

NEWS FROM SABANCI UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2026

Sabancı University 2026 Graduation Ceremony Was Held on 27 June 2026

Sabancı University celebrated its 24th undergraduate and 27th graduate commencement ceremony held on the Tuzla campus. This year, nearly 1200 students from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Sabancı Business School received their diplomas. The ceremony was attended by **Sabancı University Board of Trustees Chair Hayri Çulhacı**, **Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici**, faculty members, and the families of the graduating students.

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Sabancı University to Shape Türkiye's Quantum Ecosystem

Sabancı University will make strong contributions to Türkiye's strategic breakthrough in quantum technologies within the scope of the SSB Quantum Program, implemented in cooperation with the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB).



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Sabancı University Leads with 27 New TÜBİTAK 1001 Projects

The results of the 2nd term of the TÜBİTAK-ARDEB 1001 Program for 2025 once again revealed the universities with the top research performance in Türkiye. Sabancı University became the university receiving the most support within the scope of the program, with 27 new projects approved in this call and a budget of approximately 62 million TL. It also stood out with highest project productivity per faculty member, when considering the number of its academic staff.



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In his speech at the ceremony, **Sabancı University Board of Trustees Chair Hayri Çulhacı** said that Sabancı University, which has celebrated its 25 years, has a unique place in higher education. Çulhacı said, "A university is, above all, a human union. It is collective wisdom, an intellectual ecosystem. It is a place where knowledge is shared, discussed, tested, multiplied and produced again. The university is an environment where the right questions are asked; it is an environment that allows people to understand the world, society and themselves, and liberates the human mind. The founding story of Sabancı University was born from this understanding."

Hayri Çulhacı stated that Sabancı University has been designed with a participatory approach, focusing on collective wisdom, free thought, and the philosophy of "creating and developing together" since its establishment, and added: "Our university has a unique place in higher education with its structure that focuses on research, interdisciplinary education, civic involvement, and the student."

Hayri Çulhacı pointed out that scientific knowledge, ethical awareness, social responsibility, creativity, and cooperation are needed at the same time to understand and solve problems in today's world. Çulhacı addressed the graduates: "We are in an age where digitalization, artificial intelligence and new technologies transform every aspect of life. In the future, there will be a need for people who use technology well, as well as people who can direct technology with conscience, ethics and for the benefit of humanity. Our expectation from you is to see knowledge as power, but do not separate power from responsibility. Aim for success, but do not separate success from human values. No matter how difficult the conditions are, do not leave the light of science. Do not give up on human rights, the rule of law, equality, and peace."

In his speech, Hayri Çulhacı reminded the students of Atatürk's words, which are also on the university campus: "My spiritual heritage is science and reason." Çulhacı continued as follows: "This promise is also the compass of Sabancı University. It is a greater responsibility today than ever to maintain a libertarian and principled stance, in harmony with universal values, under the guidance of reason and science."

Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, in his speech at the ceremony, said, "At Sabancı University, we have never compromised on our ambitious path, which we have pursued with the same energy and determination since our establishment. In recent years, we have accelerated these efforts even further, taking strong steps towards achieving the position we deserve among world universities. In this new era, where our institution has further increased its national and global ambitions, raised the bar even higher, and is now truly progressing towards becoming a world university, exciting achievements await us."

Yusuf Leblebici, referring to the achievements of Sabancı University, stated the following: "Our unique and proven education system, unparalleled in Türkiye, and our approach that allows freedom of program choice, enable our graduates to enter working life as confident and fully equipped individuals who have received education in line with their own preferences. With a total of 5,000 students, we are raising competent graduates in the most sought-after disciplines who can respond quickly to the changing needs of the business world. Our female student ratio exceeds 40% across the university, including all our engineering and natural sciences programs. 97% of our graduates enter the workforce in their preferred sectors immediately after receiving their degrees, or they can continue their postgraduate education in any country and at any university they choose."



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Yusuf Leblebici emphasized that their goal is not only to be the best in Türkiye, but also to transform into a truly globally recognized and appreciated research university, stating: "Our success graph continues to rise every year. According to independent evaluations by London-based Times Higher Education, we are now ahead of many prestigious European universities in research quality. In the QS World University Rankings, we rose 47 places this year. In the last two years, we have risen a total of 159 places, becoming the fastest-rising university in Türkiye. We have an active budget of over \$60 million for our research projects, funded solely by external sources. Last year, we stood out in this area with 42 new research projects supported by TÜBİTAK. In the last three years, 57 startups from our Incubation Center have qualified for TÜBİTAK entrepreneurship support. Our center, which alone produces 15% of the new startups supported in Türkiye, is currently ranked first in the country as the most successful incubation structure by far. These results show that we are beginning to achieve the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves. Of course, we still have a long way to go. However, as a relatively young university, the point we have reached so far fills us with pride."

Underlining that the world the graduates will enter is currently undergoing a very rapid process of change and is quite different from the world of just a few years ago, Yusuf Leblebici concluded his speech by saying, "In the world you will live in, geopolitical uncertainties, environmental and climate issues, energy, food security, as well as the opportunities and threats brought by artificial intelligence applications will be at the forefront. Just as business models are fundamentally changing in all sectors, we will see some global companies that are currently dominant in their fields disappear in just a few years, and completely new structures replace them. The most important keys to success in such a rapidly changing world are the ability to adapt quickly to change, to work in an interdisciplinary way, and to have the ability to constantly improve oneself."

Faculty Valedictorians Awarded

At the ceremony, the valedictorians of each faculty received awards provided by the fund established in the will of the late **Sakıp Sabancı, Honorary Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees**. The awards were presented to Sude Tıraş, valedictorian of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Darya Skripnik, valedictorian of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; and İpek Ersalıcı, valedictorian of Sabancı Business School, by **Melisa Sabancı Tapan, Member of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees**.

Professor Dr. Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun, a faculty member at Boston University and Chief Scientist at Emerald AI, attended the ceremony as an honorary speaker. **Professor Dr. Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun**, one of Sabancı University's first graduates, began her speech by saying, "When we started at Sabancı University in 1999, we weren't actually enrolling in a university, but in the idea of creating a world-class university from scratch. Sabancı University didn't just give me a degree; it actually gave me a passport to the world." Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun continued: "Even today, my path crosses with people from Sabancı University at many important points in my life. In academia, technology, entrepreneurship, and in different countries around the world... Strong universities don't just produce graduates; they create lifelong communities." Touching on the importance of a culture of achieving together, Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun said, "Throughout my career, I have seen this: The common feature of significant achievements in science, technology, and entrepreneurship is that they are team efforts. How you build a team, what problems you decide to solve, and where you want to make an impact can lead to much greater results over time. The leaders of the future will also be people who can build bridges between different worlds." At the end of her speech, Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun addressed the new graduates: "Don't lose your curiosity. Don't lose your courage. Don't lose your desire to create together and your principles. Ideas that change the world often begin with someone stepping into the unknown. Now it's your turn."

The ceremony continued with a speech by Ahmet **Emir Gül, the Alumni Student Representative and a student in the Industrial Engineering Program at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences**. Ahmet Emir Gül expressed his feelings as follows: "The years we spent at Sabancı University taught us not to accept established norms, but to question, to think together, and to reach the truth. Our path is clear, our compass is our conscience, and our Republic is our greatest source of inspiration. Those who build the future change it, not those who wait for it."

Following the presentation of doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degrees, the Sabancı University 2026 graduates expressed their joy by throwing their caps into the air.



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At the ceremony held in Ankara with the participation of YÖK President Prof. Dr. Erol Özvar and the President of the Defense Industries Prof. Dr. Haluk Görgün, Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici signed the Defense Industry Quantum Technologies Strategic Competence Development Cooperation Protocol and the Superconducting Quantum Processor Unit (QPU) Development Project on behalf of the university.

Sabancı University to Train Human Resources for the Future of Quantum Technologies

Within the scope of the Defense Industry Quantum Technologies Strategic Competence Development Cooperation Protocol, Sabancı University will lead education and research activities aimed at training qualified human resources needed by the defense industry ecosystem in the fields of quantum computing, quantum sensing, and quantum communication. Our university will accelerate the development of Türkiye's quantum ecosystem by developing its programs in quantum and related technology fields in line with sector needs.

Türkiye's Domestic Quantum Processor to be Developed

Sabancı University will actively participate in the Superconducting Quantum Processor Unit (QPU) Development Project, which will make significant contributions to Türkiye's strategic breakthrough in the field of quantum technologies. The project, which aims to develop a superconducting quantum processor unit of at least 5 qubits entirely with domestic resources, will make significant contributions to strengthening Türkiye's research and development capacity in the field of quantum technologies. The project, which will last 48 months, will be carried out within a structure where ASELSAN is the client and approver, and the Presidency of Defense Industry is the final approving authority, with Sabancı University and TÜBİTAK National Metrology Institute (TÜBİTAK UME) as joint contractors.



The project will be led by Prof. Dr. İsmet İnönü Kaya, Faculty Member of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences at Sabancı University; with contributions from Prof. Dr. Özcan Öztürk, Faculty Member of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Yılmaz Şimşek, Principal Investigator of SUNUM.

Sabancı University Will Strengthen Türkiye's Quantum Vision

With this strategic initiative, Sabancı University will shape Türkiye's quantum ecosystem through its research in quantum technologies, the human resources it will train, and the technologies it will develop. Through strategic collaborations and pioneering R&D projects, our university will make strong contributions to increasing our country's competence in critical technologies and achieving a globally competitive position in quantum technologies.

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According to the evaluation results of the 2025 - 2nd term of the 1001-Scientific and Technological Research Projects Support Program, 17 projects from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, 4 from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 1 from Sabancı Business School, 2 from EFSUN, 1 from SUNUM, and 2 from TÜMER were found deserving of support.

The program will also support 9 postdoctoral researchers, 28 doctoral students, 26 master's students, and 1 undergraduate student as scholarship recipients. This demonstrates Sabancı University's strong performance not only in terms of the number of projects but also in developing qualified human resources and sustainable research capacity.

