidly evolving landscape of Integrated Circuits (ICs) and highlighted the strategic importance of building a strong and sustainable semiconductor ecosystem in Türkiye. He also elaborated on the activities of the Turkish Integrated Circuit Alliance (TICA) — a national initiative designed to strengthen collaboration among universities, research institutions, and industry leaders with the goal of advancing Türkiye's design and service capabilities in integrated circuits.

Prof. Leblebici emphasized that initiatives such as TICA are vital for positioning Türkiye as a competitive player in the global semiconductor value chain, particularly as worldwide demand for specialized chip design continues to accelerate.

The event was organized by IMEC, one of the world's leading research and innovation centers in nanoelectronics and digital technologies. Headquartered in Leuven, Belgium, IMEC is internationally recognized for its pioneering research in semiconductor technologies and its long-standing collaborations with leading universities and technology companies around the world.

Hosted by the Consulate General of Belgium in Istanbul for the third consecutive year, the event continues to serve as an important platform for fostering dialogue and strengthening partnerships between Belgium and Türkiye in the fields of technology and innovation.

City University of Hong Kong Representatives Visited Sabancı University

On June 19, 2025, representatives from the School of Energy and Environment at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) visited Sabancı University and signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of "Energy and Environment" with the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

The newly signed agreement aims to strengthen the partnership between the two universities and to enhance collaboration in education, academic excellence, and innovative research.

The CityUHK School of Energy and Environment delegation, composed of Prof. Benjamin Horton, Dean of the School of Energy and Environment; Prof. Edwin Tso, Associate Dean of the School of Energy and Environment; Prof. Kenneth Leung JP, Chair Professor of the Department of Chemistry; and Assoc. Prof. Shauhrat S. Chopra, faculty member at the School of Energy and Environment, engaged in extensive discussions on Sabancı University's campus facilities, research activities, and educational initiatives. Within this framework, potential joint initiatives were explored. A short workshop was held at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences (FENS), during which both parties delivered presentations on energy and sustainability, and discussed possible future collaborations in light of the topics presented.

This agreement marks a significant step towards reinforcing academic ties between the two institutions, paving the way for joint research projects, student exchange programs, and innovative collaborations. The shared global strategies of CityUHK and Sabancı University in the areas of energy and sustainability further underscore the importance and potential impact of this partnership.

Ekin Toprak's VIU Experience: An Academic Journey, a Cultural Discovery

International exchange programs for Sabancı University students offer unique opportunities for both academic and personal development. Ekin, a double major student in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences who had the opportunity to study at Venice International University (VIU) this year, shared this special experience with our university. In this interview, which covers everything from sustainability and interdisciplinary education to Venice's captivating atmosphere and cultural diversity, Ekin spoke to GazeteSU about his education at VIU, the opportunities he encountered, and the impact of this process on his career goals.

1. First, could you briefly introduce yourself?

My name is Ekin. I am a 3rd grade double major student in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences. I was accepted to the University of Venice for the spring semester in the Management Sciences program. Academically, I'm interested in sustainability, marketing, and supply chain management. Furthermore, learning about different cultures, gaining new perspectives, and exploring the world have always been a passion of mine. In my free time, I enjoy exploring new places, taking photos, reading books, and pursuing art.

2. Why did you choose the University of Venice for your exchange program?

The most important reason I chose the University of Venice was the city's deep history and its unique location, which brings together diverse European cultures. The idea of studying in Venice, where art, history, and architecture come together, appealed to me. The University of Venice impressed me not only with its architecture and art, but also with its interdisciplinary and rich academic environment. The University of Venice's interdisciplinary courses and international student-faculty structure offered an ideal networking environment for personal and career development. Furthermore, the unique and detailed course content within the "Globalization Program" was one of the most important factors in determining my choice.

One of my biggest motivations for choosing this university was the fact that they choose the best professors from the best schools in each country within a worldwide academic network.

3. What were your expectations before leaving?

Before leaving, I expected the University of Venice to offer me a great deal, both academically and culturally. My biggest expectations were to experience a different educational system, develop myself in an international environment, and meet new people. I can say that these expectations were largely met. Academically, I found the interdisciplinary perspective and the culture of group work very stimulating. Taking classes from academics from different countries and universities, and sharing the classroom environment with international students was very beneficial for networking.

