

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Academy of Technical and Art Applied Studies Belgrade

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Pursuant to Article 87, Paragraph 1, Items 30 and 33 of the Statute of the Academy of Technical and Art Applied Studies Belgrade (number 7-1/2019 from December 17, 2019, amendment 2/11-11 from February 27, 2020, amendment 2/17-3 from September 17, 2020, amendment 197-82/ from April 14, 2021), the Teaching and Professional Council of the Academy of Technical and Art Applied Studies Belgrade, at a session held on June 7, 2021 issues the following:

LANGUAGE POLICY

I BASIC INFORMATION AND THE PURPOSE OF LANGUAGE POLICY

Academy of Technical and Art Applied Studies Belgrade (hereinafter: ATUSS) is an institution of higher education committed to applied studies in the domain of technical and technological sciences, social sciences and humanities, and art, through study programmes of undergraduate, specialist and master applied studies. ATUSS is investing efforts to develop language competences of its students and staff. Foreign languages(s) are taught at ATUSS as mandatory or elective courses in a large number of study programmes implemented at ATUSS, with students having the option of choosing one of the two foreign languages offered: English language and German language.

The primary goal of Language Policy is to raise awareness of teachers and students of ATUSS of the importance of languages and their use in a competitive local and international professional community. Simultaneously, special emphasis is laid on the significance of learning foreign languages, particularly the English language, in higher education, due to its prevalence, not only as a *lingua franca*, but also as the language of globalization, economy and publications.

Language policy determines the principles ATUSS shall adhere to in the development of competences over the course of studies and is related to all students and staff at both levels of studies, including the incoming students and the staff in international mobility programmes.

II LANGUAGE OF TEACHING

The official language of teaching at ATUSS is the Serbian language. For incoming students, certain courses are offered in the English language. A full Catalogue of Courses of ATUSS in both Serbian and English is available on the official webpage of ATUSS.

In its offer, ATUSS differentiates between:

1. Study programmes in the Serbian language – Article 95 of [The Law on Higher Education \("Official Gazette RS", no. 88/2017, 27/2018 – state law and 73/2018\)](#), stipulates the following:

“Institution of higher education organises and realises studies in the Serbian language.

Institution of higher education may organise exams and realise certain segments of studies, as well as organize execution and defense of final, master or specialization thesis and doctoral thesis in a minority language or a foreign language in accordance with the Statute.

Institution of higher education may realise a study programme in a minority language if such a programme has been approved, i.e. accredited.

Institution of higher education may realise study programmes or certain segments of study programmes in sign language, for students with disabilities. “

Article 39, Paragraphs 1-1 of the Statute of ATUSS stipulates the following:

“Academy organizes and realizes studies in the Serbian language.

Academy may organize and realize studies, that is, parts of study programmes, in other globally recognized languages if such a study programme has been approved, that is, accredited.

If the conditions have been fulfilled, the Academy may realize a part of its study programme and organize exams in a foreign language, even if a study programme has not been accredited for realization in a foreign language.

The decision on the introduction of a study programme in a foreign language and on taking exams in a foreign language from Paragraph 3 of this Article shall be adopted by the Teaching and Professional Council of the Academy, upon the request of a Teaching and Professional Council of Department(s).”

Pursuant to the above, all types and levels of studies realised at ATUSS are currently realized in the Serbian language.

2. Selection of courses in the English language for international mobility students – Although the official language of teaching at ATUSS is Serbian, the courses offered in master applied studies realized at the Department School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, which focus on a narrow professional field, are suitable for adjustment to a smaller group of students and the need of foreign students. Therefore, certain courses in master applied studies realized at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering have already been open for realization in the English language. However, bearing in mind the size and number of study programmes realized at ATUSS, it is necessary for ATUSS to extend its list of courses realized in a foreign language. The list of courses which may be realized in English language as well is determined by the Teaching and Professional Council of ATUSS.

III GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles of the Language Policy of ATUSS are as follows:

- High linguistic competences are a prerequisite for international mobility of students and teachers;
- Development of multilingual competences of our students and teachers is indispensable for a more active presence in the international context;

- Motivating our students to obtain the necessary linguistic competences makes them more prepared to face the process of employment in local and international companies, in which, in the technical-technological field, special emphasis is laid on the English language.

