

AGRISCIENCES
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AGRIWETENSKAPPE

Language Implementation Plan for 2025¹ 02 September 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of AgriSciences acknowledges the value of cultural, linguistic and other forms of diversity as an asset in pedagogical, research, administrative and social contexts in the Faculty and therefore supports the principle of multilingualism without exclusion. The Faculty further acknowledges the complex role of language and is committed to the Language Policy of the University in order to facilitate inclusivity through diversity.

In the context of the Language Policy, there are specific and important facts to consider as a guiding principle for decisions regarding the Faculty's Language Implementation Plan. (1) Nationally, this is the only faculty where AgriSciences is still offered as a separate field of study and not merged with another faculty as is the case at other Universities. (2) Stellenbosch University is the only institution that offers a number of the subject disciplines in order for students to get focussed tertiary training for specific sectors in agriculture. (3) The majority of the agricultural business sector is Afrikaans, and, as future employers of students there is a need for Afrikaans proficiency on the basics of the subject matter to enable students to communicate effectively in their workplace. (4) Most of the first year modules in AgriSciences are presented by the Faculty of Science, which means that students will have the choice of being taught in either English or Afrikaans.

The Faculty's Language Implementation Plan is based on the principle of ensuring that language does not form a barrier to access, thereby promoting optimal teaching and learning opportunities in the Faculty.

This plan replaces all previous versions and is effective for the 2025 academic year ONLY.

The Dean's Office consulted the following stakeholders.

*Departmental Chair = DC • ConsEcol = Conservation Ecology • **Students via Class Representatives • ***Formal Student Feedback • APC = Academic Programme Committee

Department	DC*	Staff	Students	Mode of consultation
Agricultural Economics	✓	√(C1, C2)	√ **	Meetings Email communication
Agronomy	✓	✓ (C1, C2)	√ **	Email communication
Animal Sciences	✓	✓ (APC Member)	-	Email communication
ConsEcol & Entomology	✓	✓ (Module Coordinators)	✓	Email communication
Elsenburg	-	✓ (APC Member)	-	Email communication
Food Science	✓	✓ (C1, C2, C3)	√ **	Email communication In-person discussions
Forest & Wood Sciences	✓	✓ (C1)	✓	Email communication Survey
Genetics	✓	✓ (C1, C2, C3, Post-Docs)	√ **	Online platforms Meetings Email communication
Horticultural Science	✓	✓ (APC Member)	-	Email communication
Plant Pathology	✓	✓ (C1)	-	Email communication
Soil Science	✓	✓ (C1)	-	Email communication In-person discussions
Viticulture & Oenology	✓	✓ (C1)	-	Email communication In-person discussions

AIMS

The Language Implementation Plan of the Faculty aims to:

- promote a welcoming and inclusive culture;
- give access to the Faculty;
- promote respect for diversity among students and staff;
- promote excellence in teaching and learning, research and community interaction;
- promote student success; and
- find flexible solutions for any challenges of multilingualism.

3. PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM

As previously stated, the Faculty supports the University's principle of multilingualism without exclusion and, therefore, through the Faculty's Language Implementation Plan aim to find flexible solutions for any challenges of multilingualism. See the table below for examples on how multilingualism will be promoted - departments that offer modules in accordance with Paragraph 7.1.4 of the Language Policy of the University, will ensure (1) that all information is conveyed at least in English and that summaries or emphasis on content are also given in Afrikaans during each lecture, and, (2) that questions in English and Afrikaans are, where reasonably practical, answered in the language of the question. The modules to which Paragraph 7.1.4 apply, are listed in paragraph 4, under sub-heading: Option 2, on pages 7 - 9.

Department of Agricultural Economics

Most of the lecturers are fully bilingual and teach in English (and in Afrikaans to summarize or clarify key concepts upon request).

