



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

❖ ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMS

- ✚ As members of the School of Foreign Languages, we value continuous professional improvement. This month, as part of their professional development, Preparatory School instructors have attended webinars organised by the Professional Development Unit:

Powerful ways to Boost you Speaking in English

Association of English Language Teacher Educators
2nd WEBINAR
Powerful Ways to Boost Your Speaking Skills in English
MAY 21
20.30
Prof. Dr. Gölge Seferoğlu
Register at <https://forms.gle/FDTH3wo5oFkojF8A8>
Note: The zoom information will be sent to the email address provided in the registration link

How to use blended learning for the different learner levels of the CEFR”

BLENDED LEARNING

✚ **Utku Tönel, Head of Foreign Languages Department, has published the article:**



Doughnuts in Space: Orientalism in Frank Herbert's Dune, *Söylem Journal Philosophy*, Volume 6- Issue 1.

✚ **Online teaching programs and academic activities our instructors participated.**

Lecturers	Academic Events	Provided By
Asuman Kağıt	Preparing Learners for Success in Cambridge English Qualifications:New Information for Candidates''	Cambridge English
Didar Sevde Ülker	The ELTConference 2021: Teachers Day''	English UK
Didar Sevde Ülker	Languages Future: Conference	Language Acts
Didar Sevde Ülker	Efficient Online Training Tips	Istanbul Gelişim University
Didar Sevde Ülker	A Digital Day with Cambridge	Cambridge English
Helin Göktaş	Teaching Writing Skills	International Training Institute



❖ MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT INTERVIEW

Lecturer Halilcan Koçak ,Head of Material Development Unit , has answered our questions about Unit's purposes and features.

✚ What are the duties of the Material Development Unit?

Every guided learning hour for each course in each Track is planned by the Planning and Material Development Unit and communicated to the teachers before the beginning of each Track in the form of Pacing documents via the Coordinators' Office. MATDEV unit chooses, designs and/or curates instructional materials for the lessons. Our unit operates in line with SFOL curriculum policy. Also, our unit plans instruction and informs COORD on method of instruction, and reviews tests for curriculum alignment.

✚ What are the things that you take into account while creating the syllabus of SFOL?

The syllabus for the academic year is planned in line with our school's mission; we aim to improve students' competencies in English by enabling them to access academic sources in English and make use of them efficiently, communicate in and utilize English in their future professional careers in the most effective way possible. For each level, from A2 to C1, our primary focus in creating syllabus is on students' performance on the target language. We embrace a communicative approach in our lessons, so the syllabus is designed in line with our approach.



✚ How did you adopt the syllabus to online education? Are there any parts that are eliminated or changed?

We adopted some activities in the coursebook in order to maximize the efficiency of students' participation in lesson. For instance, there are pair work activities generally in speaking lessons. We changed the application of the activity in the pacing from pair work to open class discussion, where everybody can raise hand and participate in the discussion. As the participation to the lessons in online classes can be lower than in-class lessons, we arranged our pacing accordingly.

✚ How do you choose coursebooks for English Preparatory Program?

There are many criteria that we consider in choosing the most suitable coursebook. For our program, a coursebook should be student-oriented, which can enable them to participate to the lessons more. Also, the coursebook must be designed in a way that we can organize our pacing efficiently. If coursebook units are too intense and suffocating, we cannot prepare a practical and functioning pacing out of such coursebook. That is why we analyze every aspect of a coursebook such as how the topics are designed, how the coursebook approaches to culture-gender-religion or how the pages and structure of the book are organized etc.



❖ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INTERVIEW

We have interviewed some of our international students who have chosen Gelişim University and are studying at the Preparatory school this year.

✚ First of all, can you briefly introduce yourself?

TalhatouAlhassane Salou : Hello. My name is TalhatouAlhassane Salou, I am from Niger, I live in Istanbul, I am 20 years old, and I am a student at Istanbul Gelisim University.

Alya Raja : I am Alya Raja from Yemen. I came to Istanbul to study Bachelor's degree in Istanbul Gelişim University. And right now, I am studying in the Preparatory Year.

Ramla Abdulrahman Farah : My name is Ramla Abdulrahman Farah. I am from Somalia and I am currently studying English at IstanbulGelisim University. Thanks for inviting me to this interview.

Elham Raja: I'm Elham Raja, an international student at IGU, from Yemen. My department is Business Administration in English.

✚ Which factors were effective in choosing IGU?

