



Nelson Mandela University Report on Language Policy Activities 2025

Language Policy

The Nelson Mandela University Language Policy passed Council on 30 September and was officially promulgated on 25 October 2025. The Language Policy will be implemented from the 2026 academic year. The next phase of the Language Policy is the development of an Institutional Implementation Plan, and exploring the establishment of a Multilingualism Hub.

DHET Funding

Nelson Mandela University has adopted a decentralised approach toward the implementation of the DHET-UCDG funding. Each Faculty/Entity has the opportunity to apply for funding under three prongs: 1) translation, the re-intellectualization of isiXhosa, and/or multilingual pedagogies. All Faculties and most entities have applied. Currently, multilingual projects at Nelson Mandela University span across multiple themes related to multilingual mentors/tutors, glossary development, multilingual chatbots, conversational classes, and the digitization of isiXhosa texts (to name a few).

Multilingualism Indaba

Nelson Mandela University and Rhodes University jointly hosted a Multilingualism Indaba on 17-18 September 2025. The Indaba was held at Rhodes University and was themed: *Milestones in Motion: Collaborating for Multilingual Futures*. The presentations at the Indaba consisted of staff and student reflections on the implementation of the DHET-UCDG project. The proceedings from the Indaba will develop into a publication. The next Multilingualism Indaba will take place at Nelson Mandela University in early 2026.