



These young people, who already stood out with their remarkable talents, academic achievements, and versatility when they were in high school, are now successfully

representing Turkey at the most prestigious universities in the world.

The young people from Turkey, who won scholarships from globally recognized universities such as Harvard, Yale, Bocconi and Rice, continue to be a source of pride for Turkey with the social responsibility projects they undertake in these institutions. Some dedicate their time to working in the field of women's rights, some aim to specialize in economics and mathematics, while others continue to be national team players. They may be located in different countries and universities, yet their common aspiration is to support projects which will help Turkey in the future within their field of expertise and training. We interviewed four young adults who, after graduating from high schools affiliated with the Health and Education Foundation (SEV), now attend the best universities in the world. Here are their stories:



DİLGE DEREN BUKSUR:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS BEYOND THE CAMPUS

20-year-old Dilge Deren Buksur, whose mother is a music teacher and whose father is a military officer, graduated from American Collegiate Institute in İzmir (ACI) where she was a scholarship student and in 2020, when the pandemic broke out, she received a 100% scholarship from Yale University in the USA, one of the world's leading universities. Dilge Buksur, who is currently a sophomore at Yale, is planning to study economics while completing a minor in statistics and data science. Although this is only her second year at Yale, Dilge's involvement in projects and activities are countless.

"I was in New Haven for ten weeks of my summer vacation last year. After being awarded a STEM research grant by Yale University, I worked as a data analyst at Yale Medical School and wrote a research project titled "The Impact of CAMKII Protein Expression on Synaptic Activation." Building contact with an American nonprofit working in the field of early learning and literacy called "Room to Read", I started my internship in the field of Development and Growth Strategy."

WRITER AND DATA ANALYST

Buksur, who works as the Publicity Manager in the Board of Directors of the only International Student Organization of the school, added: "I serve on the board of directors of an organization called 'Women's Leadership Initiative', which aims for female advancement in business life and build their leadership potential, as Marketing, Advertising and Social Media Director. I am a member of the school's Finance Club. I am the social media and brand marketing coordinator of the Yale Schwarzman Center for arts and collaboration and the Victoria's Secret brand on campus. I am a columnist and blogger for the Yale Daily News, America's oldest university-based newspaper, and for a country-based organization called 'The Women's Network'. I'm also producing content for Yale University's large-scale research and entrepreneurship project on Climate Change Communication".

SUPPORTING FELLOW TURKISH STUDENT COMMUNITY

Stating that they touch base with the other Turkish students at Yale, Buksur said, "We have good relations with the Turkish students who are my classmates, as well as those who represent a variety of year groups. We meet and try to support each other in academics and social areas. We organize dinners to celebrate national holidays contacting the only Turkish restaurant in the city. We have a function at the school called the Turkish Students Union, and I am pleased to serve as the Social Director of this organization".



EMIR SENDOGAN: THE YOUNG TURKISH ATHLETE ON U.S. TENNIS COURTS

Representing Turkey in five continents, Emir Şendoğan was among the three tennis players globally recruited by Rice University of USA last year after attending Tarsus American College (TAC) with an athletics scholarship. Şendoğan, who was admitted to Rice University with a tennis scholarship, is a freshman student in the department of Business Administration.

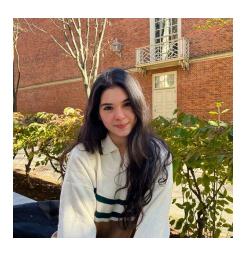
"My tennis scholarship at Rice places a great responsibility on my shoulders," says Şendoğan. "Thanks to the confidence of my head coach and the beautiful synergy we developed as a team, I am able to contribute to the rising ranking of my university in the national tennis league by strictly adhering to the training program."

TEACHING TENNIS TO JUNIORS

Şendoğan states that he spends almost all of his time outside lessons on tennis. "Every morning we have training between seven and ten. Then we go to the lessons. Still, I try to make social time and one of them is giving beginners tennis lessons on Sundays and Mondays. This is an activity which both develops love for tennis in juniors and which is a tool for my self-improvement."

"I WILL COME BACK"

Şendoğan stated that he wanted to gain work experience by staying in the USA for a while after graduation. "However, my long-term goal is to return to Turkey because I love my country and I wish to contribute to my country for the rest of my life. Besides, tennis will continue to be a part of my life".



ZEYNEP LAL KABLAN

BRINGING THE JOY AND PRIDE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY TO HARVARD

Zeynep Lal Kablan, 20, who lost her father to a heart attack when she was three years old, says that her biggest supporter is her mother. Zeynep Lal, who attended Uskudar American Academy with a scholarship for her entire high school education is now at Harvard University, her dream school since childhood, with a 120 percent scholarship. In addition to the tuition fee, this scholarship award includes external expenses such as dormitory, food, health insurance, and flight tickets. "After graduating from high school in 2020, I took a year off from my studies due to COVID-19 and right now, I have completed my first semester at Harvard" says Lal Kablan, the Harvard freshman. Talking about the very active Turkish Students' Union at Harvard, Kablan reports, "From the first moment we were accepted to the school, our friends from the university reached and supported us. Although everyone is quite busy here, the Turkish students at Harvard meet at least once a month and we organize dinners. Most recently, we celebrated the Republic Day on 29 October together."

WORKING FOR WOMEN

Emphasizing her long-time goal of becoming an academician and doing research in economics and psychology, Kablan said: "For this reason, I will move on to graduate education after completing my undergraduate degree. In the long run, I would like to work with a focus on 'women's rights', 'gender inequality' and 'violence against women' and hopefully launch some social responsibility projects in my country in the light of what I have learned. The biggest reason for my wish to return to Turkey is to design and implement projects which benefit Turkey in the area of women's rights and bring resolutions to gender inequality and violence".



ALP EYÜBOĞLU

CHOOSE ITALY FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM

A fencer for 9 years and a national team athlete, Alp Eyüboğlu attended SEV American College with a 50 percent athletic scholarship, thanks to his awards from tournaments including Mediterranean, European and World Championships. He is currently a student in International Economics and Management at the University of Bocconi in Italy. The freshman student explains the reason for choosing Bocconi University:

"As a national athlete, I participate in many tournaments in the European continent. I chose Bocconi University, one of the most reputable schools in the world as it would be more difficult to attend these tournaments from a remote location such as the U.S. or Canada, although I was accepted by many universities."

TOURNAMENTS AT FULL THROTTLE

Eyüboğlu says that trainings, camps and tournaments take up most of his time outside of school. "I continue my training at the Circolo Della Spada Mangiarotti Club in Milan. I joined the Milan Model NATO organization within the school. I work in the Promotion and Sales department. I also try to participate in the school's extracurricular programs, such as Big Data Analytics.



"THE YOUNG BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE ARE OUR GREATEST ASSET"

Recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Turkish students by being admitted to the most prestigious universities of the world, Prof. Dr. Güray Erkol, General Manager of the Health and Education Foundation said, "In the schools affiliated with the Health Education Foundation, we educate happy and global-minded individuals with strong academic level and social awareness. We are proud of the achievements of our graduates, who have been raised with a holistic education vision, in every area of their pursuit. As an extension to their academic growth, we aim for our graduates to achieve success and happiness through the skills developed in literature, sports, art and science as well as adding value to their society, environment and the world. Our four high schools have been advancing with the same vision for 150 years, and we are working to ensure that our educational mindset and opportunities are sustainable. Our goal is to continue raising generations of individuals who are prepared for whatever the future would bring, who are continuous learners, who are able to change and build the future with their learning."