

Distinguished Chairman of our Board of Trustees, esteemed colleagues, distinguished graduates, distinguished guests:

Welcome to our 2022-23 commencement ceremony, held on the 100th anniversary of our Republic of Türkiye. Hereby, I would like to start my speech by celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye.

Universities are fundamental institutions of the countries in which they are located and the world. They are strong and well-established structures that serve both social and universal purposes.

Universities derive their strength from free thought and democracy and their depth from social and universal values. Their values, traditions, policies, goals and narratives take root and extend forward for years and centuries.

Aspiring to be renowned as a research university of the highest caliber, Istinye University prioritizes

- Exceptional education, exceptional graduates and exceptional research,
- Social responsibility and universal human values,
- Service to society and humanity and protection of the environment and nature
- Commitment not only to science and education, but also to culture and art.

For this, it is necessary to work both institutionally and individually with dedication, patience, confidence and discipline and to progress quickly.

Victor Hugo said: "Work is life."

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk said: "The future belongs to the virtuous and hardworking."

Therefore, we say to all of you and to everyone: Work, work, work!

To realize continuous work and rapid progress, Istinye University and its stakeholders embrace

- Reason, science and truth
- Modernity, equality, peace, law and democracy
- The richness of diversity, non-discrimination and tolerance
- Innovation, entrepreneurship, qualification and competence

Distinguished guests and dear students,

Today we bid farewell to 2500 new graduates departing our university for the business life. We hold commencement ceremonies for them as a sign of their success. We are proud of their achievements, and we celebrate them.

Dear parents and families of our graduates,

You have nurtured your children from birth to this day, showing them unstinting devotion and support. Today we return your children to you as competent individuals poised to serve the world, both with the upbringing and culture they have received from you, and with the knowledge and skills they have mastered and developed from university education. Be proud of them. And thank you for your hard work on their behalf and the sacrifices you have made for them.

Dear colleagues, valuable instructors of our graduates!

You have devoted yourselves to raising up these young people. You have worked to develop their knowledge, skills and qualifications. We thank you, too, for your dedication and hard work on their behalf.

Dear Alumni!

You are professionals in your field, community leaders and qualified and competent world citizens. As responsible, socially conscious and culturally aware professionals, you design the future. During your university years, you have witnessed that friendships and a sense of unity are valuable gains; diversity and multiculturalism are sources of richness; tolerance and critical thinking lead to maturity; and kindness and love prevail. With these accomplishments, along with human universal values and diligence, I believe that you will crown your new phase and professional life with loyalty to your family and homeland and with success.

To express his confidence to young people, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk called them "the assurance of our future." To youth he said, "You are the ones who will strengthen our hope and carry it to the future and advance civilization." We trust you; we are proud of you. We celebrate and applaud you, as you are indeed the assurance of our future.

As the last sentence!

Dear graduates, dear young people!

May your future be bright, may your success abound, may your path be clear.