

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to all new, 2023, AGU students!!

We congratulate all of you who have taken the significant step of enrolling at AGU in 2023 for committing to a well-regarded university where you will be challenged and pushed towards your full potential. We wish you every success, and we are sure that, with the right attitude and sufficient energy, you will learn a lot - both in your area of specialist study and in general.

For all new AGU students, unless they have passed TOEFL with a strong score, the place they start is the Language School: some of you will stay just two days, in order to demonstrate that they already know enough English to start Faculty courses; most of you will stay longer [between 5 and 23 months], as you build your English ability levels.

The purpose of this page is to guide all new students through the period 28 August - 2 October, whether you are going to be with us in the Language School for 2 days, or for 2 years, or anywhere in between. The information here is organised as follows:

Section 1 - Overview of the period 28 August - 2 October (from University Registration to Lesson 1)

Section 2 - The Exemption Exam. (EPEE)

- a. EPEE Overview
- b. EPEE Part 1
- c. EPEE Part 2

Section 3 - Orientation

Section 4 - The Importance of 2 October (*Lessons Day 1*)

Some friendly advice!

This document is long, and it contains a lot of detail; you are now a university student, and we expect you to read all this information carefully right up to the very end. How you read it is up to you, but it is a good idea to use the overview and section headings to get the general picture, and then read the detail as you need it.

The absolutely key preliminary information that you need to start acting on now as you make practical arrangements for travel and accommodation is the following:

You must be in Kayseri, on the university campus on **all of these dates**:

- 13/14 September;
- 27/28/29 September;
- 2 October

It seems hard to believe but every year some students ask us, in Week 2 of the first term, these questions:

- *I missed the exemption examination, and now I am at the bottom level - how can I move to a higher level?*

- *I missed the Orientation Program, and now I have no idea where to go or what to do - can you help me?*
- *I missed the first week of lessons because I thought that they were not important, and now I am behind everybody else in my class, and I feel lost - how can I catch up?*

Please do not fall into that trap; we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 13 September.

Section 1

Calendar Overview: **28 August - 2 October**

(From *University Registration until Lesson 1*)

Date	Event
	University registrations are completed
Wednesday 13 September <i>[All non-exempted 2023 students]</i>	English Exemption Examination (EPEE) Day 1 - for all 2023 Turkish National students (unless already exempted from Prep.) According to the results of the EPEE, students are placed at different stages of the English Prep. Program; not taking the EPEE results in a student being placed at the program's absolute beginning, and thus having to waste months doing again what they might already know. Students will be categorised as: a. <i>Level 1-</i> ; or b. <i>Level 1</i> ; or c. <i>Higher Levels? / Exempt?</i>
Thursday 14 September <i>[Not for all students]</i>	English Exemption Examination (EPEE) Day 2 - for 2023 students who, following EPEE Day 1, can potentially be placed at high levels, or exempted from Prep. completely.
Monday 18 September	Results announced for Part 2 of the English Exemption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who were completely successful in the EPEE (Parts 1 & 2) now have no further business with Prep. These students will be registered on the University Information System as Faculty students; for further information and activities they should be guided by their Faculty department. ● Students who are placed in Prep. learn their Prep. placement levels.
Tuesday 26 September <i>[All 2023 Prep. students]</i>	This is the last day for arrival in Kayseri for all new Prep. students. If you left Kayseri after the EPEE, make sure that you return, and settle into your accommodation, by the end of today (ready for Orientation).
Wednesday 27 September	Three-day Prep. Orientation Program

<p>- Friday 29 September</p> <p>[All 2023 Prep. students, not 2023 Faculty students]</p>	<p>If you are serious about passing AGU Prep., do NOT miss Orientation.</p> <p><i>Details are below in Section 3 - <u>Orientation</u></i></p>
<p>Monday 2 October</p> <p>[All 2023 Prep. students, not 2023 Faculty students]</p>	<p>Prep. Lessons Day 1</p> <p>If you are serious about passing AGU Prep., do NOT miss Day 1.</p> <p><i>Details are below in Section 4 - <u>Lessons Day 1</u></i></p>

Section 2

The English Exemption Exam (EPEE)

