

Tourism Faculty Newsletter



2025 Volunteer Student of the Year Award



Azat HACANOĞLU, a second-year student in the Recreation Management Department, was selected as the “Volunteer Student of the Year 2025” at the gala night organized by the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports on 5 December, International Volunteer Day.

Throughout the year, our student actively took part in various volunteering activities, both individually and within the Özgecan Aslan Youth Center, contributing to youth and society. We congratulate our student, who received his award from the Governor of Antalya, Mr. Hulusi ŞAHİN, and thank him for his valuable contribution to the culture of volunteering.

Teacher’s Day Celebration

Students from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department celebrated Teachers’ Day with our Dean and academic staff on 24th of November.



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Panels and Talks Hosted by Our Faculty

“2025 Year of the Family” Event: As part of the “Social Responsibility and Awareness Project” of the Tourist Guidance Department, the panel titled “Growing with Little Hearts” was held on 19 December 2025 with the support of the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services.



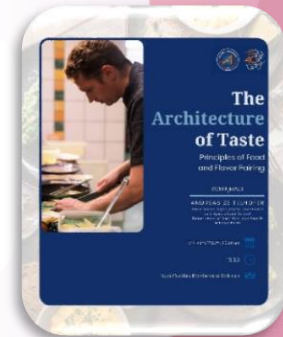
Food Waste Panel: Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department organized a panel titled “Professional Approaches and Good Practices in the Management of Food Waste and Food Loss” on 16 December 2025.

“The Architecture of Taste: Principles of Food and Flavor Pairing”: Executive Chef, instructor, and consultant Andreas ZEITELHOFER met with our students on 17 October 2025 at the Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall, sharing his international experience of more than twenty years in gastronomy and culinary arts.



Within the scope of the Human Resources Management course led by Prof. Dr. Akın AKSU in the Tourism Management Department, third-year students met with POYD Secretary General Funda ÇELİK and POYD Board Member and Baia Lara General Manager Enis ÖZSİNAN.

Within the scope of the Human Resources Management in Tourism course in the Tourism Management Master’s Program, led by Prof. Dr. Akın AKSU, students met with Hakan SEVEN, Branch Manager of Facilities and Enterprises at the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, and Mehmet ÇUBUKÇUOĞLU, General Manager of TUI Blue Palm Garden.



Panels and Talks Hosted by Our Faculty

Third-year students from the Department of Tourism Management met with Mehmet ÇUBUKÇUOĞLU, General Manager of TUI Blue Palm Garden, within the scope of the Human Resources Management course conducted by Prof. Dr. Akın AKSU.



Fighting Addiction Orientation Training: was held for our newly enrolled students on 14 October 2025 at the Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall.



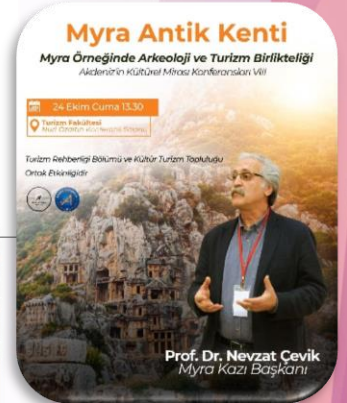
Sector-Student Meetings: On 19 November 2025, a project developed in cooperation between Akdeniz University and BHM, which includes Akra hotels in Antalya, Kemer, Sorgun, and Fethiye, was introduced at the Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall.

Sector-Student Meetings: In cooperation with our Faculty and Kirman Premium Academy, our students came together with sector professionals to discuss and provide support for their professional development.



Mediterranean Cultural Heritage Conferences: Organized in cooperation with the Tourist Guidance Department and the Culture and Tourism Student Club, the Mediterranean Cultural Heritage Conferences continued in the 2025–2026 Fall Semester with two events.

The conference titled “The Relationship between Archaeology and Tourism: The Case of Myra” was delivered by Prof. Dr. Nevzat ÇEVİK on 24 October 2025, and the conference “Aspendos: New Developments in Light of the Acropolis Excavations” was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa BİLGİN on 8 December 2025.



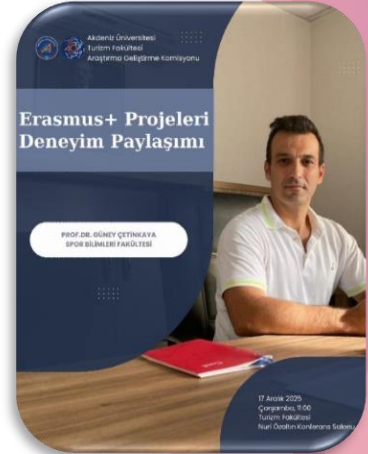
Research and Development Commission Activities

TÜBİTAK 2209-A Information Meeting: Within the scope of the TÜBİTAK 2209-A University Students Research Projects Support Program, an information meeting was held on 13 October 2025 by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN from the Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts.



