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# Code of Conduct Regarding the Language of Instruction at the University of Antwerp

(Board of Governors, 19 December 2006, 29 May 2007, 29 April 2008, 26 May 2009, 27 May 2010, 3 May 2011 and 29 May 2012)

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## PREAMBLE

This *Code of Conduct Regarding the Language of Instruction* is based on a number of **fundamental principles**.

1. A good command of **Dutch as an academic-scientific language** is important within the educational programmes of the University of Antwerp.
2. **Dutch** is the **administrative language** of Flanders and the **language of instruction** at all Flemish universities and university colleges.
3. **In this context, the University of Antwerp is committed to promoting the Dutch language and culture**, specifically Dutch as a language of education and science. It ensures that all Dutch-speaking students could enjoy an academic training in their native language and graduate as competent users of the standard language. Consequently, **all initial programmes are offered in Dutch**.
4. Encounters with other languages and cultures are valued greatly. Moreover, the **significance of a lingua franca in the academic world and in science communication** is unmistakable. The Flemish lawmaker has therefore provided for a limited number of exceptions to the rule that Dutch is the language of instruction, and the University of Antwerp wishes to exploit these exceptions maximally within the context of its internationalisation policy (cf. *Educational Development Plan* – Third pillar).
5. The University of Antwerp encourages student mobility. **Education in a foreign language is a valuable and effective aspect of internationalisation at home. It also offers students an opportunity to encounter diversity and variety**. In this manner, the University of Antwerp wishes to prepare its graduates for globalisation, internationalisation and cultural diversity, both in their professional careers and in other areas of life. Furthermore, the University of Antwerp wishes to enhance the appeal of its training programmes to foreign students.
6. Besides attributing great significance to achieving a high standard of scientific and educational quality in its programmes, the University of Antwerp also guarantees the **quality of the language of instruction**.

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## **TITLE I: LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: GENERAL RULES AND EXCEPTIONS**

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### **Article 1. Education and Examination Regulation**

The present document lays down the rules that apply within the University of Antwerp with regard to the language of instruction and examination, in accordance with the stipulations by the Flemish lawmaker (Structure Decree, Flexibilisation Decree, Mini Decree; situation in October 2006). These rules are an integral part of the *Education and Examination Regulation*.

### **Article 2: Dutch is the language of instruction**

Dutch is the administrative language of the University of Antwerp. In the initial programmes leading to a Bachelor's or a Master's degree, the language of instruction and examination is Dutch, save for the exceptions mentioned below.

### **Article 3: Language requirements for initial enrolment (Dutch)**

The management of the institution is entitled to make admission to a first enrolment for a Dutch-language programme dependent upon proof that the student has either

- 1° passed a Dutch-language test recognised by the institution, and provided by a university, a university college or other organisation;
- 2° successfully completed at least one year in Dutch-language secondary education;
- 3° passed or been declared successful for a Dutch-language higher-education programme consisting of one or more programme components and representing a total study load of at least 60 credits.

### **Article 4: Language requirements for first enrolment (other language)**

If, by way of one of the exceptions below, a programme is instructed in a language other than Dutch, then the management of the institution is entitled to make admission to a first enrolment for that programme dependent upon proof of adequate competency in the language of instruction.

### **Article 5: Determination of the language of instruction**

The language of instruction of each programme component is determined by the faculty.

### **Article 6: Language of the study material**

The study material for programmes instructed in Dutch should preferably be in Dutch. However, the lecturer is free to select other than Dutch-language study material for scientific, educational and/or quality-related reasons.

### **Article 7: Exceptions to Art. 2.**

Exceptions to the principle formulated under Art. 2:

- 1° programme components where the object of study is a foreign language;
- 2° programme components which are instructed by foreign-speaking visiting lecturers;
- 3° foreign-language programme components which, with the permission of the university administration, are taken at another institution of higher education;
- 4° programme components which are part of a Bachelor's or a Master's programme that has been organised entirely for the benefit of foreign students, on condition that there is also an equivalent programme component which is taught in Dutch;

- 5° programme components that are organised
  - a. within the framework of the *Erasmus Mundus programme* and the *International Course Programmes* for students from developing countries;
  - b. in cooperation with one or several foreign institutions as part of an international or a European education programme or within the framework of a cooperation agreement between the institutions involved (so-called *Joint Degrees*);
- 6° a limited number of programme components for which the university administration has decided that they may be instructed in another language on condition that the following three criteria are met:
  - a. the value added for the students and the functionality of the programme should be apparent from the explicitly motivated decision
  - b. the lecturer should adequately master the foreign language of instruction
  - c. the programme component should not be instructed entirely in a foreign language.

