

# www.fppc.com.tr

# **Family Practice & Palliative Care**



# Research Article

# Assessment of universities that provide education in the field of health tourism in Türkiye in the light of current data

Türkiye'de sağlık turizmi alanında eğitim veren üniversitelerin güncel veriler ışığında değerlendirilmesi



- <sup>a</sup> Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Izmir Katip Celebi University, Izmir, Türkiye
- b Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Manisa Celal Bayar University, Manisa, Türkiye

# **Abstract**

Introduction: Health tourism, defined as travels aimed to improve the physical and mental health of individuals, is growing day by day in parallel with developing technology and transportation. Factors influencing the preference of Türkiye in health tourism include cost, tourism opportunities, and cultural characteristics, as well as health facilities, staff, doctors, and the quality level of service. Due to the focus of human health, the service delivery which is very sensitive should be carried out by qualified workforce. With their role in protecting patients from unnecessary tests and treatments and facilitating effective participation in clinical decision-making processes, family physicians are also involved in the health tourism process and advocate. It is aimed to improve the service provision both qualitatively and quantitatively to meet the predicted increase in the health tourism sector in our country. In line with the realization of these goals, education and training activities offered by higher education institutions come into prominence. It's aimed in our study to quantitatively investigate the adequacy of education in the field of health tourism in our country and to assess it in light of current data.

Methods: The data of the cross-sectional and descriptive study were collected during the 2023-2024 academic years. Education programs and the number of students in the field of health tourism between 2018-2023 at 18 institutions under the Council of Higher Education (YOK) and The Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (OSYM) were examined. Obtained data were brought together with health tourism data published by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), the International Health Services Inc. (USHAS), and the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB).

Results: In Türkiye, for the first time in 2014, associate degree education started to be provided in the "Health Tourism Business" department within the Vocational School. This department, which is available in 9 universities today, has the highest percentage among associate degree preferences. Master's degree program level trainings in health tourism continue in 9 universities across 3 different departments: "Health Tourism", "Health Tourism Business" and "Health Tourism Management". Doctoral level education is provided in 1 university in the department of "Health Tourism". It is observed that the number of students and graduates enrolled in education programs in the field of health tourism is increasing every year. On the other hand, there is still no undergraduate program in this field in Türkiye. According to the data published by TUIK and USHAS, the number of visitors coming to our country for health tourism and the value of income is increasing every year. On the contrary, the number of students and graduates has not increased at the same rate in recent years.

Conclusions: The number of programs and quotas in the field of health tourism opened in universities is gradually increasing. However, when evaluated together with the increase in the number of visitors coming to our country for health tourism over the years, it has been revealed that the number of qualified staff trained to meet the increasing need is still not at the desired level.

Keywords: Medical Tourism, Education, Universities, Family Practice



Giriş: Bireyin fiziksel ve zihinsel sağlığını iyileştirmeyi amaçlayan seyahatler olarak tanımlanan sağlık turizmi, gelişen teknoloji ve ulaşıma paralel olarak gün geçtikçe büyümektedir. Türkiye'nin sağlık turizmi açısından tercih edilmesini etkileyen faktörler arasında; maliyet, turizm olanakları ve kültürel özellikler ile sağlık tesisi, personel, doktorlar ve hizmetin kalite düzeyi yer almaktadır. İnsan sağlığının odak noktası olması nedeniyle oldukça hassas olan hizmet sunumunun nitelikli iş gücü tarafından yürütülmesi gerekmektedir. Hastaları gereksiz test ve tedavilerden koruma ve klinik karar alma süreçlerine etkin katılımı kolaylaştırmadaki rolü ile, aile hekimleri de sağlık turizmi sürecine dahil olmakta ve savunuculuk yapmaktadırlar. Ülkemizde sağlık turizmi sektöründe öngörülen artışı karşılamaya yönelik olarak, hizmet sunumunun nitel ve nicel olarak geliştirilmesi hedeflenmektedir. Bu hedefleri gerçekleştirme doğrultusunda yükseköğretim kurumlarının sunduğu eğitim ve öğretim faaliyetleri ön plana çıkmaktadır. Çalışmamızda ülkemizde sağlık turizmi alanındaki eğitimin yeterliliğinin sayısal olarak araştırılması ve güncel veriler ışığında incelenmesi hedeflenmiştir.