- Two lecturers are proficient in English only.
 - For the modules offered by these staff,
 - study material will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
 - students will be allowed to submit assignments and assessments in English and in Afrikaans.
 - The marking of the Afrikaans scripts will be done by other lecturing staff within the Department.
- Lectures will be supplemented with PowerPoint presentations in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Although the textbooks are in English, module frameworks, PowerPoint presentations, class notes, summaries and clarification of difficult concepts, and assessments will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Assessments may be submitted in the preferred language (English or Afrikaans).
- Student presentations will be conducted English only.
- All communication via SUNLearn will be conducted in English.

Department of Agronomy

- ❖ Discussions on the language of instruction and the Language Implementation Plan will be held with the students at the beginning of the first and second semesters these will also be published in the course frameworks for the particular modules.
- ❖ Where feasible, all notes will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
- For certain modules, textbooks and/or scientific journal articles will be used these will be available in English only.
- PowerPoint presentations will be available in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Students will be advised that the lecture slides serve as a study framework and should be supplemented with either notes/textbook content/additional reading material.
- ❖ Additional reading material (e.g., scientific papers, etc.) will be available in English only.
- Difficult concepts will be explained in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ English will be used as the predominant language on SUNLearn Forum Discussions. However, where required, discussions will also be conducted in Afrikaans to ensure that the language needs of each group are met.
- Assessments and administration will be available in English and in Afrikaans.
 - Students would be able to answer assessments in the language (English or Afrikaans) of their choice.
 - Communication regarding the outcome of assessments will be conducted in English and in Afrikaans.

Department of Animal Sciences

- * The undergraduate teaching materials, where possible, will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Where feasible, summaries and clarification of difficult concepts will be provided in Afrikaans.

- For certain modules, textbooks will be used as part of the teaching material these will be available in English only.
- Where possible, students will be provided with PowerPoint lecture slides in English and in Afrikaans. Students will be advised that the lecture slides only serve as a study framework, and that it need to be supplemented with either notes/textbook content/additional reading material.
- ❖ Additional reading material (e.g. scientific papers, etc.) will be available in English only.
- ❖ Where possible, difficult concepts will be explained in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Should students indicate a need for simultaneous interpreting services, it will be made available for the specific modules. Depending on the module and need, translation will be performed into either English or Afrikaans or isiXhosa.
- Assessments will be available in English and in Afrikaans.
- Students may answer assessments in the language of their choice.
- Communication with students regarding the outcomes of assessments will be conducted in English and in Afrikaans.

Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology

- ❖ Entomology 314: students will be encouraged to divide into preferred (language) groups for in-class discussions and may do presentations in either language. Students may ask questions in either language (English or Afrikaans), which will be translated by the lecturer and then answered in both languages if required.
- ❖ Entomology 418: at the beginning of the first semester, students will be asked if simultaneous interpreting services will be required during lectures. Assessments, notes and most of the course material will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Entomology 464: at the beginning of the second semester, students will be asked if simultaneous interpreting services will be required during lectures. Assessments, notes and most of the course material will be provided in English and in Afrikaans. Assessments may be submitted in English or in Afrikaans.
- Nematology 344: at the beginning of the second semester, students will be asked if simultaneous interpreting services will be required during lectures. Lectures will be presented in English. Formal assessments, notes and most of the course material will be provided in English and in Afrikaans. Assessments may be submitted in English or in Afrikaans.
- Conservation Ecology 212: the English lectures (notes, slides and lecture outlines) will be available in Afrikaans. The students will be encouraged to divide into preferred (language) groups for class activities and may do presentations in either language. Where applicable and feasible, open class activities will, however, be done in English. Reports/assignments may be done/submitted in English or in Afrikaans. If required, one-on-one interactions in class or online may be done in either language.
- ❖ Conservation Ecology 244: Lectures will be presented in English. Module-related information on SUNLearn and assessments will be provided in English and in Afrikaans. Students may answer assessments in either language. [It must be noted that international students often register for this module.]

