



**Middle
East
Studies
Association**
of North America, Inc.

3542 N Geronimo Ave
Tucson AZ 85705 USA

tel 520-333-2577
fax 520-207-3166
caf@mesana.org
www.mesana.org



Practical advice for Turkish academics seeking opportunities or refuge outside Turkey

FINDING JOB AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) Be familiar with the **H-Net Job Guide**, where jobs, including visiting positions, and fellowships in a wide variety of humanities disciplines worldwide are posted regularly. <https://www.h-net.org/jobs/home.php>. Use “Browse jobs postings” to see the full list.

(2) The ***Chronicle of Higher Education***, an American weekly publication that serves academics in all disciplines, lists academic, administrative, and related jobs worldwide at the back of each hard-copy issue and on its web site (chronicle.com). To search for jobs on the *Chronicle's* web site, see the “Jobs on VITAE” box on the right side of the home page, or click on “Jobs” at the top of the page.

(3) Search “Career Opportunities in Higher Education” on the **Inside Higher Ed** website. <https://careers.insidehighered.com/>

(4) Major professional organizations also list jobs and fellowships worldwide on their web sites and in their publications. A small sampling (Note: Though many of these organizations are based in the U.S., they post job listings from around the world):

- **American Historical Association**, www.historians.org. The “Jobs and Professional Development” tab at the top of the page offers a job search feature plus various other features that may be useful to academics unfamiliar with academic cultures outside Turkey.
- **Middle East Studies Association**, mesana.org. Click on “Professional Opportunities” on the left side of the page for job announcements and related opportunities.
- **American Academy of Religion**, www.aarweb.org. Click on “Employment Services” at the top of the page.
- **Modern Language Association**, www.mla.org. Click on “Career Center.”
- **American Anthropological Association**, www.americananthro.org. Click on “Advance Your Career” on the left side of the page.
- **American Sociological Association**, www.asanet.org. Click on “Career Center” at the top of the page.

(5) **Research centers** at various institutions may have visiting scholar, post-doctoral, or pre-doctoral positions. A tiny sampling:

- Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), Center for Transnational Legal Studies, www.ctls.georgetown.edu. This center is affiliated with numerous international centers.
- New York University-Shanghai, Center for Global Asia, research.shanghai.nyu.edu/cga
- Princeton University (New Jersey), Center for Human Values, uchv.princeton.edu

- Rutgers University (New Jersey), Center for Historical Analysis, rcha.rutgers.edu
- University of Texas at Austin, Humanities Research Center (Harry Ransom Center), www.hrc.utexas.edu
- Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, www.vanderbilt.edu/csdi/.

Generally, Googling the name of the institution and “research centers” will yield results of varying utility. For more results, try “research in [discipline]” and the name of a city or country.

(6) The **Academic Jobs Wiki** provides information on the status of various searches, as well as links to various job listings and professional resources. See academicjobs.wikia.com. Scroll down to “Academic Networking and Jobs Resources,” which includes links to numerous job listing sites and other resources.

(7) Some universities or departments may allow **unpaid research affiliation**. If this is an option for you, you should contact the department in which you are interested for details. In this case, approaching a faculty member directly might be the best approach, although you should explain the circumstances clearly. Many faculty members receive multiple requests for this kind of affiliation from academics in the Middle East and Central Asia every year, and in many cases such a request is not realistic since the foreign scholar would require too much supervision.

APPLICATION ADVICE:

(1) Be aware that most job and graduate degree program applications in North America, Europe, and many other parts of the world entail a **bureaucratic process**, often requiring many months. Hiring and admissions decisions are made by committees, not by individuals. If considering applying to a graduate degree program, read the admitting department’s web page, as well as that of the institution’s graduate school, carefully and note admissions procedures and required materials.

(2) Register with **Interfolio** or a similar academic dossier service. This will allow you to create a complete electronic dossier that can be circulated to multiple institutions quickly.

(3) Note the type of **visa** necessary for the job or program for which you are applying.

(4) **Define your expertise broadly.** Be aware that in North America, “Turcology” is not an academic field. If you specialize in some feature of Turkish history or culture, try to present your expertise in the broadest terms possible, preferably with a connection to the Middle East, the Balkans, Central Asia, or Eurasia; with a connection to “Islam;” or with a transnational or comparative component. Also be aware that many selection committees will not be familiar with the details of Turkish

or Ottoman history or culture; you will need to explain your expertise and its importance clearly and in a broad context.

(5) Search broadly. Academic opportunities may exist in other parts of the world besides Europe and North America, e.g., Lebanon, Jordan, the Gulf States, North Africa, Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

(6) Consider a broad range of roles. Think broadly about the roles you could perform rather than focusing strictly on research and/or teaching positions. Academic advising, admissions, curriculum development, online learning, grant-writing, assessment, or various kinds of consulting might be areas in which you could be employed. For those in business and the sciences, private corporations might offer opportunities.

IN EXTREMIS:

If you believe that you are in danger, contact one of the following:

Scholars at Risk, www.scholarsatrisk.org. Scholars at Risk also has a special site devoted to Turkey: www.scholarsatrisk.org/turkey-response/.

Scholar Rescue Fund (International Institute of Education), www.scholarrescuefund.org

These organizations try to arrange temporary visiting positions for scholars who face clear threats to their lives, physical safety, and/or careers. **Be sure you read the eligibility criteria of these two organizations.** They do not ordinarily support graduate students, for example. Scholars at Risk's web site does, however, include a link to a list of organizations that do support students.

Academicians for Peace / Barış için Akademisyenler

(<https://barisicinakademisyenler.net>) provides updates on the situation of academics in Turkey and global responses to it.