Our projects that received TÜBİTAK 1001 support in the 2nd period of 2025:

SABANCI UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES

- The project **"A Fully Decentralized and Scalable Federated Learning Infrastructure with Fair Participation that Protects Data Privacy and Model Integrity for Health and Finance Applications"**, of which our faculty member Albert Levi is the principal investigator, with Beyhan Adanur Dedetürk from Abdullah Gül University as researcher.
- The project **"High Accuracy Modeling of Machining Processes with Physics-Based Machine Learning"**, of which our researcher Arash Ebrahimi Araghizad is the principal investigator, with our faculty members Erhan Budak and Kemal Kılıç, and Umut Karagözel from Yıldız Technical University as researchers.
- The project **"Determination of Trajectory Parameters of X-ray Binaries and Temporal and Spectral Analysis of Their Long-Term Variations"**, of which Can Güngör from Istanbul University is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Ersin Göğüş as researcher.
- The project **"Dynamics of Weighted Shifts on Directed Graphs"**, of which our faculty member Dimitrios Papathanasiou is the principal investigator.
- The project **"Understanding the Physics of Jet Formation and Disappearance in Black Hole Binary Systems by Studying Flare Emissions and Decays with Multiband Observations and the Most Advanced General Relativistic Magnetohydrodynamic Simulations,"** of which our faculty member Emrah Kalemci is the principal investigator.
- The project **"Non-Equilibrium Dynamics of Open Quantum Systems,"** of which our faculty member Göktuğ Karpat is the principal investigator, with Barış Çakmak from SUNY Farmingdale as researcher.
- The project **"Diffusion-Assisted Nucleated Ray Tracing for New Appearance Synthesis with Gaussian Interdivision,"** of which our faculty member Hüseyin Özkan is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Erhan Aptoula as researcher.
- The project **"Innovative Soft-Legged Mobile Robot Design and Development"**, of which our faculty member Melih Türkseven is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Ezgi Karabulut Türkseven and Ali Fallah from Atılım University as researchers, and our faculty members Kemalettin Erbatur and Bahattin Koç as advisors.
- The project **"FlexiCampus: Integration of Behavior, Prediction and Optimization for Sector-Integrated Smart Campuses"**, of which our faculty member Nikolaos Koltsaklis is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Erdal Aydın as researcher.
- The project **"Decomposition and Combination of Twisted Functions"**, of which our faculty member Nurdagül Anbar Meidl is the principal investigator, with Buket Özkaya from METU as researcher, and Enes Pasalic from Primorska University as advisor.
- The project **"Development of LLM-Supported Dynamic Web Honeypots and Analysis of Aggressive Behaviors"**, of which our faculty member Orçun Çetin is the principal investigator.
- The project **"Time-Dependent Transportation Durations and Double-Visit Service Logistics"**, of which our faculty member Ömer Erhun Kundakcioğlu is the principal investigator.
- The project **"Heterogeneous Convolutional Neural Network Accelerator Design for Resource-Constrained Edge-Based Computing Applications"**, of which our faculty member Özcan Öztürk is the principal investigator.
- The project **"New Synthesis Strategies, Microstructural Design, and Capacitive Energy Storage Performances of Chromium, Nickel, and Molybdenum-Containing Borocarbide and Borosilite-Based Advanced Functional Materials"**, of which Özge Balcı Çağiran from Izmir Institute of Technology is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Emre Erdem as researcher.
- The project **"MSN-BRAIN: Biocompatible Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles for Precise Drug Delivery in Breast Cancer Brain Metastases"**, of which our researcher Sahar Porrang is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Nur Mustafaoglu as advisor.
- The project **"Broadband Front-End Circuit Design for Dual-Band 60/77 GHz FMCW Automotive Radars"**, of which our postdoctoral researcher Samira Firouz is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Yaşar Gürbüz as advisor.

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- The project **“Computational Cognitive Mediation Model (HCM) for Adaptive Interaction in Augmented Reality”**, of which our faculty member Selim Balcısoy is the principal investigator.
- The project **“Development of Phononic Sandwich Composite Structures with Adaptive Band Gap Behavior through Innovative Integrated Design and 4D Printing”**, of which our faculty member Bekir Bediz is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Bahattin Koç as researcher, and our faculty member Kamer Kaya as advisor.
- The project **“Effect of Electrode Thickness on Electric Vehicle Battery Performance: Model-Based Evaluation and Long-Term Simulation”**, of which our faculty member Tuğçe Yüksel Bediz is the principal investigator, with Elif Ceylan Cengiz from Siro Energy and Recep Önlü from Gebze Technical University as researchers, and Damla Eroğlu Pala from Boğaziçi University as advisor.

SABANCI UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- The project **“Smart and Selective Memory Activation Model”**, of which our faculty member Eren Günseli is the principal investigator.
- The project **“Mobility and Urban Settlement Patterns, Experiences, and Practices of Syrians Amidst Return Expectations: A Translocal Study from Türkiye and Syria”**, of which our faculty member Kristen Biehl is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Aslı İkizoğlu Erensu as researcher and scholarship recipient Samer Sharani as contributor.
- The project **“The Effect of Semantic Relationship and Context on Episodic Memory Performance and Misremembering”**, of which our faculty member Nihan Alp is the principal investigator.
- The project **“Optimism Bias and Positive Mood Panel Studies”**, of which our faculty member Robert Booth is the principal investigator.

SABANCI BUSINESS SCHOOL

- The project **“Investigation of Academic Entrepreneurship Processes Through Entrepreneurial Learning Approaches: The Case of Türkiye”**, of which our faculty member Berna Beyhan is the principal investigator, with İ. Semih Akçomak from METU as researcher.

EFSUN

- The project **“Development of a Next-Generation Needleless Injection Device with Hydrodynamic Cavitation Effect for Cisplatin Treatment of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Cells”**, of which our faculty member Gül Kozalak is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Ali Koşar and SUNUM researcher Özlem Kutlu as researchers, and our faculty member Morteza Ghorbani, Merva Soluk Tekkeşin from Ankara University, Özkan Alan from Istanbul University, and Hüseyin Üvet from Yıldız Technical University as advisors.
- The project **“Continuous Exfoliation of 2D Nanomaterials with a Three-Stage Rotating Hydrodynamic Cavitation Reactor”**, of which our faculty member Morteza Ghorbani is the principal investigator, with our faculty member Ali Koşar and Iakovos Tzanakis from Oxford Brookes University as researchers, and our faculty member Fevzi Çakmak Cebeci as advisor.

TÜMER

- The project **“Carbon Fiber/PEEK and Carbon-Aramid/PEEK Intraply Composites Functionalized by Cold Spraying: A Holistic Approach from Production to Repair”**, of which our faculty member Burcu Saner Okan is the principal investigator, with our Vice President for Research and Development Mehmet Yıldız, Hasan Ulus from Selçuk University, and Bertan Beylergil from Alaattin Keykubat University as researchers.
- The project **“Development of Hybrid Steels and Additive Manufacturing Applications by Cold Spraying Process”**, of which Syamak Hossain Nedjad is the principal investigator, with our Vice President for Research and Development Mehmet Yıldız as advisor.

SUNUM

- The project **“Development of Dispense-Printed Lithium-ion Batteries and Perovskite Solar Cells for Photo-Rechargeable Energy Storage Systems”**, of which our researcher Serap Hayat Soytaş is the principal investigator.

We congratulate our faculty members and researchers for their achievements and thank the SUATT Project Partners for their contributions and support.

Sabancı University and Melisa Sabancı Tapan Launch a New Platform Focused on "Remaining Human" in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: AI.SU



AI.SU, a videocast/podcast series created by Melisa Sabancı Tapan, a member of the Sabancı Holding Board of Directors and the Sabancı University Board of Trustees, has launched. The platform, which views artificial intelligence not merely as a technological advancement but as a social and existential transformation, seeks to answer the question: "What do we want to preserve as humans amidst the rapid pace of technology?"

Melisa Sabancı Tapan, a member of the Sabancı Holding Board of Directors and the Sabancı University Board of Trustees, who views the current state of artificial intelligence systems not merely as a technological leap but as an existential threshold, is leading the way in transforming academic knowledge in this field into societal benefit. AI.SU, prepared under the leadership of Melisa Sabancı Tapan and with the participation and support of Sabancı University President Prof. Yusuf Leblebici, positions itself as an initiative that opens up discussions on value systems, decision-making processes, and human relations in the age of artificial intelligence through the lens of different disciplines. The first output of this initiative, a videocast/podcast series, was launched on April 30th. Prepared with a language free from technical jargon, the series aims to make artificial intelligence discussions more accessible to a wider audience.

“The issue isn’t just how far technology has advanced, but what we will preserve as humans within this speed.”

Drawing attention to the fact that the relationship between artificial intelligence and society is a critical threshold from both a human and existential perspective, Melisa Sabancı Tapan said: “Today, when we talk about artificial intelligence, we often talk about speed, efficiency, and capacity. However, the real issue is what we will preserve as humans within this technological transformation. We need to talk about whether we can carry empathy, compassion, fairness, human dignity, and our capacity to form genuine connections together. That’s why I value AI.SU. Our aim is to make artificial intelligence an issue that not only experts but also broader segments of society can understand, follow, and think about. Because remaining human is possible not only by developing technology but also by deciding together what kind of future we want to build with it.”

Artificial intelligence from economics to psychology, from popular culture to daily life

Artificial intelligence should not be seen as a distant and abstract concept belonging only to the world of technology; AI.SU, which addresses artificial intelligence as a tangible transformation affecting our decisions, relationships, habits, and outlook on the future in daily life, features guests selected from among those who will make artificial intelligence visible through its real impacts in different fields. Within this broad framework, ranging from economics to psychology, space science to popular culture, the guests of AI.SU include internationally prominent figures such as Dr. Ece Kamar, Microsoft Corporate Vice President (CVP) and Managing Director of AI Frontiers Lab; Prof. Dr. Avi Loeb, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University; Bünyamin Aydın, Founder of Les Benjamins; Prof. Dr. Özgür Demirtaş, Head of the Finance Chair at Sabancı University; and Prof. Dr. Özlem Ayduk, Psychologist and Faculty Member at the University of California Berkeley.

AI.SU is available to viewers through Sabancı University's YouTube, Spotify, and Meta accounts. You can follow the content via the links below.

sabanciuniv.edu/AI.SU

Sakıp Sabancı Commemorated on the 22nd Anniversary of His Passing with the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards

The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards and Commemoration Ceremony was held on April 7, 2026, at the Sabancı Center. At the ceremony, the late Sakıp Sabancı, Honorary Chair of Sabancı University, was commemorated on the 22nd anniversary of his passing. The winners of the Article Award for the 2026 awards program, themed "Rethinking Cross-Border Governance," were also announced at the ceremony. Within the scope of the program, the Special Jury Prize was given to political scientist Prof. Dr. Peter J. Katzenstein, Walter S. Carpenter Jr. Professor of International Studies at Cornell University.

Sabancı University Honorary Chair Sakıp Sabancı was commemorated with a ceremony on the 22nd anniversary of his passing. At the ceremony held at the Sabancı Center, the winners of the 2026 Article Award, established in accordance with Sakıp Sabancı's will, were also announced. The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards and Commemoration Ceremony was attended by Sabancı University Board of Trustees Chair Hayri Çulhacı, Sabancı University Board of Trustees Member Melisa Sabancı Tapan, and numerous other guests.



"Sakıp Sabancı's legacy is a responsibility that guides us towards the future"

Sabancı University Board of Trustees Chair Hayri Çulhacı said in his speech at the ceremony: "We are gathered here today to commemorate Sakıp Sabancı, our Honorary Chair and the founder of our university, who made a great contribution to the Sabancı Group's success with his vision and values, on the 22nd anniversary of his passing; and also to announce the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards, established in accordance with his will. Sakıp Sabancı was a very successful businessperson. He was passionate and enthusiastic at all times. And his passions often transcended his work. His two greatest passions were the Sakıp Sabancı Museum and Sabancı University. He successfully realized both during his lifetime. I wish he could have seen the point our university has reached today. I believe his pride would have multiplied. Sakıp Sabancı's legacy is a responsibility that guides us towards the future. Our duty is to carry this legacy forward, in line with the requirements of the age."

"Sabancı University is an institution that produces knowledge and develops ideas for our country and the world."

Noting that 26 years have passed since the establishment of Sabancı University, Hayri Çulhacı said, "Today, we have thousands of graduates, thousands of scientific publications, and strong academy-industry collaborations. Our university has achieved a respected position both in our country and internationally. Sabancı University is an institution that produces knowledge and develops ideas for our country and the world. The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards are an important part of this understanding."



"The impact of investment in science transforms not only the present but also generations."

