

Language policy and strategy

How we can help

Language policies and their supporting strategies are designed to be action oriented, with a focus on establishing strategic goals for language education and implementing the activities needed to reach those goals. Resources need to be allocated to support the delivery of initiatives related to learning, assessment and teaching set out in the language policy. We adopt a collaborative approach with you to develop language policy and strategy according to international best practice, whilst remaining highly attentive to local needs and educational contexts.

What we offer

A language policy is based on a number of goals articulated in our Language Policy Framework. The framework provides a conceptual foundation for language policy and establishes goals related to learning, curriculum, assessment, teaching and resources. The principles of this framework ensure we deliver a policy that:

- lays out pathways for academic progress that support professional growth and development
- sets out the conditions to improve learning progression over time
- is aligned with international standards
- adds value in the workplace and academic world
- focuses on intercultural communication
- supports curriculum setting and measuring outcomes
- supports institutional change and provides a model of change management leading to ongoing improvements over time
- delivers language education that is fit for purpose
- creates a research-friendly environment for teachers
- fosters innovation in teaching and assessment
- positions the institution as a thought leader in teaching and assessment.

We provide a number of language policy services:

Language policy development

Working with ministries, universities and other institutions to research and draft language policies that set the high-level goals for language education.

Language policy implementation

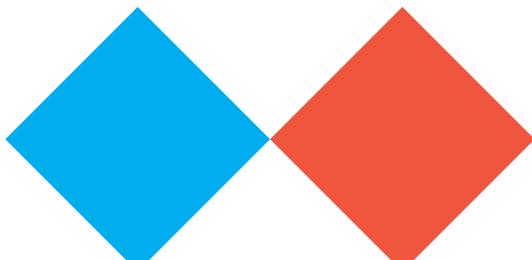
Supporting the implementation of activities to help institutions reach their high-level goals. These activities cover areas such as curriculum, learning materials, teacher development, and assessment.

Language policy evaluation and quality assurance

Providing expertise to monitor and evaluate language policies through time and measure outcomes.

Key benefits for you

- Positioning as a leader in cutting-edge language teaching and assessment
- Principles of good practice and action plans to guide implementation
- Quality assurance of language learning, teaching and assessment
- Guided learning and assessment practices for teacher and student education



Case studies



Evaluating and assuring an English language policy

Laureate International Universities

Global

We have evaluated and assured the institutional language policies of the Universidad Europea de Madrid (Spain), INTI (Malaysia), Stamford International University (Thailand) and Universidade Anhembi Morumbi (Brazil) as part of a long-term collaboration with their owner Laureate International Universities.

In 2014, we supported Laureate International Universities in the development of an English language policy framework, scalable across the Laureate network of over 80 institutions, and designed to support effective language teaching and learning. We were asked to review and assess the policy according to a range of criteria, including the context of the policy, its implementation, stakeholder expectations, impact, monitoring and evaluation. Overall, the assessment and evaluation report provided by our team delivered the essential feedback required to refine the policy prior to full implementation at Universidad Europea de Madrid.

The policy was developed to reflect our Language Policy Framework, and as a result has become a model used by other Laureate International Universities when developing their own policies. Each Laureate International University was asked to develop a high-level language policy in order to establish goals, define principles of good practice and determine monitoring strategies. We continue to collaborate in the evaluation and assurance of these policies, most recently in 2017.

Supporting a National Bilingual Project

Ministerio de Educación Nacional (MEN)

Colombia

As part of its National Bilingual Project, the Colombian Government used a comprehensive programme of consultancy services from Cambridge Assessment English including benchmarking, tailored assessment, teacher development and capacity building to guide strategy development.

As part of the project we carried out a preliminary benchmarking exercise involving 3,000 school and university students to establish existing levels of English language. The results were used to develop standards for national English tests.

We produced the English component of the Colombian state sector exams, the Examen de Estado (national school-leaving examination) and ECAES (higher education) tests to these standards and linked them to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). We also undertook local capacity-building to recruit and train a team of item writers to produce the English components for future tests, which are now delivered to nearly 1 million students annually.

MEN recognised that to make improvements to language learning sustainable, standards in language teaching needed to be raised. To help bring teachers up to CEFR Level B2, English teacher trainees were sponsored to take B2 First. A scheme to retrain existing state sector teachers using TKT (Teaching Knowledge Test) was also launched.

The National Bilingual Project continues working towards its goals of 70% of final-year high school students achieving Level B1 in English and 100% of final-year English teacher trainees achieving Level B2 or higher.

For more information on our English language consultancy, visit:

 cambridgeenglish.org/consultancy

Contact the team at:

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