

**SYLLABUS for the INTENSIVE COURSE**  
**Understanding Türkiye:**  
**Its History, Foreign Policy, Security and Economics**

**22 – 25 October 2026**

**Hapimag Sea Garden Resort**  
**Bodrum-TÜRKİYE**

Deadline for Applications: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Link for Applications <https://forms.gle/JWtpE5PhGz4w8iz5>

**Course Fee (per person) 950 EURO**

Comprehensive course layout tailored for diplomats and experts interested in understanding Türkiye's history, foreign policy, security, and economics as well as trade relations and energy issues.

The courses are designed to provide a holistic understanding of Türkiye's geopolitical landscape, historical context, and contemporary challenges and opportunities.\*

The courses will take place in Bodrum and will be taught by prominent academics, (R) ambassadors, journalists, and experts.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Understanding the historical context of Türkiye's foreign policy and its evolution over time.
2. Comprehending Türkiye's current security strategy and its role in regional and global geopolitics.
3. Examining Türkiye's economic and trade relations with key partners and its approach to economic diplomacy.
4. Exploring Türkiye's energy policy and its impact on domestic and international affairs.
5. Tracing the evolution of Türkiye's traditional foreign policy issues.

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\* The course programme will be tailored to the expertise and needs of participants. For example, it can focus more specifically on the Middle East or the European Union Affairs as required.

**Target Audience:**

Diplomats, international relations professionals, policy analysts, government officials and anyone interested in Türkiye's role in international affairs.

**Course Duration:**

4 days (3 nights)

**Course Structure:****Introduction to Türkiye's Foreign Policy****Session 1: Historical Overview of Turkish Foreign Policy**

- Ottoman Legacy and the birth of the Republic
- The Atatürk Era and the Kemalist Foreign Policy Principles
- Türkiye's Alignment during the Cold War

**Session 2: Post-Cold War Turkish Foreign Policy**

- Shift in Foreign Policy under Turgut Özal
- Türkiye's EU Candidacy and Relations with NATO
- The Role of the Balkans, Middle East and Eurasia in Turkish Foreign Policy

**Contemporary Turkish Foreign Policy****Session 3: Türkiye's Current Foreign Policy Framework**

- Strategic Depth Doctrine and its Implications
- Key Foreign Policy Actors: The Presidency, Foreign Ministry, and National Intelligence Organisation (MIT)
- Regional and Global Ambitions: From "Zero Problems with Neighbours" to Century of Turkey

**Session 4: Case Studies: Türkiye's Relations with Key Global Powers**

- Türkiye's Relations with the United States
- Türkiye-EU Relations: Customs Union, Migration Deal, and Accession Talks
- Türkiye-Russia Relations: Cooperation and Rivalry
- Türkiye-China Relations

### **Türkiye and the Middle East**

#### Session 5: Türkiye's Middle East Policy

- Relations with neighbouring Countries: Iraq, Iran, and Syria
- Turkey's Role in the Syrian Conflict and Refugee Crisis
- The Gulf States, Israel, and the Palestinian Issue

#### Session 6: Türkiye's Engagement with the Arab World

- Türkiye's Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy in the Middle East
- The Impact of the Arab Spring on Türkiye's Foreign Policy
- Türkiye's Involvement in Libya, Somalia and its Strategic Interests

### **Other important relations and issues**

#### Session 7: Turkish-Greek relations, Cyprus Issue

#### Session 8: Turkish-Azerbaijani relations

### **Security Policy and Defence Strategy**

#### Session 9: Türkiye's Security Environment

- Internal and External Security Challenges
- The Role of the Turkish Armed Forces
- The Fight against Terrorism: PKK, ISIL, and Domestic Extremism
- Türkiye's Multilateral and Bilateral Military Relations

#### Session 10: Defence Policy and Military Operations

- Overview of Türkiye's Defence Industry and Military Modernisation
- Cross-Border Operations and Security Zones: Syria and Iraq
- Türkiye's Role in NATO and Collective Defence Arrangements

### **Economic Policy and Trade Relations**

#### Session 11: Overview of Türkiye's Economic Landscape

- Economic Reforms of the Early 2000s
- Current Economic Challenges and Opportunities
- Key Economic Indicators and Sectors
- Infrastructure Development

#### Session 12: Türkiye's Trade Relations and Economic Diplomacy

- Trade Relations with the European Union and Customs Union

- Trade with the Middle East, Africa, and Asia
- Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements

### **Energy Policy and Strategic Interests**

#### Session 13: Türkiye's Energy Landscape

- Energy Production, Consumption, and Dependency
- Key Energy Infrastructure and Projects: TANAP, TurkStream, Nuclear energy
- The Role of Renewable Energy in Türkiye's Energy Policy

#### Session 14: Geopolitics of Energy in Türkiye's Foreign Policy

- Türkiye as an Energy Transit Country: Pipelines and Geopolitical Significance
- Eastern Mediterranean Energy Disputes and Hydrocarbon Exploration
- Türkiye's Energy Relations with Russia, Iran, and Other Suppliers

### **Regional Cooperation and Multilateral Engagements**

#### Session 15: Role in Regional Organisations

- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- Organization of Turkic States (OTS)
- Türkiye's Participation in International Organisations: UN, G20, OECD, OSCE, UNESCO, CoE etc.

#### Session 16: Türkiye's Foreign Aid and Development Cooperation

- The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)
- Türkiye's Humanitarian Diplomacy and Global Aid Efforts
- Development Assistance to Africa, the Balkans, and Central Asia

### **Future Outlook and Policy Insights**

#### Session 17: Future Trends in Turkish Foreign Policy

- Evolving Relations with Major Powers and Regional Players
- Domestic Politics and its Impact on Foreign Policy
- Evolution of Regional Transformation and the Role of Türkiye

#### Session 18: Roundtable Discussion and Policy Recommendations

- Group Discussion on Potential Future Scenarios
- Policy Insights for Diplomatic Engagement with Türkiye
- Course Review and Q&A Session

### **Insights into 'Turkish Thinking'**

Examples and discussions on political, social and cultural sensitivities including challenges and dilemmas one can come across during interactions with Turkish officials, public at large and politicians.

### **Course Materials:**

- Reading Materials: Books, academic articles, policy papers, and official documents on Turkish foreign policy, security strategy, economic relations, and energy policy.
- Case Studies: Real-life scenarios to illustrate key topics and encourage critical thinking.
- Guest Speakers: Experts, policymakers, journalists, and academics specialising in Turkish affairs to provide diverse perspectives.

*Detailed reading list and speakers' list will be provided after the application deadline.*

### **Assessment:**

- Participation: Active participation in discussions and case study analyses.
- Participants will be awarded a certificate of attendance at the end of the program.

### **Application:**

Please fill the google form: <https://forms.gle/JWttpE5PhGz4w8iz5>

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