

ARDA GÜRCAN

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EDUCATION

Nesibe Aydın High School, Ankara, Turkey

Sep. 2018 – Present

(With 80% merit scholarship through high school years since graduating from middle school in 2nd place in school and ranking among the first 200 students in LGS among 1M test-takers)

Curriculum : IB Diploma and Turkish National Curriculum

Expected Graduation Date : June, 2022

Current IB courses : HL / Math, Physics, English B; SL / Economics, Turkish Lit. A, French B

CGPA : 9th grade: 97.67 ; 10th grade: 97.84 ; 11st grade: 98,79

Standardized Test Scores : SAT (Mar.2021) - 1550 (EBRW:750, Math.: 800)

SAT Subject Tests (Jun .2021)- Physics:800, Math 2: 800

TOEFL (Feb.2021) - 109 DELF: B1 (B2 to be taken in May 2022)

Koç University Online Artificial Intelligence Summer Camp for HS students

8-20 August 2021

Completed the following courses and related projects with “Distinction”:

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Python Crash Course; Introduction to Machine Learning; Deep Learning; Machine Learning and Cyber Security; AI in Medicine; Natural Language Processing; Voice Processing; Computer Vision; Robotic Motion Planning; Medical Image Processing; Generating Imagery with GANs; Autonomous Driving and Motion Prediction

Koç University Precollege for High School Students, İstanbul, Turkey

30 Jun-21 Jul. 2019

Attended the Precollege Program of Koç University for high school students. Completed the following undergraduate level classes: *3D Printing and Design; Maker and STEM Projects with Arduino; Exploring the Universe: From the Earth to the Stars and Beyond; Introduction to Psychology*

Ali Kuşçu Science Center, Ankara

2018-2019

Studied basics of game programming, the Unity3D Game Engine and the C# programming language. Special tutoring was provided by the organization to work one-to-one on various game development projects. One of the projects was honored to be exhibited in the junior section of the METU Gateway'19 Exhibition.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

METU Informatics Institute - GATEWay'19

Jan.18 2019

(Junior Section Participant)

Developed a 3D platformer game and was invited to display this game in the junior session for the GATEWay'19 which is an annual event held by the METU Informatics Institute for exhibiting the Graduates' Term Projects in the field of game programming.

Game Jams*2018-Present***(Member of Global Computer Game Developer Community)***(150 hrs/y)*

A "game jam" is a game programming event in which participants are required to create a game from scratch according to the theme announced at the start of the event in a prescribed time. The resulting games are evaluated and ranked by the criteria of Innovation, Theme, Fun, Graphics and Music.

Model United Nations Conferences

Individual MUN Conferences participant

MUNTR Eurasia MUN**(Delegate)**

Delegation of Plant for the Planet in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Committee

NAMUN'19 NAMUN'20 / NAMUN'21**(Delegate, Organization Team Member)**

Delegation of Nicholas Soames (Churchill's Grandson) in the BREXIT Crisis Committee; Awarded Honorable Mention; Participated in the organization i.e., creation of committees, agenda items, study guides; Head of 10 Academic Assistants; Press graphic design support

JNAMUN'21*9-10 Apr. 2021***(Organization Team)**

Organization and resolution paper support; Admin in Committee on Sustainable Development

YGA Conferences*2019, 2020 and 2021***(Individual Participant)**

Young Guru Academy (YGA) is an NGO founded in Turkey, generating substantial solutions to the social challenges with the innovations they make. Attended two conferences by YGA chosen among 500 participants out of 50,000 applicants each time; and made it to the interview stage once.

UN Global Social Leaders-Global Goals Competition 2020*Nov 2019 - June 2020**(60-70 hours/y)*

Worked towards achieving the 4th Sustainable Development Goal: Quality Education, took part in the group Edustotles made up of 7 members as the founder and the leader of the group. Selected a school in poor conditions, examined their needs, raised money with several bake sales and campaigns. Moved on to online tutoring upon the start of the pandemic. Gave free online Arduino and French tutoring for 21 hours in total. The group came in 3rd in the Quality Education category.

