



Pursuant to the Article 44, paragraph 1, point 42 of the Statute of the University of Arts in Belgrade No. 8/11 from 9 March 2018 and in connection with the implementation of the Internationalisation Strategy of the University of Arts 2018-2025 No. 7/53 from 26 February 2018, as well as with the realisation of international mobility at the University of Arts, regulated by the Regulations on International Mobility No. 7/442 from 7 October 2016, the Senate of the University of Arts, at the 121st meeting held on 29 March 2018, passed

## LANGUAGE POLICY

### I BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND POLICY PURPOSE

The University of Arts in Belgrade (UAB) is the only specialised university in Serbia dedicated entirely to art education. Although such profile does not include a language faculty or a language institute, the UAB is highly devoted to the development of language competence of its students and staff. Language courses are integrated in curricula and are mandatory part of undergraduate study programmes, making the English language proficiency a priority.

The primary aim of the Language Policy is to increase our staff and students' awareness of the importance of language and its use as a prerequisite for being able to express themselves on the subject of their discipline in national and international competitive professional community. Our aspiration is to develop the concept of multilingualism at the UAB, which is crucial for exchange of creativity and knowledge in an increasingly connected contemporary world. The UAB students and staff should use Serbian and English as parallel academic languages as much as possible in order to keep the current international academic community and their results present in the local context and curricula, as well as to keep the terminology in Serbian language up-to-date.

This Language Policy sets out the principles that the UAB follows in developing language competences in undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes. It applies to all UAB students and staff of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including the incoming students and staff as part of the exchange programmes.

### II LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The official language of instruction at the UAB is Serbian. However, for incoming students, some degree programmes and individual courses are offered in English language too ([Course Catalogue](#) in English offered to international students is available on our website).

Having in mind the language of instruction and to whom it is intended, the UAB in its offer distinguishes:

1. Study programmes in Serbian – As stipulated in Article 73. of the Statute of the UAB, the official language of instruction is Serbian. The UAB can organise exams and studies, or parts of the studies, defence of the final, master's and specialist thesis and doctoral art project, respectively doctoral dissertation, in the language of a national minority or in a foreign language, in accordance with the Senate Act.
2. Study programmes in English – The UAB also provides full degree programmes taught entirely in English: *Cultural Policy and Management (Interculturalism and Mediation in*

*the Balkans*) – UNESCO Chair and *MA in International Performance Research – MAIPR*. These international interdisciplinary master programmes are delivered by international university consortia and accredited in English. Offered to both domestic and international students, they contribute to the international, multicultural, innovative, stimulating and unique study environment.

The Jean Monnet Module *Musical Identities and European Perspective: an Interdisciplinary Approach* at the Faculty of Music is also taught in English.

3. Selection of courses in English for international students – Even though the official language of instruction at the UAB is Serbian, plenty of courses offered in local language have strong individual artistic and mentorship component and can be easily adapted to the needs of foreign students, therefore are accessible for international exchange students ([Course Catalogue](#) in English language offered to international students is available on our website).

### III GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles of the UAB's Language Policy are:

- High linguistic competence is a prerequisite for the exchange of students and staff, as well as achieving our strategic goal of becoming an international university;
- Building the multilingual competence of our students and staff is necessary for participating in international academic context;
- Fostering the transcultural competence of our students and staff is essential for functioning successfully within different cultures and multicultural environments;
- By helping our students gain the required language competence we make them more employable internationally.

### IV OBJECTIVES

#### 1. Improvement of the language competences of students

Study programmes at the UAB are structured and designed so as to generate a specific outcome – well-educated young artists and professionals with strong multilingual and transcultural competences. There are 2 different approaches to improving students' language competences at the UAB – through offered discipline-specific language courses at undergraduate level, and through curricula that motivate students at postgraduate level to use foreign languages in their education as much as possible.

Language courses are compulsory part of undergraduate studies at all 4 faculties of the UAB. As part of their curricula, our faculties offer the English, German, French, Russian, and Italian language courses, according to students' preference and previous knowledge. The minimum duration of courses is 2 years (4 semesters). After the first year students are to acquire the B1 level of knowledge, whereas during the second year they are expected to increase their language skills to progress to B2 level. In addition to language for general purposes, these courses put emphasis on art, that is, language for specific purposes and professional vocabulary. For this reason, the UAB's faculties publish discipline-specific course books. Recognising the importance of foreign languages in young artists' education, the UAB's long term intention is to extend the duration of these compulsory courses to all years of undergraduate studies, with the aim that all UAB graduates acquire good oral and written skills in one of the above mentioned foreign languages, participate in exchange programmes and have the capability of functioning as professionals in terms of foreign language competence. Such approach develops multilingual competences and promotes cultural diversity and interest in intercultural communication.

Aside from improving the undergraduate students' language competence through language courses, the UAB fosters language proficiency of postgraduate students too.

