



Framework for the UCT Language Policy Implementation 2025 – 2029*	
Custodian/Responsible Executive	Chair: Senate
Approved by Council	12 December 2024
Review Cycle	5 Years
Next Review Date	2029

Framework for the UCT Language Policy Implementation

The objective of the University of Cape Town's framework for the language policy implementation is to guide the faculties and divisions in developing their respective language implementation plans:

1. The designation of the languages of teaching and learning and discipline specific studies;
2. The development and promotion of indigenous languages as fields of academic study and research; and
3. The promotion of institutional multilingual practices.

This framework must be read alongside the university language policy.

Policy Imperative	Implementation guidelines
1. The designation of the languages of teaching and learning and discipline specific studies	
IsiXhosa will be increasingly resourced as a language of teaching, learning and assessment alongside English. In addition, the use of all South African official languages is encouraged in teaching, learning and assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources include but are not limited to materials development, translation and creation of multilingual glossaries, provision of interpreting services. - A planned strategy for teaching and learning such as pedagogical translanguaging can be used - Upon the establishment of the language unit, assessments can be translated into UCT languages as and when needed.
All undergraduate students (as per SAQA NQF levels 5-7) without a marginalised South African indigenous language as a subject at Grade 12 level, or without proficiency in an African indigenous language, are encouraged to take a course in isiXhosa communication.	Faculties that do not already have an African indigenous language course are encouraged to include such in their curricula (see the courses offered in the Faculty of Health Sciences).
<p>The university will work towards requiring PhD abstracts be translated into a marginalised South African indigenous language.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to produce theses in South African official languages where this is possible and desirable.</p>	Establishment of the university language unit will service the faculties and divisions with translations into the university's official languages upon request.
2. The development and promotion of indigenous languages as fields of academic study and research	
The University is committed to promoting research and scholarship in and on indigenous languages through providing resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scholars conducting research in and on indigenous languages can be supported - Development of discipline specific language resources such as glossaries, texts, etc. - Research support on multilingual pedagogies for higher education. - Development of appropriate use of software support for marginalised languages and various multilingual communications tools.
3. The promotion of institutional multilingual practices	
Internal institutional communication, such as but not limited to campus announcements, UCT news, notices etc, should be conveyed in a subset, or all, of the official institutional languages suitable for the occasion and medium of communication. This would be done emulating the parliamentary documents, especially with regards to the university minutes.	Consider the target audience when planning and disseminating internal communication

Translation of the university communications, this will be done emulating the parliamentary approach. The approach will be provision of translation services will be dependent on request and the significance of the document.

<p>Two or more of the university official languages should be used (where appropriate accompanied by a SASL interpreter) as languages of communication at official functions such as graduation ceremonies.</p>	<p>Plan for the provision of interpreting services considering the target audience.</p>
<p>Official university languages should be used in significant written communication including but not limited to letters, memoranda, UCT communiques, minutes of official meetings, etc. The UCT website and faculty webpages should be available in the official university languages. Signage should be multilingual using the official university languages</p>	<p>-Consider the target audience when planning and disseminating communication such as letters, memoranda, UCT communiques, minutes of official meetings, etc. - Website managers have the responsibility of updating and maintaining websites in line with the UCT language policy - Upon the establishment of the language unit multilingual signage must be reviewed and improved by the unit.</p>
<p>Communication and marketing material should portray the multilingual commitment of the University of Cape Town, using the appropriate language for the audience. UCT respects the language policies and preferences of its stakeholders, partners and external correspondents and should accommodate their preferences as far as these are part of South Africa's official languages.</p>	<p>Communication and marketing material must be timeously planned to ensure the adherence of the university to multilingualism</p>

Monitoring & Mediation

The Language Policy Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the policy. For queries and concerns on language policy matters, staff and students should approach the respective faculty executives or Department of Student Affairs or Office for Inclusivity and Change for further assistance.

Evaluation

The progress reports on the implementation of the language policy will be compiled by the Language Policy Committee upon receipt of reports from faculties and divisions. These will be submitted annually to the chairperson of Senate.