4. What was the experience of living and studying in Venice like?

Living and studying in Venice was an unforgettable experience for me. Seeing traces of history and art in every corner of the city was like wandering through an open-air museum during breaks or during my free time. The campus offered a warm atmosphere that brought together an international student community. The fact that the campus is located on a small island in Venice was also an interesting experience. The small class sizes and the opportunity to interact directly with the professors exceeded my expectations.

Daily life, on the other hand, was an experience I initially struggled to adapt to, but over time, I began to enjoy. Getting lost in Venice's labyrinthine streets, commuting to school by vaporetto, and even navigating the canals to shop for groceries felt different and tiring at first, but it made me feel like I was part of the city.

What struck me most was that every day, a new detail I encountered—a statue, a bridge, a small square—echoed the spirit of Venice.

5. Is there any memorable moment or cultural event you've been to during your stay in Venice?

One of my most unforgettable memories during my stay in Venice was witnessing the city's famous carnival. The city was transformed into another world with colorful masks, historical costumes, and stage shows in the streets. People of all ages were wandering the streets of Venice in either their own original costumes and masks, or in historical costumes. It was fascinating and entertaining to see these people, as if it were a commonplace occurrence in everyday life. Special concerts and shows were also held in the city square on certain nights. Being present at one of the world's most famous carnivals was unforgettable for me.

6. Did you have the opportunity to learn new things in the courses or projects you participated in as part of the program?

The courses and projects I participated in at the University of Venice demonstrated to me the value of an interdisciplinary perspective. Working with students from different countries and departments taught me to approach the same problem from multiple perspectives. Discussing topics like sustainability and global governance from the perspectives of engineering, economics, and the social sciences was particularly instructive.

One of the most important things I learned was that relying on a single discipline can be insufficient when seeking solutions to complex problems, and that combining different perspectives can yield much more creative and effective ideas. The university's diverse environment helped me develop my analytical thinking and gain a broader perspective on the world.

7. What kind of opportunity did the collaboration between Sabancı University and Venice International University (VIU) offer you?

The collaboration between Sabancı University and Venice International University offered me the opportunity to develop myself in an international and interdisciplinary environment. Thanks to VIU's consortium structure, I met with students from different countries and disciplines, took joint courses, conducted projects, and experienced different perspectives on global issues. This diversity enriched me not only academically but also culturally.

8. How was your communication with students from different countries?

Communicating with students from different countries was one of the most enjoyable and educational aspects of my exchange program in Venice. We all came from different cultures, but through shared projects, group activities, and social events, we forged strong bonds. This diversity gave me the opportunity to share my own culture and understand how others view the world.

One of the most unforgettable moments in terms of cultural interaction was the "culinary night" we organized as exchange students. That evening, everyone prepared and shared a dish unique to their country, and we discussed our cultures through the food. At the table, not only did different tastes come together, but also different stories and lifestyles. That night, I once again felt the richness our differences create. At the end of the semester, I returned to Türkiye having made lasting friendships from many countries.

9. How do you think this experience contributed to your career goals or academic journey?

My experience at the University of Venice was a valuable stepping stone towards my career goals and academic journey. The interdisciplinary education and international environment allowed me to develop my analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, the experience of working with people from different cultures strengthened my ability to participate in global projects and multinational teams in the future. Academically, the courses I took and the projects I participated in allowed me to deepen my knowledge in areas such as sustainability and innovation. I believe that such international and interdisciplinary experiences will provide significant advantages in my career plans. This process has increased my motivation to continuously improve myself and create innovative solutions.

10. Do you have any advice for Sabancı University students interested in participating in the program?

My most important advice for Sabancı University students interested in participating in the program is to plan their preparation well and keep an open mind. Stepping into a new country and culture can be both exciting and challenging at times, so being flexible and patient is crucial. Academically, it's beneficial to research the course curriculum and the university's opportunities in advance, manage your expectations, and prepare yourself accordingly.

11. Finally, what are your thoughts on Sabancı University's membership in the VIU Consortium?

Sabancı University being the first university from Türkiye to join the Venice International University (VIU) Consortium is truly a great opportunity and a source of pride for students. Venice University offers a program that only accepts students from select universities worldwide. Being part of such a prestigious and interdisciplinary international network broadens students' horizons not only academically but also culturally and socially.

Sabancı University Has Received a New Grant from The European Research Council (ERC)

Associate Prof. M. Tahir Kılavuz, a new faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, has been awarded an ERC-Starting Grant of €1.5 million for his project DEMIG, from the European Research Council, one of Europe's most prestigious and competitive funding schemes in the European Union.

The European Research Council (ERC), which funds groundbreaking projects of Europe's top researchers and fosters innovation, has awarded Starting Grant this year to a single project from Türkiye.

