

MERT KARABIYIK

Date of birth: May 12, 2005

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EDUCATION

The Koc School, Istanbul, Turkey

September 2019 – Present

Enrolled in International Baccalaureate Program alongside the Turkish National Diploma

IB Predicted Grade: 44/45

HL: Math, Economics, and Computer Science

SL: Turkey in the 20th Century, English Literature and Turkish Language and Literature

Extended Essay, History: analysis of the extent to which the Edo Period prepared Japan for its rapid modernization

Pioneer Academics, PA, USA

February 2022 – July 2022

Undertook research on 'Public Choice and Political Economics.' Compared the Ottoman and Tokugawa states' relationships with their vassals in the 18th and 19th centuries utilizing a game theoretical framework under the guidance of Professor Christopher Kingston of Amherst College. Achieved Grade A accredited by Oberlin College.

The Cambridge Centre for International Research, CA, UK

November 2021 – March 2022

Completed research on 'Computational Economics and Social Networks' utilizing graph theory with the guidance of Dr. Daniele Cassese of Cambridge University. Analyzed how a Barabasi-Albert network formation model will change with the substitution of eigenvector centrality for degree. Wrote Python code to create such a model. Nominated as CCIR Spotlight Scholar.

Foundation for Teaching Economics, Yale University, CT, USA

June 2021

Enrolled in the 'Economics for Leaders' course, learning to employ economic analysis when considering difficult public policy choices. Achieved Grade A- accredited by the University of Colorado.

University of Chicago, Pre-College Program, IL, USA

July 2020 – August 2020

Achieved Grade A for 'Global Political Economy: Power, Inequality, and Globalization' and received 3.3 semester hours of undergraduate credit from UChicago. Wrote a final paper on Istanbul's migration issue from a political economy perspective.

ID Tech, Virtual Tech Academy, USA

June 2020

Earned certificate of 'Advanced Python Coding with Machine Learning.' Explored application of Python in uses such as image recognition algorithms and neural networks.

Stanford Online High School, CA, USA

August 2019 – May 2020

Single-course student for one year at Stanford Online High School while studying at the Koc School. Took 'Textual Analysis and Argumentation,' building a foundation for advanced writing and reading in high school. Read and analyzed texts from American literature, the letters of Cristopher Columbus, and the stories of Edgar Allan Poe, among others. Earned Grade A. As top student in the class, was offered the opportunity to be a peer tutor for the following year (could not continue with SOHS due to training schedule with Turkish National Golf Team and academic and extracurricular responsibilities at the Koc School).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

Academic High Honors Award

Merit-Based High School Scholarship (80%)
CGPA of 97,26/100 (+2,00 points awarded for the IB students in school)

9th,10th,11th,12th grades

Koc School Department of Social Sciences Award

Awarded to the top student in all of the Social Science Courses (Economics, History, Turkey in the 20th Century, Philosophy, Geography & Theology).

11th grade

National English Debate Championship

English Parliamentary style debate competition. Selected top speaker among more than 250 students from high schools all over Turkey.

11th grade, December 2021

International Academic Marathon

International competition challenging students in their areas of academic interests. School team won first place in History subject, among 26 national teams and 679 participants.

11th grade, November 2021

Baltic Sea Philosophy Essay Event, Finland

International philosophical essay writing competition that challenges students' philosophical reflections. Received Honorary Mention for essay on 'How tolerance is the only way to stop intolerance from festering.'

11th grade, October 2021

International Public Speaking Competition, ESU – UK

Top speakers from participating schools all over Turkey (80+) participate in public speaking competition with both prepared and impromptu speeches. Earned 2nd place in 2021 and 3rd place in 2020 in national leg of competition.

