



# Babeș-Bolyai University Language Policy

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- Amended and supplemented by Senate Decision No. 103/14.09.2021 -

## Preamble

In line with the UBB Charter, the objectives of the ProUBB+ development programme in the paradigm of a world-class university, and the objectives of the 2021-2024 Internationalisation Strategy, and given the intercultural, multilingual and plurilingual profile of Babeș-Bolyai University, the UBB Language Policy sets out the framework governing the mechanisms, structures and procedures for implementing the set of language policies in relation to students, teaching and research staff, and society.

The language policy thus incorporates aspects of all three UBB missions (teaching, research, and relation with society) and describes the general principles, regulations, and particular dynamics of language policies in their various areas of application.

To ensure that the objectives of the Language Policy are achieved, the University Senate recommends, where appropriate, considering language skills in the admission process to degree programmes, with a recommended level of B1 or equivalent for admission to undergraduate programmes and B2 or equivalent for admission to master's degree programmes.

## General Guidelines

UBB is a multicultural university of international standing, which actively supports academic training and communication in the languages traditionally used in Transylvania: Romanian, Hungarian, and German, as well as in international languages.

UBB supports the development of general and specialised language skills in the three languages of the University's degree programmes and in international languages, as well as multi- and plurilingualism in the academic and wider community.

In the spirit of multiculturalism, UBB promotes the principle of equality between Romanian, Hungarian, and German, both in teaching and in the publication of research results, as well as in terms of using these languages in internal communication, in representing and promoting the university.

In the spirit of international openness, UBB promotes communication in international languages at the level of programmes offered in these languages, at the level of international mobility, and at the level of international scientific events or events with international participation.

## Fields of regulation

Considering the multicultural identity and strategic development requirements of higher education towards increased internationalisation, and acknowledging the growing importance of linguistic capital in the socio-professional integration of graduates, this document sets out principles and guidelines for action in the following areas:

- managing the multilingual and multicultural dimension of UBB;
- developing language skills in foreign languages and in the languages of study programmes for members of the UBB community;
- developing the foreign language skills required in the UBB administration;
- using foreign languages in teaching and research at UBB;
- integrating international students, teachers and researchers within UBB;
- promoting the languages of UBB degree programmes at national and international level.

## Objectives of language policies within UBB

- To provide a suitable general and specialised language training programme for all university students, in line with the level of language proficiency expected in the occupational fields targeted by the degree programmes and with the European language policies.
- Promoting an institutional framework supportive for the development and strengthening of the multilingual and multicultural spirit of the academic community.
- Reinforcing UBB's capacity to engage with the challenges of society and its role as a connector between socio-cultural communities in Romania.

## The role of faculties, departments and centres

### General provisions

The implementation of the Babeş-Bolyai University language policy is underpinned by the existing institutional structures and their cooperation with a view to complying with national provisions within the framework of European language policies.

The following structures are involved in the implementation of the language policy and carry out specific activities:

- University Senate;
- executive management of the University;
- faculties within the university structure;
- Department of Specialised Foreign Languages (Faculty of Letters);
- Department of Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization (Faculty of Letters);
- The Institute of Romanian Language as a European Language (Faculty of Letters);
- Department of Modern Languages and Business Communication (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration);
- Department of Hungarian Literature (Faculty of Letters,  
  
in the Hungarian culture/Hungarian studies sector);
- Department of Hungarian Language and General Linguistics (Faculty of Letters, in the Hungarian language as a second language sector);
- Department of German Language and Literature (Faculty of Letters);
- Institute for German Studies (IDLF, Faculty of European Studies);
- ALPHA Centre;
- LINGUA Centre;
- other UBB structures carrying out activities covered by this document.

## The role of faculties

Under applicable standards, faculties shall offer students enrolled in their degree programmes the opportunity to improve their language skills by taking specialised language courses, reading a bibliography in a foreign language in their subject area/field/core subjects, attending lectures and conferences in foreign languages in their field of specialisation, academic mobility, as well as by including in their curricula subjects designed to develop cross-curricular skills in using international languages in their field of specialisation in an academic and professional context (CLIL<sup>1</sup>).

Faculties offering degree programmes in international languages (CLIL) or optional specialised courses in international languages may include such courses in the subject sets designed to develop language skills, in compliance with the provisions of the Regulation governing the professional activity of students (undergraduate and master's level) at Babeş-Bolyai University based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and in accordance with the general principles of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The curricula of master's programmes shall include at least two courses taught in international languages (CLIL).

In addition to delivering subject-specific content, the CLIL courses provided by the faculties will also focus on developing language skills.