With his project titled "Democracy-Migration Paradox: Anti-Immigrant Attitudes and Commitment to Democracy – DEMIG)"' in the field of political science, Associate Prof. Kılavuz examines the paradox between widespread commitment to democracy and rising anti-immigrant attitudes across European and Middle Eastern societies. By addressing this tension, it provides critical insights into a challenge that threatens the future of democracy. Utilizing AI-assisted surveys and experimental methods, the research aims to generate evidence that will inform the development of more inclusive democratic governance and migration policies.

During the development phase of his ambitious and groundbreaking ERC Starting Grant project, Associate Prof. M. Tahir Kılavuz benefited from the TÜBİTAK's Preliminary Evaluation Program (EBAG) and Sabancı University's institutional support mechanism.

The project will be implemented at Sabancı University over a five-year period with a newly established research team.

Financial Times Executive MBA 2025 Rankings Announced: Sabancı Business School Ranks 48th Worldwide

The Financial Times has released its annual Executive MBA (EMBA) rankings for 2025. Sabancı University ranked 48th globally, making Sabancı Business School the only business school from Türkiye to place in the top 50 this year.

Sabancı Business School's EMBA program made a remarkable leap from 81st place in 2023 to 48th place this year—an impressive 33-place climb that highlights the program's growing strength and visibility on the international stage.

Dean Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Toker shared her thoughts on this significant achievement:

"It is a great source of pride for all of us that our EMBA program has been ranked among the top 50 globally in the Financial Times 2025 rankings. This result reaffirms the School's commitment to high-quality education, our innovative curriculum, and the strength of our academic faculty.

Most importantly, it reflects the real-world impact our alumni create in their professional journeys. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our academic and administrative staff, our alumni, and our industry partners who have contributed to this success.

We see this not as a final destination, but as a meaningful milestone in an ongoing journey of excellence. We are determined to continue advancing with a vision to become an even stronger, more impactful, and more innovative business school on a global scale."

Partnership Between Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and Sabancı University Leads to Earthquake Resilience Projects in Istanbul

The cooperation was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently signed between the two institutions. The agreement lays the foundation for student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, co-supervised theses, and faculty collaboration. As part of the student exchange program, two students from Sabancı University's Materials Science and Nanoengineering and Computer Science programs will study at WPI during the 2025–2026 academic year, further deepening the collaborative ties between the institutions.

As part of this collaboration, Sabancı University has officially become a WPI Project Center, joining a global network of 77 WPI centers around the world. This structure enables undergraduate students at WPI to carry out interdisciplinary, community-engaged projects abroad, applying their academic knowledge to address pressing local challenges.

Currently, under the academic supervision of Köksal Mus (WPI), a cohort of 12 WPI students is conducting their Interactive Qualifying Projects (IQP) in Istanbul in cooperation with Sabancı University. This year's projects focus on a range of pre and post-disaster topics including search-and rescue strategies, humanitarian logistics, and urban risk assessment, and are being carried out in coordination with local authorities and NGOs such as IBB, AKUT, Kızılay, and AFAD, as well as individuals like Nasuh Mahruki, the former president of the AKUT Association.

A Highlight Project: Survivor Tracking – A Wireless Approach for Rescuers

This project proposes **a cost-effective, easy-to-deploy wireless system** designed to help **Search and Rescue (SAR)** teams locate survivors by detecting mobile device signals beneath collapsed structures. In post-earthquake scenarios where communication infrastructure is often compromised, this technology offers a scalable solution to **improve response time and increase survival rates.**

The project is conducted by a multidisciplinary WPI student team:

- Azura Simsek, BS and MS student in Robotics Engineering
- Clive Thompson, BS student in Computer Science, minor in Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Aksel Jensen, BS and MS student in Neuroscience, with studies in Computer Science and Bioinformatics
- Oscar Ivy, BS student in Aerospace and Robotics Engineering

Working together, the team is designing a prototype system that can be deployed by SAR teams in dense urban areas like Istanbul. The concept emphasizes portability, real-time feedback, and resilience under infrastructure failure conditions.

Other Projects (WPI Student Teams):

- Recommend strategies to reduce the risk of catastrophe given a large seismic event within the city.
- Research strategies to optimize post disaster search and rescue efforts using data-driven strategies and international benchmarking.
- Optimizing pre and post disaster response and relief efforts to effectively support the affected populus.

