

Source: Middle East Technical University General Catalog 1999-2001, pp. xiii-xx.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Founded in 1956, METU is a state University that has the objective of training Turkish and foreign students in scientific, technical and professional fields of study, and of utilizing these studies in the field of pure and applied research for contributing to the economic and social necessities of Turkey and other developing countries. Since its inception the language of instruction has been English.

LOCATION

The METU Campus is located on the Ankara-Eskişehir highway and has been forested entirely through the efforts of the University employees and students since the early 1960's.

The Campus includes Lake Eymir. The lake and its surroundings meet part of the rowing, fishing and picnicking needs of the METU employees and students. The surroundings of Lake Eymir have also been forested through the efforts of the University employees and students. The fresh water for METU is being supplied from the deep wells around Lake Eymir.

All Faculties and Departments of the University are in the same campus area, except for the Graduate School of Marine Sciences which is located at İÇel-Erdemli on the southern coast of Turkey.

HISTORY

Giving ideas reality and fulfilling dreams is often a slow process, but the growth of METU from an envisioned concept in 1954 to a campus with more than 304.228 square meters of floor space, has been a dynamic and phenomenal exception.

The idea of a regional technical university originated in 1954 when an evaluation of housing and planning conditions in Turkey showed the need for competent technicians trained in these professions who would dedicate themselves to speed the development of the countries of the Middle East. After much discussion and advice from various groups, the School of Architecture and City Planning, with 40 students and 4 teachers, was opened in 1956.

From 1957, when the Turkish Grand National Assembly gave the new university legal standing with a provisional law, until 1962, the METU campus consisted of temporary buildings on grounds in the city. The Charter of Middle East Technical University was approved by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in 1959.

Construction began on the new campus area in 1962. In a year and a half all the basic facilities of the University were completed. The building programs, originally planned to meet the needs of 12.000 students, have continued to progress rapidly. Classes were opened on the new campus in October, 1963.

Besides the construction of buildings, METU has concerned itself with the reforestation and landscaping of its campus. It has been estimated that 10 million trees have been planted (many by the students themselves) since 1962.

METU's modern campus, equipped with the most advanced scientific and technical facilities, now serves almost 20.000 students from all parts of the world. In the past decades, METU's dream has been realized and its impact has been felt throughout the region.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

In accordance with its objectives the University encourages and puts high emphasis on both basic and applied research. The objectives for the various research activities and technical services conducted by the University can be summarized as follows: To contribute to the advancement of science and development of technology, to contribute to national development by mobilizing and effectively using the resources of the University, to manipulate applied research as a means of stimulating and inspiring basic research, to prepare the necessary background for interdisciplinary approaches and cooperation in research and to lead the result of research to the stage of application.

Basic research originates mainly through the individual efforts of the academic staff and also includes some of the studies carried out in the form of thesis work by the graduate students.

Research can be initiated within departments of faculties or it may have an interdepartmental or inter-faculty structure. In accordance with the steady increase in the volume of applied research the number and the activity of such research units have been also increasing. At present the following research centers are active:

Research Coordination and Industrial Liaison Office is responsible for coordination of research, research centers, industrial liaison, METU-Technopolis and the area committees.

Research Centers Reporting to Office of the President:

Audio-Visual Research and Production Center;
Black Sea and Central Asian Countries Research Center;
CAD/CAM/Robotics Application and Research Center;
Center for Research and Assessment of Historic Environment;
Continuing Education Center;
Disaster Management Implementation and Research Center;
METU-Southeast Anatolia Project Research Center;
Research Center for Science and Technology Policies;
Petroleum Research Center;
Welding Technology and Non-Destructive Testing Research Center

Research Centers in Coordination with other Organizations:

Turkish Air Force - METU Coordination Center for R&D and Advanced Studies;
METU-KOSGEB (SMIDO) Technology Development Center.

Research Centers Reporting to TÜBİTAK (Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council):

Information Technologies & Electronics Research Institute;
SAGE Defense Industry Control Laboratory;
High Energy Astrophysics Research Unit.