Yöntem: Kesitsel ve tanımlayıcı tasarımda planlanan çalışmanın verileri, 2023-2024 eğitim öğretim dönemlerinde toplanmıştır. Yükseköğretim Kurulu (YÖK) ve Öğrenci Seçme Yerleştirme Merkezi (ÖSYM) bünyesindeki 18 kurumun 2018-2023 yıllarına ait sağlık turizmi alanındaki eğitim programları ve öğrenci sayıları incelenmiştir. Elde edilen veriler ile Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (TÜİK), Uluslararası Sağlık Hizmetleri Anonim Şirketi (USHAŞ), Türkiye Seyahat Acentaları Birliği (TÜRSAB) tarafından yayınlanan sağlık turizmine dair veriler bir

Bulgular: Türkiye'de ilk olarak 2014 yılında, Meslek Yüksekokulu bünyesinde 'Sağlık Turizmi İşletmeciliği'' bölümünde ön lisans düzeyinde eğitim verilmeye başlanmıştır. Günümüzde 9 üniversitede bulunan bölüm ön lisans tercihleri arasında en yüksek dilime sahiptir. Yüksek lisans programı düzeyindeki eğitimler; "Sağlık Turizmi", "Sağlık Turizmi İsletmeciliği" ve "Sağlık Turizmi Yönetimi" olmak üzere, 3 farklı bölümde 9 üniversitede devam etmektedir. Doktora düzeyinde eğitim "Sağlık Turizmi" bölümünde 1 üniversitede verilmektedir. Sağlık turizmi alanındaki eğitim programlarında kayıtlı öğrenci ve mezun sayılarının her geçen yıl giderek artmakta olduğu görülmektedir. Öte yandan, ülkemizde henüz bu bölümde eğitim veren herhangi bir lisans programı bulunmamaktadır. TÜİK ve USHAŞ tarafından yayınlanan verilere göre; ülkemize sağlık turizmi için gelen ziyaretçi sayısı ve gelire ait değerler her geçen yıl artış göstermektedir. Buna karşılık son yıllarda öğrenci ve mezun sayılarında aynı oranda artış gözlenmemektedir.

Sonuç: Üniversitelerde açılan sağlık turizmi alanındaki program ve kontenjan sayısı giderek artmaktadır. Bununla birlikte ülkemize sağlık turizmi için gelen ziyaretçi sayısındaki yıllara göre artış ile değerlendirildiğinde mevcut durumda artan ihtiyacı karşılamaya yönelik yetiştirilen nitelikli personel sayısının halen istenilen düzeyde olmadığı ortaya konmuştur. Anahtar kelimeler: Tıbbi Turizm, Eğitim, Üniversiteler, Aile Hekimliği

Received	Accepted	Published Online	Corresponding Author	E-mail
February 14, 2024	April 16, 2024	July 31, 2024	Sıdıka Ece Yokuş	yokusece@gmail.com
Correspondence	Dr. Sidika Ece Yokus, Uncubozkoy, Celal Bayar Unv., 45030 Yunusemre/Manisa Türkiye			
doi	https://doi.org/10.22391/fppc.1436007			

# **Key Points**

- 1. The number of visitors coming to our country is increasing day by day.
- 2. There is an increase in the number of departments giving education in the field of health tourism in universities.
- 3. The rate of graduates from the health tourism programs is in low levels.
- 4. The increase in the number of students and graduates registered in the departments has not kept up with the increase in the number of visitors.

