



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](#).

English: International Communication

Course Code	L_ETBACIW102
Credits	6
Period	P5+6
Course Level	100
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)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

At the end of the course:

1. Knowledge

You are able to describe some of the core theoretical linguistic concepts in the study of English as a Lingua Franca.

You are also able to describe major (socio)linguistic issues that arise in situations in which English is used as a Lingua Franca.

2. Skills

You are able to analyze aspects of spoken English (e.g. the transcription of human speech, with particular application to English).

3. Application

You are able to assess real-life situations of English as a Lingua Franca use;

you are able to decide what is the best way to respond to them according to the knowledge and skills that you have developed in the course.

4. Attitude

You are able to reflect on the use of English as a Lingua Franca and to express your perspective on sociolinguistic issues that arise in this context.

You are able to explain the significance of the study of spoken language for getting our messages across/expressing ourselves/understanding one another in international communication, and you will act accordingly where necessary.

5. Learning development

You are able to identify relations (as well as differences) between concepts and issues in English as a Lingua Franca use and other courses/fields in your study (compare-contrast);

you value the ways in which different disciplines can complement one another.

Course Content

English has become the leading language of international communication. The ratio of native-non-native speakers is currently 1:5 (David Crystal p.c.) and it is estimated that around 80% of all communication in English takes place between non-native speakers with different mother tongues (Osimik 2010). This international use of English has been termed 'English as a Lingua Franca'. In the course, we will examine aspects of spoken English and explore both theoretical linguistic concepts as well as sociolinguistic issues of concern in the use of English as a Lingua Franca.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Period 5: Lectures (2 hrs p/w) and seminars (2 hrs p/w). Period 6: Group meetings

This course has seminars, but you cannot self-register for a group. If you want to know the times of all the workgroups, go to rooster.vu.nl, click on the options at the right hand side of the course title and select 'Choose groups'. In the first week, your specific work group will be assigned by the course coordinator.

Method of Assessment

- A written exam (50%; individual mark) and a research assignment (50%; group mark).
- To successfully complete the course, you need to obtain a grade of ≥ 5.5 for both components.
- 80% attendance of the seminars and submission of all of the course work by the set deadlines is conditional for being awarded a grade for the exam and the research assignment.

Literature

Reading will be made available on Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

First-year CIS and L&S students; premaster and exchange students.