International Research Center:

International Center for Heat and Mass Transfer

Research Centers Reporting to Departments:

Earthquake Engineering Research Center;
Coastal Harbor Engineering Research Center;
Ground Mechanics Research Center;
Transportation Research Center;

Water Resources Research Center;
Machine Design and Manufacturing Research Center;
System Sciences Research Center;
Environmental Engineering Research Center;
Geology-Geophysics Research Center;
Polymer Chemistry Research Center;
High Energy Physics Research Center;
Housing Research Center;
Management and Administration Research Center;
Economic and Social Sciences Research Center;
International Relations-Region Research Center;
European Community Research Center.

Area Committees:

Biotechnology Area Committee;
Environment Area Committee;
Energy Area Committee;
Defense Industry Area Committee.

The sponsored research activities are carried out either on the request of institutions from outside the University and international organizations or provided for them at the initiative of the University. Basic research is also supported by the University share collected by the University Revolving Fund and TÜBİTAK

THE FACULTY

The aim of a faculty member of an outstanding university is to provide quality teaching and to aid students in the pursuit of truth. In order to teach effectively, a faculty member must keep up with the latest findings in his [or her] field and create knowledge through research and experimentation.

The faculty of METU is constantly conducting investigations of all types into various fields so that it may teach, discover and learn. In order to provide the students with the benefits of these pursuits, close contact between the student and teacher is maintained through small classes and discussions.

LIBRARY

The METU Library is located in a central building to support research and education activities, and occupies a total floor space of 12.058 square meters. There are 8 reading halls, 5 demonstration rooms and one display hall. Library has 1310 reader places.

The library is open from 08.45 to 21.15 on weekdays and from 09.30 to 17.15 on weekends.

The library contains 301.551 books and 138.024 bounded periodicals. 1.957 currently received periodicals. The books and periodicals in library stock that are arranged by the subject on the shelves are classified according to the Library of Congress classification scheme.

All METU faculty members, students, personnel and retired personnel can become a member of the Library and can obtain a library card. Books can be borrowed for two hours, overnight, three days, one week or two weeks, depending on the place of use and the importance.

The Library's basic aim is to meet the information needs of both METU users and of non-METU researchers and industrial corporations; answering readers' inquiries is also one of the most important duties of the library staff. Various branch experts render a comprehensive information service, making use of both domestic and international sources, and, for a small fee, can provide photocopies of any information when so requested. A photocopy unit provides photocopies of any source, for a reasonable fee.

The METU Library has, besides the usual library services, an Audio Visual (AV) Center for video and film shows. In the AV Center there are 550 films and 229 video cassettes, these audio-visual materials are available to researchers but are not available for loan.

The library makes use of the latest technological development in providing automated services to its users.

METU Library automation system, named as VTLS, conforms with all the international standards in library automation.

Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) is in service to our users [and can] be searched over the internet through the campus network environment and from all over the world by our World Wide Web gateway called VIRTUA. (<http://virtua.metu.edu.tr>)

It is a Unix based system and is designed to run in client/server architecture and it runs on Windows environment, therefore it is very easy to use.

It is composed of several integrated modules which accomplish the basic functions of a library such as Cataloguing and Authority Control, Circulation, Reserve, Serials and the OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). Also the OCLC CAT-CD450 system is being used to create database of the library in MARC format.

Information about the books and periodicals in the collection can be found by searching OPAC, by author, title, subject, call number or keyword with boolean operators.

METU library computing environment is comprised of various types of PCs , each of them is connected to the library's local area network by using NETBEUI protocol. All of them are also connected to the METU-NET and internet by using TCP/IP protocol.

METU library CD-ROM network system [allows] our users to access frequently used CD-ROM databases from all departments of METU regardless of their network environment.

All CD-ROM databases are loaded into the hard disks on INFOWARE CD/HD system.

Many CD-ROMs on several subjects, the main ones are Science Citation Index and Social Science Citation index, are accessible by using PCs, Macs, Unix workstations via METU-NET and INTERNET.

