



# GALATASARAY LİSESİ

GALATASARAY HIGH SCHOOL

LYCÉE GALATASARAY

1481 - 1868 - 1923

School Profile  
Class of 2017-2018



School Principal  
Ms. Meral Mercan

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## THE HISTORY

Located in Istanbul, Turkey, Galatasaray is heir to five centuries of uninterrupted education history which started in 1481 with the establishment of an educational institution at the present site of the “Galatasaray High School” for the purpose of preparing young men for high-level public service. The school, originally named “Galata Sarayi Enderun Mektebi” (Galata Palace Imperial School) is one of the oldest establishments of its kind in the world. This year, the school is proudly celebrating its 150th year.

After providing valuable services to the Ottoman state for over 350 years, it underwent a modernization process and **adopted the French secondary education system in 1868**. Up till the end of the First World War in 1918, the school welcomed a diverse student body of *different religious and ethnic groups* constituting the population of the Ottoman Empire, such as *Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Levantines, Bulgarians, Albanians*. Many of the graduates of this period, coming from various communities, became prominent statesmen, educators, bureaucrats and writers in Turkey as well as in their home countries.

With the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, the name was changed to its current name “Galatasaray Lisesi” and it became co-educational in 1965. Ataturk visited the campus twice, showing his special interest, as well as all other Presidents of Turkey, to date. Galatasaray High School has been, since 1992, part of an integrated educational system consisting of the Galatasaray Primary School, Galatasaray High School and the Galatasaray University, creating an active community both inside and outside of Turkey. The influence of the graduates of Galatasaray High School on the rise of modern Turkey has been enormous. In the modern era, as the need for administrators, diplomats, businessmen, scientist and other groups in accordance with Western norms became increasingly important, the graduates of Galatasaray came to play a preponderant role in diverse fields in the Republic of Turkey. The current Principal since ten years, Ms. Meral Mercan, is a graduate of the first co-ed class of Galatasaray High School. In addition to being the first female Principal, she also was the first female Vice Principal in the history of the school. The Principal of the High School is automatically a member of the board of the Galatasaray Sports Club.

## OVERVIEW

- Established in 1481, one of the most influential and the oldest public high school in Turkey
- Birthplace of the well known Galatasaray Community that includes the Galatasaray University, the Foundations and the Galatasaray Sports Club.
- Five centuries of uninterrupted education
- Offers **tuition free, public** high level education. **Even though the school is tuition free, 16 % of students receive need based financial aid from the Foundation for books, pocket Money and Boarding.**
- ***Diverse ethnic identities from around Turkey.***
- Admission requires a tough competition by three selective national exams which took place in three consecutive years for the class of 2018.
- **Hardest high school to gain admittance to with its admittance rate of 0.03%**, admits 100 students each year from the top 500 of over one million candidates in the National High School Entrance Exam (TEOG)
- **Diploma equivalent to the French Baccaalaureate.** Graduates admitted to universities in France without further examinations.
- Co-educational **boarding school**. **The student body is highly diverse** with boys and girls coming from every corner of the country
- **Total students: 712** (335 of this year is boarding students. 193 girls and 142 boys)
- Class size: 20-25 students
- Education period five years, one year French preparatory and four years high school
- Total teachers: **70**
- University placement ratio: 100%
- **Foreign languages: French, English, Italian, Latin**
- Project partner in the European Community Lifelong Learning Projects and Comenius Educational Projects
- New graduates may continue their higher education at Galatasaray University, where 25% of the enrollment quota is reserved for them, subject to examination
- Alumni continue to occupy high-ranking political, industrial, business positions within and outside Turkey. Are represented by 17 Alumni Associations, 9 in Turkey, and 8 in Europe, North America and South Africa

## SCHOOL CAMPUS

Galatasaray gave its name to its neighborhood, which is the busiest historical, cultural, shopping and leisure center of İstanbul. The campus extends over an area of 27,000 square meters with its historical building, its auxiliaries, gardens and sports ground.

## FACULTY

Out of **70** teachers, **30** are French, **38** are Turkish and **2** are Italian. French teachers are assigned to Galatasaray by the French Ministry of Education and the Turkish teachers pass through interviews by the school administration before being appointed.