In his speech, Hayri Çulhacı emphasized that in the transformation process where uncertainties are increasing, borders are being redefined, and global balances are being re-established, there is a greater need than ever for scientific thinking, free research, and interdisciplinary perspectives. Çulhacı continued: "At Sabancı University, we are committed to contributing to the future by protecting critical thinking and a free academic environment, guided by science. In times of uncertainty, our greatest strength is our commitment to reason and science. And we know that investment in science is the most profitable investment, because its impact transforms not only the present but also future generations."

The 2027 Theme: “Regulating Intelligence: Democracy, Markets, and Global Order in the Digital Age”

Sabancı University Board of Trustees Member Melisa Sabancı Tapan stated: “We are all interconnected. There is a transnational, trust-based agreement between us. Sakıp Sabancı’s understanding of unity and togetherness was also nourished by this idea. The awards we are giving in his name today represent the continuation of this bond and shared responsibility.” Melisa Sabancı Tapan noted that the transformation, ranging from artificial intelligence to data architecture, is also central to democracy, labor, and the global order, adding, “If we cannot direct this power with fairness, we risk creating new inequalities instead of strengthening our bonds. With this sense of responsibility and the strength we derive from Sakıp Sabancı’s vision that understands both the present and the future, we have chosen “Regulating Intelligence: Democracy, Markets, and Global Order in the Digital Age” as our 2027 award theme.”



“We must manage technology in a way that serves our common future.”

Drawing attention to the fact that it is no longer enough to simply use technology today, Melisa Sabancı Tapan said, “We must manage it in a way that serves human dignity and our common future. This shows that we need the guidance of science more than ever. Today, we are adding another layer to the question we have been asking since our existence: To remain human. Sakıp Sabancı used to say, ‘Continue the search for unity and togetherness in every endeavor and at every opportunity.’ Our being together here today is the most concrete indication that this search is still ongoing.”

The Special Jury Prize was bestowed upon political scientist Prof. Dr. Peter J. Katzenstein.

Political scientist Prof. Dr. Peter J. Katzenstein was awarded the Special Jury Prize within the scope of the 2026 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards. Prof. Dr. Peter J. Katzenstein, a political scientist and Walter S. Carpenter Jr. Professor of International Studies at Cornell University, was awarded the Special Jury Prize. Peter J. Katzenstein stated, “I am extremely grateful to the Sabancı Foundation and Sabancı University for their invitation and the honor that it entails. I learned that the original meaning of Sabancı means working the land. Hacı Ömer Sabancı worked as a laborer picking cotton on a plantation before becoming a broker, trader, and manufacturer of textiles in the 1930s. Subsequently, he created one of the largest business conglomerates in Türkiye. He surely did not expect that, a century later, his family would have risen to such heights that it could establish a famous foundation and a first-rate university. Both are testimony to a deep commitment to critical inquiry, learning, and democracy -- values always and everywhere open to serious challenge.

“The social sciences, including the science of world politics, sideline uncertainty.”

Focusing on the concept of “surprise” in his speech, Prof. Dr. Katzenstein continued: “Our ignorance is unavoidable, remediable, and full of surprises. Surprise is a feature of a world filled with chance events. The social sciences, including the science of world politics, sideline uncertainty. It looks to me like we are all afraid of uncertainty because we are afraid of losing control. Instead, we believe fervently that everything can be calculated. How, then, should we deal with surprise? Not with big leaps and final solutions that have caused so much harm and suffering in world history. Albert Camus wrote: “he who dedicates himself to . . . history dedicates himself to nothing, and, in turn, is nothing. But he who dedicates himself to the duration of his life, to the house he builds, to the dignity of mankind, dedicates himself to the earth . . . and sustains the world again and again.” Le Mythe de Sisyphe describes our arduous task as we cope with surprise. Sisyphus was condemned to push a heavy boulder up the hill, again and again, and to watch as it rolled down the hill, again and again. Camus ends his story – surprisingly -- with hope, not despair: we must imagine Sisyphus to be happy.”

Within the scope of the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards, the 2026 Article Award was given to Associate Professor Barış Çaylı Messina from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Lincoln University for his work titled “Planetary Dissent: Global Movements, Protective Criminalization and the Exhaustion of Sovereignty” and to Dr. Esra Demir, a faculty member in the Department of Information and Technology Law, Private Law Division, Faculty of Law, Ankara University, for her work titled “The European Approach to AI Regulation: A Possible Way to Achieve Technological Innovation Without Compromising Fundamental Values”.

The Research Awards are held annually with themes relevant to current events.

The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards have been held annually without interruption since 2006 with themes relevant to current events. The award program for 2026 highlighted that in our world, redefined by cross-border problems such as the climate crisis, digital information regimes, pandemics, and the sharing of space resources, these problems are still mostly addressed with fragmented and inadequate responses centered on nation-states. Within the scope of the program, research focusing on “Regulating Intelligence: Democracy, Markets and Global Order in the Digital Age” will be evaluated in 2027. The rapid proliferation of digital technologies, spanning a wide range including artificial intelligence, big data, platform infrastructures, and digital networks, is transforming governance at national and global levels. This raises questions about democratic accountability, inequality, labor, security, and the future of global governance. The 2027 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards invite ideas from various fields of social sciences that address the effects of digital transformation on democratic governance, market structures, and the evolving international system, as well as its political, economic, and social consequences.

Sabancı University Ranks First in Türkiye in the THE 2026 Rankings in Social Sciences

Sabancı University has taken the top spot in Türkiye in the field of Social Sciences. According to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject 2026 results, Sabancı University rose from the 201–250 bracket it was in last year to the 151–175 bracket, ranking first among universities from Türkiye.



According to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject 2026 results, Sabancı University once again demonstrated its strong academic performance in various disciplines and its rise in different fields. The rankings are prepared based on the dimensions of Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, Industry and International Outlook, weighted specifically for each field, and 17 sub-indicators under these dimensions. According to the 2026 results, Sabancı University stood out with its strong rise in the field of Social Sciences and its first-ever inclusion in the ranking in the field of Psychology.

Sabancı University Ranks First in Social Sciences

According to the results, Sabancı University achieved a significant success by rising from the 201-250 bracket it was in last year to the 151-175 bracket in the field of Social Sciences. With this rise, Sabancı University ranked first among the universities from Türkiye included in the ranking.

Strong and Stable Performance in Fields

Within the scope of the THE World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Sabancı University maintained its stable standing in various fields while making remarkable progress in some others. In the field of Psychology, Sabancı University entered the ranking for the first time this year, placing in the 301-400 bracket. In the fields of Business Administration and Economics and Engineering, the University maintained its position from the previous year, being listed in the 301-400 bracket in both fields.

Strengthening Position in the International Arena

The field-based ranking results once again demonstrated Sabancı University's research-oriented approach, interdisciplinary academic structure, and internationally impactful scientific output. The rise in the field of Social Sciences reinforces Sabancı University's global competitiveness, while the maintained standings in different disciplines are a tangible indicator of the university's sustainable academic success.

With the THE World University Rankings by Subject 2026 results, Sabancı University continues to advance in line with its goals of scientific excellence and research-oriented growth, maintaining its strong position in the international higher education arena.



Peter Katzenstein Visits Sabanci University: Discussing Uncertainty, Power, and Academic Journeys

Professor Peter Katzenstein, recipient of the 2026 Special Jury Prize at the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards, visited Sabanci University's Tuzla Campus the day after the award ceremony, meeting with students and academics. The day-long program began with an informal morning meeting with doctoral and master's students, followed by a presentation on his latest book and a subsequent panel discussion, transforming the program into an academic debate.

In the first event of the day, Katzenstein engaged in a comprehensive conversation with political science doctoral and master's students about thesis topic selection, research design, and academic life. Students shared their interests across a wide range of topics, from energy transition to authoritarian regimes, populism to civil-military relations, while Katzenstein described this diversity as "wanting to study the world," but emphasized the need to break it down into manageable parts.

Katzenstein, who particularly emphasized the issue of data in academic production, stated that data collection plays a central role in doctoral studies and that students should clarify their expectations with the help of their advisors. Noting that thesis topics often emerge at the intersection of personal experiences, intuition, and intellectual curiosity, Katzenstein stated that the academic journey is not linear and is often shaped by serendipity. He also touched upon how today's students access information, emphasizing that artificial intelligence tools can be used as "intelligent study companions," but that turning them into shortcuts that replace reading can weaken intellectual reasoning; he underlined the importance of using artificial intelligence for the development of questioning practices.

Uncertainty, Risk, and the "Post-Newtonian" World

Later, at the event held in the Cinema Hall, Katzenstein gave a presentation titled "Planetary Realities: Entanglement, Power, Risk, and Uncertainty in International Politics" within the framework of his latest book, *Entanglements in World Politics: The Power of Uncertainty*. In his talk, Katzenstein, who opened up a rethinking of "power," one of the fundamental concepts of the international relations discipline, stated that traditional approaches are mostly based on a "Newtonian" worldview. In this context, he introduced the distinction between the "small world," where risk is measurable and calculable, and the "big world," where uncertainty prevails.

According to Katzenstein: Risk refers to situations where probabilities can be calculated; uncertainty refers to situations where probabilities cannot be calculated, and sometimes even the events themselves cannot be predicted.

This distinction is critically important not only for theoretical understanding but also for understanding political and economic crises. Speaking through the example of the 2008 financial crisis, Katzenstein emphasized that rational expectations theory ignores real-world uncertainties, which

has serious consequences. The presentation also centered on three analytical dimensions: context, process, and language.

Katzenstein offered a critical perspective on established approaches in the social sciences, particularly noting that language is not only a tool reflecting the world but also an element that constructs and transforms it.



Interdisciplinary Discussion, Uncertainty, and the Role of Insight

Following the presentation, a panel moderated by Associate Professor Mert Moral was held, with Prof. Dr. Senem Aydın-Düzgit and Associate Professor Mustafa Kutlay participating.

The panel examined Katzenstein's concepts from different perspectives. The discussions focused particularly on the following topics:

- The tendency of international relations theories to systematically "reduce" uncertainty to "risk"
- The difference between "control power" and Katzenstein's concept of "protean power"
- How current developments such as democratic decline, the rise of the far right, and global conflicts can be analyzed within this theoretical framework



Senem Aydın-Düzgit emphasized that the discipline tends to simplify uncertainty at both theoretical and methodological levels, stating that this reduction process is institutionalized particularly through quantitative methods and model-building practices. Mustafa Kutlay stated that this approach is insufficient for explaining surprising developments, and that Katzenstein's concept of "protean power" offers a stronger framework for understanding the capacity for flexibility and adaptation in the face of uncertainty.

One of the striking aspects of the discussion was Katzenstein's emphasis on "gut feeling" in decision-making processes. Peter Katzenstein criticized the academic world's tendency towards over-rationalization, noting that policymakers often act on incomplete information and intuitive judgments rather than theoretical models.

According to him, decision-making in a world full of uncertainty inevitably involves quick assessments and "instinctive" reactions; therefore, intuition is not a weak method, but a form of decision-making inherent in politics. However, he emphasized that these intuitions do not always produce correct results, and that flawed learning processes and erroneous conclusions can also shape political outcomes.

At this point, Senem Aydın-Düzgit also contributed to the discussion, stating that political responses arising in an environment of uncertainty cannot be explained solely by rational calculations. Aydın-Düzgit stated that, especially in processes such as democratic regression and waves of protest, the perceptions of actors, timing, and interactions can lead to unexpected results, noting that intuition and "feeling" can often be decisive, surpassing analytical models.