The Library home page could be accessed through <http://www.lib.metu.edu.tr>, and all our users could send their questions and comments to our hotline, lib-hot-line@metu.edu.tr

COMPUTER CENTER

Middle East Technical University Computer Center (METU-CC) provides central computing and networking facilities for educational research and administrative needs of the university. It is located on the campus ring road between the Computer Engineering and Civil Engineering buildings. METU campus computing environment is comprised of a number of departmental networks, PC rooms and multi user hosts connected around a campus-wide backbone network, the METU-NET. METU-NET includes the ATM network backbone cabled with fiber optic technology and the local area networks of administrative and academic units, which are connected to this backbone.

Each departmental network is typically comprised of a collection of client machines (PCs and/or Macs), multi user and/or single user systems and/or NOS servers. Departmental networks are connected to the campus backbone via gateways. METU-CC has the full responsibility and control over the METU-NET. Operations on departmental LANs are done by departments' staff. However, METU-CC provides consultation services as requested.

In addition to the campus-wide networking capabilities, METU has a connection to the worldwide network, the Internet. One of the most important services provided by METU-CC on the Internet is the METU Campus Wide Information System (METU-CWIS) that can be accessed through <http://www.metu.edu.tr>. METU-CC is one of the central nodes of Turkey's national educational computer network, providing national educational gateway to the Internet, serving Domain Name Service (DNS) to the whole country.

Beside the design and maintenance of METU-CWIS, other administrative computing facilities and services such as library automation system, student registration and academic information systems, payroll/personnel system, have also been designed, developed and maintained by METU-CC.

METU-CC operates extensive general-purpose computing facilities including IBM/6000 servers and SUN servers/clones. These systems serve approximately 23,000 users. In addition to multi-disciplinary software such as mathematical/numerical analysis packages and statistical packages available on these servers, many computing services such as mail, web, library automation, administrative computing and development, print-out, FTP, software licensing, NFS, NIS, listserv and news are also given to the users by these servers.

METU-CC operates a number of PC rooms for general user access to computing facilities. 9 PC-Rooms and 7 Multimedia PC-Rooms, having a total capacity of more than 420 computers and printing facilities, are located at several places on campus, serving students and researchers for their computing needs.

Other services provided by METU-CC are: consultancy services, hot-line for urgent problems (during weekdays between 9:00 and 17:00, by telephone 210 33 55, by electronic mail hot-line@metu.edu.tr), METU-CC library, operation manuals, presentations, seminars, periodicals, training of users, central printing services and documentation.

LABORATORIES

Because practical work and demonstration is considered a necessary part of a university education METU has installed the finest equipment in its modern laboratories. Besides laboratory work, there are other facilities for research and work in all of the faculties.

ACCOMMODATION SERVICE

There are 12 modern dormitories on the METU Campus, of which six are for female students. The accommodation capacity of all the dormitories is 4979 beds: 2114 for female students and 2865 for male students.

FOOD SERVICE

There is one large central cafeteria on the Campus, which offers table d'hote lunch and dinner at modest prices. Also, there are a sufficient number of canteens in the departments and dormitories. Breakfast and snack needs are conveniently met by these canteens.

Students can find a wide variety of quality food and drink at other eating places on the Campus run by the METU Development Foundation and the private sector.

THE METU MUSEUM

METU is probably the only university in the world which has an archaeological museum housing material discovered on its own grounds. The Yalýncak excavation site, which lies about 4 kilometers south of the dormitory buildings, was dug by archaeologist B. Tezcan between the years 1962 and 1965 and subsequently, by Prof. C. Bayburtođlu and S. Buluđ in 1966. The finds from the Late Phrygian, the Hellenistic, Galatian, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods point to a continual inhabitation in this area since the 6th century B.C.

