

OLive-Access Curriculum Overview

Open Learning Initiative (OLive) offers university preparatory programs to students with a refugee background in Europe who wish to continue their graduate studies (at a Masters level) in English. Through our individually tailored courses and student-centered teaching and learning methods, we work to address the inequalities in access that displaced students experience when trying to enter the European higher education systems.

OLive programs are offered at Bard College Berlin (BCB), University of Vienna, University of East London and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in the framework of the Refugee Education Initiatives 2 (REIs2) project (December 2018 - June 2021), co-financed by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and coordinated by Central European University (CEU).

Under REIs2, at Bard College Berlin we prepare students for entry to masters programs at Central European University. For this, we designed 3 programs:

- OLive-Plus: September 2019 to January 2020
- OLive-Access: January - May 2020
- OLive-UP: September 2020 - May 2021

OLive-Access is part one of a two-stage process, with the aim of preparing students for Master's study in English. It is a 4-month course of study, structured in two modules that ready students for the rigors of the 9-month OLive University Preparatory Program (OLive-UP). It is designed for students with a BA level of education and strong academic potential who do not yet have the English level to engage in the kind of academic study demanded by the curriculum of OLive-UP. A student of OLive-Access should start with B1 English (intermediate) and will receive intensive English for Academic Purposes (EAP) classes, study skills training, and basic academic tutoring.

OLive-Access provides over 200 hours of EAP classes over two modules that take students, based on [CEFR guidelines](#), from a B1 level to a B2 level; the minimum level required to enter OLive-UP. The EAP component has a core course and separate classes that build up accuracy and consistency in the English language. These courses are run in an integrated way that assist individual students in achieving a coherency of knowledge at the B2 level.

There are two supplementary Academic Foundation components: Study Skills and Tutoring. The first takes place in module A and focuses on developing independent study skills and the second takes place in module B and addresses gaps in knowledge and ways of engaging with a discipline, in terms of what is required in OLive-UP and, subsequently, in an international graduate program.

Relation of Access to UP

OLive-Access

Students have a BA level education and B1 English. At B1 level, a student can engage in a basic communicative classroom across skill areas – Speaking, Reading, Writing, Listening. Students do not yet have the English to be prepared

for a standardized English language test (OLive usually prepares students for [TOEFL IBT](#)) or engage in basic academic tutoring for a master's program. Alongside English, they learn study skills and basic disciplinary knowledge that is a starting point for a foundation year. By the end of the program, students reach B2 level English.

OLive-UP

Students have a BA level education and B2 level English. At B2 level, students can take regular academic tutoring classes and prepare for a standardized English language test. In the program, they develop advanced study skills and disciplinary knowledge that is expected for entry to masters' programs in English.

OLive-Access By Component

Module	Component	Number of Weekly Sessions	Total Number of Weekly Units (U)	Total Number of Weeks
Module A	Study Skills Pre-Session	14 x 2U	28	1
	English for Academic Purposes 1	11 x 2U	22	7
	Academic Foundations 1: Study Skills	2 x 2U	4	7
Module B	English for Academic Purposes 2	11 x 2U	22	6
	Academic Foundations 2: Tutoring	2 x 2U	4	6
	Independent Study	13 x 2U	26	1
Module C	OLive-UP Pre-Session	14 x 2U	28	1
	Independent Summer	6U	6	14

