



European  
Joint  
Support Unit

# Education

Istanbul





## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Prior to posting you are advised to contact both the UK Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) and the UK NSE and discuss your children's educational requirements. Pre-school (nursery education), primary and secondary education is available to a good standard here, but be aware that MoD (via SCE) will currently only pay for accompanied children at post to attend The British International School Istanbul (BISI), which is conveniently based in Zekeriyaköy; see <http://www.bis.k12.tr/>, though there is also another (primary only) campus in Etiler nearer work. BISI offers a modified English National Curriculum delivered by English speaking (though not necessarily British qualified) teachers which consists of primary education, Key Stage 3, IGCSEs and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Note, it has been known for the school to fill up in certain years and students turned away. Therefore, apply as soon as you can. The school has been inspected by a Service Inspector and the last inspection by the BSO (British Schools Overseas) was in 2016. Inspection Reports can be found on the relevant websites. The Service Inspectorate found the current standard of Secondary education at BISI is judged to be fair up to GCSE. The BSO report found the quality of education across the school to be 'Good'. Numbers in the 6th form drop off considerably. You should note that school uniform for BISI is expensive and there is only one location from which it can be purchased, although second hand sales are held. Make sure you apply for the children's allowance in your Disturbance Allowance Claim which will help offset some of the cost. BISI school office: Tel: +90 212 257 3114, fax +90 212 257 7628, [bisadmin@bis.k12.tr](mailto:bisadmin@bis.k12.tr).

The NSE can advise you on the current situation of UK military families using the schools so that you may get advice for the family concerned. At the time of writing an alternative provider has purchased land not too far from Zekeriyaköy with plans to build a new campus and this is expected to provide some competition to BISI, opening in 2017 (Istanbul International Community School: <http://www.iics-k12.net>).

**Preschool.** Preschool (nursery education) is for 15 hours a week and is provided from the beginning of the term after the term in which a child has their third birthday. The qualifying dates for free preschool (paid by SCE) are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> September for Autumn Term admission, 1<sup>st</sup> January for Spring Term admission, and 1<sup>st</sup> April for Summer Term admission.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday must fall before, rather than on, the relevant cut-off date. Further information on nursery education can be obtained from the UK NSE.

**Children with Special Needs.** While it is possible to obtain facilities for special needs in Istanbul, they have to be established on a case-by-case basis and at considerable cost to HMG. If you have children with special needs, under the age of 5, you are strongly advised to have them assessed prior to posting, in order to allow EJSU to determine whether appropriate assistance can be provided. (NB This has been a show-stopping problem in the past.) If the child is over the age of 5, the special need should already be registered and this process should happen automatically but you must be very clear about what is available and who is paying. BISI has a Special Needs department and access to specialists within Istanbul but you should check at an early stage that your child's specific needs can be covered.



**UK Boarding School.** Children at boarding school in UK are entitled to 6 School Children's Visits per year and can travel as Unaccompanied Minors under the escort service provided by Turkish Airlines (if aged 7 to 11 inclusive) and some other airlines. Pupils aged 12 and above can travel freely on Turkish Airlines without special provision. (The unaccompanied minor service has stopped on BA. As a consequence it is now possible for an adult to claim a flight home from an overseas location to pick up and return minors (those aged less than 12) to boarding school each time). The EJSU Travel Cell processes school children's visits in accordance with current regulations and can give you further advice. If you plan to have eligible children visit you shortly after you arrive in Istanbul be sure to submit the necessary paperwork well beforehand. Your present unit can also arrange it, if time is very short. (See para 3-9 about their initial 'on assignment' flight).

### **University Students.**

a. **SCV.** Since spring 2013, you are entitled to one SCV annually for children (offspring!) attending university.

b. **LOA.** Small Station LOA (SSLOA) is not paid for offspring over 18, or those who have completed A-Level education.

c. **Medical Provision.** Offspring at school, taking a gap year and resident at station, or at university are entitled to medical and dental cover during their time in Turkey.

d. **GYH (Overseas).** Gap year university students are included in the entitlement to GYH(O); note however that the family must travel together. See paragraph 5-8 f below, and JSP 752 Chapter 6 Section 7, for further details.

e. **Travel to Post.** A dependant on a gap year is entitled to travel to post at MoD expense; but they must complete a minimum of twelve months in country to be entitled to a passage back to UK (ie to start University) at MoD cost.

f. **Other allowances.** There may be other allowances / entitlements that you can claim; please discuss with your unit HR staff or UK NSE.