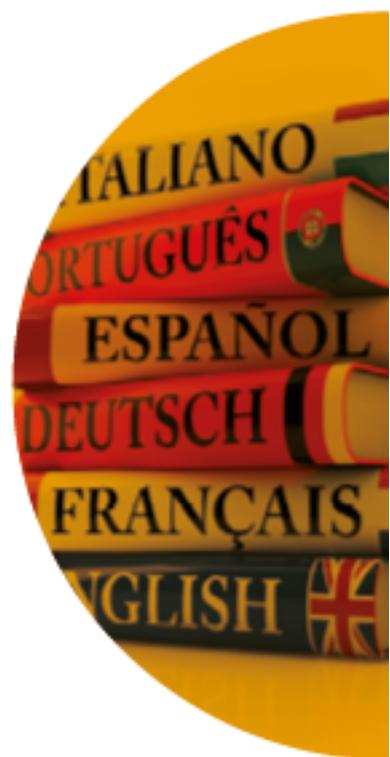




Politique linguistique

2025-2028



**Language Policy of the University of
Brest Overview, review and outlook 2024**

sea·EU
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF THE SEAS

UBO
Université de Bretagne Occidentale

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Introduction

Why the University needs a language policy?

The University of Brest (UBO), both anchored in its local area and with a strong international outlook, has an ambitious language policy adapted to the challenges of the 21st century. The policy aims to create an environment in which the internationalization of higher education and research is combined with national legislation requiring courses to be taught in French, while continuing to valorize its unique regional identity in Brittany.

In a globalized academic world, UBO is strengthening its international dimension to increase its visibility, develop its partnerships, and offer mobility opportunities to students and staff. Foreign language skills – including but not limited to English – are essential for the smooth running of exchanges and enable students to enjoy rewarding experiences abroad, researchers to collaborate with world-renowned institutions, and administrative staff to exchange good practices. The promotion of foreign languages is a strategic priority for the University, which has approved an English-Friendly Charter and offers some or all of its courses/teaching units in English.

UBO will continue to develop an ambitious inbound study abroad/exchange student policy based on its French as a Foreign Language (FLE) course that is available from undergraduate to doctoral level.

Deeply attached to its Breton identity, UBO also hosts Europe's leading Centre for Breton and Celtic Research (CRBC). Preserving and promoting regional languages and cultures, it acts as a custodian of a unique and linguistic heritage that it safeguards and transmits to future generations.

UBO's linguistic diversity represents a bold double ambition: to promote internationalization through the use of foreign languages and French as a Foreign Language (FLE) courses, and to preserve and promote regional languages, in particular Breton. This linguistic strength, a blend of global and local interaction, is what makes UBO unique: a university with an international outlook and strong local and regional roots.

Method

The European University Alliance SEA-EU has structured its work around tasks and deliverables. The aim of Task 4.6 is to promote English language competences and multilingualism within the Alliance. To this end, an expert group consisting of 10 representatives will explore the possibility of establishing a common language policy for members of the Alliance.

Prior to this task, a working group was set up at the University of Western Brittany to draw up a UBO language policy. Bringing together representatives from several UBO departments, it met between November 2023 and May 2024.

I. University language policies

“First of all, let us recall two premises: even when it is not explicit or conscious, there is always a language policy; every language policy has a cost”.

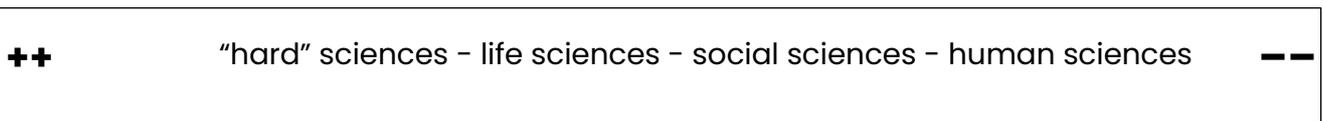
I.1 The glocal injunction

Universities are facing a “glocal” injunction.

