



IAU UNESCO WINTER PEACE AND DIPLOMACY PROGRAM

1 - 7 February 2027

*Delivered by UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diplomacy,
Governance and Education
Powered by STAR Scholars Network*



OUR UNESCO CHAIR

Dr. Osman Gültekin is the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education and Director of International Relations at Istanbul Aydın University. With over two decades of professional experience and a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations, he has guided thousands of students in global education and diplomacy. As the author of the Education and Power series, Dr. Gültekin continues to inspire young leaders to foster dialogue, understanding and peace across cultures.





The Society of Transnational Academic Researchers (STAR Scholars Network) is a global community connecting over 10,000 scholars from more than 100 countries. Dedicated to advancing research, collaboration and innovation, this network provides leading platforms for academic exchange through its open-access OJED Journals and STAR Scholars Press publications. By empowering educators and researchers worldwide, STAR Scholars Network shapes ideas that address global challenges and transform the future of education.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

UNESCO Winter Peace and Diplomacy Program offers a one week of intensive lectures and discussions, and cultural exploration, organized by the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education. The program aims to equip students with an interdisciplinary perspective on contemporary global issues, by helping the participants understand international relations, global governance and cultural diplomacy. Within **intercultural workshops** participants engage in conflict resolution, storytelling and dialogues on peace education, gaining practical skills for global citizenship and advocacy for peace.

THE PROGRAM AIMS TO

- Learn and explore the **role of education in peace**
- Explore **global values** and their influence globally
- Develop **intercultural communication skills** and competence
- Foster how to apply **key theories in international relations and foreign policy**
- Analyze the role of **cultural diplomacy** and various power types in global politics
- Contribute to a more **peaceful and sustainable world** through education, dialogue and action



February 2027

January 31st : Arrival

February 1st : Program Starting

February 7th : Closing Ceremony

February 7-8th : Departure

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

PROGRAM CONTENTS

Key Lectures

- Education & Peace
- Intercultural Awareness and Intercultural Communication
- Intercultural Competence Development
- International Relations Theories
- Foreign Policy & Power Types
- Public Diplomacy & Cultural Diplomacy



Experiential Learning & Cultural Activities

- Intercultural Integration Workshops
- Practical Training for Model United Nations
- Historical Peninsula Tour
- Bosphorus Tour



Teaching Methodology

- Our program's courses are carefully designed to align with UNESCO's mission of promoting global peace, cultural understanding and diplomacy.
- Guided by the UNESCO values, we offer unique learning experience that empowered participants to actively contribute to global peace initiatives.
- With a non-ECTS format and small classroom sizes, the program allow for deep engagement and interactive learning.
- Each course conclude with a discourse session, where participants practice their diplomatic communication skills, applying what they learn in real-world scenarios.



OUR INSTRUCTORS



Dr. Osman Gültekin

UNESCO Chair on Cultural
Diplomacy, Governance
and Education at Istanbul
Aydın University, Türkiye

**Prof. Dr. Hızır Tarık
Oğuzlu**

UNESCO Chair on
Education for Sustainable
Peace at Istanbul Aydın
University, Türkiye



Dr. Darla Deardorff

UNESCO Chair on
Intercultural Competence
Development at
Stellenbosch University,
South Africa

Dr. Scott Aquanno

Associate Professor
and Program Director
at Ontario Tech
University, Canada



OUR INSTRUCTORS



Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee

Professor & Deputy
Director, IIHED, Jindal
Global University, India

**Prof. Dr. Patricia
Szobonya**

Professor at the State
University of New York,
USA



**Dr. Lawrence Maishu
Ngalim**

Expert on Economics
and Africa, Istanbul
Aydın University, Türkiye

**Prof. Dr. Benjamin
Kutsyuruba**

Professor of Educational
Policy & Leadership at
Queen's University, Canada



INTERCULTURAL INTEGRATION WORKSHOPS



- Our program's intercultural workshops foster dialogue, collaboration and understanding among participants from diverse backgrounds.
- Through activities like conflict resolution, storytelling and peace education discussions, participants develop practical skills to navigate cultural differences and build meaningful connections.
- By promoting empathy and global citizenship, the program empowers participants to become agents of positive change in an interconnected world.

PROGRAM SURVEYS

During all of our programs, we conduct surveys with program participants. These surveys provide crucial insights at different stages, helping us refine the program for maximum impact.



