

## Foreign language acquisition practice in Southern Africa – Two-day symposium at the University of the Free State.

We are pleased to announce that a symposium on Benchmarking and Standardising of (Foreign) Language Teaching Practice in Southern Africa will be taking place on 8 and 9 June 2023 at the UFS. This event aims to bring together language teaching professionals from across Southern Africa to share knowledge, ideas, and current teaching experience related to benchmarking and standardising foreign language teaching and assessment practices.

**The primary aim would be to empower lecturers and researchers responsible for language competency and/or language acquisition in:**

**Afrikaans, Dutch, French, German, isiZulu, SA Sign Language, and Sesotho.**

This symposium will also contribute to horizontal mobility of students and assist staff in terms of external examination and moderation practices in the Southern African context for the mentioned languages.

**We are delighted to host keynote speakers:**

A) Michelle Joubert “**The need for a reference framework for benchmarking languages**” and

B) Dr Carina Grobler (North-West University) “**Assessment practice for Foreign Language Acquisition**”.

Each language discipline will have the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the themes including:

- Best practices for benchmarking foreign language proficiency levels
- Standards for foreign language teaching and assessment
- The role of technology in language teaching and assessment
- Strategies for promoting multilingualism and intercultural communication in the classroom
- The challenges and opportunities of teaching foreign languages in Southern Africa

The symposium will provide a platform for networking, sharing insights, and collaborating on strategies for enhancing language acquisition practice and research in **Southern Africa**.

This is an open symposium with limited space. Attendees responding to this invitation will be responsible for their own costs.

Please follow [this link](#) to register for the symposium by 15 May 2023. For more information you are welcome to contact us at the email addresses listed below. We look forward to welcoming you at the UFS.



A detailed programme will be sent to registered participants.

Relevant contact person from the respective language departments at the UFS:

Afrikaans (Dr Alison Stander: [standerag@ufs.ac.za](mailto:standerag@ufs.ac.za))

Dutch (Prof. Angelique Van Niekerk: [vnieka@ufs.ac.za](mailto:vnieka@ufs.ac.za))

German (Dr Trudie Strauss: [trausst@ufs.ac.za](mailto:trausst@ufs.ac.za))

French (Dr Albertus Barkhuizen: [barkhuizenadp@ufs.ac.za](mailto:barkhuizenadp@ufs.ac.za))

Sign language (Susan Lombaard: [lombasc@ufs.ac.za](mailto:lombasc@ufs.ac.za) / Renata van Reenen: [vanreenenr1@ufs.ac.za](mailto:vanreenenr1@ufs.ac.za))

Sotho (Dr Elias Maletse: [maleteen@ufs.ac.za](mailto:maleteen@ufs.ac.za))

Zulu (Dr. Hloniphani Ndebele: [ndebeleh@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ndebeleh@ufs.ac.za))

Sincerely,

The organizing committee, Faculty of the Humanities

