

## **Code of Conduct for Foreign Languages - Wageningen University**

*Decision of the Executive Board: 16 March 2020*

The Executive Board adopted this Code of Conduct for Foreign Languages in accordance with Article 7.2(c) of the Higher Education and Research Act. The Code of Conduct defines the language of instruction and the language in which assessments and examinations are to be conducted for all bachelor's and master's programmes at Wageningen University.

### 1. Definitions

- a. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, 'programmes' are defined as Wageningen University's bachelor's and master's programmes as registered in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (CROHO).
  - i. Regular bachelor's programmes are BSc degree programmes that require prospective students to be proficient in Dutch.
  - ii. International bachelor's programmes are BSc degree programmes that require prospective students to be proficient in English.
  - iii. Master's programmes are MSc degree programmes that require prospective student to be proficient in English.
- b. 'Language of instruction' is defined as the language used when providing education, e.g. during lectures, tutorials, practicals, field trips, or student presentations.
- c. 'Language of examination' is defined as the language used for the exam.

### 2. Wageningen University educates students for a labour market that is characterised by an international focus and orientation, following the international dimension of subjects taught in degree programmes.

- a. Wageningen University educates students to become academic professionals who contribute to sustainable solutions to complex scientific and societal challenges all over the world.
- b. Wageningen University aims to prepare all students for work and life in an international, intercultural and multi-stakeholder environment.

### 3. Wageningen University therefore provides education with an international orientation.

- a. Wageningen University offers English taught master's programmes in order to:
  - i. enable students to participate in the international classroom
  - ii. train students in dealing with diversity in nationalities, cultures and perspectives;
  - iii. benefit from the contribution of our international staff to education;
  - iv. enable and strengthen international collaboration and exchange;
  - v. realise international impact of our education.
- b. Wageningen University offers English taught international bachelor's programmes in order to extend the benefits of international master's programmes (see 3a) towards the bachelor's. Programme Committees of international bachelor's programmes consider learning in an intercultural setting an important asset of high quality education.
- c. By gradual introduction of English in the regular bachelor's programmes, Wageningen University aims to support students in reaching a sufficient level of English proficiency to actively participate in our master's programmes and in international student exchange in the bachelor's.

### 4. The language of instruction and examination in courses is either Dutch or English.

- a. English is the language of instruction and examination in all courses being part of master's programmes and international bachelor's programmes.
- b. The language of instruction and examination in courses in the regular bachelor's programmes is either Dutch or English.
  - i. Dutch is the language of instruction during the courses of the first year of the regular bachelor's programme. The use of English study materials is allowed. If the Programme

Committee considers it desirable to offer some programme-specific courses in English, or when courses are shared with international bachelor's programmes, the language of instruction and examination may be English. The decision on the language of instruction and examination lies with the Board of Education, on advise of the Programme Committee.

In any case, students of regular bachelor's programmes that take an exam of a first year course will be allowed to formulate their answers to questions in Dutch.

- ii. Although the language of instruction and examination in courses in the second year of the regular bachelor's programmes may be either English or Dutch, the use of English is encouraged.
  - iii. In principle, English is the language of instruction and examination during the third year of the regular Bachelor's programme.
  - c. The Study Handbook will indicate for each course whether the language of instruction is Dutch and/or English.
  - d. If so requested by the Programme Committee and based on solid arguments, the Board of Education may take a different decision on the language to be used for parts of the programme, specific courses or exams.
  - e. The Examining Board may exempt a student from the obligation to write a thesis or internship report in English and to use another language.
5. The information and recruitment materials about Wageningen University programmes shall highlight the University's international character, also emphasizing the English proficiency requirements.
  6. Wageningen University ensures the accessibility of the English taught bachelor's and master's programmes for Dutch students. For the international bachelor's programmes the Dutch secondary school diploma (VWO level) is proof of sufficient English language proficiency. Dutch students with a bachelor's degree of a Dutch university also are well prepared for the master's programmes.
  7. Wageningen University has low-cost facilities available for students who want to improve their proficiency in English and Dutch. Basic courses on social Dutch are free for international students to stimulate them to learn Dutch.
  8. All teaching staff at Wageningen University must be proficient in English. All lecturers are asked to test and, if necessary, improve their level of English language proficiency. During recruitment and selection of new lecturers, explicit attention will be paid to their language proficiency.
  9. This Code of Conduct for Foreign Languages has been adopted by the Executive Board with the approval of the Student Council. This Code of Conduct replaces all previous Codes of Conduct for Foreign Languages.