



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](#).

Second Language Acquisition

Course Code	L_WABACIW204
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. J. Lin MA
Examiner	dr. J. Lin MA
Teaching Staff	dr. J. Lin MA
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

After this course, students will:

- Have developed knowledge and insight concerning the most important concepts, approaches and theories around SLA and compare these with one another
- Have learnt to recognise educational methods and resources as an effect of certain theories in the field of SLA and obtained a clear understanding of commonly used methodologies in SLA research
- Be able to apply theories on language acquisition and language proficiency to the educational practice
- Be able to perform simple analyses of data in the second language acquisition process of children and adults
- Be able to make critical judgements on literature about SLA and ISLA, and justify a personal opinion based on scientific statements
- Have experienced how to cooperate in group assignments and write a coherent, well formulated summary of the knowledge that you have acquired and when applicable, make use of adequate references

Course Content

This course approaches second language acquisition (SLA) through several specific questions that play a role in researching the process of second language acquisition:

- Which linguistic domains are most/ least sensitive to second language acquisition?
- What is the role of age, cross-linguistic influences and linguistic environment in second language acquisition?
- How important are congenital language learning capacities and general learning principles in second language acquisition?
- What role do individual differences play between different language learners?

We aim to constantly connect these questions and various SLA theories to ISLA (Instructed Second Language Acquisition) in light of teaching a second language such as Dutch (NT2) or English. As such, more specific questions related to language teaching will also be addressed in this course:

- What enables learners to develop communicative competence in a second language?
- How can we best support classroom L2 learning?

The topics that will be covered in this course are as follows:

- Bilingual acquisition and early second language learning (simultaneous vs. sequential)
- The acquisition of phonology, vocabulary, morphology and syntax in a second language
- Linguistic and psycholinguistic approaches of second language acquisition
- Language input, production and language interaction
- Approaches to second language education/ instructed second language acquisition (ISLA)
- Theoretical principles of second language instruction

Additional Information Teaching Methods

There is one lecture (1.5 hour) and one seminar (1.5 hour) per week.

Method of Assessment

Students are assessed through the following components:

1. homework assignments (10% of final grade)
2. group presentation of an article or a book chapter (15% of final grade)
3. individual analysis of child speech data reported in the written form with a dataset/overview (25% of the final grade)
4. final written exam (50% of final grade)

In order to pass the course, students have to obtain a minimum of 5.5 for both the final written exam and the whole course. Only the final written exam is subject to re-sit.

Entry Requirements

Students must have passed Introduction to Linguistics (L_AABACIW103).

Literature

Students mainly read from the following two text books. Possible additional materials will be announced by the start of the course.

- Loewen, S. (2015). Introduction to Instructed Second Language Acquisition. New York: Routledge.
- Ortega, L. (2009). Understanding Second Language Acquisition. London: Hodder Education.

Additional Information Target Audience

- Bachelor Communication and Information Studies (CIS): Language learning and language teaching
- Pre-master Applied Linguistics (track NT2)
- Minor Learning Foreign Languages

Explanation Canvas

Canvas is actively used for communication and having materials and submitting and grading assignments.

Recommended background knowledge

Basic linguistic knowledge is welcome.