The second part of the panel focused on methods of coping with uncertainty. Mustafa Kutlay, drawing attention to the scenario-building approach, emphasized the importance of considering different possibilities together rather than producing singular predictions in an environment of uncertainty. According to Kutlay, this approach offers a more flexible and realistic analytical opportunity in the face of increasing entanglement in international politics.

The final section also opened up the discussion through current examples such as the theoretical framework, democratic regression, political movements, and interstate conflict. Katzenstein stated that such processes are not linear or entirely predictable, but rather should be considered as "complex systems" where different dynamics are intertwined.

The question-and-answer session following the panel further deepened the discussion with questions from the audience. The panel discussion and question-and-answer session concluded by highlighting that uncertainty is not only a problem to be analyzed, but also a phenomenon that reshapes ways of thinking and researching.



Sabancı University Hosted the BAGEP 2026 Award Ceremony: 5 Academics from the University Received Awards

The Academy of Sciences Young Scientists Award Program (BAGEP), given annually by the Academy of Sciences to support outstanding young scientists, awarded its 2026 prizes. Five faculty members from Sabancı University were awarded for their innovative ideas. The awards were presented at a ceremony held on April 18th at the Sabancı University Performing Arts Center. Associate Professor Adnan Kefal, Dr. Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk, Dr. Alhun Aydın, and Dr. Dimitrios Papathanasiou from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Associate Professor A. Doruk Günaydın from Sabancı Business School were awarded the BAGEP prize for their original work in various disciplines.



A total of 550 academics have been supported since 2013

BAGEP has been supporting the work of young academics since 2013. To date, a total of 513 awards have been given under the program, and with this year's results, 37 new researchers have been deemed eligible for support. Eight faculty members from Middle East Technical University, five from Koç University, two from Boğaziçi University, six from Bilkent University, three from Hacettepe University, and one each from Bursa Uludağ University, Atılım University, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Özyeğin University, Gebze Technical University, Health Sciences University, Kadir Has University, and Dokuz Eylül University received the award.

Researchers are provided with support for two years

The BAGEP awards, which the Academy of Sciences conducts based on the principles of scientific merit, freedom, and honesty, contribute to strengthening academic production in Türkiye by supporting scientists from different disciplines. Within the scope of the program, which aims to encourage original and high-quality scientific studies, researchers who receive the award are provided with support for two years.

Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici Discusses Science and Innovation Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, President of Sabancı University and former Chair Professor at EPFL, was hosted at the Embassy of the Switzerland in Ankara. During the visit, Prof. Dr. Leblebici met with Guillaume Bertrand Scheurer, Ambassador of Switzerland to Ankara, and Corinna Seiberth and Levent Durukan from the Embassy's Science and Innovation team.

During the meeting held at the Embassy of Switzerland, ideas were exchanged on combining Switzerland's strong research and innovation ecosystem with academic excellence in Türkiye, deepening scientific collaborations between the two countries, and developing new areas of partnership.

This meeting in Ankara, a continuation of the contacts initiated at the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) event held at Sabancı University in October 2025, once again demonstrated the shared will to advance cooperation between Türkiye and Switzerland in the fields of science diplomacy, research, and innovation with concrete steps.



Sabancı University Demonstrates its Global Success in QS Rankings

Sabancı University has once again demonstrated its steady rise in the international higher education field with the latest ranking results announced by QS. Recording significant increases in both the QS World University Rankings 2027 and the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, our university has risen a total of 159 places in the world rankings in the last two years, and 47 places in the last year alone, further strengthening its prominent position among Türkiye's research universities with its globally noteworthy achievements.

In the QS World University Rankings 2027, one of the world's most prestigious higher education ranking organizations, Sabancı University rose from 404th to 357th place, achieving the biggest jump among Turkish institutions entering the top 400 band.

The QS World University Rankings 2027 evaluated 8,808 universities worldwide, of which 1,504 were included in the ranking. The progress achieved by Sabancı University in the world rankings is a significant result in demonstrating the university's mission to guide the changing and transforming world. This progress is a strong global manifestation of the high-impact global research projects and international collaborations that Sabancı University is pursuing within the scope of its 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. The increase in the number of publications per faculty member and researcher, the publications in high-impact journals, and the successful international research collaborations recently signed with leading global organizations are significantly contributing to the university's global academic visibility.

Sabancı University Achieves Strong Rise in Indicator-Based Rankings

Our university, demonstrating multifaceted development across the QS World University Rankings methodology, has achieved strong success, particularly in strategic indicators that shape the future.

The QS World University Rankings methodology consists of indicators evaluated under the headings of Research and Discovery, Employability and Outcomes, Learning Experience, Global Engagement, and Sustainability. Sabancı University's performance this year is supported by improvements across different areas of the methodology, with the rise in sustainability and employment-focused indicators being particularly noteworthy.

As a result of its environmentally and socially focused vision, the university rose a remarkable 265 places in the Sustainability indicator, reaching 436th place globally.

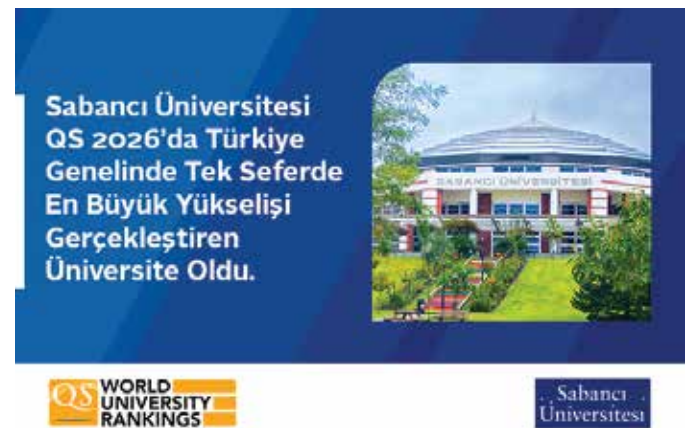
Our university also rose to 146th place globally in the Employer Reputation indicator, which measures business perception, and demonstrated a significant increase of 158 places in Employability and Outcomes.

Sabancı University Achieves the Biggest Rise in Türkiye in QS Rankings by Subject

Sabancı University has achieved another significant success in the 2026 QS World University Rankings by Subject. Our university stands out as the leading university in Türkiye that has achieved the biggest single-time rise, while also achieving noteworthy results on a global scale with its discipline-based performance. Sabancı University, which was ranked in 11 sub-fields out of 55 sub-fields under five main fields just as it did last year, managed to enter the top 300 in three fields. Compared to the previous year, the university improved its performance by rising in 6 of the 11 sub-fields in which it was ranked.

In this year's ranking, which included 1912 universities worldwide, Sabancı University achieved a significant success by rising to the 251-300 band in the fields of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Business and Management, and Political Science and International Relations.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject evaluates universities' academic performance in specific disciplines using indicators such as Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, citations per publication, H-Index, and international research network.



Significant Rise in Engineering and Technology

Sabancı University has made significant progress in the Engineering and Technology field, rising from 308th place last year to 266th place this year. In this field, Sabancı University, which climbed 57 places in 2025 compared to the previous year, achieved a significant increase of 42 places in the 2026 rankings, becoming the university with the largest single-year rise among Turkish universities included in the rankings. The Electrical-Electronics Engineering field showed a remarkable increase, moving from the 301-350 band to the 251-300 band. The Computer Science and Information Technologies field also continued its development, rising from the 401-450 band to the 351-400 band. The Mechanical, Aerospace, and Manufacturing Engineering field was ranked in the 351-400 band this year.

Strong Position in Social Sciences

Sabancı University, in the main field of Social Sciences and Management, increased its international visibility by rising from 389th place last year to 353rd place this year. Climbing 36 places in this category, Sabancı University achieved the biggest increase in a single year among universities from Türkiye included in the rankings. The Business and Management field made a significant leap, rising from the 301-350 band to the 251-300 band. The Political Science and International Relations field showed strong progress, moving from the 301-400 band to the 251-300 band. The Economics and Econometrics field showed remarkable development, rising from the 451-500 band to the 351-400 band. The Accounting and Finance field maintained its position in the 301-375 band, the same as last year.

Consistent Performance in Natural Sciences

Sabancı University maintained its consistent performance in the fields within the Natural Sciences. Materials Science showed significant progress, rising from the 401-550 band to the 351-400 band. Mathematics remained in the 401-450 band, the same as last year. Physics and Astronomy also maintained its position in the 551-600 band.

Biological Sciences, within the Life Sciences and Medicine main area, entered the 651-700 band this year, demonstrating the university's continued academic presence in diverse disciplines.

This strong performance, ranging from world rankings to field-specific assessments, confirms Sabancı University's rise in the international higher education arena and further strengthens its position as a research university with a global impact.



Sabancı University and Venice International University to Host Advanced Wireless Technologies Seminar Series

A seminar series titled “Advanced Wireless Technologies for Enhancing the Radio Interface from 5G towards 6G” will be held in collaboration with the Sabancı University and Venice International University Consortium on September 7-11, 2026. Master's and PhD students and young researchers in Electrical-Electronics Engineering and Computer Science can apply to the seminar until May 4, 2026.



Through its collaboration with Venice International University (VIU), Sabancı University offers an international knowledge and experience sharing platform for students, researchers, and academics. Within this framework, a seminar series titled “Advanced Wireless Technologies for Enhancing the Radio Interface from 5G towards 6G” will be held at Venice International University from September 7 to 11, 2026.

The scientific coordinator of the seminars is İbrahim Tekin, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Our faculty members Özgür Gürbüz and Korkut Kaan Tokgöz, as well as Michele Zorzi and Marco Giordani from the University of Padova, Sofie Pollini from KU Leuven, and Francesco Luzzini from the Università del Piemonte Orientale will be participating in the seminars.

Graduate students who have recently begun their MS and PhD studies and wish to apply for the “Advanced Wireless Technologies for Enhancing the Radio Interface from 5G towards 6G” seminar series, which will address key enabler technologies for next-generation wireless systems from the perspectives of antennas, communication, and hardware, can apply through the website until May 4, 2026.

INOVENT and SUCool: Organizations that Increase Sabancı University's Visibility in Türkiye and the World: INOVENT and SUCool

We asked Ziya Alpay, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Sabancı University, what the driving force is that has elevated Sabancı University to the level of one of the leading universities in our country. Alpay, explaining all the components that make up the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem one by one, including Inovent (which he heads) and the university's incubator SUCool, also drew attention to how important the collaboration with all stakeholders is as an educational institution.

Ziya Alpay, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Sabancı University and General Manager of Inovent, argues, based on his experience, that scientists, by their nature, do not like to be swept away by economic uncertainties. Alpay stated that they have implemented a different approach with Inovent and SUCool incubation center to facilitate risk avoidance for academics and commercialization of inventions for entrepreneurs, emphasizing that these supports have played a significant role in Sabancı University becoming one of Türkiye's leading universities.



SUCool's Support

Ziya Alpay explains that SUCool is an acceleration program created to support the commercialization of innovative ideas: "This program offers early-stage entrepreneurs financial support, mentorship, business development opportunities and access to a wide network. It has been providing comprehensive support services since 2013. The center, opened in 2023, includes a workspace for 100 people and an event space for 250 people, and supports startups in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Materials Technologies, Financial Technologies, Educational Technologies, Smart Cities, Digital Health, Data and Cyber Security."

Strategic Consulting Company Inovent

"Inovent, established in 2006 and fully-owned by Sabancı University, is Türkiye's first technology commercialization and seed fund company," says the General Manager, summarizing the company's activities as follows: "In short, Inovent is a strategic consulting, business development, and investment company. In addition to consulting services provided to startups, it runs projects and programs that develop the ecosystem. Inovent currently has 26 companies in its portfolio. We aim to increase this number to 50 within the next five years."

Providing information about the J-START Venture Capital Investment Fund, Alpay said, "Financial resources are at the forefront of the support to be provided to entrepreneurs. J-START, with Sabancı Holding and Abdul Latif Jameel (ALJ) as funders, will prioritize early-stage ventures with a deep technology focus when making investment decisions under the consultancy of Inovent."

TÜBİTAK 1812 - BiGG Investment-Based Entrepreneurship Support Program

Ziya Alpay emphasizes that Sabancı University's privileged position has once again come to light within the scope of the "TÜBİTAK 1812 BiGG Investment-Based Support Program".

TÜBİTAK, with its Individual Young Entrepreneur "BiGG" program, helps young and innovative entrepreneurial candidates realize their dreams. Since its launch in 2012, a total of 2578 entrepreneurs have established their companies and brought their business ideas to life within the scope of the program. Alpay announced that in the 2nd Call period of the TÜBİTAK BiGG Investment Program, for which Inovent is the implementing organization, a total of 109 entrepreneurs across the country were awarded the "Seal of Excellence". Out of these 109 companies in Türkiye, 16 startups specifically selected and trained by Inovent were entitled to receive this prestigious award, along with 900,000 TL in capital support. Thus, the number of startups under the Inovent umbrella, and selected as eligible for investment with the BiGG program "Seal of Excellence", reached 31 in 2025.

Sabancı University's successes have been noteworthy in previous years as well. According to the results of the TÜBİTAK BiGG Investment Program; 7 out of 117 startups that qualified for support nationwide in the 2024-1 call period, 11 out of 134 startups in the 2024-2 call period, 15 out of 101 startups in the 2025-1 call period, and 16 out of 109 startups in the 2025-2 call period are graduates of the BiGG3INN Program, led by Sabancı University's Inovent. These results are a concrete indication that our university is clearly leading the way.

Continuation of page 1

Successful Companies

Ziya Alpay stated that the research outputs carried out within the university have been transformed into successful companies with a total valuation exceeding 50 million USD, adding, "Our aim is to contribute to the financial sustainability of our university by converting the research into economic benefit through entrepreneurship."

Preparation of the Regulation

Alpay explained that the regulation to be applied in the field of entrepreneurship was prepared by taking Oxford University as an example, and he is hopeful about the future of the support they provide to the university's entrepreneurial researchers:

"With the experience we have gained in the entrepreneurship ecosystem under the umbrella of Inovent since 2006 and with SUCool since 2013, we know that the ventures we support in the early stages today can turn into global success stories of tomorrow. At Inovent, we lead the way in equipping our entrepreneurs with the competencies to compete at an international level at every step."



The Next Step: SUCool TEKMER

Alpay announces the good news about SUCool Tekmer, a new technology development and incubation center that will bring together entrepreneurship and innovation structures under one roof and whose preliminary application has been approved by KOSGEB to be established on Altunizade and Tuzla campuses: "Every year, approximately 30-35 startups graduate from the Sabancı University ecosystem within the scope of the TÜBİTAK 1812 BiGG Program, and Sabancı University TEKMER is naturally designed as a "next step" for these startups. Along with the physical spaces in Altunizade and Tuzla, Sabancı TEKMER is also open to all qualified technology startups across the country, beyond the Sabancı ecosystem."

Preliminary applications are now being accepted, and technology and innovation-focused startups with scalable business models will be offered opportunities for business development, mentorship, access to investors, and direct access to Sabancı University's academic/research infrastructure."

A new generation education platform for young entrepreneurs: MasterSUCool

Sabancı University SUCool is bringing its experience in entrepreneurship and innovation to a new digital education platform that brings together leading experts from Türkiye and the world: MasterSUCool. Alpay explains MasterSUCool's mission as follows: "It brings together leaders who make a difference in the business world, academics, investors, technology pioneers, and inspiring figures from creative sectors with young entrepreneurs. The platform's aim is to create a learning ecosystem that guides participants at every stage of their entrepreneurial journey with short but intensive information content based on hundreds of real-life experiences."

Each episode of MasterSUCool consists of 8-15-minute videos where experts in their fields share their experiences. The content is far from the classic lecture format; on the contrary, it offers a structure where experts convey their own stories, perspectives, and lessons learned in a simple and understandable way.

The presentations are prepared with professional shooting quality by reading specially prepared texts from a teleprompter. Thus, each piece of content is presented with a fluent and engaging integrity that draws the viewer in. The first recordings started at the Sabancı University Tuzla Campus SUCool building and will continue in the professional studio in Beşiktaş from May onwards."

About Ziya Alpay

He graduated from Boğaziçi University, Department of Civil Engineering in 1994. He served as the Deputy Secretary General at Bahçeşehir University between 2001-2004, General Manager at Uğur Information Technologies between 2004-2008, Secretary General at Bahçeşehir University between 2008-2018, Member of the Board of Trustees of Bahçeşehir University between 2018-2021, CEO at the American University of Malta between 2020-2022, and Managing Partner at his own company, Digital Transformation Group, since 2022. Since November 2022, Alpay has been serving as the Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative at Sabancı University. He is the General Manager of Inovent.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program within the Scope of the High School Summer School

Alpay, stated their belief that entrepreneurship at the high school level is essential for young people to discover themselves early on, explore areas of interest, and gain the courage to create: "By adapting our programs to the high school age group, we aim to provide students with the opportunity to develop 21st-century skills and to prepare more consciously for the future by experiencing the process of bringing their ideas to life. In line with this, this year we launched the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program within the scope of the Sabancı University High School Summer School. Twenty students selected from leading high schools in Türkiye embarked on a journey focused on self-discovery and idea development.

This positive impact of the program also paved the way for a new four-month program with Vizyon College, involving 98 students. The training programs were designed as workshops based entirely on active participation, allowing young people to express themselves in the best way. In the program, where each team is paired with a mentor to support the process, students develop their projects through at least three meetings. In the finals, the teams gain entrepreneurial experience on the 'Demo Day' stage by presenting their ideas to the jury. After the program, students are supported in following and developing their projects through entrepreneurship clubs that will be established in schools."

President Leblebici Attended the Times Higher Education Asia Universities Summit

Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici participated as an invited speaker in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Universities Summit that was organized in Hong Kong on 22-24 April 2026. The goals of the summit meeting, attended by more than 600 participants from around the globe, were focused on how Asia is redefining progress – from breakthrough science and entrepreneurial energy to scalable solutions for climate, health, and urban resilience, alongside its growing power in influencing global standards for AI, education, and the future of innovation in an age of disruption.



Speaking at the Presidents' Leadership Session entitled "Silicon corridors and spice routes: Can Asia's innovation belts redefine global tech leadership?", Prof. Leblebici emphasized the importance of student mobility and internationalization in building effective and productive cross-border partnerships between research institutions in Asia, and how universities can act as long-term anchors rather than short-term contributors in this process. He also highlighted the increasing presence on Sabancı University students and faculty members in Asian science and technology networks, as more and more students prefer to visit leading Asian universities and research institutions as a significant part of their student exchange experiences.

Within the frame of the THE Asia Universities Summit, Prof. Leblebici has also met privately with numerous leaders of key Asian universities, including Professor Nancy Ip, President of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Professor Tony Chan, Former President of HKUST, Professor Jin-Guang Teng, President of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Professor Chee Yoon Yue, Dean of Graduate Studies at the City University of Hong Kong, Professor Le Mai Lan, President of Vin University of Vietnam, and Professor Waqar Ahmad, President of Nazarbayev University of Kazakhstan. The meetings will lead towards concrete steps for academic collaboration between Asian partner institutions and Sabancı University.

Strategic Partnership Between Sabancı University and the University of Edinburgh

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening academic and scientific collaborations between Sabancı University and the University of Edinburgh was put into effect during a signing ceremony held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

As part of the program hosted by Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, a committee from the University of Edinburgh, including the Regius (Royal) Chair Professor and the Director of the Integrated Micro and Nano Systems Research Institute, Prof. Dr. Themis Prodromakis, and the School of Chemistry faculty member and the Director of Internationalization, Prof. Dr. Philip Camp, met with the administrators and academics from Sabancı University.



During the meetings, opportunities for joint work in the fields of education, research, and international academic collaboration were discussed. Following these discussions, a partnership agreement was signed between the two universities.

Within the scope of the signed memorandum of understanding, the parties aim to develop joint research projects, particularly in the fields of science and engineering; support student and researcher exchange programs; and carry out collaborative studies at both undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition, plans are underway to develop models such as joint research applications, dual degree programs, and co-supervised theses in the future.

As part of the program, the University of Edinburgh delegation toured the Sabancı University campus and held one-on-one meetings with faculty members. The committee also visited the Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center (SUNUM), where they received information about the center's advanced technology and research activities. Following a meeting with Erkan Savaş, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, comprehensive evaluations were conducted regarding the opportunities for cooperation in research areas.

Later in the day, Prof. Dr. Philip Camp met with Prof. Dr. Canan Atılğan, Prof. Dr. Ali Koşar, and Prof. Dr. Ali Rana Atılğan, while Prof. Dr. Themis Prodromakis held meetings with our President Yusuf Leblebici and Dr. Korkut Kaan Tokgöz.

The agreement signed between the two well-established institutions is expected to make a significant contribution to strengthening international research networks and increasing academic mobility.

2026 Munich Alumni Reunion

Sabancı University brought together its alumni at an event held in Munich, Germany, on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Approximately 100 alumni attended the event, which took place at Löwenbräukeller, one of Munich's historic venues.

Our President Yusuf Leblebici, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Erkan Savaş, and Director of Alumni Relations Cenk Bayırlı represented the university administration at the event.

In his presentation, our President informed the alumni about the university's developments, highlighting that Sabancı University achieved the largest single-time rise in Türkiye in the QS 2026 World University Rankings by Subject. Leblebici shared current data on the university's rankings in Türkiye and globally.



The reunion was also attended by a student representing the "Make a Promise for the Future" scholarship program, who shared their success story, goals, and the contributions Sabancı University made to their education with the alumni. Highlighting the importance of the impact each donation can make, our student emphasized the significance of the alumni community's support.

The donations collected during the event covered the monthly cash scholarships of four students. This meaningful gathering, which reinforced the culture of solidarity and contribution within the Sabancı University alumni community, created a powerful platform for sharing among the participants.

Sabancı University Organizes Science Cafe Event on Artificial Intelligence in Ankara

As part of the Science Cafe events initiated last year by the Council of Higher Education (CoHE), Sabancı University will bring together faculty members and young people in Ankara. The Ankara Science Cafe event, organized by Sabancı University, invites participants to an interdisciplinary exploration focusing on artificial intelligence, algorithms, and creativity.

At the event, Sabancı University academics Dr. İnanc Arın and Prof. Dr. Selçuk Artut will discuss the impact of current technologies on individuals and society from different perspectives. The event, which will take place on Saturday, April 18th, between 10:00 and 12.30 at the Ankara HiltonSA Hotel, will begin with an opening speech by Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici.