TÜBİTAK Project Supports and Recent Updates: The event titled “TÜBİTAK Project Supports and Recent Updates” was held at our Faculty on 27 November 2025, with Prof. Dr. Ömer Halil ÇOLAK, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Coordinator of Institutional Research and Data Management at our University, as the invited speaker.

Erasmus+ Projects Experience Sharing: Organized by the Research and Development Commission of our Faculty, the event titled “Experience Sharing on Erasmus+ Projects” was held on 17 December 2025 with the participation of Prof. Dr. Güney ÇETİNKAYA from the Faculty of Sports Sciences.



Training in the Workplace (Intern) Info Meeting

An information meeting on the Training in the Workplace course, offered in the Spring Semester within the scope of the 7+1 Education Model, was held on Wednesday, 24 December, at the Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall for final-year students of the Tourism Management and Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department.

Internationalization Activities at Our Faculty

As part of its internationalization activities, our Faculty hosted more than 15 Erasmus students during the 2025–2026 Fall Semester. The students actively participated in courses and were also involved in social responsibility projects as volunteers. Through various events and intercultural meetings organized together with our Faculty students, they had the opportunity to learn about different cultures and share their experiences. These activities strengthened the multicultural learning environment at our Faculty and supported international interaction.



Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department's Traditional Event

A meaningful tradition was held to celebrate the graduation process of senior students in the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department, who will spend the Spring Semester in Workplace Training within the scope of the 7+1 Education Model. As every year, our first-year students prepared graduation halva for our fourth-year students. Faculty staff and students attended the event held on 27 November 2025. We wish our graduating students success in their new beginnings.

Chef Jacket and Knife Presentation Ceremony

The Chef Jacket and Knife Presentation Ceremony was held on 18 December 2025 at the Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall for first-year students of the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department. During the ceremony, students received their chef jackets and knives, which will accompany them throughout their culinary education.



Social Responsibility and Awareness Projects

Within the scope of the Social Responsibility and Awareness Project course, a total of 25 projects were completed in the Tourism Management, Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, and Tourist Guidance Departments during the 2025–2026 Fall Semester. Through these projects, our students collaborated with various institutions and individuals, carrying out many activities: awareness-raising events, environmental clean-up activities, tree planting, poster design, panels, and talks.



As part of the project conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Bahattin ÖZDEMİR from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department, the event “Sweet Lives with Differences” was held with individuals receiving treatment at Akdeniz University Daytime Psychiatry Clinic.



On 11 December 2025, students conducting projects in the Tourist Guidance Department held a talk moderated by Dr. Aylin GÜVEN HAMURİŞÇİ on “Experience Sharing Session on Social Responsibility and Awareness Projects” for students who will carry out projects in the following semester.

Within the scope of the Social Responsibility and Awareness Project conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Beykan ÇİZEL from the Tourism Management Department, students organized an online panel titled “Energy Saving on Campus.”



Finally, on 18 December 2025, all projects carried out at our Faculty were presented through a day-long poster presentation event, increasing the visibility and dissemination of the projects. We thank our students, advisor faculty members, and all supporters who contributed to the projects throughout the semester.

Our Faculty Members' Participation in Scientific Events



Our Faculty Dean, Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN; Head of the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department, Prof. Dr. Bahattin ÖZDEMİR; Vice Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN; Res. Asst. Dr. Gürkan AYBEK; Res. Asst. Dr. Hatice KARAKAŞ; and Res. Asst. Ismahan Nur ÜSTÜNDAĞ participated in the 9th International Gastronomy Tourism Research Congress, hosted by Kayseri University from 9 to 11 October 2025.

Prof. Dr. Murad Alpaslan KASALAK, a faculty member in the Recreation Management Department, participated in the Uşak Tourism Master Plan Workshop held on 23 December 2025.



Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL, Head of the Tourist Guidance Department, participated in the three-day training-of-trainers programme held from 21 to 23 November as part of the project titled “DETOUR: Developing Resilient Tourism Ecosystems along Mediterranean Routes.” The project was implemented under the European Union’s COSME Programme in cooperation with the Culture Routes Society and the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism.



The Antalya 2050 Vision Search Conference, which aimed to shape Antalya’s future in line with its sustainable development goals, was held from 12 to 14 December. Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yakın EKİN, both our Faculty members, participated in the conference and contributed to the tourism sessions.