A. Overview

General principles

1. For all students whose English language proficiency level is not deemed to be sufficient to enter Faculty classes, the Prep. Program runs courses at **four** levels between Level 1 and Level 4.
2. The EPEE has two functions:
 - i. to exempt **completely**: following the EPEE some students will be exempted from the need to take Prep. English, and will thus be placed directly in Faculty classes;
 - ii. to exempt **partially**: following the EPEE students who remain in Prep. will be placed at the correct level in the Prep. Program. Being placed at even a slightly higher Prep. level, will increase a student's chances of graduating from Prep., and reaching Faculty classes sooner rather than later. For this reason, **it is strongly recommended** that **all** students attend the examinations.
3. According to the EPEE results, students are placed at different levels for each of: *Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Language Knowledge*. So, it is possible for a student to be in Level 3 for, say, Reading, but Level 2 for Writing.
4. As a result of the sum of these individual subject level results in the EPEE, a candidate will be placed in **one** of:
 - i. Prep. classes at Level 4, Level 3, Level 2, Level 1.
 - ii. Faculty classes

To be exempted from Prep. and be placed in Faculty a student must have both:

- i. been placed no lower than Level 4 for any of *Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Language Knowledge*;
 - ii. passed at least 2 of *Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Language Knowledge*.
5. All examinations will be conducted on campus.

6. All examinations will be invigilated according to strict rules.
6. All answers must be written in pen/pencil on paper.
7. Answer sheets are provided by the university, but students are responsible for bringing their own writing equipment.
8. No electronic devices are allowed at a student's examination desk, except for a mobile telephone, on condition that it remains: 1. switched OFF or switched to SILENT; 2. Out of sight (in pocket or handbag).
9. The use of (book) dictionaries is permitted, subject to security checks.
10. The Placement/Exemption Examination is divided into two main parts:
 - a. EPEE Part A - This is a basic level test of grammar, vocabulary, reading and short writing. As a result of EPEE Part 1 a student will be placed in ONE of:
 - i. Level 1 (for ALL subjects)
 - ii. Level 2 (for ALL subjects)
 - iii. EPEE Part B
 - b. EPEE Part B - This is a more advanced level test of grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In fact, EPEE Part B is made up of 5 separate Exams:
 - i. EPEE (B) Reading
 - ii. EPEE (B) Writing
 - iii. EPEE (B) Listening
 - iv. EPEE (B) Speaking
 - v. EPEE (B) Language Knowledge
 As a result of the (5-part) EPEE Part B a student will be placed in one of:
 - A mixture of Level 2-4 Prep. courses;
 - OR
 - Faculty.
11. The Examination Schedule will be as follows:

Exemption Examinations (EPEEs) for 2023	
Wednesday, 13 September (EPEE Day 1) - For TC National students only	
0800	Registration
0900	EPEE Part A
1230	EPEE Part A results announced
1235	Students who learn that their level has been determined, and that they will thus not take EPEE Part B, may leave.
1400	EPEE (B) <i>Speaking</i> (only for students who pass EPEE Part A)

Thursday, 14 September (EPEE Day 2) - For TC National students who pass EPEE Part A, and for English non-exempt International students	
0830	EPEE (2) <i>Reading</i>
1000	EPEE (2) <i>Writing</i>
1300	EPEE (2) <i>Listening</i>
1430	EPEE (2) <i>Language Knowledge</i>
1530	EXTRA EPEE (2) <i>Speaking</i> [for any students who were not examined on Wednesday]

B. Examination Details - EPEE Part 1

Information about examination question types

The EPEE Part 1 will be a test (50 minutes) of Reading, Writing, and Grammar/Vocabulary only (no Listening, and no Speaking).

i. Reading

Students will be given a text, or two short texts, to read. Using the information in the text, students will be expected to complete a table, or a timeline, or a family tree diagram, or some other 'graphic organiser'.

For example, this was the Reading section in the first part of the Exemption Examination in September 2022.

Section 1. READING *Use the information to complete the names in the boxes on the map below.*

Three Islands

In the USA there are a number of small but interesting islands. For example, in the North Atlantic Ocean there are three small islands near the coast of Massachusetts. The largest of the three is called Nantucket. The smallest is Muskeget; in between these two is Tuckernuck. Very few people live on Muskeget or Tuckernuck, but Nantucket has a population of 12,000. In summer, thousands of other people visit the island. The town on the island is also named Nantucket; it is located in the north central area, near the entrance to a large natural harbour. Nantucket has a history of whaling, and the town has an interesting museum. It is also famous for its Sea Wreck and Life-saving Museum. From Nantucket there are two ferry services: the Martha's Vineyard ferry travels north-west to Oak's Bluff; the other ferry sails north to Hyannis. There is also a small airport, which is south of the main town. Two other population centres are Polpis, on the east coast, and Siasconset in the south east.

