

Update on language policy implementation at UWC COPAL- November 2025 Mantoya Motinyane



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE
IYUNIVESITHI yaseNTSHONA KOLONI
UNIVERSITEIT van WES-KAAPLAND

UNIVERSITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UCDP)
Implementation of the 2020 *Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions*

Outline

- UWC Language Policy Update
- LPF Implementation Team
- Goal Areas and Objectives
- Examples of Interventions
- Progress
- Challenges
- Questions



Evolution of the Language Policy: 2003 → 2023



2003 Policy – Foundation Phase

- Focus: Multilingual teaching and communication (English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa).
- Goal: Foster equity and access in higher education.
- Prescriptive approach – clear rules for language use.
- Primarily focused on teaching and administrative communication.



2023 Draft Policy – Transformative Phase

- Multilingualism embedded across teaching, research, student life, community engagement, and digital spaces.
- Aligned with the 2020 National Framework: African language development, social justice, and internationalization.
- Principles-based and flexible approach encouraging innovation and responsiveness.
- Forward-looking: embraces digital technology, South African Sign Language, and multimodal communication.

From access and equity to inclusion and innovation.

The Team

Goal area

Learning, teaching and
assessment

Project Owner: DVC: Academic

Project leader: Prof Mantoa Motinyane

The student experience

Project Owner: DVC: SDS

Project Leader: Ms Nazrana Parker

Research

DVC: Research and Innovation

Project Leader: Prof Russel Kaschula

Community engagement

Project Owner: DVC: Academic

Project Leader: Dr Samantha Van
Schalkwyk

Overall institutional
communication culture

Project Owner: Rector

Project Leader: Prof Anesh Singh

Goal Areas Leaders



Prof S. Van
Schalkwyk



Prof A. Singh



Prof R. Kaschula



Ms N. Parker



Prof M.
Motinyane

Objectives



Goal area	Objective(s)
Learning, teaching and assessment	To enhance the overall learning experience of UWC students by developing the dispositions, capacities, strategies and learning materials required to support multilingual teaching, learning, and assessment.
The student experience	To create for our students a language-mediated campus experience that facilitates their integration into UWC, provides holistic support and helps with their post-qualification access into employment.
Research	To contribute to the development of Afrikaans and especially isiXhosa as languages of scholarship, and use them in turn to promote a range of research-allied objectives.
Community engagement	To promote the languages of UWC's local communities and empower these communities through enhancing their language access to services and opportunities.
Overall institutional communication culture	To create a culture in which the institution's stakeholders recognise multilingualism as a resource for operational effectiveness, inclusivity, and institutional self-identification.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- Assessment grids for exams / major assignments in isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and / or Braille across 7 faculties
- Awareness-raising workshops & recordings thereof
- Capacity-building workshops & recordings thereof
- Course outlines in isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and / or Braille across 7 faculties
- Digital language resources for self-learning, one on using isiXhosa and the other on using Afrikaans for classroom management
- Guiding questions for reading in isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and / or Braille across 7 faculties
- Lunch-hour language practice workshops hosted by volunteer departments / units

EXAM READINESS WORKSHOP

For Undergraduate Students



Tuesday, 7 October 2025



12:30 – 14:00



L1, New Arts Building



Hosted with the
Faculty Student Council

Get tips, strategies, and tools to boost
your exam performance!

