Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

SCIENCE
EYENZULULWAZI NGEZENDALO
NATUURWETENSKAPPE

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 2026

ACADEMIC YEAR

DATE: 31 October 2025

1. Context

One of the principles of the Language Policy is that language should promote access and not be a barrier for students or staff to be successful whether it is the academic, professional or social environment. Within a diverse student community, language is critical for individuals to engage, participate and contribute intellectually in a social, economic, political and cultural environment. The Faculty of Science uses English and Afrikaans in teaching, learning and assessment opportunities and endeavours to promote multilingualism.

The Faculty recognises English as an international academic language and a medium through which science can be communicated. Since many students who enter the undergraduate programmes of the Faculty are not adequately skilled or proficient in any of the two languages of instruction, the Faculty strives to ensure that all students are equipped to communicate on an intellectual level in English. We are, however, committed to managing our Afrikaans academic offering in order to sustain access to the Faculty for students who prefer teaching, learning and assessment opportunities in Afrikaans.

Quarterly feedback from the department and division heads, as well as the chairperson of the Natural Science Student Committee (NSC) in the Faculty of Science is obtained. A report template is used to ensure standardised reporting and all meetings with students are minuted.

a.) Individual departmental/section reports of Biochemistry, Botany and Zoology, Chemistry and Polymer Science, Earth Sciences, Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics and Physiological Sciences are available.
b.) The Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning has quarterly meetings with the NSC Chair and member for Student Affairs in which language implementation is a fixed agenda item. The Natural Science Student Committee also consults with class representatives regarding language implementation in their classes.
c.) The Director: Faculty Management is also consulted for input on the plan.

2. Aims

This implementation plan acknowledges the diverse range of backgrounds in terms of languages of staff and students and values this within the Faculty. The Faculty aims to create an environment where all students and staff feel comfortable, welcome and experience a sense of belonging. The plan also aims to promote inclusiveness and social cohesion to guard against marginalisation and exclusivity by creating an environment with access to knowledge and resources. The Faculty is commited to multilingualism specifically through offering support to students not proficient in English during tutorials and practicals, where "translanguaging" can be implemented. This Language Implementation Plan will be practicable and sustainable according to the financial resources and human capital of the Faculty as well as student group size based on language preference, facilities available and the academic timetable of the University.

3. Language use in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

3.1 Language Options

The following language options will be implemented:

Option 1 (refers to par. 7.1.3 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in separate class groups **(Parallel medium).**

A class is divided into separate English and Afrikaans groups. Students indicate their preferred language of instruction at registration. Additional learning opportunities involving students from both language groups will be used to promote integration.

Option 2 (refers to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in the same class group **(Double medium)**.

- During each lecture, all information is conveyed in at least English.
- Summaries and/or emphasis on content will also be given in Afrikaans at the start or end of a lecture or when the core concept is introduced. (These may be in the form of a verbal summary presented in Afrikaans by the lecturer or a PowerPoint summary in Afrikaans while the lecturer is speaking Afrikaans).
- Questions in Afrikaans and English will, where reasonably practical, be answered in the language of the posed question.
- Students will be supported in Afrikaans and English during a combination of appropriate facilitated learning opportunities.
- Additional support, through, for example, consultation sessions, scheduled tutorials, real-time interpreting, will be provided for students who experience

challenges with language and subject content.

Option 3 (refers to par. 7.1.5 in the Language Policy of the University): English only with real-time interpreting in Afrikaans **(Single medium)**.

This option will only be used if:

(i) the lecturer(s) and the teaching assistants assigned to the module are not proficient in Afrikaans and therefore not able to answer questions asked in Afrikaans, or to give a summary or explanation of the key concepts in Afrikaans; or

(ii) if 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 the lectures being presented in English only; and

(iii) provided that the lecturer(s) and teaching assistants have the necessary English proficiency and agree to do so.