#### Introduction

Health tourism is defined as the travel organizations aimed to protect and improve the individual's health in physical and mental way [1]. Sometimes it is carried out to regain lost health and sometimes protect health. There are subtypes of health tourism such as; medical tourism, thermal (spa and wellness etc.) tourism, elderly tourism and accessible tourism for disabled people [2]. The significance of health tourism is increasing day by day in parallel with developing technology and transportation facilities.

The world population is getting older and older as the life expectancy increases. This situation causes chronic conditions to have a significant share among diseases in parallel with the increased spending on health. This increase brings about a search for more affordable healthcare services [4]. Among the factors affecting the preference of our country for health tourism, especially in recent times, costs, tourism opportunities and cultural features, as well as the quality level of the health facility, staff and doctors are included [5].

There are some unique features that separates health tourism from other types of tourism. As the main ideas of health tourism are human health and even human life, it has a position that requires a high sensibility through the process and that cannot be tolerated against possible mistakes [4]. It might bring about many problems such as possible abuses and ethical violations by its nature [6]. Eliminating these and increasing the patient's safety along with the quality of the process is only possible if the organizations providing services for the health tourism have sufficient technical equipment and qualified workforce [4].

Health tourism also has some difficulties regarding the treatment decision-making process for individuals [6]. Throughout this process, they are accompanied by family physicians who are with the patients and provide consultancy on all their health problems. With the "Quaternary Protection" patients are protected from harm that may be caused by unnecessary screening, tests and treatments. At the same time, in accordance with the "Advocacy Principle", it is necessary to prevent possible abuses by helping patients actively participate in the process of clinical decision-making. Advocacy feature is defined as "helping patients actively participate in the process of clinical decision-making and working together with government and other authorities to ensure the equal distribution of services to all member of society at the highest level". It's required to give patients detailed information about possible complications and process, sharing the predicted positive and negative effects of medical intervention with patients and initiating a shared decision-making process with them [8].

The health tourism sector is expected to grow as the transportation and access to information is globally easier, and thus; the potential of our country in the health tourism market stands out thanks to the service provision and technological developments. In the 11<sup>th</sup> Development Plan which is developed for this purpose, it's aimed to increase promotion and investment activities, improve the service capacity in quality and quantity and strengthen legal regulation and accreditation [9]. Among the steps to meet these goals training activities that enable the training of qualified manpower come to the fore. Achieving these goals is only possible with the education and training which is offered by higher education institutions [10].

Even if there are some studies including the curriculum and quotas for education in this field in literature, there is no comprehensive study analyzing the changes over the years and examine the number of graduates. In our study, it's aimed to numerically investigate the adequacy of the personnels receiving training to meet the needs of our country in the health tourism and to analyze the results in the light of current data.

# Methods

The data of the cross-sectional and descriptive study were collected during the 2023-2024 academic years. The associate, undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs of the 18 universities under the Council of Higher Education (YOK) and The Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (OSYM) were scanned through their websites. The number of settled and registered students and the number of graduates for the years 2018-2023 were examined. The data that is obtained and the data on health tourism published by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), the International Health Services Inc. (USHAS), and the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) were brought together. The departments with the phrase ''health tourism'' in the program name were included in the research.

#### Ethical approval, informed consent and permissions

The study was carried out between September 2023 and June 2024. Ethics Committee approval was received from Manisa Celal Bayar University, Faculty of Medicine, Health Sciences Ethics Committee (Date: 06.09.2023, Decision No: 20.478.486/1993). Since the study is retrospective, informed consent was not required.

# Statistical analysis

The population of the study consists of all universities, and the universities which has a data on their websites related to this study were included in the study. The study was carried out using the document analysis method. Descriptive data and tables were created with the MS Excel program. Descriptive data is presented as numbers, percentages, averages and standard deviations, and regraphed according to years based on minimum and maximum values.

Research Article Can et al.