Artificial Intelligence, Art, and Human Creativity on the Same Stage

Following the event, Prof. Dr. Selçuk Artut, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, will evaluate the relationship between artificial intelligence and human creativity through artistic practices.

Prof. Dr. Artut's talk will address the intersection between artificial intelligence and human creativity, offering a perspective on how contemporary technologies are transforming artistic practice. Through real-world examples and current debates, the role of artificial intelligence in the creative process will be examined, and the ethical, cultural, and intellectual dimensions of this transformation will be explored. Participants are invited to consider this interaction between artificial intelligence and creativity from a multi-dimensional perspective.

Algorithms, Bots, and the Invisible Power of the Digital World

The Science Cafe event will also feature Dr. İnanc Arın, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, who will discuss the impact of artificial intelligence, machine learning, internet algorithms, and bots on daily life and the business world. In his talk, Dr. İnanc Arın will provide a clear framework for understanding how these technologies work, while addressing their effects on individuals and society through concrete examples from daily life. The talk will explore the extent to which the algorithms running behind many of the digital platforms we use today influence what we see, what we choose, and how we make decisions. Furthermore, the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, the new ways of thinking it creates, and the new fields it opens up for young people in the world of the future will be evaluated with a curiosity-focused perspective. In her speech, Dr. Arın aims to contribute to students approaching this rapid transformation not with fear, but with scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and a desire for discovery.

Science Meets Society

The meeting, planned for university and high school students, aims to encourage young people to approach the rapidly changing technological world with scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and a desire for discovery.

"Science Cafe," one of the important initiatives of the Science Communication Office of the CoHE, stands out as a series of public events that directly bring academics together with society. This platform, where participants can ask questions directly to experts, is an important science communication initiative aimed at increasing trust in science and spreading scientific thinking.

Sabancı University Makes a Strong Contribution to Science: Five Academics Receive BAGEP Award

Sabancı University achieved a significant success in the BAGEP awards, given annually to support outstanding young scientists for new research. Five academics from Sabancı University were found deserving of the award this year within the scope of the program conducted by the Academy of Sciences. The success of Associate Professor Adnan Kefal, Dr. Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk, Dr. Alhun Aydın, Dr. Dimitrios Papathanasiou, and Associate Professor A. Doruk Günaydın once again demonstrated the university's strong position in scientific production. The BAGEP awards will be presented to their recipients at a ceremony to be held at the Sabancı University Performing Arts Center on April 18 this year.

Sabancı University faculty members continue to attract attention in the scientific world with their original research spanning different disciplines. The award-winning studies demonstrate the university's research-oriented approach.

Digital twin technologies predicting structural safety

Associate Professor Adnan Kefal, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, focuses on a digital twin approach supported by uncertainty quantification and machine learning that can perform real-time deformation reconstruction from fiber optic sensor data in his award-winning work. The aim is to obtain full-field deformation and damage indicators from limited sensor data, particularly in aviation, maritime, and energy structures. The study also aims to contribute to the development of predictive structural health monitoring systems by presenting these outputs with confidence intervals. Furthermore, the integration of this scientific infrastructure with domestic and national software and hardware solutions is also targeted.



New Targets in Cancer Treatment

Dr. Duygu Kuzuoğlu Öztürk, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, received an award for her work focusing on developing innovative strategies against treatment-resistant prostate cancer. The studies aim to halt the production of the Androgen Receptor, which plays a leading role in cancer growth, and to elucidate unknown aspects of this protein. They also aim to identify new and precise treatment targets by deciphering the protein production networks that cancer cells manipulate to survive.

New Approaches to Unraveling the Mysteries of Quantum Materials

Dr. Alhun Aydın, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, is developing new approaches to the theoretical understanding of quantum materials with his award-winning work. His quantum acoustics studies aim to reveal the microscopic origins of universal transport anomalies such as Planckian diffusion and unusual electronic, optical, thermal, and acoustic behaviors in disordered systems. He is also working on new Hamiltonian engineering methods that allow for the control of energy levels and gaps in open and multi-body quantum systems without altering their global spectral properties.





A New Approach to Measuring Uncertainty on a Global Scale

The award-winning work of Associate Professor A. Doruk Günaydın, a faculty member at Sabancı Business School, aims to differentiate the concepts of "risk" and "uncertainty," which are often used interchangeably in financial literature, within a holistic framework. Stating that risk refers to known outcomes and uncertainty to situations where even probabilities are unknown, Associate Professor Günaydın aims to develop a new uncertainty index derived directly from market data, instead of subjective analyst predictions. This index will be tested with data from more than 50 countries, and the plan is to examine whether uncertainty is a pricing factor on a global scale.

A Strong Program Supporting Scientific Production

The BAGEP awards, given by the Academy of Sciences since 2013 to reward young academics and support new research, continue to contribute to strengthening academic production in Türkiye by supporting scientists from different disciplines every year. Researchers who receive awards under the program are supported for two years, aiming to encourage original and high-quality scientific work. In this respect, BAGEP continues to be an important platform contributing to the development of the scientific research ecosystem in Türkiye.



New Horizons in Operator Theory in Mathematics

Dr. Dimitrios Papathanasiou, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, who was awarded by the Academy of Sciences, states that his work on the dynamic properties of weighted shift operators on directed trees in recent years has initiated a new research trend in the field. Following these studies, he explains that they further generalized this class of operators by considering weighted shifts on directed general graphs, and emphasizes that with the support of BAGEP, they aim to obtain new results that will contribute to a better understanding of operators in Banach and Hilbert spaces.

Sabancı University Partners with Imperial College London for Joint Research

Sabancı University continues to expand its global research network through strategic international collaborations. As part of the SU International Seed Collaboration Project Support Program, first launched in partnership with Imperial College London, 8 joint research projects have been awarded a total of £136,700 in funding provided by Sabancı University.

The collaboration aims to bring together the complementary academic expertise, research infrastructure, and active researcher engagement of both Sabancı University and Imperial College London, creating a strong foundation for long-term scientific cooperation, encourage joint research development activities, and strengthen future applications to major international funding programs, particularly the EU Horizon Europe Programme and beyond.

We congratulate all awarded teams and look forward to the impactful outcomes of this partnership and will continue to welcome new applications for upcoming calls with different institutions as well in the future.



As the VIU Journey Begins: FDP–VIU Scholars Share Their Expectations

Six students selected as part of the Sabancı University & Venice International University Core Curriculum Excellence Program shared their thoughts and expectations before attending the VIU Summer School. Recognized as FDP–VIU Scholars for their outstanding achievement in the Foundations Development Program (FDP), the students reflected on how Sabancı University's core curriculum will contribute to their experience as they prepare to join VIU's international and multidisciplinary learning environment.

The students were invited to share what being selected for the program means to them, what they expect from the VIU experience, how Sabancı University's core curriculum may support them during this journey, and what they have gained from Sabancı University's distinctive educational model.



Alp Giray Datlar

“My expectation from the VIU experience is to take my perspective to an international level.”

I feel very proud and happy to be part of this program. My expectation from the VIU experience is to discuss issues such as technology, sustainability, global governance, and environmental policies in the same environment with students from different countries, and to take my perspective to an international level. Being in a city like Venice, where history and innovation come together, and having the chance to explore its beauty will also be a wonderful experience for me.

Sabancı University's core curriculum aims to develop an interdisciplinary way of thinking. Considering that the VIU Summer School courses bring together different disciplines, I believe this flexible way of thinking will help me adapt quickly to the discussions there. I also think the broad perspective gained through the core curriculum will make it easier for me to find common ground with students from different cultural backgrounds in an international classroom.

Thanks to Sabancı University's freedom to choose a major, I am discovering more consciously what I want to study. The interdisciplinary structure of the core curriculum may also provide me with the intellectual foundation I need if I later choose to focus on topics where two fields intersect.

Baran Çiftçi

“I see this recognition as a reward for the effort I put in throughout the semester.”

For me, being selected for the FDP–VIU Scholars program is, above all, a source of pride. I see this recognition as a reward for the effort I put in throughout the semester. I believe The VIU Summer School offers an international academic environment that brings together students and instructors from different disciplines. I also hope to get to know the history and culture of Venice more closely through the activities organized as part of the program.

The VIU Summer School offers an international academic environment that brings together students and instructors from different disciplines. Through core curriculum courses such as SPS, I had the opportunity to become familiar with different disciplines. I believe I will benefit from this multidisciplinary perspective gained through the core curriculum during the VIU Summer School.

Thanks to Sabancı University's distinctive educational model, I will be able to deepen my knowledge in the fields of biology and technology, both of which I am interested in, without being restricted to a single path. In particular, experiencing the intersection of these two fields through NS courses helped me plan my academic and career path more consciously. The freedom to choose a major allows me to shape this plan more flexibly according to my interests.

Onur Çongar

“Since this will be my first educational experience abroad, I think it will be an important experience for me.”

Being selected for the FDP–VIU Scholars program is a great source of pride for me. Since this will be my first educational experience abroad, I think it will be an important experience.

Since we have also developed our academic presentation and writing skills through Sabancı University's core curriculum, I believe this will contribute to my VIU experience. I know that academic presentation and writing activities will also be part of the courses there.

I believe that my education at Sabancı University has improved my critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and research skills. In the future, I think this will help me become a more well-rounded and questioning individual.

Muammer Boran Sakarya

"Being selected for such a valuable program through my achievement in one of the core curriculum courses made this opportunity especially meaningful for me."

Being selected for the FDP–VIU Scholars program made me feel both proud and excited. Being selected for such a valuable program through my achievement in one of the core curriculum courses made this opportunity especially meaningful for me. I believe the program's international and interdisciplinary structure will make important contributions to my vision, technical knowledge, and professional network.

Sabancı University's core curriculum will contribute significantly to my VIU experience, as it helps students develop the ability to evaluate different disciplines together and think in a connected way. Being able to approach directly or indirectly related topics from different perspectives will help me make the most of the gains I will obtain from the FDP–VIU Scholars program.

Sabancı University's flexible educational model, which allows students to discover their interests and passions, has played an important role in shaping my career path. Through courses, projects, and talks from different disciplines, I had the opportunity to broaden my general knowledge and gain perspectives on different fields. In the future, I believe these experiences will help me become someone who can approach issues from a broader perspective while also developing depth in specific areas.

Kadir Yiğit Erdem

"For me, being selected for this program means having the opportunity to get to know a different city and different cultures."

For me, being selected for this program means having the opportunity to get to know a different city and different cultures. Through this experience, I hope to learn about different cultures and people's perspectives, broaden my own outlook on life, and learn to approach issues from different angles.

Because of the multidisciplinary structure of the courses at VIU, I believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained from different fields within the core curriculum will help me approach the topics covered in class from different angles. I also believe this will give me an advantage in problem-solving processes.

Thanks to the broad freedom Sabancı University's distinctive educational model offers in course selection, I was able to try courses that interested me and identify the areas I wanted to focus on. In the future, I plan to continue expanding my knowledge in other areas that interest me through this freedom of course selection.

Zeynep Gürdal

"This program offers an opportunity to interact with different cultures and develop a global perspective."

This program offers an opportunity to interact with different cultures and develop a global perspective. I see meeting people from different countries as a very valuable experience for both my academic and personal development.

