



IAU UNESCO SUMMER PEACE & DIPLOMACY PROGRAM

12–25 July, 2026

Delivered by the UNESCO Chair on
Cultural Diplomacy, Governance, and Education



OUR UNESCO CHAIR

Dr. Osman Gültekin is the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diplomacy, Governance, and Education and Director of International Relations at Istanbul Aydın University. With over two decades of professional experience and a Ph.D. in Political Science, he has guided thousands of students in global education and diplomacy. As the author of the Education and Power series, Dr. Gültekin continues to inspire young leaders to foster dialogue, understanding and peace across cultures.





The Society of Transnational Academic Researchers (STAR Scholars Network) is a global community connecting over 10,000 scholars from more than 100 countries. Dedicated to advancing research, collaboration, and innovation, this network provides leading platforms for academic exchange through its open access OJED Journals and STAR Scholars Press publications. By empowering educators and researchers worldwide, STAR Scholars Network shapes ideas that address global challenges and transform the future of education.

About the Program

UNESCO Summer Peace and Diplomacy Program offers a two week of intensive lectures and discussions, and cultural exploration, organized by the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education. The program aims to equip students with an interdisciplinary perspective on contemporary global issues, by helping the participants understand international relations, global governance and cultural diplomacy. Within **intercultural workshops** participants engage in conflict resolution, storytelling and dialogues on peace education, gaining practical skills for global citizenship and advocacy for peace.



Program aims to:

- Enhance knowledge of **International Relations** and **Foreign Policies**
- Foster how to apply key theories in international relations
- Explore **global values** and their influence globally
- Develop **intercultural communication skills** and competence
- Analyze the role of **cultural diplomacy** and various power types in global politics
- Empowers youth to envision and contribute to a more **peaceful and sustainable world** through education, dialogue and action

July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	29	30	31	

July 12th: Arrival

July 13th: Program Starting

July 24th: Closing Ceremony

July 25th: Departure

PROGRAM CONTENTS

Key Lectures

- Education & Peace
- Intercultural Awareness and Intercultural Communication
- Intercultural Competence Development
- International Relations Theories
- Foreign Policy & Power Types
- Public Diplomacy & Cultural Diplomacy

Experiential Learning & Cultural Activities

- Intercultural Integration Workshops
- Practical Training for Model United Nations
- Historical Peninsula Tour
- Bosphorus Tour

Teaching Methodology

- Our program's courses are carefully designed to align with UNESCO's mission of promoting global peace, cultural understanding and diplomacy.
- Guided by the **UNESCO values**, we offer a unique learning experience that empowered participants to actively contribute to global peace initiatives.
- With a **non-ECTS format** and small classroom sizes, the program allow for deep engagement and **interactive learning**.
- Each course conclude with a **discourse session**, where participants practice their diplomatic communication skills, applying what they learn in real-world scenarios.



Intercultural Integration Workshops

- Our program's intercultural workshops foster dialogue, collaboration and mutual understanding among participants from diverse backgrounds.
- Through activities such as storytelling and peace education discussions, participants develop practical skills to navigate cultural differences and build meaningful connections.
- By promoting empathy and global citizenship, the program empowers participants to become agents of positive change in an interconnected world.



Program Surveys

During all of our programs, we conduct surveys with program participants. These surveys provide crucial insights at different stages, helping us refine the program for maximum impact.



Pre-Program

Gathering participants' expectations and goals to tailor the program to their needs.



Post-Program

Evaluate overall impact and satisfaction, measuring how well the program met participants' goals.

Program Results and Findings

Let's take a look at the results from the survey conducted during our previous programs to give you an idea of how impactful this initiative can be. When comparing the pre-program survey results with the post-program findings, we observe a significant positive shift in participant's perspectives.