This collaboration between Sabancı University and WPI exemplifies a mutual dedication to interdisciplinary education, global engagement, and addressing real-world challenges. **Through such initiatives, Sabancı University continues to strengthen its dynamic role in innovative education and research, contributing meaningfully to science and society.**

Welcome Lunch with the Dean

A welcome lunch was held for the WPI students currently conducting their projects at Sabancı University, hosted by Erkay Savaş, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences. The event was attended by Köksal Mus (WPI), faculty members Hüsnü Yenigün (Vice Dean); Altuğ Tanaltay, IRO representatives as well as buddy students supporting the visiting group.

The "For Youth, By Youth" International Conference Took Place in Istanbul, in Collaboration with CIP and the Talloires Network

The "For Youth, By Youth" International Conference took place at Radisson Blu Pera in Istanbul from 16–19 November, in collaboration with Sabancı University Civic Involvement Projects, the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, Next Generation Alumni Leaders, paNhari, and the Mastercard Foundation.

The Conference brought together young leaders from more than 25 countries to explore conscious leadership, global solidarity, inclusive education, and the power of youth-led action. Hosted in the heart of Istanbul, the Conference created a shared space for youth leaders to reflect, imagine, and co-create solutions around justice, peace, inclusive AI, climate action, and the future of higher education. Over two days, participants engaged in roundtables, workshops, storytelling sessions, and the creation of the first youth-written Talloires Network Declaration.

Sabancı University Civic Involvement Projects' student team leaders also played an active role in the conference, facilitating interactive activities that strengthened cultural exchange among participants, encouraged reflection on self-care and community care, and fostered a deeper sense of global solidarity.

The gathering culminated in a closing ceremony at Sabancı University's Karaköy Campus, celebrating Sabancı University's 25th anniversary and the Talloires Network's 20 years of civic engagement and global collaboration.

At the closing ceremony, Sabancı University Vice President Cem Güneri and Civic Involvement Projects Manager Zeynep Bahar emphasized that youth-led movements and civic engagement lie at the heart of Sabancı University's values. In their remarks, they highlighted that this conference—and the For Youth, By Youth movement as a whole—stands as a powerful example of how these values come to life through collective action, leadership, and solidarity.

After their remarks, Lorlene Hoyt, Executive Director of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, joined online to deliver a closing speech, underscoring the critical importance of youth-led movements in shaping more just, inclusive, and engaged universities and communities.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders involved in the event. The collaborations between the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities and Sabancı University Civic Involvement Projects, aimed at fostering and expanding youth engagement, will continue to grow and develop.

New Erasmus+ Student Exchange Agreement Between Sabancı University and the University of Stuttgart

Sabancı University has signed a new Erasmus+ student exchange agreement with the University of Stuttgart, a leading technical university in Germany known for its strong research culture and close industry ties.

This collaboration links Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences (FENS) with the University of Stuttgart's Faculty of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Information Technology. Under the agreement, a total of 8 students will have the opportunity to participate in exchange programs in the fields of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. This new partnership offers SU students invaluable opportunity to engage in a high-caliber academic environment that is not only research-intensive but also deeply connected to real-world applications and industrial collaboration.

The University of Stuttgart is widely recognized for its excellence in engineering and applied sciences. Ranked among the top 125 universities worldwide in Engineering & Technology by Times Higher Education (THE), it consistently stands out for the quality of its Electrical and Information Technology programs, which are ranked among the best in Germany. Beyond academic excellence, the university is distinguished by its deep ties to industry and innovation. It hosts cutting-edge research and entrepreneurship ecosystems such as ARENA2036, Startup Autobahn, and Cyber Valley, one of Europe's largest AI research networks, supported by global industry leaders including Bosch, Porsche, and Amazon.

SUCool Initiative MİKROFLEKS Participated in the Defense Industry Presidency R&D Project Signing Ceremony

Our SU-Cool initiative, MİKROFLEKS, led by Murat Kaya Yapıcı, a faculty member of our university's Electronic Engineering program, was included in the TORR project at the Republic of Türkiye Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB) R&D projects signing ceremony on January 29, 2025.