The UAB plans to further strengthen already prominent francophone orientation and long-term cooperation with French universities. We will continue organising an 8-month long French language course in cooperation with the French Institute in Belgrade, as we have been doing for more than 15 years. The course is offered every year to postgraduate students at the Centre for Interdisciplinary studies. At the end of the course, students are to pass A1/A2 DELF exam.

Even though there are no language courses at PhD level, we are committed to the improvement of the learning process towards the language competence. Besides supporting the development of English language proficiency, the academic staff is responsible for developing the discipline-specific language skills of their PhD students through the course design. The UAB will continue to encourage the use of English in study programmes and students' research, by motivating PhD students to use sources written in foreign languages (particularly English), as well as to participate in international competitions, projects and conferences. The aim of such approach is for English to be integrated into curricula, therefore to prepare PhD students for professional work and research in international academic community.

## **2. Introduction of study programmes in English**

As part of the Internationalisation strategy of the UAB (2018-2025), we are determined to explore opportunities for launching new interdisciplinary full-degree programmes in English with partners from abroad, based on a long-standing experience of internationally accredited and acclaimed programmes *Cultural Policy and Management (Interculturalism and Mediation in the Balkans)* – UNESCO Chair and *MA in International Performance Research – MAIPR*. Such innovative programmes with international academic staff can move not only the boundaries between traditional disciplines, but also between cultures, offering intercultural competencies and a unique international study experience to our students in the local context.

## **3. Language support to student mobility**

### **3.1. Language requirements**

Language proficiency is a prerequisite for a successful student mobility.

Both the UAB and the partner HEI agree on the required proficiency level of the language of instruction. Incoming and outgoing students at the UAB must meet the language requirements of at least B1-B2 level (reading, writing and speaking) on the CEFR scale (*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*) or equivalent. We accept a wide range of certificates: IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge, PTE etc.

The UAB selection criteria take into account both the requested language skills at the selection stage and student capacity to improve language competences.

### **3.2. Language support to outgoing students**

In order to be able to fully benefit from their mobility, all UAB students who want to participate in exchange programmes must demonstrate their language competence either in English or in the local language of their host university.

If the student does not hold one of the recognised English language qualifications stipulated in paragraph 3.1, our faculties offer direct support and language teachers arrange additional examination prior to mobility. If the student has passed the obligatory

foreign language course with grade 9 or 10 – additional oral test is required, but if the student has passed the compulsory foreign language course with grade 8 or below – both written and oral tests are compulsory. In case that the student does not meet the mobility language requirements, language teachers offer consultations on how to improve the level of proficiency before mobility.

Upon request, the English language teachers test the outgoing students' proficiency on postgraduate level as well in order to determine if they have the required level of knowledge by the host university.

The aim of such language support to outgoing students is to prepare them for active participation in an international academic and cultural environment.

### **3.3. Language support to incoming students**

Incoming exchange students should also fulfil English language requirements stipulated in paragraph 3.1, unless they are native English or Serbian speakers, or they have obtained their previous degree taught in English or Serbian.

Plenty of courses offered in English with strong individual component can be easily adapted to the needs of foreign students. Such mentoring approach by professors fluent in English tends to contribute to the development of the incoming students' language competence.

If desired, incoming students may attend foreign language courses offered by our faculties in order to improve their language competences.

Even though the UAB includes neither the faculty of philology nor the institute for languages, we support incoming students to learn Serbian language. For that purpose, the UAB has a strategic partnership with the [Institute for Foreign Languages](#) in Belgrade, arranged by the cooperation agreement. At the beginning of each semester, the UAB offers a special Serbian Language Course at beginner "survival" level (4 hours a week, total duration one-month). This course is free of charge for Erasmus+ mobility students, in accordance with the available resources intended for these purposes. The group is formed upon students' request and if at least 5 students apply. The aim of the course is to help international students acquire the basic knowledge of Serbian, to be able to communicate on a daily basis and to adapt to the new environment as easy as possible.

### **3.3. Improvement of the language competences of academic staff**

Language proficiency is a prerequisite for a successful staff mobility too. Both incoming and outgoing academic staff must meet the language requirements of at least level B2.

Upon request, the UAB provides language support to academic staff in terms of testing and advising them on how to improve their language competence.

The UAB fosters academic staff English language proficiency also by motivating them to participate in international programmes, projects, conferences and networks, in formal and informal settings.

The Language Policy and strong language proficiency of academic staff will be taken into account when planning the activities and recruitment of new employees.

## **V SUPERVISION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The Deans are responsible for implementing the UAB Language Policy within the programmes of their respective faculties.

The Vice-Rector for International Relations oversees the implementation of the Language Policy at the UAB level.

The UAB may make changes to this policy from time to time to improve the effectiveness of its operation.

## **VI ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Policy shall be adopted in both Serbian and English, shall enter into force on the day of its adoption and shall be published on the University website.

President of the Senate

R e c t o r

Prof. Zoran Erić