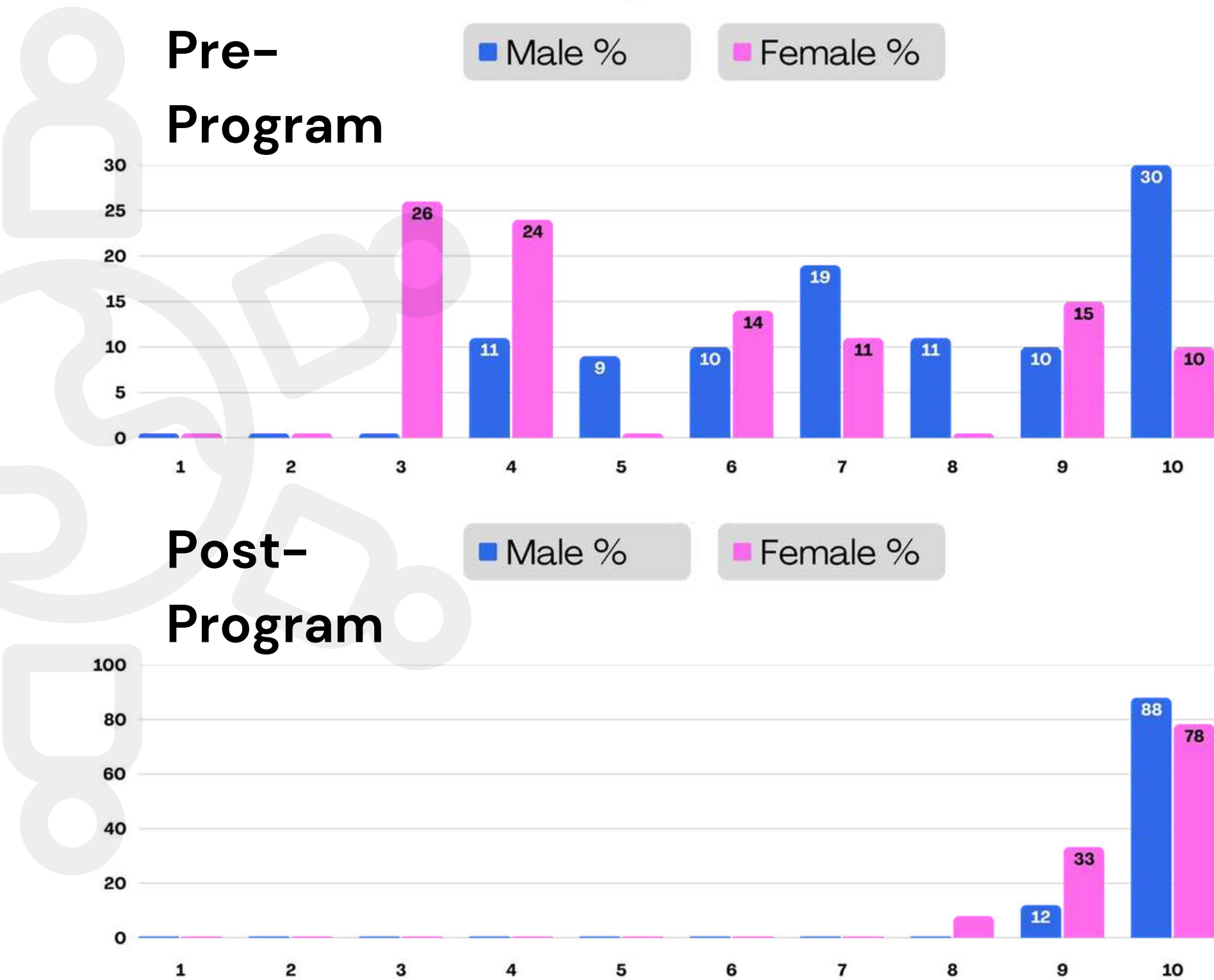
This dramatic change underscores the program's effectiveness in transforming viewpoints and enhancing understanding, clearly demonstrating the substantial impact of the experience.



Change in perspective towards Diversity and Inclusion

In the pre-program survey, it can be observed that most participants did not view diversity as an enriching element in society.

