



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

SCIENCE
EYENZULULWAZI NGEZENDALO
NATUURWETENSKAPPE

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 2025

ACADEMIC YEAR

DATE: 02 SEPTEMBER 2024



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1. Context

One of the principles of the Language Policy is that language should promote access and not be a barrier for students or staff to be successful whether it is the academic, professional or social environment. Within a diverse student community, language is critical for individuals to engage, participate and contribute intellectually in a social, economic, political and cultural environment. The Faculty of Science uses English and Afrikaans in teaching, learning and assessment opportunities and endeavours to promote multilingualism.

The Faculty recognises English as an international academic language and a medium through which science can be communicated. Since many students who enter the undergraduate programmes of the Faculty are not adequately skilled or proficient in any of the two languages of instruction, the Faculty strives to ensure that all students are equipped to communicate on an intellectual level in English. We are, however, committed to managing our Afrikaans academic offering in order to sustain access to the Faculty for students who prefer teaching, learning and assessment opportunities in Afrikaans.

Quarterly feedback from the department and division heads, as well as the chairperson of the Natural Science Student Committee (NSC) in the Faculty of Science is obtained. A report template is used to ensure standardised reporting and all meetings with students are minuted.

- a.) Individual departmental/section reports of Biochemistry, Botany and Zoology, Chemistry and Polymer Science, Earth Sciences, Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics and Physiological Sciences are available.
- b.) The Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning has quarterly meetings with the NSC Chair and member for Student Affairs in which language implementation is a fixed agenda item. The Natural Science Student Committee also consults with class representatives regarding language implementation in their classes.
- c.) The Director: Faculty Management is also consulted for input on the plan.

2. Aims

This implementation plan acknowledges the diverse range of backgrounds in terms of languages of staff and students and values this within the Faculty. The Faculty aims to create an environment where all students and staff feel comfortable, welcome and experience a sense of belonging. The plan also aims to promote inclusiveness and social cohesion to guard against marginalisation and exclusivity by creating an environment with access to knowledge and resources. The Faculty is committed to multilingualism specifically through offering support to students not proficient in English during tutorials and practicals, where "translanguaging" can be implemented. This Language Implementation Plan will be practicable and sustainable according to the financial resources and human capital of the Faculty as well as student group size based on language preference, facilities available and the academic timetable of the University.

3. Language use in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

3.1 Language Options

The following language options will be implemented:

Option 1 (refers to par. 7.1.3 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in separate class groups (**Parallel medium**).

A class is divided into separate English and Afrikaans groups. Students indicate their preferred language of instruction at registration. Additional learning opportunities involving students from both language groups will be used to promote integration.

Option 2 (refers to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in the same class group (**Double medium**).

- During each lecture, all information is conveyed in at least English.
- Summaries and/or emphasis on content will also be given in Afrikaans at the start or end of a lecture or when the core concept is introduced. (These may be in the form of a verbal summary presented in Afrikaans by the lecturer or a PowerPoint summary in Afrikaans while the lecturer is speaking Afrikaans).
- Questions in Afrikaans and English will, where reasonably practical, be answered in the language of the posed question.
- Students will be supported in Afrikaans and English during a combination of appropriate facilitated learning opportunities.
- Additional support, through, for example, consultation sessions, scheduled tutorials, real-time interpreting, will be provided for students who experience

challenges with language and subject content.

Option 3 (refers to par. 7.1.5 in the Language Policy of the University): English only with real-time interpreting in Afrikaans (**Single medium**).

This option will only be used if:

- (i) the lecturer(s) and the teaching assistants assigned to the module are not proficient in Afrikaans and therefore not able to answer questions asked in Afrikaans, or to give a summary or explanation of the key concepts in Afrikaans; or
- (ii) if all the students in the class group have been invited to vote by means of a secret ballot and those students who have voted, agree unanimously to the lectures being presented in English only; and
- (iii) provided that the lecturer(s) and teaching assistants have the necessary English proficiency and agree to do so.

3.2 Language Practice in Undergraduate Modules

For undergraduate modules offered by the Faculty of Science, except those offered for the Faculty of Engineering, the following practice will be followed. For undergraduate modules offered for the Faculty of Engineering, that faculty's language implementation plan will be followed.

