



GALATASARAY LİSESİ

GALATASARAY HIGH SCHOOL

LYCÉE GALATASARAY

1481 - 1868 - 1923



School Profile

2024-25

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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 154 year old school, originally named "Galata Sarayi Enderun Mektebi" (Galata Palace Imperial School) is one of the oldest establishments of its kind in the world. Admission to the school is top tier. 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, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Levantines, Bulgarians, Arabs, 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 has been, since 1992, part of an integrated K-12 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. Galatasaray High School's Principal is Professor Dr.M.Reşat Dabak. He is a medical doctor who is a professor of Medicine at Haseki Medical Research University in Istanbul. He is an alumni of Galatasaray High School. The Principal of the High School is an honorary member of the Board of the Galatasaray Sports Club which has twenty five million supporters, about thirty two percent of the population.

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. No legacy, sibling or transfer student contingencies allowed.***
- Admission requires a tough competition by selective 14+ national exam. No foreign students are at Galatasaray HS.
- **One of the hardest of high schools 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). Each year approximately 50 eligible students continue to the High School from the Galatasaray K-12 middle school.**
- **Diploma equivalent to the French Bacalaureate.** Graduates admitted to universities in France without further examinations.
- **Co-educational boarding school. Dedicated to internationalism in education, aiming at developing global citizens.**
- **Total students: 703 (314 girls, 389 boys). 421 boarding students (181 girls and 240 boys).**
- Class size: 20-25 students
- Education period five years, one year French preparatory and four years high school
- 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 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 Istanbul. The campus extends over an area of 27,000 square meters with its historical building, its auxiliaries, gardens and sports ground.

FACULTY

Out of 65 teachers, 19 are French, 45 are Turkish and 1 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

Galatasaray does not offer the AP nor the IB programs and does not have an Honors program even though the level of classes offered are of a very high calibre. It has a rigorous MEB curricula, continuing the tradition of educating selected bright students for leading positions in Turkey and 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 Bacalaureate criteria's. The students' french levels are excellent by the time they graduate. ***Their diplomas are equivalent to the French Bacalaureate 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, Logic, Economics, Geometry, Mathematics and Science courses are in French. Languages taught other than Turkish and French are English and Italian. **To graduate from the school, students have to complete a program of 40 hours a week. Some students independently take the AP's for preparation for entry to UK and Dutch Universities.**

GRADING SYSTEM

Galatasaray does not report student rank. *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 (except for the pandemic two school years). **None of the courses are given special weight.**

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 UNWEIGHTED GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2025

Grades	90-100	85-89.99	80-84.99	70-79.99	60-69.99	50- 59.99	0-49.99
No of Students	54	9	8	6	3	3	3

CLASS OF 2025 UNWEIGHTED GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY CORE COURSES

	No of Students	90-100	85-89.99	80-84.99	70-79.99	60-69.99	50- 59.99	0-49.99
FOREIGN LANGUAGE (FRENCH) 6hrs	140	37	19	32	27	16	2	7
SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ENGLISH) 4hrs	140	65	15	12	26	7	11	6
TURKISH GRAMMAR & LITERATURE 5hrs	140	114	11	6	7	1	0	0
RELIGION AND ETHICS 2hrs	140	135	2	1	1	1	0	0
VISUAL ARTS/MUSIC 1hr	140	121	10	4	5	0	0	0
PHILOSOPHY 2hrs	140	36	17	9	27	20	10	31
HISTORY 2hrs	140	102	8	6	12	4	4	3
ELECTIVE MATHEMATICS 6hrs	140	79	97	11	12	5	7	8
ELECTIVE HISTORY OF ART 2hrs	22	18	3	1	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE FRENCH 2hrs	60	36	7	6	5	6	0	0
ELECTIVE GEOGRAPHY 4hrs	56	21	7	2	5	0	2	1
ELECTIVE PHYSICS 4hrs	80	31	10	10	10	11	5	3
ELECTIVE CHEMISTRY 4hrs	80	41	9	6	13	4	6	1
ELECTIVE THIRD FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ITALIAN) 2hrs	33	18	4	5	3	1	1	1
ELECTIVE BIOLOGY 2 hrs	69	23	13	7	6	10	9	1
ELECTIVE ELOCUTION 1hr	38	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE SOCIOLOGY 2hrs	22	15	7	0	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE ENGLISH LITERATURE 2hrs	22	10	4	6	2	0	0	0
ELECTIVE ENGLISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2025 COHORT	SAT EBRW	SAT MATH
STUDENTS	9	9
MEAN	651	759
RANGE	500-770	640-800