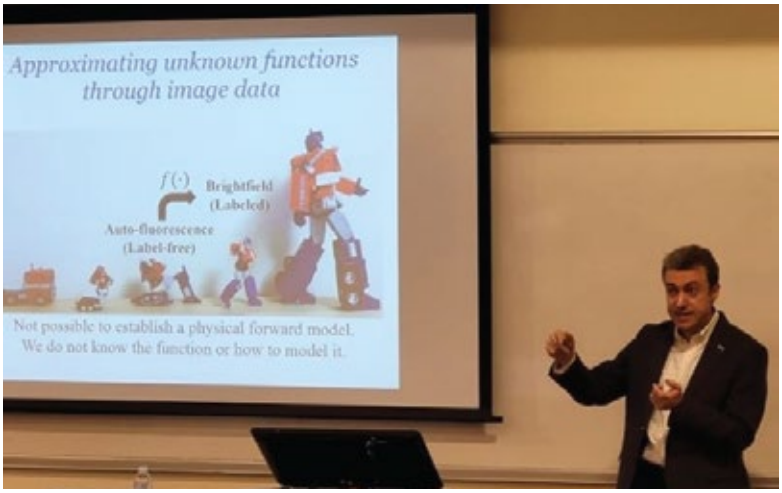
According to a statement from the Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB), the signing ceremony for 23 new R&D projects, whose design activities were completed as of 2024, was held at the Nuri Demirağ Conference Hall of the Presidency of Defence Industries. With these newly signed R&D projects, the aim is to reduce dependence on foreign countries to meet the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and security forces, to implement domestic and national advanced technology solutions, and to further increase Türkiye's R&D and technology capacity.

The project kick-off meeting was held on March 19, 2025, on the TÜBİTAK MAM Gebze Campus with the participation of personnel from the SSB R&D and Technology Management Department and project stakeholders. Within the scope of the project, the roadmap for the TORR Project was discussed, and the necessary strategies and areas of cooperation for the successful progress of the project were determined.

Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan Discusses the AI-Assisted Microscopy Revolution at Sabancı University

Sabancı University hosted Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan, one of the world's leading scientists in the field of AI-assisted optical methods. Prof. Dr. Özcan, a faculty member at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) and a member of the Koç University Board of Trustees, gave a seminar entitled "The Fusion of AI and Optics for Computational Microscopy and Sensing" at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

From Mobile Microscopy to Digital Tissue Coloring



The seminar, presented by Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan, served as an important meeting point for those curious about new research areas combining optical technologies and artificial intelligence. Participants in this highly popular seminar included Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, Vice President for Education Prof. Dr. Cem Güneri, Vice President for Research Prof. Dr. Mehmet Yıldız, and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Erkay Savaş, as well as numerous students.

Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan, who conducts pioneering work at the intersection of microscopy and deep learning, is focusing his research on transforming smartphones into portable and affordable biosensors. Developed objective-free microscopy techniques offer higher resolution and a wider field of view at a lower cost than traditional systems. This allows even very small biological structures, from red blood cells to viruses, to be imaged with mobile phone-enabled systems.

Biological Testing in 15 Minutes with Smartphones

At a special seminar held at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan provided information on innovative methods that utilize deep neural networks to digitally color tissue samples without the need for traditional coloring techniques, in addition to microscopy techniques.

These technologies, which can be used in many biomedical fields, from malaria diagnosis to 3D tracking of sperm cells, are revolutionizing the medical world by bringing advanced laboratory measurements to mobile devices. Participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with these systems, which enable biological testing with smartphones in just 15 minutes.

Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan

Dr. Aydoğan Özcan is the Chancellor's Professor and the Volgenau Chair for Engineering Innovation at UCLA and an HHMI Professor with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He is also the Associate Director of the California NanoSystems Institute. He is elected a Member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He holds over 85 patents in microscopy, holography, computational imaging, sensing, mobile diagnostics, nonlinear optics, and fiber optics. He is also the author of a book and co-author of over 1,300 peer-reviewed publications in leading scientific journals and conferences. Dr. Özcan has received many awards for his pioneering contributions to computational imaging, sensing, and diagnostics, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the ICO Prize by the International Commission for Optics, the Dennis Gabor Award, the Joseph Fraunhofer Award and the Robert M. Burley Prize (Optica), the Rahmi Koç Medal of Science, the Keith Terasaki Innovation Award, the SPIE Biophotonics Technology Innovator Award, the SPIE Early Career Achievement Award, the Army Young Investigator Award, the NSF CAREER Award, the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, the Navy Young Investigator Award, the IEEE Photonics Society Young Investigator Award and Distinguished Lecturer Award, the National Geographic Emerging Explorer Award, the Grainger Foundation Frontiers of Engineering Award from the National Academy of Engineering, and the TR 35 Award from MIT. He is elected a Member of Optica, AAAS, SPIE, IEEE, AIMBE, RSC, APS, and the Guggenheim Foundation, and is a Lifetime Fellow Member of Optica. Dr. Özcan is also listed as a Highly Cited Researcher by Web of Science and Clarivate. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Koç University.