- Conservation Ecology 314: at the beginning of the first semester, students will be asked if simultaneous interpreting services will be required during lectures. Assessments and assignments will be provided in English or in Afrikaans. Student will be encouraged to divide into preferred (language) groups during active learning exercises this will allow for ease of communication with their peers during the sessions.
- Conservation Ecology 414: in the first class, a closed ballot system will be used to determine the language needs of the students. The integrative test and any assignments will be available in English or in Afrikaans.
- Conservation Ecology 424: at the beginning of the semester, students will be consulted w.r.t. their language preference. Although the lectures will be in English, questions may be answered by the lecturers in the language it was asked in, and in discussions both English and Afrikaans will be used. Assignments etc. may be completed in English or in Afrikaans. [It must be noted that international students often register for this module.]
- ❖ Conservation Ecology 448: at the beginning of the semester, students will be asked if they require simultaneous interpreting services. Students will be able to submit the assignments in English or in Afrikaans.
- Conservation 4YY: at the beginning of the semester, students will be consulted w.r.t. their language preference and needs. Assessments and assignments will be provided in English or in Afrikaans. Students will be able to submit the assignments and assessments in English or in Afrikaans.

Department of Genetics

- ❖ The Department's LIP aims to balance pedagogical rigor, with practical feasibly and the needs of staff and students in order to deliver its academic offering equitably, fairly, and without discrimination or prejudice, within the context of a multicultural society that promotes inclusivity.
- ❖ As such, the Department primarily prescribes to the dual medium option, where reasonable within the capabilities of individual lecturers and other staff.
- Summaries and clarification of difficult concepts will be provided in Afrikaans.
- Practical and/or tutorial sessions will be held in mixed language groups with demonstrator/tutor proficiency in English and in Afrikaans.
- All class notes, tutorial and practical materials, and assessments will be made available in English and in Afrikaans.

Department of Horticultural Science

- All first- and second-year modules will be presented in English with simultaneous interpreting to Afrikaans upon request from students.
 - For these modules, PowerPoint presentations will contain English and Afrikaans text on the same slide to promote *in situ* learning in the language of preference.
- ❖ All modules will be presented in dual medium (except Crop Production 214 and Horticulture 314) and will mainly be lectured in English.

- Lecturers will allow questions to be asked and answered in Afrikaans, with translation of the question and answer to English.
- Summaries and clarification of difficult concepts will be provided in Afrikaans.
- ❖ For all modules, the module frameworks, formal class material and PowerPoints presentations will be made available in English and in Afrikaans.
- Additional reading material (books and articles) will be made available in English only.
- Assessments and tasks will be provided in English and in Afrikaans students may answer tests and/or written assignments in the language of choice (English or Afrikaans).

Department of Plant Pathology

- ❖ All modules will be offered in English with additional support in Afrikaans.
- Summaries and clarification of difficult concepts will be provided in Afrikaans.
- All formal class material, notes, PowerPoint presentations, module frameworks and practical manuals will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
- ❖ Additional reading material and textbooks will be available in English only.
- ❖ Assessments and assignments will be available in English and in Afrikaans.
- Students may submit their tests and assignments in the language of their choice (English or Afrikaans).

Department of Soil Science

- ❖ All modules will be offered in English with additional support in Afrikaans.
- Summaries and clarification of difficult concepts will be provided in Afrikaans.
- All formal class material, notes, PowerPoint presentations, module frameworks and practical manuals will be provided in English and in Afrikaans.
- Textbooks and additional reading material will be available in English only.
- ❖ Assessments and assignments will be available in English and in Afrikaans.
- Students may submit their tests and assignments in the language of their choice (English or Afrikaans).

Department of Viticulture and Oenology

- A comprehensive technical dictionary encompassing wine-related terms will be made available in English, isiXhosa, and Afrikaans. This resource will be accessible via SUNLearn to facilitate multilingual support in the study of oenology.
- ❖ In wine evaluation classes, students will be encouraged to use all available languages to describe wine. Where feasible, discussions on technical issues will incorporate terms in isiXhosa, promoting a more inclusive understanding of the subject matter.