9th & 10th grades, May 2020 & 2021

TESTING SCORES

SAT: 1580/1600 (Maths: 800, Verbal 780)

SAT Subj History: 770/800

TOEFL: 118/120

10th grade, May 2021

10th grade, June 2021

11th grade, June 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Group Leader at YGA (Young Guru Academy)

<https://yga.org.tr/en>

September 2018 – Present

Selected from among 10.000 applicants to attend both Middle and High School Programs of this non-profit dedicated to promoting open dialogue and critical thinking. Programs cultivate both the heart and the mind to find rooted solutions to the world's most pressing problems, emphasizing tech-based innovation for social impact. Responsibilities included:

- Leading weekly group sessions among volunteers.
- Supervising 40 'Science Sessions' in various cities in Eastern Turkey for Syrian Refugee students, visually impaired students, and students under government protection. Guided students to make autonomous cars and taught underlying operating logic using TWIN Science Kits developed by YGA. Altered perception of science in the minds of students from difficult and tedious to easy and fun, the primary purpose of the 'Science Movement.'
- Coordinating biannual YGA gatherings, at which all YGA volunteers gather for two days for intensive discussion and project-building.
- Leading volunteers during gatherings to create and pitch startup ideas to prominent investors from around the world.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Turkish Golf National Team Player

September 2018 – Present

Ranked 4th among all players in Turkey under 18

- Came in first place in 2022 in both the Turkish National Junior Championship and the Turkish Schools Golf Championship, among many others over 5 years. Participated in more than 20 national and international tournaments yearly as member of the Turkish National Team.
- Practiced four times a week for a minimum of 20 hours.

Debate Club of the Koc School

September 2019 – Present

President

- Formed first executive committee. Group became one of 3 clubs that received school funding and conducted selective admissions for prospective members.
- Organized first national debate tournament in the history of the school, with more than 50 other schools participating.
- Provided debate education for members in 10th grade; worked with educators from the Turkish debate community to organize weekly training sessions for the club.

School Orchestra

8th, 9th, 10th grade

Bass guitarist in the school band

- Performed in 5 school events as bass guitarist of the school orchestra.
- Formed my own band with friends called 'Majesty.' Performed a cover of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' that earned school's Best Group Performance award.

World Schools Debate Competition

January 2021 – January 2022

Team Turkey Development Team Captain

- Preparing for the World Schools Debate Championship, helped organize biweekly practice sessions and led the team in international tournaments such as the EurOpen.
- Refined and enhanced debating skills with team of highly competitive and experienced debaters.

WORK EXPERIENCE

TUSIAD

July 2022, 10hrs/week

<https://tusiad.org/en/>

- NGO working as bridge between businesses and the government. Supported jointly by discrete elements of the Turkish private sector; researches government policy to produce a collective response to said policies.
- As intern, joined meetings of the Economics roundtable, directly observing the activities of the many different working groups (such as banking and finance). Also discussed goals of the organization's operations with its head economist, Gizem Oztok Altinsac.

TWIN SCIENCE (Social Impact Driven Venture)

July – December 2021, 10hrs/week

<https://www.twinscience.com/en/about-twin/>

- YGA venture that aims to make education accessible to all through its DIY science kits, compatible with LEGO bricks and companion application. Awarded by World Economic Forum & Bett.
- Science kits regularly donated to under-resourced schools through YGA.
- Held crucial role in preparing TWIN Series A investment round pitch, generating \$3.5 mil in investments. Designed significant components of deck and wrote much of the English presentation script.
- Mentored by Omer Gorgulu, head of business management. Summarized key details for executives in meetings with key investors.

WeWalk (Social Impact Driven Venture)

January 2020, 2 weeks, 40 hrs/week

<https://wewalk.io/en/>

- YGA venture that produces smart canes for the visually impaired to enhance their mobility in all environments. Selected among the best inventions of the year by TIME Magazine in 2019 and won the Edison Award in 2018.
- Tasked by Gokhan Mericliler, CEO of WeWalk, with presenting WeWalk to JETRO. JETRO selected WeWalk as one of three international startups to participate in CEATEC, Japan's most significant technology exhibition. Won Best Startup Award at CEATEC.
- Compiled end-of-internship presentation detailing best practices and feedback for the company and presented it to executive committee.