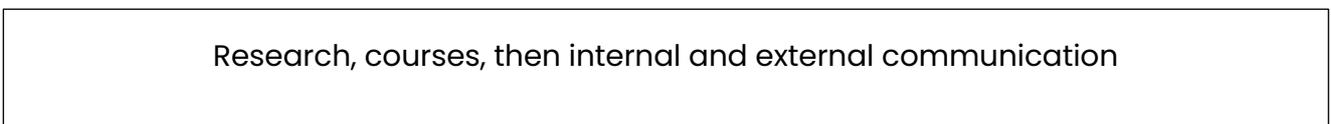
- On the one hand, universities in non-English-speaking countries are subject, in the name of internationalization, to strong pressure leading to “Anglicization”.
- On the other hand, however, most of their courses are taught in the students’ first language to ensure course effectiveness.
- Finally, universities can play a political role by taking a proactive stance in favour of the national or regional language or by promoting linguistic diversity.

I.2 Anglicization of universities

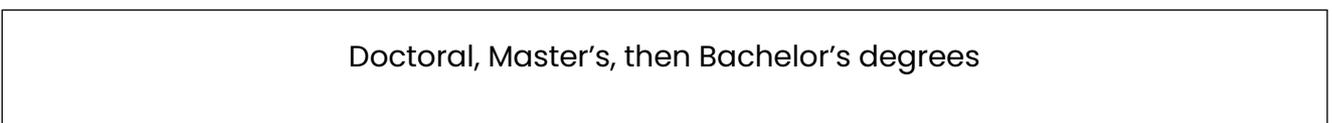
Although anglicization does not affect all university departments in the same way, it generally follows the following pattern:



This process generally involves, in the following order:



Similarly, it involves, in the following order:



¹ Lagarde, C. (2022). Opter pour une politique linguistique d’établissement : un modèle Shanghai ou un modèle COP 2... ? In La gouvernance linguistique des universités et établissements d’enseignement supérieur (p. 79- 90). Observatoire européen du plurilinguisme. <https://www.cairn.info/la-gouvernance-linguistique-universites-etablisements-enseignement-superieur--9782730216968-p-79.htm>

François Grin², the language economist, identifies several known or potential impacts of Anglicization:

- Noticeable impacts: reduced language diversity in scientific activity (for example, in conferences and journals) which undermines linguistic justice (Shorten, 2017);
- Plausible impacts: (i) decline, over time, of global multipolarity, as reflected in the diversity of languages themselves [...]; (ii) shift in geopolitical stability (because the importance of scientific activity in one language or another is a facet of soft power); (iii) deterioration in the quality of teaching and learning, particularly when teachers or students have poor English language skills.
- Possible impacts: potentially damaging repercussions on knowledge sharing and development (Frat and Herreras, 2016). The use of a single language can both facilitate and hinder knowledge sharing and development by simplifying communication, but also by unsatisfactory information reception-transmission and reception-understanding among users with low language skills (sometimes unbeknownst to the user), respectively.

II. Overview of the current situation

II.1 The Breton language at the University of Brest (UBO)

Situation and Challenges

Breton is a modern working and learning language in several University departments including the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, the Faculty of Sports and Educational Sciences, and the National Institute of Higher Education and Teaching (INSPÉ). UBO also plays a prominent role in research via the Centre for Breton and Celtic Research (CRBC).

UBO ranks among the leading institutions that play a major role in promoting the Breton language. Not only is it an essential part of Brittany's identity, especially in the western part of the region where it was the main language of communication until the mid-20th century, it is also, like all languages, an essential source of cultural richness and an important part of the world's cultural heritage.

²Grin, F. (2022). Internationalisation et anglicisation des universités : Diagnostic et éléments de stratégie. In La gouvernance linguistique des universités et établissements d'enseignement supérieur (p. 123- 131). Observatoire européen du plurilinguisme. <https://www.cairn.info/la-gouvernance-linguistique-universites-etablissemments-enseignement-superieur--9782730216968-p-123.htm>

Along with this intellectual and moral legitimacy for assuming such a responsibility is its legal legitimacy as set out in a number of texts, including article 7 of the “Savary Law” on Higher Education (Law Number 84-52 of 26 January 1984) that in particular states “*The State higher education system (...) shall promote and develop the French language and the regional languages and cultures. It participates in the study and development of national and regional heritage elements*”.

Breton Language support

Supporting the Breton language is key for UBO to remain aligned with the aspirations of Breton society, the growth in pupil numbers for immersive or bilingual schools, and the political choices made by local authorities, particularly those committed to supporting a visible and active bilingualism (such as the Regional council of Brittany, the Departmental council of Finistère, Brest Métropole, and Quimper Bretagne Occidentale).