First-year modules

The Faculty is committed, as far as it is practicable and sustainable, to give first-year students the opportunity of teaching, learning and assessment opportunities in English or Afrikaans, depending on their preferred academic language. In most cases it is possible to have separate lecture groups based on language. However, facilities and timetable constraints make it impossible to offer separate tutorial or practical groups based on language.

First-year lectures will be offered using **Option 1** (refer to par. 7.1.3 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in separate class groups (**Parallel medium**) unless:

- (i) the module enrolment becomes too small (that is, with fewer than 40 students) to have separate groups, in which case **Option 2** (refer to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University) will be used;
- (ii) the Afrikaans group size becomes too small (that is, with fewer than 40 students) to have separate group, in which case **Option 2** (refer to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University) will be used;
- (iii) the nature of the module does not allow any of the options above, such as Earth

- Science Field Skills 172, which entails field work and where the lecturer can only speak English; and Computer Skills 171, which is mainly a computer-based online course offered to as many as 13 class groups; or
- (iv) it is a service module to students from another Faculty, in which case the module will then be offered according to the language plan of the Faculty in question.

In first-year tutorials and practicals, where one-on-one communication is used to a great extent, English or Afrikaans will be used, depending on the student's preferred academic language, as well as the lecturer's and teaching assistants' proficiency in Afrikaans and English. If there is a pedagogical need for overcoming challenges with language and module content then additional support will be provided.

Second- and third-year modules

The Faculty's preferred teaching mode for second- and third-year students involves to a larger extent independent learning and discussion groups, facilitated by lecturers, where students have the opportunity to participate in their preferred academic language (English and/or Afrikaans). Therefore, lectures will be offered using **Option 2** (refers to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in the same class group, unless:

- (i) There is a pedagogical need to offer real-time interpreting;
- (ii) The conditions for **Option 3** are met, in which case the lectures will be offered in English only with real-time interpreting in Afrikaans, if feasible.

In second-year and third-year tutorials and practicals, where one-on-one communication is used to a great extent, English or Afrikaans will be used, depending on the student's preferred academic language, as well as the lecturer(s) and teaching assistants' proficiency in Afrikaans and English.

Language of teaching, learning, assessment materials

The teaching, learning assessment materials for undergraduate modules will be made available as follows:

- (i) All compulsory learning material (for use in lectures, tutorials, practicals and on e-learning platforms) will be provided in English.
- (ii) Compulsory learning material (excluding published material) will also be provided in Afrikaans, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so or if Option 3 is being used.
- (iii) Module frameworks and study guides will be available in English and Afrikaans.
- (iv) All assignments and assessments will be available in English and Afrikaans. Students

may complete all assessments and submit all assignments in English or Afrikaans.

3.3 Language Practice in Postgraduate Programmes

A growing number of national and international students join the Faculty of Science on postgraduate level. Therefore, structured postgraduate modules are taught in English. The student does, however, have the choice to use Afrikaans for assessment purposes. Postgraduate students are, however, encouraged to present their research projects, thesis or dissertation in English because it must be submitted to an external examiner, who is usually an international expert and may not be able to assess the work if it is presented in Afrikaans. One-on-one communication is used to a great extent in the postgraduate academic offering. This will be mainly in English.

4. Language in Administration

Communication will be available in both English and Afrikaans. This means that:

- (i) Official communication with all students will be in both English and Afrikaans where reasonably practical (e.g. official correspondence from the Dean's office and departments, information on websites, the Faculty Calendar and promotional material);
- (ii) Correspondence with and from the Dean's Office and Faculty Committees will be in either English or Afrikaans, subject to the principle that all participants must have access to all the information.
- (iii) The official language of Faculty meetings, such as the Faculty Board meetings, inaugural lectures etc. will be English, with the provision of real-time interpreting in Afrikaans if requested.

5. Feedback mechanisms on implementation (good practice and complaints)

Student feedback will be obtained by including specific questions regarding the implementation of, and their experience of the language offering as part of the student module feedback system. Feedback about the language implementation will also be discussed during the quarterly meetings between the Vice-dean: Teaching and Learning and the class representatives. This feedback will be available to lecturers, Head of Departments and Divisions and the Dean.

