



university of
 groningen

University of Groningen Code of Conduct: Languages used in Teaching and Examinations

In light of the provisions of Section 7.2 of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW: *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*) concerning the language of instruction in education,

and considering that the University of Groningen is internationally oriented, which in the area of education is demonstrated by its:

- a. international student population
- b. English-taught degree programmes (Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes)
- c. international cooperation agreements with universities on:
 - joint and double degree programmes
 - international mobility of students and staff (both outgoing and incoming exchange programmes)
 - participation in projects of the European Union (such as Erasmus+)
 - strategic partnerships (e.g. U4 Network, Coimbra Group)

For more, see also the University of Groningen website on [international partner agreements](#)

the following provisions shall apply to the University of Groningen.

Article 1 Definition

The language of instruction shall be the language in which the *teaching* of a degree programme, or parts thereof, takes place, in which the *examinations or final assessments* are taken and in which the *teaching material* is presented.

Article 2 Teaching language: Dutch

1. The language of instruction for a degree programme is Dutch.
2. Notwithstanding the first paragraph, another teaching language may be used if:
 - a. the degree programme concerns that language;
 - b. the instruction is provided by a foreign lecturer;
 - c. it is an optional part of the programme, i.e. does not form part of the mandatory course units of the curriculum;
 - d. the specific nature, organization or the quality of the teaching makes such necessary, or the origin of the students makes this necessary.

Article 3 Teaching language: English

The language of instruction for a degree programme shall be English if the international character of the degree programme makes this desirable, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.2d.

Article 4 Degree programme information and rules

If a degree programme is (largely) taught in Dutch or in English, information about the programme as well as the specific rules which apply to that programme, including the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER: *Onderwijs en Examenreglement*) and the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners shall be available in the same language.

Article 5 Teaching and examination regulations

1. The Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) shall specify the following:
 - a. the language of instruction for the degree programme or course units in a degree programme;
 - b. the entry requirements concerning the teaching language, and;
 - c. how the entry requirements referred to under b will be assessed.
2. The entry requirements for a Bachelor's degree programme with another language of instruction than Dutch shall be in accordance with the statutorily laid down entry requirements.
3. The use of another language of instruction than Dutch shall not lead to an increase in the study load of the degree programme.

Article 6 Competence to designate the language of instruction

1. Competence to decide on the use of English as a language of instruction lies with the Faculty Board, which may be at the request of the Programme Director of the programme concerned. The Faculty Board shall take into consideration the recommendations of the relevant degree programme committee requested by the Programme Director.
2. Competence to decide on the use of another language of instruction other than Dutch or English rests with the Board of the University, at the request of the Faculty Board. The Faculty Board shall follow the procedure set out in paragraph 1. If this concerns a degree programme related to that language, as referred to in Article 3.2a, the Faculty Board shall be competent in accordance with paragraph 1.
3. A change in the language of instruction for a degree programme shall take place only from the start of a new academic year.
4. Transition arrangements shall be put in place for students who had already started the degree programme prior to a change in the language of instruction, as laid down in the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) for the degree programme.
5. The students referred to in paragraph 4 should be able to take the examinations and write their thesis in the language which applied at the time when they began the degree programme. This condition shall apply throughout the duration of the nominal study period for the degree programme plus one extra year of study (C+1), provided that registration for the degree programme was not interrupted from the time of the change of language. In the

event of interrupted registration after the change in language, the new language of the degree programme shall apply from the date of re-registration.

Article 7 Quality and practicability

1. The use of a non-Dutch language of instruction for a degree programme, or parts thereof, may not be at the expense of the quality of the teaching and the practicability of the degree programme.
2. To safeguard quality and practicability, the Faculty Board shall be responsible for:
 - a. the demonstrable language competence of the lecturers using the other language of instruction in performing their teaching tasks;
 - b. the demonstrable language competence of the students registered for the degree programme who will be taking the relevant degree programme and associated examinations.
3. The Faculty Board shall enable those lecturers who do not yet meet the language competence standards to meet them.
4. The Faculty Board shall inform students registered for the degree programme who do not meet the language competence standards about the opportunities available for improving their language skills.

Adopted by the Board of the University on September 22nd , 2014.