The Kođumbeli excavation site, which is farther south of Yalýncak, was also dug by the same archaeologists between the years 1964 and 1966. The Kođumbeli excavation has revealed only one inhabitation level which has been dated to the Early Bronze Age, that is, to the later part of the 3rd millenium B.C. The finds of this settlement such as bone and stone implements, various types of pottery seals, small animal figurines, idols and spindle whorls show close similarities with the finds of other Early Bronze Age settlements of the Central Anatolia region. Objects found at Yalýncak and Kođumbeli, belonging to different periods and cultures, are exhibited on the upper floor of the Museum.

In 1967 an excavation was made of three tumuli (a tumulus is an artificial mound with a burial chamber in it) within a Phrygian Necropolis situated between the iftlik and Bahđelievler districts of Ankara. Objects found within the burial chambers have been dated to the 7th century B.C. and are all displayed on the second floor of the museum.

In addition to the excavation finds, the museum has show-cases displaying archaeological objects purchased by the university and a small room arranged with ethnographic material given to the museum by the Departments of Architecture and Restoration.

BANKING AND POSTAL SERVICES, SHOPPING

There is on the campus a branch office of T. İř Bankasi, T.C. Ziraat Bankasi, T.C. Yapi Kredi Bankasi, Vakifbank, Akbank and their ATM services, the ATM service of Pamukbank, Garanti Bankasi, Diřbank, Osmanli Bankasi, İnterbank, Finansbank and a Post Office. In the dormitories and at various locations on campus are paid telephone facilities for local and trunk calls.

The Shopping Mall across from the tennis courts has a number of shops, including a variety of clothing shops, stationary shops, bookstores and pharmacy as well as a variety of fast food shops. A hairdresser for women, a barber for men, a tailor, a shoe repairman and a pick-up service for dry cleaning are at the Business Center which is located next to the Shopping Mall. There is a Market where fresh fruits and vegetables, a wide

variety of foods and items for household and personal needs are available. Nearby, in the Dormitory 8, a laundry is open to all students.

In addition to the Business Center, there are a number of fast food restaurants and canteens around the campus that are opened during weekdays.

BOOKSTORE

Since the training and education are carried out in the English language, most of the textbooks are imported and sold by the Bookstore to students at prices that are almost equal to the costs. University-published textbooks and periodicals are also sold by the Bookstore at reduced prices. The main branch of the METU Bookstore is located at the Business Center.

HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICE

The Health Center on the METU Campus offers diagnosis treatment services to all University employees and students. The Health Center is located by the Sports center. Full-time and part-time doctors receive patients from 08.30-16.30 during the day. The Center is available for emergency situations for 24 hours. Employees and students apply to Health Center directly with their identification card.

There are 20 specialists, 5 practitioners, 5 dentists, 5 psychologists, 5 councillors and an adequate number of support personnel employed. The Health Center is equipped with 4 dentistry units, a computerized ocular unit, a conventional X-ray and fluoroscopy unit, biochemistry and microbiological laboratories, an endoscopy and arthroscopy unit. Two psychological counseling centers are established on campus where students can easily access professional support for their psychological well-being.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Scheduled bus service between various districts of Ankara and the Campus is provided in the morning and evening. Service is also provided between the civic center of Ankara and the Campus, at least every hour from 07.30 to 23.30 hours every day including holidays. The bus services schedule is announced at the beginning of every semester.

For transportation municipal buses are used. Furthermore, city buses and dolmus (mini-vans operating on a fill-and-leave basis) also run between the Campus and the civic center of Ankara.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Within the structure of the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, 60 different student groups carry out miscellaneous cultural, artistic and scientific activities and organize panels, open discussions, conferences, and conversations. METU Cultural Affairs Office has been founded in 1984, and recently there are 60 Clubs acting under the organization of this office. Many activities organized by our students, still continue to be "the first and the unique" in Turkey. All the clubs organize many national and international activities coordinated by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs. Some of these activities could be listed as International Spring Festival, Theater Festival, Folk Dances and Folk Music Festival, Contemporary Dance Days, Classical Guitar Days, Rock Music Days and etc.

