

Interview with Andrea Wieffering

Internship at Özel Sanko Okullari, Gaziantep

21 Oct – 4 Dec 2006

Andrea Wieffering is a Dutch anthropologist who since 1 Feb 2006 is following a training at the Free University in Amsterdam to become a teacher of “citizenship” for middle education in the Netherlands. Andrea Wieffering did her internship at a private school in Gaziantep, Özel Sanko Okulları (primary school and high school). The first Concordia internship student who did an internship in a different city than Istanbul.

On my expectations before coming to Antep

My first idea was to get an internship in Istanbul or Izmir, since these cities are more modern and more international than other cities in Turkey. However, Concordia convinced me to go to Gaziantep: a small city in the South East of Turkey. Beforehand I thought people would be old-fashioned and very religious, but you cannot say this Antebes!

I wanted to know more about the Turkish educational system, and the developments in this area. There are a lot more developments in the Turkish educational system than I expected!

On working as a trainee

At Sanko School I did research (interviewing students, teachers and managers), but I also taught the students. It was great fun! I was ‘adopted’ by the English department and we were not only colleagues but also good friends. The teachers as well as the students were eager to help me and talk to me about the Netherlands, the European Union, Turkey etcetera!

About the outside world

Gaziantep is a nice city in the South East with a lot of old culture and archaeology. When I arrived in Antep it was Bayram so I went with my host mom to all her relatives to celebrate this! This was very good for my Turkish.

And besides drinking (a lot of !) Turkish coffee with friends and listening to fortune-tellers, I went to Zeugma to see the big lake and the restoration of a Roman city, we dined at the river Firat (Euphrates), I have seen Kahramanmaras with a great castle and of course did a lot of shopping and site-seeing in Gaziantep itself! When I was in Antep we celebrated foundation day, the death day of Atatürk, and teachers day! I liked teachers day the best, but that was because everybody was dancing and having fun! ☺
