



IGU
School of Foreign Languages
Monthly Bulletin
July 2021



July Overview

July was a relatively quiet month for our school. Students took their exams during the early days of the month and then went on their holiday break. However, some students enrolled for summer school where they were given another chance to prove their abilities and pass Preparatory School. A couple of live video meetings were held on our Social Media outlets. And finally, special occasions were celebrated on our Instagram page.

Summer School

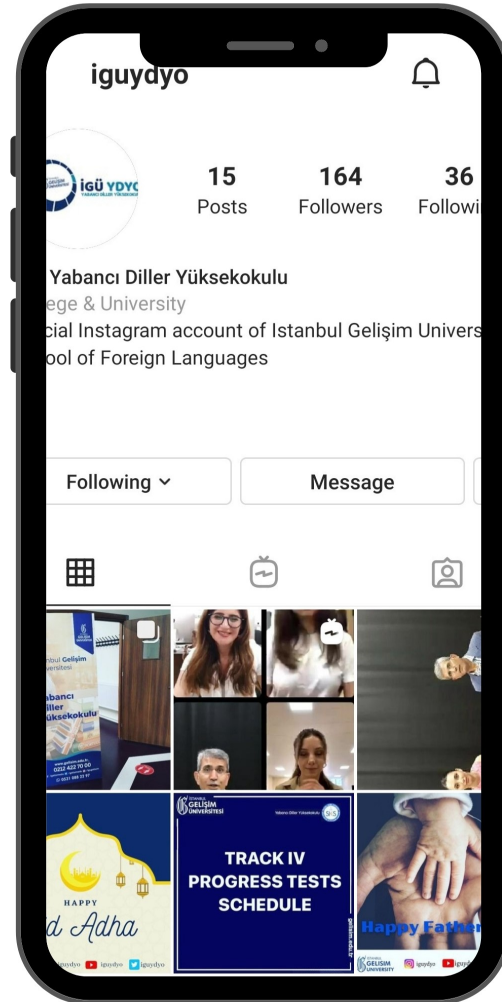
Summer School is a great opportunity for students to improve their English and socialize with their teachers and friends. The classes were held online and students and teachers joined the sessions and exchanged knowledge in a lively atmosphere.



SFOL on Social Media

As always, our school was active on social media.

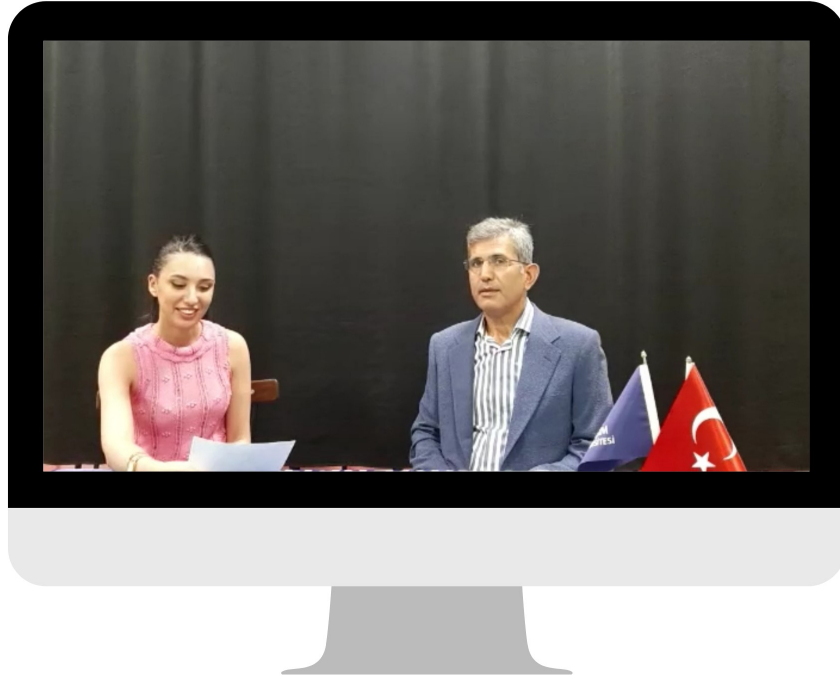
We had two live video chats featuring our school's academic staff and newly-graduated students.