The UBO is also a co-signatory of the Agreement for the transmission of languages from Brittany and their use in everyday life (Convention spécifique pour la transmission des langues de Bretagne et le développement de leur usage dans la vie quotidienne) 2022–2027 between the French government and Région Bretagne. In particular, it states that through their commitments under this new Agreement, the signatories agree to enable as many people as possible to learn, listen to, speak and read Breton and/or Gallo. This Agreement follows on from the one covering the period 2015–2020, to which UBO was also a co-signatory.

In 2016, UBO formalized its political commitment to the Breton language by signing the Ya d’ar Brezhoneg Charter, which was also signed by the Brittany Federation of Student Associations (FédéB) (<https://www.fr.brezhoneg.bzh/evenement/1752/50-actualite.htm>).

On 22 November 2016, the UBO Governing Board unanimously decided to adopt seven undertakings in support of the Breton language:

- Create and use physical and e-cards in the Breton language for festive/New Year messages.
- Provide and promote bilingual business cards for university staff.
- Install bilingual internal and external signage for university facilities during new/renewal projects.
- Provide access for all UBO students to Breton language complementary teaching units on or near their campus.
- Identify UBO staff skills and training needs.
- Conduct a study on UBO students’ knowledge and awareness of Breton.
- Support and take part in *Redadeg*, a running event in support of the Breton language.

With six of the seven selected actions successfully completed, the UBO was awarded the label 1 of the 2019 Ya d'ar brezhoneg campaign by the Public Office for the Breton Language/Ofis publik ar brezhoneg.

It was noted that "UBO has achieved a great deal in the last 3 years, including other actions such as publicity and communication. It continues to promote the Breton language through extensive bilingual communication and regular promotional activities each year".

This work is still ongoing. In April 2024, the UBO communication department published a special report on Breton language at the UBO that covered the preservation, teaching, studying and promotion of a regional language and culture ([Le breton à l'UBO : préserver, enseigner, étudier et promouvoir une langue et une culture régionale](#)).

II.2 Language teaching in Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree courses

National regulations and Course framework

The UBO Course framework letter (lettre de cadrage) for 2022-2027 specifies that the common language of instruction is French, in accordance with the national regulations (see section 1.1).

However, some courses may be taught in a language other than French, or as hybrid learning, such as the English-Friendly format. This applies to language courses – for self-evident or historical reasons (Foreign and Regional Languages, Literature, Societies and Culture (LLCER) or Applied Foreign Languages (LEA) –, and the hosting of international mobility students to ensure reciprocal exchanges with international partners³.

At the same time, and in line with the objectives of the European University Alliance SEA-EU, considerable efforts are being made at undergraduate level to improve the average level of foreign language competency among all undergraduates, enabling an ever-increasing number of students to continue their studies, at UBO or elsewhere, by taking courses taught in other languages.

Regarding the acquisition and assessment of language skills (section 2.7), the Orders relating to the national bachelor's degree (Order of 30 July 2018, article 10) and English language certificates (Order of 3 April 2020, article 22) state that students need to develop language skills, in particular the ability to read, write, understand and express themselves in at least one modern foreign language. These skills should be assessed at the beginning of the university course so that appropriate teaching can be provided. At

³ See the English-Friendly Charter on page 11.

least in the case of English, these skills should be the subject of external certificates recognised internationally and by the socio-economic community before the end of the first-cycle programmes.⁴

UBO's objective is for as many people as possible to reach level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in English and thus foster international mobility. Each standard course must therefore include an ongoing language course for communication and special purposes (LANSAD) of at least 2 ECTS credits per semester. Jointly coordinated by the departmental teaching team and the Pôle Langues language centre, this enables students to develop their language skills. Although compulsory certification focuses on the English language, a range of languages will be offered in line with student preferences and the programme's overall sustainability.

For the Foreign and Regional Languages, Literature, Societies and Culture (LLCER) and Applied Foreign Languages (LEA) courses, a specific system will be set up that includes communication and special purposes (LANSAD) courses; this will also prepare students for an English language certificate.

The framework for Master-level programmes is less specific than for the Bachelor-level: Master's courses must include a language course (the number of hours is unspecified) and an assessment of the students' level of language competence (there is no minimum level set by the University).

Language courses for communication and special purposes (LANSAD)

The Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences at UBO has specialist departments in English, Spanish and Breton/Celtic Language, Literature and Culture.