Lecturer feedback will be obtained by means of discussion of, and reflection on language of instruction. This feedback process will be led by the Head of the Department.

Concerns about language practice will be addressed in the following manner:

- (i) Students must report the matter to the Class Representative who will take it up with the lecturer(s) concerned.
- (ii) If a satisfactory outcome could not be reached, the matter should be escalated to the Module Coordinator.
- (iii) An unsatisfactory outcome at this level (Module Coordinator) justify referral to the Head of the Department.
- (iv) If the matter cannot be resolved at any of these levels, it can be referred to the Dean's office.

The Head of the Department will:

- (i) report quarterly to the Dean regarding language matters that will be discussed at the Faculty Management Committee;
- (ii) report to the Dean about their best practices and challenges within the framework of their annual departmental strategic plans.

The Dean has to:

- (i) report in writing to the Vice-Rector: Learning and Teaching at the end of each semester on the Faculty's compliance with its Language Implementation Plan during the relevant semester.

6. Conclusion

The Faculty's Language Implementation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Faculty's Strategic Plan. The implementation plan is communicated with all staff at the start of the academic year, and they have to ensure that i) they adhere to it and ii) that the language option of the module is included in the Module Frameworks/Study Guides. The Language Implementation Plan serves annually as a fixed agenda item at the last Faculty Board meeting of the year. Addendum A contains the individual module language specifications.

Addendum A

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-level	Language of Instruction 2025	Krediete 2025
Earth Sciences	12239172	Earth science field skills 172	1	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Earth Sciences	12239272	Earth science field skills 272	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	12239374	Earth science field skills 374	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374224	Geology 224	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374244	Geology 244	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374254	Geology 254	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374314	Geology 314	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374324	Geology 324	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374344	Geology 344	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374354	Geology 354	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13374364	Geology 364	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	13622271	Environmental Field Skills 271	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Earth Sciences	13622372	Environmental Field Skills 372	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Earth Sciences	63991214	Environmental geochemistry 214	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	63991314	Environmental geochemistry 314	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Earth Sciences	64165154	Geo-Environmental Science 154	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Biochemistry	11053214	Biochemistry 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-level	Language of Instruction 2025	Krediete 2025
Biochemistry	11053244	Biochemistry 244	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Biochemistry	11053315	Biochemistry 315	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Biochemistry	11053323	Biochemistry 323	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	8
Biochemistry	11053345	Biochemistry 345	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Biochemistry	11053365	Biochemistry 365	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479124	Chemistry 124	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479144	Chemistry 144	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479176	Chemistry 176	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	32
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479214	Chemistry 214	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479234	Chemistry 234	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479254	Chemistry 254	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479264	Chemistry 264	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479314	Chemistry 314	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479324	Chemistry 324	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479344	Chemistry 344	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479354	Chemistry 354	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479364	Chemistry 364	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	48321152	Chemistry C 152	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	6
Chemistry And Polymer Science	48321224	Chemistry C 224	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	15
Chemistry And Polymer Science	48321254	Chemistry C 254	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	15
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078324	Applied chemistry 324	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078334	Applied chemistry 334	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078344	Applied chemistry 344	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078345	Applied chemistry 354	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	65692112	Chemistry for the health scien 112	1	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Physics	12998114	Physics 114	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998144	Physics 144	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998176	Physics 176	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	32