About 5000 students participate in the activities of the following clubs: Aeronautical Club, Amateur Astronomy Club, Amateur Photography Club, Archeological Club, Atatürk's Thought Club, Biology Club,

Birdwatching Club, Bridge Club, Cinema Club, Classical Guitar Club, Communication Club, Computer Club, Contemporary Dances Club, Dance Theater Club, Economy Club, Education Club, Electric-Electronics Club, Environment (Ecology) Club, Euro-Asia Club, European Club (AEGEE-ANKARA), Foreign Policy and International Relations Club, Friendship and Solidarity Club, Go Club, Humour Club, International Youth Club, Love and Tolerance Club, Management Club, Mathematics Club, Music Club, Nature Club, Philosophy Club, Poetry Club, Political Sciences Club, Productivity Club, Psychology Club, Radio Club (Radio METU), Science Fiction and Fantasy Club, Sociology Club, Theater Club, Turkish Classical Music Club, Turkish Folk Dances and Folk Music Club, Musical Club, History Club, etc.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Middle East Technical University is quite rich in sports facilities, including:

Big Sports Hall

Steel Sports Hall

One grassy-fielded football stadium with a seating capacity of 10.000

7 football fields of varying sizes (one of them is artificial turf field)

12 tennis courts

Outdoor basketball courts

Outdoor volleyball courts

Table tennis sets (in some Departments)

Jogging trails (6 km. and 2 km.)

Elmadağ Skiing Facilities

Boathouse and Rowing Facilities on Eymir Lake

Body building center

Gymnastics Hall (inside the big sports hall)

Uludağ Sport, Recreation and Educational Facilities

An olympic-size indoor swimming pool

Outdoor swimming pool

Billiards Hall (Informal Management)

The students' sports activities are coordinated by the Directorate of Sports, Department of Health, Culture and Sports.

All students may freely use the sports facilities during the day. Especially, the academic and administrative staff use the gymnasiums at noon. Between 17.30 and 21.00, the following sports activities are scheduled: Football, basketball, volleyball, handball, table tennis, judo, karate-do, taekwon-do, wrestling, athletics, cross country running, waterpolo, rowing, skin and scuba diving, skiing, mountaineering, fencing, scouting, tennis, body building, power improvement, swimming, cycling, softball, cricket, badminton, boxing and aerobics, gymnastics, step, physlogym.

CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT CENTER

Middle East Technical University is the first institution in Turkey, as it is in many other fields, which initiated an attempt in 1980 to establish a link between the new or would-be graduates of METU and their possible employers, under the name of MIBB (Mezunlara İş Bulma Bürosu = Office for Placement of Graduates). However, in 1996 this office was reorganized and expanded into KPMY Center (Kariyer Planlama Merkezi) with more functions and responsibilities, and reporting directly to the President's Office.

The major task of this Center is to organise meetings in which the employers and the students come together, thus creating a free labor market. After this stage, the center continues following up with graduates in their jobs by sending questionnaires to be filled in both by the graduates and their employers, in order to be able to evaluate the degree of mutual satisfaction both parts have developed. In [light] of feedback thus received, the Center may suggest certain modifications to take place in the curricula of the related departments, in order to increase the quality of education at METU.

The center has an extensive database of graduates which is used to provide firms with the suitable candidates for their open positions. The Centre, therefore is the bridge of communication between METU graduates and firms.

METU "Company Presentations & Career Planning Days" are held every year March through May to introduce graduate candidates to firms and organizations for many challenging job opportunities.

In addition to the "CP & CPD", in November there is the "Career Fair" aiming to reach all the students for introduction to "business life" at early ages and giving them for their future.

The CPC also organizes presentations to help prepare students for their introduction to business life by teaching them how to write a cover letter and CV, interview techniques, etc.

The Center can be reached at <http://dumlupinar.rbim.metu.edu.tr/KPMY/> for further information. In the near future, graduates, students will also apply for a job interactively by filling out a job application form via internet.

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Note: Page numbers in this file may not conform to those of the original source.