The UBO offers courses from Bachelor's to Doctoral level. In these streams, the Bachelor's degree is mainly taught in the target language. The Applied Foreign Languages (LEA) course is available in three pathways: English-Spanish, English-German and English-Chinese in which language, communication and culture classes are also taught in the target language.

Students from these Bachelor's degrees can access several Master's courses in particular the Master's in Arts, Humanities, Cultures with the pathway Text, Image, Foreign Languages (TILE), Languages and Cultures, pathway Celtic cultures and languages (LCCC), and Cultures and Societies (CCS). A large part of the TILE and LCCC Master's are taught in English.

⁴ On 7 June 2022, the French Council of State cancelled the compulsory English language exam of the Bachelor's degree. However, the UBO still funds a certification session for each undergraduate in one of its three languages: Higher education certificate of language skills (CLES) level B1 or B2 in English, Spanish or Italian. Reduced rates are available for Master's and Doctoral students when registering at SUFCA (the University department for continuing education/placement-study programmes).

These Bachelor's students can also access the following courses: professional Master's such as Translation and Interpreting with the pathway Technical Writing-Translation, as well as Applied Foreign Languages with the pathway Multilingual International Project Management (MPIM), courses that are partly taught in English.

There is also the Master's in French as a Foreign Language (FLE) with the pathway Languages, Didactics, and Culture.

Secondary school language teacher courses

The Brittany National Institute of Higher Education and Teaching (INSPÉ Bretagne) provides training in language didactics and professional skills development for the Master's in Teaching, Education and Training Professions (MEEF) Languages at six campuses. First-year students are registered at Université Rennes 2 (for English, Spanish, Italian, German, Chinese pathways), University of Western Brittany (UBO) (English and Spanish pathways), or Université Bretagne Sud (UBS) (English pathway). The MEEF Breton secondary education is taught at the Saint-Brieuc campus and led by both UBO and Université Rennes 2. The MEEF Chinese Master's was discontinued at the start of the 2024 academic year.

The German department at the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences was closed in 2017 due to student shortages, and as such, language courses for the INSPÉ Bretagne MEEF Master's in German (like those in Italian) take place exclusively at Université Rennes 2. These pathways need to be given a boost and developed.

Teaching Languages for communication and special purposes (LANSAD)

Each UBO undergraduate student can take 6 foreign language modules, with one module worth 3 ECTS credits per semester of the Bachelor's degree. Depending on the course, this corresponds to 16, 18 or 20 hours of classes per semester.

English is the only foreign language offered at the Faculty of Science and Technology, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Sports and Educational Sciences.

The Faculty of Law, Economics and Management – Economics and Social Administration (AES) offers English, Spanish or German, while the Faculty of Economics and Management and the Brest University School of Management (IAE) offers a second language as an additional complementary teaching unit.

The Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences offers undergraduate students on all Bachelor's and certain Master's degrees a choice of 10 languages: Arabic, Breton, Chinese, English, German, Irish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Students choose one of the 10 languages and register for the relevant Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) level.

The Brest-Morlaix and Quimper University Institutes of Technology (IUTs) offer English and a second language (Spanish or German).

The Atlantic Brittany Agri-Food Engineering School (ESIAB) offers English as a first language (compulsory), and requires a minimum B2 level certificate at the end of the course, as well as a second modern language (Spanish or German).

As part of the MEEF Master's programme, INSPÉ provides 24 hours of language classes (English, Spanish where possible) to its students in the primary education pathway. Training is delivered by the universities where students are registered for the secondary education pathway. Level B2 must be validated.

II.3 French as a Foreign Language (FLE) course at the University of Brest (UBO)

The Pôle Langues language centre organises French as a Foreign Language courses, which are offered free of charge to all international students during both semesters of their first year at UBO.

These courses can be taken independently of the course programme, or instead of a Languages teaching unit for students at the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences. The same applies to some students in the Faculty of Law, Economics and Management or in Master's programmes, in which case ECTS credits are awarded.

There are several groups, from level A1 (beginners) to C1 (advanced). A French as a Second Language (FLS) group completes the options for international French-speaking students who need help to improve their academic writing.

These are evening classes that are held from 18:00 to 20:00 in order to be accessible to as many people as possible. There are generally 20 hours in the first semester and 22 in the second. Classes are also open to non-UBO users on payment of a registration fee at SUFCA (the University department for continuing education/placement-study programmes).

Refugees on the PAUSE programme can also attend the classes.

The doctoral schools offer a French for Specific Purposes (FOS) module aimed at non-French speaking doctoral students.