A Step Further in Global Recognition: Sabancı Business School Earns Its Second International Accreditation

Sabancı Business School has reaffirmed its place among the world's leading business schools with its second international accreditation.

The Association of MBAs (AMBA), one of the world's three most prestigious accreditation bodies and dedicated to evaluating MBA programs, has accredited Sabancı Business School's MBA, Professional MBA, and Executive MBA programs for a period of three years.

Following a review visit to the School on September 30 – October 1, 2025, the four-member AMBA panel commended the reputation of Sabancı Business School within the higher education landscape, as well as the flexibility it offers students in program selection. The report also highlights the high quality of the faculty's research publications, their participation in Europe-wide research projects, and the School's strong ties with the business community.

The AMBA accreditation process evaluates a wide range of criteria including the effectiveness of governance structures, strategic objectives, student profile, admission standards, program design and content, quality of academic staff, research outputs, relationships with alumni, and the business world, as well as sustainability and societal impact.

By earning AMBA accreditation, Sabancı Business School has demonstrated its position within the top 2% of business schools globally. The School has also become a new member of the Business Graduates Association (BGA), an organization that recognizes institutions with a strong commitment to creating social and economic impact.

Andrew Main Wilson, CEO of AMBA and BGA, congratulated the School and expressed his hope that the fruitful collaboration will continue for many years to come.

Prof. Ayşegül Toker, Dean of Sabancı Business School, shared her thoughts on this significant achievement: "This remarkable success is the result of the dedicated efforts of our faculty, administrative team, and everyone who has contributed to strengthening our programs and reputation. The AMBA accreditation is both a milestone for us and a reminder that our journey toward excellence continues."

Prof. Toker also extended her heartfelt gratitude to all former deans and faculty members for their vision, commitment, and contributions over the past 25 years.

We wholeheartedly congratulate all our academic and administrative staff who contributed to this proud achievement and once again celebrate our School's success.

Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar Receives National Innovation Award as Part of the YÖK Outstanding Achievement Awards

Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar was awarded the National Innovation Award in the "Special Awards" category of the YÖK (Council of Higher Education) Outstanding Achievement Awards. Prof. Dr. Koşar earned this prestigious award for his work on microscale cavitation technology and its medical applications.

Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, was awarded the "National Innovation" award in the "Special Awards" category of the YÖK Outstanding Achievement Awards. Prof. Dr. Koşar earned this prestigious award for his work on microscale cavitation technology and its medical applications. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan presented Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar with the award at the 2025-2026 Academic Year Opening Ceremony held at the Presidential Complex.

Given by YÖK, this award aims to reward efforts aimed at increasing Türkiye's international social and economic competitiveness, developing economic, social, and cultural innovation capacity, establishing an industrial infrastructure compatible with global developments, enabling international institutions and organizations to develop new technologies in Türkiye by structuring their R&D units, and promoting R&D and innovation culture, as well as enhancing communication and collaboration among stakeholders in the R&D and innovation ecosystem.

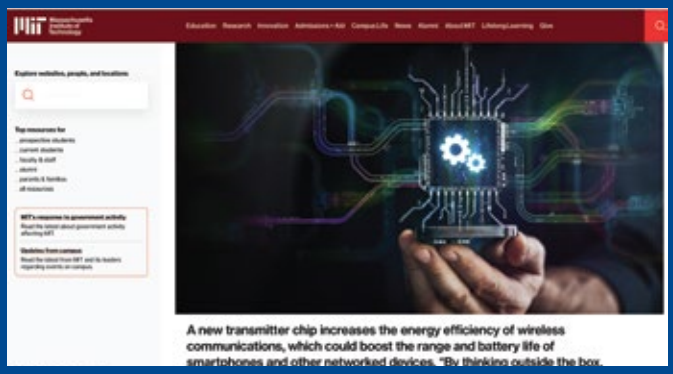
The Project of Our Graduate Associate Professor Rabia Tuğçe Yazıcıgil and Her Students Featured on MIT's Homepage

The Project of Our Graduate Associate Professor Rabia Tuğçe Yazıcıgil and Her Students Featured on MIT's Homepage

The work of an international research team, including our Sabancı University Electronic Engineering alumna and Boston University faculty member Associate Professor Rabia Tuğçe Yazıcıgil, was featured on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) homepage. The team took a significant step toward improving energy efficiency in wireless communications with their transmitter design, "A Fully Integrated Optimal Modulation Bits-to-RF Digital Transmitter using Time-Interleaved Multi-Subharmonic-Switching DPA" , published at the 2025 IEEE Radio Frequency Circuits Symposium.

