

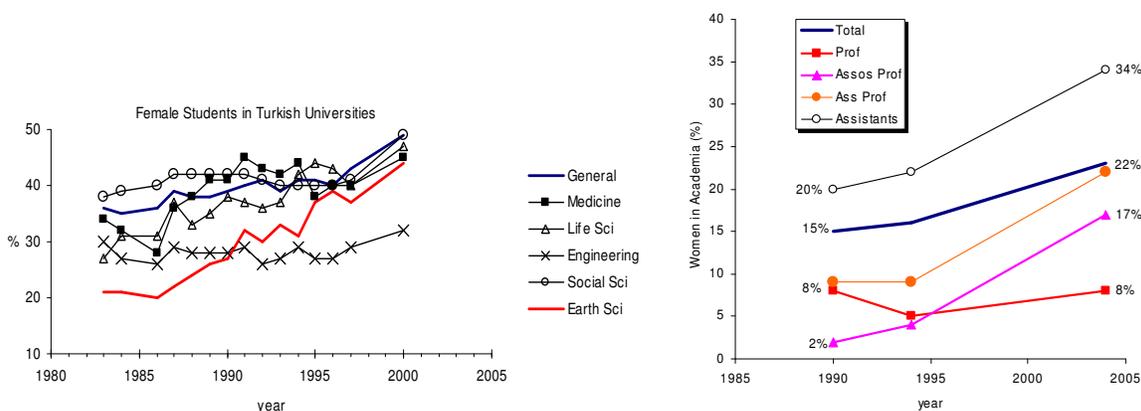
# FEMALE STUDENTS AND WOMEN GEOSCIENTISTS IN TURKEY

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Many studies have been conducted on the status of women in science at all levels (1). The number of women in senior scientific positions remains low. In all the European countries, women constitute less than 15 percentage of full university professors. In US the proportion of women in geoscience departments has risen up to 14% (2,3). From 1990 to 2000, the representation of women in natural sciences rose from 8% to 11%, while the percentage of women in the graduate student population grew from 20% to 33% (4,5). Our data show that greater amount of women (28%) is represented in the Turkish universities.

In Turkey women have been receiving a greater proportion of bachelor's and master's degrees (37%) in the geosciences. The growing number of female students is illustrated in Figure 1. Among those different fields, in social sciences and medicine almost 50% of the student populations are female students. Last 20 years number of female students have been continuously increasing in the earth science and related engineering departments (6,7).



**Figure 1. a.** Since last 20 years female students have been receiving a greater proportion of the bachelor's degree in earth science and related engineering departments in the Turkish universities. **b.** Data illustrating the percentage of women obtaining Ph.D. degrees including graduate students and moving through academic ranks from 1985 to 2004. The highest percentages of women in Academia are represented by research assistants and assistant professors.

Women are found on an increasing fraction of engineering faculty members. Proportion of women at different positions in academia are illustrated in Figure 1. Currently, there is a growth in research assistant and specialist positions, followed by assistant professors (22%). Although young women are not attracted into doctoral programs, for instance, 48% of research assistants in geology departments are women. The data indicate that portion of PhD's are similar to the portion of assistant professor position (23%). The great proportion of women (24%) is working in geoscience departments of Turkish universities. This is the highest proportion in all European countries.

While most men are working in general geology, most women are paleontologists followed by mineralogists, seismologists. Women are under-represented, for example, in general geology, engineering geology (and other geo-related fields). Most women in the universities are assistant professors while most men are professors. The largest proportion of women hired into assistant professor position has received their PhD's in the last 10 years. Women tend to spend more time at the lower ranks in the academic pipeline, based on the slow increasing rate of women (9.2%) compared to men, although their proportion in geosciences will continue to grow significantly, they will be still under-represented at least another 20 years in the earth science related departments in Turkey.

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