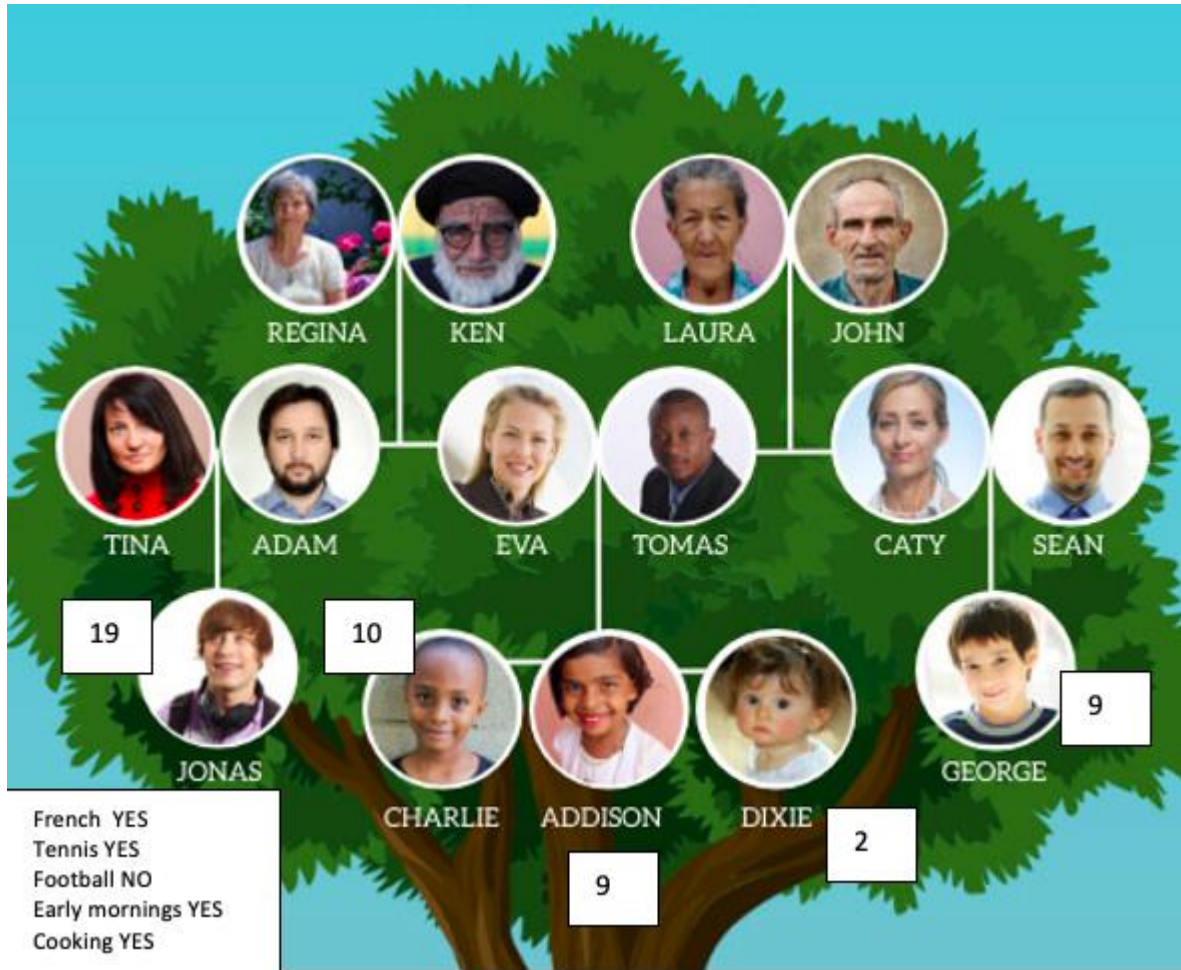
Nantucket has great natural beauty. There is a marine conservation area west of the airport. Many tourists visit Great Point, which offers dramatic scenery, quiet walks, and opportunities for wonderful sunrises and sunsets. Another famous point is "Smith's", which is close to the east coast of Tuckernuck. The area around Wauwinet has a double seaside – you can walk north and have the ocean on your right and more sea on your left. All around the coast are more than a dozen attractive beaches with fine sand and attractive dunes. Of

these the most accessible is probably Sunset, not far from Nantucket's third (very small) town. Like on many holiday islands, after summer it is very quiet when the visitors have left.