Pre-Program

Gathering participants' expectations and goals to tailor the program to their needs.



Post-Program

Evaluating overall impact and satisfaction, measuring how well the program met participants' goals.

PROGRAM RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The results from the surveys conducted during our previous programs give an idea of how impactful these programs can be. When comparing the pre-program survey results with the post-program findings, we observe a significant positive shift in participant's perspectives.

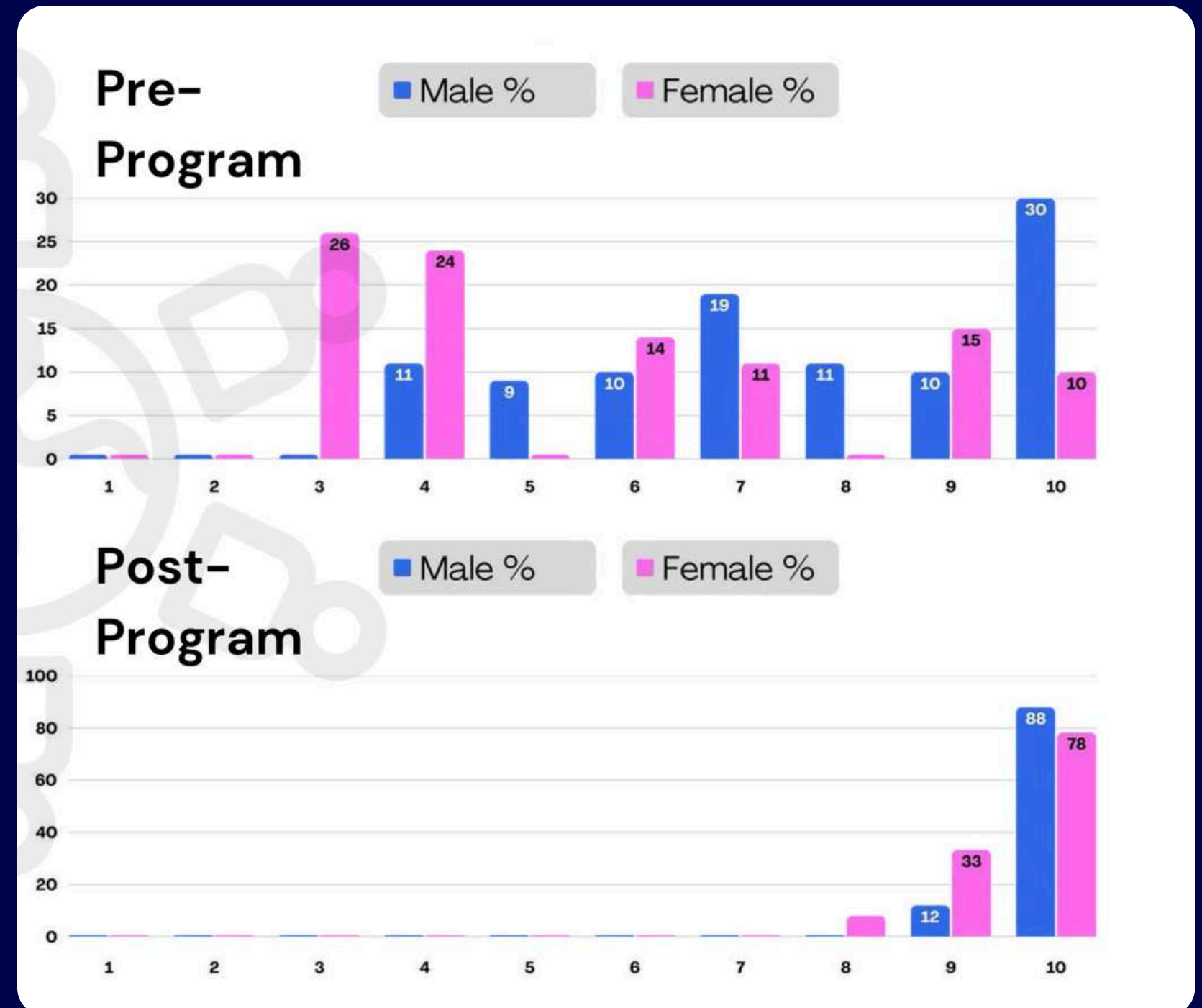
This dramatic change underscores the program's effectiveness in transforming viewpoints and enhancing understanding, clearly demonstrating the substantial impact of the experience.



CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In the pre-program survey, it can be observed that most participants did not view diversity as an enriching element in society.

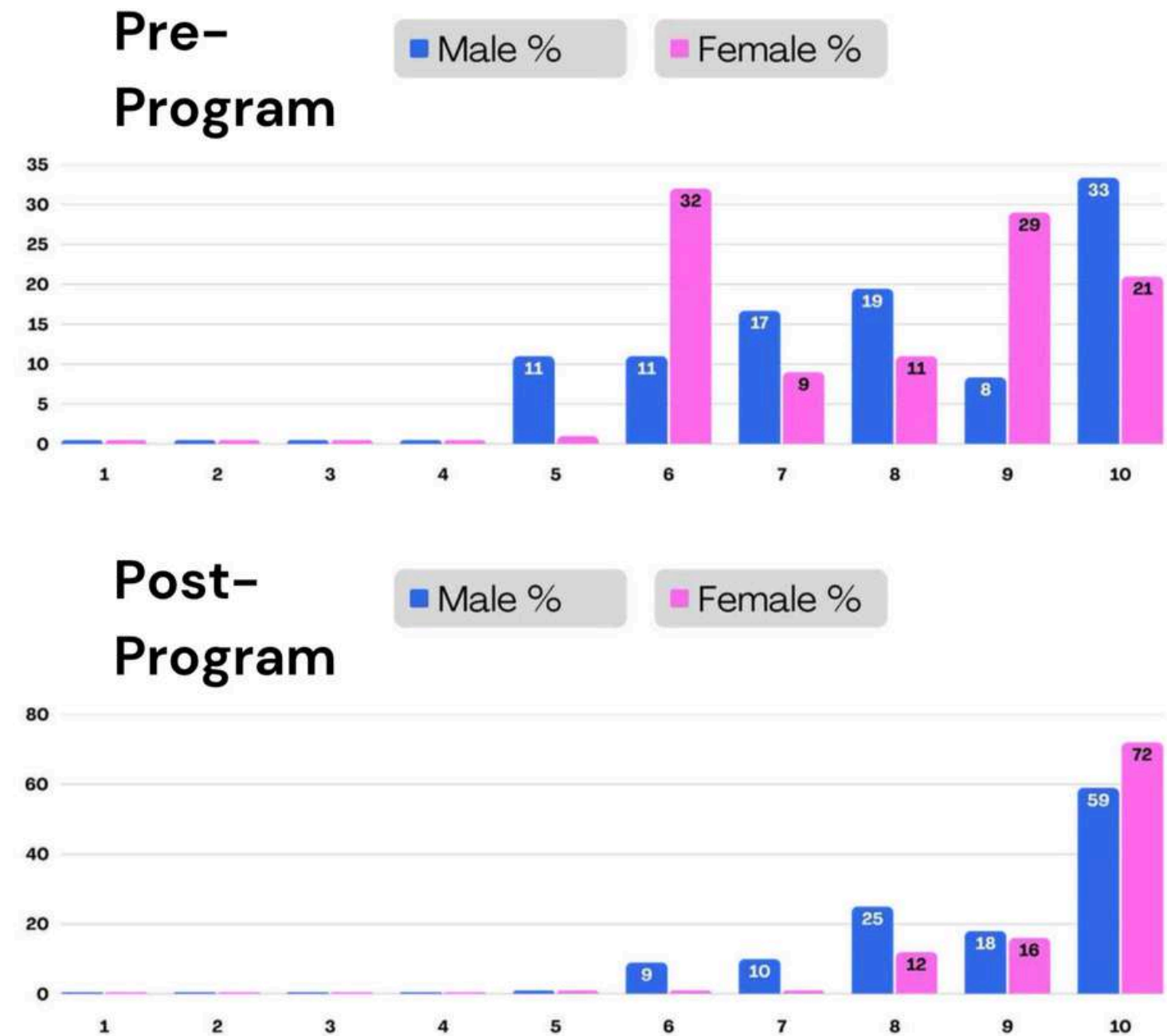
However, in the post-program survey, 90% of the participants began to agree strongly with diversity being an enriching element in society.



CHANGE IN UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES

In the pre-program survey, it was seen that participants had a very minimal understanding of International Relations and Global Issues.

