

**Young Turkey/Young America: A New Relationship for a New Age
Political Challenges for Future Leaders: ECA/PE/C/EUR-SCA-09-45**

The Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS), in partnership with the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) at Sabanci University, has been awarded a prestigious grant from the U.S. Department of State to administer a dynamic exchange program designed to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders from the United States and Turkey. This initiative, the Young Turkey/Young America: A New Relationship for a New Age, will work towards the vital task of renewing and reinvigorating the important bilateral relationship between the two nations.

The exchange will take place in mid-2010, and will last for nearly one month. Most of the two-week U.S. segment will be held in Washington, DC, and will also include a visit to a major regional center with strong international connections, such as Atlanta, Georgia. The Turkey session will open with two days in Ankara, and following a homestay weekend, move to Istanbul for three days.

We are currently seeking applications from exceptional Turkish and American young professionals, aged 22-30. We are targeting individuals who have started careers in the fields of public policy, business and journalism, who possess a strong passion for international engagement and have demonstrated leadership abilities. Academic or professional experience in Turkey (for American applicants) or the United States (for Turkish applicants) is helpful, but not required. *The program will be paid in full, and participants will not need to incur any costs.*

Program participants will build enduring connections through hands-on activities, vigorous discussions, web-based interaction (facilitated by www.youngatlanticist.org), and joint follow-on projects. Meetings with government officials and independent experts will prompt serious explorations of foreign policy issues. Through seminars and small working groups, along with a crisis management simulation, the participants will build leadership, negotiation, and mediation skills while delving deeply into complex policy matters and processes. Social events with other young leaders' organizations and alumni of past exchanges will encourage the building of wider networks, while home stays will provide participants with an intimate glimpse of life on the other side of the Atlantic. This combination of activities will help to forge lasting personal and professional relationships between participants.

To be considered for this program, interested parties should submit the following materials to (U.S. applicants) David Kirk, Associate Director of the Young Atlanticist Program, at dkirk@acus.org; or (Turkish applicants) email ipc@sabanciuniv.edu, by **December 4, 2009**:

- Current CV, including nationality and age;
- Application form and essays;
- Two English language writing samples, each no longer than 5 pages in length;
- Two Letters of recommendation or two reference forms.

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The Mission

- To foster closer ties among, and build an expanding network of, emerging Turkish and American leaders committed to advancing U.S.-Turkish cooperation through dialogue, collaboration, and ongoing projects

The Program

- Two weeks in March and June 2010 in the U.S. (Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, G.A.) and ten days in Turkey (Ankara and Istanbul), including homestays
- Intensive discussions on issues in U.S.-Turkish relations, both with leading policymakers and experts in both countries and within small working groups
- Hands-on activities including a crisis simulation
- Opportunities for socializing and for exploring each country's rich culture and history

Accommodation and travel costs are fully funded.

Applicant Requirements

- Graduate students and/or young professionals who have begun a career in the areas of public policy, business and/or journalism and have a demonstrated record of leadership
- Between 22 and 30 years of age
- Turkish or American citizenship
- Past experience and/or studies relating to international relations
- Working knowledge of English
- A willingness to create a follow-up project true to the program's mission, possibly with the program's financial and logistical assistance

Application Requirements*

- Application form (English and Turkish available) and essays;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Two Letters of Recommendation or Two Completed Reference Forms;
- Two English language writing samples, no more than 5 pages in length

Application Submission*

Please submit completed applications by e-mail attachment to ipc@sabanciuniv.edu (for Turkish applicants) or dkirk@acus.org (for US applicants) with "YTYA Application" as the e-mail subject heading by **December 4, 2009**. Accepted Applicants will be notified in early January.

*** PLEASE NOTE that late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

For Further Information

- Istanbul Policy Center: ipc@sabanciuniv.edu or (+90) 216 483 91 16
- Atlantic Council: dkirk@acus.org or (+1) 202 778 4954

APPLICATION FORM

First Name	Last Name

Gender	Date of Birth

Country of Citizenship	Country of Residence

Contact Information

Mailing Address

Home Phone Number	Work Phone Number	Cell Phone Number

Email Address	Fax Number

Background Information

Job Title	Place of Employment

University	Degree	Major(s)/Concentration	Dates

Native Language

Language Skills	Advanced	Intermediate	Basic
English			
Turkish			
Other(s) – please specify:			

Have you ever traveled to Turkey or America before? If so, when and where within the country did you travel?

How did you find out about this program?

ESSAYS

*Please attach your essays to an email in a separate, single document with your name and the page number on every page. Please clearly indicate the number of the essay you are answering before each essay. **ONLY APPLICATIONS THAT INCLUDE ANSWERS TO ALL ESSAY QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.***

1. Please describe why you are applying to participate in YT/YA and your qualifications for the program, with a particular emphasis on your leadership experience. **(500 words)**
2. Young Turkey/Young America encourages its participants to complete a follow-up project that continues the program's mission after the conclusion of the program. Please describe a potential idea you have for this project. How would your project contribute to strengthening present-day Turkish-American relations? **(500 words)**
3. Young America/Young Turkey places a high priority on selecting candidates that represent the diverse populations of the U.S. and Turkey. Please describe an experience that you had that compelled you to consider a unique aspect of your identity in the context of your home country or abroad. **(500 words)**

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REFERENCE FORM

Dear Referee,

Many thanks for your help in selecting and outstanding class of Young Turkey/Young America participants. Please answer the questions below based on your experiences and interactions with the applicant, or submit a letter of recommendation addressing the same areas. Your input will help Young Turkey/Young America choose the most qualified applicants for the program. Please be as specific as possible about the applicant's suitability and readiness for this program. Thank you.

Applicant Information

First Name	Last Name

Referee Information

First Name	Last Name

Current Job Title	Place of Employment	

Email Address	Work Phone Number

Questions

Please describe your relationship to the applicant.

Please assess the applicant's leadership skills based on your personal experience with him or her.

Please assess the applicant's commitment to, and interest in, international affairs within the context of his or her specific discipline or career (business, journalism, politics, etc.).

Would you describe the candidate as outgoing and proactive? Please elaborate with examples.

