



Tourism Faculty Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC RANKING ACHIEVEMENT



According to the "QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026" report, published annually by the international higher education ranking organization Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Akdeniz University Faculty of Tourism has once again been ranked among the top 101–150 universities worldwide in its field of Hospitality & Leisure Management. Following its ranking achievements in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2025, the Faculty has also been listed in this prestigious ranking in 2026, standing as one of only two universities from Türkiye included in the academic ranking for this field.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our academic staff, stakeholders, and university administration who contributed to this achievement.



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40th Anniversary of Tourism Faculty



With its strong academic heritage, Akdeniz University Tourism Faculty continues the education and research journey it began forty years ago, contributing to scholarly knowledge, the development of qualified graduates, and the advancement of tourism literature.

The foundations of this journey were laid in the 1986–1987 academic year with 27 students. Today, the Faculty continues to grow with the same spirit of vitality and progress. Since its establishment, more than 7,000 students have graduated from our Faculty. Beyond providing vocational education, the Faculty has developed a well-established research vision that approaches tourism through its economic, social, and cultural dimensions. Enriched by interdisciplinary studies and international academic collaborations, this vision has played an important role in shaping the Faculty's strong institutional structure and academic identity.

The respected academic standing achieved today is the result of the vision and dedication of our academic staff, the energy and commitment of our students, the achievements of our graduates, the devoted work of our administrative personnel, and the continued support of all our stakeholders. This achievement is also closely connected to Akdeniz University's deep-rooted institutional tradition and its commitment to encouraging scholarly production. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Akdeniz University Tourism Faculty is ranked in the 101–150 band worldwide in its field of Hospitality & Leisure Management. In addition, since 2017, our Faculty has maintained its leading position among tourism faculties at state universities in Türkiye by admitting students to all of its departments with the highest base scores according to YKS placement results.

This forty-year legacy is not only a source of pride in our past, but also a powerful foundation for shaping the research directions of the future. In this spirit, our Faculty regards it as one of its core academic responsibilities to support innovative studies in tourism and hospitality that offer strong theoretical depth and contribute to the transformation of the sector. We aim to continue creating a scholarly environment that opens new perspectives in tourism research, encourages original academic discussions, and inspires strong future collaborations.

We sincerely thank all our academic and administrative staff, all colleagues who have served our Faculty over the years, our students who enrich this journey with their enthusiasm for learning, our stakeholders who support us through their contributions and collaborations, and our graduates who continue to make our institution proud through their achievements. Drawing strength from our past and from our shared commitment to producing knowledge together, we believe that our Faculty will continue to achieve even greater success in the years ahead.

Happy 40th anniversary to our Faculty!

*Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN
Tourism Faculty Dean*

Culinary Forum

The Culinary Forum, held on 17–18 February 2026, was officially opened with the participation of Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, Rector of Akdeniz University, and Prof. Dr. Ebru İçigen, Dean of our Faculty. Coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adem Arman, a faculty member of the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department, the event brought together academics and students from Gastronomy and Culinary Arts departments from 91 universities across Türkiye.



Academic Board Meeting

The Academic Board Meeting of our Faculty was held on Monday, 9 March 2026, at the Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall, with the participation of our faculty members. Following a presentation by Faculty Dean Prof. Dr. Ebru İçigen on academic and administrative activities, certificates of appreciation were presented to the faculty members who received the highest scores in student evaluations for the 2024–2025 spring semester and the 2025–2026 fall semester as “Best Educators.”



Research and Development Commission Event



The Research and Development Commission of the Tourism Faculty organized an event titled “Sharing Experiences from TUBİTAK Projects.” The event was held on 9 January 2026 at the Faculty’s Sebahat Özaltın Hall, with Prof. Dr. Beykan Çizel, a faculty member of the Tourism Management Department, serving as the speaker.

Talks Hosted by Faculty



On 16 March 2026, within the scope of the activities of the Tourist Guiding Department, a seminar titled “Reading Ancient Cities Together with Nature” was held. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Özlem Güzel, the seminar was delivered by Hüseyin Çağlar İnce, bioengineer, documentary filmmaker, and writer.