TalhatouAlhassane Salou : Factors that were effective in choosing Istanbul Gelisim University : first, my dream was to continue my studies in Turkey. After graduating from high school in 2020 , I did a lot of research on universities in Turkey. Secondly, I found Istanbul Gelisim University and the university was ranked in top 100 university in the world in 2020. Then, it was ranked 1st in Turkey and 24thin the world for quality education and 4th in Turkey in terms of health and well-being. Finally, I told myself why not register here where the quality of education is good and known in the world, and where safety is guaranteed.



Alya Raja : I wanted to study abroad. To have my experience I chose IGU. IGU has good rate. Moreover, Plenty of departments are 100% taught in English, and my department is one of them.

Ramla Abdulrahman Farah : First and foremost, I decided to go to a university that has a program I am interested in. On top of that, I would like to consider the different variations of that subject and how it can translate into different programs. I am interested in Economics and finance. When I searched that program from different university, I satisfied IGU of their content subjects. Another important thing to consider was how a university can prepare you for the future. Whether it be continuing your education or entering the workforce, learning how your degree will translate into a career is important.

Elham Raja : There were some universities on the table. But we chose IGU when we found out these reasons; IGU has a good reputation. It is an accredited University and is growing every year. It offers to study in English. Also, university acceptance came faster.

✚ What is one achievement that makes you proud upon your studies at Preparatory School?

TalhatouAlhassane Salou : One achievement that makes me proud upon my studies at preparatory school is ; I have succeed. I can express myself in the language, I am learning, I mean English.

Alya Raja : I am proud of the progress that I have made this year, especially speaking skills and communication skills in a foreign language.

Ramla Abdulrahman Farah: The achievement that makes me proud upon my studies at preparatory year is; improving my level of English skills whether are writing, speaking listening and reading. In my opinion writing an essay is not that easy and it was not my cup of tea, but virtue of the preparatory school helped me to write understandable articles.





Elham Raja : I'm proud that this year enabled me to practice English. The most practical thing, that I received were feedback and guidance from my instructors.

✚ **What would you recommend for other IGU international student nominees?**

TalhatouAlhassane Salou : I would recommend to other IGU international student nominees that IGU is one of the best universities to continue your education and you will not regret your choice.

Alya Raja : Preparatory Year improves several skills. Your level will progress, but you need to keep going if you want to see the difference. I advise you not to stop. Keep developing your language skills even after the year is over.

Ramla Abdulrahman Farah : I highly recommend for the other IGU international nominees. This school has good quality of the teaching combined with the comfortable and pleasant atmosphere.

Elham Raja : I recommend international students to appreciate the chance of studying abroad and do their best. Develop and build skills! To make this experience memorable and effective for the future.



❖ GRADUATE STUDENT INTERVIEW



As well as our international students, we have interviewed some of department students about the language education they acquired last year in preparatory school.

✚ **Before starting your studies in Prep school what was your English level? What was your expectation from a Preparatory School? How Did the school meet your expectations?**

Engin Karacan (Civil Aviation & Cabin Services) :Before starting prep school, I had A2 elementary English. I didn't have much of an expectation from the school. I thought it would be like the English education I received throughout my education life. But that didn't happen. I received a high-quality education from really successful instructors. When I graduated from the preparatory school, I graduated with very fluent English.

Sabrina Çavuşoğlu (Nutrition & Dietics) : I was at b1 level before I started prep school. My vocabulary was good, but my grammar was bad. My expectation was to be able to talk when I met a tourist. I wanted to express myself comfortably when I went abroad. I think it would have been better if the virus hadn't come out.

Fatih Kazan (Nursing): Before starting the school, I knew my English was at A1 level. My expectation from the preparatory school was that it would bring my profession to a level where I can fully English and I succeeded.



✚ **After Graduating from IGU Preparatory School, how would you evaluate your language learning journey? Which one of your skills have improved more during the Prep School?**

Engin Karacan (Civil Aviation & Cabin Services) : IGU Preparatory School helped me a lot in this regard. Thanks to my improving English, I started talking to tourists after graduation and improved a little more. In addition, the IGU Preparatory School not only taught me a new language but also improved my self-confidence. After graduation, my speaking and understanding skills improved the most.

Sabrina Çavuşoğlu(Nutrition & Dietics) : My language learning journey continued.IGU's contribution on this journey is undeniable.My grammer ,writing and speaking improved in preparatory school.

Fatih Kazan(Nursing) : Like everyone else, I studied English in my high school education, but this was not enough in any subject. IGU Preparatory School has greatly improved both my grammar and speaking skills.

