

(Senate Resolution dated 01.07.2026 no. 08)
(Senate Resolution dated 19.02.2026 no. 03)
(Senate Resolution dated 08.07.2025 no. 06)
(Senate Resolution dated 04.12.2024, no. 09)
(Senate Resolution dated 07.02.2024, no. 02)
(Senate Resolution dated 10.01.2023, no. 01)
(Revised Senate Resolution dated 28.07.2022, no. 10)
(Revised Senate Resolution dated 11.01.2018, no. 01)
(Senate Resolution dated 25.07.2017 no. 10)

ATILIM UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
DIRECTIVE ON EXEMPTION AND EQUIVALENCE

SECTION ONE

Purpose, Scope, Basis and Definitions

Purpose

Article 1 - This Directive aims to determine the exemption criteria for foreign language courses and the Basic English Department exam exemption criteria based on the scores obtained in national and international exams, as well as the Basic English Department proficiency exam scores, in the exemption conditions for English courses of program students.

Scope

Article 2 - This Directive covers the provisions of English exemption and equivalence procedures of Atılım University School of Foreign Languages (SFL) Departments of Modern Languages and Basic English.

Basis

Article 3- This Directive has been prepared based on Article 14 of Higher Education Law No. 2547.

Definitions

Article 4- The definitions for this Directive are:

- a) Head of Department: The Heads of Department of Modern Languages and Basic English
- b) Department: The Departments of Modern Languages and Basic English
- c) Equivalence: Equivalence of scores
- d) DML: Department of Modern Languages
- e) Exemption: Exemption from courses
- f) Director: Director of the SFL
- g) President: The President of Atılım University,
- h) Senate: The Atılım University Senate;

- i)DBE: The Department of Basic English
- j)DML: The School of Foreign Languages.

SECTION TWO

EXEMPTION CONDITIONS AT THE DML

Exemption

Article 5 - There are four main categories at Atılım University regarding exemption from English courses within the scope of evaluation of previous education.

- A) Exemption Regarding Departments Providing Education in English
- B) Exemption Regarding Departments Providing Education in Turkish
- C) Equivalence and Exemption in Relation to the English courses of Transfer Students from Other Universities to Departments Offering Education in English
- D) Equivalence and Exemption in Relation to the English courses of Transfer Students from Other Universities to Departments Offering Education in Turkish

(A) Exemption Regarding Departments Offering Education in English

Exemption procedures are executed in the conditions below, considering the previous education of students registering for English courses for programs in English:

- (i) Exemption due to Atılım University DBE Proficiency Test (APEX) Results;
- (ii)Exemption Due to an External International Exam
- (iii) Exemption Due to Exam Results from Basic English/ Preparatory English Departments of Other Universities;
- (iv) Exemption Due to the Content of the English Courses Taken in Programs Following a Basic English/ Preparatory English Exam at Another University
- (v)Exemption Due to Other Special Causes
- (vi) Exemption Due to Previous Educational Status

(i) Exemption due to Atılım University DBE Proficiency Test (APEX) Results;

English-medium program students of Atılım University are exempted from the ENG-coded English courses of their departments as per their DBE Proficiency Test (APEX) results, as shown on Table 1. These students receive the AA letter grade for each of these courses, along with the corresponding ECTS credit value as per the ATACS system.

Table 1: (Senate Resolution dated 08.07.2025 no. 06) Exemption criteria for English-medium program students advancing to their department courses following their education at the DBE

APEX SCORE SCALES	COURSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM	COURSES TO TAKE
60-74	-	ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301, ENG302
75-79	ENG101, ENG102	ENG201, ENG202, ENG301, ENG302
80-84	ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202	ENG301, ENG302
85+	ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301, ENG302	

(ii) Exemption Due to an External International Exam

Students obtaining the scores equivalent to those shown in Table 2 from international external exams deemed equivalent by Atılım University may be exempted from the ENG-coded courses of their program. Exemption and equivalence procedures begin when the student presents their documents to the relevant school as an attachment to their letter in the first week of the academic year. In such cases, the criteria presented in Table 2 are taken into consideration.