Section 2. WRITING

Use (some of) the information below to write ONE paragraph about Jonas Smith. [Do not attempt to use ALL the information.]



Name	Occupation	Residence
Jonas	Student (Mathematics)	Reading
Tina	Lawyer	London
Adam	Unemployed	Bath
Eva	Lawyer	Leeds
Tomas	Teacher	Leeds
Regina	Bank Manager	Sheffield
Ken	Writer	Sheffield

to prevent fermenting. This is accomplished through heating in ovens or blanching in hot water. They are then placed in the sun each morning for weeks, or sometimes months, before being placed in wooden boxes and left to sweat. The beans will lose nearly 80% of the original moisture content but their more than 250 natural flavour and fragrance components are completely developed. The entire process from pollination to shipment takes about one year.

7. Vanilla is the second most expensive spice (after saffron) due to the extensive labor required to grow, harvest, and cure the vanilla beans.

END OF TEXT 1

1. What is this text about?

The answer to question 1 is _

Fill in the Blank - 1 point

2. Which people first grew the Vanilla orchid plant?

The answer to question 2 is _

13. "Given Mesoamerica is a centre of origin and domestication of major crops, it is of worldwide importance in the context of global warming that we preserve the region's crop wild relatives and their genetic diversity," he said. "Local people traditionally use these diverse species as food and medicine, and numerous cultural groups have key roles to play in their preservation."

14. Wild relatives of food crops such as banana, apple, prunes and ginger are also on the red list as

END OF TEXT 2

11. Who conducted the research that is described in this report?

The answer to question 11 is _

Fill in the Blank - 1 point

2 12. What are two things endangering wild relatives of potatoes, avocados

The answer to question 12 is _

Short-Answer/Essay Question - 1 point - Subjective

3 13. Complete the table:

IUCN red list of threatened plants and animals	
a. _____	Highest risk of extinction
Wild cotton	b. ___ species at risk

iii. Writing

In the Writing examination, you will have a choice of questions to answer; if you want to be exempted, or placed at a higher level, you should choose the most difficult question; if you prefer you may choose the easier, or the easiest question, but if you do so, the level at which you will be placed will be limited.

Below is the 2022 Writing exam.

[Note that the duration of the examination is 90 minutes, but a student may leave at the 45-minute mark if they wish.]

Choose **ONE** of the following three questions

To have a chance of being exempted from the Prep. Writing Program you must choose Question A. You must also refer to the short texts on the following page. If you choose Question C, you cannot be placed higher than Writing Level 2.

Question A

Present your opinion on the following statement.

Private car ownership is damaging society and the environment.

Use the short texts on the following page to support your answer.

Write 400 - 500 words for the question above. In your answer:

- i. Write an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion.
- ii. Take a position and present arguments to support it.
- iii. To support your ideas, you **must** make use of the short texts on the following pages.
- iv. Express your ideas as clearly as you can.
- v. **Include a Reference List**

90 mins

OR

Question B

Describe the public transport in your hometown.

Answer this question as clearly as you can in more than one paragraph.

Write 200 - 300 words.

45 - 90 mins

OR

Question C

Describe a journey you took in the past.

In 80 - 150 words, write at least one paragraph.

45 mins

Go to the following page for the resources for Question A.

iv. Listening

In the Listening Examination, first there are easier listening texts, and easier questions. For example, one question last year was:

1

Section 1

You will hear a radio programme about some historic places to visit.
For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

HISTORIC PLACES TO VISIT

Black Rock Caves

- Over _ million years old (BLANK 1)
- For 500,000 years these animals lived in the caves:
_ (BLANK 2)
- There are special evening tours here in the month of
_. (BLANK 3)

Salter House

- Built in this year: _ (BLANK 4)
- Made famous by 'Aunt Dorothy'
- All visitors want to see Dorothy's _ . (BLANK 5)

The Old Port

- Have a ride on an old tram to the _ village. (BLANK 6)
- In the _ , find out how people used to make sweets (BLANK 7)

