



SDG 1 - NO POVERTY

The first goal is end poverty in all its forms everywhere. So, eradicating poverty is not a task of charity, it's an act of justice and the key to unlocking an enormous human potential. Still, nearly half of the world's population lives in poverty, and lack of food and clean water is killing thousands every single day of the year. Together, we can feed the hungry, wipe out disease and give everyone in the world a chance to prosper and live a productive and rich life.

- Number of students?

17.123 students.

- Number of low income students receiving financial aid?

5152 students.

- Does your university as a body have targets to admit students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group (or a more tightly defined target) in the country?

Students are admitted to our university using a centralized system of placement exams. As per the regulation of the Council of Higher Education (YOK), low-income students who are anticipated to belong to the lowest 20% of the socio-economic spectrum are allocated 15% of the quotas in each department. This policy covers master's and doctorate programs in addition to undergraduate education. In 2023, a total of 793 full-scholarship students were admitted to our university's associate and undergraduate programs, including 16 relatives of martyrs and veterans and 95 earthquake survivors. Additionally, 92 full-scholarship students were accepted into graduate programs, including 82 at the master's level and 9 at the doctoral level. The total number of full-scholarship students across associate, undergraduate, and graduate programs in 2023 is 885.

- Does your university as a body have graduation/completion targets for students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group (or a more tightly defined target) in the country? (domestic)

The graduation rate of our university's undergraduate programs is 82%, and for associate degree programs, it is 78%. Considering the institutional support provided to students from lower-income groups—such as scholarships, part-time work opportunities, transportation assistance, psychological counseling, health services, and discounts on essential services—it is aimed that the graduation rate for students from these groups aligns with the general graduation rate. As of 2023, the graduation target for lower-income students is set at 82% for undergraduate programs and 78% for associate degree programs.

Related Links:



- Website of Üsküdar University Directorate of Health, Culture and Sports

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en>

- Website of Üsküdar University Service Hours and Route

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/student-service>

- Website Psychological Counseling Unit Information Portal

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/psychological-counseling-unit>

- Üsküdar University partner institutions and campaigns

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/45169/uskudar-universitesinin-ogrencilerine-mezunlarina-ve-calisanlarina-yonelik-kampanyalar>

- Does your university as a body provide support (e.g. food, housing, transportation, legal services) for students from low income families to enable them to complete university?

Within the framework of the university's Health, Culture, and Sports Department, a range of services is provided to students from low-income backgrounds. These include meal assistance, part-time employment opportunities, transportation support, and free psychological counseling and infirmary services. Additionally, hospital and dental clinic services are offered at discounted rates. Psychological counseling and infirmary services are also available to all students, not only those from low-income groups. Through agreements with various businesses, all students can benefit from discounts at select gyms, hotels, and restaurants. In 2023, daily transportation services were provided between the university's three campuses and metro stations. These services are available to all students, including those from low-income groups. Relevant data is provided in the evidence file. In 2023, 250 students received part-time work scholarships, while 100 students were granted meal scholarships. A total of 368 students utilized psychological counseling services, and 201 students benefited from infirmary services. Furthermore, 872 students accessed discounted services at the university's NP Brain Hospital and dental clinic. Throughout 2023, regular daily transportation services were provided between the university's three campuses and the metro stations. These transportation services were available to all students, including those from low-income groups. In 2023, 5,152 students received aid, with 885 on full scholarships. Need-based scholarships, such as the Special Deprivation, Need-Based, and Tarhan İDER Foundation Scholarships, cover full or partial tuition based on financial need. Through the Haydi Tut Elimi protocol with the Tarhan İDER Foundation, scholarships are also provided for institutional care students at Üsküdar or other universities.

Related Links:

- Üsküdar University Scholarship Regulation Website

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/images/tools/yonetmelik/17.pdf>

- Üsküdar University Scholarship Information Website



<https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/burslar>

- Website of Üsküdar University Directorate of Health, Culture and Sports;

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en>

- Webseite of Üsküdar University Service Hours and Route

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/student-service>

- Website Psychological Counseling Unit Information Portal

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- Uskudar University partner institutions and campaigns;

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- The Tarhan İDER Foundation, as the founding entity of the university, initiates social responsibility projects aimed at addressing multidimensional poverty

<https://tarhan.org/icerikler/haber>

- Üsküdar University BrainPark Incubation Center Student Information Portal

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/ogrenciyim>

- Does your university as a body have programmes or initiatives to assist students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group (or a more tightly defined target) in the country to successfully complete their studies?