3.2 Language Practice in Undergraduate Modules

For undergraduate modules offered by the Faculty of Science, except those offered for the Faculty of Engineering, the following practice will be followed. For undergraduate modules offered for the Faculty of Engineering, that faculty's language implementation plan will be followed.

First-year modules

The Faculty is committed, as far as it is practicable and sustainable, to give first-year students the opportunity of teaching, learning and assessment opportunities in English or Afrikaans, depending on their preferred academic language. In most cases it is possible to have separate lecture groups based on language. However, facilities and timetable constraints make it impossible to offer separate tutorial or practical groups based on language.

First-year lectures will be offered using **Option 1** (refer to par. 7.1.3 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in separate class groups **(Parallel medium)** unless:

(i) the module enrolment becomes too small (that is, with fewer than 40 students) to have separate groups, in which case **Option 2 (**refer to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University) will be used;

(ii) the Afrikaans group size becomes too small (that is, with fewer than 40 students) to have separate group, in which case **Option 2 (**refer to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University) will be used;

(iii) the nature of the module does not allow any of the options above, such as Earth

Science Field Skills 172, which entails field work and where the lecturer can only speak English; and Computer Skills 171, which is mainly a computer-based online course offered to as many as 13 class groups; or

(iv) it is a service module to students from another Faculty, in which case the module will then be offered according to the language plan of the Faculty in question.

In first-year tutorials and practicals, where one-on-one communication is used to a great extent, English or Afrikaans will be used, depending on the student's preferred academic language, as well as the lecturer's and teaching assistants' proficiency in Afrikaans and English. If there is a pedagogical need for overcoming challenges with language and module content then additional support will be provided.

Second- and third-year modules

The Faculty's preferred teaching mode for second- and third-year students involves to a larger extent independent learning and discussion groups, facilitated by lecturers, where students have the opportunity to participate in their preferred academic language (English and/or Afrikaans). Therefore, lectures will be offered using **Option 2** (refers to par. 7.1.4 in the Language Policy of the University): English and Afrikaans in the same class group, unless:

(i) There is a pedagogical need to offer real-time interpreting;

(ii) The conditions for **Option 3** are met, in which case the lectures will be offered in English only with real-time interpreting in Afrikaans, if feasible.

In second-year and third-year tutorials and practicals, where one-on-one communication is used to a great extent, English or Afrikaans will be used, depending on the student's preferred academic language, as well as the lecturer(s) and teaching assistants' proficiency in Afrikaans and English.

Language of teaching, learning, assessment materials

The teaching, learning assessment materials for undergraduate modules will be made available as follows:

(i) All compulsory learning material (for use in lectures, tutorials, practicals and on e-learning platforms) will be provided in English.

(ii) Compulsory learning material (excluding published material) will also be provided in Afrikaans, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so or if Option 3 is being used.

(iii) Module frameworks and study guides will be available in English and Afrikaans.

(iv) All assignments and assessments will be available in English and Afrikaans. Students

may complete all assessments and submit all assignments in English or Afrikaans.

3.3 Language Practice in Postgraduate Programmes

A growing number of national and international students join the Faculty of Science on postgraduate level. Therefore, structured postgraduate modules are taught in English. The student does, however, have the choice to use Afrikaans for assessment purposes. Postgraduate students are, however, encouraged to present their research projects, thesis or dissertation in English because it must be submitted to an external examiner, who is usually an international expert and may not be able to assess the work if it is presented in Afrikaans. One-on-one communication is used to a great extent in the postgraduate academic offering. This will be mainly in English.

4. Language in Administration

Communication will be available in both English and Afrikaans. This means that:

(i) Official communication with all students will be in both English and Afrikaans where reasonably practical (e.g. official correspondence from the Dean's office and departments, information on websites, the Faculty Calendar and promotional material);

(ii) Correspondence with and from the Dean's Office and Faculty Committees will be in either English or Afrikaans, subject to the principle that all participants must have access to all the information.

