

**ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR
MARCH 2021 BULLETIN**

➤ Academic Activities and Online Training Programs

- As members of the School of Foreign Languages, we value continuous professional improvement. Here is a list of the online teaching programs and academic activities our instructors participated in during the last month.

Lecturers	Certificate Program	Provided by
Utku Tönel	“Engaging With Educational Research”	The Open University
Didar Sevde Ülker	“English Grammar In Context”	The Open University
Utku Tönel	“Exploring Educational Leadership”	The Open University
Helin Göktaş	“Giving Effective Feedback On Writing Online”	International Training Institute
Helin Göktaş	“How To Make Your Course Book Activities Communicative”	International Training Institute
Beyzanur Ekşi Didar Sevde Ülker	“Language As A Medium For Teaching And Learning”	The Open University
Buse Aksoy Farnaz Sabeti Utku Tönel	“Learning To Teach: An Introduction To Classroom Research”	The Open University
Beyzanur Ekşi Buse Aksoy Didar Sevde Ülker Ecem Arısoy Sanaz M.F. Moghaddam	“Learning To Teach: Becoming A Reflective Practitioner”	The Open University
Utku Tönel	“The ‘Why’ And ‘What’ Of Educational Leadership And Management”	The Open University
Didar Sevde Ülker Zeynep Eda Güller	“What Is Language: An Applied Linguistic Perspective”	The Open University



➤ Academic Events

- Our Integrated Skills Coordinator, Hamdi A.S Jarada, has recently completed the 120-hour CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program provided by Cambridge University. He spent 10 weeks conducting self-studying, teaching practices, meetings, and writing assignments. The program started on the 27th of December 2020 and ended on 7th of March 2021.
- Here is another list of some of our instructors who participated in seminars and webinars as listeners.

Lecturers	Academic Events	Provided by
Aslıhan Demir Seda Yılmaztürk	“ELF DAY 5: Enriching Pedagogical Issues and Concerns in ELF Research”	Boğaziçi University
Helin Göktaş	“A need for Paradigm Shift in ELT: Changing Times Changing Englishes” “EAP and Critical Thinking: Building Readiness for Academic Rigor” "Literature,Culture and Creativity in Language Teaching " "Reconnecting People: Language, Literature,Culture and Translation"	Karadeniz Technical University Pearson English Karadeniz Technical University Karadeniz Technical University
Seda Yılmaztürk	“Enriching Pedagogical Issues and Concerns in ELF Research” “Help! My Students Won't Read” “Online Classroom Dynamics” “Pronunciation-Tips and Tricks”	Boğaziçi University Education First, International Language Campuses



➤ E-Learning Unit Interview

- Lecturer Raheela Zaheer, Coordinator of the E-Learning Unit, answered our questions about the unit's purpose and features.



1. What are the main duties of the E-Learning Unit?

E-Learning Coordinatorship in holistic sense deals with the preparation, assignments and the gradings of Online Study Assignments related to the course books utilized throughout the entire academic year at IGUSFOL.

The Unit designs Online Study Assignments twice in every Track to evaluate the performance of the students outside the classroom and provides students with an online platform to test their skills.

The Unit concentrates on all aspects of language learning from Grammatical structures, vocabulary building to enhancing listening and reading skills of the learners. That's the reason why all Online Study Assignments comprises these four sections to measure students' overall performance.

With each different level of CEFR, new questions are designed in each Track to calibrate different levels of learners. Our question pool is therefore very wide with hundreds of sample questions ranging from beginners to advanced level.

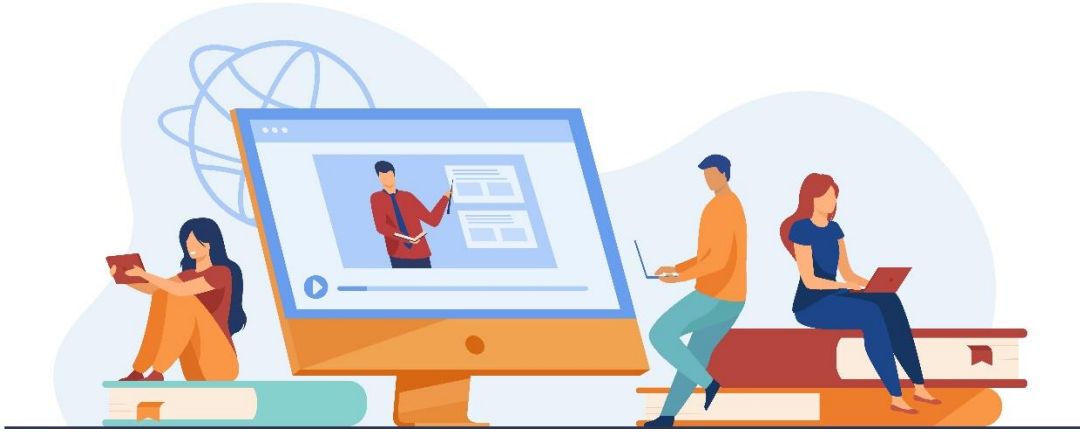
The Unit also deals with various academic announcements and appeals against the quiz scores and works transparently in analyzing each and every appeal of the students.



2. What are the biggest challenges of E-Learning?

Like every other Unit, E-Learning has its own challenges. This is because the Unit deals directly with students.

Since, the Unit works completely through an online platform therefore the majority of issues faced are technical in nature. To overcome these challenges, E-learning Unit has its own technical team that works directly with the Official publisher to sort students' issues in the least amount of time. Our technical team is also multilingual which is one of the crucial assets as it allows an effective and efficient communication between the International students coming from different regions of the world.



