

Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction of the University of the Arts The Hague “Art is International”

1. The international orientation of art education *KUO-Next*

In the sector’s policy agenda for the period 2016-2020 the universities of the arts described the international orientation of art education as follows:

“Art education in the Netherlands enjoys an excellent reputation in the global education market. The excellent standard of education attracts many teachers and students from other countries. Graduates find work in a labour market that is not confined by national borders. The pursuit of excellence is taken for granted in the sector. The highest level in the arts is not defined by fixed standards but depends on constantly changing value systems.”

One of the sector’s goals is that “by 2020 education in the arts will have further strengthened its international position in conjunction with regional and national agendas.”

(KUO-Next Agenda 2016-2020)

2. International orientation of the University

For the University, internationalisation is a concept that ensues from the inherent characteristics of the disciplines and the profession for which we train our students. We prepare our students for an international professional practice and explicitly regard internationalisation as an instrument to promote the personal development of the students. They are introduced to the international professional field, are inspired by and work with colleagues (and competitors) from around the world and have opportunities to display their talent on international, as well as local and national, stages and platforms and to an international audience.

Approximately 60% of our students are from abroad. Our teaching staff and our network of partners are also international. Our internationalisation policy is dedicated to improving the quality of our education and enriching our educational community. The international learning environment is therefore an integral part of our educational concept. However, we also encourage our students to spend a period studying abroad to gain the international experience at a conservatory or another academy that we regard as extremely important for their learning process and personal development.

We design our curricula in an international context. We distinguish between three aspects of our internationalisation policy:

- Adherence to and use of international qualification frameworks.
- An international learning environment.
- International comparison and assessment by international peers.

We conduct an internal dialogue on the significance of internationalisation for the substance and quality of our education. Practically all of our classes and assessments are conducted in English.¹

¹ An exception is the Bachelor of Music programme, which is primarily geared to the profession in the Netherlands and Dutch-speaking countries.

3. Language and Education

3.1 Language of instruction

Programme	Language	Curriculum	Professional field
BA Music	NL/EN	mainly NL/EN	International
BA Dance	EN	International	International
BA Autonomous Fine Art	EN	mainly International	International
BA Design	EN	mainly International	International
BA Music Teaching	NL	NL	NL
MA Music	EN	mainly International	International
MA Sonology	EN	mainly International	International
MA Type and Media	EN	International	International
MA Opera	EN	mainly International	International
MA in Fine Art and Design	EN	mainly International	International
MA Interior Architecture	EN	mainly International	International

Source: Annual Report 2017

3.2 Bachelor programme

The language of instruction for the bachelor programmes is basically English as the designated language. Most of the teaching materials are in the language of instruction but literature in English can also be used in Dutch programmes if need be. Programme providers themselves ensure that all the subjects offered in English are actually taught in English. The language of instruction equally applies to all (final) oral and written works or assignments. The Exam Committee may give permission to set aside the English language requirement if the Dutch language is more in keeping with the content and the target group of the (final) work or assignment.

3.3 Master programme

The language of instruction for the master programmes is basically English as the designated language. Programme providers themselves ensure that all the subjects offered in English are actually taught in English. The language of instruction equally applies to all (final) oral and written works or assignments. The Exam Committee may give permission to set aside the English language requirement if the Dutch language is more in keeping with the content and the target group of the (final) work or assignment.

4. Establishing the language of instruction

4.1 This memo can be cited as the “Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction of the University of the Arts The Hague” and together with numerous other regulations and policy documents can be accessed through the website of the University of the Arts www.hogeschoolderkunsten.nl and the faculty websites www.kabk.nl and www.koncon.nl.

4.2 The use of Dutch and/or English is stipulated in the Education and Examination regulations of the faculty websites.

4.3 The language of instruction is indicated for each programme in the study guide. The study guide can be found on the faculty websites.

5. Language proficiency

5.1 Students with a non-EU/EEA nationality

The level of proficiency in English required by students is laid down in the national Code of Conduct for International Students in Dutch Higher Education, which has also been signed by the University and can be found on the website (www.hogeschoolderkunsten.nl).

The minimum level of proficiency in English adopted by the University for its Bachelor and Master students² is a score on the IELTS scale (6.0) or on the TOEFL scale (level 80).

5.2 Dutch for international students

In addition to a good command of English, the University also feels that students should have a basic command of Dutch. The University therefore offers Dutch lessons for all first-year students in the first semester of each academic year. Students in the second to fourth years can also follow the course in the second semester. The Dutch lessons are also open to exchange students.

5.3 Staff

The faculty board is responsible for ensuring that staff teaching the bachelor or master programmes have an appropriate command of the language of instruction other than Dutch. The policy is described in the Staff Policy Plan 2019-2024.

*Adopted by the Executive Board on 27 May 2019
following the positive advice of the Central Participation Council on 10 May 2019*

² For the preparatory year lasting from 6 to 12 months, as for the pre-Master of 6 months or longer, the minimum requirement is 5.0 IELTS; for a preparatory year or a pre-Master of 6 months or less, the minimum requirement is 5.5 IELTS.