

(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 on the basis of Article 14 of Higher Education Law No. 2547.

Definitions

Article 4- The definitions for this Directive are:

- a) Chairperson : 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) SFL : The School of Foreign Languages.

SECTION TWO

EXEMPTION CONDITIONS AT THE DML

Exemption

Article 5 - Within the scope of the evaluation regarding the previously-achieved level of learning of students at Atılım University, exemptions for English courses are divided into four main sections:

- A) Exemption Regarding Departments Providing Education in English
- B) Exemption Regarding Departments Providing Education in Turkish
- C) Equivalence and Exemption regarding the English Courses of Students from Other Universities Transferring to English-Medium Departments
- D) Equivalence and Exemption regarding the English Courses of Students from Other Universities Transferring to Turkish-Medium Departments

(A) Exemption Regarding Departments Providing 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 Akademik | 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) Republic of Türkiye (T.C.) citizens are required to have taken international exams at testing centres located within state universities. "Home Edition" versions of all examinations are considered 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 and have no grades (*but have statements on their documentation such as BAŞARILI - SUCCESSFUL, 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 are decreed by the Board of Executives of the School of Foreign Languages.

(vi) Exemption due to previous education

(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 equivalence 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 of the 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: Criteria for Exemption due to National/ International External English Exams of Turkish-Medium Programs Courses to be Exempted from

| 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) Republic of Türkiye (T.C.) citizens are required to have taken international exams at testing centres located within state universities. "Home Edition" versions of all examinations are considered 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 on the equivalence status of the courses in question, and the grades, upon the request by the department under which the student is registered.

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

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 on the equivalence status of the courses in question, and the grades, upon the request by 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 Higher Education Council 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 08.07.2025, no. 06-) Inter-Exam Equivalence Table

| Type of Test ^a | Maximum Score | Score Category ^b | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| APEX (AİYS) | 100 | 75 ^c | 70 ^c | 65 | 60 | - | - |
| TOEFL IBT, Kompozisyon en az 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 Akademik | 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 Tests | - | - | - | - | - | - | C1 |

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

^a Turkish citizens must have taken international exams at exam centres at state universities. Home edition versions of all exams are invalid.

^b Explanations for score groups are provided in Table 6.

^c Only valid for international students applying for a doctorate.

^d Only valid for students applying for a master's degree.

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

| Program Type | Score Category | Level | Program |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English Language Related Programs | 1 | Doctorate Degree | Doctorate Degree Program in English Culture and Literature |
| | 2 | Master Degree | English Culture and Literature and Translation Studies Master Degree Programs |
| | 3 | Undergraduate Degree | English Language and Literature and Translation and Interpretation Undergraduate Programs |
| English-Medium Programs | 2 | Doctorate Degree | All |
| | 3 | Master Degree | All |
| | 4 | Associate and Undergraduate Degree | All |
| Turkish-Medium Programs | 5 | Doctorate Degree | All (For Turkish Citizens) |
| | 6 | All | All (For Non-Turkish Citizens) |

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.