Sabancı University (SU) is an institution of higher education that, despite its youth, has brought fresh perspective to the world of Turkish academia. It is known as one of Turkey’s most innovative and research-oriented universities and acknowledged globally with its success in university rankings. In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021, SU ranked in the 501-600 band. SU ranked 44th on THE’s Emerging Economies University Rankings 2021, 48th on THE’s Asia University Rankings 2020 and 69th on THE’s Young University Rankings 2020, becoming the best among Turkish universities on the list. SU was also in the 521 - 530 band in QS World University Rankings 2021. In addition, SU took the 2nd place in the 2020 Entrepreneurial and Innovative Universities Index of Turkey among foundation universities.

Foundation

Under the direction of one of Turkey’s leading family-run foundations, the Hacı Ömer Sabancı Foundation, the Sabancı Group decided to establish SU in July 1994. The first step towards making this decision was a search conference, held in the summer of 1995 and attended by over 50 scientists, researchers, intellectuals, business people and students from 22 countries. This effort has culminated in the creation of a new and unique university, which is not imitating any of the existing models in Turkey. Sabancı Holding, one of Turkey’s leading industrial and financial conglomerates, invested a sum of 500 million dollars in order to make this highly unique and innovative project a reality, and, in 1999 SU opened its doors to the students.

Mission / Vision

The primary mission of SU is, to develop internationally competent and confident individuals advancing and fostering knowledge in natural sciences and engineering along with humanities, social and management sciences through innovative trans-disciplinary research.

The university aims to enhance its leading and innovative position by engaging in research with transformative impact on society and educating the designers of the future.

The university’s interdisciplinary structure, “learning to learn” approach, close student-faculty relationships, generous fellowship and scholarship policies, opportunities for collaboration with industry and civil organizations, and a wealth of technological resources enable the realization of the mission.
Interdisciplinary Approach

By its design and approach, education at SU differs from other conventional universities both within Turkey and worldwide. The principles that form the foundation of our Academic Programs and organizational structures are based on our interdisciplinary approach in which programs with open boundaries replace departments. This organizational model is intended for direct interaction and collaboration throughout the university. SU has 3 Faculties, all of which are unique in their scope and organization as they brought Natural Sciences and Engineering; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences under one roof; and a Foundations Development Program (FDP) which includes a School of Languages (SL) to help develop the language skills of incoming freshman students since education at SU is in English.

Other unique features of undergraduate education at SU include “Civic Involvement Projects” that are conducted jointly with NGOs, and diverse extra-curricular activities supported by 48 student clubs.

Advancement of Knowledge Through Research

Graduate study at SU places major emphasis on the advancement of knowledge through research. Graduate students play an active role in developing the research capacity of the university.

Research activities at SU are carried out both in fundamental academic, and more applied fields with the aim of enriching the educational programs while contributing to socio-economic development. All research projects are conducted within the 3 Faculties, 8 Centers, and 2 Forums through an interdisciplinary approach between Science, Technology and Arts.

In line with its philosophy of being a local, regional, and global reference point, SU initiated its internationalization efforts, which are mainly attracting exchange students and full time international students, maintaining a significant number of international faculty members, and making strategic partnerships. As of 2020-2021 Academic Year, the university annually receives 55 exchange students from 14 different countries, sends 87 of its own students to 45 different universities under international exchange programs, and maintains 280+ exchange protocols with various leading universities worldwide.

Facts and Figures

- Full time faculty members: 277
- Part time faculty members: 135
- Total faculty members: 412
- Administrative staff: 368
- Dormitories’ capacity: 2,622

Information Center Collection

- Total number of Books: 626,391 (80% electronic)
- Multimedia resources: 19,505
- Database subscriptions: 83
- Journal subscriptions: 79,496 (99% electronic)