

Tourism and Hotel Management Associate Degree Program, Eskişehir Vocational School, Anadolu University

Tourism and Hotel Management program offers a two-year associate degree education in Eskişehir Vocational School (EVS) in Anadolu University, which is a state university. By dating back to 1990, the program is one of the oldest tourism programs in Turkey, both in the bachelors and associate degree programs. After the rapid growth of the tourism sector in Turkey in the 1980s, a great need for qualified tourism professionals arose. Thus, Tourism and Hotel Management program has dedicated to training tourism professional candidates up to middle-managerial professionals.

Recently, there are more than 180 Tourism and Hotel Management associate degree programs in Turkey. The program at Anadolu University ranked in 22nd in 2019. This program evolved through different stages in 30 years. At the beginning of the 2000s, arrangements demanded by the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area have fulfilled.

In the 2010s, the program has collaborated with the Vocational and Technical Education General Directorate (MEGEP) which is a unit of Ministry of National Education of Turkey. This collaboration aimed to train the qualified human resources requirement of the tourism sector with the coordinated education between vocational high schools of tourism and tourism associate degree programs. Thus, first, the curriculum has harmonized with the vocational high schools of tourism, and secondly, the students' application arrangements have changed. However, since the last five years, the candidates graduating from any secondary school who have an adequate score from the Basic Proficiency Test (TYT) in the examination of Higher Education Institutions (YKS), can be able to apply for the program.

Until 2013, evening education continued. The growing number of similar programs in many other universities, evening education has ended. Between 2010-2014, a collaborated programme with Leeds Metropolitan University has implemented. This collaboration has based on a separate program consisting of an all-English curriculum.

In 2019-2020 academic year, the programme evolved into a field training-oriented one, which includes the theoretical education in the first-three semester and the field training in the last semester. The field training is being held in contracted tourism

firms in Eskişehir and supervised by lecturers.

There are four lecturers officially employed in the program; one associate professor, one assistant professor and two instructors. However, other tourism and related field lecturers are supporting the program.

Although the curriculum has evolved during the long history of the program, the main courses are aiming to fulfil the professional qualifications. Those qualifications could be handled in two areas such as business management qualifications and tourism qualifications. The given courses in business management qualifications are introductory, such as business management, economy, marketing, human resources, accounting, labour health and work safety, communication et cetera. Tourism courses aim to fulfil fundamental sectoral qualifications as an introduction to tourism, housekeeping, front office, travel agency, food and beverage services. Housekeeping, front office and food and beverage education comprise both with the theoretical and practical courses. On the other side, several courses on specific qualifications are also held such as first-aid, conference and event management, hygiene and sanitation, elocution, catering, ethical issues in tourism and physical environment in tourism. As for foreign language, English is compulsory, Spanish is elective.

As a part of vocational education, the students have also asked to fulfil an intern in qualified tourism firms (hospitality firms, travel agencies, restaurants). The graduation from the program is required to complete the courses which consist minimum of 120 ECTS credit and have a minimum GPA of 2.00/4.00 and no FF, DZ or YZ grades. Since the program has adapted to ECTS, the students may benefit from some international programs such as Erasmus Internship and Mevlana Programme. The graduated individuals also have the advantage of continuing to the "four-year" specified programs in business and administration, economy, or hospitality management programs in the Open Education System of Anadolu University. Thus those students can be able to receive a bachelors degree.

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