	Study Session			
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By Module

Module A	Study Skills Session – One week	<p>Introduction to graduate studies: from OLIve-Access to OLIve-UP to CEU Master's programs</p> <p>OLIve-Access Curriculum overview</p> <p>Study Skills Training</p> <p>Introduction to Individual Study Plans</p> <p>Academic English Orientation</p> <p>English Level Assessment by Skills Areas (Speaking, Reading, Writing, Reading)</p> <p>Tools:</p> <p>English Entry Level Test</p> <p>Individual Study Plan</p>
	Teaching Block 1 – Seven Weeks	<p>Academic English Classes 1</p> <p>Academic Foundations 1: Study Skills</p> <p>Tool:</p> <p>End of Module A English Progress Test</p> <p>Academic Presentation</p> <p>Mid-term Program Feedback</p> <p>Confirmatory Entry Assessment for OLIve-UP</p> <p>Tutoring Needs Analysis</p>
Module B	Teaching Block 2 – Six Weeks + 1 independent study week	<p>Academic English Classes 2</p> <p>Academic Foundations 2: Tutoring</p> <p>Tool:</p> <p>English Exit Level Test</p> <p>Tutoring Test/Paper</p>
Module C	OLIve-UP Pre-Session – One Week	<p>Common session for OLIve-Access students and the newly recruited OLIve-UP students</p> <p>Orienting all students towards OLIve-UP</p> <p>Presentation of OLIve-UP Curriculum</p> <p>CEU Departmental presentations</p> <p>Developing the Independent Summer Study Plan</p> <p>Workshop: Independent Summer Study Plan - presentations and peer-feedback</p> <p>Workshop on TOEFL preparation</p> <p>Tool:</p>

		Individual Study Plans Program Feedback Course Evaluations
	Independent Summer Study Session - Fourteen Weeks	Independent Summer Study Session Academic Tutoring Readings Academic English Assignments TOEFL practice Online Progress Report Meetings Tool: Progress Reports Individual Summer Study Plan Syllabi - week-by-week TOEFL Book TOEFL practice online course

By Date

January 22th OLive-Access Orientation Session Starts

Jan 22nd Students Arrive
Jan 23 - 24 BCB Orientation

January 27th Module A Starts

Jan 27th Study Skills Session Starts
Feb 3rd Teaching Block 1 Starts
Feb 3rd Academic English 1 courses start
Feb 3rd Academic Foundations 1 courses start
Feb 3rd Teaching Block 1 Week 1
Feb 10th Teaching Block 1 Week 2
Feb 17th Teaching Block 1 Week 3
Feb 24th Teaching Block 1 Week 4
Mar 2nd Teaching Block 1 Week 5
Mar 9th Teaching Block 1 Week 6
Mar 16th Teaching Block 1 Week 7

March 23rd Module B Starts

Mar 23rd Teaching Block 2 Week 1
Mar 23rd Academic English 2 courses start
Mar 23rd Academic Foundations 2 courses start
Mar 30th Teaching Block 2 Week 2
Apr 6th Individual Study Week Starts
Apr 13th Teaching Block 2 Week 3
Apr 20th Teaching Block 2 Week 4

Apr 27th Teaching Block 2 Week 5
May 4th Teaching Block 2 Week 6

May 11th Module C starts

May 11th OLive-UP Pre-Session Starts
May 18th Independent Summer Study Week 1
May 25th Independent Summer Study Week 2
Jun 1st Independent Summer Study Week 3
Jun 8th Independent Summer Study Week 4
Jun 15th Independent Summer Study Week 5
Jun 22nd Independent Summer Study Week 6
Jun 29 Independent Summer Study Week 7
Jul 6th Independent Summer Study Week 8
Jul 13th Independent Summer Study Week 9
Jul 20th Independent Summer Study Week 10
Jul 27th Independent Summer Study Week 11
Aug 3rd Independent Summer Study Week 12
Aug 10th Independent Summer Study Week 13
Aug 17th Independent Summer Study Week 14

August 26th OLive-UP Starts

By Milestone (Dates in Week of)

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. English Entry Test | 27th Jan |
| 2. Entry Study Goals Individual Plan | 3rd Feb |
| 3. Confirming Tutoring Subjects | 3rd Feb |
| 4. Tutors Conduct Needs Analysis | 24th Feb |
| 5. Presentations for Academic Foundations 1 | 16th Mar |
| 6. End of Module A English Progress Test | 16th Mar |
| 7. Student Feedback on Module A | 16th Mar |
| 8. Confirming Place on OLive-UP | 16th Mar |
| 9. Confirming Tutoring for OLive-UP | 6th April |
| 10. Exit English Test | 4th May |
| 11. Tutoring Test/Paper | 4 th May |
| 12. Student Feedback on Module B | 4th May |
| 13. Student Feedback on OLive-Access | 11th May |
| 14. Exit Reflection/Goals Consultation | 11th May |
| 15. Independent Summer Study Plan | 11th May |
| 16. Progress Report Meeting 1 Module C | 1st Jun |
| 17. Progress Report Meeting 2 Module C | 6th Jul |
| 18. Progress Report Meeting 3 Module C | 3rd Aug |