Teaching staff delivering courses designed to develop cross-curricular skills in using international languages must have an advanced knowledge and command of the target language.

Faculties cooperate with specialised departments in order to adapt the content of subjects focusing on the development of transversal skills in international languages to the specific needs of students enrolled in the degree programmes offered by these departments.

The faculties draw up a document in which they commit to a strategy for implementing all the points set out in the UBB language policy that are relevant to them.

It is advisable to include the individual contribution of teaching staff to the implementation of the UBB language policy among the criteria used for the regular evaluation/self-evaluation of UBB staff.

## The role of specialised language training departments

The relevant departments are responsible for organising and conducting specialised language training courses for Babeş-Bolyai University students. The departments provide faculties with language courses tailored to specific sub-fields, over a period of semesters established by the respective faculties.

Language skills are tested at the end of each semester in the manner specified in the curricula of the respective faculties (oral exams, mid-term tests, etc.). At the end of the language training course, students sit an exam to earn a certificate they can use to apply for an undergraduate degree and admission to a master's degree programme at UBB.

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<sup>1</sup> CLIL [Content and Language Integrated Learning] courses. CLIL refers to teaching and learning subject-specific content in a target/ second language for the purpose of both acquiring knowledge of the subject and improving language skills. CLIL is broadly associated with the introduction at higher education level of degree programmes/specialised courses in major international languages, with a view to increasing the mobility and competitiveness of graduates on the labour market.

The relevant departments may run specialised courses (CLIL) in major international languages for master's degree programmes within faculties.

Departments review their syllabuses annually in order to align content based on the results of student needs analysis, consultation with degree programme coordinators at faculty level, and initial assessment tests.

Departments ensure the quality of teaching and the professional development of their staff by creating and supporting interdisciplinary research projects in areas associated with learning, teaching and assessing specialised languages.

### The role of modern language centres

The modern language centres at UBB enable students to obtain a language proficiency certificate in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

The language proficiency certificate is recognised both within UBB and at national and international level through inter-university agreements and the accreditation of the issuing centres. Students enrolled in UBB study programmes and UBB staff enjoy a fee reduction to obtain the certificate compared to other categories of applicants.

Students and staff from other universities may benefit from reduced fees based on inter-university agreements with explicit provisions to this effect.

The UBB modern language centres offer extracurricular language training courses in foreign languages, in accordance with the CEFR, to students, UBB staff and the general public.

The activities offered by the centres and the fees charged are approved annually by the UBB Senate. Teachers provide these additional activities on a contract basis.

## Multilingualism at UBB

### Languages used in teaching and research

The Babeş-Bolyai University academic community promotes the organisation of educational programmes in the teaching languages of the lines of study. The teaching languages of the lines of study at UBB are Romanian, Hungarian, and German, reflecting the languages of the ethnolinguistic communities in Transylvania for which our University has traditionally provided and continues to provide academic services.

The documents describing the content of the educational programmes will be drawn up and published in both Romanian and the teaching language of the programme.

The materials used in the teaching process (bibliographies, various other resources) will primarily ensure the development of specialised language skills in the teaching language. Furthermore, it is recommended that equal opportunities be provided in terms of access to materials and that the development of language skills in the other teaching languages of the lines of study or international languages be facilitated.

In order to maximise its scientific impact, UBB equally supports both the dissemination of scientific results in international languages and publication in the teaching languages of the lines of study, with a view to making scientific results available to different target groups.

### UBB internal and external communication

UBB promotes the principle of equality between the teaching languages of the three lines of study. Consequently, these languages may be used without restriction in internal communication, in public relations and in activities aimed at raising the profile of UBB.

For effective communication within UBB, it is recommended that the language best understood by all participants be used during meetings.

In interactions with teaching staff, students and other beneficiaries of the various educational programmes in the teaching languages of the lines of study, the auxiliary teaching staff directly involved shall be encouraged to use the relevant languages.

The internal documents of the lines of study may be written in the teaching language of the respective line of study, but any document that enters the administrative flow of UBB shall be written in Romanian.

In order to adequately reflect the multicultural and multilingual nature of UBB, it is recommended that all three teaching languages of the lines of study be used for: functional inscriptions, websites of UBB and its subunits, promotional materials, etc.

### Multilingualism in teaching and learning

In line with European and national language policy objectives, as well as its existing objectives relating to multilingualism and plurilingualism at curricular and extracurricular levels, UBB is committed to providing all members of the academic community with the opportunity to learn at least two languages in addition to their mother tongue.