4. LANGUAGE OF TUITION AND ADMINISTRATION

Communication in teaching, learning and administration will be available in English and in Afrikaans. The details of the implementation plan will be determined by pedagogical and administrative needs, including student needs and the linguistic abilities of staff.

Language practice in tuition

Undergraduate students

Undergraduate students can study in English and/or in Afrikaans, with teaching staff providing access to learning material in either language. The language arrangements of a particular module will be published in the relevant module framework on SUNLearn. In the pedagogical space, the practical implementation of language will take the realities of the specific disciplines, student and lecturer language needs and proficiencies into account.

Option 2

- ❖ Where parallel-medium offerings are not practicable, undergraduate lectures will be offered in English with additional support through, e.g. lecture notes, blended learning, interpreting services, and terminology lists summaries and/or explanations will be provided in Afrikaans. In this case, Paragraph 7.1.4 of the Language Policy of the University, which states the following, will apply.
 - 7.1.4 For undergraduate modules where both Afrikaans and English are used in the same class group, the combination of facilitated learning opportunities is as follows:
 - 7.1.4.1 During each lecture, all information is conveyed at least in English and summaries or emphasis on content are also given in Afrikaans. Questions in Afrikaans and English are, where reasonably practical, answered in the language of the question;
 - 7.1.4.2 Students are supported in Afrikaans and English during a combination of appropriate, facilitated learning opportunities (e.g. consultations during office hours, or scheduled tutorials and practicals);
 - 7.1.4.3 For first-year modules, SU makes simultaneous interpreting available during each lecture. During the second and subsequent years of study, simultaneous interpreting is made available by SU upon request by a faculty, if the needs of the students warrant the service and SU has the resources to provide it. If two weeks have passed with no students making use of the interpreting service, it may be discontinued.
- ❖ To ensure access to course content, lecture material and activities:
 - o Tutorials will be available in English or Afrikaans;
 - Learning materials designed for use in lectures, tutorials and on e-learning platforms will be provided in English and Afrikaans;
 - Additional support will be provided for students who experience challenges with language and subject content;
 - Assignments, test and examination papers will be made available in English and in Afrikaans and students may use either English or Afrikaans in tests, examinations, assignments, reports, seminars, etc. Alternative marking arrangements will be put in place where lecturers are not proficient in Afrikaans.

This option applies to the following modules.
 Agricultural Economics 234

Agricultural Economics 242

Agricultural Economics 262

Agricultural Economics 314

Agricultural Economics 334

Agricultural Economics 354

Agricultural Economics 364

Agronomy 212

Agronomy 312

Agronomy 322

Agronomy 324

Agronomy 332

Agronomy 342

Agronomy 362

Animal Nutrition Science 324

Animal Nutrition Science 344

Animal Anatomy and Physiology 214

Animal Health 342

Animal Physiology 324

Animal Physiology 344

Animal Product Science 334

Animal Production 214

Animal Reproduction Physiology 112

Animal Science 144

Biometry 212

Biometry 242

Biometry 311

Biotechnology 215

Biotechnology 245

Biotechnology 315

Biotechnology 345

Crop Production 151

Crop Production 152

Crop Protection 152

Crop Protection 244

Extension (Elsenburg) 212

Extension (Elsenburg) 242

Food Science 144

Genetics 214

Genetics 244

Genetics 314

Genetics 324

Genetics 344

Genetics 354

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 142

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 212

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 278

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 378

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 444

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 454

Grapevine and Wine Sciences 478

Grapevine Sciences 214

Grapevine Sciences 244

Grapevine Sciences 314

Grapevine Sciences 344

Grapevine Sciences 444

Grapevine Sciences 452

Horticultural Science 222

Horticultural Science 342

Horticultural Science 352

Horticultural Science 362

Introduction to Animal Nutrition 244

Plant Pathology 314

Plant Pathology 344

Soil Science 114

Soil Science 142

Soil Science 214

Soil science 244

Soil Science 314

Wine Sciences 214

Wine Sciences 244

Wine Sciences 314

Wine Sciences 344

Wine Sciences 446

Option 3

Given the unique context of the Faculty, the assigned lecturers are often only proficient to teach in either Afrikaans or English. Interpretation services as prescribed by the Language Policy of the