In order to welcome Ukrainian refugee students, specific French courses were also set up at the request of the Ministry of Higher Education from January 2022 to June 2024. The aim was to enable these young people to acquire an adequate level of French to continue their university education while in exile in France.

The Continuing education and placement–study department (SUFCA) is responsible for organising certification via the Certificate in French Language Studies (DELFC) and the Advanced Certificate of French Language Proficiency (DALF) for UBO students and non-UBO users.

II.4 Additional student services

In addition to the compulsory language modules offered in the course programmes, the UBO Pôle Langues language centre offers lunchtime conversation workshops in English, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian and Breton, facilitated by students who are suitably experienced speakers (international where appropriate) and have been recruited as tutors.

The Bachelor’s-level cross-disciplinary teaching Unit “Preparation for mobility stays in Spanish-speaking countries” is for students who are not specialists in Spanish.

Refresher courses in English are offered to students from all departments on the Brest campuses, on the recommendation of their language teachers (2 groups of 12 students per semester).

All students can take part in online Moodle activities each week: 5 minutes of English, Spanish or Italian. Subscription is by signing up to the newsletter.

II.5 Course programmes and training support for staff

UBO staff can access a range of foreign language courses organised by the Human Resources (DRH) Department’s Training Department.

In 2023–2024, this option included a comprehensive English language course of 20 hours for staff whose language competency level was lower than B1. Staff with a higher competency level are encouraged to sign up for more intensive courses in a Staff Week format at UBO or abroad.

English conversation workshops are also available to staff via the Social Action Service that also funds workshops in other languages when there is enough demand.

University staff can also attend the Breton conversation workshops for students, as well as the workshops in other languages (English not included).

The University laboratories fund academic writing workshops in English for researchers. These workshops have been designed for participants to gradually become

autonomous and are facilitated by a translator from the University Translation Bureau (BTU) and an English teacher from the Pôle Langues language centre. Participants work on research publications or course materials in English.

With funding from laboratories or the HR Department's Training Department, staff can also sign up for individual coaching carried out by the Pôle Langues language centre or for language courses abroad.

Finally, university staff are the most frequent users of the 5 minutes per week online Moodle activities in English, Spanish and Italian.

II.6 Online courses by the European University Alliance SEA-EU

Since the creation of the European University Alliance SEA-EU, a working group has examined how the language skills of students and staff can be developed while preserving multilingualism. Two projects were quickly developed.

- Virtual Tandem Language Exchanges (VTLE): Alliance members can register for a language exchange with a native speaker, and the system finds a suitable match for the language pairs selected.
- Virtual Language Courses (VLC): each Alliance university offers one or more online course(s) in its national language each year. These synchronous distance-learning courses, open to both students and staff, are free of charge and are not eligible for course credits. In recent years, priority has been given to beginner's level (A1, then A2). UBO offers up to 3 semi-intensive 20-hour French as a Foreign Language (FLE) courses per year. The number of applications far exceeds the 20 places available per session.

In return for this contribution, UBO students and staff will have access to an equivalent offer in the Alliance's 8 other languages.

II.7 The University Translation Bureau (BTU) of the University of Brest (UBO)

Created in September 2010, and still one of the only services of its type in French universities, the BTU reflects UBO's international outlook.

The BTU's overall objective is to provide linguistic services (all languages), such as translation, correction/revision and oral interpretation, to UBO researchers, lecturer-researchers, departments and services, as well as to non-UBO institutions and private individuals.

It also translates certain UBO academic registry documents (such as academic transcripts, degree certificates, and award verification letters). This is a free service available to all students, past and present.

The BTU team comprises three translators (who are also the project managers), and a director (who is also a lecturer-researcher), and works with a pool of external translators and service providers. It is supported by a professional consultant and a scientific committee.

II.8 Courses provided in a language other than French: an overview

In addition to Bachelor's degrees for language professionals, there are also a number of courses that are taught, at least in part, in languages other than French.