(iii) The official language of Faculty meetings, such as the Faculty Board meetings, inaugural lectures etc. will be English, with the provision of real-time interpreting in Afrikaans if requested.

5. Feedback mechanisms on implementation (good practice and complaints)

Student feedback will be obtained by including specific questions regarding the implementation of, and their experience of the language offering as part of the student module feedback system. Feedback about the language implementation will also be discussed during the quarterly meetings between the Vice-dean: Teaching and Learning and the class representatives. This feedback will be available to lecturers, Head of Departments and Divisions and the Dean.

Lecturer feedback will be obtained by means of discussion of, and reflection on language of instruction. This feedback process will be led by the Head of the Department.

Concerns about language practice will be addressed in the following manner:

(i) Students must report the matter to the Class Representative who will take it up with the lecturer(s) concerned.
(ii) If a satisfactory outcome could not be reached, the matter should be escalated to the Module Coordinator.
(iii) An unsatisfactory outcome at this level (Module Coordinator) justify referral to the Head of the Department.
(iv) If the matter cannot be resolved at any of these levels, it can be referred to the Dean's office.

The Head of the Department will:

(i) report quarterly to the Dean regarding language matters that will be discussed at the Faculty Management Committee;
(ii) report to the Dean about their best practices and challenges within the framework of their annual departmental strategic plans.

The Dean has to:

(i) report in writing to the Vice-Rector: Learning and Teaching at the end of each semester on the Faculty's compliance with its Language Implementation Plan during the relevant semester.

6. Conclusion

The Faculty's Language Implementation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Faculty's Strategic Plan. The implementation plan is communicated with all staff at the start of the academic year, and they have to ensure that i) they adhere to it and ii) that the language option of the module is included in the Module Frameworks/Study Guides. The Language Implementation Plan serves annually as a fixed agenda item at the last Faculty Board meeting of the year. Addendum A contains the individual module language specifications.