In the second part of the Listening Examination, you must listen to a talk and take notes (but without knowing what the questions will be). So, last year, students:

1. had to write notes (on a blank piece of paper), while they listened to a talk about a special aeroplane;

THEN

they were given to questions to answer:

Note carefully that in this section:

- a. you will take notes **before** you see questions;
- b. **after** you see the questions, you will not hear the talk again.

v. Language Knowledge

[There are no sample materials available for this examination]

- To pass this examination at a high enough level to be placed in Level 3, you will need to demonstrate correctness in basic grammar forms as well as knowing how to write complex sentences, including the reporting of what other people say. You will also need to be able to make transformations such as Active to Passive.
- To pass this examination at a high enough level to be placed in Level 4, you will need to manipulate sentences to produce new sentences with similar meaning but different grammar, and you will need to know how to report ideas using academic reporting verbs.
- To pass this examination at a high enough level to be placed in Faculty, you will need to know how to produce in-text citations, which may be simple but which are also appropriate according to principles of academic integrity.

Section 3

Orientation

The AGU Prep. Orientation Program is for Prep. students only, and is not to be confused with any later, university-wide, orientation program.

The AGU Prep. Orientation Program takes place over three days at the end of September: 27 - 29 September. (These three days are the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday just before classes start on Monday 2 October).

The aim of AGU Prep. Orientation is to prepare new (2023) Prep. students practically, socially, and academically, for their new lives as university students. You need to be very aware that university is different from high school:

- A university campus is bigger than a school campus;
- A university has many more people in it than a school (- at AGU, there are more than 6000 students, and staff);
- University timetables are much more complicated than school timetables;
- For different courses you will need to find and go to different classrooms (in contrast to most schools, where students often stay in one room and wait for their teachers to come and find them);
- University students are treated like adults; this is different from school, where part of the job of a teacher is to 'look after' students (because they are still legally children);
- At school teachers tell you to do homework, but at university **you are responsible** for developing and implementing your own private study system and schedule.

AGU Prep. Orientation will help you make the jump from school to university. These three days, which will be informative and pleasant, will help to make your first few weeks pleasant and will increase your chance of academic success.

If you are rash enough to consider missing Orientation (**Don't!**), when you arrive on Monday 2 October, you will feel very uncomfortable, and you will find yourself asking these questions (to yourself):

WHERE?

- *Where do I go?*
- *Where are my classrooms?*
- *Are my classrooms in different buildings!?*
- *Where is the Lab. Building?*
- *Where can I find food and drink?*

WHEN?

- *When do I go to classes?*
- *What is my timetable?*

- *When do I go home?*

WHO IS WHO?

- *Who do I ask about courses?*
- *Who do I ask about email?*
- *Who do I ask about the Learning Management System?*
- *Who do I ask about the Student Information System?*
- *Who is my Advisor / 'University Transition' instructor?*

WHAT?

- *What is the Prep. Program passing system?*
- *What is 'University Transition'?*
- *What is 'The World Around Us'?*

WHY?

- *Why don't I know anybody?*
- *Why do other people know each other, but I know nobody?*
- *Why can I not seem to grasp a lot of the details that are written on the AGU Prep. web page?*
- *Why do other students seem to have grasped these details much better than I have?*

We look forward to helping you at Orientation.

[Please understand that after Orientation we will all be busy with teaching - sorry that we will not have time to spend on students who decided that orientation was not important.]

Section 4

The Importance of Teaching Day 1

Prep. terms are made up of seven weeks of teaching, followed by some days of assessment. So there are 35 teaching days per term. Please do not miss any of these days. If you (mistakenly) think that 'not much will happen on Day 1', please think again. Lessons will start at 0800 on Monday 2 October; they will be full lessons; after these lessons you will be expected to do your own private study ready for Teaching Day 2.

Please do not miss this.

If a student were to miss just that Monday, they would lose out on 3% of the whole term. Even worse, some students have an idea that at university, the first week is not important, because lessons do not really take place. This is **not true** at AGU Prep.; if a student here misses Week 1, they will miss 15% of the term, so this is definitely not to be recommended. Please come on Day 1.

Final words

- We congratulate you on becoming an AGU student.
- We hope that you read and apply carefully all the information on this web page.
- We look forward to seeing you here on campus on 13 September, and on 27 September, and on 2 October.
- We wish you a happy and successful 2023/2024 Academic Year!