

Dear Students, Dear Parents,



Welcome to  
Sabancı University  
School of Languages

First, congratulations to you on your success!  
We share your happiness and excitement.

In this brief presentation, we would like to share with you some  
points we believe to be important in language learning.



The “preparatory” year (Foundations Development Year) is a highly essential component of education at Sabancı University because of the interdisciplinary curricular system and the fact that English is the medium of instruction.

Expectations regarding language and academic skills on faculty courses are very high.

As the School of Languages, our most important aim is to help our students discover their own potential in learning no matter at what level they start their language education. We aim to help them use this potential fully by making available all the necessary academic and individual support.

Students who complete the FDY English courses and those who are direct entry to faculty are required to take Freshman English classes to improve their academic knowledge and skills further. In the following years, our students may also take the Professional Communication Skills in English course to prepare for professional life.



Your success and efforts at both high school and the university entrance exam deserve praise. We congratulate you on this once again.

However, success at these levels and on this exam does not necessarily go hand in hand with success in learning a language, especially in the short term.

Learning a language also involves effort, sacrifice, patience, regular attendance and active participation in class.

This “preparatory” process at SU could take some students one semester, some one year, some one-and-a half years and on rare occasions, some 2 years depending on the level they start at.

This variation in the period of completion is natural and may stem from differences in individual learning styles, study habits, academic needs and once again attendance in class. However long this term is, it is a worthwhile educational investment.



It is not realistic for learners who have had little or limited exposure to language learning to acquire a high level of language proficiency in English in a short period of time.

Of course the basic level starters, like all our learners, have the chance to complete the course in one academic year. However, they might need to continue with their studies at FDY in the summer semester and possibly the fall semester, the following year.

At FDY, the ideal length of time for each course to be completed is 16 weeks. In the second semester some students who obtain the necessary grade average for the course at the end of the first 8 week period have the opportunity to start the next level. However, most learners continue with a “Progressing” (P) course grade and complete the course in 16 weeks, which they find highly beneficial in terms of their academic studies.



According to the regulations of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), students who successfully complete the Upper level course at FDY can choose to take an international English language proficiency exam instead of the institutional ELAE (English Language Assessment Exam) given at SU.

We would, however, like to emphasize that for students who are still at an early stage in their language learning process, such as Basic and Intermediate levels, making an effort to prepare for and take external exams will be unsound in most cases. Please do not fall into this trap!



The School of Languages provides all students with a large number of opportunities for support both within and outside class.

For academic support and language learning issues, you can contact our language instructors, our Programme Coordinator *Jacqueline Einer*, (email: [jacqueline@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:jacqueline@sabanciuniv.edu) phone: 0216 483 9146) and the Director of School of Languages *Deniz Kurtoğlu Eken*, ([kurtoglueken@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:kurtoglueken@sabanciuniv.edu) Phone: 0216 483 9124).

For individual support you can contact our Student Counselor *Güler Ann Gerger*, ([gulergerger@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:gulergerger@sabanciuniv.edu) Phone: 0216 483 3140).

For other academic support opportunities please contact SU Writing Centre at [writingcen@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:writingcen@sabanciuniv.edu) Phone: 0216 483 9299.



## Foundation Development Year Useful Links and Documents

Please read the following carefully.

- Regulations for Foundation Development Year  
[http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/ogrenci\\_kabul/yonetmelikler/TGY\\_tr.pdf](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/ogrenci_kabul/yonetmelikler/TGY_tr.pdf)
- Foundation Development Year Handbook  
<http://do.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?FDYHandbook/FDYHandbook.html>
- English Language Assessment Exam (ELAE)  
[http://do.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?content/ela\\_exam.html](http://do.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?content/ela_exam.html)