### **Results**

The data of all universities screened through the Council of Higher Education (YOK) and the Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (OSYM) were accessed. The data of 10 universities in Türkiye that provide education at the associate degree level in the 'Health Tourism Management' department within the Vocational School between 2018 and 2023 are shown in Table 1 [11]. The department was firstly opened at Cappadocia Vocational School in the 2014-2015 academic year. In 2017, education continued under the name of Cappadocia University, and it accepted its last student this year [12]. The department, which was opened at Harran University in the 2016-2017 academic year, has entered the education programs of other universities over the years. Today, 9 universities continue to actively recruit students [13]. This department, whose number of students and graduates is increasing day by day, has the highest rate among associate degree preferences with a rate of 8.1%, according to the 2022 higher education quota, preference and settlement statistics [14].

Table 1. Associate Degree Programs of Universities in Türkiye [11]

	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024
Health Tourism Business	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Afyon Kocatepe University Sandikli Vocational School						
Number of Students Placed				8	31	31
Number of Graduated Students				O	31	31
Number of Registered Students				25	49	
Bandirma Onyedi Eylul University Erdek Vocational School				23	42	
Number of Students Placed			41	28	52	51
Number of Graduated Students				14	32	51
Number of Registered Students			41	92	122	
Harran University Sanliurfa Health Services Vocational School			71	72	122	
Number of Students Placed	36	41	41	41	41	40
Number of Graduated Students	3	16	16	15	71	40
Number of Registered Students	85	115	117	130	142	
Kutahya Dumlupinar University Simav Vocational School	0.5	113	117	130	142	
Number of Students Placed	20	21	14	8	31	31
Number of Graduated Students	20	12	10	5	31	31
Number of Registered Students	29	47	49	56	62	
Nevsehir Haci Bektas Veli University Kozakli Vocational School	<i></i>	Τ,	72	30	02	
Number of Students Placed	39	41	47	29	47	47
Number of Graduated Students	37	19	17	23	Τ,	Τ,
Number of Registered Students	33	69	94	113	119	
Nevsehir Kapadokya University Vocational School	33	0)	74	113	11)	
Number of Students Placed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Graduated Students	2	1	U	U	U	U
Number of Registered Students	6	5	4	4	1	
Sakarya University Applied Sciences Akyazi Health Services	U	3	7	7	1	
Vocational School						
Number of Students Placed			52	37	52	52
Number of Graduated Students			32	24	32	32
Number of Registered Students			52	109	128	
Sivas Cumhuriyet University Social Sciences Vocational School			32	109	120	
Number of Students Placed	62	62	62	57	62	62
Number of Graduated Students	02	23	24	32	02	02
Number of Registered Students	62	121	154	188	202	
Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University Resadiye Vocational School	02	121	134	100	202	
Number of Students Placed			10	0	21	21
Number of Students Placed Number of Graduated Students			10	0 6	21	21
			17	21	32	
Number of Registered Students Ankara Medipol University Health Services Vocational School			17	21	32	
Number of Students Placed			12	8	25	28
Number of Students Placed Number of Graduated Students			12	8	23	20
			12	8 28	47	
Number of Registered Students		2010.2	13	20	47	

Table showing associate degree program data of universities in Türkiye for the years 2018-2024

Master's degree program level education first started with Istanbul Medeniyet University ''Health Tourism Business'' department. In 2018, training continued in 3 different departments at 4 universities: ''Health Tourism'', ''Health Tourism Business'' and ''Health Tourism Management''. By 2023, this number has reached 9 universities in total. The numbers of registered students and graduates of these departments are given in Table 2 [13].

**Table 2.** Master's Programs of Universities in Türkiye [13]

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
		4	8	
11	26	39	45	56
4	5	1	13	
17	26	52	55	62
		1	1	
	5	18	19	20
				3
	2	10	10	6
12	15	10	12	
32	15	29	1	53
				12
				8
	3	5	14	
26	53	67	58	36
	11 4 17	11 26 4 5 17 26 5 2 12 15 32 15	11 26 39 4 5 1 17 26 52  1 5 18  2 10  12 15 10 32 15 29	11 26 39 45  4 5 1 13 17 26 52 55  1 1 1 5 18 19  2 10 10  12 15 10 12 32 15 29 1

Table showing data on graduate programs of universities in Türkiye for the years 2018-2023.