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Addendum A

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-	Language of Instruction	Credits 2026
Biochemistry	11053-214	Biochemistry 214	2	6	Single Medium	16
Biochemistry	11053-244	Biochemistry 244	2	6	Single Medium	16
Biochemistry	11053-315	Biochemistry 315	3	7	Double Medium	16
Biochemistry	11053-323	Biochemistry 323	3	7	Double Medium	8
Biochemistry	11053-345	Biochemistry 345	3	7	Double Medium	16
Biochemistry	11053-365	Biochemistry 365	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	25046-124	Biology 124	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	25046-144	Biology 144	1	6	Double Medium (with	16
Botany And Zoology	25046-146	Biology 146	1	6	Double Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	25046-154	Biology 154	1	6	Double Medium (with	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-212	Biodiversity And Ecology 212	2	6	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-214	Biodiversity And Ecology 214	2	6	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-224	Biodiversity And Ecology 224	2	6	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-244	Biodiversity And Ecology 244	2	6	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-254	Biodiversity And Ecology 254	2	6	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-264	Biodiversity And Ecology 264	2	6	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-311	Biodiversity And Ecology 311	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-315	Biodiversity And Ecology 315	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-324	Biodiversity And Ecology 324	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-341	Biodiversity And Ecology 341	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-342	Biodiversity And Ecology 342	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-344	Biodiversity And Ecology 344	3	7	Single Medium	16
Botany And Zoology	53953-354	Biodiversity And Ecology 354	3	7	Single Medium	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-	Language of Instruction	Credits 2026
Centre For Bioinformatics And Computational Biology	12555-312	Bioinformatics 312	3	7	Single Medium	8
Centre For Bioinformatics And Computational Biology	12555-322	Bioinformatics 322	3	7	Single Medium	8
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-124	Chemistry 124	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-144	Chemistry 144	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-176	Chemistry 176	1	6	Parallel Medium	32
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-214	Chemistry 214	2	6	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-234	Chemistry 234	2	6	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-254	Chemistry 254	2	6	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-264	Chemistry 264	2	6	Double Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-314	Chemistry 314	3	7	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-324	Chemistry 324	3	7	Double Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-344	Chemistry 344	3	7	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	11479-364	Chemistry 364	3	7	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	48321-152	Chemistry C 152	1	6	Double Medium	6
Chemistry And Polymer Science	48321-224	Chemistry C 224	2	6	Single Medium	15
Chemistry And Polymer Science	48321-254	Chemistry C 254	2	6	Single Medium	15
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078-316	Applied Chemistry 316	3	7	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078-333	Applied Chemistry 333	3	7	Single Medium	12
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078-354	Applied Chemistry 354	3	7	Single Medium	16
Chemistry And Polymer Science	52078-365	Applied Chemistry 365	3	7	Single Medium	12
Chemistry And Polymer Science	65692-112	Chemistry For The Health Scien 112	1	6	Single Medium	8
Earth Sciences	12239-172	Earth Science Field Skills 172	1	6	Single Medium	8
Earth Sciences	12239-272	Earth Science Field Skills 272	2	6	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	12239-374	Earth Science Field Skills 374	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-224	Geology 224	2	6	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-244	Geology 244	2	6	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-254	Geology 254	2	6	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-314	Geology 314	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-324	Geology 324	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-344	Geology 344	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-354	Geology 354	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13374-364	Geology 364	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	13622-271	Environmental Field Skills 271	2	6	Single Medium	8
Earth Sciences	13622-372	Environmental Field Skills 372	3	7	Single Medium	8
Earth Sciences	63991-214	Environmental Geochemistry 214	2	6	SingleMedium	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-	Language of Instruction	Credits 2026
Earth Sciences	63991-314	Environmental Geochemistry 314	3	7	Single Medium	16
Earth Sciences	64165-154	Geo-Environmental Science 154	1	6	Double Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-144	Applied Mathematics 144	1	6	Double Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-214	Applied Mathematics 214	2	6	Single Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-244	Applied Mathematics 244	2	6	Single Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-314	Applied Mathematics 314	3	7	Double Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-324	Applied Mathematics 324	3	7	Single Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-354	Applied Mathematics 354	3	7	Double Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20710-364	Applied Mathematics 364	3	7	Single Medium	16
Applied Mathematics	20753-124	Applied Mathematics B 124	1	6	Parallel Medium	15
Applied Mathematics	20753-154	Applied Mathematics B 154	1	6	Parallel Medium	15
Applied Mathematics	20753-224	Applied Mathematics B 224	2	6	Parallel Medium	15
Applied Mathematics	20753-242	Applied Mathematics B 242	2	6	Double Medium	8
Applied Mathematics	20753-252	Applied Mathematics B 252	2	6	Single Medium	8
Applied Mathematics	36323-262	Numerical Methods 262	2	6	Double Medium	8
Applied Mathematics	56820-114	Probability Theory And Stats 114	1	6	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	12263-272	Scientific Computing 272	2	6	Double Medium	5
Computer Science	12263-372	Scientific Computing 372	3	7	Double Medium	5
Computer Science	18139-113	Computer Science 113	1	6	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-114	Computer Science 114	1	6	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-144	Computer Science 144	1	6	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-214	Computer Science 214	2	6	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-244	Computer Science 244	2	6	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-313	Computer Science 313	3	7	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-314	Computer Science 314	3	7	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-315	Computer Science 315	3	7	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-343	Computer Science 343	3	7	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-344	Computer Science 344	3	7	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	18139-345	Computer Science 345	3	7	Double Medium	16
Computer Science	50040-136	Computer Skills 136	1	6	Double Medium	4
Computer Science	50040-146	Computer Skills 146	1	6	Double Medium	4
Computer Science	50040-176	Computer Skills 176	1	6	Parallel Medium	8
Computer Science	50040-272	Computer Skills 272	2	6	Double Medium	5
Computer Science	50040-372	Computer Skills 372	3	7	Double Medium	5
Computer Science	59536-214	Computer Science E 214	2	6	Double Medium	15
Mathematics	21539-114	Mathematics 114	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-144	Mathematics 144	1	6	Double Medium	16

