



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Multilingual Communication in the EU

Course Code	L_AABACIW203
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	K.K. Gehrman
Examiner	K.K. Gehrman
Teaching Staff	K.K. Gehrman
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

After having successfully completed this module, students will:

- have a solid overview of the linguistic diversity within the member states of the EU and how this diversity is managed at an institutional level;
- have a clear understanding of the basic terminology within the field of multilingualism, such as official and non-official languages, majority and minority languages, heritage languages;
- understand the consequences of living in a multilingual environment for EU citizens (both on a personal level as well as on a societal level);
- have become acquainted with a variety of problems that multilingual institutions (e.g. companies, schools, governmental bodies) face when it comes to managing linguistic diversity and different solutions that have been proposed;
- know about the strategies that people use to deal with linguistic diversity in their lives;
- be able to discuss and analyze situations where linguistic diversity may cause problems and consider solutions.

Course Content

In this course, we will study various concepts related to multilingualism and examine the linguistic landscape in the EU. The EU has 27 member states and 24 official languages. But in all of these member states, other languages besides the official language are spoken as well, some with an official status as regional languages or heritage languages, some without. Recently, new languages have entered the EU as a result of migration. The EU is thus home to speakers of hundreds of languages who not only have to co-exist and communicate with each other but also need access to resources and services. We will study the various domains in which this multilingual communication takes place and the different views that EU countries have on the position of these languages. Core concepts include majority/minority languages and official/non-official languages, and the consequences that these definitions have on the personal and professional lives of their speakers. We will also consider issues related to equality and linguistic justice and think critically about complex societal issues concerning the management of linguistic diversity in the EU.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lectures and seminars

Method of Assessment

Written exam and group project

Literature

Will be announced on Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

Second-year students in Communication and Information Studies, specialisation 'Language and Media', exchange students with a relevant background

Additional Information

Attendance is mandatory. Students must have actively participated in lectures, seminars and online activities in order to be eligible for the exam.