

General Information: Prep-English Program

What is the Preparatory English Program?

The main purpose of the KFUPM Preparatory English Program (PEP) is to ensure that students' English proficiency is sufficient to graduate from the university, in which English is the language of instruction for all courses.

This intensive four-module (half-semester) program, which all new students are initially admitted to, is designed to consolidate and develop the basic English ability that students have acquired in school.

The course is specifically designed to develop the language, reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills that students need to succeed in their academic studies. There are four hours of instruction per day.

How does the Preparatory English Program work?

The program's five modules are aligned on a continuum, where objectives and learning outcomes become progressively more complex. The skills developed in one module become the means for advancing to the next module.

At the lower levels, Modules ENGL00 and ENGL01 use general English course books. Modules ENGL02 and ENGL03 focus more on the development of academic skills, while the final module, ENGL04, sees students engaging in integrated skills practice.

To complete the program, students must pass the ENGL04 course. As a component of the ENGL03 and ENGL04 courses, students take a special version of the TOEFL which tests only listening, reading, and grammatical skills.

How will my starting level be decided?

When new students arrive at the PEP, they are first given an English proficiency Placement Test, which is used to determine which module they will begin the program in.

The Placement Test assesses grammar, vocabulary, writing, and speaking skills. The information contained in this document aims to help you effectively prepare for the Placement Test in September.

It also gives information about how, in some cases, it may be possible to be exempted from all or part of the program.

Can I be exempted from the PEP?

Students who have an IELTS or TOEFL certificate with a sufficient score may be exempted from the PEP.

If you have a TOEFL or IELTS certificate, please present it to the PEP Director. The minimum score requirements are :

TOEFL-IBT = 4.0 (No individual skill score of below 3.5)

IELTS = 6.0 (No individual skill score of below 5.5)

Can I be exempted after the Placement Test?

It is also possible in some cases to gain exemption from the PEP after taking the Placement Test.

Students who score above 88% in the Placement Test will be invited back to take TOEFL Exam . If students obtain a score of 530 or more in the Institutional TOEFL, they will be exempted from the PEP program.

Useful Applications (For Preparing for the Placement Test *Note: Not all of these are free to use.)



A vocabulary with more than 3,000 words and expressions covering a wide range of topics



A great app for expanding your vocabulary.



An app which allows students to practice English grammar in a series of 'tests' which are more like games.



An entertaining and highly interactive app featuring a series of 5-minute lessons. Useful if you don't have anyone to practice speaking with.



A very popular app which features news and stories on a variety of topics and provides quizzes for practice and comprehension.



The app version of the Reverso translation and words in context website described above.

Useful Websites (For Preparing for the Placement Test.)