Table 2: (Senate Resolution dated 08.07.2025 no. 06) Exemption criteria for international language exams for English-medium program students

COURSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM	TOEFL IBT	PTE Academic	Cambridge C1 Advanced	Cambridge C2 Proficiency	Cambridge LinguaSkill General	Oxford Test of English Advanced	Oxford Test of English
ENG101, ENG102	96-101	78-80	A	C	187-200	141-145	-
ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202	102-107	81-83	A	C	201-207	146-155	-
ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301, ENG302	108+	84+	A	B	208+	156+	-

(Senate Resolution dated 19.02.2026 no. 03) Citizens of the Republic of Türkiye are required to have taken their international tests at the test centers at state universities. All home edition test results are invalid.

(iii) Exemption Due to Exam Results from Basic English/ Preparatory English Departments of Other Universities

Students who have passed the exam by the Department of Basic English/ Preparatory English but have no grades (*and have statements such as BAŞARILI (SUCCEEDED), GEÇTİ (PASSED), PASS, YETERLİ (SUFFICIENT) or SATISFACTORY*) are deemed to be at the same

level by the DML once DBE confirms the equivalence; and these students take all ENG-coded courses (ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301 and ENG302).

Exemption transactions for students having passed the Basic English exam at another higher education institution, and with grades present in their documentation, are performed as per the criteria in Table 1; and such students receive the AA letter grade for such courses, along with the corresponding ECTS credit value.

(iv) Exemption Due to the Content of the English Courses Taken in Programs Following a Basic English/ Preparatory English Exam at Another University

Students passing the English courses of their program following the preparatory exam at another higher education institution shall be exempted from the courses relevant to their grades if the course content from their previous university is deemed appropriate.

(v) Exemption as per other special cases is decreed by the Board of Executives of the School of Foreign Languages.

(vi) Exemption due to previous educational status

(1) Students who have graduated from secondary education institutions in native English-speaking countries or have taken and passed English courses from Associate/ Undergraduate Degree programs of universities with YÖK equivalency are exempted from the relevant English courses of the department (ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301 and ENG302) receiving the AA letter grade and the corresponding ECTS credit value.

(2) Graduates from the departments of English Language and Literature, English Language Teaching, American Culture and Literature, English Linguistics, English Translation and Interpretation or English Comparative Literature at Turkish universities or those abroad are exempted from all department English courses (ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301 and ENG302); receiving the AA letter grade and the corresponding ECTS credit value for these courses.

(B) Exemption Regarding Departments Providing Education in Turkish

English course exemptions for students of programs in Turkish proceed with respect to these conditions:

- (i) English course exemption with respect to level assessment exam results
- (ii) Exemption of students joining the Basic English/ Preparatory English program at Atılım University or other universities and then, proceeding with their majors in Turkish
- (iii) Exemption of students of programs in Turkish due to their results in an external exam
- (iv) Other special cases

(i) Exemption with Respect to Level Assessment Exam Results

A level assessment exam is provided to students registering to Atılım University programs in Turkish following their registration, on a predetermined date. Grouping and exemption procedures take place as per the scores in the Proficiency test that is prepared on the basis of

the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), or an equivalent exam. Students scoring the base point for each level are exempted from the English courses at their level, as per Table 3. They are required to take the remaining courses. Such students receive the AA letter grade and the corresponding ECTS value for these courses.

Table 3: Exemption due to the Level Assessment Exam for Students of Programs in Turkish

	Minimum Score (Over 100)	Courses to be Exempted from	Courses to Take
Year 1	20	ENG121	ENG122-ENG221 ENG222-ENG321 ENG322
	40	ENG121-ENG122	ENG221-ENG222 ENG321-ENG322
Year 2	55	ENG121-ENG122-ENG221	ENG222-ENG321 ENG322
	70	ENG121-ENG122 ENG221-ENG222	ENG321-ENG322
Year 3	80	ENG121-ENG122- ENG221-ENG222 ENG321	ENG322
	90	ENG121-ENG122 ENG221-ENG222 ENG321-ENG322	—
Students having graduated from a higher education institution offering education in English are exempted from all 6 courses.			