Doctoral level education first started in 2019 in the ''Health Tourism'' department and is provided only at Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University [13]. There are no graduates yet from this 4-year program. The change graph of the data of the departments according to years is given in Figure 1 and Figure 2. When the data is examined, it is seen that the number of registered students and graduates is increasing every year. On the other hand, while there were a total of 301 registered students in the 2018-2019 academic year in associate and master's degree departments with a 2-year education period, there were only 88 graduates in the 2020-2021 period. Based on this, it can be seen that attendance to the programs is at very low levels.

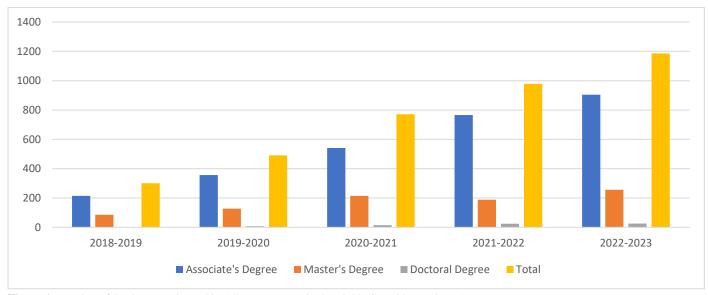


Figure 1. Number of Students Registered in All Departments in the Field of Health Tourism [11]

Graph showing the number of students registered in all departments in the field of Health Tourism between 2018-2023.

Research Article Can et al.

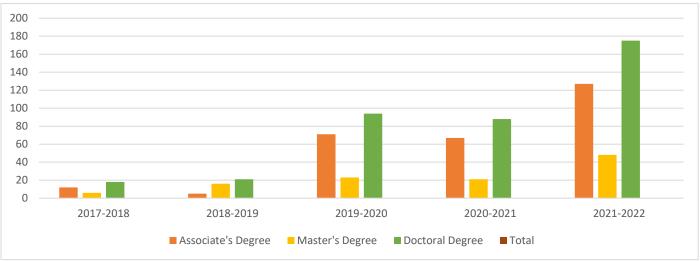


Figure 2. The Number of Graduate Students from All Departments in the Field of Health Tourism [11]

Graph showing the number of students graduating from all departments in the field of Health Tourism between 2018-2023.

On the other hand, there is no undergraduate program providing education in this department in our country yet. Although there are various departments at the undergraduate level such as tourism and hotel business, tourism management and health management, health tourism covers a very small part of the course content [11]. At the same time, there are Health Tourism Education Research and Application Centers established at Akdeniz University in 2009, at Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University in 2020, and at Uskudar University in 2015 [13].

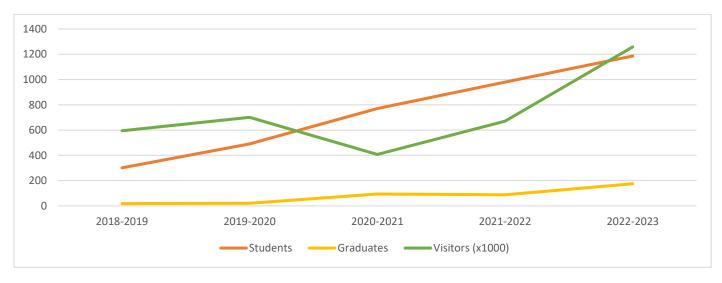
The data published by TUIK and USHAS are shown in Table 3. Apart from a decrease thought to be due to the pandemic between 2019 and 2020, data showing the number of visitors and income have an increase pattern over the years [15]. Data for only the first two quarters of 2023 have been shared, and it is anticipated that the acceleration will continue in the coming periods.