CLASS OF 2025	
AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION	1
AP SCHOLAR WITH HONORS	6

SAT (9 TEST TAKERS)	MIDDLE 50%
EBRW	620 - 650
MATH	38 - 39.5
MATH	750 - 760
READING	31 - 36
WRITING	33 - 37

2022 SAT COHORT			
SECTION	25TH-75TH	MEAN	# STUDENTS
EBRW	650 - 710	667	12
MATH	780 - 800	746	12
TOTAL	1380 - 1510	1424.2	12

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 **25** percent of the graduating class now 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, Bates College, Berklee College of Music, Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Columbia University, Cornell University, University of Chicago, Dartmouth College, Drexel University, Franklin&Marshall College, Lafayette College, Northwestern University, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Purdue University, Rose-Hulman University, Savannah College of Art, Stanford University, Swarthmore College, Tulane University, University of Oregon, University of California at LA (UCLA), University of Southern California (USC), University of Michigan, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, Vassar College, Washington University in St.Louis, Worcester Polytechnical Institute, Yale University **CANADA** University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Toronto, McGill University, University of Waterloo **HONG KONG** City University of HK, Polytechnical University of HK, HKUST (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) **SINGAPORE** Yale/NUS **EUROPE** Bocconi University, Sorbonne Universités, ESSEC, Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques(Science Po), Erasmus University Rotterdam, KU Leuven, Universite de Strasbourg, Universite de Lyon, Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne, Universitat Wien, **The Netherlands** TU Delft, Erasmus Rotterdam, Tilburg University **UK** Bristol University, Imperial College, King’s College, Manchester University, Oxford University, University College London UCL

Galatasaray students ranking in the first 25,000 out of 2 million in the National University Entrance Examination 2024

Rank	1-10	11-100	101-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001 10,000	10,001 25,000	Total
Students	4	8	24	17	62	45	72	232

Total 144/147 entered the Turkish Nat’l University Entrance Exam from the Class of 2024. This year the top 3 students were from the Galatasaray Lise.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School Clubs are mostly run by students. There are over 40 Clubs, to which participation is encouraged by the school. Freshmen are strongly urged to join various clubs and discover their interests that may guide their decisions about their future. The competitions were given a break due to Covid19 such as the Debate Club, MUN and TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) but they have started again full force. The School Magazine *Galet* went into print for the first time in 2022. We had gold medal winners for the Chemistry International Olympiads, British Biology Olympiad as well as the Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiad. The popular School Choir is very active. During the academic year GS usually hosts many scholars, diplomats and politicians. At the end of every school year, juniors organize the well known “Galatasaray Culture and Art Festival” where famous local bands as well as the school bands perform and other schools are invited.

TRADITIONS**

“Studying at Galatasaray means that every student is a sibling to each other. It provides a distinctive experience to its students due to the presence of different cultures from all over Turkey. Every student ends up accepting each other as they are. I have a lot of siblings from different cultures here. We all share our experiences, cultures, habits without any prejudice” wrote Yasar Kaan Sonmez GSL 155 and went on to say *“a community formed by students in the same grade becomes a “Devre.” We - all Devre members - complement, develop, and teach each other our cultural beliefs, traditions and learn understanding of each other regardless of our different races, nationalities, genders, or religions. We always help each other. This help is not restricted to lessons and classes. It is for life purposes. We all share our family and social problems with our siblings and get advice from them.”* This explains well Galatasaray’s tradition of respect between the students, who are officially 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 acceptance. These important values generally continue in their approach to new communities. Galatasaray students are known to enjoy this tradition, which they have maintained throughout the years. After graduation, the brother and sisterhood continues regardless of age, status or geographic location and the students graduate having the interest instilled in them to be curious about different cultures, being helpful to their communities.

ALUMNI Among the alumni of Galatasaray, there is **Professor Dr. Daron Acemoglu who has just won the Nobel Prize for Economics. He is the third Nobel Prize winner from Turkey who is a professor at MIT.** There are numerous 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. Numerous pillars of Turkish literature have studied in the school, as a result, Galatasaray has 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. As well as notable Turkish alums, Yitzak Ben-Zvi (second President of Israel), King Zog of Albania, Prime Minister of Syria Suphi Bereket are amongst the historical alumni.