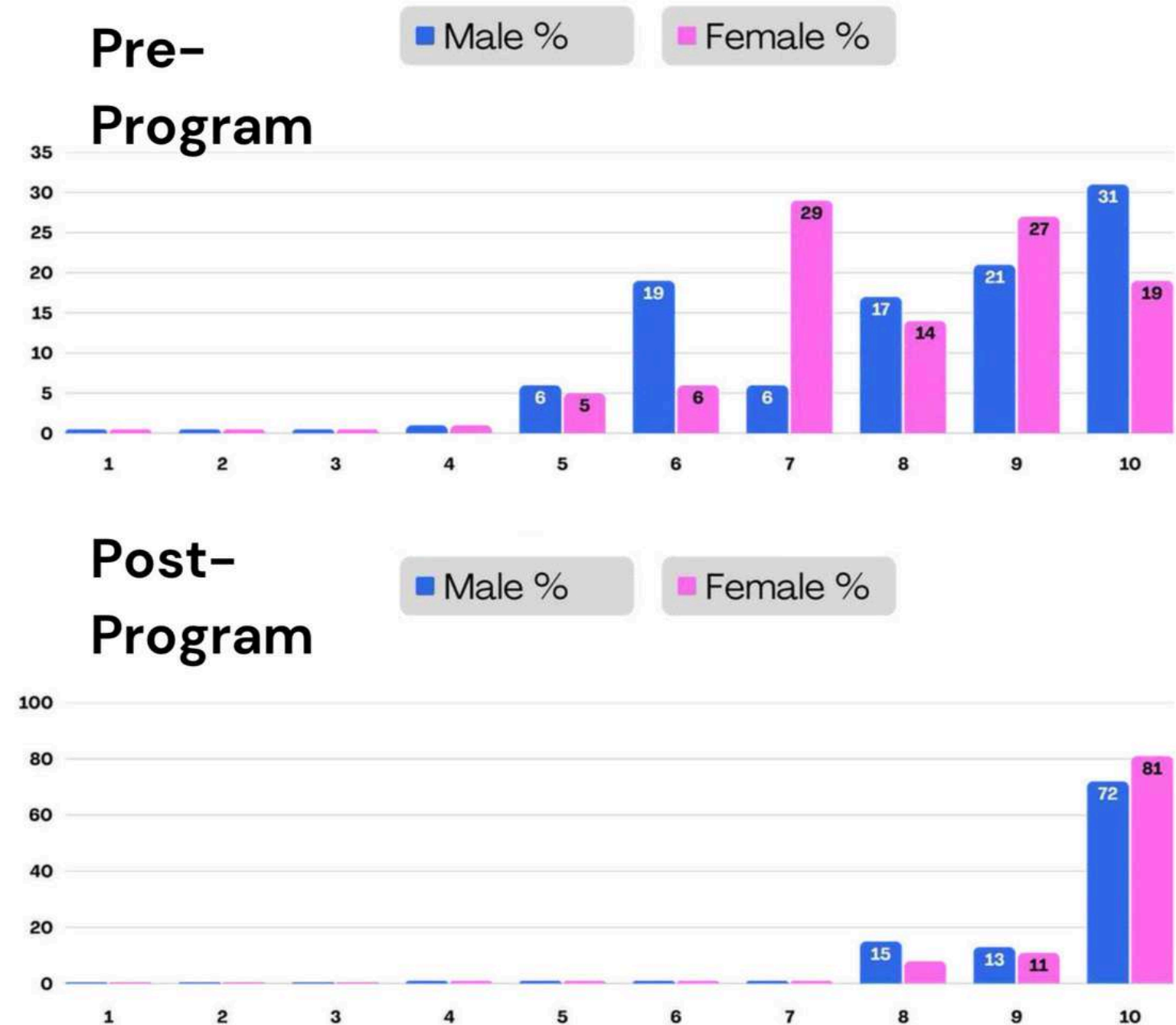
In the post-program survey, a significant increase in knowledge regarding these topics can be observed.



