

## Code of Practice for Language of Instruction at the University of Groningen

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 European Commission projects (such as Erasmus+)
  - strategic partnerships (e.g. U4 Network, Coimbra Group)see also: <http://www.rug.nl/about-us/internationalization/>

the Board of the University adopted the following regulations on 23 April 2018.

### **Article 1 Definition**

The language of instruction will 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 Language of instruction: Dutch**

1. The language of instruction for a degree programme is Dutch.
2. Notwithstanding Article 2.1, another language of instruction may be used if:
  - a. the degree programme concerns that language
  - b. the teaching is provided by a lecturer who does not speak Dutch
  - 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 this necessary, or the origin of the students makes this necessary.

### **Article 3 Language of instruction: English**

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

### **Article 4 Degree programme information and regulations**

The information about a degree programme, as well as the specific regulations that apply to that degree programme, including the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) and the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners, will be available in the language of instruction of the degree programme.

### **Article 5 Teaching and Examination Regulations**

1. The Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) will 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 language of instruction
  - c. how the entry requirements referred to under b will be assessed
  - d. the policy governing the use of supporting materials during tests and examinations, for example a dictionary.
2. The entry requirements for a Bachelor's degree programme with a language of instruction other than Dutch will be in accordance with the provisions defined in the Act.
3. The use of a language of instruction other than Dutch will not lead to an increase in the student workload of the degree programme.

### **Article 6 Competence to designate the language of instruction**

1. The Faculty Board may request the Board of the University to change the language of instruction of one of its degree programmes to English or a different language than Dutch. A request to this end must be supported by reasons and submitted with a recommendation from the relevant Programme Committee.
2. A change in the language of instruction for a degree programme may only take place at the start of a new academic year.
3. Transition arrangements will 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.
4. The students referred to in Article 6.3 must be able to take the examinations and write their thesis in the language of instruction which applied when they began the degree programme. This condition will apply throughout the nominal duration of the degree programme plus one extra academic year (C+1), provided that registration for the degree programme was not interrupted since the time of the change in language of instruction. In the event of interrupted registration after the change in language of instruction, the new language of instruction of the degree programme will apply from the date of reregistration.

### **Article 7 Quality and feasibility**

1. 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 or the feasibility of the degree programme.

2. In order to guarantee the quality and feasibility of the degree programme, the Faculty Board must ensure:
  - a. the demonstrable language competence at academic level of the lecturers using a language of instruction that is not Dutch when performing their teaching tasks
  - b. demonstrable sufficient language competence at academic level of the students registered for the degree programme who will be taking the relevant degree programme and associated examinations.
3. The Faculty Board will enable those lecturers who do not yet meet the academic language competence standards to meet them.
4. Before the start of the degree programme, the Faculty Board will inform students registered for the degree programme who do not or do not yet meet the language competence requirements about the opportunities available for improving their language skills.