#### **Article 8: The examination language**

Apart from the exceptions specified below under 1° and 2°, exams shall be taken in Dutch. Even if the programme component is instructed in a different language, the student has the right to take the exam in Dutch. In such an event, the student should inform the faculty in advance.

- 1° The faculty may compel the student to take the exam for programme components specified under 1° and 3° of art. 7.2 in the foreign language of instruction.
- 2° The faculty may grant permission to exchange students to take exams in a foreign language.

#### **Article 9: Study load**

The fact that programme components are instructed in a different language than Dutch should not increase the study load for the students.

#### **Article 10: Information for the benefit of the student**

The study guide specifies the language of instruction expressly.

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## **TITLE II: INITIAL BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES**

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#### **Article 11: Size of the programme components package offered in a different language**

In the Bachelor's programmes, the use of a different language of instruction from Dutch is restricted to maximum 10% of the overall study load of the student's programme. This rule does not apply to exchange students. Moreover, in the calculation of the maximum of 10%, no account is taken of types 1° and 3° as mentioned under Article 7.

#### **Article 12: Foreign language programme components in Ba1**

In the first model path of at least 54 and up to 66 credits of the Bachelor's programme, no programme components may be offered in another language as stated under 6° of Art. 7.

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### **TITLE III: INITIAL MASTER'S PROGRAMMES**

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#### **Article 13: Final dissertation and other papers**

- 1° Pursuant to the *Education and Examination Regulation* of the University of Antwerp (Art. 7.6), the final dissertation or, as the case may be, Master's thesis should be written in Dutch.
- 2° If the object of study of the final dissertation or Master's thesis is a foreign language, then the faculty may stipulate that it should be written or defended in that language.
- 3° If the final dissertation or Master's thesis has been prepared entirely or largely at a foreign-language university, the faculty may grant permission for it to be written in another language, on condition that an extensive Dutch summary is provided.
- 4° In exceptional cases, the faculty may grant permission for a Master's thesis in a Dutch-language programme to be written in a language other than Dutch. In such a case, a Dutch summary and, as the case may be, defence are mandatory.

#### **Article 14: Master's programmes with an international dimension**

The administration of the institution is free to choose the language of instruction for Master's programmes with an international dimension, organised within the framework of an *International Course Programme* or the *Erasmus Mundus programme*.

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### **TITLE IV: POST-INITIAL AND OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

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#### **Article 15: The institution determines the language of instruction**

The institution is free to choose the language of instruction for:

- 1° Bachelor's programmes that are open exclusively to persons who have already obtained a Bachelor's degree (Bachelor-after-Bachelor programmes);
  - 2° Master's programmes that are open exclusively to persons who have already obtained a Master's degree (Advanced Master programmes);
  - 3° all educational or other study activities within the framework of postgraduate training or continuing education programmes.
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### **TITLE V: QUALITY CARE WITH REGARD TO THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

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#### **Article 16: Quality care in respect of the lecturer**

- 1° If a foreign speaker is appointed as a member of Tenured Academic Staff (ZAP) at the University of Antwerp, the faculty may propose that the person in question should, during the regular three-year probation period, make the necessary effort to acquire adequate mastery of Dutch.
- 2° If lecturers are instructing programme components in a language other than their native tongue, the administration of the institution should supervise these teaching activities through a system of quality care and provide guarantees that the lecturers in question have adequate mastery of the language of instruction.  
This quality care shall be incorporated into statutory evaluation procedure. Should it transpire that the lecturer's mastery of the foreign language is inadequate, the faculty may recommend or, as the case may be, demand that he/she take a proficiency course.

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## TITLE VI: REPORTING

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### **Article 17: Reporting**

In accordance with the *Structure Decree*, the institution reports annually to the Flemish Authorities on the language policy pursued at the institution, and specifically on the manner in which the relevant stipulations of the decree have been adhered to.