Our Faculty Members' Participation in Scientific Events

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN participated as a speaker in the panel titled "The Effects of Healthy Nutrition on Human Health and Psychology," organised by the Akdeniz University Science Communication Community on 10 December 2025.

The panel addressed the role of healthy nutrition in both individuals' physical health and psychological well-being. Current approaches to developing healthy eating habits and interdisciplinary perspectives on the topic were also shared with the participants.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN, and Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL, participated in the meeting of the Antalya Provincial Promotion and Development Board, organised by the Governorship of Antalya and the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism on 16 December 2025.



As part of the Ancient History Seminars organised by the Research and Development Commission of the Faculty of Letters, Vice Dean of our Faculty, Assist. Prof. Dr. Nurşah ÇOKBANKİR ŞENGÜL, delivered a presentation titled "From Karkinos to Cancer: An Amulet from Antioch of Pisidia."



Best Paper Award for Our Faculty Member

The paper titled "A Bayesian Approach to Employee Turnover Dynamics in Different Food & Beverage Segments," co-authored by Prof. Dr. Beykan ÇİZEL, a faculty member at the Faculty of Tourism, received the "Best Paper" award at the 4th International Congress of New Generations and New Trends in Tourism. We congratulate our faculty member and wish him continued success.

Technical Visits by Our Students

First-year students from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department visited Cullinan Belek Hotel and Sherwood Exclusive Lara as part of Prof. Dr. Bahattin ÖZDEMİR's Introduction to Business Administration course. We would like to thank Cullinan Belek Hotel and the Sherwood Exclusive Lara family for welcoming our students.



First-year students from the Tourist Guidance Department took part in a technical visit to Karain Cave on 31 October 2025. The visit was organised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hava KESKİN, with the students accompanied by Dr. Aylin GÜVEN HAMURİŞÇİ.



As part of their coursework, students from the Department of Tourist Guidance participated in field trips to İbradı-Akseki on 13 October 2025 and Side and Aspendos on 14 November 2025, accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diren ÇAKILCI.



Students from the Tourist Guidance Department participated in a field trip to Elmalı on 15 October 2025, accompanied by Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL.

During a technical visit to Diana Travel, students from the Tourist Guidance Department had the opportunity to observe the operations and processes of travel agencies on site and receive information from industry professionals. The students were accompanied by Dr. Aylin GÜVEN HAMURİŞÇİ.



Students from the Tourist Guidance Department attended the International Antalya Tourism Fair (ATF), accompanied by Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL



On 3 December 2025, first-year students from the Tourist Guidance Department participated in a technical visit to Limak Lara De Luxe Hotel, accompanied by Dr. Aylin GÜVEN HAMURİŞÇİ and with the support of POYD and Turzem Transportation.

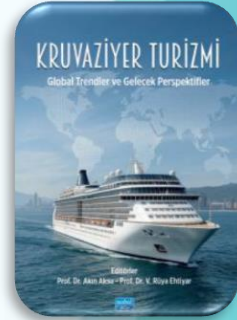


Administrative Activities and Meetings

- ❖ The peer-review activities coordinated by our University's Quality Unit were also carried out this year. The Faculty Quality Commission held meetings to evaluate the 2024 Unit Internal Evaluation Report of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. This year, site visits were also incorporated into the peer-review process across the University. In this context, on 10 December 2025, our Faculty Quality Commission held a meeting with the Quality Commission of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at their faculty and conducted a site visit. On the same date, representatives from the Faculty of Education conducted a site visit to our Faculty.
- ❖ To strengthen the educational processes of our Faculty, an internal stakeholder meeting was held with the participation of instructors from the School of Foreign Languages who teach at our Faculty under Article 13/B assignments. During the meeting, a common framework for cooperation was established by discussing the updating and regular monitoring of foreign-language curricula throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, as well as coordination in course allocations.
- ❖ The Advisory Boards of our departments were revised, and all departments within our Faculty held their Advisory Board meetings for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Book Publication

The book titled "Cruise Tourism: Global Trends and Future Perspectives", edited by Prof. Dr. Akın AKSU and Prof. Dr. Rüya EHTİYAR, faculty members of the Tourism Management Department, has been published by Nobel Publishing House.



New Issue of Our Faculty Journal

The December issue of Advances in Hospitality and Tourism Research (AHTR), our Faculty's international peer-reviewed journal indexed in Scopus, ESCI, and TR Dizin, has been published. All issues are available through DergiPark, where manuscript submissions can also be made:

<https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/ahtr>



Wishing you a happy, healthy, and successful New Year...

On Behalf of Faculty of Tourism

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