

(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:** Exemption criteria for English-medium program students advancing to their department courses following their education at the DBE

<b>APEX SCORE SCALES</b>	<b>COURSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM</b>	<b>COURSES TO TAKE</b>
60-79	-	ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202, ENG301, ENG302
80-84	ENG101, ENG102	ENG201, ENG202, ENG301, ENG302
85-89	ENG101, ENG102, ENG201, ENG202	ENG301, ENG302
90+	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 Atilim 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 07.02.2024 no. 02) Exemption criteria for international language exams for English-medium program students**

<b>COURSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM</b>	<b>TOEFL IBT</b>	<b>FCE</b>	<b>PTE Academic</b>	<b>IELTS Academic</b>	<b>CPE/CAE</b>
<b>ENG101 - ENG102,</b>	80-84	C	<b>65-69</b>	6.5	C+
<b>ENG101 - ENG102, ENG201 - ENG202,</b>	85-89	B	<b>70-74</b>	7	B
<b>ENG101 - ENG102, ENG201 - ENG202, ENG301 - ENG302,</b>	90+	A	<b>75 +</b>	7.5	A

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

	<b>Minimum Score (Over 100)</b>	<b>Courses to be Exempted from</b>	<b>Courses to Take</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	20	ENG121	ENG122, ENG221, ENG222, ENG321, ENG322
	40	ENG121, ENG122	ENG221, ENG222, ENG321, ENG322
<b>Year 2</b>	55	ENG121, ENG122, ENG221	ENG222, ENG321, ENG322
	70	ENG121, ENG122, ENG221, ENG222	ENG321, ENG322
<b>Year 3</b>	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

<b>TOEFL IBT</b>	<b>YDS/YÖKDİL</b>	<b>FCE</b>	<b>IELTS Academic</b>	<b>PTE Academic</b>	<b>Courses to be Exempted from</b>
48-49	40-41	C	2.5	36-37	ENG 121
50-51	42-43	C	3	38-39	ENG121,ENG122
52-53	44-45	C	3.5	40-41	ENG121,ENG122, ENG221
54-55	46-47	C	4	42-43	ENG121,ENG122, ENG221,ENG222
56+	48+	B	4.5	44+	ENG121,ENG122, ENG221,ENG222, ENG321,ENG322

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: Inter-Exam Equivalence Table**

Exam Type	Maximum Score	1	2	3	4
AEPE	100	70(*)	65(*)	60	Invalid
TOEFL IBT, Essay: Minimum 20	120	85	79	75	72
YÖKDİL/YDS	100	80	75	70	60
CPE	A	B	C	C	C
CAE	A	B	B	C	C
PTE Academic	90	70	65	60	55
IELTS <b>Academic</b> (minimum 5.5 from each module for columns 1 and 2, minimum 5 from each module for column 3)	9	7	6.5	6.0	5.5
FCE	A	A	A	B	C

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

**Table 6: The Minimum Language Points Chart for Admission into Undergraduate and Graduate Programs**

PROGRAMS		Current Language Service
Associate/ Undergraduate Degree	All Associate/ Undergraduate Degree Programs (in English)	3 (YÖKDİL, YDS not applicable)
	English Language and Literature and Translation and Interpretation Undergraduate Programs	2 (YÖKDİL, YDS not applicable)
Graduate Degree	All Graduate Degree Programs (English-medium)	3
	English Culture and Literature, Translation Studies Master Degree Programs	2
	All Graduate Degree Programs in Turkish (For Non-Turkish Citizens)	TÖMER C1
Doctorate Degree	All English-Medium Doctorate Degree Programs (*)	2
	Doctorate Degree Program in English Culture and Literature (*)	1
	All Turkish-Medium Doctorate Degree Programs (For Turkish Citizens)	4
	All Turkish-Medium Doctorate Degree Programs (For Non-Turkish Citizens)	TÖMER C1

(\*) Only for international students.

### 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.