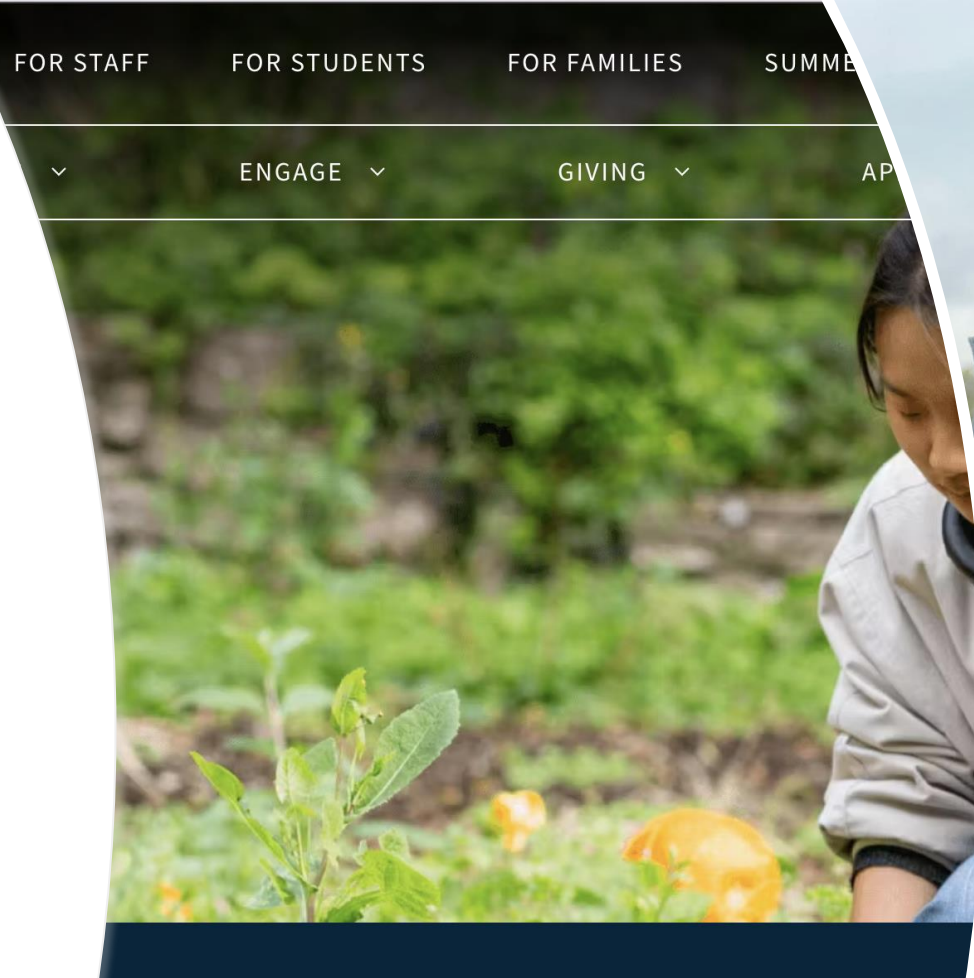
Limited spots available – RSVP
by 3 October 2025

RSVP & Enquiries:
artssfrc@myuwc.ac.za



Community engagement

- Strategic collaboration in implementation of Language Development Plan (for 2026)



ols Programme

together the college's diverse international student body with socio and eth
me encourages youth leadership, global understanding and broadening hr
initiatives.





DIVISION of
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT
CAREER SERVICES
learn. become. thrive



Welcome Back Students!

**Welkom Terug
Wamkelekile Ngokutsha**

The student experience

- Application outcome letters, career videos, webinars, pamphlet and undergraduate and postgraduate posters in all 3 languages.
- Multilingual and multimodal (including Braille) documents used in a subset of key institutional processes related to the Registry / Student Administration, Student Financial Services, Residential Services
- Multilingual video clips on health and wellness, different sporting codes, and preparing for exams

come Back!

As we begin another exciting chapter of the year, we hope you had a peaceful and restful break filled with reflection

Our Career Services office is back and ready to assist you, and we're thrilled to continue supporting you as you ex

Research

- Multilingual [videos](#) on research-related activities such as grant application processes, research rating processes, compiling research portfolios, etc
- Translation of MA and PhD abstracts into isiXhosa and Afrikaans



