



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](#).

Language Policy in Multilingual Settings

Course Code	L_ETBACIW206
Credits	6
Period	P6
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)	Study Group, Lecture

Course Objective

After having successfully completed this module, students will:

- Understand what a language policy is and how it comes in different forms;
- Gain knowledge of different kinds of language policies in a variety of multilingual settings and understand the factors that shape them;
- Become more aware of the political and social factors that are relevant to creating and maintaining language policies;
- Consider the positive and negative effects of language policies and become more familiar with the concept of linguistic justice;
- Develop their critical thinking skills as they learn to discuss and debate complex issues that play a role in determining language policies.

Course Content

Multilingual settings inevitably call for some kind of language policy. Which languages are used and for what purpose? Which languages are welcome and valued in a given setting? Which ones are not? Which languages have power? Which do not? A language policy can include official, written rules and regulations about the use of language(s) within a certain setting, but it can also be more implicit, involving unspoken yet mutually understood rules and norms that determine language use. Whether they are implicit or explicit, language policies play an important role in processes and power structures, and that is what this course is all about. We will learn about language policies in different forms and settings, and we will also consider the benefits, challenges and implications of these policies. We will consider multilingual settings such as the international criminal justice system, multilingual corporations, universities and governmental institutions and discuss the political and sociolinguistic factors that contribute to language policy. In seminar sessions, students will also have the opportunity to sharpen their argumentation and debate skills.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lecture, seminar and assignments

Method of Assessment

Written exam & seminar project

Literature

Literature will be posted on Canvas

Additional Information

Attendance in lectures and seminars is required.

Custom Course Registration

Second-year students in Communication and Information Studies, specialization Language and Media, also open to exchange students with a relevant background