

Layla Razavi(2015-2017)

I worked at Bilkent University where I taught on the preparatory program for two academic years, from August 2015 until July 2017. When I look back on my time at Bilkent, I have to say that it was one of the best experiences of my life to date. I have so many fond memories of not only working at Bilkent but from living in Ankara and immersing myself into the culture in Turkey. Working at Bilkent gave me the opportunity to develop my teaching skills and grow as a professional. It also gave me the chance to flourish on a personal level by living alone and working abroad. Some of the ways that Bilkent gave me the opportunity to learn and improve was through a supportive observation process, training sessions and Turkish language lessons. When I arrived at Bilkent I was provided with a useful and informative two-week induction programme.



I have been teaching English for around fifteen years and it has to be said that the teachers who I worked with at Bilkent were some of the most experienced and well-read educators that I have worked with in my field. Not only were they knowledgeable and professional but also extremely welcoming and friendly. I am happy to say that some of my ex-colleagues are now lifelong friends. The people I met while working and living in Ankara were really accepting of foreigners and I always felt safe both on and off campus.

The campus is in a quiet and peaceful location which is surrounded by nature. The accommodation provided is on campus and is a short walk away from the buildings where the preparatory program is taught. There are several canteens, a library and two gyms on campus as well as a small shopping centre in the local area where necessities can be bought. A cinema, a supermarket, a range of restaurants, cafes and a country club are also nearby. Bilkent also offers a bus service for staff which goes into the city centre and passes by many of the major metro stations. In addition, Ankara also has great intercity transportation links so that you can enjoy national holidays or weekends in other cities. Having said this, Ankara itself is a beautifully unique and bustling city with something for everyone to do and enjoy.

My time working at Bilkent was fulfilling and rewarding and if I hadn't experienced unforeseen circumstances in my home country, I most definitely would have continued working there. I am currently teaching English to speakers of other languages at a college in Manchester in the UK.