✚ How Speaking, Listening, Reading approaches that you have learned in Prep School helped you with your department studies?

Engin Karacan(Civil Aviation & Cabin Services) :

Only English was spoken in the preparatory school. This has been a huge advantage for me. In this way, I improved all my English skills by speaking in English with my friends and teachers. Thanks to the English texts we read during the lesson, my reading skills improved.

Sabrina Çavuşoğlu (Nutrition & Dietics) : Of course, it is very helpful. Because, unfortunately, Turkish sources are restricted. So, while doing research English and the techniques that I learned last year are very helpful. I can access to more information, now.

Fatih Kazan (Nursing): The fact that the lessons were under separate headings such as speaking, listening and reading made it easier for me to see my mistakes. Thus, my achievement to a certain level in English improved faster.



✚ What advice would you like to give to current Preparatory school students?

Engin Karacan(Civil aviation & Cabin Services): The biggest advice I want to give to new students; After the lesson, go talk to the tourists. Make foreign friends. I had a lot of foreign friends at school and they helped me. Always read English books, listen to songs, watch movies in English without subtitles. But as I said at the beginning, since English is a language that can be learned by speaking, you need to speak constantly. Try to think in English even while thinking. Be in constant communication in English. Work hard, and never give up.

Sabrina Çavuşođlu (Nutrition & Dietics) : I suggest they memorize a lot of words, read books, watch foreign TV shows or they can explore a topic they are interested in in English.

Fatih Kazan (Nursing): Never be afraid of making mistakes, of mispronouncing words. These mistakes are a part of development and as you make mistakes, these mistakes disappear over time.



❖ TIPS ON IMPROVING YOUR ENGLISH DURING SUMMER

Learning English doesn't always have to mean sitting in the classroom and studying grammar. In fact, English language teachers encourage you to do plenty of extra learning outside of school. There are number of ways to improve your understanding of the language, many of which can actually be a lot of fun. So, if you're keen to improve your English then consider some of these handy tips to get you on your way.

+ Work out with an English Coach

You don't need to live in an English-speaking country to work out in English. Buy, download or stream an exercise video in English and work out at home. You could even repeat the instructions given by the coach to practice your English pronunciation while you get fit.



+ Diet in English

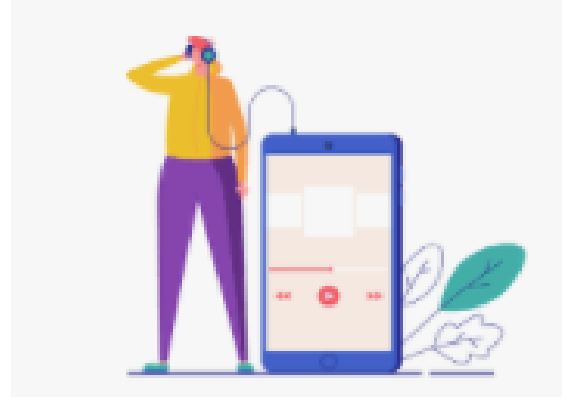


No matter how hard you work out, you will need to sort out your diet if you really want to get in shape. You can also use this as a chance to practice your English reading skills. Look up some healthy recipes in English and practice following the instructions. Make sure to get it right so that your healthy meal tastes great.

+ Listen to a Podcast

Podcasts have surged in popularity over the past years and with good reason. They are an engaging form of entertainment that can be consumed while your eyes and body are focused elsewhere.

You could choose something specifically for English learners such as the podcast produced by British Council, or something related to your work. Make sure you listen to the podcast more than once to explore all the interesting vocabulary it contains.



+ Online Cooperative Games

Play games, have fun and improve your vocabulary at the same time.

+ Minecraft

Today, it is a game used in educational activities especially in Europe and Scandinavian countries, as well as in various states of the USA. It has a structure that supports creativity and interaction.

No one knew how big of a game *Minecraft* would be when it was released in 2010, but the first hours when players began to create simple maps and post screenshots of their creations online put this game a prominent place in the eyes of everyone in the age of social media and communication.

Today *Minecraft* is played by people of all ages. The most attractive part is the social aspect with its open world. Whether you help your child fend off monsters while building a fantasy land together, or collaborate with a group of adults to create a imitation of complex architectural works from real life (e.g. Notre Dame Cathedral), there is something for everyone.

