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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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CIFAL Istanbul - Pathway to a Career In Diplomacy Panel

People

Deadline: 20 Nov 2025

Type:	Other
Location:	Istanbul, Türkiye
Date:	20 Nov 2025
Duration:	2 Hours
Programme Area:	Decentralize Cooperation Programme
Website:	https://cifalistanbul.org/
Price:	\$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	cisil.sohodol@bau.edu.tr
Partnership:	CIFAL Istanbul, , Bahçeşehir University

BACKGROUND

This panel was organized to provide university students with an inside look into career pathways within diplomacy and international affairs. Hosted in collaboration with HLO and ULMER, the event brought together speakers experienced in diplomatic practice. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Selcen Öner, the panel provided an opportunity for students to gain insight into the realities of diplomatic work, the skills required for international representation, and the evolving landscape of global diplomacy.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Offering students first-hand perspectives from experienced ambassadors on entering and advancing in the diplomatic profession. Providing practical guidance on the competencies, academic preparation, language skills, and professional experiences essential for diplomacy. Creating space for interaction between youth and professionals working in foreign policy and international affairs.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The event opened with introductory remarks by the moderator, Prof. Dr. Selcen Öner, followed by presentations from Ambassador Lale Ülker (R.) and Ambassador Engin Soysal (R.). Speakers shared personal career trajectories, insights from bilateral and multilateral diplomatic work, and reflections on the shifting demands of global diplomacy. They discussed the qualifications expected from candidates entering the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the importance of analytical thinking, negotiation skills, and foreign language proficiency. The panel continued with a moderated dialogue on current global challenges, the role of Türkiye in international platforms, and evolving diplomatic practices. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where students engaged the speakers with questions about career planning, internships, examinations, and the day-to-day realities of diplomatic service.

METHODOLOGY

The panel followed a structured discussion format featuring expert presentations, moderator-led dialogue, and an open Q&A. The approach encouraged active participation and allowed students to gain clarity through direct interaction with experienced ambassadors.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

Students and academics of BAU