

# HELPER MATERIAL: Student Residence Permit Application Guide for Turkey

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This guide provides a clear, step-by-step procedure for international students seeking to obtain a Student Residence Permit in Turkey. Understanding and following these steps precisely will help ensure a smoother application process. This information is current as of 2026 and is based on Turkish legislation, primarily Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection.

## Before You Start: Essential Preparations

- Budget for Costs:** Initial costs (as of 2026) are approximately 3200 Turkish Liras for the permit fee (may be waived for Turkish school/university students), 1000 Liras for the residence permit card, and 2000 Liras for mandatory health insurance. These are estimates and can fluctuate.
- Obtain a Turkish Tax Number:** This is crucial for various administrative tasks, including opening a bank account and signing rental contracts.
  - Where to go:** Online via the Turkish Revenue Administration website ([ivd.gib.gov.tr](http://vd.gib.gov.tr)).
  - What happens:** You will receive a unique tax number instantly.
- Review Official Requirements:** Always check the Directorate General of Migration Management (Göç İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü) website for the most up-to-date document list before preparing your application.
  - Where to go:** Official portal at [www.goc.gov.tr](http://www.goc.gov.tr).

## Student Residence Permit Application: Step-by-Step Procedure

### Step 1: Gather All Required Documents

Compile original and copies of the following documents. Any missing or incorrect documentation will cause delays.

- **1.1 Residence Permit Application Form:**
  - **Preparation:** Complete online via the e-residence system (see Step 2). A unique application number will be generated.
- **1.2 Valid Passport or Travel Document:**
  - **Requirement:** Your passport must be valid for at least 60 days longer than the duration of the permit you are requesting (e.g., 1 year + 60 days for a one-year permit).
- **1.3 Biometric Photographs:**
  - **Requirement:** Four recent biometric photographs, adhering to specific dimensions and background requirements (similar to passport photos).
  - **⚠ W1:** Ensure photos meet biometric standards; incorrect photos are a common cause of rejection.
- **1.4 Proof of Enrollment:**
  - **Requirement:** A formal student certificate (öğrenci belgesi) from your university/institution, confirming active enrollment, program, expected graduation date, and current academic term registration. An acceptance letter may suffice initially, but a student certificate is preferred.
- **1.5 Proof of Financial Means:**
  - **Requirement:** Demonstrate sufficient resources to support yourself (e.g., approximately \$500 USD per month).
    - Bank statement from an account in your name showing the minimum balance.
    - Official scholarship letter from a recognized institution.
    - Notarized undertaking from a parent/guardian with their bank statements, confirming financial support.

- **1.6 Proof of Residence:**
  - **Requirement:** Documentation showing your accommodation in Turkey.
    - Dormitory placement letter from your university.
    - Notarized rental agreement (lease contract) for an apartment.
    - Notarized declaration of undertaking from a Turkish citizen (if staying with them), accompanied by their utility bills and proof of property ownership.
    - Hotel reservation for initial stay (if applicable, until long-term accommodation is secured).
- **1.7 Health Insurance:**
  - **Requirement:** Valid health insurance covering the requested permit duration. This can be through the Turkish social security system (SGK) or a private insurance policy.

## Step 2: Online Application Submission

This is the initial step to formally apply for your permit.

- **Where to go:** The e-residence system on the official Directorate General of Migration Management website ([e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr](http://e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr)).
- **What to do:** Fill out the Residence Permit Application Form completely and accurately.
- **What happens:** Upon successful submission, a unique application number will be generated, and you will be prompted to schedule an appointment (interview) at your provincial Directorate of Migration Management. Print your completed application form.

## Step 3: Attend the Interview/Appointment

This is where your documents are formally reviewed.

- **Where to go:** Your local Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (Göç İdaresi). The address will be specified during the online application scheduling.
- **What to bring:** All original documents listed in Step 1, plus a complete set of photocopies. Bring your printed online application form.
- **What happens:** Officials will review your documents, ask any necessary clarifying questions, and may take your biometrics (fingerprints) if required. Ensure all documents are organized and easily accessible.
- **⚠️ W2:** Arrive on time with all required documents (originals and copies). Missing documents will lead to delays or rejection.

## Step 4: Await Decision

Your application will now be processed by the authorities.

- **What happens:** The Directorate General of Migration Management will review your application. You may receive updates via SMS or email, or you can check the status online using your application number. Processing times can vary.

## Step 5: Receive Your Residence Permit Card


Upon approval, your permit card will be issued.

- **What happens:** Your Student Residence Permit card will be printed and mailed to the address you provided in your application (your proof of residence address).


## After Completion: Important Considerations

1. **Keep Your Permit Safe:** Your residence permit card is an official identification document in Turkey. Keep it secure and carry a copy when outside.
2. **Report Changes:** You are legally obligated to report any changes to your address, university, or program of study to the Directorate General of Migration Management within 20 working days. If you apply to a university in different city than, you have to make an application in 10 days.
3. **Renew Your Permit:** Do not wait until your permit expires. Initiate the renewal process at least 60 days before your current permit's expiration date to avoid legal complications. The process is similar to the initial application.

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