## CURRICULUM

With its rigorous curricula, continuing the tradition of **educating selected bright students for leading positions** in Turkey, Galatasaray is among the most academically challenging public high schools. It is the only public school to have the privilege of designing its own curriculum. **Of the five year-long highly demanding education**, the first year preparatory class is the immersion year that prepares students for rigorous curriculum, which is **mostly in French**. The school offers a tuition-free, high level education, voluntary boarding possibilities and thus, **draws a diverse group of students from all over Turkey, including students who cannot afford private education.** The academic program is designed for gifted students regardless of their background, and enables them to pursue academic excellence and acquire fluency and literacy in French and Turkish. **The school follows both French and Turkish curricula** in order to ensure its students to attain the French Baccaalaureate criteria. The students' french levels are excellent by the time they graduate. *Their diplomas are equivalent to the Baccaalaureate by a protocol agreement signed between France and Turkey in 1992.*

The current curriculum consists of a blend of Turkish and French syllabi plus a number of additional language and elective courses. Courses such as Turkish Literature, Geography, History, Ethics and Art are taught in Turkish while French Literature, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Logic, Democracy and Human Rights, Economics, Geometry, Mathematics and Science courses are in French. **Languages taught other than Turkish and French are English, Italian and Latin.** To graduate from the school, students have to complete a program of 40 hours a week.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Galatasaray does not rank its students, however attributes the Inan Kirac Academic Excellence Award to the top three students with the highest GPA. The school grades are based on a scale of 0 through 100 where **50 is the passing grade**. GPAs are calculated by multiplying grades by the number of course hours in each course. Students are given grades each semester and the final course grade is an average of the two semesters

An Honors student must obtain an average of 70% and High Honors students must obtain 85%. It should be pointed out that the **grading system is strict and the academic standards are extremely rigorous** compared to other high schools in Turkey. The curve system is not used either in grading individual exams or in the GPA calculations. Top students are recommended for the school Honor Society by their peers and are then voted by the faculty based on additional criteria such as leadership, character, community participation, and if they are exemplary students.

### GRADING SCALE TABLE out of 100

5= 85.00 - 100.00 Very Good- A	3= 60.00 - 69.99 Average - C	1= 0.00 - 49.99 Fail - E
4= 70.00 - 84.99 Good - B	2= 50.00 - 59.99 Pass - D	

### JUNIOR GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2018

Grades	85-100	70-84,99	60-69,99	50-59,99	0-49,99
No of Students	70	45	24	10	0

### CLASS OF 2018 GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY CORE COURSES

	No of Students	85-100	70-84,99	60-69,99	50-59,99	0-49,99
FOREIGN LANGUAGE (FRENCH)	149	59	49	18	19	4
TURKISH LITERATURE	71	45	18	6	1	1
ELECTIVE THIRD FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ITALIAN)	149	107	18	8	7	9
SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ENGLISH)	149	107	16	12	10	4
TURKISH GRAMMAR	149	147	2	0	0	0
RELIGION AND ETHICS	149	144	5	0	0	0
HISTORY OF THE TURKISH REVOLUTION	149	118	19	6	6	0
PHILOSOPHY	149	24	45	25	21	34
ELECTIVE DICTION	26	26	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE BIOLOGY	59	40	11	6	1	1
ELECTIVE PHYSICS	59	18	11	5	7	18
ELECTIVE MUSIC	25	24	1	0	0	0
ELECTIVE CHEMISTRY	25	11	3	2	5	4
ELECTIVE MATHEMATICS	149	79	32	7	10	21
ELECTIVE GEOGRAPHY	90	52	29	7	2	0
ELECTIVE TURKISH GRAMMAR	30	30	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE TURKISH LITERATURE	21	14	4	2	1	0
ELECTIVE ART	63	63	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE ART HISTORY	21	21	0	0	0	0

## GRADUATES

Galatasaray graduates traditionally continue their education in Turkey, though in recent years the number of students studying in the United States has increased. Every year approximately **13 percent** of the graduating class choose to study abroad. The ones wishing to study in Turkey **earn places at the top ranking universities**, with top scores in the National Entrance Exam. The school *has a very strong academic record*, with the highest proportion of its students proceeding to prominent universities in Turkey, France and the United States.