Üsküdar University offers various scholarships and support for financially disadvantaged students, including low-income and institutional care students. In 2023, 5,152 students received aid, with 885 on full scholarships. Need-based scholarships, such as the Special Deprivation, Need-Based, and Tarhan İDER Foundation Scholarships, cover full or partial tuition based on financial need. Through the Haydi Tut Elimi protocol with the Tarhan İDER Foundation, scholarships are also provided for institutional care students at Üsküdar or other universities. In-kind aid addresses essential needs like food, transportation, and health, some at discounted rates. Additional support includes meal scholarships, part-time jobs, transportation aid, counseling, infirmary services, and startup support through BrainPark, accessible to low-income students upon request. In 2023, **250 students received part-time work scholarships**, while **100 students were granted meal scholarships**. A total of **368 students utilized psychological counseling services**, and **201 students benefited from infirmary services**. Furthermore, **872 students accessed discounted services at the university's NP Brain Hospital and dental clinic**. Throughout 2023, **regular daily transportation services** were provided between the university's three campuses and the metro stations. These transportation services were available to all students, including those from low-income groups. **In 2023, 5,152 students received aid, with 885 on full scholarships.**



Need-based scholarships, such as the Special Deprivation, Need-Based, and Tarhan İDER Foundation Scholarships, cover full or partial tuition based on financial need. Through the Haydi Tut Elimi protocol with the Tarhan İDER Foundation, scholarships are also provided for institutional care students at Üsküdar or other universities.

- Does your university as a body have schemes to support poor students from low or lower-middle income countries (e.g. offering free education, grants)?

International students at our university are eligible for tuition-free education under the international student scholarship program. The selection of students who benefit from these scholarships is determined by the University's Foundation Board of Trustees, based on financial need and academic achievement. As of 2023, a total of 3,452 international students are enrolled at our university, with 516 receiving scholarships. Of these scholarship recipients, 388 are from low- and lower-middle-income countries, according to the World Bank's classification. In addition to the scholarships, students are provided with free transportation, psychological counseling, healthcare services, and mentorship support. Furthermore, to address any challenges international students may encounter during their university life, a multi-unit support team, known as ISSTeam (International Student Support Team), operates within the university.

Releated Links

- International Student Scholarship Information Web Page

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/scholarships>

- Uskudar University International Student Admission Directive

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-uluslararasi-ogrenci-kabulu-yonergesi2.pdf>

- Uskudar University Scholarship Directive

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/images/tools/yonetmelik/17.pdf>

- Peer Mentoring Project for International Students (continues in 2023)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/hedef-arkadasligi-lansmani>

- Instagram page of ISSTeam: ISSTeam@uskudar.edu.tr

- Does your university as a body provide assistance in the local community supporting the start-up of financially and socially sustainable businesses through relevant education or resources? (e.g. mentorship programmes, training workshops, access to university facilities)?

Üsküdar University's BrainPark is an entrepreneurship and innovation hub that supports the launch of financially and socially sustainable businesses within the local community. It serves as a platform for entrepreneurship activities, offering resources like mentorship programs,



training workshops, business development support, and access to university facilities. Entrepreneurs use these resources to develop and implement their ideas. The Entrepreneurship Center focuses on four areas: Technological, Corporate, Social, and SME-Family Business Entrepreneurship, and operates through training, consulting, and incubation. In collaboration with the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), it aids in the commercialization of inventions from faculty, researchers, and students.

Related Links:

- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/girisimciyim>
- <https://brainpark.net/#>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/modul-5>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/u-u-arategyep-yonergesi.pdf>
- **Does your university as a body provide financial assistance to the local community assisting the start-up of financially and socially sustainable businesses?**

Although our university does not directly provide financial support to local community ventures, Brainpark Incubation Center offers significant financial assistance through free office space, training, consultancy, and mentorship services to help establish economically and socially sustainable enterprises. Since its inception, 21 startups have benefited from Brainpark's office space services, with 16 startups continuing to do so in 2023. A detailed list of the startups that utilized Brainpark's office and training services in 2023, along with their sectoral distribution, can be found in the evidence file.

Related Links:

- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/girisimciyim>
- <https://brainpark.net/#>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/modul-5>
- <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/uploads/site/30/content/files/2023-faaliyet-raporu.pdf>
- **Does your university as a body organise training or programmes to improve access to basic services for all?**

Üsküdar University hosts 81 student clubs, 17 of which actively engage in activities aimed at improving access to basic services in the community. Among these clubs are the Disaster and Emergency Management Club (AFAD), Turkish Red Crescent Club (KIZILAY), Social Assistance Club, Social Work Club, Social Solidarity and Support Club, and Young World Doctors. In 2023, these clubs organized a total of 137 events, notably coordination efforts following the earthquake on February 6, 2023. Additionally, the university's 12 Research and Application Centers and 14 Working Groups conduct direct activities to enhance community access to basic services in the context of vulnerabilities intersecting with poverty. In 2023, the relevant



Research and Application Centers conducted 165 studies, while the Working Groups carried out 105 studies, sharing results with the public through direct engagement and various university communication channels.

- Does your university as a body participate in policy making at local, regional, national and/or global level to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions?

Our university is a thematic institution in the health sector. Consequently, there is ongoing communication with policymakers at regional, national, and global levels regarding health and social policies. Data and analyses produced by our university's working groups, research, and application centers are shared with policymakers to inform policy development. Our units' work is reported in national and international media and is published on our university's television channel, official website, and social media platforms, making the generated academic knowledge accessible to the public and policymakers. Furthermore, collaborations with policymakers and NGOs are established to implement policies, particularly in health, poverty, and social services. In 2023, the relevant Research and Application Centers conducted 165 studies, while the Working Groups completed 105 studies. Some of these involved policymakers, and others were shared through various university communication channels.