Descriptions of Milestones

1. English Entry Test

The students have all been assessed as having B1 English. There may be variances skill by skill, which should be identified at the outset. In order to both study in OLIVE-UP and to be prepared for the TOEFL exam, they should start Access with a B1 level in all areas: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. The amount of English input in terms of hours and content have been designed for this profile. Any variances here, should be noted and addressed by the OLIVE-Access program.

In addition, the test will provide an indicator of progress when compared to the exit test.

2. Entry Study Goals Individual Plan

The purpose of this plan is to make each student individually reflect on their studies as they embark on OLIVE-Access. It will be after a week in which we have workshops on how to study, discuss in detail the program and assess English. This will be the best opportunity to focus on their individual trajectory and development as perceived at the outset.

3. Confirming Tutoring Subjects

Meeting in which future study area is confirmed. Students will have reflected on this in the Study Skills Week and clarified any questions or misconceptions. Recruitment of tutors starts after this week.

4. Tutors Conduct Needs Analysis

Tutors assess what disciplinary knowledge/skills gaps are missing in terms of being at the optimal level to start academic tutoring in OLIVE-UP. While OLIVE-UP is a 9-month program, students should be ready to apply for an MA after only 5-months (based on the anticipated [CEU Master's programs application deadlines](#)).

This should inform each syllabi and in some cases may indicate, well in advance, that a student's summer study plan needs to be heavily loaded towards disciplinary preparatory work.

5. Presentations for Academic Foundations 1

The Academic Foundations 1 component ends with a presentation. Basis for assessment of progress in Academic Foundations 1 classes. Audience: OLIVE students, faculty and staff.

6. End of Module A English Progress Test

Students should have made progress that can be clearly identified by this stage (100+ hours). The test will assess this and can be the basis for any adjustments in teaching Academic English 2 in Module B.

7. Student Feedback on Module A

Assessing the effectiveness of the 1st module from the students' perspective and whether the module structure lead to the desired learning outcomes.

8. Confirming Place in OLive-UP

Based on performance over Module A, a decision can be made whether to confirm the offer of a place in OLive-UP. The progress test, the Academic Foundations 1 Presentation and a commitment to tutoring are used as indicators here.

9. Confirming Tutoring for OLive-UP

Assessment of what tutoring discipline the student wants to be prepared for in OLive-UP. This is particularly relevant in preparing the post-session week. Newly recruited OLive-UP students are included.

10. Exit English Test

Assessment of progress. Basis for independent summer study session (bridging study plan).

11. Tutoring Test/Paper

Assessment of progress in Academic Foundations 2 classes.

12. Student Feedback on Module B

Assessing the effectiveness of the 2nd module from the students' perspective and whether the module structure lead to the desired learning outcomes.

13. Student Feedback on OLive-Access

Assessing how the two modules worked together and how the students see the study plan for Module C and the transition to OLive-Plus

14. Exit Reflections/Goals Consultation

Individual reflections on study plan, what was achieved, what were the main challenges and what is next.

15. Independent Summer Study Plan

As part of Module C, students in collaboration with the academic support staff agree on a bridging study plan between OLive-Access and OLive-UP. With goals, check-in dates and planned study schedule.

16. Progress Report Meeting 1 Module C

Monthly meeting with the academic support staff on the bridging study plans. Monitoring progress, providing feedback, advice and strategies to go forward. Meeting upon request with OLive Director.

16. Progress Report Meeting 2 Module C

Monthly meeting with the academic support staff on the bridging study plans. Monitoring progress, providing feedback, advice and strategies to go forward. Meeting upon request with OLive Director.

16. Progress Report Meeting 3 Module C

Monthly meeting with the academic support staff on the bridging study plans. Monitoring progress, providing feedback, advice and strategies to go forward. Meeting upon request with OLive Director.