UN Global Social Leaders-Global Goals Competition 2021*Nov 2020-June 2021**(70-80 ours/y)*

Under the 10th Sustainable Development Goal: Reducing Inequalities, took part in the group The Signers made up of 7 members as the founder and the leader of the group. Developed a computer program (using Python,

JavaScript, and HTML) that translates real-time video of Turkish sign language into Turkish words (using machine learning and live gesture recognition) and Turkish words into videos of Turkish sign language. Qualified as one of the 15 international finalist groups among 200 participated groups worldwide.

MIT Open CourseWare

July-September 2020

Took the first semester lectures and exams of the following online courses to prepare for the future undergraduate computer science education: Linear Algebra (MIT 18.06) by Prof. Gilbert Strang; Introduction to Algorithms (MIT 6.006) by Prof. Erik Demaine and Prof. Srinivasa Devadas

Nesibe Aydın Guitar Orchestra & Club

2017-2020

(Orchestra Member)

Played guitar in the school orchestra for four years. Performed in several concerts by the orchestra both in and out of school. As a group from Nesibe Aydın Schools, got first place in High School Music Competition category among national high school teams, held by French Embassy Francophone Days.

Mind Games Club

2019-Present

(Founder & President)

(2hrs/w, 35 wks/y)

Established the Mind Games Club of Nesibe Aydın High School; introduced Mind Games to school community making show cases, prepared questions for mind games competitions; ensured STEM and competition IT infrastructure for the school, took part in Turkish Intelligence Foundation's and Nesibe Aydın Schools' all national competitions since 2019.

Horizon Academic Research Program

September 2021-Present

- Did research and reading various historical works about leftist ideology imagined by Karl Marx
- Working under supervision of with Philosophy PhD student, Cesar Cabezas, Temple University

WORK EXPERIENCE

Internship at Kuartis, Ankara, Turkey

October 2021-Present

(Intern)

Learned about how the company uses algorithms such as RANSAC for automated driving and mid and low range trajectory generation for autonomous vehicles.

Internship at Segmentify, İstanbul, Turkey

June-September 2021

(Intern)

(5 hrs./w, 3 months.)

Learned structure of company code base; Coded helper functions which are currently being used in new and existing clients' websites

Internship at Segmentify, İstanbul, Turkey*Nov. 2019, June 2021*

(Intern)

(48 hrs./w, 1 week.)

Attended company meetings; Integration of back-end designed by Segmentify to customer's online e-commerce system, Designed front-end for customer's online e-commerce system

Infrastructure Development for Nesibe Aydin Schools*May 2021-Present*

(Web & back-end developer)

(120 hrs. total)

Developed the underlying computer program to be used in the Mind Games Competitions in Nesibe Aydın Schools; planned and organized mathematics competition, developed of online competition system back-end and front-end using JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and SQL.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Awarded Achievement for Certificate C# , Phyton, Java Script skill assessment by Hacker Rank
- Participated in game jams by developing games in Unity using C# since 2018 with an upward trending rank both in terms of overall performance and specifically in terms of Innovation.
Brackeys Game Jam #1 (1-8 Sep. 2018) ; Global Game Jam 2019 (27-29 January 2019) ; Ludum Dare 44 (29 April-2 May 2019) ; GMTK Game Jam 2020 (12-14 July 2020) (22nd in Theme, 25th in Innovation out of 1,822 entries) ; Blackthornprod Game Jam #3 (29 January-5 February 2021) (56th in Innovation out of 1,055 entries)
- Participated and got to the final stage of Kanguru Mathematics Olympiad in 7, 8, 10th, 11th grades and was ranked in the top 1% of the participants

SKILLS & HOBBIES

- **Languages** : Turkish (Native), English (Fluent, TOEFL:109), French (Intermediate, DELF B1); German, Russian, Spanish (Duolingo beginner)
- **Programming Languages:** JavaScript, Python, jQuery, PHP, HTML, C#, CSS, Unity (Advanced); React, React Native, C++, C, SQL (Beginner)
- **Interests** : Computer Programming (www.ardagurcan.com), 3D Modeling and Printing, Game Design, Web Design, Robotics, Mathematics, Physics, Mind Games, MUNs, Modern Philosophy, Global Politics, Wikipedia Editing
- **Hobbies** : Chess, Rubik's Cube speed cubing (9th place nationally in Square-1 in 2018), body building, hiking, playing guitar (London College of Music - Grade 4), learning languages