- University will be provided during lectures; out-of-class learning opportunities will be available in Afrikaans and English.
- An electronic secret ballot system may be used to survey the students in a specific class group in terms of the use of a single language.
- In this case, Paragraph 7.1.5 of the Language Policy of the University, which states the following, will apply.
 - 7.1.5 In the following instances, lectures will be offered in one language only:
 - 7.1.5.1 Where the nature of the subject matter of the module justifies doing so, for example where the module is on the language itself;
 - 7.1.5.2 Where the assigned lecturer is proficient to teach only in Afrikaans or English. For these modules additional support is provided:
 - (a) If the lectures are in Afrikaans, SU makes simultaneous interpreting available in English. If the lectures of the first-year modules are in English, SU makes simultaneous interpreting available in Afrikaans; and during the second and subsequent years of study, simultaneous interpreting is made available by SU upon request by a faculty, if the needs of the students warrant the service and SU has the resources to provide it. If two weeks have passed with no students making use of the interpreting service, it may be discontinued;
 - (b) In addition to lectures, there are appropriate, facilitated learning opportunities (e.g. consultations during office hours, or routinely scheduled tutorials and practicals) in Afrikaans and English.
 - 7.1.5.3 Where all the students in the class group have been invited to vote by means of a secret ballot and those students who have voted, agree unanimously to it, the module will be presented in Afrikaans only or English only, provided that the relevant lecturers and teaching assistants have the necessary language proficiency and agree to do so.
- This option applies to the following modules.

Conservation Ecology 212

Conservation Ecology 244

Conservation Ecology 314

Conservation Ecology 344

Crop Production 214

Entomology 314

Food Science 214

Food Science 244

Food Science 314

Food Science 324

Food Science 333

Food Science 344

Food Science 353

Food Science 354

Forest Science 171 (7.1.5.2 applies)

Forest Science 212

Forest Science 254

Forest Science 334

Forest Science 355

Forest Science 356

Forest Science 364

Horticultural Science 314

Nematology 344

Soil Science 2XX

Soil Science 344

Wood Product Science 224

Wood Product Science 234

Wood Product Science 244

Wood Product Science 255

Wood Product Science 264

Wood Product Science 335

Wood Product Science 346

Exceptions

- The following modules are presented at Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute and will be presented as per Paragraph 7.1.4 of the Language Policy of the University, with the exception that no interpreting will be offered under the provision made by Paragraph 7.1.11.2 of the Language Policy of the University, which states the following.
 - 7.1.11 Faculties may deviate from the Policy provisions in Paragraph 7.1 in particular instances only if the deviation is:
 - 7.1.11.1 Consistent with the principles of this Policy; and
 - 7.1.11.2 Justified by the human and physical resources made available by the University, by pedagogical concerns or by faculty-specific considerations; and
 - 7.1.11.3 Approved by the relevant faculty board, and reported with the justification to Senate and approved by Senate, or, when urgent, by its Executive Committee.
- This option applies to the following modules.