Sabancı University's core curriculum taught me how to think and work with people from different disciplines. Thanks to this, I believe I will be able to adapt more easily to VIU's international and multidisciplinary academic environment.

Sabancı University's educational model helped me develop interdisciplinary thinking skills and the ability to approach issues from different perspectives. I believe that being able to consider technical and social fields together will be an important advantage both during my VIU experience and when finding solutions to problems I may encounter in the future.

The students' reflections show that Sabancı University's core curriculum does more than provide academic knowledge; it also offers a strong foundation that prepares students to encounter different disciplines, cultures, and ways of thinking. As they prepare for VIU, the FDP–VIU Scholars carry both the excitement of joining an international academic environment and the pride of bringing the broad perspective they have gained at Sabancı University to this experience.

Sabancı University's EDU Staff Participate in UNICON Directors' Conference Hosted by IMD

Sabancı University Executive Development Unit (EDU) participated in the UNICON Directors' Conference 2026, hosted by IMD in Lausanne.

As the first and only full member of UNICON in Türkiye, EDU took part in this important international gathering, having the opportunity to discuss the future of executive education with the world's best schools throughout the three-day conference. Key themes of the conference included the impact of artificial intelligence on educational content and methods, the reflection of geopolitical developments on institutional priorities, new needs in leadership development, and resilience.



In sessions featuring executive development units from leading universities such as Harvard, MIT Sloan, Stanford, Yale, University of Michigan, Columbia University, London School of Economics, Imperial College, Oxford Said, Manchester Alliance, and Insead, participants exchanged views on how artificial intelligence is being utilized in executive education, the impact of changing global dynamics on the business world, and how leaders can be supported in an environment of uncertainty. On the final day of the conference, noteworthy assessments were shared on the importance of resilience, recovery, and human connections in leadership.

Sabancı University, EDU, as the first and only full member of UNICON in Türkiye for a long time, continues to strengthen its international visibility and strong collaborations in the field of executive education.

Sabancı University Executive Development Unit Ranks Among Top 30 in Financial Times Custom Programs World Ranking

Sabancı University Executive Development Unit (EDU), which contributes to the development of professionals with programs designed specifically for the needs of organizations, has reinforced its strong position in the Financial Times Custom Programs World Ranking this year as well.

EDU climbed 12 places to 29th in the Financial Times Executive Education Custom Programs 2026 World Ranking, one of the most prestigious assessments in the field of executive education. In this year's ranking, which includes a total of 101 institutions worldwide, Sabancı University EDU managed to rank among the top 30 institutions.

Adding Value to Institutions for 24 Years with Strong Academic Content

Sabancı University EDU Director Gonca Börekçi Baybaş made the following statement regarding the matter: "We have been included in this prestigious global ranking every year for eight years. Our success in entering the top 30 once again demonstrates the worldwide appreciation for our contribution to the development of institutions and professionals, the academic and practical quality of our programs, our international collaborations, and the learning experiences we design. This success is the joint result of our strong learning ecosystem, our culture of "creating and developing together," and our long-term, trust-based collaborations. As a team that always aims for better and further progress, we will continue to work with the same care and determination, and to walk towards the future with the same passion and excitement." Sabancı University EDU has been adding value to institutions for 24 years by closely following the changing needs of the business world; with its innovative learning tools, strong academic content, and application-oriented approach.



IICEC Director Bora Şekip Güray: Efficient Growth in Energy is a Strategic Opportunity for Türkiye

Bora Şekip Güray, Director of the Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC), stated that managing rapidly growing energy demand with more efficient and high value-added solutions presents a critical opportunity for Türkiye in terms of energy security, import reduction, a competitive energy system, and sustainable energy transformation goals.

Making assessments within the scope of Energy Efficiency Week (January 5-11), Güray expressed his satisfaction with the recent increase in awareness regarding energy efficiency. He noted that strategies and investments that can make energy demand more efficient and have higher added value are of great importance in every aspect for achieving a more sustainable energy future.

“A more efficient energy system will play a significant role in strengthening energy supply security and reducing emissions.”

Güray stated that in the “Türkiye Energy Efficiency Outlook” study, published by IICEC in 2025 as a first in the sector, they evaluated the multifaceted gains to be achieved through the development of a more efficient energy system within an analytical framework. Güray stated, “In the Efficient Growth Scenario, the benefit-cost multiplier points to a striking ratio of four and a half. For every \$1 billion invested in energy efficiency, savings of \$4.5 billion can be achieved through reductions in fossil fuel imports and emissions. A more efficient energy system will play a significant role in strengthening energy supply security by reducing the import burden.”

According to the findings in the “Türkiye Energy Efficiency Outlook Report,” the Efficient Growth Scenario can achieve the same economic output as the Base Scenario by 2053 with 21% less energy consumption. Bora Şekip Güray shared the following information on the subject: “Thus, Türkiye can close the gap more quickly with some OECD countries that have high per capita energy consumption and low energy intensity. This is another striking finding in our report, especially when viewed from a competitiveness and economic perspective. In the Efficient Growth Scenario, emissions peak at an earlier time, indicating a significant contribution to achieving climate change mitigation goals.”

“Efforts to increase and diversify financing are important”

Bora Şekip Güray stated that the recent progress in energy efficiency in Türkiye is gratifying. Güray continued: “Our country has consistently stood out among OECD countries in the last few years with its performance in reducing the energy intensity of its economy. We have areas for improvement to sustain this positive performance. The Energy Efficiency 2030 Strategy and Action Plan announced by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources at the

beginning of 2024 provides an important roadmap. Within the scope of these goals, a \$20.2 billion investment in energy efficiency is targeted by 2030. With increasing awareness in energy-consuming sectors, especially industry, efforts to develop models and collaborations to attract more and diversified financing for energy efficiency investments are crucial.”



Bora Şekip Güray stated that when analyzing the sectors and sub-sectors that determine Türkiye's energy demand, categorized by fuels and technologies, they found that the highest demand comes from heating and cooling in buildings. Güray said, “One-fifth of the demand comes from energy consumption for heating and cooling in buildings. This is followed by energy-intensive industrial sectors and road transportation, each with an 18% share. When road freight transportation and the use of electrical appliances and lighting in buildings are added, approximately 70% of the demand originates from these five areas.” Bora Şekip Güray added that there is significant efficiency potential, particularly in older residential buildings, older vehicles with low fuel efficiency, and the structure of industry.

Bora Şekip Güray emphasized that the growth in the share of electrical energy in the energy system is among the most striking trends in Türkiye, as it is worldwide. He continued, “The share of electrical energy in final energy demand is currently around one-fifth. Our studies show that this rate could reach 50% in the next 25-30 years. Per capita electricity consumption is currently half the OECD average, and there are many factors supporting demand growth, from population growth and urbanization to industrial consumption, digitalization, and increased mobility. With the increase in electric vehicles, the expected growth in data center demand, the increase in air conditioning use, and the widespread adoption of heat pump technologies, our country's electricity demand is evolving towards a more diversified structure. This growing and diversifying demand will need to be met both securely and efficiently. Competitive and sustainable electricity production portfolios, the efficiency and flexibility of electricity transmission and distribution networks, demand-side management, and the use of more efficient devices and equipment in heating, cooling, and lighting will be more critical in the coming period. I also see the opportunities brought by data analytics and digitalization as a significant opportunity for more efficient growth in energy.”

Sabancı University Signs Joint Projects with IMEC, World Leader in Semiconductor Technologies

CMOS technology has revolutionized the electronics industry by balancing performance, energy efficiency, and affordability for semiconductor chip fabrication. However, many agree that CMOS technology is now approaching its physical limits. At this point, CMOS 2.0 aims to design functions in multiple 3D stacked layers using specialized chips, representing a new paradigm. Utilizing 3D integration technologies, the CMOS 2.0 approach can overcome the limitations of traditional CMOS thanks to high communication sensitivity and high-tech heterogeneity within the package.



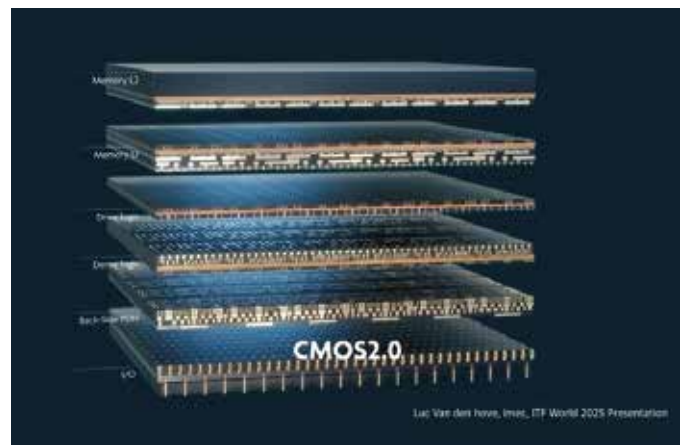
Recently, Sabancı University and IMEC, the leading Belgian international research and development organization in nanoelectronics and digital technologies, signed two new project agreements with a total budget of EUR 384.000 to conduct joint research on CMOS 2.0 technology. These agreements aim to facilitate joint research on two interrelated themes, involving doctoral and master's students.

The project titled “Reconfigurable Architectures Using Non-Volatile Memory on CMOS 2.0 Fabrics” aims to develop mechanisms for creating efficient reconfigurable system architectures in multilayer heterogeneous CMOS 2.0 architectures. Although traditional 3D design and manufacturing technologies have been available for over two decades, their applications in the reconfigurable architecture environment have remained relatively limited. The capabilities offered by dense 3D (multilayer) heterogeneous CMOS 2.0 architectures are expected to bring new opportunities.

The aim of this research is to examine multi-tiered reconfigurable architectures using non-volatile memory in the context of CMOS 2.0. Unlike classical integration applications, it is possible to create efficient function distribution and cell utilization using 3D designs. In such a 3D volume, it is possible to achieve much greater flexibility in terms of partitioning, floorplanning, placement, and routing. Optimizing reconfigurable designs will be possible with the help of vertical integration and non-volatile memory blocks.

In the semiconductor world, the transition from 2D planar architectures to multi-tier SoC “fabrics” approach offers significant gains in performance, density, and functionality, but also makes inter-layer data communication (horizontal, vertical TSV-based, and hybrid connections) a critical bottleneck. Therefore, in the context of CMOS 2.0, new signal transmission and reception methods, systems, and circuit designs are needed to simultaneously optimize data rate, power efficiency, space, and volume utilization in high-density 3D structures.

In our other project, “Investigation of Signaling Methods within CMOS 2.0 Architectures,” we aim to systematically compare and optimize the most suitable signaling methods for data communication in CMOS 2.0 multi-tier SoC architectures. Within this project, we will evaluate parallel/serial bus architectures, modulation options such as NRZ/PAM-n/m-ary QAM, and transmission approaches such as full-swing/low-swing and single-ended/differential (LVDS), as well as the electrical and thermal effects of high-density vertical TSVs. We anticipate the outputs of this study to include quantitative analysis of power-speed-density interactions, design and modeling of horizontal/vertical test structures, hardware prototypes including placement and physical testing of selected architectures, and design guidelines for EDA 2.0 tools.



The CMOS 2.0 projects supported by IMEC will be supervised by our Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences faculty members Özcan Öztürk and Korkut Kaan Tokgöz.

