

Erasmus Staff Visit Feedback Report

Name: Dr Richard Shipway

Host University visited: DEU (Dokuz Eylul University)

BU School: School of Tourism

Country visited: Izmir, Turkey

Type of visit: Teaching

Dates of visit: Monday 8th – Friday 13th May 2011

Brief Summary of Purpose of visit	In May 2011, I spent five days teaching at the Faculty of Business, Dokuz Eylul University in Izmir teaching on their annual International Week, which attracted over 30 International academics from 12 different countries. The visit was an opportunity to profile BU's undergraduate and postgraduate courses, enhance my own experience of teaching overseas, explore the possibility of future students and staff exchanges, and to establish research links with DEU staff in the area of tourism and events.
Please provide a sentence which gives your overall impression of your international visit	Dokuz Eylul University have an established track record of organising a high quality, annual International Week which provides the opportunity to teach motivated and enthusiastic students; to explore the culture and heritage of the Izmir province via the organised trips provided by DEU, and to network with academic colleagues from throughout Europe.
What was the best thing about your experience?	Dokuz Eylul University organise various social activities and trips for visiting academics during the International Week. The highlight of my visit to Izmir was an organised day trip to the ancient city of Ephesus. Aside of this social activity, the most rewarding experience was the politeness and respect displayed by the DEU students - they were truly a pleasure to teach, and a credit to their institution.
How has this overseas experience benefited you in terms of your future professional development?	The biggest challenge for me was dealing with the contrasting understanding of English amongst the students at DEU. I learnt how to adapt my own teaching for this diverse range of students and ensure that the pace and tone of the sessions were such that each student was able to understand and learn the concepts that were introduced. I found this quite intense and testing, but was a rewarding challenge, and will complement my MSc teaching at BU in future years.
If you had the chance would you return to this country / city?	Yes, I would return to Turkey for various reasons. Firstly, for strategic reasons given the location of Turkey as the bridge between Asia and Europe, and the potential this provides for BU across research and student recruitment; but more importantly because of the hospitality and warm welcome that was provided by DEU staff. In addition, I found the city to be safe and very relaxed, and the people to be friendly and extremely helpful.

<p>Would you recommend your experience to other staff?</p>	<p>Yes, I would recommend my experience to other colleagues for the numerous reasons cited both above and below. I have no reservations or negative comments about this visit to Izmir.</p>
<p>What are the top 5 best things about the country / city that you visited?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The day trip to the ancient city of Ephesus • The politeness, respect, & friendliness of the students at DEU • The enthusiasm of DEU Faculty of Business staff • The restaurants, cafes and bars on Izmir waterfront area • The diverse range of cultural and heritage attractions that are easily accessible
<p>Which places of interest would you recommend other staff?</p>	<p>As identified above: I would recommend the cultural and heritage attractions within the city region; the coastal resorts within 90 minutes drive of Izmir (Cesme); the House of the Virgin Mary (90 mins away), and the ancient city of Ephesus which is possibly the most fascinating tourist attraction I have visited in Europe (and that's coming from a tourism academic).</p>
<p>What was the shopping like? Was it easy to buy the type of food you liked? Can you name a supermarket you'd recommend?</p>	<p>There are numerous local shops where it is possible to purchase everyday essentials. These are all within easy reach of the city centre, and appeared to be open late into the evenings. I would anticipate no problems in obtaining a diverse range of foods relatively easily. I'm not sure how well vegetarian colleagues would be provided for within Izmir (or Turkey as a whole). I think a couple of visiting academics who were vegetarian struggled slightly. From my own perspective, I had no problems and could obtain everyday supplies and bottled water easily.</p>



Richard in Ephesus.