This is achieved through the implementation of the 1+2 language policy system (mother tongue L1, plus two second languages/non-native languages L2 and L3) for academic programmes at undergraduate level. It is recommended that the second language L2 be an internationally spoken language, already studied in pre-university educational programmes which ensures knowledge at a sufficient level to provide the foundation required for the study of specialised foreign languages and the prerequisite for certification at the level required for admission to the undergraduate exam following the mandatory language course offered by the faculty. Language L3 is any second or non-native language that is included in the course offerings and certification of the university's departments, centres or institutes. The study of specialised languages in L2 is mandatory, while the study of L3 (general or specialised language) is recommended but not required by the faculties.

Given the multicultural and multilingual dimension of the university, supported by intercultural dialogue between the ethnolinguistic communities in Transylvania, it is recommended that L3 be predominantly selected from among the teaching languages of the university's lines of study, as listed in the table below.

<b>Mother tongue (L1)*</b>	<b>International second language (L2)*</b>	<b>Teaching language of the line of study as a non-native tongue or another foreign language (L3)*</b>
Romanian	English/French/German/Italian/Spanish/Russian	Hungarian/German <i>or other foreign language</i>
Hungarian	English/French/German/Italian/Spanish/Russian	Romanian/German <i>or other foreign language</i>

German	English/French/Italian/Spanish/Russian	Hungarian/Romanian <i>or other foreign language</i>
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other	English/French/Italian/Spanish/Russian	Romanian/Hungarian/German <i>or other foreign language</i>
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\*One language may only be selected once (L1, L2 or L3).

The pursuit of a curricular and/or extracurricular language programme by UBB students that includes a teaching language of the lines of study as a non-native language will contribute significantly to:

- promoting the languages of the ethnolinguistic communities in Transylvania: Romanian, Hungarian, German;
- developing highly qualified human capital and increasing the competitiveness of UBB graduates on the labour market, as well as their socio-professional integration at regional, national and European level.

By its language policy, UBB supports the teaching languages of the university's lines of study by:

- encouraging communication between the cultures of the three lines of study and avoiding the collapse of multilingualism into plurilingualism (segregation/isolation of lines of study) through activities that support the multiculturalism adopted by UBB;
- ensuring access for bilingual/multilingual UBB students, through the credit transfer system, to specialised courses in parallel lines of study, which facilitates both specialised training and the development of language skills in a non-native language;
- offering the possibility of studying Romanian, Hungarian, German as non-native/second languages at any level (from A1 to C2);
- promoting regional multi- and plurilingualism at academic and professional level through specialised language training (courses in specialised languages and academic communication) in non-native languages: Romanian, Hungarian, German;
- professional certification of non-native languages, giving valid, accurate recognition of the language skills acquired in academic programmes in accordance with European standards.

#### Romanian as a foreign language/second language

As Romanian is one of the official languages of the European Union, UBB has set out to promote Romanian language, culture, and civilization among non-native speakers of Romanian.

The Department of Romanian Language, Culture, and Civilization (DLCCR) and the Institute of Romanian as a European Language (ILR-LE) implement UBB's language policy regarding Romanian as a foreign language (RFL) and as a non-native language (RNNL).

The two entities pursue the following objectives and employ the following resources:

- developing and assessing the communication skills in Romanian of students for whom Romanian is not a mother tongue, so as to ensure their better integration into the UBB community, but also a faster socio-professional integration into the Romanian environment for UBB graduates who are non-native speakers of Romanian. To this end, DLCCR and ILR-LE offer Romanian language skills courses, structured according to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), for: foreign students from all international programmes at UBB; foreign students who intend to enrol in undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Romania; foreign lecturers and professors; UBB students from Hungarian and German lines of study; other categories of public interested in studying Romanian;
- promoting Romanian culture and civilization both within and outside the country through courses and extracurricular activities designed for this purpose, as well as through activities that are part of the process of developing communication skills in Romanian;
- attesting and certifying the level of language proficiency of different categories of the public through exams that adhere to the CEFR;

- training and professional development of specialists in the field of RFL-RNNL, in order to ensure quality in the teaching of Romanian language and culture, through: specialised master's degrees, professional development modules organised, upon request, by ILR-LE for all interested parties, practical training for undergraduate students, organised within ILR-LE;
- supporting research in the field of RFL-RNNL, in particular the development of studies on the acquisition of Romanian as a second language, as well as modern teaching materials and tools (including materials adapted for online work), aimed at ensuring the alignment of the RFL-RNNL teaching-learning-assessment process with European standards;
- improving the quality of the teaching-assessment process of RFL-RNNL and, by extension, enhancing the international prestige of UBB, including within prestigious international quality assurance organisations in the field of language teaching and assessment, where UBB is a full member.