On 11 March 2026, a talk titled “The Future of the Animation Sector” was held at the faculty’s Nuri Özaltın Conference Hall. The event was organized with the contributions of the Tourism Research, Development and Application Centre (TAGUM), the Recreation Management Department of Tourism Faculty, and the Akdeniz University School of Tourism and Hotel Management Alumni Association (ATMED). Edip Deniz Buran, owner of Creaevents Inc. and member of the ATMED Board of Directors, participated in the event as the speaker.



On 18 February 2026, a panel titled “Career Journey and Future Perspectives in the Tourism Sector” was organized by the Tourist Guiding Department and the Culture and Tourism Students Club, with the participation of Ozan Somaklar, General Manager of ODEON Tours.

Talks Hosted by Faculty

In the scope of the Tourist Guiding Department activities, a seminar titled “Asia Minor and Faith Tourism in the History of Christianity” was held. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Özlem Güzel, the seminar was delivered by Atilla Nilgün, a specialist in faith tours.

On 9 March 2026, within the scope of the Tourist Guiding Department activities, a seminar titled “International (Outgoing) Tour Operations and Guiding Practices” was delivered by Deniz Akdeniz, one of our department graduates and moderated by Prof. Dr. Özlem Güzel.

On 16 February 2026, the event “Let’s Talk Tourism with Deniz Dikkaya in Antalya” was organized at Atatürk Conference Hall of our University in collaboration with the Culture and Tourism Students Club.



International Activities at Our Faculty

Prof. Dr. Razia Isaeva, Rector of Khazar University, Azerbaijan, visited our Faculty and met with our Dean, Prof. Dr. Ebru İçigen. During the visit, which was also attended by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Caner, Dean of the Manavgat Faculty of Foreign Languages, opportunities for bilateral cooperation in tourism education, tourism research, and foreign language education were discussed.



Our Students’ 8 March Celebration



On the occasion of 8 March International Women’s Day, students from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department celebrated International Women’s Day with the academic staff of our Faculty in the presence of our Dean.

Career Events at Faculty

On 23 February 2026, within the scope of the Career Planning course of Tourism Management Department, a talk titled “Business as a Brand” was held with the participation of Özel Oytun Türkoğlu, Deputy General Manager of San TSG.

Within the scope of the Career Planning course of Tourist Guiding Department lectured by Prof. Dr. Özlem Güzel, several graduates met with students to share their professional experiences. Kağan Özşakacı held a talk on career management in the tourist guiding profession on 10 February 2026. This was followed by seminars delivered by Mert Uçakhan on “Tourist Guiding Focusing on Korean Language and Market” on 24 February 2026, and by Şima Behen on “From Classroom to Field: The First Step into Tourist Guiding” on 10 March 2026.



MTS GLOBE TÜRKİYE YÖNETİCİLERİ
GELECEĞİN TURİZMCİLERİ İLE BİR ARAYA GELİYOR!

GELECEĞİN İK FİLTRELERİ:
ÖZGEÇMİŞİNİZ YAPAY ZEKA'DAN, MÜLAKATINIZ BİZDEN NASIL GEÇER?

TUĞÇE YOLALAN BAŞ
HEAD OF HUMAN
RESOURCES

ÜNAL BÜYÜKÇETİN
ASST. AIRPORT OPERATION
MANAGER

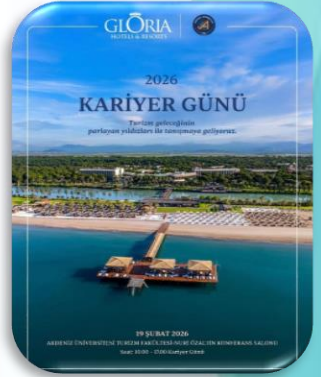
ZEYNEP MELİSA KOK
ASST. RESERVATION
MANAGER

ÖZGÜR ASLAN
EXCURSION
SUPERVISOR

AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTESİ

16 MART 2026 / 11:30 - 12:30 & 15:00 - 16:00
AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTESİ TURİZM FAKÜLTESİ
NURİ ÖZALTIN KONFERANS SALONU

The Gloria Hotels & Resorts Career Day event was held on 19 February 2026 at the Nuri Öztaltın Conference Hall.