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-level	Language of Instruction 2025	Krediete 2025
Physics	12998224	Physics 224	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998254	Physics 254	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998314	Physics 314	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998334	Physics 334	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998342	Physics 342	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	8
Physics	12998344	Physics 344	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	12998352	Physics 352	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	8
Physics	12998384	Physics 384	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physics	13005134	Physics (bio) 134	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Physics	13005154	Physics (bio) 154	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Physics	19267111	Special physics 111	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	8
Physics	59420113	Engineering Physics 113	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	8
Physics	59420152	Engineering Physics 152	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	6
Physiological Sciences	13080214	Physiology 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physiological Sciences	13080244	Physiology 244	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physiological Sciences	13080314	Physiology 314	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physiological Sciences	13080334	Physiology 334	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physiological Sciences	13080344	Physiology 344	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Physiological Sciences	13080364	Physiology 364	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Microbiology	16284214	Microbiology 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Microbiology	16284244	Microbiology 244	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Microbiology	16284314	Microbiology 314	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Microbiology	16284324	Microbiology 324	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Microbiology	16284354	Microbiology 354	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Microbiology	16284364	Microbiology 364	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Science Teaching	13623178	Science in context 178	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	12
Science Teaching	64007176	Univ prac in the natural scien 176	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	8
Botany And Zoology	25046124	Biology 124	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-level	Language of Instruction 2025	Krediete 2025
Botany And Zoology	25046144	Biology 144	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	25046146	Biology 146	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	25046154	Biology 154	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM (interpreting services)	16
Botany And Zoology	53953212	Biodiversity and ecology 212	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953214	Biodiversity and ecology 214	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953224	Biodiversity and ecology 224	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953244	Biodiversity and ecology 244	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953254	Biodiversity and ecology 254	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953264	Biodiversity and ecology 264	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953311	Biodiversity and ecology 311	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953315	Biodiversity and ecology 315	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953324	Biodiversity and ecology 324	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953341	Biodiversity and ecology 341	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953344	Biodiversity and ecology 344	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953354	Biodiversity and ecology 354	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Botany And Zoology	53953342	Biodiversity and ecology 342	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	12263272	Scientific computing 272	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	5
Computer Science	12263372	Scientific computing 372	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	5
Computer Science	18139113	Computer Science 113	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139114	Computer Science 114	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139144	Computer Science 144	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139214	Computer Science 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139244	Computer Science 244	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139313	Computer Science 313	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139314	Computer Science 314	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139315	Computer Science 315	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139343	Computer Science 343	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	18139344	Computer Science 344	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-level	Language of Instruction 2025	Krediete 2025
Computer Science	18139345	Computer Science 345	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Computer Science	50040171	Computer skills 171	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	4
Computer Science	50040176	Computer skills 176	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	8
Computer Science	50040272	Computer skills 272	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	5
Computer Science	50040372	Computer skills 372	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	5
Computer Science	59536214	Computer science E 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	15
Centre For Bioinformatics And Computational Biolog	12555312	Bioinformatics 312	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Centre For Bioinformatics And Computational Biolog	12555322	Bioinformatics 322	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Applied Mathematics	20710144	Applied mathematics 144	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20710214	Applied mathematics 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20710244	Applied mathematics 244	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20710314	Applied mathematics 314	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20710324	Applied mathematics 324	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20710354	Applied mathematics 354	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20710364	Applied mathematics 364	3	7	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Applied Mathematics	20753124	Applied mathematics B 124	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	15
Applied Mathematics	20753154	Applied mathematics B 154	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	15
Applied Mathematics	20753224	Applied mathematics B 224	2	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	15
Applied Mathematics	20753242	Applied mathematics B 242	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	8
Applied Mathematics	20753252	Applied mathematics B 252	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	8
Applied Mathematics	36323262	Numerical methods 262	2	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	8
Applied Mathematics	56820114	Probability theory and stats 114	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539114	Mathematics 114	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539144	Mathematics 144	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539154	Mathematics 154	1	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539186	Mathematics 186	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	32
Mathematics	21539214	Mathematics 214	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-level	Language of Instruction 2025	Krediete 2025
Mathematics	21539244	Mathematics 244	2	6	DOUBLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539278	Mathematics 278	2	6	SINGLE MEDIUM	32
Mathematics	21539314	Mathematics 314	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539324	Mathematics 324	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539344	Mathematics 344	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539345	Mathematics 345	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539365	Mathematics 365	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21539378	Mathematics 378	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	32
Mathematics	21547124	Mathematics (bio) 124	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	16
Mathematics	21547176	Mathematics (bio) 176	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	32
Mathematics	38571115	Engineering mathematics 115	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	15
Mathematics	38571145	Engineering mathematics 145	1	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	15
Mathematics	38571214	Engineering mathematics 214	2	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	15
Mathematics	38571242	Engineering mathematics 242	2	6	PARALLEL MEDIUM	8
Mathematics	56847378	Financial mathematics 378	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	32
Mathematics	66176374	Biomathematics 374	3	7	SINGLE MEDIUM	16