You can even play it as a more story-based game, explore with your friends, level up together, and build equipment to get even stronger. *Minecraft* is what you want it to happen, and it's a world you share with your friends. Since the common language used in the servers is English, it is a place where you can talk to people of all countries and ages.



✚ Playerunknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG)

In the game, one hundred people jump to an island with a parachute and struggle to be the last person with various weapons, tactics and strategic partnerships. As time passes, the circle on the map narrows and players are encouraged to overpower each other in the game where they sometimes roam for minutes. At this point, the social side of the game and communication skills come to the fore. Being the last player requires not only a good marksman but also perception management.

The frequency of failure makes success very exciting. As the blue zone gets smaller, tension increases as well as heart rate, until there are only a handful of players left in the last minutes of a round. Every second of these last moments creates a unique tension if you play alone. However, this tension creates great excitement when you are with your friends.

🎮 League of Legends

With its videos, guides, big tournaments and award-winning matches, it is a competitive popular game that will increase the vocabulary of young people and increase the communication between them.

To put *League of Legends* as simply as possible, two teams of five fight to destroy each other's Nexus; a large crystal placed on each base. As each match progresses you will get stronger, equip your character with new equipment and fight for map supremacy. *LoL* is a game that requires you to be in constant communication with the community through guides, forums and youtube videos because it takes a lot of effort to learn and the depth is immense. The competitive nature of the game and professional e-sport tournaments that players could win prizes and money promotes learning and communication. Everybody tries to learn each character's and map's intricacies and since it is a team game it supports social ties between players. Even if you don't actively play you can participate in its activities and communicate its fans daily.



🎮 Don't Starve Together

Now free for everyone who owns *Don't Starve*, *Don't Starve Together* lets you and your friends try and survive the Tim Burton-style wilderness of *Don't Starve*. In the game the objective is to survive in a harsh environment with your friends. You might think it would be easier to survive with someone gathered by the fire. Of course, resources are collected twice

as fast to survive in the game and increase cooperation, but it also increases the competition as it increases the need for food. This means multi-layered communication and planning.

The trick is to work together instead of fighting for leftovers: While one player is cooking, the other can set a trap; while another is cutting wood to light the camp fire, the other may be taking care of the garden. With six actors, there is plenty of room to build a sustainable communication base as long as everyone stays true to their role and shares their resources. In *Don't Starve*, stories only get better when there are people to share them with the campfire. In this respect, it is a suitable environment for language development.

✚ Pandemic - Boardgame for the Current Era

Known as the best desktop game in online environments, *Pandemic 2* is a challenging but fun social activity played by 4 players and about combating epidemics. Because it is intense and challenging, it puts the communication and dialogue between the players in a very important place.

On *Pandemic*, the odds are against you from the beginning, but that's the beauty. Because your only hope is teamwork and good communication. Therefore, it is a great example of using the foreign language to focus on problem solving with the tools and materials available.

Although difficult to master, *Pandemic* is a game that can be adapted quickly. While players are tasked with preventing a number of super diseases from spreading around the world, they have unique abilities that can help them change the spread.

Part of the fun is deciding what to do with these powers. Should you prioritize controlling outbreaks, or is it better to eradicate one type of disease before moving on to another? There is no definitive answer, it leaves room for you to develop your own strategies. It also promotes good communication by strengthening connections between those around your desk.



➤ LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL



➤ Preparatory School's **Social Media Accounts** have been activated .To be informed about current news and activities happening at our school, you can also follow **Preparatory School on Instagram and Youtube.**

➤ **“Reading As a Vital Skill”** online seminar by Dr.Oya Tunaboğlu has been shared on Preparatory School's Youtube channel. In order to watch the seminar, you can visit and subscribe “İGU Yabancı Diller Yüksekokulu” channel on Youtube.

➤ We celebrated 21st of May **World Meditation Day** on our Instagram account. Health benefits of Meditation and a fun fact have been shared. In order to read the tips on World Meditation Day and be informed about more activities ,you can visit and follow “iguydyo” account on Instagram.



ISTANBUL GELİSİM UNİVERSİTESİ
Yabancı Diller Yüksekokulu SİKS

READING AS A VITAL SKILL

📅 29 Nisan 2021 ⌚ 21.00-22.00
Perşembe

KONUŞMACI
Doç Dr. Oya TUNABOĞLU

KONUŞULACAK KONULAR

- Why is reading important for learning a language
- Potential benefits of reading skill.

zoom
Link: 873 587 1720
Sifre: kxMrX7

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