

Faculty name: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Language Implementation PLAN for 2024 (LIP)

Date: 23 August 2023

1) Introduction / Context

- a) Indicate *which* departments / individuals / stakeholder groups were consulted and *how* they were consulted in the compilation of the plan. Please ensure that all your departments / stakeholder groups did have an opportunity to provide input.

All undergraduate programme committees (UPCs) were requested to contribute to the 2024 language implementation plan as a standing item on their agenda and in their reports to the Committee for Undergraduate Teaching (CUT). From there it is channeled to the Faculty Board. Formal written language implementation reports will continue to serve on the agenda of the FMHS Committees.

Review of feedback (both formal and informal) as received from students and staff, via the different programme committees, will continue to inform our approach during 2024. The student leadership and faculty-wide class representation remain a key source of feedback.

- b) Indicate *which* student groups were consulted and *how* they were consulted in the compilation of the plan. Please ensure that all relevant student groups were consulted.

The student viewpoint was gained via the formal feedback structures in programmes. In addition to the electronic feedback system, all students can channel input through class meetings, via their class and programme representatives, as well as through the Tygerberg Students' Representative Council (TSRC). Within the TSRC, the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council (TAAC) chair attends regular meetings with programme coordinators and with the VD L&T and can raise relevant matters. Students are also able to offer informal feedback directly to programme coordinators, lecturers and facilitators.

- 2) Aims of LIP and promotion of multilingualism as well as isiXhosa as an academic language. Please include examples of how this will be done by also referring to e.g. tutorials, workshops and seminars.

All FMHS undergraduate programmes will in 2024 again offer learning opportunities and materials in Clinical Communication in isiXhosa or Afrikaans, with customized subject content.

- 3) Language use in Teaching and Learning

Core lecture notes will be available at least in English, and in some cases in Afrikaans as well. All assignments, tests and examinations must be available in English. Lecturers will again be asked to respond to student questions in either Afrikaans or English, depending on their own language skills, and to provide an English explanation if the response is in Afrikaans or if a new concept is discussed in Afrikaans.

- a) Options used per year group

The language of instruction is correctly recorded in all modules as indicated in the XCL spreadsheet, except for the following 2:

1. The Clinical Pharmacology / Kliniese Farmakologie module with code 12015111 Farmakologie (elektief) 111; Pharmacology (elective) 111 is not on record with the FMHS assessment office and we do not have a record of enrolled students for 2023 in this module.

2. In the B Nursing programme, the Geestesgesond Lewensduur 331/ Mental Health Lifespan 331 module with code 13661331 should be recorded as being offered in **double medium** for 2024.

- b) Exceptions and motivation of exceptions

There are no requested exceptions in the general application of the language policy, except where lecturers and/or students are proficient in English only. Language use at the clinical training sites will again be dependent on the profile of the patients visiting that site. The FMHS continues to offer all students Clinical Communication skills training.

4) Language in Administration

Meetings will be conducted in English. When other languages are used occasionally, translations will be asked from colleagues as needed for clarity.

All formal faculty documents (such as Faculty Board documents and general communications) will be available in English at least, with some reports and/or annexures in both English and Afrikaans. Faculty guidelines will be translated into both English and Afrikaans.

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

Students will be encouraged to participate in the online feedback system. UPCs will receive student and staff feedback in programme meetings and via class representative structures. The TAAC will be invited to contribute feedback and will be an open channel for any student feedback. UPCs' reports will be considered by the CUT and the CUT chair will provide them with feedback from the LPMC.

6) Any additional aspects not addressed in previous sections

None

7) Conclusion

Multilingualism will again be regarded as an important professional competence for all FMHS students and as a mechanism for inclusivity for all students and staff in the faculty's diverse community.

Prof Karin Baatjes

Vice Dean: Learning and Teaching