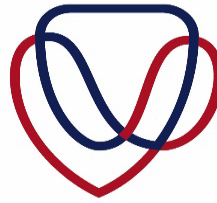


UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS

Language Policy of the University of the Free State

Approved at Council, 24 November 2023

POLICY STATEMENT	
1. Preamble/ background	1.1 The University of the Free State (UFS) remains committed to the promotion of multilingualism, as articulated in the section 29(2) of the South African Constitution and in the Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions (2020), for equitable access to knowledge and academic success for all students, scholarship of research, inclusivity and social cohesion, and for a strong sense of belonging. The UFS language policy takes off from the premise that the UFS is, firstly, a multilingual society, and, secondly, it prepares students for global multilingual citizenship. The UFS commits to multilingualism through the use of five working languages i.e, Sesotho, South African Language, IsiZulu, Afrikaans, and English) in various contexts of its operations.
2. Purpose	2.1. The objectives of the UFS Language Policy (2023) are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote multilingualism as articulated in the section 29(2) of the South African Constitution. b) align the policy with National Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions (2020). c) effect the university Vision 130 by recognising the linguistic diversity of students and staff as social assets and social justice and inclusivity. d) promote the development and (re)intellectualisation of Sesotho as a resource for conceptualisation and meaning making in the disciplines. e) promote equitable access to knowledge and success for all students at the UFS. f) promote multilingualism in teaching and learning, research, for social cohesion and a sense of belonging.
3. Scope	3.1. This language policy applies to all staff and students across UFS campuses and to all professional, academic and social communications and activities directly related to the UFS.
4. Definitions and Abbreviations	<p>Academic literacies The ability to demonstrate membership of an academic (disciplinary) community by reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and acting in ways that are congruent with the values, beliefs and attitudes of that discipline-specific community.</p> <p>Epistemological access Access to the theory of knowledge, with specific reference to the methods, validity and scope of a specific discipline.</p> <p>Multilingualism A linguistic capacity that extends across more than two languages. Multilingualism can be individual, as in where a person can use more than one but preferably more than two languages; and societal multilingualism, where persons use more than one but preferably more than two languages in social transactions in a given community. In the case of the UFS, multilingualism means the use of certain languages in a specific context and / or the combination of languages</p>

	<p>such as English, Sesotho, isiZulu, Afrikaans, and South African Sign Language for different purposes according to each campus needs.</p> <p>Translanguaging A pedagogical strategy or practice of using available linguistic repertoires to engage, collaborate, learn and understand difficult concepts using different languages.</p> <p>Professional programmes Academic programmes that prepare students for the practice of a profession such as nursing, teaching, law, accounting and medicine.</p> <p>Tutorial system Refers to smaller group meetings that take place in designated modules that use a specific pedagogy to support students in the acquisition of academic literacy relevant to their professional or scientific discipline.</p>
<p>5. Guiding Principles</p>	<p>5.1 The following principles inform the adoption of this policy in line with the Language Policy for Public Higher Education Institutions (2020), the Constitution of Republic of South Africa (1996) and the UFS Vision130:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Multilingualism as a tool for diversity, inclusivity, equity, access, success, redress, reconciliation, and social justice. b) Development of Sesotho as an academic language and a tool for epistemological access and student success. c) Recognition and respect for all other languages that students and staff bring to the UFS. d) Development of students' academic literacies at undergraduate and postgraduate level e) Continuous commitment to multilingualism as a social asset. f) Language as a resource for the university to achieve individual development and integration into a multilingual society.
<p>6. Policy</p>	<p>In view of the above-mentioned purpose and principles the following policy precepts are applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1. English remains the language of instruction except in language specific disciplines, modules and programmes (such as Afrikaans, Arabic, Dutch, German, French, Isizulu, Sesotho, and South African Sign Language) at undergraduate and postgraduate level in all three UFS campuses. 6.2. Lectures, study materials, examinations and related material will be in English, except in disciplines where languages other than English are explicitly taught as subjects of study or used for teaching and assessment purposes. 6.3. Where feasible, the UFS will continue to support Braille and SASL through CUADS and the Academy for Multilingualism. 6.4. Multilingualism in the domains of teaching and learning is enhanced through translanguaging in the tutorial system, especially in the first year programmes. Multilingual study resources will be provided in the context of translanguaging tutorials to support epistemological access for all students.

	<p>6.5. In specific language related programmes such as degrees specialising in specific languages (Afrikaans, Arabic, Dutch, French, German, IsiZulu, Sesotho) students may, write honours, masters and PhD research reports, dissertations and theses in the languages corresponding to the degree. Furthermore, faculties offering professional programmes in languages other than English will continue to offer these in those languages.</p> <p>6.6. The formal language of the UFS in all its official meetings, administration and communication is English with sufficient flexibility for the incremental practice of multilingualism across the UFS.</p> <p>6.7. All certificates, diplomas and academic records of the UFS will be issued in English.</p> <p>6.8. Where relevant, any five or all of the UFS languages may be represented in social and cultural communications, marketing material, short learning programmes and events .</p> <p>6.9. The website of language specific departments should also include information in the relevant language (links/ translated by the department).</p> <p>6.10. Signage will, as far as possible, be in the four languages with consideration given to the language diversity of the UFS, resources available and the policy to develop a multilingual university</p> <p>6.11. Formal student life interactions should be in English, while multilingualism is encouraged in all social interactions.</p> <p>6.12. Given the geographical location of the UFS, the university commits to becoming a national hub for the development of Sesotho through various collaborative trans-institutional, inter-institutional and intra- institutional projects.</p> <p>6.13. Partnerships with other institutions will be forged for the further development of isiZulu, Afrikaans, and South African Sign Language.</p> <p>6.14. Through the provision of international language courses, the UFS promotes a national, African and global culture for the combined development of inter-cultural sensitivity and participation in international partnerships.</p>
7. Responsibility	<p>7.1. The UFS will be held accountable to the Language Committee for the implementation of the points set out in this policy.</p> <p>7.2. This section details the responsibilities of each relevant department/person.</p> <p>7.2.1. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic through the UFS Academy for Multilingualism is responsible for the overall implementation of the Language Policy across the entire UFS.</p> <p>7.2.2. The campus principals, deans, vice deans and assistant deans are responsible for the implementation of the Language Policy at campus/faculty level.</p> <p>7.2.3. The Registrar is responsible for the implementation of the policy in relation to the UFS administration.</p>

