English Courses For KAU
Foundation Year Students
The Mission of the English Language Institute (ELI) at King Abdulaziz University (KAU) is to provide intensive instruction of English as a foreign language, delivered by qualified instructors using an internationally-oriented curriculum, to Foundation Year students in order to enhance their English language skills and facilitate their academic progress.
The ELI Program
The Foundation Year at the English Language Institute (ELI) at King Abdulaziz University (KAU) comprises four levels of instruction: beginner, elementary, pre-intermediate and intermediate. Students who enter the program at the beginner level generally complete two levels, or modules, per semester, thus finishing the entire course in one academic year.

Study Levels
ELI 101 – Level One – 0 credits
ELI 102 – Level Two – 2 credits
ELI 103 – Level Three – 2 credits
ELI 104 – Level Four – 2 credits

The level at which new students enter the English language program is determined by a placement test designed to measure their proficiency in the language. Predetermined ranges of scores are correlated to ELI’s four levels of study and students are placed accordingly. A student is permitted to take the placement test only once. If a student is unable to keep his/her scheduled appointment to take the placement test, he/she will be placed automatically in ELI 101, the beginner level course.

Exemption
Since the ELI provides language instruction up to the intermediate level, students who submit official and up-to-date results of a minimum of 32 in TOEFL iBT or 4.5 in ILETS can be exempted from the program.
**How placement and GPA calculations are made?**

**Placement:**
Let assume there are three students - Mohammad, Abdullah, and Omar - who were accepted into the KAU Foundation Year.

**Mohammad** took the placement test and his score indicated that he should be placed in ELI 103, the pre-intermediate class.

**Abdullah** did not take the placement test for whatever reason.

**Omar** submitted official and up-to-date results from the TOEFL test indicating he scored 32 or above.

Based on the outcomes of the above scenario, the placement of the three students is as follows:

**Mohammad** will be placed in ELI 103 because his placement test score allowed him to skip ELI 101 and 102.

**Abdullah** will be placed in ELI 101 regardless of his actual proficiency because he did not attend the placement test.

**Omar** will be exempt from the Foundation Year English program because he scored 32 or above on TOEFL.

**GPA Calculation:**

**Mohammad** will be given passing grades for ELI 101 and ELI 102, but they will not be part of his GPA calculation. His credited study will start with ELI 103.

**Abdullah** will start his credited study with ELI 101 and end it with ELI 104. His grades for each level, with the exception of ELI 101, will count towards his GPA.

**Omar** will earn passing grades for all four levels, but none will count towards his GPA.
Course Evaluation Method

The following assessment tools are used to gauge a student’s progress in each level and to determine his/her appropriate grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuous assessment</th>
<th>30%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio assessment with a wide a range of assignments, including writing tasks and Reading Circles tasks.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-term Exam</th>
<th>30%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple choice questions with focus on comprehension, both reading and listening, as well as grammar, usage, and vocabulary from units covered in the first weeks of the module.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>40%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple choice questions with focus on comprehension, both reading and listening, as well as grammar, usage, and vocabulary from units covered in the entire module.</td>
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</table>

| Total                         | 100%|

Progressing through the English program

A student can only advance from one level to another if he or she obtains, at least, a grade of 60 out of 100 based on the above evaluation methods. However, if a student fails to obtain a minimum grade of 60, he or she will have to repeat the same level in the next quarter of the Foundation Year.

Moving from level-to-level

Back to the previous scenario, if Mohammad passes ELI 103 by obtaining, at least, the minimum passing grade of 60 out of 100 during the first quarter of the first semester, he will proceed to ELI 104 in the second quarter of the same semester. Upon receiving a passing grade in ELI 104, he will have completed the Foundation Year English language requirement. If Abdullah fails to pass ELI 101 during the first quarter of the first semester, he will have to repeat that level in the second quarter. If he receives a passing grade in ELI 101 during the second quarter of the same semester, he will move to ELI 102 during the first quarter of the second semester. If he then successfully completes the remaining courses, he will
fulfill the Foundation Year English language requirement by the end of the summer semester.

The table below shows the ELI trajectory of our three sample students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammad</td>
<td>ELI 103</td>
<td>ELI 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdullah</td>
<td>ELI 101</td>
<td>ELI 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar</td>
<td>Concentrates on other FY courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance**

ELI follows KAU rules and regulations regarding Foundation Year attendance. Such rules and regulations stipulate that any student who is absent for more than 25% of scheduled lectures (a total of six days per quarter) will not be allowed to sit for the final exam and will be given a grade of DN.

Absences prevent students from acquiring language skills expected to be learned in each level. This negatively impacts language learning and, therefore, affects performance on exams. Students can monitor their attendance through the ELI website: [http://eli.kau.edu.sa](http://eli.kau.edu.sa).

ELI urges all students to attend classes regularly as daily attendance ensures positive results in the assessment process. It guarantees the enhancement of language skills through direct language contact via exciting lesson presentations designed by international book publishers. Such learning takes place in well-equipped classrooms and with up-to-date technological teaching tools utilized by qualified instructors.
General Directions

- Students should find ways to use English on- as well as off-campus.
- Students should work hard to develop language comprehension, whether oral or written, to increase their ability to communicate in English.
- Students should concentrate on optimizing the use of books, CDs and Internet resources.
- Students should log on to the ELI website regularly to stay up-to-date on relevant news and announcements.
- Students should visit the Academic Affairs Unit for any questions regarding the program.

ELI values student opinions and invites all students to submit their contributions, suggestions and questions via the complaint/suggestion form that can be found on the ELI website: http://eli.kau.edu.sa.