Table 3. Number of visitors coming to Türkiye for health tourism and income by years [15]

Years	Number of Visitors	Income (a thousand dollar)
2018	594.851	863.307
2019	701.046	1.492.438
2020	407.423	1.164.779
2021	670.730	1.726.973
2022	1.258.382	2.119.059
2023 (first two quarters)	746.290	1.033.942

Table showing the number of visitors coming to Türkiye for health tourism and the income generated between 2018-2023

In our study, the number of students receiving education in the field of health tourism, the number of graduates and the number of visitors coming to our country for health tourism are graphed as in Figure 4. Between 2018 and 2019, there is a parallel increase in the number of registered students, the number of graduates and the number of visitors coming to our country for health tourism. After the decrease in the number of visitors between 2019-2020, a significant acceleration is observed in 2020-2023. On the other hand, the number of students and graduates has not achieved sufficient acceleration in recent years.



**Figure 4.** Change of Data in the Field of Health Tourism by Years[15]

Graph showing the change of data in the field of health tourism for the years 2018-2023.

# **Discussion**

The number of students enrolled in higher education is closely related to the training of professionals who are conducive to the development of health tourism. Wang et al. (2023) on the development of health tourism in China, economic, social, transportation and industrial factors, as well as the educational status of the personnel, were considered as an influencing factor. It has been demonstrated that education has a direct positive effect in fundamentally strengthening health tourism and supporting its development [16]. The most important deficiency in health tourism, where qualified human resources are the key to success, is that the education and training opportunities are not sufficient. Although recruitment in this field is generally at the undergraduate level, very few of them include graduates with undergraduate education in the field of health tourism [17]. In the literature, education comes to the fore in training personnel who will be prepared for the changing environment of the sector, who can think critically and analytically, and produce creative ideas. This rapidly developing sector around the world needs trained personnel with high adaptability [18]. In a study conducted among employers in the field of health tourism, it was stated that the competence of people with higher education in this field was higher, and its importance for the sector was emphasized [19]. In our study, it is seen that the need for trained personnel is increase in the number of education and training opportunities in our country as well as the increase in the number of visitors coming for health tourism.

There are few studies on health tourism education in universities in our country. In the study conducted by Goktas (2018), it was determined that there are a few universities that provide education at the associate and master's level, but there is no education at the undergraduate level, and it was revealed that the education programs in this field are not sufficient [20]. Ulusoy et al. (2018) in which health tourism education in Türkiye and the world was examined, it was revealed that there is no undergraduate and doctoral level education in our country [21]. In our study, it was determined that new universities providing education at associate, master's and doctoral levels were opened between 2018 and 2023, but there is still no undergraduate level education.

In the study conducted by Dastan (2014) on the subject, it was suggested that health tourism courses be added to undergraduate programs such as health management and tourism management [22]. When the contents of these undergraduate programs were examined in our study, it was determined that health tourism courses were not emphasized. Saygili et al. (2022) examined the departments and curricula that provide health tourism education in Türkiye and emphasized the need for undergraduate education in order the provide the necessary support to the health tourism sector, where the need for qualified personnel is rapidly increasing. It has been revealed that personnel trained only through an associate degree program may be insufficient in the field, and the recommended undergraduate programs to be opened will provide opportunity for a group of students trained from the core. It has been stated that the continuity provided by undergraduate education will also be beneficial for the development of the academy [10].

In the study conducted by Goktas (2018), the scope, diversity and employment rates of graduates' work areas were mentioned as the most important indicators that will determine the success of health tourism programs. For this reason, he drew attention to monitoring the undergraduate completion status of his students [20]. While there were 491 registered students in these departments, whose education period is 2 years, in 2019, there are only 175 graduates in 2021. Based on this, it is seen that attendance to the programs is at very low levels and there are not enough records to analyze the reasons.

