

English for Academic Purposes

The five W's of the committee's process



Members of the Committee:

- **Prof. Claude Goldenberg** - Stanford University, **USA**- chair
- **Mw. Dr. E.A. Anne Bannink**- University of Amsterdam, **Netherlands**
- **Dr. Elisheva Barkon**- Head of the committee for teaching English in the Ministry of Education, Oranim College **Israel**
- **Prof. Dr. Claudia Finkbeiner**- University of Kassel, Kassel, **Germany**
- **Prof. dr. Alex Housen**- Vrije University Brussel, **Belgium**
- **Prof. Karen M. Lauridsen**- Aarhus BSS University, **Denmark**
- **Prof. Anna Mauranen**- University of Helsinki, **Finland**
- **Prof. (emeritus) Elite Olshtain**- Hebrew University, **Israel**.
- **Prof. (emeritus) Penny Ur**– teaching practice of English theory, Chair of the Israeli Committee for English for Mechinot, **Israel**
- **Prof. Dr. Marjolijn Verspoor**- Chair of the English Department and teaches courses in Applied Linguistics and English Language and Culture, University of Groningen, **Netherlands**



Why Now?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq65aAYCH0w>

- Unifying the field country-wide
- Calling from the students and units at the institutions
- Internalization

Also- Why

Recent developments in EAP studies in Israel today

- Reports and findings were being initiated by the CHE and are being discussed since 2013
- The development of online courses
- The strengthening of internationalism and the growing numbers of international students- coming in and out of Israel
- The growing need and demand of using English in the Job Market
- initiatives by the MOE and other bodies teaching English to adopt the CEFR



Performing a national thorough quality examination of the situation by the best professionals we can find

Who, When

Two rounds of visits to Israel : February & March 2018, Meetings with:

- Chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Council for Higher Education and other representatives of the Council for Higher Education
- Representatives from the institutions - management & members from the English for academic purposes units
- Representatives of the Open University who operate the online courses in English
- Representatives of the Ministry of Education
- Representatives of student associations
- Representation from the National Center for Testing and Evaluation (NITE- **מאלי"ו**)
- Additional stakeholders in the field include Eco-Star initiatives, students with private initiatives for English studies as well as experts in the field of digital teaching development.



Where

- During the committee's visits, two seminars were held, with representatives from all the institutions of HE:
- Conference 1- February 2018: broad thematic discussions on the subject, discussion groups to create a direct dialogue between the committee members and the Representatives of the English units.
- Conference 2- March 2018: feedback to some of the insights that the committee developed during the process and during its first visit, and an effort to deepen the challenges and solutions offered for teaching English in Israel.
- The seminar and the many meetings the committee held contributed significantly to the final report writing.
- At the end of the visit, the committee submitted a draft report summarizing the subject of English for academic purposes.
- In addition, each institution will receive a short feedback from the committee based on the self-evaluation report the institution submitted.



What- Main points that came up throughout the committee's discussions

- Insufficient level of students and graduates in English
- The quality of the online courses
- Required Skills in English in HE- “Graduate Profile”
- Lack of standardization in the field (admission requirements, content and syllabi, conditions of passing and exemption).
- Mutual recognition among institutions in the field
- The involvement of the institutions Management in English studies
- The institutional status of the teaching staff in the English units
- Initiatives and individual projects that arise from the field



But Really- WHAT? And our job as a regulator

- The level of English in Israel, at all levels, are inadequate and does not correspond to the level in non English speaking European countries- **cooperating with the MOE**
- There is no minimum level required for admission to higher education- **is this our place to step in?**
- There are no clear and uniform standards such as those in Europe (CEFR) to provide a suitable response to the needs of the student and the graduate.
- The contents of the study and the method of teaching throughout the system **must include basic skills in understanding, speaking, reading and writing in English** (as is customary in the world).
- There is no proper and regulated communication for the purpose of mutual recognition between institutions.
- The status of **English units** in institutions is not defined or regulated.



לצורך הצלחת התהליך, הוא
יעשה תוך התקשרות ותאום בין משרד החינוך,
מערך המכינות, מאל"ו, יחידות האנגלית
במוסדות, מל"ג ות"ת והנהלת המוסדות
להשכלה גבוהה.

