# ÖZGÜR PROJE PROPOSAL

Project name: Social Inclusion of Degree-Seeking students in Istanbul

Participating students (names and phone address): Jawwad Jamal Sherwani 05376718259, A3 306, Sabanci University Dormitories

Duration of the project: 12 weeks (3 months)

Total proposed budget of the project (in TLs): 850 TL

**The Topic: Social Inclusion of Degree-seeking students in Istanbul**

With a growing influx of foreign students picking Turkey, and particularly Istanbul and Ankara as a destination for their Undergraduate or Master’s degree, I beg the question, are they being socially included?

I have a few questions that are in my mind regarding this, and I have often been asked the very questions. Why has the student chosen Turkey? Are they able to assimilate well into the Turkish culture? Does the ability to speak Turkish make a difference? Does gender make a difference? Is there a distinction in treatment of European and Non-European students?

As one of the first full time undergraduate degree students at Sabanci University, I was met with intrigue and found it very easy to make friends, as did most people from my batch, however as of late this trend seems to be reversed. And with an ever increasing number of students coming to Sabanci as well, I am often surrounded by individuals who complain at the difficulties at assimilating into Turkish culture and the lack of local friends.

Social inclusion/exclusion is quite a hot topic almost everywhere. The formation of “out-groups” can be a harmful phenomenon as it leads to many students becoming depressed, especially when coupled with the pressures of being at a competitive university such as Sabanci. Furthermore, and at its worst, I had a friend who was a victim of a heinous hate crime last year on his way back to Bahcesehir University, and this could be seen as an extreme case of social exclusion and a strengthening of an “in-group”.

With the IRO aiming to reach a foreign student population of between 15-20% of the entire student body, their satisfaction and inclusion should be of utmost importance. Are the newer foreign students actually more excluded than the previous ones? If so then we must try to understand why and look to reverse the trend. I would hope to carry out the research for other universities as well, but at the very minimum should look to cover our own university.

It is expected that I graduate by the end of this semester; however I would love to partake in this project before returning back and starting my masters. Not only will it benefit me as it will give me vital research experience after having gotten a taste of it in Proj 300 last semester, but it will also hopefully benefit foreign students to come for the upcoming years.

**Execution Plan**

Hopefully this project could gain approval by the end of April, with work beginning before the month ends. As I am the only member, I will be carrying out the work myself, solely, while possibly asking some of my professors for guidance. I will now lay down weekly tasks of how I plan to cover the 12 weeks of the project. I have not afforded myself extra time for final examinations as I do not believe in last minute preparation and should be ready for them a few weeks in advance given that I only have 3 courses. I have taken a week off for the graduation ceremony as I might be pre-occupied then.

Week 1(27 April): Begin by researching the topic. Many studies have been carried out on the social inclusion of select groups. My first aim would be to read as many of them, and research the framework that they have used to carry out their studies.

Week 2(4 May): Continue on the background research. Look at different surveys which have been used to collect the data. Then see the effectiveness of the phrasing of questions to maximize exactly what I would like to get as an answer.

Week 3(11 May): Look at different economic models that different studies have used to measure different things. Discuss these with professors and see what models and what determinants I should be looking to study and question.

Week 4(18 May): Refine my survey, finalize the first draft of questions.

Week 5(1 June): Run a dummy survey. Perhaps on 10 people, see the effectiveness of the survey, consider where the flow of the survey can be improved. What questions are unclear, what questions people are uncomfortable answering. Perhaps use better proxies for determining things that are not quantifiable.

Week 6(8 June): Carry out survey on approximately 20 foreign Sabanci Students.

Week 7(15 June): Carry out survey on approximately 20 more foreign Sabanci Students.

Week 8(22 June): Carry out survey on approximately 20 more foreign Sabanci Students.

Week 9(29 June): Carry out survey on approximately 20 foreign students from other universities. *(Optional)*

Week 10(6 July): Run an econometric analysis. Find correlations and results of my research. Begin preparing for a presentation.

Week 11 (13 July): Present findings to professors in a short presentation. Begin writing a synthesis report.

Week 12(20 July): Finalize writing a synthesis report.