

AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

Issue 2 · Welcome to University

A practical first look at campus life, language learning and the new academic year. AYBU Insight is a student-led online magazine at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Foreign Languages, supported by instructors and shaped through editorial guidance.



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Welcome

Welcome to AYBU Insight, a student-led online magazine showcasing the academic and creative work of students at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Foreign Languages.

Our Mission

- **Student-Driven:** A platform built by students for students.
- **Academic Excellence:** Showcasing high-quality essays and analyses.
- **Creative Expression:** Providing space for poetry, short stories, artwork, and multimedia projects.
- **Open Access:** Accessible to everyone, promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration.

AYBU Insight is an open-access online magazine created by School of Foreign Languages students with editorial guidance from their instructors. It provides a public space for students to share ideas, reflect on learning, and engage with campus life, culture, creativity and everyday perspectives through English.

The magazine follows a developmental editorial approach. All submissions undergo an editorial review focused on factual accuracy, logical flow, clarity and reader engagement. Feedback is supportive and coaching-oriented, aiming to help students strengthen their voice rather than evaluate perfection.

In This Issue

Issue 2 is written for the first weeks of the academic year: an introduction to the School of Foreign Languages, the places on campus where help is kept, six ways to use English outside the classroom, a survival guide for the first week, a case for learning a second language, a campus discovery challenge, and a page to fill in yourself.

Join the Conversation!

If you are a student at AYBU School of Foreign Languages, we invite you to submit your own work for consideration in future issues. Follow @aybuyabdil for updates, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and opportunities to get involved.

Editorial Team: Dr. Dilek İşler Hayırlı, Dr. Arzu Kıratlı, Dr. Hatice Karaaslan, Dr. Daria Şen, Dilek Kılıç, Rumeysa Demir (Student Editor)



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From the Editors

Welcome to a new beginning. A new academic year starts with many firsts: a new campus, new classmates, new routines, new expectations, and, for many students, a new relationship with English. This second issue of AYBU Insight is designed as a friendly guide to those first weeks.

Rather than presenting university life as a list of rules, this issue focuses on the small experiences that gradually make a campus feel familiar. We introduce the School of Foreign Languages and show where on campus help is actually kept. We look at practical ways to use English beyond the classroom, and at the habits that make a first week easier than it needs to be. We make the case for becoming curious about a second language, offer a discovery challenge to get you walking around the campus, and close with a page for you to fill in yourself.

University is not only where you attend classes. It is also where you learn how to ask questions, meet people with different experiences, manage your own time, try unfamiliar things, and discover what kind of learner — and person — you want to become.

We hope Issue 2 gives new students a useful starting point, and returning students a chance to see familiar spaces with fresh eyes.

— The Editorial Team

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Campus & Culture

Meet the School of Foreign Languages

For many AYBU students, this is one of the first places where university life truly begins — and four things are worth focusing on from week one.

1

Build a routine

Regular short study sessions are easier to keep up than last-minute intensive study.

2

Use English actively

Do not wait until your English feels perfect. Ask, speak, write, and notice the language around you.

3

Know your spaces

Classrooms matter, but so do the library, study areas, clubs, online platforms and classmates.

4

Ask when you need help

University asks for independence. Independence does not mean doing everything alone.

Where University Life Begins

The School of Foreign Languages is a space for developing language skills, academic habits, confidence and communication. During the preparatory year, English becomes more than a subject: students read, listen, speak, write, collaborate, give presentations, complete assignments, and learn how to take part in an academic environment.

Progress may feel fast on some days and slow on others. Both are normal parts of learning, and neither is a verdict on how the year will end. What matters far more than the speed of any single week is whether the four habits above are in place by the time the term gets busy.

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Campus & Culture

Where to Get Help: the ILC and the LAP

A good deal of the language learning at this school happens outside anyone's timetable — here is where, and how to walk in.

WHERE TO FIND US

ADDRESS

AYBU Etlik East Campus
Block A, Floor 5

OPEN

Weekdays 08:00 – 17:00

COST

Free for all AYBU students

EMAIL

yabdil@aybu.edu.tr

INSTAGRAM

@aybuyabdil

WHAT IS INSIDE

- **Independent Learning Centre**
graded-reader library, bookable computers, and the multilingual Reading Corner with its purple couches.
- **Speaking clubs**
Speaking Club, Tea Talk, Just Talk and Let's Talk — sign up at Reception, groups matched by level.
- **Through the year**
Discussion Days, Movie Club, writing courses, Learner Stories, Culture Days and the ILC Spring Fair.
- **Learning Advisory Program**
one-to-one advising on how you study, plus the Peer Advisor Program.

Two Doors Worth Knocking On

The **Independent Learning Centre** is free, open to all AYBU students, and needs no appointment. The **Learning Advisory Program** is where you go to talk about *how* you are studying rather than what you scored — and it is far more useful in October, when things are merely unclear, than in June, when they are urgent. Both are at **Etlik East Campus, Block A, Floor 5**.

