

Sena Yenigün

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📍 Ankara, Turkey

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Education

Ph.D./International Relations, Bilkent University

Current GPA: 3.96

09/2024 – present

Ankara, Türkiye

Master's Degree/International Relations, Bilkent University

GPA: 3.71/4.0

09/2021 – 05/2024

Ankara, Türkiye

Bachelor's Degree/International Relations, Hacettepe University

GPA: 3.56/4.0

08/2016 – 07/2020

Ankara, Türkiye

Professional Experience

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, ERC Counster Project

2026

Ankara, Türkiye

Teaching Assistant, Bilkent University

09/2024 – present

IR 101 – Introduction to World Politics: Facilitated student engagement by leading weekly discussion sections. Evaluated quizzes, midterms, and final exams. Provided detailed feedback to students and served as a liaison between students and the professor. Coordinated logistical aspects of the course, such as proctoring, and maintained communication with building management to ensure the smooth running of the course.

IR 501 – International Relations Theory: Served as a liaison between students and the professor, managed communication and presentation schedule.

IR 4142 – Sports and Global Relations: Prepared and presented suggestions for the course syllabus (including course material and assignments), evaluated quizzes, and kept track of attendance.

Research Assistant, Bilkent University

09/2024

Conducted an extensive literature review and data collection, and prepared a case study on the 1964 Cyprus crisis for a research project on audience costs led by Dr. Tudor Onea. The resulting article has been accepted for publication in *Foreign Policy Analysis*, with acknowledgment of my contribution. See published article below:

Onea, T. A., & Altıntaş, Y. Y. (2026). Scapegoating Your Ally: How Leaders Deflect Audience Costs by Blaming Allies for Not Supporting Them in International Crises. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 22(2), orag004.

Guest Lecturer, Bilkent University

05/2025

IR 335 - International Relations Theory: Gave a two-hour lecture on status and social identity theory with contemporary examples to the 3rd-year undergraduates.

IR 4132 - Grand Strategy: Gave a two-hour lecture on grand strategies of rising powers to 3rd-year undergraduates

High School Summer Program - Peace and Conflict: Gave an hour lecture to high school students on interstate wars and basic concepts of IR

Project Coordinator, BYS Grup Bilişim Sistemleri ve Danışmanlık A.Ş.

06/2024 – 08/2024

Ankara, Türkiye

Project Assistant, BYS Grup Bilişim Sistemleri ve Danışmanlık A.Ş.

03/2023 – 06/2024

Ankara, Türkiye

Provided administrative support to the Project Team. Responsibilities included translating, documenting, and editing all project reports; maintaining detailed records of workdays, completed activities, and project outcomes; and organizing and coordinating meetings, including drafting and distributing meeting minutes, hiring experts for specific activities, which involved negotiating salaries and contract terms, managing of the planning and execution of large-scale events held locally, in other cities, and internationally. Regularly communicated with key stakeholders, including the European Union Delegation (EUD) and various ministries. Tracked payments to experts and contracted firms, as well as oversaw the management of office supplies and ensured an efficient and well-functioning office environment.

The Assisted Projects included:

- EU Technical Assistance Project under IPA II, called Technical Assistance for Agrigenomics Hub - Animal and Plant Genomics Research Innovation Center,
- GIZ - Resilient Cities and Communities - Technical Assistance to Municipalities in Earthquake-Affected Provinces for Strength
- TUBITAK Demanslı Hastalar için AI Tabanlı E-Bakım Sistemi (RODE)
- ICMPPD - Provision of External Evaluation Services of ENHANCER Project

Research Assistant, Bilkent University

09/2021 – 03/2023

Ankara, Türkiye

Assisted Dr. Tuğba Bayar's project to collect an original data set investigating why states abandon multilateral agreements from the 1940s to the present. Assisted Dr. Tudor A. Onea's project on Great Power Competition by conducting an extensive literature review.

See published articles below:

- Bayar, T. (2024). Turkey's withdrawal from Istanbul Convention: international human rights regime vis-à-vis authoritarian survival. *Turkish Studies*, 25(1), 22-42.
- DiCicco, J. M., & Onea, T. A. (2023). Great-power competition. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*.

Intern, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)

07/2019 – 08/2019

Ankara, Türkiye

Presented new project ideas to be implemented in Colombia at the Department of East and South Asia, Pacific, and Latin America

Languages**English**

IELTS:8.0/9.0

French

DELF B2: 71/100

Master's Thesis

The Golden Snitch: Status-Seeking Strategies of Second-Tier States, The Cases of Canada, South Africa and India ☑

2024

Advisor: Dr. Tudor A. Onea

Awards

Full Scholarship and Monthly Stipend, Bilkent University

2024

Full Scholarship and Monthly Stipend, Bilkent University

2021

High Honor Degree (Graduated the 4th in class), Hacettepe University

2020

Conferences

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, *April 2025*
Paper Title: Ascending to the Summit? What kind of power is Turkey?

Skills

Microsoft Office

Word, Excel, Powerpoint

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R Studio

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Nvivo

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