



Code of Conduct Language Policy

Motivation

Under earlier iterations of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW) the instruction language in higher education in the Netherlands was Dutch. Any educational institution wishing to diverge from this policy was required to apply to the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap, OCW) for permission to do so. Article 7.2 of the current iteration of the WHW states that the institution's own Executive Board [instellingsbestuur] has the authority to set the language of communication within its study programmes, as long as it is based on a code of conduct.

Dutch Higher Education and Research Act, Article 7.2. Language:

All teaching shall be given and all examinations shall be held in Dutch. The first sentence of this article notwithstanding, an alternative language may be used if:

- a. the language is related to the study programme itself;
- b. the educational context is a guest lecture given by a foreign language speaker;
- c. it is deemed necessary due to the specific character and the organisation of the education itself, the quality of the study programme, or the origin of the students, in compliance with a conduct code drawn up by the Executive Board.

The Amsterdam University of the Arts (AHK) Code of Conduct Language Policy

In view of the following:

- AHK study programmes have an international profile;
- AHK study programmes aim to establish an international educational culture; an international educational culture is important for all students, irrespective of their language background;
- the study programmes incorporate internationally oriented activities in their curriculums;
- the student body includes a relatively large proportion of foreign regular and guest students;
- teaching is partly conducted by permanent and guest teachers who are not Dutch;
- the study programmes focus on international professional fields.

the Executive Board has drawn up the following code of conduct:

- AHK study programmes shall be either monolingual (i.e. Dutch) or bilingual.
- The academy director concerned shall determine whether each study programme for which he/she is responsible shall be monolingual or bilingual.
- The Participatory Council (*Medezeggenschapsraad*) of the academy concerned and/or the Board of Studies (*opleidingscommissie*) shall have the right to prior consultation on this matter.
- Teaching in bilingual study programmes shall be conducted in English, and all class and study materials and exams for these study programmes will be in English.
- The instruction language for any given bilingual study programme may be switched to Dutch if circumstances warrant it, providing this does not result in the exclusion of non-Dutch-speaking students. Circumstances include: specific language background of the teacher and the students who are present; individual contact; personal assignments as part of study support, for example; internships; and written papers. The academy management shall determine what exceptions are permissible, and the circumstances in which they are permissible.
- Running bilingual study programmes necessitates the availability in English of all information relating to education, internal and external communications (including



information on the study programme, the study guide, and the Education and Examination Regulations (*Onderwijs- en Examenregeling*)).

- The academy management is responsible for ensuring that language proficiency is fit for purpose and, where required, for providing opportunities for teacher expertise development.
- The instruction language and entry requirements relating to language shall be specified in the Teaching and Examination Regulations of each study programme.
- Potential students will be informed in advance of the relevant language proficiency requirements and assessment methods.
- The Academy management shall inform the Executive Board regarding any decisions they take with respect to the bilingual nature of study programmes.

Following a vote at the consultation meeting of the University Council (*Hogeschoolraad*) and the Executive Board on 11 June 2015, the University Council issued a positive recommendation for this Code of Conduct Language Policy.

Drawn up by the Executive Board

Date: 18 June 2015