FAMILIARITY REGARDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

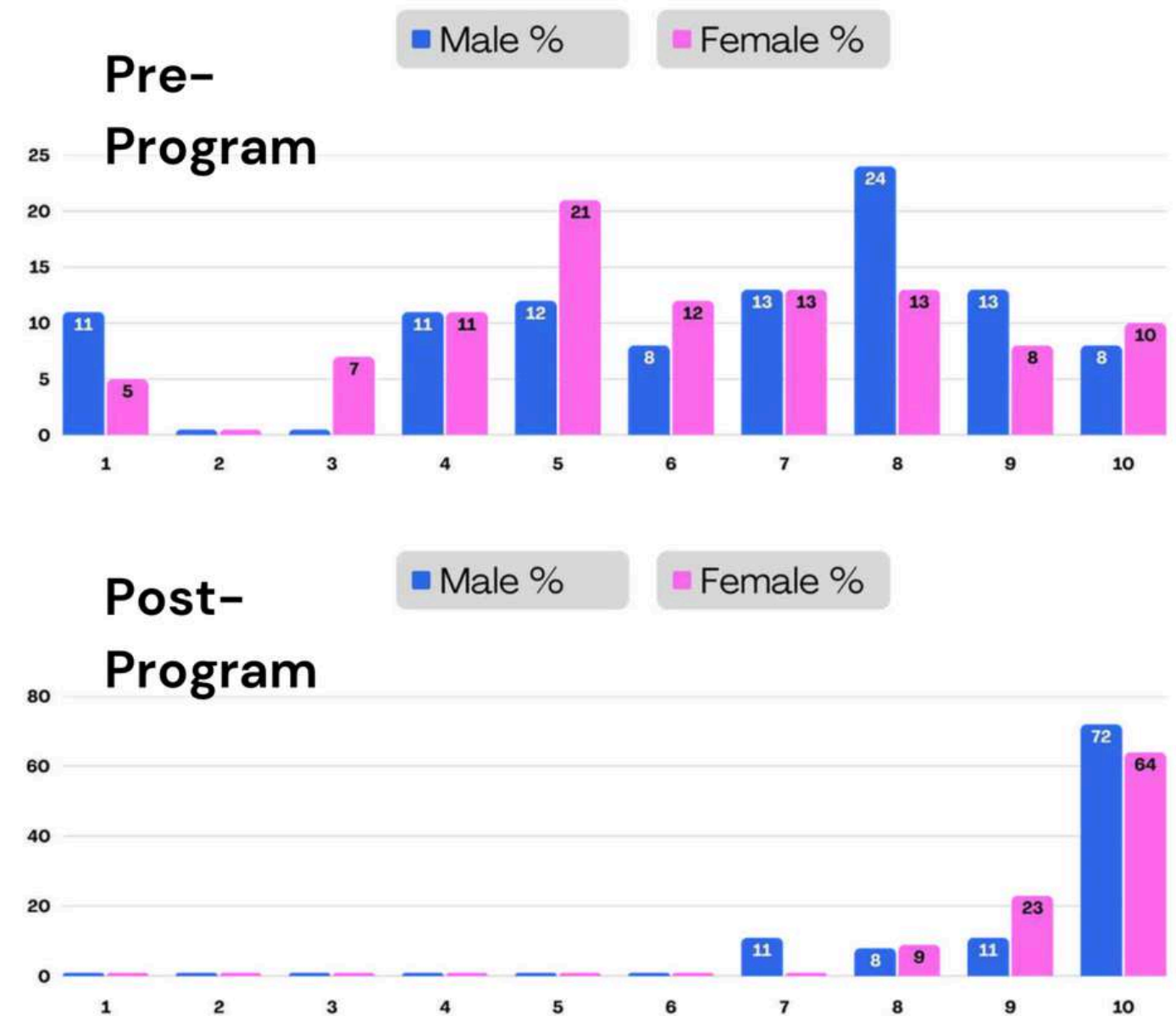
We observed an increase in the knowledge and familiarity that participants had regarding international organizations (e.g., United Nations, UNESCO, World Health Organization etc).

Additionally, many participants displayed an interest in joining and becoming a part of these organizations.



WILLINGNESS TO CHALLENGE OWN CULTURAL BIASES AND STEREOTYPES

The program's greatest success was the participants' shift in challenging their cultural biases and stereotypes. This transformation fosters open mindedness and equips them to better navigate and respect global differences. It highlights the program's impact in promoting genuine **intercultural understanding and positive change in attitudes** toward global diversity.



PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION



We are proud to report a 100% satisfaction rate for our program, with every participant indicating that they would recommend it to others.

This unanimous positive feedback underscores the program's exceptional quality and impact, reflecting participant's strong endorsement and enthusiasm.