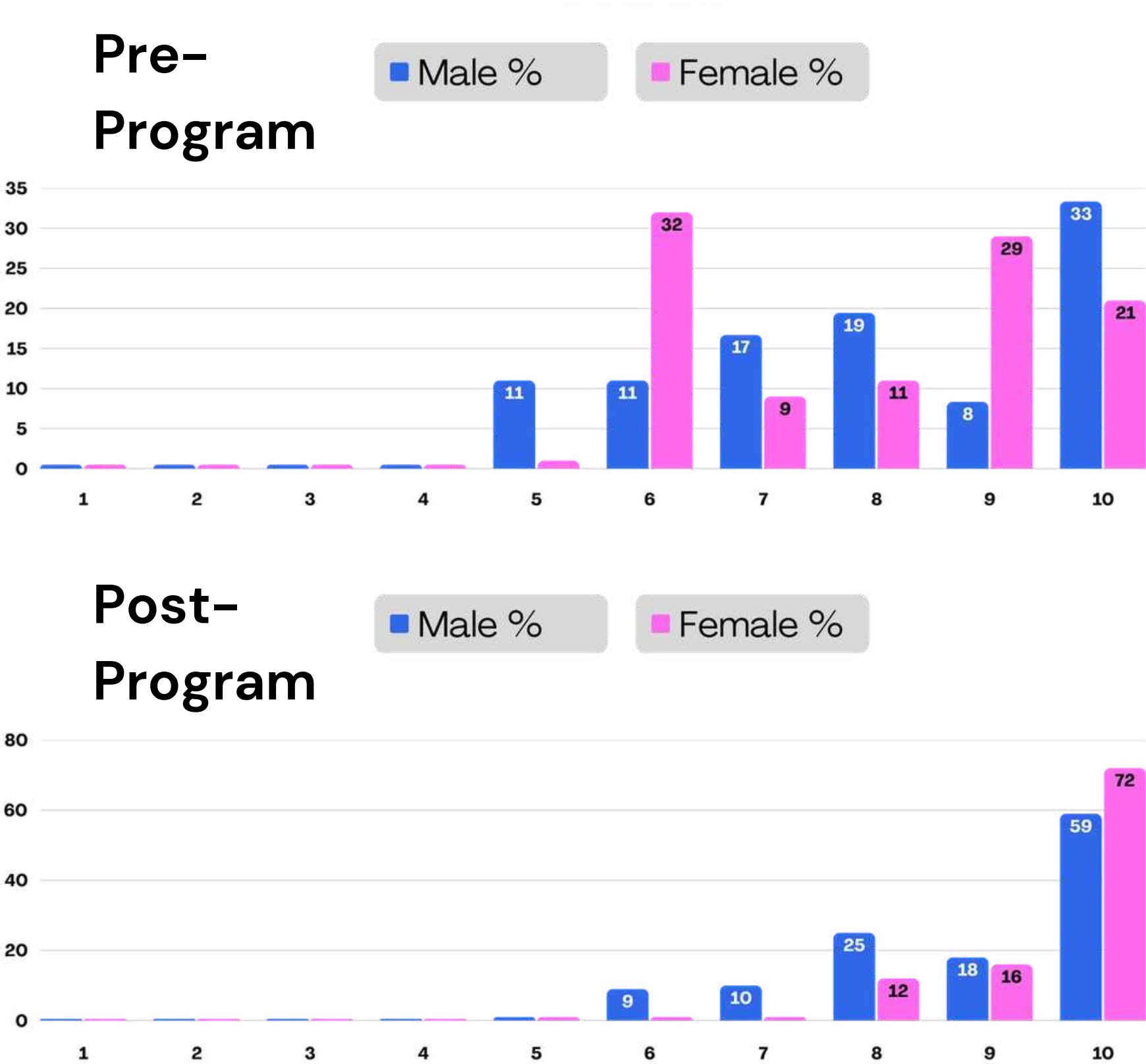
However, in the post-program survey, 90% of the participants began to agree strongly with diversity being an enriching element in society.



Change in understanding of International Relations and Global Issues

In the pre-program survey, it was seen that participants had a very minimal understanding of International Relations and Global Issues.

