

Our job-shadowing experience took place from 21 April to 30 April 2018. The two schools we visited are Anadolu Öğretmen Lisesi and Mehmet Akif Ersoy Anadolu Lisesi. Both are located in the city of Nazilli, to the South-West of Turkey.

We attended English and French lessons. We want first to insist on the incredible welcome we received. The students were clearly delighted to see new faces, and as soon as they understood we were there because we were interested in discovering their ways, most of them wanted to talk to us and enlighten us about their way-of-life, their hobby and their project.

The math, physics, Turkish language and music teachers we met also did their best to make us feel welcome, using the little English some of them mastered!

Although the premises were apparently built in the '60s or '70s with a focus on functionality, we appreciated their cleanliness, luminosity and decoration (often by the students themselves).

The students are between 20 and 25 per class.

We were first surprised to learn the number of hours dedicated to the learning of English in those schools. This number can rise from 4 weekly hours to 12, for the students about to take an exam in this foreign language. Compared to the 2,30 hours most high-school students get in France, this allotment exemplifies the interest shown by the Turkish government in opening up to the world through languages.

For those students, the teaching is divided into skills: oral comprehension, written comprehension, oral expression and written expression, with a different teacher each time. All the students use a text-book, which also serves as note-book. They don't use laptops or tablets. The teacher utilizes the same text-book, in addition to its digital version, shown on an impressively large computer screen which replaces the traditional blackboard. All the classrooms we visited come equipped with this screen. The teacher can click on the items with a pen or his finger, and play videos, soundbites, etc.

The students appeared to us to be motivated, well-behaved and willing to progress. The average level is rather good, with some students showing near fluency.

What we found a little disturbing is the fact that the teachers seem to not be entirely free in their choice of what and how to teach. They all used the text-books, and used them scrupulously, doing the exercises in order.

This experience allowed us to reflect upon our own approach of English teaching. After the lessons, we would talk extensively with the Turkish teachers, comparing their ways to ours, insisting on how their method could benefit from ours and vice-versa.

The region and the city we stayed at are beautiful and representative of what Turkey can offer tourists. We enjoyed the warmth and sense of hospitality of all the locals we met, young and older alike. It is a pity that the current political climate prevented French students from enjoying the mobilities that were to be organized there. Should the situation improve, we would be more than eager to start a new partnership with Turkey.