(ii) Exemption of Students Joining the Basic English/ Preparatory English Program at Atılım University or Other Universities, and then, Proceeding with Their Majors in Turkish

a) Students completing Stage (D) of the Atılım University Basic English program successfully are exempted from courses ENG121 and ENG122. They receive the grade (AA) and the relevant credit.

b) Students completing Level (C) of the Atılım University Basic English program successfully are exempted from courses ENG121, ENG122, ENG221 and ENG222. They receive the grade (AA) and the relevant credit.

c) Students completing Level (B) of the Atılım University Basic English program successfully are exempted from courses ENG121, ENG122, ENG221, ENG222, ENG321 and ENG322. They receive the grade (AA) and the relevant credit.

d) Students having completed their preparatory training and passed the exam before transferring are exempted from courses ENG121, ENG122, ENG221, ENG222, ENG321 and ENG322. They receive the grade (AA) and the relevant credit.

e) The program contents of students from other universities with a stage system process are reviewed and, if any, their exemption status is determined by the SFL.

(iii) Exemption of Students of Programs in Turkish due to Their Results in an External Exam

Students obtaining the scores equivalent to those shown in Table 4 from national or international external exams deemed equivalent by Atılım University are exempted from the English courses of their program.

Table 4: (Senate Resolution dated 04.12.2024 no. 09) Criteria for Exemption due to National/ International External English Exams of Turkish-Medium Programs

TOEFL IBT	YDS/YÖKDİL	PTE Academic	Courses to be Exempted from
48-49	40-41	36-37	ENG121
50-51	42-43	38-39	ENG121-ENG122
52-53	44-45	40-41	ENG121-ENG122-ENG221
54-55	46-47	42-43	ENG121-ENG122 ENG221-ENG222
56+	48+	44+	ENG121-ENG122 ENG221-ENG222 ENG321-ENG322

(Senate Resolution dated 19.02.2026 no. 03) Citizens of the Republic of Türkiye are required to have taken their international tests at the test centers at state universities. All home edition test results are invalid.

In the event where a student is exempted from a course as per their results in an external exam where the results are documented and equalized, the student receives an AA for the course, as well as the corresponding credit value.

(iv) Other special cases are decreed by the Board of Executives of the School of Foreign Languages.

(C) Equivalence and Exemption in Relation to the English courses of Transfer Students from Other Universities to Departments Offering Education in English

In the event where the English courses taken and passed by the students being transferred (with YGS and DGS exams) to Atılım University programs in English, those previously graduated from another higher education institution, and those registered to a higher education institution and not yet completed their education are deemed appropriate in terms of content, these courses are deemed equivalent to the English courses at Atılım University. The SFL determines and resolves the equivalence status of the courses in question, and the grades, at the request of the department under which the student is registered.

(D) Equivalence and Exemption regarding the English Courses of Students from Other Universities Transferring to Turkish-Medium Departments

In the event where the English courses taken and passed by the students being transferred (with YGS and DGS exams) to Atılım University programs in Turkish, those previously graduated from another higher education institution, and those registered to a higher education institution and not yet completed their education are deemed appropriate in terms of content, these courses are deemed equivalent to the English courses at Atılım University. The SFL determines and resolves the equivalence status of the courses in question, and the grades, upon the request of the department under which the student is registered.

Other special cases are decreed by the Board of Executives of the School of Foreign Languages.

Re-Exemption Procedures

Article 6 - Grades may not be amended retroactively as per the results of an international exam, upon taking the course, or being exempted from it. Exemption requests of students having obtained the external exam scores presented in the tables (Table 2 for English-medium program students, and Table 4 for Turkish-medium program students) received after exemption transactions are taken into proactive consideration.