3. How does Your Learning Place contribute to our students' online studies?

Your Learning Place actually serves as an effective platform for students to test their language abilities off-campus. This platform allows students to continue studying online anywhere across the globe without being physically present in the campus.

It also prevails students to practice more on the subjects they find themselves weak in through hundreds of audio and visual questions and helps them in mastering the needed skills to comprehend the foreign language successfully.



➤ Extracurricular Activities Unit Interview

- Lecturer Sercan Doğan Arısoy, Coordinator of the Extracurricular Activities Unit, answered our questions about the unit's activities.



What does the Extracurricular Activities Unit do during a pandemic?

The main purpose of the unit is to organize fun and engaging events where students can interact with each other, practice their language skills and improve their comprehension skills. Although the English language is a significant part of the events, having fun is equally important. We make sure to look for ways where students can feel safe to practice their English and also have fun doing so. We are always open to hear opinions from students. So if they have any fun ideas, we look forward to hearing about them.

What are some of the events planned for the spring term?

Even though the pandemic that is currently in effect limits options in terms of activities that can be prepared, there are many fun events that can be done online. Extracurricular Activities Unit is excited with the current plans. The events planned for the following months will involve online discussions and various games that can be played as a group.

How can the students attend these events?

The unit makes various announcements through numerous channels to let the students know about the events and what they need to do in order to participate. According to the nature of the event, there may be a limit to how many students can participate. If there is space available, students are asked to give contact information and later on contacted regarding the details of the event.



➤ Recent News from the School of Foreign Languages

➤ **Supplementary Make-up Classes**

Our students will be able to attend a 4-week program to revise and review A2 and B1 levels, 2 weeks for each level. Supplementary make-up lessons will be conducted between 24 March-9 April for A2 level and 12-23 April for B1 level. Students who could not take the exams of the specified levels will have the right to participate in the exams after the make-up program.

➤ **2020-2021 Projects in Progress**

The School of Foreign Languages encourages the instructors to carry out academic projects each term. There are 2 projects in progress at the moment. Lecturer Yasin Acar, Coordinator of Academic Activities Unit, shared some information about the projects.

1. GUOWL (Gelisim University Online Writing Lab)

Gelisim University OWL, which is intended to be established within the body of Istanbul Gelisim University, aims to enable our students and academicians to improve their academic English knowledge and essay-writing skills.

2. Language and Culture Project

Language and Culture Project aims to provide lingual and cultural interaction between the foreign students of School of Foreign Languages and BILSEM Middle School students.



➤ Student Representatives Survey

- Oğuzhan Bilen, one of our students and the Head of Student Representatives, conducted a survey among other class representatives regarding their English studies. Here are some of their answers.

Question 1: What are the best ways to practice English and improve language skills?

Answers:

- ✓ In my opinion, the best ways to learn English and other languages are reading books, watching films, playing games, and speaking more with other people who know it.
- ✓ Talking or texting with someone who knows the language that you want to learn are the best ways to practice and improve your language skills.
- ✓ We should memorize words, watch TV series, listen to music, any activities related to this language.
- ✓ Speaking is the best way to practice English. Also doing some grammar exercises is important.



Question 2: Can we improve our English skills by watching movies/shows? Do you prefer to watch movies/shows with audio and subtitles in English or in your first language?

Answers:

- ✓ We can absolutely do that. I prefer watching English tv series with English subtitles. For this way we can improve our listening and pronunciation or accent.
- ✓ In my opinion, yes we can. Because we can learn new vocabulary also we can learn the pronunciation. I usually watch with Turkish subtitles in this way I can learn the new vocabulary.
- ✓ Yes, definitely we can. I prefer to watch movies/shows with audio and subtitles in English because I am curious about their real voice and pronunciations of English speaking people.
- ✓ Yes, because when you watch movies or films with subtitles, it makes your visual and auditory memories work at the same time, and that makes you easily learn and remember the things you read and heard.

Question 3: What is the most advantageous aspect of online learning?

Answers:

- ✓ According to me, the best advantage is time. We are not wasting time with road or other things. If we were at campus, we would waste a lot of time. As a result online learning is better than face to face learning in this respect.
- ✓ Being easily accessible and handling the lesson comfortably, but I think face-to-face training would be better.
- ✓ It is easy. We can attend the lessons fast, we don't have to prepare to go to school. But I prefer studying face to face.



- We asked some of our foreign students about studying abroad and what they expect from the spring term. Below are the answers of Alya & Elham Raja, two sisters from Yemen who study at IGUSFOL.

Questions: What is it like to study abroad and online at the same time? What do you expect to have achieved by the end of the spring term?

Answers:

- ✓ We like that experience because it is flexible. During the lessons, we can learn better by searching and googling immediately. We think distance education adds new methods to learn fluently, so we would like to keep this advantage in face-to-face learning. Furthermore, knowing our classmates, and new friends have been easy-going as we don't have to worry about common language. We can communicate with them in English. Also, we can learn the Turkish language gradually without stress.
- ✓ We consider the spring semester as a journey. We think this semester is going to help improve our language skills further and qualify us to study our departments next year confidently.

➤ Student Recommendations

- Finally, our students have recommended some entertainment and education materials to improve language skills while having fun.

TV Shows/Movies:

Friends How I Met Your Mother The Office Brooklyn Nine-Nine Harry Potter Series



Books:

Alice in Wonderland Dracula Frankenstein A Tale of Two Cities



Applications:

Duolingo Cambly Tongo Voscreen Netflix



EWA

Cake

Kahoot

Mondly

Musixmatch





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