

NEW İSTANBUL NİŞANTAŞI UNIVERSITY

FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

FLD POST

E-BULLETIN / APRIL 2026

CAMBRIDGE
English Educational Partner

NEW İSTANBUL NİŞANTAŞI UNIVERSITY

İSTANBUL NİŞANTAŞI UNIVERSITY FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

E-BULLETIN / APRIL 2026

Training on Using AI in Language Teaching



Foreign Languages Department participated in a two-day training program focusing on the use of artificial intelligence in language education. Held on March 26–27 and hosted by Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University, the event was attended on behalf of our department by Sefanur Onur and Büşranur Alkanat. Academics from various universities across Türkiye took part in the training both in person and online. Delivered in a hands-on format, the program consisted of six sessions covering the following topics:

- Introduction to Edtech & Building Apps with AI
- Designing No-Code AI Workflows for Teaching and Learning
- Universities in the Age of Automation: AI as a Partner for Productivity and Effectiveness
- Building AI Agents for Productivity, Teaching and Learning
- Designing Learning in the Age of AI: What Should Remain Human?
- Integrating Student–Bot Interaction into ESL Lessons

This training has made a valuable contribution to our department's efforts to follow innovative teaching approaches and adapt to digital transformation in education. We will continue to participate in such events.



Writing Unpacked Training Conducted

As part of the monthly Continuous Professional Development (CPD) program conducted by the Foreign Languages Department, the training titled “Writing Unpacked: From Task to Grade – A CEFR-Aligned Writing Assessment & Standardization Workshop” was held in two sessions, open to the participation of al instructors.

The training focused on strengthening standardization in grading the writing components of exams in alignment with students’ levels.

Throughout the sessions, particular emphasis was placed on methods that support students in understanding writing prompts more clearly and accurately. In addition, practical activities were carried out to promote a more consistent and fair approach to the “task response” criterion, which is a key component of the assessment process.

With the active participation of our instructors, the training proved to be highly productive in terms of contributing to assessment practices and providing examples of best practices.

Students Came Together at the FLD Talks Event



As part of the extracurricular activities carried out within our Foreign Languages Department, students delivered presentations in English on topics and fields of their interest during the FLD Talks event organized for the third module.

With the participation of a total of 15 students, we had the opportunity to listen to inspiring and informative talks from various disciplines. Throughout this process, our students had the chance to actively use their English language skills while also gaining confidence in public speaking.

The event also created a highly motivating environment for the attending students, who were inspired by their peers and expressed increased interest in participating in similar events in the future.

At the end of the event, participation certificates were presented to al student speakers by the Head of the School of Foreign Languages, Assoc. Prof. İhsan İkizer.



Debate Fever Has Kicked Off

Inter-class debates have begun in our Foreign Languages Department, aiming to enhance students' critical thinking, self-expression, and academic English skills.

Bringing together students from different classes, these events provide participants with the opportunity to defend their opinions and develop counterarguments in English on current and engaging topics. In each session, students not only showcase their individual performance but also strengthen their teamwork skills.

Held in an interactive and dynamic environment, the debates contribute to students' self-confidence while also alowing them to experience the culture of academic discussion.



Debate Tournament Final Successfully Held

The English Debate Tournament, organized with the participation of our preparatory class students at B1 Plus and B2 levels, has been successfully completed. With a total of 15 different teams taking part, our students actively demonstrated their English debating skills by presenting diverse perspectives throughout the tournament.

During the competition, teams gained valuable experience in structuring their ideas, analysing opposing arguments, and expressing themselves effectively. At the same time, the collaborative nature of the preparation process supported their academic development through teamwork.

We would like to congratulate al our students who contributed to these engaging and educational debates, as well as the teachers who supported them. We also extend our special congratulations to MB1 Plus 09 and MB2 02 classes for their outstanding achievement.

Our debate tournament will continue in Module 4. Stay tuned by following our Instagram page to keep up with our upcoming events.



Participation in UES UNIFEST 2026 Conference

Foreign Languages Department participated in UES UNIFEST 2026, one of the prominent events that brings together English language teaching professionals from higher education. Held under the theme “AI, Humanity, and the New Language Classroom,” this year’s conference hosted a range of sessions shedding light on the future of language education.

The conference brought together English instructors working in the Departments of Foreign Languages at universities and addressed how technology and human creativity can coexist, as well as how this interaction can transform language learning processes. Participants had the opportunity to explore innovative approaches that support students in becoming more effective and well-equipped individuals in a rapidly changing world.

Through inspiring talks delivered by experts in the field, interactive workshops, and productive discussion sessions, the event provided valuable opportunities for exchanging ideas and strengthening professional networks.

Our Head of the Foreign Languages Department, Assoc. Prof. İhsan İkizer, along with our coordinators, actively participated in the sessions throughout the event, closely following current developments and gaining insights to bring back to our institution.



CPD Training on Teaching Listening Skills Held

As part of our ongoing professional development activities, our monthly CPD session was held on Thursday, April 30.

This session was designed as a practical workshop for instructors from the Foreign Languages Department, focusing on moving beyond simply testing listening skills to teaching learners how to listen more effectively. Throughout the workshop, our instructors explored classroom-friendly approaches, practical techniques, and adaptable strategies that can be integrated into textbook listening activities.

The session provided our instructors with the opportunity to reflect on their current practices and to enhance their teaching processes through more interactive and learner-centred listening activities.

Our Management Team

Head of the Department – Assoc. Prof. İhsan İkizer
e-mail: ihsan.ikizer@nisantasi.edu.tr

Academic Coordinator – Siavash Bakhtshirin
e-mail: siavash.bakhtshirin@nisantasi.edu.tr

Administrative Coordinator – Büşra Uğurlu
e-mail: busra.ugurlu@nisantasi.edu.tr

CPD Senior Specialist– Seyed Hashem Hosseini
e-mail: seyedhashem.hosseini@nisantasi.edu.tr

Curriculum and Material Development Senior Specialist – Eda Begüm Erer
e-mail: edabegum.erer@nisantasi.edu.tr

Testing & Assesment Senior Specialist – Zarrin Khatibi
e-mail: zarrin.khatibi@nisantasi.edu.tr

Testing & Assesment Specialist – Bülent Özhim
e-mail: bulent.ozhim@nisantasi.edu.tr

Testing & Assesment Specialist – Parisa Naini
e-mail: parisa.naini@nisantasi.edu.tr

Reporting & Planning Specialist – Sefanur Onur
e-mail: sefanur.onur@nisantasi.edu.tr

Education Specialist – Sibel Erözden
e-mail: sibel.erozden@nisantasi.edu.tr

Department Secretary – Zehra Yavaş
e-mail: zehra.yavas@nisantasi.edu.tr

Academic Coordinator's Assistant – Azra Nihan Eke
e-mail: azranihan.eke@nisantasi.edu.tr

Level Leader – Melisa Ronasi
e-mail: melisa.ronasi@nisantasi.edu.tr

Level Leader – Gözde Rana Sezer
e-mail: gözderana.sezer@nisantasi.edu.tr

Level Leader – Feride Elsaidi
e-mail: feride.elsaidi@nisantasi.edu.tr

İSTANBUL
NİŞANTAŞI
UNIVERSITY

FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT