

RE: Request for Cooperation to Provide Student Visa Appointments

TO:

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TO US EMBASSY ANKARA AND US CONSULATE GENERAL ISTANBUL

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

We are Turkish citizens who are accepted to be part of the universities in the United States for pursuing both undergraduate and graduate degrees. We are all eager to begin our studies in Summer 2021/Fall 2021 with the motivation to develop ourselves and enhance our knowledge to contribute to Turkey's academic and professional environment in the near future. We understand that most of the universities in the USA are working to operate fully in person in the upcoming academic year, especially due to the increased vaccination rates in the USA. We firmly believe that participating in in-person classes will be a prime opportunity for us to benefit from the education and also to enrich the legal environment that we will be in. However, we are deeply concerned that we will not be able to go to the USA due to visa uncertainties and travel restrictions.

We would like to take this opportunity to state that studentship admissions from the US institutions require years of hard work and diligence along with spending a great deal of personal effort and financial resources, which most of us are concerned about not finding in the near future again. In that regard, not obtaining a student visa will not only prevent us from getting a quality in-person education but also may cause us to lose scholarship opportunities, fellowships, and positions (e.g. research/teaching assistantships) that most of us are granted. Therefore, the non-foreseeability that we are currently facing will lead to disproportionate results. We also would like to reaffirm the fact that all of us are ready and willing to meet all expectations and precautions of the USA in relation to Covid-19 regulations.

We are aware that US consulates in other countries which have a similar number of Covid-19 cases with Turkey started to process student visa applications. We are looking for your cooperation to provide visa appointments to us in line with our class schedules, pursue in-person or online interviews, and/or grant visa exemptions.

Thank you for taking our request into consideration.