Sabancı University Alumna's Start-Up Enters the TIME100 Most Influential Companies 2026 List

Emerald AI, the start-up company that was founded on the research of Prof. Dr. Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun (Sabancı University Alumna 2003), has joined the highly prestigious TIME100 Most Influential Companies 2026 list. Dr. Coşkun, who is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Boston University, also serves as the Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development at the College of Engineering. She is the Director of Boston University's Center for Information and Systems Engineering, has pioneered the field of flexible AI and high-performance computing to bolster the power grid.

Emerald AI has been built on the groundbreaking research of Dr. Coşkun to transform energy-intensive data centers into AI-powered grid allies. The Emerald AI Conductor platform enables AI data centers to flexibly adjust their power consumption from the electricity grid on demand, orchestrating the computing loads of inference, training, and fine-tuning AI models across a network of data centers to bolster the power grid's reliability while meeting strict compute performance standards.



The sixth annual TIME100 Most Influential Companies list revealed on 30 April 2026 is highlighting 100 companies making extraordinary impact around the world. To assemble the list, TIME solicited nominations across sectors, and polled its global network of editors and correspondents, as well as outside experts. The result is a diverse group of 100 businesses helping chart an essential path forward. The list includes renowned companies such as Boeing, Dell Technologies, Foxconn, Huawei, IBM, Netflix, Nvidia, SpaceX, and Toyota – in addition to successful start-ups like Emerald AI.

The startup uses software to shift electricity demand, orchestrating when and where AI workloads run based on grid conditions and the specific performance requirements. In March 2026, the company announced a partnership with NVIDIA to bring together top power companies to build AI facilities that can adjust to the challenges and needs of the power grid. Jensen Huang, Founder and CEO of NVIDIA, has said: "AI factories are the engines of the intelligence era, and like any great engine, every system must be designed together — energy, compute, networking and cooling as one architecture. NVIDIA and Emerald AI are working together to enable a future for AI where performance, efficiency and grid responsiveness can be tapped into immediately."



Department at Boston University, where she leads the Center for Information and Systems Engineering and serves as Associate Dean for Research at the College of Engineering.

Prof. Coşkun is widely recognized as a leading academic authority on orchestrating data center power demand in response to power grid needs. Her research group has published groundbreaking work in this area, helping shape the emerging field of flexible, grid-aware computing. Her broader research applies AI and machine learning to optimize cloud and high-performance computing systems. She has received numerous honors for her contributions, including the Ernest Kuh Award for energy-efficient system-level design and an IBM Faculty Award for applying AI-based methods in DevSecOps. Earlier in her career, Prof. Coşkun worked in industry at Sun Microsystems (now Oracle). Until recently she served as Deputy Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design and holds a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of California, San Diego.

Sabancı University Alumni Gathered in London

Alumni of Sabancı University came together at a special event held in London on Saturday, May 9. A total of 114 alumni who are continuing their professional careers and/or pursuing graduate studies in and around London attended the event, which took place at The In and Out Naval and Military Club. The gathering, which was held in a warm, dynamic, and interactive atmosphere, followed similar recent events organized in Munich, Amsterdam, and Boston. The event aimed to strengthen the university's global alumni network as well as foster collaboration and connections among alumni.

Representing the university administration at the gathering, our President Yusuf Leblebici, Vice President for Education Cem Güneri, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Erkey Savaş, and Director of Corporate Development and Alumni Relations Cenk Bayırlı attended.

As part of the London event, Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici met with alumni and shared updates on the university's latest initiatives and international achievements. Throughout the event, alumni also had the opportunity to reflect on their career journeys and professional experiences while renewing their strong ties with their alma mater.



This warm gathering in London also contributed to a meaningful act of solidarity. Donations collected during the event provided monthly financial-need scholarships for 15 students. This meaningful contribution by Sabancı University alumni added a strong sense of social support and community spirit to the gathering.

Our Faculty Member Yusuf Ziya Menceloğlu Receives Elginkan Foundation 2025 Technology Award

Prof. Dr. Yusuf Ziya Menceloğlu, a faculty member at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, won the Elginkan Foundation 2025 Technology Award for his work titled "Development of Biodegradable Superabsorbent Polymers and Their Transformation into Nanotern™ Product."

Information about our faculty member Prof. Dr. Yusuf Ziya Menceloğlu's award-winning project is as follows:

Nanotern™ is a biodegradable and environmentally friendly superabsorbent polymer (SAP) developed to ensure efficient water use in agriculture under drought and excessive rainfall conditions. This innovative material, adaptable to different and saline soil systems, absorbs up to approximately 1800 times its weight in water and gradually releases it back to plants in a controlled manner for 30-40 days. Developed as an alternative to petroleum-derived SAPs, Nanotern™ stands out as an advanced material technology originating from Türkiye with its structure that does not pose a microplastic risk and its commercial-scale producibility. Nanotern™ enables optimal water use in agriculture. The low performance, temperature resistance, and application problems encountered in existing SAPs have been overcome with Nanotern™'s advanced design; the product has been validated in field applications and, with its domestic production potential, has become a strategic solution. Offering significant contributions to sustainable agriculture, food security, and climate change adaptation, Nanotern™ provides an innovative response to increasing global water and production pressures.



Sabancı University Alumni Gather in Boston

Sabancı University alumni gathered in Boston, USA, on Saturday, May 2nd. The event, held at Boston University and attended by alumni working in various sectors and/or pursuing postgraduate studies in and around Boston, provided a warm and interactive meeting environment that strengthened the university's global alumni network. As part of the alumni gathering series, similar events have recently been held in Munich and Amsterdam.

High-Level Participation at the Boston Alumni Gathering

The gathering in Boston was attended by Sabancı University Board of Trustees Chair Hayri Çulhacı, Sabancı Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Güler Sabancı, our President Yusuf Leblebici, Vice President for Education Cem Güneri, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Erkey Savaş, and Director of Institutional Development and Alumni Relations Cenk Bayırlı.

Güler Sabancı, Chair of the Sabancı Foundation Board of Trustees, who spoke first at the meeting, said, "It is a great pleasure to see Sabancı University graduates in different parts of the world and to witness the growing presence of this community. When we founded our university, our goal was to educate individuals who would have an impact on an international scale; I am proud to see this in you today." Güler Sabancı also emphasized that alumni gatherings are not only networking opportunities but also part of the process of building a strong community, stating that the "relational capital" possessed by Sabancı University graduates is one of the most important elements of this structure.

Hayri Çulhacı, Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees, said, "Our graduates are our greatest asset, and we have been able to establish our culture in this short time. My request to you is to support our university and further strengthen this bond." Hayri Çulhacı also emphasized that graduates are one of the most important factors determining the university's global representation, and that this strong community plays a critical role in shaping the future of the university.

President Yusuf Leblebici gave a presentation at the meeting, sharing current developments regarding the University. Highlighting the university's achievements both in Türkiye and globally, Leblebici emphasized that Sabancı University achieved the largest single-time rise in Türkiye in the QS 2026 World University Rankings by Subject, highlighting that this success is a result of sustainable academic performance.



The event in Boston was also attended by prominent figures from the academic world, including Prof. Dr. Selim Ünlü (Boston University, Distinguished Professor), Dr. Rabia Yazıcıgil (Boston University), Dr. Sami Karaca (Boston University), Prof. Dr. Ayşe Kılıcım Coşkun (Boston University), Prof. Dr. Robert Armstrong (MIT, Chevron Professor of Chemical Engineering), Dr. Deniz Erdoğan (Northeastern University, Technology Director), Dr. Köksal Muş (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Prof. Dr. Berk Sunar (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Prof. Dr. İsmet İ. Kaya (Sabancı University), Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ekmekçi (Boston University, Director of Graduate Studies), Prof. Dr. Barış Ata (University of Chicago, Sigmund E. Edelman Distinguished Service Professor of Operations Management), Assoc. Prof. Meryem Yücel (Boston University, Research Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering), and Prof. Dr. Canan Güneş Çorlu (Boston University, Supply Chain Management Coordinator).

Global Connections Continue to Strengthen

At the gathering in Boston, alumni shared memories from the past and had the opportunity to strengthen their ties with each other and the university. The event, attended by alumni from different graduating classes, once again demonstrated the international solidarity of the Sabancı University community. Donations collected from alumni during the event covered the cash needs of 6 students. This meaningful contribution from alumni added a social responsibility dimension to the gathering, which is intended to be further strengthened in the future.

Great Interest in UCLA Professor Behzad Razavi's Seminar at Sabanci University

Sabancı University hosted Professor Behzad Razavi, a leading figure in the field of electronics and communications engineering from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). The seminar, held in the FENS Go77 auditorium, was attended by academics, researchers, industry representatives from relevant organizations, and numerous students. The seminar, which attracted great interest, began with an opening speech by Sabancı University President Prof. Yusuf Leblebici.

Important Perspectives on Next-Generation Communication Technologies

Professor Behzad Razavi, known for his books that are considered fundamental reference sources in his field, presented important perspectives on the future of high-frequency electronics and modern wireless communication technologies.

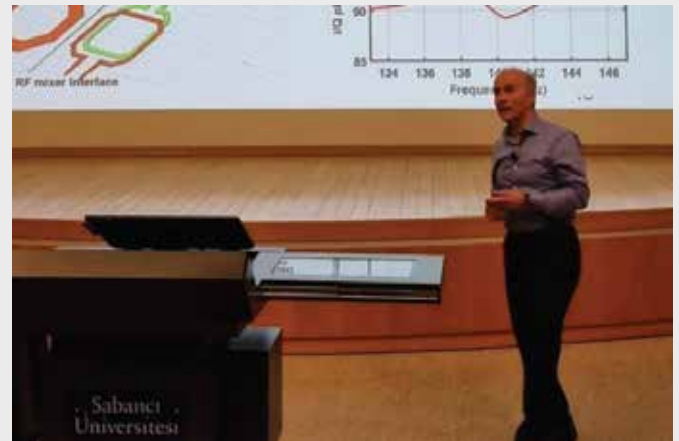
During the seminar titled "A 140-GHz 40-mW Beamforming Receiver with LO Generation," the technical challenges of next-generation 6G communication systems, particularly signal loss at high frequencies, power consumption, and efficiency, were discussed. Prof. Dr. Behzad Razavi highlighted the possibilities offered by broadband data communication, as well as the limitations it faces in terms of technology and engineering.

In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Behzad Razavi also touched upon topics such as new approaches developed to improve performance in high-frequency systems, noise reduction techniques, and multi-antenna systems. He emphasized that these studies are critically important for the next-generation 6G high-speed data communication planned for implementation in the near future.

Prof. Razavi Signed His Books

At the end of the program, Prof. Behzad Razavi answered questions from the audience, met with participants, signed his books, which are reference sources in his field, and took souvenir photos. This friendly meeting with Prof. Dr. Razavi was also an inspiring moment for the students and young researchers.

This event, held at Sabancı University, served as a significant example of the university's mission to bring international scientists together with students and strengthen scientific interaction. Professor Behzad Razavi's visit also made a valuable contribution to sharing current developments in the field of electronic and communication engineering.



About Prof. Behzad Razavi

Behzad Razavi is Professor of Electrical Engineering at UCLA, where he conducts research on analog and RF integrated circuits. Prof. Razavi has served as an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer and published more than 200 papers and nine books. He has received nine IEEE best paper awards and six teaching and education awards, and his books have been published in seven languages. He received the IEEE Pederson Award in Solid-State Circuits and was recognized as a top author in the 50-year and 75-year histories of the IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference. He is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the US National Academy of





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