### Comprehensive programmes conducted in frequently used foreign languages

For students who opted to study at Babeş-Bolyai University, faculties can offer comprehensive undergraduate and master's degree programmes conducted in one of the most frequently used international languages.

### Language training programme, undergraduate level

To ensure that the objectives of its language policy are achieved, UBB offers differential training paths depending on the language level of each student upon enrolment. Throughout the course, the student's level of competence/performance will be assessed against the four specific skill areas (listening, reading, writing, speaking) and the CEFR levels A1 to C2.

The diagnostic language test is conducted by the relevant department teachers at the beginning of the language course. This test (to assess the initial level) is designed to divide students into groups according to their level (from A1 to C2). In addition, students will have access to an automated self-assessment tool throughout their studies for self-testing of specific skills.

The core curriculum requires a minimum of two semesters of specialised practical language courses during the programme. The faculties decide for each programme the number of semesters of specialised language courses and the semesters in which these courses will be held. The faculties also determine for each programme the minimum level of language proficiency required for eligibility for the bachelor's degree final examination and for admission to the master's degree programme.

The final language proficiency test is held at the end of the mandatory course and serves to issue the language proficiency certificate required in order to register for the undergraduate exam.

Students who, after completing the language training course, demonstrate a level below that required by the faculty in order to apply for the undergraduate final exam in the respective programme, as well as other interested students, will be eligible for a remedial course.

The remedial course may include:

- individual training;
- use of learning resources (computer labs, specialised libraries, online platforms, etc.) at UBB or elsewhere;
- intensive language courses offered in a tutoring<sup>2</sup> format by the Faculty of Letters;

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<sup>2</sup> In order to support students who are not studying philology but wish to improve their communication skills in a foreign language, the Faculty of Letters offers tutoring programmes. Within these programmes, students from different language departments are selected to attend practical language courses organised according to various levels of



- elective foreign language courses, at the request of the faculties;
- paid courses offered by departments, centres or institutes of UBB or by third parties (British Council, French Institute, German Cultural Centre, etc.).

Students who wish to continue the study of their chosen foreign languages are recommended to follow an [additional track course](#), which may include:

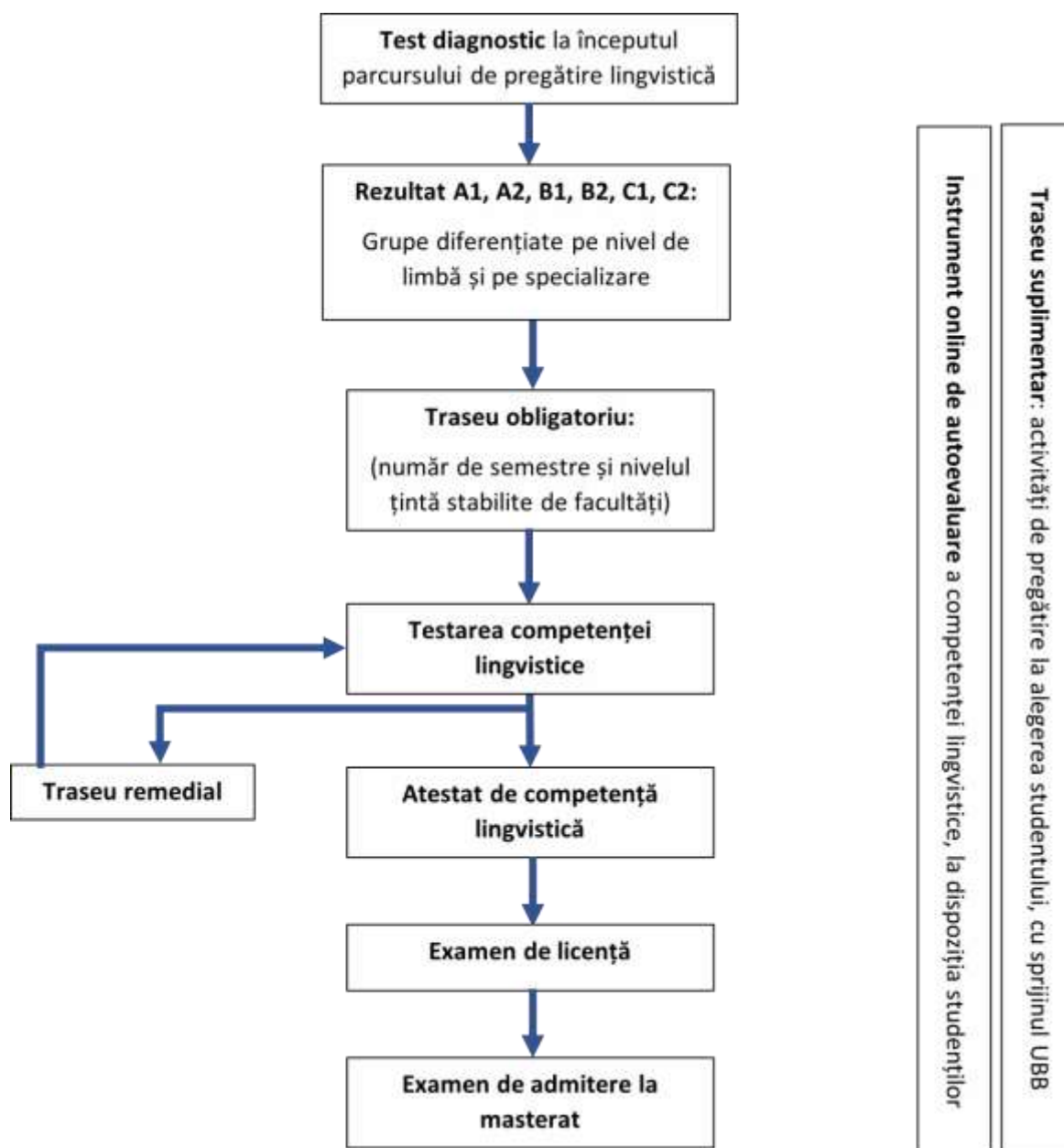
- individual training;
- use of learning resources (computer labs, specialised libraries, online platforms, etc.) at UBB or elsewhere;
- optional foreign language courses provided by DLSS and DLMCA, at the request of the faculties;
- subject-specific courses in foreign languages – CLIL;
- access to communication and learning environments in foreign languages (subject-specific bibliography, public lectures, academic mobility, etc.).