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Campus & Culture

Your Campus Discovery Challenge

Eight small tasks for the first weeks, designed to help you explore, communicate, and build your own map of university life.



Find a quiet place where you can study for 30 minutes.



Ask someone a question in English.



Introduce yourself to a classmate you have not spoken to before.



Find one student club or activity that interests you.



Take a photo of a campus detail you have not noticed before.



Write down three English expressions you heard or used today.



Visit the library and find a resource linked to your interests.



Write five sentences about what surprised you most this week.

Keep the list. At the end of the month, notice which unfamiliar things have already become part of your routine.

Build Your Own Map

How quickly can a new place begin to feel familiar? Faster than you expect, but only if you go looking. None of these tasks takes more than a few minutes, and none of them requires you to already know anyone. Tick them off in any order, alone or with a classmate.

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English in Use

Your English Does Not Live Only in the Classroom

Six ways to keep practising between lessons — none of which look much like traditional studying.

LISTEN

One short English video, podcast or lecture clip a day. Once for the main idea, again for useful expressions.

READ

Read what you would genuinely choose in your own language: technology, sport, fashion, science, culture, games, current affairs.

SPEAK

Use English before you feel ready. Explain your day, summarise a class, record a one-minute voice note.

WRITE

Short and regular: a five-sentence reflection, a message, a mini review, notes on what you learned today.

NOTICE

Collect expressions, not only single words. 'Meet a deadline' is more useful than 'deadline' alone.

REPEAT

Return to material you already understand. Repetition is what makes language easy to recognise and use.

Six Ways In

One of the biggest changes in university language learning is responsibility. Your teacher can guide you, but your progress also depends on what you do between lessons. The good news is that English practice does not have to look like studying all the time.

A useful question for the first month is not "How many hours did I study?" but "How often did I actually use English?"

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Student Voices

The First-Week Survival Guide

Six habits that make the first week easier — collected from students who have already been through it.

1

Check your schedule twice

Rooms and times are easy to mix up at the beginning.

2

Learn names — instructors and classmates

Knowing who is around you makes asking for help much easier.

3

Keep one place for deadlines

One calendar, notebook or planner. Not five different systems.

4

Explore before you need something

Find the library, study spaces, cafeteria and student affairs early.

5

Join one activity

A club, event or conversation group makes a large university feel smaller.

6

Give yourself time

Nobody expects you to understand university life in three days.

Six Habits for the First Week

The first week can feel exciting and confusing at the same time. You may be trying to remember classroom locations, new names, course rules, passwords, schedules and deadlines all at once, and the sheer number of small things is usually what makes it tiring — not their difficulty.

A few simple habits make the transition easier. None of them is clever; all of them are the kind of thing people wish they had set up in week one rather than week six.

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Life & Ideas

Why Learn Another Language at University?

English is the main language of your preparatory program — but university is a good moment to become curious about a second one.

Merhaba

TURKISH

Hello

ENGLISH

Bonjour

FRENCH

Hola

SPANISH

Ciao

ITALIAN

Hallo

GERMAN

Privet

RUSSIAN

Konnichiwa

JAPANESE

MINI CHALLENGE

This month, learn five useful expressions in a language you do not already speak — and use at least one of them with another person.

Start with Hello

Learning another language is not simply about memorising grammar. It can change how you listen, how you notice culture, and how confidently you communicate with people from different backgrounds.

A new language supports academic mobility, travel, international friendships, internships, research and future employment. It also makes you more aware of your own language: expressions that seem completely natural in Turkish may work very differently in English or elsewhere.

Start small. Learn how to greet someone, introduce yourself, ask a simple question, and say thank you. These small pieces of language are what turn an unfamiliar interaction into a real conversation.

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Creative Studio

Your First Month in One Page

An invitation to document the beginning of your university experience — in words, sketches, photographs or short captions.

☐ A place on campus I already like...

☐ One thing that surprised me...

☐ An English expression I used in real life...

☐ Someone new I met...

☐ Something I found difficult...

☐ A small achievement I am proud of...

☐ One goal for the end of the semester...

☐ A photo that represents my first month...

Choose any three. Words, sketches, photographs, screenshots or short captions — all of it counts.

Fill This In Yourself

Choose any three prompts and answer them however you like. There is no correct format and no minimum length; a single photograph with one line under it is a complete answer.

Student work can become part of future issues of AYBU Insight. Articles, essays, short stories, poems, artwork, photography, comics, reviews, interviews and other visual content are all welcome.

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Explore the magazine, share your ideas, and contribute to future issues. If you are a student at AYBU School of Foreign Languages, you can submit writing, artwork, photography, reviews, interviews or other creative work for editorial consideration.

Follow the School of Foreign Languages account @aybuyabdil for updates and opportunities to get involved.

Find Us

Independent Learning Centre and Learning Advisory Program: AYBU Etlik East Campus, Block A, Floor 5. Open weekdays 08:00–17:00. yabdil@aybu.edu.tr

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