SECTION THREE

EXEMPTION CASES FOR THE DBE

Exemption cases for the Department of Basic English

Article 7 - Students deemed successful by scoring the points determined by the Senate in the central foreign language exams accredited by the Council of Higher Education or other international foreign language exams that are deemed equivalent are exempted from the exam and the program by the Department of Basic English.

The Equivalence Table for associate, undergraduate and graduate degree students is as follows:

Table 5: (Senate Resolution dated 01.07.2026 no. 08)

Exam Equivalence Table

Exam Type ^a	Highest Score	Score Groups ^b					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
APEX (AİYS)	100	75 ^c	70 ^c	65	60	-	-
TOEFL IBT, Essay score minimum 20	120	96	90	84	78	72	-
YDS/e-YDS/YÖKDİL	100	80	75	70 ^d	-	60	-
Cambridge C2 Proficiency	230	C	C	C	C	C	-
Cambridge C1 Advanced	210	A	A	B	B	C	-
PTE Academic	90	78	75	71	67	55	-
Cambridge Linguaskill General	210	187	172	160	153	140	-
Oxford Test of English Advanced	170	141	131	121	115	-	-
Oxford Test of English	140	-	131	121	115	105	-

TÖMER Turkish Test	-	-	-	-	-	-	C1
e-TEP	120	74	66	58 ^d	-	*	-

(Senate Resolution dated 10.01.2023 no. 01) The Home Edition results of all national and international exams are invalid.

* The e-TEP test is monolaterally equivalent to the YDS. e-TEP scores of candidates are matched with the equivalent YDS scores.

a Citizens of the Republic of Türkiye are required to have taken their international tests at the test centers at state universities. All home edition test results are invalid.

b Table 6 presents the details regarding Score Groups.

c Only applicable for international students applying for doctorate degree programs.

d Only applicable for students applying for graduate degree programs.

Table 6: (Senate Resolution dated 08.07.2025 no. 06 - Effective Date: 22.09.2025) The Minimum Language Points Chart for Admission into Associate, Undergraduate, and Graduate Degree Programs

Program Type	Score Group	Level	Program
Programs in the Field of English	1	Doctorate Degree	Doctorate Degree Program in English Culture and Literature
	2	Graduate Degree	Graduate Degree Programs in English Culture and Literature, and Translation Studies
	3	Undergraduate Degree	Undergraduate Degree Programs in English Language and Literature, and Translation and Interpretation
English-Language Medium Programs	2	Doctorate Degree	All Programs
	3	Graduate Degree	All Programs
	4	Associate/ Undergraduate Degree	All Programs
Turkish-Language Medium Programs	5	Doctorate Degree	All Programs (Turkish Citizens)
	6	All levels	All Programs (Excluding Turkish Citizens)

1. Doctorate Degree Program in English Culture and Literature
2. Graduate Degree Programs in English Culture and Literature, and Translation Studies
3. Undergraduate Degree Programs in English Language and Literature, and Translation and Interpretation
4. All Associate / Undergraduate Degree Programs
5. All Programs (Turkish Citizens) All Doctorate Degree Programs
6. All Programs (Turkish Citizens) All Levels

Validity periods of national and international exams deemed equivalent

Article 8 - The validity period determined by the examination institutions are taken into consideration for the central foreign language exams accredited by the Council of Higher

Education, and the international foreign language exams deemed equivalent. When the validity period of an exam is unclear, the Council of Higher Education decrees the validity period. (Article 6 of Regulations on the Principles for Foreign Language Teaching, and Education in Foreign Languages at Higher Education Institutions)

SECTION FOUR

Effective Date and Execution

Effective Date

Article 9 - This Directive shall take effect after its approval by the Senate.

Execution

Article 10 - This Directive is executed by the President of Atılım University.