US Amherst College, Brown University, Bowdoin College, Columbia University, Cornell University, University of Chicago, Dartmouth College, Drexel University, Northwestern University, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Stanford University, Tulane University, University of California at LA (UCLA), University of Pennsylvania, Washington University in St.Louis, Worcester Polytechnical Institute, Yale University, CANADA University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Toronto, McGill University, University of Waterloo, EUROPE Bocconi University Italy, Sorbonne Universités, Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques( Science Po), Universite de Strasbourg, Universite de Lyon, Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne, Imperial College, King’s College, Manchester University, Oxford University, Universitat Wien, TU Delft Holland

**Galatasaray students ranking in the first 25,000 out of 2 million in the National University Entrance Examination 2017**

Rank	1-10	11-100	101-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001 10,000	10,001 25,000	Total
Students	2	13	27	12	32	13	12	111

Total 145 students in the Class of 2017

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are mostly run by students' clubs. There are over 40 clubs, to which participation is encouraged by teachers as well as by the students. Each year freshmen are strongly urged to join various clubs and discover their interests that may guide their decisions about their future. Traditionally, clubs are led by students who *reach their junior year*, enabling them to show **maximum involvement** and to *develop leadership abilities*. *Founding a new club is also supported* by the administration. Some of the most prominent clubs are the MUN-EYP Club, Science Club, Math Club, Chess Club, Theatre Clubs (Turkish, French and English), Debate Club, Music Club, Italian Club, Latin Language Club, Nucleus Community, Economics and Entrepreneurship Club, Social Charity, Responsibility and Aid Club and the Social Sciences Community. The Sports Clubs are formed in varsity teams. Some recently founded clubs include "Fashion Design and Business Club" and "3D Design and Printing Club". **Galatasaray students are active participants and winners in both national and international competitions** such as TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey), Genius Olympiads USA, International DOESEF Research Competition, Harvard MUN, Yale MUN, UNESCO-SEMEP Project Competition, International Kangourou Mathematics Olympiads, National and International Debate Competitions, URFODU International Science Foundations General Knowledge Quiz Competition, MFNU The Hague, MFNU Grenoble, FerMUN Geneva, International ICT Seagulls Projects, Comenius Projects, "Les Tevfik d'Or" International Francophone Drama Festival, Student exchange programs with Lycee Victor Duruy a Paris and Liceo Ginnasio Tasso Roma and National Music Competitions. Galatasaray consistently attends and organizes Model United Nations conferences, music and theater festivals, social sciences forums, short movie competitions and debate competitions. During the academic year it hosts many scholars and well known actors, singers, bands, dancers, writers, poets, diplomats and politicians. At the end of every school year, juniors organize the well known "Galatasaray Culture and Art Festival".

## TRADITIONS

At Galatasaray there is a **tradition** of respecting the elder students, who are called "brothers and sisters". The elders mentor the younger brothers and sisters, and try to help them with their problems, while the younger ones respect the elders, creating a relationship of fraternal hierarchy, which is based on mutual respect and affection. Galatasaray students are known to enjoy this tradition, which they have maintained through years with unique practices. After graduation, the brother and sisterhood continues regardless of age, status or geographic location.

## ALUMNI

Among the alumni of Galatasaray, there are two Prime Ministers, eight Foreign Ministers, and scores of other Cabinet Ministers and Undersecretaries in *the state administration* since the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey. Apart from these, many academicians, judges, educators, writers, doctors, architects, engineers, journalists, artists, stage artists, film directors, poets, and painters constitute the illustrious alumni of this institution. Numerous pillars of Turkish literature have studied in the school, as a result, Galatasaray have been the place where diverse Turkish literature movements were conceived. A special place should be reserved to Galatasaray alumni who join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **They constitute an important body in the Diplomatic Corps** and the number of those that have reached the Ambassadorial rank exceeds one hundred. Furthermore, in 1905, Ali Sami Yen, a senior at Galatasaray founded the Galatasaray Sports Club which has a world renowned reputation. The Club has a series of significant traditions still connected to the High School such as the Club Chairman always being a graduate of the school.