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-	Language of Instruction	Credits 2026
Mathematics	21539-154	Mathematics 154	1	6	Double Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-186	Mathematics 186	1	6	Parallel Medium	32
Mathematics	21539-214	Mathematics 214	2	6	Double Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-244	Mathematics 244	2	6	Double Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-279	Mathematics 279	2	6	Single Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-314	Mathematics 314	3	7	Single Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-324	Mathematics 324	3	7	Single Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-344	Mathematics 344	3	7	Single Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-345	Mathematics 345	3	7	Single Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-365	Mathematics 365	3	7	Single Medium	16
Mathematics	21539-378	Mathematics 378	3	7	Single Medium	32
Mathematics	21547-124	Mathematics (Bio) 124	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Mathematics	21547-176	Mathematics (Bio) 176	1	6	Parallel Medium	32
Mathematics	38571-115	Engineering Mathematics 115	1	6	Parallel Medium	15
Mathematics	38571-145	Engineering Mathematics 145	1	6	Parallel Medium	15
Mathematics	38571-214	Engineering Mathematics 214	2	6	Parallel Medium	15
Mathematics	38571-242	Engineering Mathematics 242	2	6	Parallel Medium	8
Mathematics	56847-378	Financial Mathematics 378	3	7	Single Medium	32
Mathematics	66176-374	Biomathematics 374	3	7	Single Medium	16
Microbiology	16284-214	Microbiology 214	2	6	Double Medium	16
Microbiology	16284-244	Microbiology 244	2	6	Double Medium	16
Microbiology	16284-314	Microbiology 314	3	7	Double Medium	16
Microbiology	16284-324	Microbiology 324	3	7	Double Medium	16
Microbiology	16284-354	Microbiology 354	3	7	Double Medium	16
Microbiology	16284-364	Microbiology 364	3	7	Double Medium	16
Physics	12998-114	Physics 114	1	6	Double Medium	16
Physics	12998-144	Physics 144	1	6	Double Medium	16
Physics	12998-176	Physics 176	1	6	Parallel Medium	32
Physics	12998-224	Physics 224	2	6	Single Medium	16
Physics	12998-254	Physics 254	2	6	Double Medium	16
Physics	12998-314	Physics 314	3	7	Single Medium	16
Physics	12998-334	Physics 334	3	7	Single Medium	16
Physics	12998-342	Physics 342	3	7	Double Medium	8
Physics	12998-344	Physics 344	3	7	Double Medium	16
Physics	12998-352	Physics 352	3	7	Double Medium	8
Physics	12998-384	Physics 384	3	7	Double Medium	16
Physics	12998-372	Physics 372	3	7	Double Medium	8

Department	Module code	Module Name	Year	NQF-	Language of Instruction	Credits 2026
Physics	13005-134	Physics (Bio) 134	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Physics	13005-154	Physics (Bio) 154	1	6	Parallel Medium	16
Physics	19267-111	Special Physics 111	1	6	Double Medium	8
Physics	59420-113	Engineering Physics 113	1	6	Parallel Medium	8
Physics	59420-152	Engineering Physics 152	1	6	Double Medium	6
Physiological Sciences	13080-214	Physiology 214	2	6	Double Medium	16
Physiological Sciences	13080-244	Physiology 244	2	6	Double Medium	16
Physiological Sciences	13080-314	Physiology 314	3	7	Double Medium	16
Physiological Sciences	13080-334	Physiology 334	3	7	Double Medium	16
Physiological Sciences	13080-344	Physiology 344	3	7	Double Medium	16
Physiological Sciences	13080-364	Physiology 364	3	7	Double Medium	16
Science Teaching	64007-176	Univ Prac In The Natural Scien 176	1	6	Parallel Medium	8
Science Teaching	13623-179	Science in Context 179	1	6	Single Medium	12