TO LEARN: SOZE UNGAYIBAMBI!! 26 September 2024

Universities Research

Subscribe

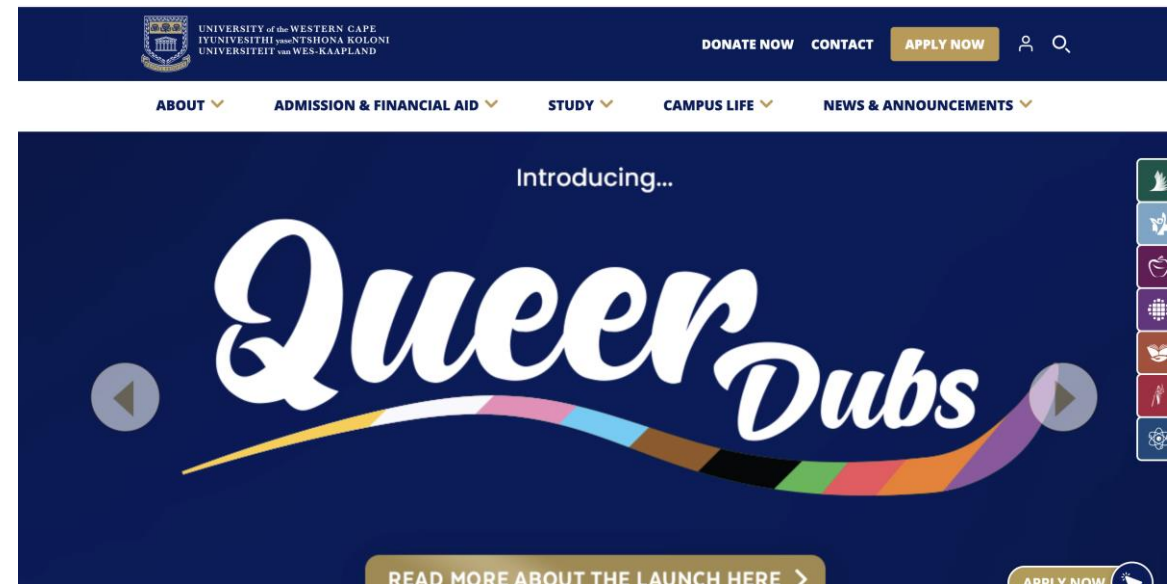
5



Share

Overall Institutional Communication Culture

- Multilingual administrative documents
- Multilingual and multimodal interfaces of IT platforms
- Multilingual branding of gift items
- Multilingual branding of stationery
- Multilingual digital stamps



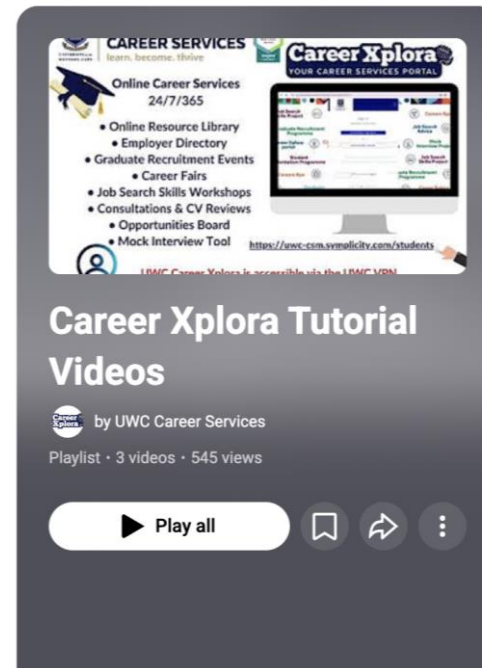
Overall Institutional Communication Culture

<https://www.uwc.ac.za/news-and-announcements/news/preserving-and-promoting-indigenous-languages-earns-uwac-student-top-honours>



25 March 2024
Ukulondoloza Nokuphuhlisa Iilwimi Zomgquba Kwenze Umfundi wase UWC Wafumana Iwonga Eliphezulu

Ilinzame zokuvelisa ngokuphandle ulwimi lwesiXhosa, uncwadi, nenkcubeko ziye zasoloko zisenziwa ngokwembono yobukoloniyali. Isiphumo sibe kukugqwethwa nokubhunyulwa kolu lwimi luhle lwaseAfrika.



Progress (2024 Goals...)



Project Challenges

- **Late Start:** Initial delays affected scheduling and workflow.
- **Securing Translation Vendor:** Difficulties in identifying and contracting a suitable accredited vendor.
- **Differences Between Faculties:** Varied document sizes
- **Estimated vs Actual Costs:** Higher than anticipated expenses for translation, checking, back-translation, and proofreading.
- **Area Specialists:** Limited availability of qualified specialists for specific subject areas (isiXhosa).
- **Institutional Processes:** Lengthy administrative and procurement procedures causing further delays.

Total R 817 540,

it	Language	Tarif /hour	Tarif /word	Tarif /page	Tarif /session	Amount
<i>Humanities_African Language Studies</i>						
/ Translate	Eng>Afr	R 0,00	R 1,14	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 15 059,40
/ Translate	Eng>isiXhosa	R 0,00	R 1,92	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 25 363,20
<i>& Humanities_English for Educational Development</i>						
aal / Translate	Eng>Afr	R 0,00	R 1,14	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 14 940,84
rtaal / Translate	Eng>isiXhosa	R 0,00	R 1,92	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 25 163,52
<i>ts & Humanities_Foreign Languages, Classical Culture</i>						
ertaal / Translate	Eng>Afr	R 0,00	R 1,14	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 7 169,46
/ertaal / Translate	Eng>isiXhosa	R 0,00	R 1,92	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 12 074,88
<i>rts & Humanities_Geo</i>						
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<i>ts & Humanities_LIBS</i>						
ertaal / Translate	Eng>Afr	R 0,00	R 1,14	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 56 017,32
rtaal / Translate	Eng>isiXhosa	R 0,00	R 1,92	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 94 344,96
<i>& Humanities_Women_s & Gender Studies</i>						
el / Translate	Eng>Afr	R 0,00	R 1,14	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 11 734,02
l / Translate	Eng>isiXhosa	R 0,00	R 1,92	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 19 762,56
l / Translate	Eng>Afr	R 0,00	R 1,14	R 0,00	R 0,00	R 12 400,04

IMIBUZO QUESTIONS VRAE