

Tourism Faculty Newsletter

**Our Faculty Celebrated with Great Joy the
Graduation of the Class of 2025–2026**



We would like to thank our valued industry stakeholders, academic and administrative staff, parents, and dear students who attended the Akdeniz University Faculty of Tourism Graduation Ceremony held at our University's Atatürk Conference Hall in June 2026.

We congratulate all our students who successfully graduated, particularly those who achieved honours at the Faculty and department levels. We wish them every success in the next stage of their lives.

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Tourism Faculty Alumni Meet Students

Alumni and students of the Akdeniz University Faculty of Tourism came together at a networking event organised by the Akdeniz University Tourism Faculty Alumni Association (ATMED) on Wednesday, 15 April. The event brought together students, academics, and alumni.



In the first part of the programme, the ATMED Executive Board organised a panel for students in the Faculty's Nuri Özaltın Hall. During the panel, alumni shared their experiences in the tourism sector, their career journeys, and current developments in the industry. Students had the opportunity to gain first-hand insights into the dynamics of the sector and receive guidance for their career planning.

The programme continued with a gathering in the Faculty garden, where students, academics, and alumni exchanged ideas and shared their experiences in a friendly atmosphere.

ATMED Hosts Our High-Achieving Graduates

The Akdeniz University Tourism Faculty Alumni Association (ATMED) organised a special event for students who graduated with honours in the 2025–2026 academic year.

At the event held at Rixos Park Belek, our young graduates had the opportunity to meet experienced tourism professionals and establish new connections. We thank ATMED for organising this meaningful event, which encourages our graduates to support one another, share their experiences, and grow together.

40th Anniversary Events of Our Faculty

Creative Flavours Cooking Competition



As part of our Faculty's 40th anniversary celebrations, the "UNICHEF-Tourism: Creative Flavours Cooking Competition Featuring Antalya's Geographical Indications" was held on 30 April 2026. Organised jointly by our Faculty and the Geographical Indications Application and Research Centre under the theme "Antalya's Culinary Heritage: From Tradition to the Future," the competition brought together student teams representing different Faculty's departments. The teams reinterpreted Antalya's registered geographically indicated products using modern culinary techniques and presented their creations to the jury.

Following the competition, jury member Güray PARLAK hosted all participating students and those who contributed to the event at Parlak Restaurant, one of Antalya's leading restaurants, for a lunch featuring traditional Antalya cuisine.

We sincerely thank all our stakeholders, particularly the jury members, sponsors, and students who contributed to the event.



Coffee Festival

As part of our Faculty's 40th anniversary celebrations, a lively Coffee Festival was held on 16–17 April at Sevgi Yolu on the University campus. Organised in cooperation with the Entrepreneurship and Career Office of the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports, the two-day festival featured various activities related to coffee culture and offered participants the opportunity to experience different varieties of coffee.



Activities of the Research and Development Commission

On 15 April 2026, our Faculty's Research and Development Commission organised a training session titled "Scale Selection, Scale Adaptation, and Scale Development Processes in Postgraduate Research." Delivered by our Faculty's academic staff members, Dr. Hatice KARAKAŞ and Assist. Prof. Dr. Gürkan AYBEK, the training attracted strong participation from postgraduate students.



On 27 April 2026, our Faculty's Research and Development Commission organised an online event titled "The Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Higher Education," with Dr. Seden DOĞAN from the University of South Florida participating as the guest speaker. The event, moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ece ÖMÜRİŞ, a member of the Faculty Research and Development Commission, was held via Microsoft Teams.

Kumluca District Tourism Workshop

The workshop titled "The Power of Tourism in Antalya and Its District Destinations: Tradition, Innovation, and Collaboration Workshop Series—Kumluca District Tourism Workshop" was held on 10 April 2026 under the coordination of our Faculty, the Tourism Research, Development and Application Centre (TAGUM), and Kumluca Vocational School. Many of our faculty members participated in the workshop, including our Faculty Dean, Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN, and TAGUM Director Prof. Dr. Murad Alpaslan KASALAK, a faculty member of the Recreation Management Department.



Tourism Week Event



As part of Tourism Week activities, a panel was organised in cooperation with ANTHERA, the Tourist Guidance Department, the Education and Training Coordination Board of our Faculty, and the Akdeniz University Tourism Faculty Alumni Association (ATMED).

The panel, titled “Careers and Mentoring in Tourism: Different Paths, Real Experiences,” was held on 15 April 2026 and moderated by Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL. At the end of the event, students had the opportunity to benefit from mentoring support.

Special Education Vocational School Students Gain Culinary Experience at the University

Tenth-grade students from Kepez Special Education Vocational School visited the Faculty of Tourism and participated in a workshop titled “Regional Dishes of Antalya,” organised by the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department. The event aimed to contribute to the students’ social development and support their skills in gastronomy. Working in teams, the students prepared a selection of Antalya’s regional dishes.

Cem YILDIRIM, owner of Şişçi İbo, one of Antalya’s prominent restaurants, participated as a jury member and served Antalya-style meatballs with piyaz and pumpkin dessert to the students and educators of Kepez Special Education Vocational School. We extend our sincere thanks to our stakeholder for his valuable contribution.



Akdeniz Genç-Rek-Fest 3

Akdeniz Genç-Rek-Fest 3, academically coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gülseren YURCU, a faculty member of the Recreation Management Department, was held at the University’s Zeki Budak Grass Field on 29 April 2026.