The theoretical basis of the integrated transmitter chip, designed by our graduates Timur Zirtiloglu (BSc Electronic Engineering, 2019) and Arman Tan (BSc Electronic Engineering, 2022), who are pursuing their doctoral studies at Boston University under the supervision of Dr. Yazıcıgil, and which has very low power consumption thanks to the optimal modulation technique, was developed by Başak Özaydın, a PhD student at MIT, Prof. Muriel Médard (MIT), and Prof. Ken Duffy (Northeastern University).

In wireless devices, transmitters convert digital data into electromagnetic waves and transmit them to the receiver. In traditional systems, interference can be reduced by sending symbols at equal intervals; however, this method cannot adapt to changing channel conditions, leading to efficiency losses. The new chip developed by the research team uses a technique called optimal modulation, which transmits symbols at non-uniform intervals and dynamically adapts to channel conditions. This method reduces energy consumption and increases data transmission speed.



To address the problem of irregular symbol structure, which increases the risk of errors in dense wireless environments, the researchers add a small amount of padding, in the form of extra bits between symbols, so that every transmission is the same length. This allows the receiver to easily detect the beginning and end of each transmission.

The universal decoding algorithm previously developed by the team, called GRAND, which can crack any code by guessing the noise that affected the transmission, played a critical role in the success of this approach.

Researchers from MIT, Boston University, and Northeastern University have designed a novel transmitter chip that significantly improves the energy efficiency of wireless communications, which could boost the range and battery life of a connected device. The flexible chip could boost the performance of current electronics and meet the more stringent efficiency requirements of future 6G technologies.

The research team includes Muriel Médard, the School of Science NEC Professor of Software Science and Engineering, a professor in the MIT Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS); Timur Zirtiloglu, our graduate, who is pursuing his doctoral studies in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at Boston University (BU); Arman Tan, our graduate, who is pursuing his doctoral studies in the ECE Department at BU; Başak Özaydın, a doctoral student in EECS at MIT; Professor Ken Duffy from Northeastern University; and Rabia Tuğçe Yazıcıgil, our graduate and an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at BU.

IHP and Sabancı University Expand Collaboration at Joint Laboratory

Frankfurt (Oder). IHP – Leibniz Institute for High-Performance Microelectronics and Sabancı University in Istanbul are continuing to expand the scope of the Joint Laboratory, which has been the foundation of their successful academic and research collaboration since 2007. In April 2024, the laboratory's focus on microelectronic technologies was expanded to include the design and development of integrated high-frequency (RF and mm-wave IC) circuits. This will further support scientific excellence in areas such as high-frequency integrated circuits, radar sensors, micro- and nano-systems, and RF packaging.

As part of this collaboration, Sabancı University students are being invited to summer internships at IHP every year. During the current internship period, which began in June 2025, a total of 10 students (8 undergraduate and 2 graduate students) are working on projects in high-frequency, digital, and mixed-signal integrated circuit design and device modeling. These internships also provide an opportunity to further develop the Joint Laboratory's "Virtual Laboratory," which facilitates and structures remote collaboration and the joint supervision of undergraduate and graduate projects and theses.

A delegation from Sabancı University, including Sabancı University Rector Prof. Yusuf Leblebici, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Dean Prof. Erkay Savaş, Vice Rector for Education Prof. Cem Güneri, and Joint Laboratory Coordinator Prof. Yaşar Gürbüz, visited the IHP headquarters in Frankfurt (Oder) on August 29, 2025. They met with the IHP Scientific and Administrative Managers and research team members, including IHP Scientific Director Prof. Gerhard Kahmen, IHP Joint Laboratory Coordinator and Circuit Design Department Head Prof. Corrado Carta, and Human Resources Directorate B.Eng. Anna Herfurth.

The main focus of the collaboration with IHP Microelectronics is on our undergraduate, master's and doctoral students, who, since our foundation, are equipped with strong fundamental Electronics Engineering knowledge and experimental skills in the Sabancı University Electronics Engineering Program, particularly in the field of Microelectronics. Our courses/labs/projects offer a positive and distinctively attractive, specifically for post graduate placement positions, background in semiconductor technologies, discrete and, especially, integrated circuits/systems (mm-wave, RF, Analog, Mixed, Digital-Signal domains) and their sensing and communication applications, sensors, photonics, MEMS, and integrated circuit manufacturing technologies.