On 4 March 2026 and 16 March 2026, within the scope of the Career Planning course of Tourism Management Department, executives from MTS Globe Türkiye met with our students for a talk titled “Future HR Filters: How Can Your CV Pass AI Screening, and How It Passes With Us?”

As part of Tourist Guiding Department activities, our students participated in a technical field trip to Alanya on 2 March 2026, accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diren Çakılcı.



Best Paper Award for Our Faculty Members

The paper titled “Re-imagining the Mutual Gaze: A Netnographic Inquiry into Ethnocultural Empathy and Tourism Experiences in Culturally Distant Destinations,” presented by our faculty members from the Tourism Management department, Res. Assist. Dr. Hatice KARAKAŞ and Prof. Dr. Beykan ÇİZEL, received the “Best Paper” award at The International Conference on Culture, Tourism, and Hospitality (ICCTH). We congratulate our faculty members and wish them continued success.

Project Success from Our Faculty Members

We congratulate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adem ARMAN, faculty members of the Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, whose projects have been awarded support within the scope of the “Gönüllüyoruz Biz” project support call by the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Participation at Academic Events

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hava KESKİN, faculty member of the Tourist Guidance Department, participated as an action member in the event “COST Action MAIA: Managing Artificial Intelligence in Archaeology – Hainburg Meeting 2026, Vienna, Hainburg an der Donau,” held on 30–31 March 2026 with the participation of AI developers, archaeologists, and academics from 16 different countries.

Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL, Head of the Tourist Guidance Department, participated as a speaker in the session titled “Tourism, Gastronomy and the Experience Economy” within the scope of the “Antalya Olive Oil Workshop,” held on 11 February 2026 in cooperation with the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, Antalya Commodity Exchange, and the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism. She was also elected as the “Chair of the Advisory Board” at the “National Tourist Guidance Congress Advisory Board” meeting held on 27 February 2026.

Executive Summaries Updated

The “Executive Summaries” publication, launched by the Tourism Management Department with the aim of building a stronger bridge between the university and the tourism sector, has been updated with the addition of publications from 2025.;

➡ https://turizm.akdeniz.edu.tr/tr/akademik_calismalar_katalogu-15797

New Issue of Our Faculty Journal



The March 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 dedicated to the 40th anniversary of our Faculty. Accordingly, this issue was published with a foreword written by our Dean, Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN. All the journal issues are open access and manuscript submissions can be made via DergiPark. <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/ahtr>

New Appointments and Academic Promotions

- ❖ Prof. Dr. Murad Alpaslan KASALAK, faculty member of the Recreation Management Department, has been appointed as the Director of the Tourism Research, Development and Application Centre (TAGUM).
- ❖ Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN, faculty member of the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department, has been appointed as the Director of the Health Tourism and Thalassotherapy Application and Research Centre (SATTMER).
- ❖ Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferhan BALCI TORUN has also been appointed to the position of Associate Professor.
- ❖ Zeynep KARSAVURAN, Onur SELÇUK, and Gürkan AYBEK have been appointed as Assistant Professors in the Department of Tourism and Gastronomy Management Programmes. Assist. Prof. Dr. Zeynep KARSAVURAN has also been appointed as the Head of the Department of Tourism and Gastronomy Management Programmes.

We congratulate our faculty members and wish them success in their new positions.

On Behalf of Faculty of Tourism

Prof. Dr. Ebru TARCAN İÇİGEN

(Dean)

Editor-in-Chief

Asst. Prof. Dr. Nurşah ŞENGÜL

Editorial Board

Asst. Prof. Dr. Zeynep KARSAVURAN

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