In English

The list of courses taught in English is kept up to date by the Department of Studies and Student Life (DEVE) and is available in English on the UBO website: [Training programmes available in English | Université de Bretagne Occidentale \(univ-brest.fr\)](https://www.univ-brest.fr/en/training-programmes-available-in-english)

To date, it includes:

- IUT Brest-Morlaix: International Business Programme, level Baccalaureate + 3 years, 4 semesters taught in English and 12 places reserved for international students.
- IUT Quimper: semester 5 of the University Bachelor of Technology (BUT) in International Trade.
- European Institute for Marine Studies (IUEM): the second year of the Master's degree in Marine Biotechnologies and the two years of the Master's in Marine Physics. The International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources (IMBRSea) is taught in English in 3 different countries for semesters 7, 8 and 9.
- At the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, the Master's degree in Celtic Studies has 2 semesters that are taught in English with potential internships in an English-speaking Celtic country. 80% of the Texts, Images and Foreign Literature (TILE) Master's course is taught in English.
- At the Faculty of Science and Technology, the Master's degree in Interactive, Intelligent and Autonomous Systems (SIIA) is open to English speakers for the second year. During year 2 of the international pathway of the Computer Science and IT Bachelor's degree there are advanced English courses and IT teaching in English.

On the chart of courses available in English, Brittany has 12 programmes that are taught in English:

- 3 at the Brest National School of Engineering (ENIB) (100%)
- 1 at the University of Brest (UBO) (less than 100%)
- 8 at Université Rennes 2

In France there are 229 programmes taught entirely in English and leading to a national university diploma, with national tuition fees.

As with all members of the European University Alliance SEA-EU, students and staff can also access courses taught in English in hybrid or fully distance mode (e.g. Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs), Staff Week, STORM Masters from September 2025, collaboration between teaching modules, conferences).

In Breton

The Bachelor's degree pathway for the preparatory course in teaching in bilingual Breton-French schools at the Educational Sciences department, as well as the Master's in Teaching, Education and Training (MEEF) primary education French-Breton, teach a large part of their courses in Breton.

Bilingual Breton-French teaching is expanding rapidly at primary level, but is still hampered by a lack of qualified teachers. UBO plays a central role in the training course policy for new Breton-speaking teachers through two courses:

- The bilingual Master's in Teaching, Education and Training Professions (MEEF) primary education offered by the Brittany National Institute of Higher Education and Teaching (INSPÉ Bretagne) on the Saint-Brieuc campus.
- The 'Preparatory course for the teaching profession in schools, specialising in Breton-French teaching', offered by the Faculty of Sports and Educational Sciences in Brest.

Breton, the working language of future teachers, is the main language used in these two courses.

Since 2015, the Jakez Hélias centre in Quimper has also hosted the Breton Language and Culture Summer School, which takes place during the last fortnight of June. It is taught in English so that non-French speaking international students and lecturer-researchers can discover the Breton language and the history and heritage of Brittany. The two-week programme includes Breton language classes in the mornings and lectures and visits in the afternoons.

To date, the programme has received almost a hundred participants from over 20 different nationalities.

⁵ <https://nouveau.univ-brest.fr/breton-summer-school-crbc/fr>

II.9 English-Friendly Charter

The UBO adopted an English-Friendly charter in 2022 to facilitate international student mobility and develop student employability. The English-Friendly approach can be applied to a course or part of a teaching module in agreement with the relevant teaching teams. It can have several levels, ranging from a simple bibliography in English if the course is taught in French, to English support for students during part of the course, with course materials in English.

This approach can be considered a preparatory phase for a course conducted entirely in English, or as a simple supplementary aid in English for a course mainly conducted in French.

II.10 International Mobility

Every year, the University of Western Brittany (UBO) hosts French-speaking international students through Campus France.

In addition, subsidised inbound mobility (Erasmus and other agreements) has fallen slightly since 2011, despite an upturn in 2021-2022. Two thirds of Erasmus students come to UBO for Humanities or Science courses.

Subsidised outbound mobility (Erasmus and other agreements) was thriving from 2015 to 2019, but unsurprisingly experienced a decline during the COVID 19 pandemic. The health crisis seems to have triggered a slowdown in outbound mobility post COVID19.

Outbound mobility opportunities offered by the European University Alliance SEA-EU enable the UBO to build lasting relationships with reliable partners, and is a major lever for increasing mobility.

Our strong partnerships with Quebec and China still attract many students from Brest, but there are a limited number of places. National policies have a significant effect on partnerships from outside the European Union. The issue of enrolment fees for mobility students has a major impact on the negotiation and implementation of agreements.

III. Language skills requirements in the French and international context

III. 1 Student Employability and Careers

Meetings with practitioners during course development committees show the importance of competency in one or more languages, at least at B2 level, in the professional context.

