

# Leiden University Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction

## 1. Language of instruction

This code of conduct determines the language of instruction and the language of examinations and tests for all Leiden University programmes, hereinafter: the language instruction.

## 2. Scope

- 2.1 This code of conduct applies to all programmes listed in the Leiden University Register of Study Programmes, except those that have as their subject the study of a specific language.
- 2.2 This code of conduct does not apply to instruction given within the framework of guest lectures by a foreign lecturer.
- 2.3 This code of conduct applies exclusively to the initial phase of study programmes offered by Leiden University.

## 3. The bachelor's programme

- 3.1 As a rule, in the bachelor's programme the language of instruction is Dutch.
- 3.2 Individual curriculum components, including accompanying tests, can be offered in English or in another language if:
  - a. the curriculum component is taught by foreign lecturers,
  - b. the curriculum component is optional and is offered as a convenience to Dutch-speaking students,
  - c. it is deemed necessary for the relevant part of the curriculum, that students acquire speaking or writing skills in English or in another language, or
  - d. the relevant curriculum component forms a preparation for the requirement of a master's programme in another language, and participation in this curriculum component demonstrably meets the students' need to prepare for such a master's programme.
- 3.3 If this is deemed appropriate, the language of instruction of a bachelor's programme can also be English or another language or a programme can be offered in more than one language. The appropriateness of English or another language as language of instruction is determined by the international orientation of a programme in terms of its academic field of study or the fact that it prepares students for a specific field of activity or professional career. In addition, English or another language of instruction may also be deemed appropriate if its use is required by the specific nature, structure or quality of the programme, or by the students' country of origin. If the language of instruction is English, specific curriculum components, including accompanying tests, can be offered in another language if it is deemed necessary for this curriculum component that students acquire speaking or writing skills in English or in another language.

## 4. The master's programme

- 4.1 In the master's programme, the language of instruction, where appropriate, is English or another language. The appropriateness of English or another language as language of instruction is determined by the international orientation of a programme in terms of its academic field of study or the fact that it prepares students for a specific field of activity or professional career. In addition, English or another language of instruction may also be deemed appropriate if its use is required by the specific nature, structure or quality of the programme or by the students' country of origin.
- 4.2 If the language of instruction is Dutch, some curriculum components, including accompanying tests, may be offered in English or another language if:
  - a. the relevant curriculum component is taught by foreign lecturers,
  - b. the relevant curriculum component is optional and is offered as a convenience to Dutch-speaking students,
  - c. it is deemed necessary for this curriculum component that students acquire speaking and writing skills in English or another language.
- 4.3 If the language of instruction is English, a specific curriculum component, including accompanying tests, may be offered in another language if it is deemed necessary for this curriculum component that students acquire speaking and writing skills in another language.

## 5. Specifying the language of instruction

- 5.1 The Leiden University Register of Study Programmes specifies the language(s) of instruction of all study programmes.
- 5.2 If a Faculty Board wishes to use a language of instruction other than Dutch for a programme or parts of a programme, this is stipulated in the Course and Examination Regulations of the relevant programme.
- 5.3 The online prospectus specifies the language of instruction of each curriculum component.

## **6. Language level**

Within each faculty, the Faculty Board is responsible for ensuring an adequate language level for all staff members appointed to teach a bachelor's or master's programme in another language than Dutch (See Article 1).

Established by the Executive Board on 28 May 2013

### **Explanatory notes**

#### **General**

Article 7.2 of the Higher Education and Research Act offers the following possibilities for instruction in a foreign language:

The instruction is offered in Dutch and the students are examined in Dutch. In contravention of the first sentence, another language may be used:

- a. if the subject of the programme is the language in question,
- b. if the instruction is offered within the framework of guest lecturers by a foreign lecturer, or
- c. if it is deemed necessary by the specific nature, structure or quality of the instruction or by the students' country of origin, in accordance with a code of conduct determined by the board of the relevant institution.