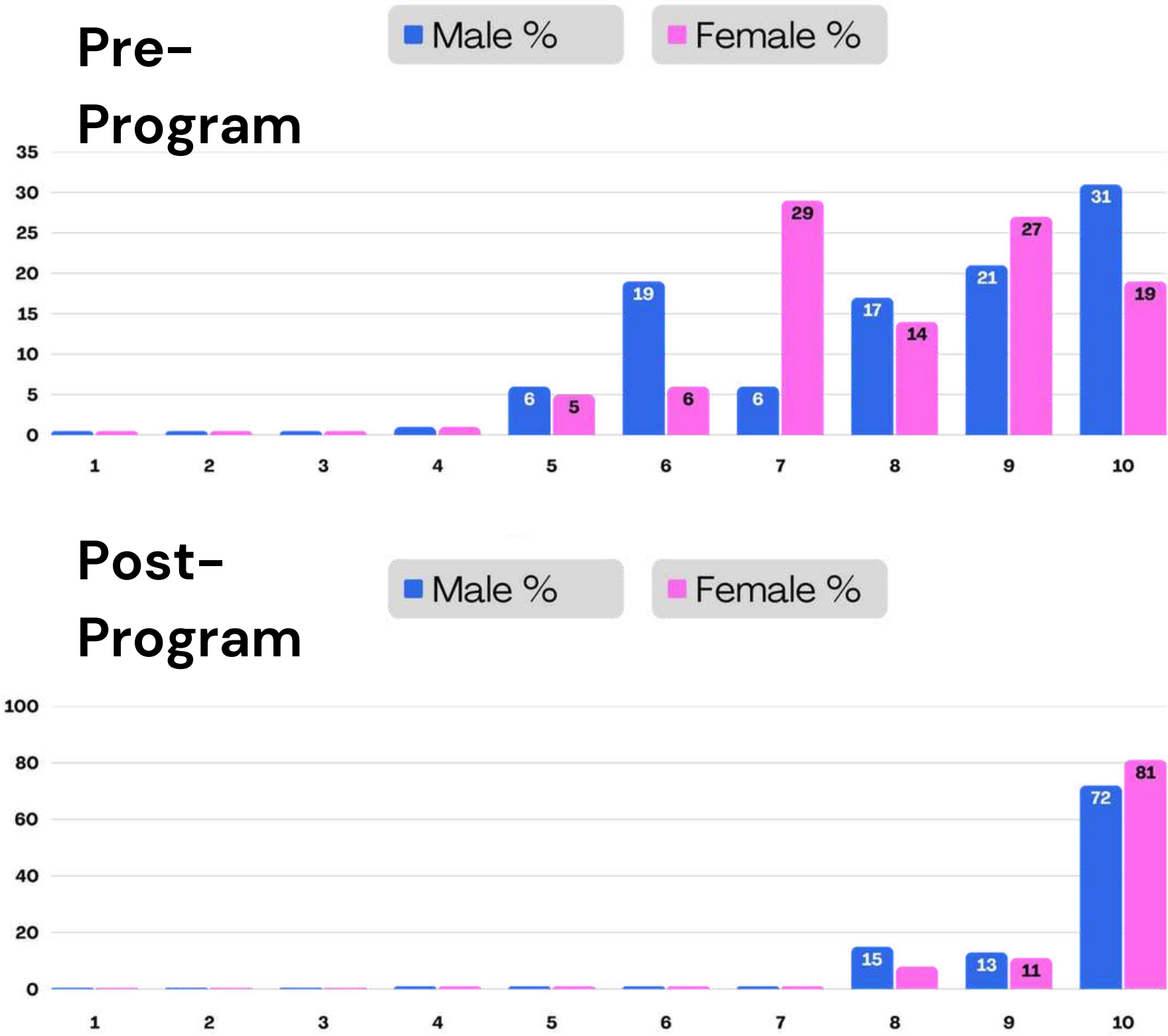
In the post-program survey, a significant increase in knowledge regarding these topics can be observed.



Familiarity regarding International Organizations

We observed an increase in the knowledge and familiarity that participants had regarding international organizations (e.g., United Nations, UNESCO, World Health Organization etc).

Additionally, many participants displayed an interest in joining and becoming a part of these organizations.