Instagram Live Videos

Two live sessions were held on our Instagram page: one of them was about how long it takes to learn English and one was about mastering academic English.

In the first video, our school's principal Dr. Şahin Gök answered some of the most frequent questions asked by students about how long it takes to learn English. The questions were read by Amina Benkhelifa, one of our school's social media coordinators and English instructors.



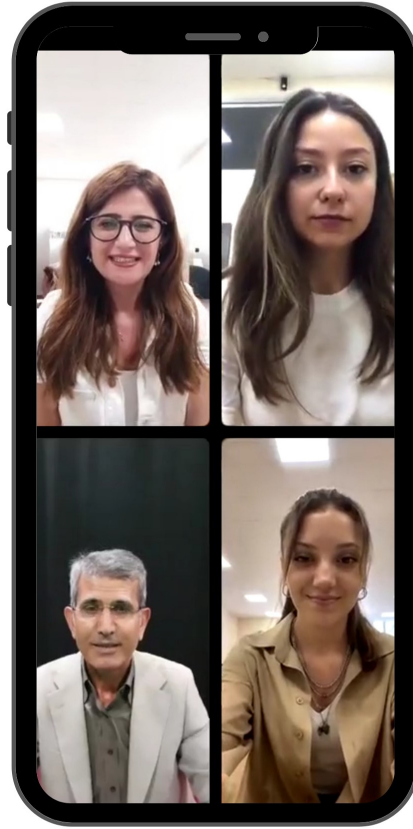
Here is a short part of the answers provided by Dr. Şahin Gök translated from Turkish to English (the video is available on our Instagram page as well and can be viewed later):

**““
Amina: Hocam, what is the proficiency level required for
university students in order to continue their education
and how long does it take to reach that level? ””**

**““
Şahin: The level is specified by the Ministry of Higher
Education, of course and it is B2. To reach the B2 level,
students learn between 3,000 and 4,000 words and
several grammatical structures. In addition, they must be
able to discuss and share their ideas in English,
communicate with native speakers fluently, and be able
to write and read English. If the student has a background**

in learning English, they can learn quickly and take the proficiency exam which is held on February every year (after Track 2 is finished). If they pass the exam, they can go to their department. There are 4 Tracks during the academic year. If the students cannot pass the end of the year proficiency exam, they are given another chance during the summer (Summer School) ... In terms of duration, there are many factors involved such as background, concentration and motivation, and so on ... It changes from person to person. It can be 4 months for some people, but it might be 8 months for others... ”

The second video was another live video chat with our newly-graduated students. Dr. Sahin Gok shares his insight on how to speak English more fluently. This video is available on our Instagram page as well.



“
Büşra: Hocam, could you talk about the differences between academic English and everyday English?”

“
Şahin: That's a very good and important question ... This difference is true for all languages, not just English. In academic English, you have to pay attention to grammar and correctness. In everyday English, however, correctness is not of high importance. For instance, we use contractions, abbreviations and body language to make ourselves understood in the easiest way possible.”

“
Büşra: Hocam, my second question is related to the first one. What are the difficulties for our students when it comes to speaking English?”

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Şahin: Generally speaking, they have trouble in everyday conversations because of lack of self-confidence. Also, because our education was grammar-based, our communication does not sound natural ... We need to focus on these problems and solve them. For instance, we can use fillers (e.g. 'you know', 'actually', etc.) to make the conversation sound more native-like and fluent.”

English Learning Tips

There are many ways you can improve your English. One of them is to read English magazines. Some of the best ones are *Reader's Digest* and *Hot English Magazine*.



Health comes first!

The virus is still out there. Stay safe everyone.

PROTECTING FROM THE VIRUS IN OUR HANDS

COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WITH DISPOSABLE PAPER TISSUES DURING COUGHING AND SNEEZING. IF THERE IS NO TISSUE, USE THE INNER SIDE OF YOUR ELBOW.

AVOID CLOSE CONTACT SUCH AS HANDSHAKING AND HUGGING.

AVOID CROWDED PLACES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

DO NOT TOUCH YOUR MOUTH, NOSE AND EYES WITH DIRTY HANDS.

WASH YOUR HANDS WITH WATER AND REGULAR SOAP FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.

USE HAND SANITIZER IF THERE IS NO WATER AND SOAP.