8. Accountability and Authority:**8.1 Implementation:****8.2 Compliance:**

8.2.1 National Language Policy Framework 2020

8.3 Monitoring and evaluation:	<p>8.3.1 The Language Committee of the Academic Committee, a subcommittee of Senate is responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the UFS Language Policy.</p> <p>8.3.2 The Language Committee will report annually on the implementation of the Language Policy and make recommendations to the Academic committee to ensure reasonable embedding of the Language Policy into UFS policies, programmes and institutional culture. The policy will be accompanied by an implementation plan related to the different sections.</p> <p>8.3.3 The Language Committee shall initiate the review of the Language Policy after five years of the implementation of the language policy or prior to that period as the Language Committee deems necessary to review or amend the Language Policy</p>
8.4 Development/review:	8.4.1 Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic
8.5 Approval authority:	8.5.1 Council
8.6 Interpretation and advice:	8.6.1 Language Committee
9. Who should know this policy?	
All staff and students of the UFS	

10. Policy/procedure implementation plan	10.1 Kindly see Annexure A for details
11. Resources required	11.1 Strategic fund to implement the policy imperatives as stipulated in the implementation plan.

12. Answers to FAQs	

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICY	
Performance Indicator(s):	To be completed on review by the person responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Annexure A



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

LANGUAGE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2024

This language policy implementation plan brings to the effect the UFS Language Policy. It provides the action plans designation to the people/offices responsible for each action and time of delivery.

<p>Preamble and Background</p>	<p>The University of the Free State (UFS) remains committed to cultivate conditions for the promotion of multilingualism as articulated in the Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions for equity of epistemological access and student success, scholarship of research, inclusivity and social cohesion, and a strong sense of belonging. The UFS language policy takes off from the premise that the UFS is, firstly, a multilingual society, and, secondly, it prepares students for global multilingual citizenship.</p>		
<p>The objectives of the UFS Language Policy</p>	<p>Action Plan</p>	<p>People/Offices Responsible</p>	<p>Timeline</p>
<p>1. To develop and (re) intellectualise Sesotho and IsiZulu as academic languages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Terminology development in the disciplines b) Publishing and launching of academic books written in African languages c) Translation of PhD abstracts d) Sesotho corpus development e) Longitudinal research on the development of Sesotho and IsiZulu as academic languages f) Publication of research 	<p>Academy for Multilingualism; Head of Department of the disciplines; UFS African Language Press; Library; Academy for Multilingualism/ Faculties/ DRAP</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
<p>2. To implement multilingualism into learning and teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Piloting translanguaging tutorial system b) Piloting multilingual pedagogical training for academics c) Inter/intra institutional collaborations on multilingualism Collquia/Conferences/workshops; d) Hosting Translanguaging Seminar/Symposium e) Continuous rollover of conversational modules in collaboration with the languages departments 	<p>Academy for Multilingualism; Centre for Teaching and Learning; Faculties; national and international institutions Departments of languages</p>	<p>Continuous</p>

<p>3. To promote multilingualism as a social asset</p>	<p>a) Hosting multilingual mokete festival b) Hosting Language Awareness Week c) Hosting Mother Tongue Day d) Multilingual dialogues e) I-CAN project</p>	<p>Academy for Multilingualism; Department of African Languages; Marketing and Communication; Department of Arts & Culture;</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
<p>4. To recognise English as the language of teaching and learning at the UFS.</p>	<p>a) Development and promoting undergraduate students' academic literacies b) Supporting multilingual postgraduate students' academic writing skills through "The Writing Space".</p>	<p>Centre for Teaching and Learning Centre for Graduate Support; Academy for Multilingualism</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
<p>5. To align the policy with the university Vision 130 principle of social justice.</p>	<p>a) Equity in the preservation, advancement and promotion of UFS languages namely, Afrikaans, English, IsiZulu, Sesotho, South African Sign Language) and cultivate their use in all spheres of the UFS, including teaching and learning, research, administration and social spaces. b) Language as a right dialogues and awareness</p>	<p>Academy for Multilingualism Faculties Marketing and Communication CTL; CGS</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
<p>6. To continuously capacitate the Academy for Multilingualism</p>	<p>a) Continuously capacitate the Academy as when needed for effective implementation of the language policy</p>	<p>Director: Academy Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
<p>7. To align the UFS language policy with the language policy framework for public higher institutions (2020)</p>	<p>a) Report annually to the Language Committee b) Report to DHET annually</p>	<p>Director: Academy for Multilingualism Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic</p>	<p>Quarterly Annually</p>
<p>8. Sourcing of funds /grants from national and international funders for the timeous and effective implementation of the language policy</p>	<p>a) Apply for institutional/inter-institutional grants from DHET and other funding national/international funding institutions</p>	<p>Director, Academy for multilingualism; Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic</p>	<p>Every year</p>