

Language policy for the Oslo National Academy of the Arts

Adopted by the board, 30 September 2014

- The Academy shall maintain and promote the use of Norwegian as an academic language. At the same time, English or another international language may be used when deemed expedient in order to achieve the Academy's goal of offering studies at a high international level and participating in international efforts within artistic research and development.
- In the main, the Academy follows the recommendations from Universities Norway (UHR) in regard to the choice of language:
 - The language of instruction at universities and college should as a rule be Norwegian.
 - Sami and Norwegian have equal status as official languages in Norway. The Sami language shall therefore be placed on an equal footing with Norwegian in those disciplines where this is natural.
 - English or other languages may be used in contexts where it is deemed expedient and/or necessary.
 - Publishing and popular dissemination shall take place in the language that is most relevant and natural for the academic community in question and adapted to the target group at hand.
- Students in higher education should normally be familiar with and be able to use discipline-specific terminology in both Norwegian and English or another international language
- The Academy's language policy shall promote the parallel use of languages, that is the use of Norwegian as the national academic language and English as the international academic language

Education

- The language of instruction at the Academy shall as a rule be Norwegian. In order to achieve goals of developing the proficiency in academic English among Norwegian-language students or of integrating students whose native language is not Norwegian, Swedish or Danish, the language of instruction can also be English. This means that students who are admitted to the Academy must master both Norwegian and English.
- In special cases, the rector (Master's level) or the board (Bachelor's level) may decide that the language requirement for being admitted to an academic programme may be limited to English. In the event of such a decision, the curriculum must state that the programme has been tailored to accommodate students who only master English, so that that all courses can be taken and all academic choices can be made without the student mastering Norwegian. It must be ensured that prospective students are proficient in English before they are admitted.
- Master's level: The requirement that a student be proficient in Norwegian when being admitted to a Master's programme may be waived if this is deemed important in order to raise the quality of the academic discourse and the artistic production. The department shall at the same time ensure that all academic staff involved in the programme master academic English at a satisfactory level.
- Bachelor's level: The requirement that a student be proficient in Norwegian when being admitted to a Bachelor's programme may be waived if, in addition to the Master's level exemption conditions being met, it is considered to be particularly challenging to recruit students of a satisfactory level to the programme in question. Exemptions at the Bachelor's level must be limited so that, at any given point in time, a majority of the department's Bachelor's programmes require proficiency in Norwegian.
- The language used in the academic programmes must be subordinate to the institutions' cultural responsibility for upholding Norwegian as an academic language within the department's area of specialisation.

- The Scandinavian languages Norwegian, Swedish and Danish shall be considered to be equally valid as languages of instruction.
- The various departments shall themselves choose which language to use during exams, but students should not be required to write their exam replies in English in courses where this is not part of the course's distinct character or intention.
- Students in higher education should be familiar with and be able to use discipline-specific terminology in English or another international language.
- Foreign students shall be offered a course in Norwegian language, culture and society, tailored to the length of their academic stay.

Artistic research and development

- Artistic research and development shall be shared with the various academic communities in a language that is suitable for reaching relevant academic communities and channels of communication.
- Norwegian shall continue to be a relevant language for publishing, but in most disciplines it is nonetheless permissible for English or another international language to be the primary language of publishing.
- If English is used as the primary language of communication or of publishing research, there should be a summary in Norwegian – and vice versa.
- If a research fellow's critical reflections are written in Norwegian, there should be a summary in an international language – and vice versa.
- The Academy should offer a copyediting/language revision service for manuscripts, especially aimed at manuscripts in international languages.

Popular dissemination and outreach

- The dissemination of research to the general public should take place in the language that is most fitting for the given target group.
- It is a goal that external communication on the Academy's webpages shall be published in both Norwegian and English.

Resources

- Staff may be recruited from abroad in order to achieve the Academy's goal of offering a stimulating learning environment and studies at a high, international level.
- When hiring academic staff, all the members of the expert committees shall be proficient in Norwegian (or Swedish or Danish) unless all the materials from every applicant to be appraised is submitted in English.
- The administrative language at the Academy is Norwegian. Internal communication with staff takes place in Norwegian. Applicants to positions shall be informed that the Academy's administrative language is Norwegian, and successful applicants shall upon being hired be required to achieve a certain proficiency in Norwegian within a reasonable amount of time.
- In adherence to the Language Usage Act, both forms of Norwegian – Bokmål and Nynorsk – shall be clearly visible at the Academy in the texts published in the miscellany of channels and in the various forms of presentation.

- Alternative organisational forms for achieving the goal of equality between Bokmål and Nynorsk may be tried out to the extent they are in line with the intention of promoting genuine equality between both forms of Norwegian.