IV GOALS

1. Improvement of linguistic competences

Recognizing the importance of foreign languages for the professional development of students, ATUSS persistently works on improving its students' linguistic competences.

One of the forms of improving language skills is a compulsory foreign language course in undergraduate studies of the majority of study programmes realized at ATUSS. Students have the option of choosing between English language and German language, seen by ATUSS as languages of the widest scope of importance and value for the areas of study ATUSS deals with. In these two courses, students acquire linguistic knowledge for general purposes, while special attention is given to using a foreign language in professional literature. In addition, ATUSS, as a publisher, also has a course book for the English language course adapted to the needs of students of ATUS.

The second approach to improving foreign language skills is reflected in course literature. Apart from the literature in Serbian, students are also encouraged to use the literature in English. Hence, in the Catalogue of Courses of ATUSS, published on the web page in both Serbian and English for each of the Departments, one may quite frequently find bibliographical units in the English language in the Course Literature section. Students are advised to use specialized course books, standards, published articles and webpages in the English language. In this way, by using contemporary professional literature, the teachers of ATUSS improve their knowledge of foreign languages, alongside their students.

The third approach to improving foreign language skills is manifested in students' work on their final theses (undergraduate studies), specialist theses (specialist applied studies) or master theses (master studies), in which students have the final opportunity to improve their knowledge of a given foreign language through a more direct use of literature in that language for the purpose of finalizing their theses. In this way, students are prepared to pursue further studies or seek future employment.

2. Introduction of study programmes in the English language

As defined in the Strategy for Internationalization, and in accordance with the goals set in that Strategy, ATUSS will endeavor to define and provide conditions for the introduction and realisation of a corresponding study programme in master applied studies which would be entirely executed in the English language. After that, ATUSS shall initiate the accreditation procedure for such a study programme.

3. Linguistic support to international mobility

3.1. The necessary level of linguistic competence

Linguistic competence is a prerequisite for a successful exchange of students and staff of ATUSS. ATUSS and its partner institution of higher education seal an agreement defining the necessary level of linguistic competence for the study programme being a part of international mobility. The lowest level incoming and outgoing students of ATUSS must obtain is B1/B2 (reading comprehension, writing comprehension and speaking comprehension) in alignment with CEFR (*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*) or its equivalent. In the process of application, a number of certificates are accepted, without additional student testing: IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge and PTE, which clearly define the necessary level of linguistic competence. When students apply for

international mobility, ATUSS does not only take into consideration the current linguistic competence of a student, but also his/her ability to improve his/her language skills.

3.2. Linguistic support to outgoing students

In order to be able to get the most of their international mobility, all students who wish to participate in exchange programmes must have a certificate of the English language or the local language of the host institution. If a student does not have an internationally accepted English language certificate, listed in Article 3.1, ATUSS shall offer its immediate support, while its English language teachers shall organize additional testing prior to mobility. If a student has previously passed a compulsory foreign language course with a grade 9 or 10, an additional oral test is needed, whereas if a student has passed the exam with a grade 8 or below, he/she has to do both an oral and a written test. In case a student does not have the necessary level of linguistic competence, teachers offer consultations on how to help him/her make some progress prior to his/her mobility programme. Upon a student's request, English language teacher may test the level of linguistic competence of an outgoing student in order to determine whether that student has the necessary level of knowledge required by the host institution.

3.3. Linguistic support to incoming students

Incoming students also have to meet certain criteria when it comes to their knowledge of the English language, as stipulated in Article 3.1, unless English or Serbian is their mother tongue, or they have completed the previous level of studies in English or Serbian. Some courses at ATUSSR are offered in the English language. Given that such courses are offered in master applied studies, they belong to the category of courses with a narrow field of expertise and thus may be adapted to the needs of international students in a smaller group. This mentoring approach of the professors who are proficient in English aims at developing linguistic competences of incoming students. If desired, incoming students may attend foreign language classes offered by ATUSS if they want to improve their language skills. Although ATUSS does not have an organizational unit designated for Serbian language studies, it supports its incoming students to learn the Serbian language. While striving to offer support to incoming students to learn basic Serbian language, necessary for everyday communication, and adjust to the new environment more easily, ATUSS will make sure to establish cooperation with relevant organisations (institutes and such) and create favourable conditions for incoming students to master their use of Serbian at the beginner's level.

PRESIDENT OF THE TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL OF ATUSS

Dr Vera Petrovic, professor of applied studies