Türkiye's qualities that can be considered advantageous in health tourism include the solid infrastructure and facilities in healthcare providers, as well as the knowledge of foreign languages of the personnel working in the sector and good communication with patients [23]. However, the needs of this rapidly advancing sector change over time, and an increasing need emerges in terms of the number and quality of personnel. According to studies of Icoz (2009), Arsezen Otamis et al. (2015) and Gorener (2016), it was revealed that the number of managers who will coordinate medical tourism and the number of qualified personnel who have received training are low, and the lack of training and experience of the personnel who will be in direct contact with the patient, and the need for individuals who have received health tourism training has been expressed [24-26]. Although our study reveals the fact that our country is more preferred day by day in terms of health tourism, the number of qualified personnel trained in the field of health tourism does not seem to be at a level to meet the increasing need.

### Limitations

Since detailed data are not available on university websites and course contents of all university departments cannot be accessed, our study offers the opportunity to evaluate the subject only through numerical data. Course contents of the departments have not been examined in detail. Another limitation of our study is the lack of field data on whether graduates of the departments are actively working in the field of health tourism.

# **Conclusion**

When the data between 2018 and 2023 was examined, it was seen that the number of programs and quotas opened in universities was increasing. However, in recent times, these data have fallen far behind the increase in the number of visitors coming to our country for health tourism. In the current situation, it has been revealed that the number of qualified personnel trained to meet the increasing need in the field of health tourism is still not at the desired level. It is extremely important to train qualified personnel in terms of health tourism, which is becoming increasingly important for our country. There is a need to carry out studies to increase the interest in this field and associate, master's and doctoral education programs through departmental information studies, to open undergraduate education programs, and to ensure continuity in departments with post-graduation coordination and employment activities.

Research Article Can et al.

**Conflict of interest:** There is no conflict of interest between the authors in this study.

Author Contributions		Author Initials	
SCD	Study Conception and Design	HC	
AD	Acquisition of Data	SEY	
AID	Analysis and Interpretation of Data	SEY, HC	
DM	Drafting of Manuscript	SEY, HC	
CR	Critical Revision	SEY, HC	

**Financial support:** No financial support was received for this study.

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the preparation of the data we accessed through the websites.

**Prior publication:** A significant part of the data was presented as an oral presentation at the 10th National ISTAHED Family Medicine Congress held in Famagusta, TRNC in 2023.