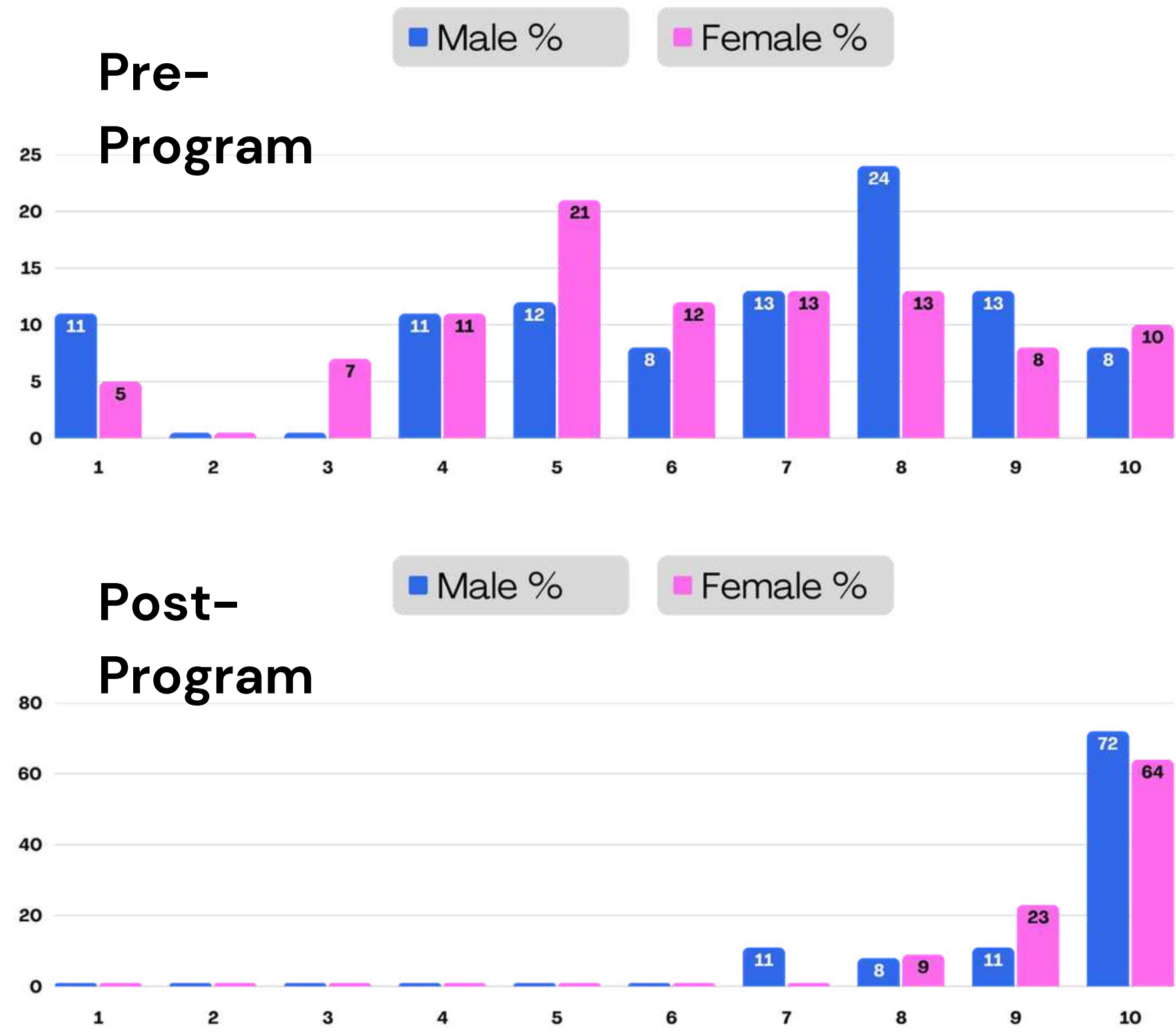


Shift in willingness to challenge own cultural biases and stereotypes when engaging with different cultural norms and practices

The program's greatest success was the participants' shift in challenging their cultural biases and stereotypes.

This transformation fosters open mindedness and equips them to better navigate and respect global differences.

It highlights the program's impact in promoting genuine intercultural understanding and positive change in attitudes toward global diversity.



Participant Satisfaction

We are proud to report a 100% satisfaction rate for our program, with every participant indicating that they would recommend it to others.

This unanimous positive feedback underscores the program's exceptional quality and impact, reflecting participant's strong endorsement and enthusiasm.