Agribusiness Management 112

Agribusiness Management 142

Agribusiness Management 212

Agribusiness Management 242

Agribusiness Management 313

Agribusiness Management 343

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 142

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 213

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 243

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 311

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 321

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 341

Agric Engineering (Elsenburg) 351

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 212

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 222

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 242

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 252

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 313

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 321

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 322

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 332

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 342

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 343

Agronomy (Elsenburg) 351

Animal Health (Elsenburg) 222

Animal Health (Elsenburg) 322

Animal Health (Elsenburg) 332

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 212

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 242

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 262

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 312

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 321

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 332

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 342

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 351

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 352

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 353

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 361

Animal Production (Elsenburg) 362

Biology (Elsenburg) 113

Biology (Elsenburg) 143

Cellar Management (Elsenburg) 314

Cellar Management (Elsenburg) 341

Cellar Management (Elsenburg) 343

Communication (Elsenburg) 111

Communication (Elsenburg) 211

Computer Skills (Elsenburg) 112

Crop Protection (Elsenburg) 141

Crop Protection (Elsenburg) 242

Entrepreneurship (Elsenburg) 221

Extension (Elsenburg) 312

Extension (Elsenburg) 322

Extension (Elsenburg) 344

Horticultural Science (Els) 212

Horticultural Science (Els) 242

Horticultural Science (Els) 312

Horticultural Science (Els) 322

Horticultural Science (Els) 331

Horticultural Science (Els) 332

Horticultural Science (Els) 342

Horticultural Science (Els) 351

Horticultural Science (Els) 352

Horticultural Science (Els) 361

Natural Resource 142

Natural Resource 242

Natural Resource 311

Natural Resource 341

Oenology (Elsenburg) 212

Oenology (Elsenburg) 242

Oenology (Elsenburg) 311

Oenology (Elsenburg) 313

Oenology (Elsenburg) 321

Oenology (Elsenburg) 342

Oenology (Elsenburg) 351

Oenology (Elsenburg) 361

Principles of Agric Science 111

Principles of Agric Science 121

Principles of Agric Science 141

Soil Science (Elsenburg) 112

Soil Science (Elsenburg) 142

Soil Science (Elsenburg) 212

Viticulture (Elsenburg) 212

Viticulture (Elsenburg) 242

Viticulture (Elsenburg) 313

Viticulture (Elsenburg) 321

Viticulture (Elsenburg) 344

Viticulture (Elsenburg) 352

Postgraduate students

For postgraduate offerings, English is the language of instruction and communication. As suggested in the Language Policy, final year modules and postgraduate teaching and learning may take place in either language based on proficiency or as agreed upon.

Language practice in administration

For administrative purposes, communication will be conducted in English and in Afrikaans. This means that:

- All administrative communication with undergraduate students will be in both English and Afrikaans (e.g. correspondence from the Dean's Office and departments, information on websites, yearbook entries, promotional material), as contextually determined;
- English will be the official language used at postgraduate level;
- Correspondence with and from the Dean's Office, Faculty Committees and Faculty Committee Proceedings will be in either English and/or Afrikaans subject to the principle that all participants must have access to all information;
- Faculty Board meetings will be conducted in a flexible manner in English or Afrikaans with participation in English and Afrikaans.

5. LANGUAGE FEEDBACK IN THE FACULTY

- Mechanisms for student feedback include specific questions on the practice and experience for the use of language in teaching modules as part of the student feedback system. The feedback will be available to lecturers, departmental chairpersons and the Dean.
- ❖ Mechanisms for lecturer feedback include specific questions on the practice and experience for the use of language in teaching as part of the lecturer feedback form. Lecturers will be able to discuss and reflect on language of instruction with their departmental chairpersons.
- ❖ Any concerns about language practice will be addressed in the following manner:
 - Students are to report the matter to the Class Representative who will take it further with the lecturer/s;
 - Should the expected outcome not be reached, the matter should be escalated to the Module
 Coordinator first, then to the Departmental Chair and finally to the Dean's Office.
- Departmental Chairperson are to report:
 - o language matters to the Departmental Chairpersons' Forum with the Dean quarterly;
 - within the framework of their annual departmental strategic plans to the Dean about best practices and challenges.

Lecturers may report on their experience of the Faculty's Language Implementation Plan during their annual performance appraisals.

6. DETAILED INFORMATION PER MODULE

The language arrangements of a particular module will be published in the relevant module framework on SUNLearn. See the attached Excel document for the Faculty's specific language arrangement per module.

7. CONCLUSION

The Faculty's Language Implementation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Faculty's Strategic Plan.