Best Practices of Hosting Institutions in Europe

Katja Doerschner, Marie-Curie Fellow
Bilkent University, Turkey
Outline

1. Academic path
2. Joining Bilkent University, Turkey
3. Bilkent - An exemplary hosting institution
4. Marie Curie IRG application
5. Concluding Remarks
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Academic path

- Ph.D. (2006, NYU) Experimental Psychology
- Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Bilkent University, Turkey
- Co-director of the Computational and Biological Vision Group at Bilkent
- Research: Computational Vision, Neuroimaging
- Application for Marie Curie IRG: October 2008
Academic path

- 2008-present: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Bilkent University

http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~katja/
Academic path

- 2008-present: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Bilkent University
- 2006-2007: Post-doctoral Research Scientist, Department of Psychology, University of Minnesota, USA

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- 2008-present: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Bilkent University
- 2006-2007: Post-doctoral Research Scientist, Department of Psychology, University of Minnesota, USA
- 2000-2002: Undergraduate, Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, USA (B.A., 2002)
Academic path

- 2008-present: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Bilkent University
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- 2000-2002: Undergraduate, Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, USA (B.A., 2002)

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Joining Bilkent University

- Contacted with intention of recruitment in 2007 by the newly established Psychology Department

http://www.psy.bilkent.edu.tr/
Joining Bilkent University

- Reasons for joining Bilkent University
- Strong focus on research
Joining Bilkent University

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• Departmental focus on Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience & Vision Research
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• Potential for funding in the European Research Area and in Turkey specifically
  • over the past years NIH and NSF budgets have been growing at less than the rate of inflation
Joining Bilkent University

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• Personal: Dr. Huseyin Boyaci
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Bilkent - An exemplary Hosting Institution

• non-profit private research university, founded in 1984

• >10,000 students, >1000 academic staff, 9 faculties, 4 professional schools, 6 graduate schools, medium of teaching and research is English

• faculty members are recruited from prominent universities in North America and Europe

• ranks first in Turkey in number of published papers per faculty member and ranks high internationally - according to ISI Citation Indexes (Source: http://www.yok.gov.tr/istatistikler/istatistikler.htm).

• has an excellent educational infrastructure, including a modern library and extensive computer facilities

• high emphasis on international scholarly exchange, engaging actively in collaborative research projects, student exchange programs and workshops

http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/
Bilkent - An exemplary Hosting Institution

**Emphasis on excellence in research**

- Excellent infrastructure
- Stimulating research environment
- Highly qualified, motivated and talented students
Bilkent - An exemplary Hosting Institution

**Emphasis on excellence in research**

- **Excellent infrastructure:**
  - Newly established high field MR facility
  - Generous laboratory space
  - Research journal subscriptions
  - Software
Bilkent - An exemplary Hosting Institution

**Emphasis on excellence in research**

- Excellent infrastructure

- **Stimulating research environment:**
  - Cross-departmental exchanges & collaborations (e.g. Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Department of Computer Engineering, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering)
Bilkent - An exemplary Hosting Institution

**Emphasis on excellence in research**

- Excellent infrastructure
- Stimulating research environment
- **Highly qualified, motivated and talented students**
Bilkent - An exemplary Hosting Institution

**Further points:**

- Competitive salary
- On campus housing provided
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Marie Curie IRG application

- Title: “Visual Perception of Surface Material Properties - Computational and fMRI investigations of spatio-temporal cues to perceived shininess”
- Bilkent: Exchange with previous Marie Curie Fellows, referral to TUBITAK contact point
- TUBITAK: helpful, professional guidance through the entire application process
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Conclusion

- Most important factors in attracting research talent to the ERA:
  - Emphasis of the hosting institution on excellence in research
  - Availability of research funding
Thank you.