

Innovative EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Program for International Students Opens

Today, English proficiency is necessary for academic and professional advancement throughout the world. Oranim International School opened the MASA ATI Intensive program in order to prepare students from all over the world for international English exams including AMIR, TOEFL, and IELTS.



This July, 24 international students arrived at Oranim College for MASA ATI Intensive, a four-month preparation program for international English exams including AMIR, TOEFL, and IELTS. These exams are required by most academic institutions in more than 130 countries and by various professional organizations throughout the world.

Students come from all over the Former Soviet Union (FSU), including Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan. No comparable program preparing students for all three exams exists in the FSU, Europe, or Israel.

Intensive English Study

The focus of the program is an intensive English language course covering the basic skills required for the exams: reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. Students work as individuals and in groups to develop these skills through frontal and online lessons, as well as an English social club and collaborative projects. The English club provides a fun and meaningful environment to enhance learning and build English conversational skills through theater, debate, movies, literature, and recording at Oranim's radio station.

Exploring Israel

In addition, students participate in supplementary educational programming including:

- Hebrew language instruction
- Day trips throughout the country
- Volunteering at local non-profit organizations

- Enrichment programming on Israel and Jewish identity
- Celebration of Jewish holidays with host Israeli families

Each week, students participate in a workshop exploring Jewish and Israeli history and culture. Topics have included Israeli music, the military, technology in Israel, and the Jewish holidays. Field trips throughout Israel make Israel's history come alive. So far, students have travelled to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Beit She'arim.

The first two months of the program focused on gaining the English skills necessary for the exam. Now, students are focusing on taking practice exams and reviewing their results to learn how to improve. Next month, the students will enjoy the Jewish holidays in Israel, hosted by Oranim faculty and other Israeli families. They will also volunteer in various frameworks.

Student Feedback

Students have been very happy with the high quality of the faculty, the high level courses, and the attentiveness of the staff. Some of the best of Oranim's EFL faculty, many who are native English speakers, teach in the program.

Students also report that they appreciate the complex and "real" understanding of Israel that the program is giving them. The staff gives them space to address the difficult questions they have regarding Israel in an open and supportive environment.

Vision for the Future

In the future, Oranim International School hopes to expand MASA ATI to attract students from all over the world. Connections have already been made in Europe and South America in order to recruit students. Oranim also hopes to include Israeli students in the program. The vision is for Oranim College to become an international center for studying English as a foreign language for academic purposes.