

Refugee  
Rights  

---

Turkey

Mülteci  
Hakları  

---

Merkezi

**THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION**  
for Persons Seeking International Protection in  
Turkey

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**REFUGEE RIGHTS TURKEY: FREE LEGAL COUNSELLING & ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES**

Türkiye’de Uluslararası Koruma Arayan Kişiler İçin

**EĞİTİM HAKKI**

**İNGİLİZCE**

SORULAR & YANITLAR

**Şubat 2016  
Güncellemesi**

## **I am seeking international protection in Turkey. Do my children and I have the right to education in Turkey?**

Registering your international protection application with DGMM is a critical step in accessing the right to education in Turkey. Following your interview with DGMM authorities, you will be given an “International Protection Applicant Identity Card.” This document is free of charge and shall include your Foreigners’ ID Number starting with 99. This number will be essential in ensuring your access to primary, secondary and higher education as well as to Turkish language courses and vocational training.

## **I have a primary school-age child. How can I send him/her to school?**

As per the current legislation, regardless of their status and gender, all children have the right to compulsory education in Turkey. Thus, your child is entitled to access education in public schools. Compulsory and free education in Turkey is 12 years and comprises three stages: 4 years of primary school (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade), 4 years of lower-secondary school (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade), and 4 years of upper-secondary school (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade). The language of instruction in public schools is Turkish.

## **How can I enroll my child in public school for compulsory education? Do I have to pay? Will my child receive a diploma?**

You may enroll your child in public schools in your place of residence with your “International Protection Applicant Identity Card” or with your “International Protection Status Holder ID.” Enrollment procedures are determined by the Provincial Education Commission at the province; however, in general it is important to present documents demonstrating previous school attendance or certificates or diplomas. If you do not have these documents, the Provincial Education Commission, and in some provinces, the District Education Commission, will carry out a grade placement test. This test will be either oral or written, and in some cases both. Following this assessment, your child will be placed in an appropriate grade level.

However, if you have not completed your registration or if you have not been issued a Foreigners' ID Number yet, you may still enroll your child in public schools. In the absence of these documents your child will be enrolled with a “guest student” status. It is possible to change this “guest status” once you obtain your Foreigners' ID Number.

Education is free in all public schools. The language of instruction in public schools is Turkish and classes are carried out in accordance with Turkish curriculum. Students who have successfully fulfilled requirements in public schools are also entitled to receive a diploma.

## **I want to go to a high school. What should I do?**

Children who have successfully completed 8 years of compulsory education are entitled to enroll in high schools. It is therefore important to present documents demonstrating previous school attendance or certificates or diplomas. If you do not have any of these documents, you must approach the Provincial Education Commission for a grade replacement test. This test will be carried out either orally or in written (in some cases both). Following this assessment, your child will be placed in an appropriate grade level.

## **Can persons seeking international protection enroll in universities in Turkey?**

The completion of primary and secondary education in Turkey is the first requirement for accessing higher education. Students who have completed their education in public schools in Turkey are considered to fulfill this criterion.

All foreigners who would like to enroll in universities in Turkey should take the Examination for Foreign Students (YÖS), administered by universities, and pass the exam. You may also be required to pay an application fee to take this exam. In addition, universities have the discretion to introduce additional attestation requirements for documents concerning previous education. We therefore recommend you to consult the Foreign Student Departments or websites of universities to obtain detailed information on requirements and announcements.

It is important to note that you are not required to withdraw your international protection application in order to enroll in universities in Turkey. If your university is in a province other than your assigned “satellite city”, you will need to submit a petition to the local DGMM authorities and request a “satellite city” change on this ground. Please attach relevant documents demonstrating your enrollment to this petition. Please also bear in mind that as

your address shall change upon changing your “satellite city,” you are required to communicate your new address to local DGMM authorities in your new “satellite city” within 20 working days. Should you fail to do so, you may risk an administrative fine.

## **I want to learn Turkish. Who can help me?**

All children, young persons and adults who wish to learn Turkish may approach Public Education Centers (Halk Eğitimi Merkezi). These centers provide free courses and you are required to present your “International Protection Applicant Identity Card” to register with these centers.

In addition, several civil society organizations also run free Turkish language courses. You may call us to inquire about the availability of free Turkish language courses in your province.

## **I want to receive vocational training. What are my opportunities?**

You may approach Public Education Centers to receive vocational training. These courses are also free. However, it must be noted that each Public Education Center has the right to determine which course it shall offer in a year and may open new courses on demand. We therefore recommend that you approach your local Public Education Center to inquire about available courses. Please also note that you shall be required to present your “International Protection Applicant Identity Card” to benefit from these courses.

There are also other civil society organizations which provide free skills, hobby and vocational courses. You may call us to inquire about the availability of such courses in your province.

# Refugee Rights Turkey- Contact Information:

Wherever you may be in Turkey, you are welcome to visit our office or get in touch with us by telephone, fax or email all week days from 10:00am to 17:00pm in relation to any questions you may have regarding your rights and obligations as asylum seekers and any problems you may encounter in the legal procedures for asylum in Turkey.



Dr. Refik Saydam Cad. Dilber Apt. No: 39 Daire: 11 Kat: 4

Şiřhane, Beyođlu - İstanbul



+90 212 292 48 30



+90 212 292 48 33



info@mhd.org.tr





# Mülteci Hakları Merkezi


## Refugee Rights Turkey

 Dr. Refik Saydam Cad. Dilber Apt. No: 39 Daire: 11 Kat: 4

Şiřhane, Beyođlu - İstanbul

 +90 212 292 48 30

 +90 212 292 48 33

 info@mhd.org.tr

[www.mhd.org.tr](http://www.mhd.org.tr)

This resource is produced by **Refugee Rights Turkey** within the context of a project run in co-operation with U.S.A. based **Refugee Solidarity Network** and **Dutch Council for Refugees** and supported by **US Department of State, Bureau of Population Refugees, and Migration**.



Refugee Rights Turkey



Refugee Solidarity Network



US Department of State  
Bureau of Population,  
Refugees, and Migration