

ISTINYE UNIVERSITY

Foreign Languages Department — International Students FAQ

Welcome to Istinye University! All international students are expected to demonstrate the necessary academic English language proficiency required by their respective departments before beginning their undergraduate studies.

To assess these critical skills, the Foreign Languages Department administers the **Istinye English Proficiency Exam for International Students (ISTEP-IS)** at designated periods (see [the Announcements page](#)) each semester.

Core Eligibility & Exemption Rules

- **Exemption:** Students entering English-medium programs who demonstrate at least a **B2-level** English proficiency are exempt from the English Preparatory Program and may begin degree coursework immediately.
- **Placement:** International students who do not prove B2-level proficiency via the ISTEP-IS or a recognized external exam will be placed into the appropriate level of the English Preparatory Program for the upcoming academic year.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. When is my English Proficiency Exam (ISTEP-IS)?

Upon completing your registration, the International/Registration Office issues a **Registration Completion Document** to your student (ISU) or personal email address. Your exact assigned exam date is explicitly stated on that document.

Action Required: If you have not received your Registration Completion Document, please contact the Registration Office immediately. Always check [the official website](#) regularly for specific schedules, classroom assignments, and room changes.

2. Can I change my assigned ISTEP-IS date?

Students are strictly expected to take the exam on their assigned date. If an official emergency prevents you from attending campus, you must email foreignlanguages@istinye.edu.tr promptly to provide a valid justification and request a seat in an alternate session. All examinations are advised to be completed prior to the launch of the Preparatory Program semester.

3. What is the format of the ISTEP-IS, and how do I pass?

The ISTEP-IS is structured as a comprehensive **two-stage evaluation** designed to measure academic literacy:

Stage 1: Online Placement (CEPT)

You will take the online Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT), covering Reading, Listening, Grammar, and Vocabulary. A minimum score of **35 out of 50** is required to clear this stage and qualify for Stage 2.

Stage 2: Writing & Speaking Assessments

Eligible students proceed to the productive skills evaluations:

- **Writing Test (25 Points):** An opinion essay of at least four paragraphs is required. Grading evaluates content, organization, lexical resource, and grammatical resource.
- **Speaking Test (25 Points):** A recorded paired student interview featuring spontaneous dialogues and monologues from casual to academic themes is conducted. Grading evaluates discourse management, phonology, interaction, lexical resource, and grammatical resource.

Passing Threshold: A combined score of **70 out of 100** across all criteria establishes B2 proficiency, granting immediate exemption from the Preparatory School. Students who fail to obtain 70 are placed into an appropriate prep class based on their levels determined in CEPT.

4. How can I prepare for the online placement test?

To familiarize yourself with the structure of the online Cambridge English Placement Test, you can access an official demonstration tool directly via the following web link: https://www.metritests.com/metricatestdelivery/Assessment/Assignment?test=CEPT_Demo

5. How are the exam results announced?

All formal grades and status announcements are published directly on the Foreign Languages Department notification board: <https://foreignlanguages.istinye.edu.tr/announcements>

6. What happens if I do not achieve a passing score? Can I retake the test?

Students who fall short of the required B2 threshold will automatically be enrolled into the English Preparatory Program. These students **cannot** retake ISTEP-IS exam and will follow the exam calendar of the Preparatory School once they start their education.

7. I missed my exam and am currently out of town. What should I do?

Attending your designated session is imperative. If a critical emergency causes a breakdown in scheduling, you should email foreignlanguages@istinye.edu.tr *only when you are fully present and ready to sit for the test* to request placement in an upcoming slot (if available). Always provide your official student number.

8. Can I prove my English proficiency using external international certificates?

Yes, official standardized scores can be submitted for exemption from the program. The verified minimum requirements are presented below:

Accepted Language Certificate	Minimum Passing Grade / Score
TOEFL IBT / TOEFL IBT Home Edition*	4 (75**)
IELTS Academic	6.0
PTE Academic	55
LanguageCert Academic	60
C2 Proficiency (CPE)	C
C1 Advanced (CAE)	B
Oxford Test of English / Advanced	110
Linguaskill General	150
e-TEP	75
ISTEP-IS (Internal Exam)	70

* Official TOEFL scores must be electronically transmitted via ETS directly to our database using the institutional designation code: **C821**.

** This matrix reflects the score alignment protocol active prior to January 21, 2026.

High School Exemption: Students who completed their high school diploma at an institution (located in Türkiye or abroad) where the singular, official medium of instruction was 100% English are fully exempt. Validating transcripts or authenticated ministerial letters must be filed.

9. What is the deadline to submit external certificates?

The Foreign Languages Department evaluates outside test documents throughout the semester. However, you must directly cross-reference with your faculty registrar to ensure they permit your start right away.

10. I submitted my TOEFL score via ETS code C821. What happens next?

Data processing through ETS securely takes roughly 5 to 7 business days to reach our department. Check your student status on OIS regularly; your document is officially approved once your tracking label switches from **PREP** to **1**.

11. Can I request a level change if I am unhappy with my Preparatory class assignment?

No. Level tracks are locked metrics based on standardized testing data. Subjective observations, individual self-assessments, or peer comparisons are not valid bases for modification.

Still Have Questions?

If you require clarification on a matter not detailed above, send an inquiry to **foreignlanguages@istinye.edu.tr**. To receive administrative attention, you must comply with the following format:

- Formulate your question clearly inside the **main email body** (do not type questions into the subject field).
- Conclude your message with your full legal **name** and unique **student identification number**.