

# **Institute of Accounting Science**

## **LANGUAGE POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Linguistic diversity is a resource for creativity and cognition that should be protected. Learning the languages of South Africa is a means of enhancing understanding of one another and of overcoming our differences.

The Institutes' Language Policy follows section 27(2) of the Higher Education Act (1997) which requires higher education institutions to develop and publish a language policy. IAS subscribes to a multilingual ethos where the linguistic diversity of the Gauteng province is acknowledged and conditions created to support successful teaching, constructive and meaningful academic discourse, and effective institutional governance and communication.

### **2. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The IAS Language Policy is informed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act (Act 108 of 1996), the Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997), the Language Policy for Higher Education (2003), the Use of Official Languages Act, 2012 (Act 12 of 2012) and the IAS's vision, mission and strategic goals and objectives, and the SAICA language policy. The Language Policy is based on the following principles:

- a. The recognition of:
  - i. the rich multilingual nature of the Gauteng region;
  - ii. the notion of functional multilingualism where the choice of using a particular language is determined by different contexts such as the purpose and nature of language use and communication;
  - iii. the multilingual repertoires of students and staff as resources for effective teaching and learning;
  - iv. the important role of language in promoting human dignity, and the transformation process required to build a free and just democracy;
  - v. the need to cultivate a spirit of respect and inclusiveness in matters relating to language;
  - vi. the need to conform with the SAICA policy on language.

### **3. POLICY STATEMENT**

Designated Languages: Given the Institute's geographical context and reflecting our commitment to promoting multilingualism in the context of higher education and the fact that all media, legislation, accounting and auditing standards, and other textbooks are only available in English, and that the ITC board exam for which we prepare the students for is only available to be written in English, that English is our designated primary language. In providing support, consultation etc. and to the extent that the staff are able to use other languages, additional support will be provided in such languages on request.

- a. Languages of Instruction:
  - i. All approved modules and programmes are offered in English, and wherever possible and reasonably practicable, will also be offered in the other languages.
  - ii. Where students have been taught at undergraduate level in a different language, IAS will adopt comprehensive measures to ensure that students have access to English academic literacy interventions to facilitate the use of English as a tool for teaching and learning, and for professional purposes.
- b. Working Language(s):
  - i. English is the primary language of internal governance, administration, marketing, and internal and external communication. ii. The use of the other languages in these areas will be promoted as far as reasonably practicable with due consideration of the nature of the target audience, and the availability of human and other applicable resources.
  - iii. The use of any particular language(s) must not serve as a barrier to participation in official institutional governance and communication.
  - iv. The IAS is committed to promoting multilingual awareness and positive language attitudes among its students and staff.

#### **4. EVALUATION**

Progress reports on the implementation of the Language Policy are monitored by the Management Executive Committee.

#### **5. REVIEW**

The Language Policy is reviewed at least every five years.

**Rationale for the choice of English**

The Institute, as a centre of excellence, would like to be known as producing graduates with a full command of the English language. English language skills are essential for a successful career in South Africa and internationally. Informal research indicates that there is support by all students for improving their English language skills so that they attain mastery of oral and written competence.

**The need for teaching materials**

The policy proposes the development of language teaching materials and appropriate pedagogy as the starting point. Existing textbooks, legislation and standards for teaching are available in English only, and support the choice of English as the medium of instruction.