



Code of conduct for Languages of Instruction

This code of conduct accounts for the use of Dutch and English as the languages of instruction at the TUK, as well as providing a practical directive for the use of these languages in the education and assessments (exams), as required by Article 7.2 of the Higher Education and Research Act

I. Internationalisation at the TUK

Within the framework of the Declaration of Bologna, the external education assessment visit to the TUK in 2013, and the Dutch government policy with regard to internationalisation in Research Education¹, the TUK has been working hard these last years at a responsible manner of internationalisation, appropriate to our university². As a science, theology is developing in a broad international context and that has also become more and more visible at the TUK during these last years. The lecturers and research workers strive for an international embedding of their research and education, which can be observed in an increasing number of international guest lecturers, research workers and students. Maintaining international contacts with other theological institutions and the international exchange of lecturers and students - within the context of Erasmus and/or through institutional agreements - are an integrated component of the academic business. Last but not least: it may be expected of our graduates that they are 'internationally competent'³. These developments demand a well-dosed use of English, next to Dutch, as language of instruction.

The TUK has approximately 10% international students, particularly in the master's and PhD programmes. Furthermore, the TUK participates in the Erasmus programme and the *Holland Beurs* [grant].

II. Use of Dutch and English

1. As a rule, Dutch is the language of instruction. This applies in the first place to the three-year Master of Arts (Ministry Programme), because this training is aimed explicitly at training ministers for Dutch churches.
2. With regard to the Master of Theology (General Programme) applies that some graduation specializations are taught exclusively in Dutch, such as the Master's programme Identity, Ethics and Society, which has likewise been strongly tailored to the Dutch situation.

¹ See, e.g.:

- *Sectorakkoord wetenschappelijk onderwijs 2018* of the VSNU (specifically p. 7 cf.):

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/convenanten/2018/04/09/sectorakkoord-wetenschappelijk-onderwijs-2018/sectorakkoord-wetenschappelijk-onderwijs-2018.pdf>

- *Internationaliseringsagenda Hoger Onderwijs, 14 mei 2018* of the VSNU and the *Vereniging Hogescholen* [Higher Education Association]:

https://www.vsnunl/files/documenten/Domeinen/Internationaal/Internationaliseringsagenda%20Hoger%20Onderwijs_2018.pdf

² See, among other things:

- TUK annual reports 2013-2018;

- Policy document by Jos Colijn, Internationalisation 'at home' at the TUK, 2018.

³ See: *Onderwijsraad (2016)*. Recommendation: Internationalise with ambition. The Hague: Education Council.:

<https://www.onderwijsraad.nl/publicaties/adviezen/2016/05/31/samenvatting-internationaliseren-met-ambitie>

3. Most specializations in the Master of Theology (General Programme) are provided in Dutch, unless more than one international English-speaking student is attending. In that case, the education is offered in English.

4. Two specializations within the Master of Theology (General Programme): the Master of Intercultural Reformed Theology (MIRT) and the Master's programme Church and Mission in the West (CCMW) are offered primarily in English. The reason for this is, that the contents of the programme are targeted on training students for cross-cultural and intercultural practices and professions in, but especially outside the Netherlands. We especially want to make these programmes attractive and accessible to international students as well. As specialization within the Master of Theology (General Programme), the MIRT has been designed as an international Master, in order to well accommodate international students at the TUK.

5. In the bachelor's programme the language of instruction is, in principle, Dutch. In order to facilitate the inflow of international students through Erasmus or partner institutions, a number of modules can be offered in English if there is at least one international student in the class. Dutch students then receive the opportunity to do assessments/exams in Dutch. An exception is the bachelor's module 'From all Nations', which is offered in English by default because there are also international students and lecturers participating,

6. Per English-taught master's specialization or bachelor's module, there can be options of choice regarding English/Dutch for the reading of obligatory literature and for the assessments/exams. At our university this is indicated in the Student Guide and explained to the student by the lecturer concerned.

7. The reason that a number of degree programmes and modules are (also) offered in English is that the TUK finds it important to tangibly shape internationalisation within the institution. Attracting international students and (guest) lecturers is one of the instruments with which to realise internalisation 'at home'. This involves part of the education taking place in English⁴. Besides allowing international students to integrate more easily, this also facilitates interaction between Dutch and international students. Furthermore, it helps the Dutch students to acquire international competences, so that they can move around uninhibitedly at foreign sister institutions and conferences, as well as in foreign churches.

Use of Dutch and English in the various degree programmes

Programme	Language	Complete curriculum	% int. students	Professional field
BA in Theology	NL/Eng	NL	5%	Mix
MA Ministry	NL	NL	3%	NL
1-year MA Old testament	NL/Eng	NL	5%	Mix
1-year MA New Testament	NL/Eng	NL	5%	Mix
1-year MA Church History	NL/Eng	NL	10%	Mix
1-year MA Systematic Theology	NL/Eng	NL	5%	Mix
1-year Ma Intercultural Ref. Theol.	Eng	Eng	90%	Int
1-year MA Mission in the West	Eng	Eng	10%	Mix
1-year MA Identity, Ethics & Society	NL	NL	0%	NL

III. Guarantee for use of the Dutch language in the Bachelor

In order to guarantee a good level of Dutch with the Dutch students, an obligatory module Dutch Grammar is given in the bachelor's programme. Furthermore, written assignments

⁴ See footnote 2

must be submitted in good Dutch. If more than two clear language errors are determined per page (on average), the assignment will be returned.

IV. Practically

1. It is expected of all students taking a bachelor's or master's programme or module in Dutch that they are fluent in the Dutch language at high school pre-university or NT-2 level. It is expected of all students doing a bachelor's module or master's programme in English that they are fluent in the English language at high school pre-university level or TOEFL iBT 79 or IELTS 6.5.

2. The Admission Committee and study coordinators or lecturers concerned will keep the (prospective) students informed about the prevailing language requirements and may ask for the language certificates concerned.

3. It is expected of (prospective) students that they are transparent concerning their knowledge of the Dutch and English languages and are prepared to remedy any deficiencies before starting the education.

4. Before the start of a module or education programme, students will be informed, by means of the Study Guide, about possible choices with respect to English or Dutch literature or assessments/exams.

5. The Board of Directors will ensure that all lecturers teaching in English and in an international class have been sufficiently qualified to do this. If necessary, an additional course or training will be offered.

V. Implementation of the code of conduct

1. This Code of Conduct for Languages of Instruction can be found in Dutch and English on the institution's website.

2. The use of Dutch and English has been defined in the Student Charter and the OERs [Examination Regulations].

3. The study guides concerned indicate what the language requirements of each education programme and module are.

4. For the determination or adaption of the Code of Conduct, the Board of Directors will request the advice of the Programme Committee and the University Representative Council.

Determined on 11 June 2019 by the Board of Directors of the TU Kampen, for a period of 3 years (up to 1 September 2022).