

## Turkey Host School FAQ

### **When does the school year begin and end?**

School starts mid September and ends late June. In addition to a summer vacation (from mid June to mid September), students have a two weeks of semester holiday in late January/early February. Schools also close during all national and religious holidays.

### **What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?**

A typical school day in Turkey is 7-8 hours of classes (40-45 minutes each) with a 40min lunch break somewhere between. The exact schedule is different depending on the school. Some schools have 5-10 minutes between each class, while other schools schedule classes in 80 minute blocks, with 20 minute breaks between each block. Students stay in one classroom, while the teachers move from class to class.

### **In what type of school will I be enrolled?**

AFS students usually attend Anatolian high schools, special high schools based on the German "Gymnasium" system. These schools prepare students for good universities. Sometimes AFSers are placed in private high schools.

### **In what grade level will I be enrolled?**

AFS students are usually placed in 10th or 11th grade. It is rare for students to be placed in 12th grade, the final grade of high school, since students are busy preparing for university entrance exams.

### **Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?**

In most schools, students can choose to concentrate on mathematics/sciences or social studies. Students take 12 to 15 courses a semester. The science curriculum requires Turkish language and literature, history, geography, math, physics, chemistry, foreign language and physical education, with art and music optional. The social studies curriculum offers literature, philosophy, logic, history, geography, history of art and foreign languages. Most subjects are compulsory, though there may be some electives available, depending on the school. AFSers are placed in concentrations based upon their academic background and availability at their host school.

### **In what language will classes be taught?**

All teaching with the exception of foreign languages is done in Turkish.

### **Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?**

All Turkish students wear uniforms. AFSers will need to purchase a uniform in Turkey, which will cost between US\$100 and US\$200, depending on the school. Students should try to borrow required textbooks from their host family or school, but if they cannot borrow them, AFS Turkey will reimburse students for the cost. AFSers should return these books to the AFS office at the end of the school year.

**Are extra-curricular activities available?**

Although some schools offer extra-curricular activities (drama, music, sports, arts), such activities and facilities may be limited in Turkish schools.

**Are high school graduates accepted?**

Yes. Keep in mind: graduates must be recent grads (less than three months since high school graduation), they must still be within the program age ranges, they must demonstrate that they understand they will be expected to participate fully in school, and they must understand that they may be placed in school with students younger than them.

**Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?**

As long as AFSers attend school regularly and take all the necessary exams, they should be able to receive a transcript of grades and a certificate of attendance.

**Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?**

Maybe, but we can't guarantee it. The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the home country, so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart to see what is needed in order to be granted credit. In most cases, AFS students have received language, history, or social studies credits. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS cannot assist you with course or grade information after you complete the program.