Their willingness to recommend the program highlights its success in meeting and exceeding expectations and it serves as a testament to the valuable and transformative experience provided.

Testimonials



Nuha Al-Ziyadi | Yemen

“This programme gave me confidence, valuable knowledge, wonderful international friendships and unforgettable memories.”



Houda El Mahmoudi | Morocco

“Genuinely one of the best decisions I’ve made... I will remember it for the rest of my life.”



Herdyal Singh | India

“I’m really grateful to be part of such an amazing group and to share such a rich cultural exchange experience together.”

Testimonials



Ayman Trhawi | Palestine

“This program was a wonderful experience that allowed us to meet amazing friends from around the world, learn about different cultures and create unforgettable memories together.”



Ivan Vladimirov | Bulgaria

“It was a rewarding experience that has left a lasting impression on my academic and professional journey, and I would highly recommend it to anyone seeking to expand their knowledge, network and global outlook.”



Ipek Qurbanova | Azerbaijan

“It gave me the opportunity to learn from inspiring people, meet participants from different cultures and gain a deeper understanding of peace and global cooperation. I will always be grateful for the memories, knowledge and connections I made throughout this journey.”

Testimonials



Alzahraa Algburi | Iraq

"We did a lot of beneficial workshops and enjoyed the diversity."



Azalea Giftha Mazani | Indonesia

"I learned a lot about how MUN works. I also made new friends from different countries."



Valencia Munganga | DR Congo

"I believed the program helped me to practice my English and to become more sociable."

Testimonials



Milena Shurupova | Kazakhstan

"This program helped me to meet new people, have a new experience and spend cool time with cool people!"



Abdullah Emir Arslan | Türkiye

"Thanks to this event, we all saw different cultures and gained new experiences, which is very valuable."



Melody Gholizadeh | Iran

"This program taught me so much stuff and I will genuinely not forget any of it."

Testimonials



Ilaf Bayazid | Libya

"There couldn't have been a better program to help me starting my journey in this field."



Kareem Mohamed Omeish | USA

"Personally, this program filled my day with joy. Not only that, I learned from valuable academics and from other colleagues."



Balaqis Alhatmi | Oman

"Being part of the UNESCO program was one of the best experiences of my life. I learned, I grew, and I will carry these memories with me forever."

Testimonials



Dr. Ahmed Al Mulla
Head of the Department of Government and Society,
United Arab Emirates University

“The Peace and Diplomacy Program at Istanbul Aydın University offers an international experience that combines academic knowledge with direct interaction and dialogue on diplomacy, peace and international relations. The program provides a rich academic and international environment for students to engage with experts, academics, and participants from around the world.”

Humaid Al Blooshi
Political Affairs Researcher

“One of the key messages of the conference was that investing in education is a direct investment in peace. The program created a practical space to develop dialogue, persuasion, critical thinking and the ability to understand different perspectives in a multicultural environment.”



Saeed Al Marzouqi
Political Affairs Researcher

“The program provided an important international platform to discuss women’s empowerment, peace, security and sustainable development, while highlighting how investing in human capital contributes to building stronger and more resilient societies.”



Mohammed Al Abdouli
Journalist – Al-Bayan Newspaper, UAE

“The Peace and Diplomacy Program at Istanbul Aydın University provided an international educational experience that enabled participants to move from academic knowledge to practical engagement, while exchanging diverse perspectives and interacting with academics, experts and students from around the world.”



OUR PROGRAMS IN THE NEWS

Highlighted in the UAE press, our UNESCO Summer Peace and Diplomacy Program received international recognition in Al-Bayan newspaper. Participating delegates shared how the program empowered them with practical diplomacy skills, global networking opportunities, and a platform for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue.

