

Visa & Travel Guidance for Participants

1 | Do you need a visa?

Category	Typical passport status	What to do
Visa-exempt (90 days in any 180-day period)	Many EU/EEA countries, the UK, most Latin-American nations, Singapore, ...	You can travel with a valid passport (≥ 6 months beyond arrival). No prior action needed. (mfa.gov.tr)
e-Visa eligible	Nationals of e.g. Australia, Canada, China, India, South Africa, UAE, USA, and dozens more	Apply online via the official e-Visa Portal run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The process takes ~10 minutes and you normally receive the pdf visa within minutes. Print or save the pdf on your phone. (evisa.gov.tr)
Sticker / embassy visa	Passports that are neither exempt nor e-Visa-eligible	Contact your nearest Turkish mission. See “Visa Information for Foreigners” on the MFA site for the exact procedure and required documents. (mfa.gov.tr)

How to check your status

1. Visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs page “Visa Information for Foreigners.”
2. Locate your country in the interactive list to see whether you are visa-exempt, e-Visa-eligible, or must apply through an embassy/consulate.
3. Follow the indicated path.

2 | Invitation letters

If your application route (embassy or e-Visa) requests proof of purpose, the DeclarativeAI Secretariat will issue a personalised invitation letter on university letterhead once your registration fee is paid. Before you request the letter, please have ready:

- Full name as in passport
- Passport number & expiration date
- Nationality & date of birth
- Your role (author / participant / exhibitor)

Write to us with the subject line “Invitation Letter Request – [Your Name]”. Allow 5 business days for processing.

3 | Practical timeline

Step	Recommended latest date*
Register & pay conference fee	10 weeks before travel
Request invitation letter	9 weeks before travel
Submit e-Visa application or embassy appointment	8 weeks (embassy) / 4 weeks (e-Visa)
Book flights & accommodation	6 weeks
Print / download visa pdf & invitation letter	1 week

*Earlier is always safer; summer is peak season at Turkish missions.

4 | Arriving in İstanbul

Topic	Key points
Airports	Istanbul Airport (IST) on the European side is the primary hub; Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) serves mainly low-cost & regional flights. IST was voted <i>World's Best Airport 2024</i> and handles > 300 destinations. (istairport.com , thesun.co.uk)
Passport control	Present your passport, printed e-Visa or visa sticker, and invitation letter.

Transport to city	— <i>Metro M11</i> from IST to city (35 min). — <i>Havaist</i> shuttle buses (24 h). — Metered yellow taxis (use official stand).
Currency & payments	Local currency: Turkish Lira (TRY). ATMs and exchange desks are in the arrivals hall. Most cards are widely accepted.
Connectivity	Purchase a Turkish SIM at the arrivals hall or use free Airport Wi-Fi (1 h).
Climate	Early-autumn temperatures in İstanbul average 18 – 27 °C; pack a light jacket for evenings.

5 | Useful links

Visa Information for Foreigners –
Republic of Türkiye MFA

<https://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

General Information About Turkish
Visas

<https://www.mfa.gov.tr/general-information-about-turkish-visas.en.mfa>

Official Türkiye e-Visa Portal

<https://www.evisa.gov.tr>

Istanbul Airport Arrival Guide

<https://www.istairport.com/en/flights/airport-guides/arrival-passenger-guide>

6 | Quick checklist before departure

- Passport valid $\geq$ 6 months beyond travel dates
- Printed e-Visa / sticker visa & invitation letter
- Proof of accommodation & return/onward ticket
- Travel insurance (medical cover incl. Türkiye)
- Conference registration confirmation & payment receipt

- Local currency or bank card with international use enabled

We look forward to welcoming you to İstanbul! Safe travels, and please contact us if you have questions.