



Code of behaviour Foreign Languages

The Executive Board approved a Code of Behaviour for Foreign Languages in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Higher Education and Research Act. This Code of Behaviour defines the language of instruction and the language in which assessments and examinations are given for each phase of study. The Code of Behaviour applies to all Bachelors and Masters study programmes.

1. For the purposes of this Code of Behaviour, study programmes are defined as the Bachelors and Masters study programmes of Wageningen University that are registered in the CROHO (Central Register of Higher Education Programmes).

Language of instruction is defined as the language used during lectures, working groups, (field-) practical, field trips, and presentations made by students for other students.

2. The language of instruction in the study programmes is, depending on the study phase, Dutch or English.

During the first year of the Bachelor study programme, the language of instruction is Dutch. The use of English study materials is allowed. If the Programme committee believes it is desirable to offer some programme-specific courses in English, this is possible.

In principle, the language of instruction during the second year of the prescribed Bachelor study programme is Dutch. The use of English material, however, should be encouraged. Given the approval authority of the Executive Board, the Education institute takes such a decision based on the advice of the Programme committee.

In principle, the language of instruction during the third year of the prescribed Bachelors study programme is English.

The language of instruction in the prescribed Masters study programmes is English.

Based on the advice of the Programme committee and given the approval authority of the Executive Board, the Education Institute may take a different decision on the language to be used for parts of the study programme because of the type of study programme and/or the expected presence or absence of international students in it.

3. Externally produced written material may, under exceptional circumstances, also be in German or French. The 'lingua franca' of the specific application area of the relevant discipline must play a role in the choice of language.

All teaching materials must be readable, possibly with the assistance of extra word lists or other aids.

4. Students must be able to know beforehand from the Study Handbook, to what extent languages besides Dutch will be used for the educational track they have chosen. Next to every course, the Study Handbook lists the language of instruction: Dutch or English.
5. The availability of free-choice courses for non-Dutch students depends on the language of instruction of the specific course. Courses that are part of at least one prescribed Master study programme are taught in English. The University does not require other courses to be taught in English simply to make them available as free-choice courses for non-Dutch students.

6. For programme components where the language of instruction is English, the written and oral interim examinations will theoretically take place in English. The student has the option of requesting to take a Dutch version of the interim examination; this request should be made at least three weeks before the interim examination takes place. The languages of questioning and of answering the examination, Dutch or English, are determined by the choice of the student.

For interim examinations that are taken in English, the use of a simple dictionary (to translate English into the native language other than English and vice versa) is allowed as long as it does not contain any notes that could be used for cheating on the examination. The invigilator can check the dictionary to make sure it is free of notes. The use of electronic translation aids is only allowed if expressly permitted by the Examiner.

7. Instructors and students are free, where individual teaching activities are concerned (theses, internships), to make mutual agreements about the language that will be used for writing reports. These agreements must not have a compulsory character unless the theses or internships are completed in non-Dutch surroundings or in cooperation with a non-Dutch counterpart. In such cases, there can be a compulsory requirement that the report will be written in a language other than Dutch. If this is the case, this must be clearly stated beforehand. During the evaluation of such a report, the quality of the language must not be crucial to the evaluation process.
8. The informative and recruitment materials about the Wageningen study programmes should emphasise the international character of the University, also stressing the English competency requirements. Wageningen University makes facilities available for students who want to improve their English competency.
9. Wageningen University gives all instructors the opportunity to improve their own level of English competency. During the recruitment and selection of new instructors, explicit attention is paid to English competency. All course evaluations include several questions about whether or not the English competency of the relevant instructor is adequate. The results are forwarded immediately to the Education Institute*

* *In cases where the English competency is rated as inadequate in the course evaluations, the Education institute gives the relevant instructor the opportunity to demonstrate his or her level of competency by taking a competency assessment. The main component of the assessment is a speaking skills assessment. If the assessment shows that his or her English competency is inadequate, or if the instructor chooses not to take an assessment, he or she is required to take part in an English training course. Depending on the results of the assessment, the training will focus on speaking skills.*

In cases where there appears to be inadequate English competency, the results of the course evaluation will be discussed with the instructor before the annual job performance interview. The entire process, from ascertaining the English competency problem to the actions taken by the Education institute and the accelerated job performance interview, must not take any longer than six months.