

Language policy

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1. Purpose

The University of Pretoria provides an intellectual home to anyone who has the interest and ability to participate in its programmes. The University acknowledges that every student has a right to excellent education. The University undertakes to develop and use the languages of tuition, Afrikaans and English, as valuable instruments of science. The Language Policy of the University is based on the provisions of the University's Statute as approved by Council, Senate and the Minister of Education.

Considerations

The University of Pretoria:

- 1.1 acknowledges that there are eleven official languages, that all official languages have equal status and that they all should be treated equitably;
- 1.2 promotes the development not only of all the official languages, but also of other languages used in the South African community;
- 1.3 recognises the right of every individual to receive tuition at a tertiary institution via the medium of the official language or languages of his or her choice, to the extent that it is fair and feasible for a particular institution to provide tuition through the official language or languages concerned;
- 1.4 adopts the principle that a language policy may not cause any persons to be denied reasonable access to higher education; and
- 1.5 adopts the principle that a language policy must be affordable.

2. Organisational scope

This policy has a University-wide application.

3. Policy statement

Bearing in mind the above considerations, the following policy is accepted:



- 3.1 In conducting its business, the University shall use two official languages, namely Afrikaans and English with Sepedi as a third language of communication.
- 3.2 Tuition programmes can be presented either in Afrikaans or in English or in both these languages of tuition, provided that there is a demand for instruction in the language(s) concerned and that such programmes are academically and economically justifiable.
- 3.3 Afrikaans and English are to be used and developed as academic languages in order to achieve excellence in academic communication.
- 3.4 The University shall promote the development of other languages (official and non-official) by, inter alia, presenting language courses and language programmes in these languages, provided that there is a demand for such courses and that such courses are academically and economically justifiable.
- 3.5 In respect of administrative and other services, clients shall have the right to choose whether the University should communicate with them in Afrikaans or in English.
- 3.6 There is to be no discrimination against any staff member or student who has command of only Afrikaans or of only English or of only these two languages.
- 3.7 The University shall provide staff members with the necessary support and training to enable them to communicate in Afrikaans and in English.
- 3.8 The University shall support students by providing tuition in the languages of instruction.
- 3.9 Each unit within the University shall implement the above policy.

4. Implementation rules: Undergraduate academic programmes

Faculties

- 4.1 Each faculty shall apply the Language Policy as mentioned above in such a way that the aims of Paragraph 3(3) of the Statute will be achieved over the long term.
- 4.2 With consideration to Paragraph 3(3) of the Statute, each faculty shall submit a long-term language plan to Senate and the Executive detailing how the faculty aims to manage its affairs regarding the language of tuition with reference to (a) programmes in the faculty and (b) modules in the faculty.
- 4.3 A faculty's long-term language plan must be academically justifiable from a teaching and learning point of view.
- 4.4 The long-term language plan of each faculty is subject to approval by Senate and the Executive.
- 4.5 The University's budget and staff policy must enable a faculty to execute its approved long-term language plan.
- 4.6 The relevant dean will be responsible for the execution of the approved long-term language plan in the faculty.

- 4.7 The dean must report annually to the Executive on the ways in which the faculty's long-term language plan has been implemented.

Communication

- 4.8 Notice must be given in official University publications of which programmes will be presented in either Afrikaans or English or both languages.
- 4.9 Notice must be given in official University publications of whether individual modules (ie the building blocks of academic programmes) will be presented in either Afrikaans or English or both languages.
- 4.10 An individual lecturer or head of department may only deviate from the published information after the relevant dean has granted permission.
- 4.11 A faculty's long-term language plan is made known to prospective students in publications. Should a faculty's long-term plan change, sufficient notice should be given.

Examinations, tests and assignments

- 4.12 All students are entitled to write tests and examinations in either Afrikaans or English. A lecturer may not apply pressure of whatever nature to induce students to write tests or examinations in a specific language, with the exception that this rule does not apply to language modules.
- 4.13 Rule 4.12 also applies in principle to assignments. Students enrolled for professional qualifications may however be required from time to time to complete a task or tasks in a particular language as part of their professional training.

Disputes

- 4.14 Should a problem about the language of tuition occur between a lecturer and a student, the following persons (in the order mentioned below) are responsible for addressing and attempting to solve it:
- head of department
 - dean
 - Registrar

Responsible member of the Executive

- 4.15 The Registrar is the person responsible for overseeing the implementation of and all decisions relating to the University's Language Policy.
- 4.16 The Registrar will report annually to Council on the implementation of the University's Language Policy.

5. Document metadata

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