The festival featured game and workshop areas, folk dance performances, a fan dance performance, a coffee workshop, animation shows, Zumba activities, and various interactive activity areas.





Achievement of Our Student

Ece Naz YAĞIZEL, a second-year student in the Tourist Guidance Department, won third place in the Golden Pennant Competition organised by Sakarya University of Applied Sciences with her video about the Aspendos Ancient Theatre.

Technical Visits by Our Students

As part of the Flora of Türkiye course, students from the Tourist Guidance Department participated in field visits to the University campus on 8 April 2026, the Campus Botanical Garden on 15 April 2026, and Antalya Varyant on 6 May 2026, accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Orhan ÜNAL.



Students from the Tourist Guidance Department participated in a technical visit to Aksu and Serik on 1 April 2026, accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diren ÇAKILCI.



Students enrolled in the Cultural Heritage Management course of the 100% English Tourism Management Programme visited Antalya Dokuma Park on 15 April 2026, accompanied by Assist. Prof. Dr. Zeynep KARSAVURAN.

Our Faculty Members' Participation in Events

“Antalya Geographical Indications Summit”: Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN participated as a panellist in the 2nd Antalya International Geographical Indications Summit held on 17 April 2026. The summit was organised in cooperation with the Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Akdeniz University Geographical Indications Application and Research Centre (AcıMER), and the Türkiye Research Network for Local Products and Geographical Indications (YÜciTA).



“Phoenix Women in Business Summit”: Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL participated as a speaker in the “Phoenix Women in Business Summit,” held in Belek, Antalya, from 15 to 18 June 2026 under the official auspices of the Governorship of Antalya.

“The Future of Cuisine in Light of Gastronomy Trends”

Panel: Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN, Prof. Dr. Bahattin ÖZDEMİR, and Assist. Prof. Dr. Gürkan AYBEK participated as speakers in the panel titled “The Future of Cuisine in Light of Gastronomy Trends,” organised by the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Club of Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University on 4 May 2026.



Workshop Participation: Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL participated in a workshop organised as part of the European Union project titled “AI-Supported Skills Development in Tourism and Hospitality,” coordinated by the Antalya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism.

Radio Programme Appearances: Our Faculty Dean, Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN, appeared as a guest on TRT Antalya Radio’s “Hayatın İçinden” programme on 20 April 2026 and contributed to a broadcast marking Tourism Week.

Prof. Dr. Murad Alpaslan KASALAK, Director of the Tourism Research, Development and Application Centre and a faculty member of the Recreation Management Department, appeared as a guest on the same programme on 7 April 2026.

Our Faculty Members' Participation in Events

BAKİF 2026 Panel: As part of the Western Mediterranean Career and Employment Fair, hosted by Akdeniz University under the coordination of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security with the theme "The Age of Youth in Production," Faculty Member Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL delivered a panel entitled "Career Journeys in Tourism and Tourist Guiding". Certificates of appreciation were presented to the panelists by Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN, Dean of the Faculty of Tourism.



Finike Tourism Workshop: Faculty members Prof. Dr. Zeki AKINCI, Prof. Dr. Murad Alpaslan KASALAK, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Zeynep KARSAVURAN participated in the Finike Tourism Workshop, organized on 7 May 2026 under the coordination of the Finike District Governorship and in partnership with Finike Municipality.

8th National Tourist Guiding Congress: Prof. Dr. Özlem GÜZEL, Head of the Tourist Guidance Department, participated in the congress organized by Mehmet Akif Ersoy University in Burdur on 14–15 April 2026 as Chair of the Advisory Board, speaker, and panel moderator.



Osmaniye Tourism Master Plan Workshop: Prof. Dr. Murad Alpaslan KASALAK, a faculty member of the Recreation Management Department, participated in the Osmaniye Tourism Master Plan Workshop held on 22–23 June 2026.

Our Faculty Members' Participation in Events



Tourism Journalism Training: Prof. Dr. Ebru İÇİGEN, Dean of our Faculty, supported the "Tourism Journalism Training" project, organized in cooperation with the Antalya Journalists Association (AGC), the Antalya Branch of the Association of Economy Journalists (EMD), and the Association of Tourism Writers and Journalists (TUYED), by delivering a speech entitled "Understanding and Communicating Tourism."

European Archaeology Days Symposium: As part of the European Archaeology Days held from 12 to 14 June, faculty members from the Tourist Guidance Department contributed to the symposium organized at the Suna & İnan Kırac Research Center for Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED) on 12 June 2026. Asst. Prof. Dr. Nurşah ŞENGÜL delivered a presentation entitled "Interpreting Heritage, Understanding Tourism: Cultural Heritage at the Intersection of Archaeology, Ancient History, and Tourism," while Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hava KESKİN presented "The Lost Heritage of Lycia: The Xanthos Artifacts."



Administrative Activities and Meetings

An information meeting regarding the Institutional Accreditation Program was held in the Faculty Conference Hall on Tuesday, 28 April 2026.

New Issue of Our Faculty Journal

The June 2026 issue of Advances in Hospitality and Tourism Research (AHTR), our Faculty's international peer-reviewed journal indexed in ESCI, Scopus, and TR Dizin, has been published. All issues can be accessed and manuscripts can be submitted through DergiPark: <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/ahtr>

On Behalf of Faculty of Tourism
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