III. 2 Student mobility at UBO

International mobility is closely linked to language and intercultural skills. Developing language skills, particularly in English, is a key objective of the European University Alliance SEA-EU.

Reciprocity is the main challenge of the UBO mobility policy, and English seems to be the preferred language of international communication in many situations.

III. 3 Research Language

An initial survey of English language competency and use was carried out in December 2023 as part of Task 4.6 of the European University Alliance SEA-EU in the two sample fields of sociology and chemistry.

The results obtained from the UBO survey respondents show that:

- Participants in these two research areas write few, if any, emails in English.
- Between 25% and 75% of the publications read by the two surveyed groups are in English.

- Sociologists are less likely than chemists to hear English in the course of their research.
- Speaking in English is not as frequent as listening: it accounts for less than 25% of working time for chemists and never for sociologists.
- The amount of written material in English, including research publications, produced in the month before the survey is higher for chemists than for sociologists (no written material).
- Both groups said they needed to improve their English speaking and writing skills.

The languages used in publications seem to vary according to research field. A more in-depth survey of communication languages, including French and other languages, is needed among all laboratories to complete the sample studied in the first European University Alliance SEA-EU survey.

In most UBO laboratories, French seems to be the main language of daily oral and written communication.

III.4 Administrative Language

French is the standard language of communication for all UBO administrative services, both internally and with the supervisory authorities.

However, staff working with SEA-EU Alliance universities and other non-French speaking international partners communicate in English on joint projects.

The SEA-EU survey carried out in December 2023 shows that there is a need for more training to develop English communication skills.

III.5 Language for external communication

UBO communication material is in French, and some UBO presentation documents are available in English.

In accordance with the Ya d'ar Brezhoneg Charter, signage on UBO campuses is bilingual in French and Breton. Business cards can also be printed in these two languages.

IV. Looking to the future:

Conclusions

Short term

The Working Group wishes to reaffirm the international dimension of the French language, the use of which must be promoted in a context of international cooperation.

This strategic direction is in line with the development of training modules taught in English when they meet the needs of teaching teams, particularly in scientific fields. Lecturers and lecturer-researchers should therefore be supported in their efforts to ensure that the quality of teaching continues to be upheld. Their investment in this transformational teaching course process should be recognised and valorised.

Language training for academic, administrative and technical staff must continue.

It would be advisable to review the French as a Foreign Language (FLE) courses so that they can be adapted to the needs of international students.

The online FLE course programme for SEA-EU partners (Virtual Language Courses) meets a demand and should be developed.

The French as a Foreign Language course could be strengthened by the creation of a weekly '5 minutes of FLE' type of subscription, and by a welcome offer for international students that focuses on interculturality.

An awareness-raising campaign among lecturers, inviting them to be more accepting of an imperfect knowledge of academic French, should be launched.

The development of international student sponsorship and agreements between international student associations will help to improve the quality of student mobility.

The Working Group recommends broadening UBO's language certification up to C1 level.

For German, CLES (higher education certificate of language skills) training for an INSPÉ Bretagne trainer could be envisaged.

A GRETA collaboration could lead to a Breton language skills diploma (DCL); schools and institutes wishing participate must still be able to use other certifications such as the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC).

Promotion of the Breton language must be continued and increased.

The Breton language conversation workshops could be better communicated to staff.

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Medium term

Future accreditation renewals should confirm the importance of language teaching in all courses. Students should also be given the opportunity to study a second foreign language.

Students should be provided with English language support for courses taught in English. In cases where the English-Friendly Charter has been implemented, it is advisable to assess its application.

The possibility of covering the costs of long Breton language courses for staff should be examined. These training courses, lasting several months and costing between €3,000 and €5,000, could receive Région Bretagne funding.

A course on how to use and choose the right artificial intelligence tools would facilitate translations from one language to another.

The work carried out within the European University Alliance SEA-EU could be used to create a joint training course on intercommunication between languages from the same linguistic family (e.g. Romance or Slavic languages).

The University Alliance appears to be the ideal framework for developing a multilingual course. The Working Group proposes the introduction of cross-disciplinary teaching units in languages other than English and Spanish.

Language summer schools and Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) could also be developed for staff and students, taking into account the timetable constraints of different universities.

Longer term

There should be more UBO communication material available in French, English and Breton.

The Working Group recommends that websites and physical media should only provide information in English and Breton that does not require regular updating, to avoid maintaining outdated versions of the information provided.