Read here:

<https://www.albayan.ae/news/uae/1546143>

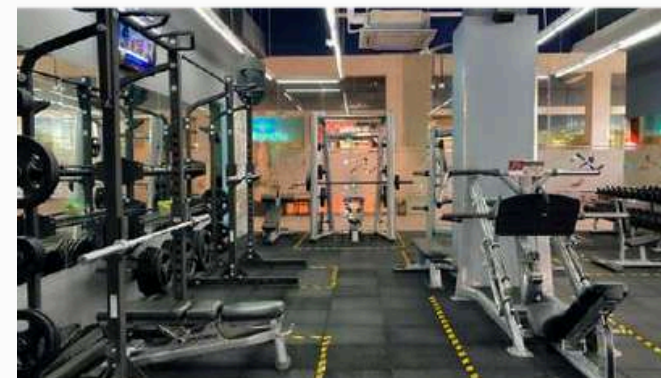
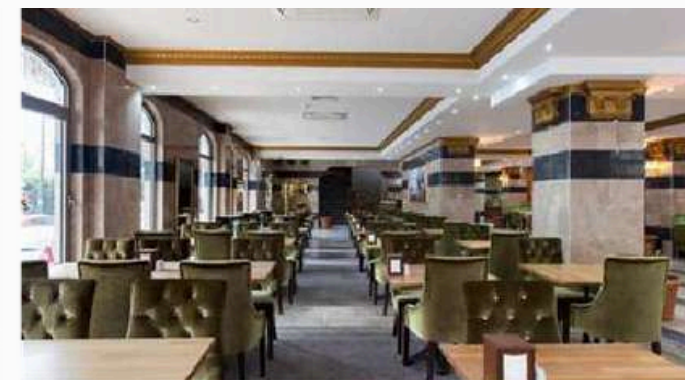
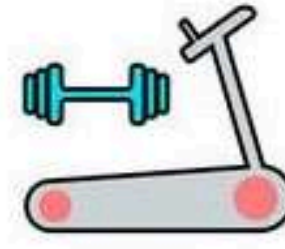
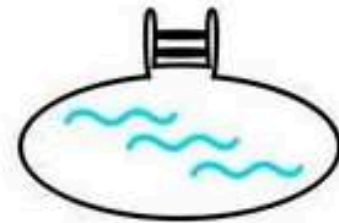


PARTICIPANT ACCOMMODATION

There will be shared segregated accommodation for participants, providing all essential amenities for guests, including:

- Beds
- Hot showers
- A gym
- A common area
- A lounge
- A cafeteria

Additionally, breakfast will be included each day.



TOTAL COST

ONLY \$690



Program Includes



Our program offers a comprehensive package designed to ensure an enriching, educational and immersive experience for participants. The program fee includes:

- **Accommodation:** Comfortable lodging arranged for participants to ensure a safe learning environment.
- **Meals:** Nutritious meals provided daily to support participants' well-being and energy levels.
- **Instruction:** Expert-led courses that cover essential topics in peace and diplomacy, designed to enhance participant's knowledge and skills.
- **Workshops & Seminars:** Interactive sessions that allow participants to engage deeply with course material and develop practical skills.
- **Weekend Cultural Tours:** Organized outings to local attractions, offering participants a chance to experience and understand the host culture.
- **Networking:** Opportunities for participants to connect with peers, professionals and experts in the field of diplomacy and peace-building.
- **Certificate of Completion:** A formal recognition awarded to participants upon successfully completing the program, enhancing their resumes.

AND MORE....

24/7 Support Study Materials
Group Activities
Team-Building Exercises
Cultural Exchange
Welcome & Farewell Events
On-Campus Facilities
Local Transportation
Assistance

Field Trips
Practical Training Sessions
Skill-Building Activities
Library Access
Photography & Media
Academic Mentorship
Digital Resource Access
Public Speaking Sessions

What's Not Included?

- Airfares
- Travel/Health Insurance (if purchased from the university 30 USD for two weeks)
- Airport Transfers (optional: pick-up/drop-off service between airport and university is 50 USD/one way)
- Optional Daily Cultural Tours (the cost is around 10-30 USD per day/activity)

Our Previous Programs

UNESCO Summer Program 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id9zWgkenkU>
(Full Video)

UNESCO Winter Program 2026

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DUQZqyqDEh3/?igsh=YjB1Y3BmYzZnd2M=>

UNESCO Summer Program 2026

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DbGCngYog2c/?igsh=bTQ5cGt5cXVxNzBs>
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DbYpP2WsRLB/?igsh=dXc3YXNvMHpoMnR3>
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DbQyDx0spBy/igsh=MWdhd25xeHh4M3F2Q==>

HOW TO APPLY?

Visit : unesco.aydin.edu.tr

APPLY NOW





CONTACT US!



-  unesco.aydin.edu.tr
-  unesco@aydin.edu.tr
-  [@uneschochair.iau](https://www.instagram.com/uneschochair.iau)