Many of our students, a total of 106 EE undergraduate students, who have benefited from this opportunity to date have acquired the highest level of academic knowledge and motivation, completed their academic studies at the world's most prestigious universities (such as MIT, CMU, Gtech, UCSD, Texas A&M, KU Leuven, EPFL, Delft), and are working at managerial/leadership levels in leading electronics companies such as Nvidia, Apple, Google, Intel, Analog Devices, Qualcomm, Texas Instruments, and Microsoft. In the research area, IHP has provided our Microelectronics Research Group with access to the world's fastest integrated circuit technology, providing the opportunity to conduct impactful research in this field both domestically and globally for years.

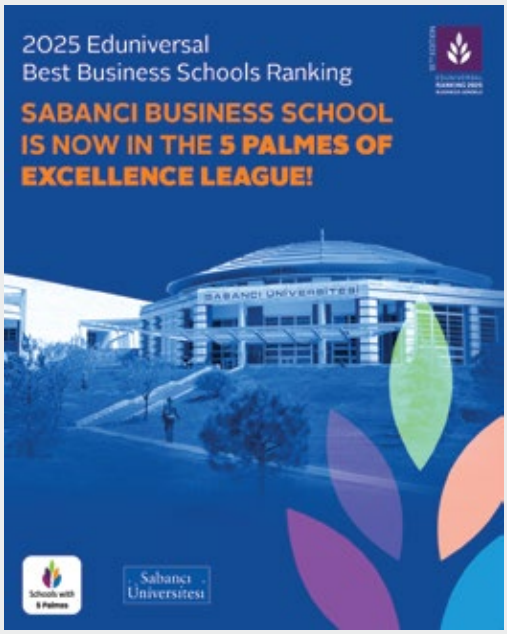
5 Palmes to Sabancı Business School, Global Influence!

Sabancı Business School has been named to the "5 Palmes of Excellence" category, the highest category, in the Eduniversal 2025 Best Business Schools ranking.

Sabancı Business School is now in the 5 Palmes of Excellence category, the highest category, in the 2025 Best Business Schools Rankings announced by Eduniversal, one of the most prestigious global business ranking organizations.

This distinction positions Sabancı Business School among the **"Universal Business Schools with Strong Global Influence,"** a group of only 100 schools.

Sabancı Business School's Dean's Office stated: "This significant achievement is a strong demonstration not only of our academic quality but also of the influence we have made on an international scale. We thank all our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and collaborators who made this success possible. Together, we are building a truly global community of learning and influence."



EMPA NEST Director Reto Largo Calls for Risk Management and Collaboration for Sustainability

Sabancı Business School hosted EMPA Nest Director Reto Largo and OMYA Vice President Philipp Hunziker. Following their campus visit, Reto Largo addressed the key points for achieving sustainability goals in his presentation at Sabancı University Faculty of Management.

Stress: A Key Factor

During the campus tour that began at Sabancı Business School, EMPA Nest Director Reto Largo and OMYA Vice President Philipp Hunziker visited SUCool. At the meeting with the SUCool team, information was provided about the general operation of the program and the processes carried out. Following the meeting, a presentation was given to students at the Faculty of Management Sciences. In the final part of the program, a tour was organized at SUNUM. As part of this, the SUNUM laboratories were visited, and an informational meeting was held with a presentation introducing the center's activities.

In his speech at Sabancı Business School, EMPA Nest Director Reto Largo addressed the concept of stress, which he believes is a key factor in advancing sustainability. Largo also commented on the future of the construction industry in the remainder of his speech.

Reto Largo touched on the activities of the Federal Technology Laboratories (EMPA/FL), part of the Swiss Federal Research Entities (SW Federal Research Entities). He stated that these laboratories focus on key areas such as material environmental performance, energy resources, and innovation research. Largo listed collaborations, skills, and the ability to work with companies as the most important elements of sustainability success.

NEST, a Swiss-based company operating under EMPA, functions as a modular, experimental entity designed to test sustainable construction and living technologies. Reto Largo said that they established an experimental construction office to this end, even demonstrating failures.

"Innovation goes hand in hand with challenges"

In his presentation at Sabancı University, Reto Largo also highlighted the challenges in the construction industry. He cited examples where all components of small buildings can be easily reset and high-quality materials are easily manufactured during the design and production processes. Largo stated that innovation goes hand in hand with challenges and requires taking risks.

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