Their willingness to recommend the program highlights its success in meeting and exceeding expectations and it serves as a testament to the valuable and transformative experience provided.



Testimonials



Houda El Mahmoudi

"Genuinely one of the best decisions I've made... I will remember it for the rest of my life."



Herdyaal Singh

"I'm really grateful to be part of such an amazing group and to share such a rich cultural exchange experience together."



Melody Gholizadeh

"This program taught me so much stuff and I will genuinely not forget any of it."

Testimonials



Alzahraa Algburi

"We did a lot of beneficial workshops and enjoyed the diversity."



Abdullah Emir Arslan

"Thanks to this event, we all saw different cultures and gained new experiences, which is very valuable."



Ilaf Bayazid

"There couldn't have been a better program to help me starting my journey in this field."

Testimonials



Azalea Giftha Mizani

"I learned a lot about how MUN works. I also made new friends from different countries."



Kareem Mohamed Omeish

"Personally, this program filled my day with joy. Not only that, I learned from valuable academics and from other colleagues."

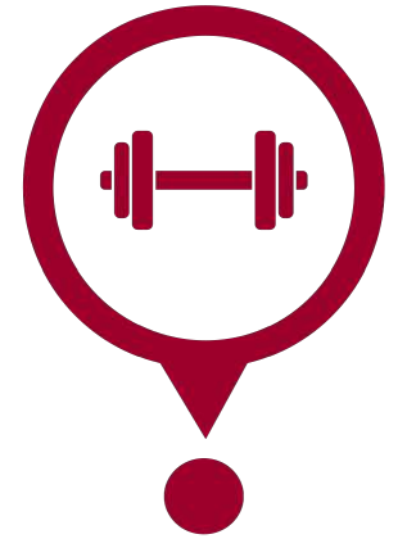


Valencia Munganga

"I believed the program could help me to practice my English, and to become more sociable"

Participant Accommodation

There's going to be shared segregated accommodation for the participants which offers all necessary facilities for the guests such as beds, hot shower, gym, common area, lounge, cafeteria etc. Breakfast will be included for each day.





TOTAL COST

ONLY \$1190

Program Includes

Our program offers a comprehensive package designed to ensure an enriching, educational and immersive experience for participants. The program fee includes:

- **Accommodation:** Comfortable lodging arranged for participants to ensure a safe learning environment.
- **Meals:** Nutritious meals provided daily to support participants' well-being and energy levels.
- **Instruction:** Expert-led courses that cover essential topics in peace and diplomacy, designed to enhance participants' knowledge and skills.
- **Workshops & Seminars:** Interactive sessions that allow participants to engage deeply with course material and develop practical skills.
- **Weekend Cultural Tours:** Organized outings to local attractions, offering participants a chance to experience and understand the host culture.
- **Networking:** Opportunities for participants to connect with peers, professionals and experts in the field of diplomacy and peace-building.
- **Certificate of Completion:** A formal recognition awarded to participants upon successfully completing the program, enhancing their resumes.

and more!..

- 24/7 Support
- Guest Lectures
- Study Materials
- Group Activities
- Team-Building Exercises
- Cultural Exchange
- Welcome & Farewell Events
- On-Campus Facilities
- Local Transportation Assistance
- Field Trips
- Practical Training Sessions Skill-Building Activities
- Library Access
- Sports & Recreational Activities
- Photography & Media Coverage
- Academic Mentorship
- Digital Resource Access
- Public Speaking Sessions

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Airfares
- Travel/Health Insurance (if purchased from the university 30 USD for two weeks)
- Airport Transfers (optional: pick-up/drop-off service between airport and university is 70 USD/one way)
- Optional Daily Cultural Tours (the cost is around 10–30 USD per day/activity)

OUR PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

UNESCO Summer Program 2024:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1Tupd0m_fc
(Quick Recap)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4TedvSApdc>
(Full Video)

UNESCO Summer Program 2025:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id9zWgkenkU>
(Full Video)



CONTACT US!

 unesco.aydin.edu.tr

 unesco@aydin.edu.tr

 [@unescochair.iau](https://www.instagram.com/unescochair.iau)

 <https://www.youtube.com/@IAUUNESCOChair>