At the beginning of the first year of study, faculties will inform students on the entire language training programme at UBB.

The chart below outlines the language training plan for students:

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language proficiency, tailored to the specific needs of learners (including simulations of language proficiency exams). Tutors are coordinated by specialist teachers. Their work is equivalent to professional training, based on certificates issued by the coordinating department, using a system developed by the head of department.



The language training programme for Babeş-Bolyai University students

### Quality assurance

To make sure the language policy is implemented consistently, the faculty leadership decides before the beginning of each academic year what types of courses (level, learning outcomes, content, etc.) are required for the faculty's degree programmes and works with the relevant departments and faculty members to adapt the courses to the students' needs.

The relevant departments adapt the range of courses on offer to the faculties' needs and offer foreign language training in accordance with the proficiency levels required by the faculties.

The relevant departments assist the faculties in planning foreign language courses and in identifying and improving the curriculum for student groups.

## Language proficiency certification

Completion of undergraduate studies and enrolment in master's degree programmes are conditional upon submission of a language proficiency certificate in an internationally recognised language.

The language proficiency certificate is a document issued following an exam designed to assess the level of language proficiency in a given context. In the last semester of foreign language studies, students will be assessed by taking a test covering the four language skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking). The language proficiency certificate is valid from the date of issue, covering the full next three academic years, and certifies the level of language proficiency, both general and specific for each skill.

The levels recorded on the certificates are the Romanian equivalents of the names used in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (A1-C2).

## Language proficiency certification

### Certification services

Through its dedicated departments, UBB offers language proficiency certification services based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Given the multilingual and multicultural profile of the university, these certifications are offered both for international languages and for the three languages of the lines of study (Romanian, Hungarian, and German).

### Certificates recognized within UBB

The following types of certificates are accepted within UBB:

- language proficiency certificates issued by Babeş-Bolyai University;
- language proficiency certificates issued by educational institutions that have signed agreements with UBB regarding the mutual recognition of language proficiency certificates;
- language proficiency certificates accredited or recognized by the relevant ministry.

For internal use, the validity of language proficiency certificates issued by the University's centres for UBB employees is extended beyond the limits imposed by international practices in the field, for teaching or research staff who demonstrate continuous and active use of the language in teaching or publishing.

## Final provisions

The language proficiency criteria required to apply for the undergraduate final exam or the master's admission exam, for each faculty, will be listed for each major separately in the internal regulations of the faculties.

The list of language proficiency certificates accepted by UBB for applying to the undergraduate final exam and the master's admission exam will be updated annually and will be included as an appendix to the Regulation governing the organisation and conduct of the final exam for undergraduate and master's degrees, and to the UBB Admission Regulation.

The provisions of this document take effect on the date it is adopted by the UBB Senate and are applicable starting with the 2021-2022 academic year.