



From Paper to Practice: Heed the Voice of Students!

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KEYWORDS Turkish Students. Student Mobility. Internationalization. Challenges. Opportunities

ABSTRACT This paper identified problems of Turkish university students studying abroad (Erasmus Program) and suggested solutions. Participants were 10 students who had studied abroad, currently at universities in Istanbul. Qualitative research included paper-pencil, open-ended questions, and face-to-face interviews. Interview data were collected as voice recordings during the 2016 academic year and evaluated for categories. Participants' categorized views of challenges as academic, economic, political, and socio-cultural. Most critical problems were bureaucratic barriers, socio-cultural differences, foreign language proficiency, course selection, and accreditation. Program benefits included self-development, language improvement, cultural awareness, and feelings of being a global citizen, language improvement, and advancement of curriculum. Finally, some suggestions for reducing problems were offered. Overall, there is no doubt internationalization will play an increasing role in Turkey's integration to the world.