

Barriers of Mobility


II Edition

“Visa Issues for Non-EU Students”



What is the 'Barriers of Mobility'?

“Barriers of Mobility: Visa Issues for Non-EU Students” is a research-based advocacy project by ESN Türkiye. It identifies and documents the challenges non-EU students face during visa processes, aiming to make international mobility more accessible, and inclusive.

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- **First edition (2024):** Collected student experiences and informed **a policy paper** published **in 2025**.
 - **Second edition (2026):** Builds on previous findings to strengthen evidence-based advocacy and capture broader insights from students across mobility and volunteering programmes.

Barriers of Mobility I Edition Report

- **Survey conducted:** 2024
- **Total responses:** 1,435
- **Program participation breakdown:** Erasmus+: 1,356 participants (96.5%), European Solidarity Corps (ESC): 18 participants (1%), ESN events: 41 participants (3%), Other programs: 20 participants (1.5%)

Key Outcomes:

- Findings were widely disseminated to raise awareness of visa-related challenges.
- Insights informed the development of a policy paper, translating student experiences into actionable advocacy recommendations.



Policy Paper

The Policy Paper (2025) is a key outcome of the first edition of the Barriers of Mobility survey. It translates student experiences into concrete recommendations for institutions, consulates, and policymakers to improve accessibility in international mobility.

Highlights:

- Provides evidence-based insights on visa challenges for non-EU students
- Shares practical recommendations for Higher Education Institutions and mobility programmes
- Supports advocacy and policy discussions at national and European levels
- Serves as a foundation for the second edition of the survey (2026)



This Year's Edition:

19.01.2026

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19.02.2026

barriersofmobility.esnturkey.org



Our goal:
3,000 answers



Who is it for?

The survey is open to students and young people who have participated in international education, mobility, or volunteering programmes by Autumn 2025 or earlier, including:

- Exchange students (Erasmus+ students, trainees, European Solidarity Corps participants, youth programmes)
- International full-degree students
- Participants in ESN events



Why it matters?

Visa challenges remain one of the main obstacles for non-EU students. The project ensures student voices are central to policy discussions, contributing to systemic improvements in international mobility.



Visa barriers limit access to mobility.

Data makes these barriers visible.

Visibility enables change.

What makes this edition special?

- **Policy-oriented survey redesign**

A shift from descriptive experience reporting to structured, advocacy-ready data collection

- **Expanded participant scope**

Inclusion of full-degree students alongside short-term mobility participants

- **Comprehensive visa journey mapping**

Coverage of the entire process, from pre-application motivation and access to guidance to appointments, costs, processing times, outcomes, appeals, and residence permits

- **Focus on institutional accountability**

Evaluation of support provided by sending institutions, host institutions, consulates, and visa centres

- **Measurement of structural impacts**

Assessment of the academic, financial, psychological, and equality-related effects of visa procedures

- **Strong advocacy potential**

Data designed to support systemic change at institutional, national, and European levels



Any questions?



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Raise your voice and be part of the process.

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