#### References

- 1. Lunt N, Smith R, Exworthy M, Green ST, Horsfall D, Mannion R. Medical tourism: treatments, markets and health system implications: a scoping review [Internet]. OECD; 2001. Available at: https://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/48723982.pdf (Access Date: January 5, 2024)
- 2. Turner L. Medical tourism: family medicine and international health-related travel. Can Fam Physician. 2007;53(10):1639–41. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17934018/
- 3. Ozturk M, Bayat M. [The role and quality of health tourism within international tourism movements-a literature survey] (in Turkish). KSÜ IIBF. 2011;1(2):135–56.
- 4. Eris H, Barut S. [Medical tourism] (in Turkish). In: Eris H (ed). Medical tourism. 1st ed. Ankara: IKSAD Publishing House; 2020:51–60.
- 5. Ustun U, Demir Uslu Y. [A study on the reasons why Turkey is preferred in health tourism: medical tourism index] (in Turkish). Eur J Sci Technol. 2022;33:344-53. <a href="https://doi.org/10.31590/ejosat.1020647">https://doi.org/10.31590/ejosat.1020647</a>
- 6. Kayar A, Karaca Dedeoglu A. [Ethical issues in health tourism] (in Turkish). Turk J Bioeth. 2021;8(4):178-186. https://doi.org/10.5505/tjob.2021.82788
- Snyder J, Crooks VA, Johnston R, Dharamsi S. "Do your homework.and then hope for the best": The challenges that medical tourism poses
  to Canadian family physicians' support of patients' informed decision-making. BMC Med Ethics. 2013;14(37):1–10.
   https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6939-14-37
- 8. Commission of the WONCA European Council. The European definition of General Practice/Family Medicine [Internet]. Spain: WHO Europe Office; 2023. Available at: <a href="https://www.woncaeurope.org/kb/european-definition-gp-fm-2023">https://www.woncaeurope.org/kb/european-definition-gp-fm-2023</a> (Access Date: December 17, 2023)
- Presidency of Strategy and Budget. Eleventh development plan 2019-2023 [Internet]. Ankara: Publications of Presidency of Strategy and Budget. Available at: <a href="https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Eleventh">https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Eleventh</a> Development Plan 2019-2023.pdf (Access Date: December 17, 2023)
- 10. Saygili T, Diker O. [Health tourism education in Turkey] (in Turkish). JTM. 2022;3(1):59–69. https://doi.org/10.29329/jtm.2022.542.4
- 11. YKS placement results [Internet]. Available at: <a href="https://www.osym.gov.tr/TR,25348/2023.html">https://www.osym.gov.tr/TR,25348/2023.html</a> (Access Date: November 28, 2023)
- 12. Cappadocia University-history [Internet]. Available at: https://kapadokya.edu.tr/en/about/history (Access Date: December 17, 2023)
- 13. Higher Education Information Management System [Internet]. Available at: https://istatistik.yok.gov.tr/ (Access Date: November 28, 2023)
- 14. Health Tourism Business-YÖK vocational atlas [Internet]. Available at: <a href="https://yokatlas.yok.gov.tr/meslek-onlisans.php?b=38005">https://yokatlas.yok.gov.tr/meslek-onlisans.php?b=38005</a> (Access Date: November 28, 2023)
- 15. Health tourism data-USHAŞ [Internet]. Available at: https://www.ushas.com.tr/en/health-tourism-data/ (Access Date: November 28, 2023)
- 16. Wang H, Feng Y, Xu S, Xu X, Jiang K, Nie X, et al. Analysis of spatial-temporal pattern, dynamic evolution and influencing factors of health tourism development in China. Sci Rep. 2023;13(1):1–20. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-42462-x">https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-42462-x</a>
- 17. Bridget M, Nigel E. Reassessing employer expectations of graduates in UK travel services. Int J of Tourism Res 2008;10(5):409-22. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jtr.670
- 18. Ring A, Dickinger A, Wöber K. Designing the ideal undergraduate program in tourism: expectations from industry and educators. J Travel Res. 2009;48(1):106-21. https://doi.org/10.1177/0047287508328789
- 19. Blank C, Riedler C, Schobersberger W. Academic education in health tourism–knowledge about and willingness for academic training within the field of health tourism: a cross-country evaluation within the German-speaking alpine area. J Tourism Hospit 2013;2(1):1-6. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4172/2167-0269.1000109">https://doi.org/10.4172/2167-0269.1000109</a>
- 20. Goktas B. [Review of health tourism education] (in Turkish). Journal of Ankara Health Sciences. 2018;7(2):77-84.
- 21. Ulusoy H, Tosun N, Akkum B. Health tourism education: the case of Turkey and the world. IJHMT. 2018;3(3):122-32. https://doi.org/10.31201/ijhmt.435707
- 22. Dastan I. [Health tourism in Turkey: swot analysis of health tourism in Turkey and İzmir, and strategy recommendations] (in Turkish). MAKU SOBED. 2014;6(10):143–63.
- 23. Yigit AC, Acikgoz M. [Health tourism concept and health tourism in Turkey] (in Turkish). In: Akarsu T (ed). Pioneer and contemporary studies health sciences. 1st ed. İzmir: Duvar Publications; 2023:173–203.
- 24. Icoz O. [Medical tourism and Turkey's opportunities within the scope of health tourism] (in Turkish). JoY. 2009;4(14):2257–79.
- 25. Arsezen Otamis P, Yuzbasioglu N. [The development of medical tourism cluster: example of Antalya] (in Turkish). YEAD. 2015;13(1):165–85
- 26. Gorener A. [A SWOT-AHP approach for assessment of medical tourism sector in Turkey] (in Turkish). AJ. 2016;4(2):159–70. https://doi.org/10.17093/alphanumeric.277740