

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## FOR SFL PREPARATORY PROGRAMME STUDENTS

### 1. What is the Exit Exam (Preparatory Programme Exit Exam)?

Exit Exam, also known as the **Preparatory Programme Exit Exam**, is a proficiency exam that assesses the English level of the SFL students in four main areas.

- a. Reading Exam: (25%) is a multiple choice exam.
- b. Listening Exam: (25%) is a multiple choice exam.
- c. Writing Exam: (25%) is a response essay writing based on a given text.
- d. Speaking Exam: (25%) is given on a different day.

The exam is administered twice per academic year and once after the summer school. The exam which is administered at the end of the fall semester is called the “Early Exit”, and the one at the end of the spring semester is called “Exit”. After the summer school, students can sit another exam which is called the “Summer Exit”.

### 2. What should I do in order to sit the Exit Exam?

You should meet **all** the requirements and study very hard. Below are the requirements:

- a. 85% Attendance.
- b. Meeting the classroom requirements such as having classroom materials and books, attending and participating in classes, completing assignments, projects and presentations, sitting all required exams: quizzes, midterms and finals.
- c. Having a high enough academic average. (It is very important to attend the classes regularly to earn a high academic average.)
- d. In order to be able to sit the Early Exit, Track 3 students need an academic average of at least 70%. The Exit Exam which is administered at the end of the second semester does not require an academic average of 70%. However having a high academic average is

advantageous for the students.

**3. Is a passing score on the Exit Exam (70%) enough in order to complete the Preparatory Programme?**

No. Academic Average is also important.

**4. What is Academic Average and how is it calculated?**

Academic average is the average of the three main lessons (Reading and Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Core). The weighting of each lesson is calculated according to the weekly class hours of each class.

**5. How important is my academic average?**

Prep Programme students' academic averages are as important as the Exit Exam grades. The ability of the student to pass the preparatory program is based on 50% of the Exit Exam score and 50% of the academic average.

**6. What is the limit of absenteeism?**

Işık University Prep Program requires regular attendance. For this reason, students must attend 85% of their classes. The absenteeism limit is 15% of the total course hours. (For example, if the total number of hours in one semester is 300, the student must attend at least 255 hours of class.)

**7. Will the absences from the first semester be reset in the second semester?**

No. Absenteeism is calculated across the whole year. Since the Track 3 program is a one semester program, ONLY T3 students' absences are calculated on a one-semester basis.

**8. Will the academic averages of the first semester be reset in the second semester?**

No. The academic achievement of a student is calculated for one whole academic year because our programs are designed on a 4-Module system (1 academic year). Since the

Track 3 program is a one-semester program, ONLY the academic averages of T3 students are calculated on a semester basis.

**9. If I bring a health report, will my absenteeism be deleted?**

No. In case a student is too ill to attend the course, the student must definitely go to a health institution and be treated. The report given to the student at the end of this medical check is a document showing why the student could not attend the class. This document does not show the student as "present" in the student registrations and does not exempt the student from any lessons.

**The medical reports obtained from the appropriate institutions give the student the right to attend a "make-up" exam in the event that the student misses a midterm or a final exam.**

The student who wants to make use of the make-up exam should submit the report to the program coordinator within three working days following the exam. (Students should ask the SFL Secretary regarding *appropriate institutions*).

**10. Can I get a "Make-Up Quiz" if I miss a quiz?**

If the student missed an "in-class quiz", there is no make-up.

If the student participates in any of the sports teams of our university and has participated in a competition on the exam, he/she may take a make-up midterm or final. For this, the student must bring a petition from the Director of the Sports Department.

**11. Can anyone join Summer School?**

No. In order to enroll in the Summer School, it is necessary to fulfill the following conditions:

- a) The yearly average should be no less than 50
- b) The Exit Exam grade should be no less than 50
- c) No less than 85% attendance.

**12. Do I have to take the Exit, or can I bring the scores of another English exam?**

Students may also be exempted from the preparatory program by obtaining the required score

from **internationally recognized** English proficiency exams. Exam scores from other universities are not accepted as proof of English proficiency. The examinations and scores accepted by our university are as follows:

- a TOEFL score of IBT 80 / CBT 220 / PBT 560 or above taken in the last 2 years OR
- a score of 70 or above from ÜDS / YDS /e-YDS in the last 5 years OR
- a score of 71 or above from PTE Academic in the last 2 years

\*Students who meet one of these requirements<sup>1</sup> are eligible to start in their departments directly.

\*These scores are valid starting in 2022-2023 academic year.

\*TOEFL and PTE Academic are valid for 2 years, ÜDS/YDS/e-YDS are valid for 5 years.

\* Students who transfer between Işık University English language programs do not take the Placement, Proficiency and Exemption exams.

### **13. How can I work more efficiently?**

First of all, the student must be willing and enthusiastic. You should determine a proper working pattern for yourself and your lifestyle and you should develop a system for studying regularly. You can ask for office hours from your teachers about the subjects you do not understand or you are staying behind. We have also developed some facilities at our university to support our students:

### **ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES**

All English language learning resources can be accessed from our school website:

[www.isikun.edu.tr/akademik/sfl](http://www.isikun.edu.tr/akademik/sfl)

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<sup>1</sup> The accepted exams and their scores have been revised for the 2022-2023 academic year and will be announced as such in the next edition of this handbook.