

Evaluating and assuring an English language policy

Laureate International Universities

Global



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

In 2014, Cambridge English 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. As part of this, 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.

Universidad Europea de Madrid (UEM) was one of the first Laureate Universities to undertake development of a language policy, overseen by UEM's Language Centre, which delivers courses in a variety of languages (including English) to over 7,000 students. The Language Centre had worked in consultation with academic leaders and was responsible for co-ordinating policy implementation.

In 2015, Cambridge English was 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. A team of language assessment and research specialists from Cambridge English visited the UEM campus and reported that the language policy was well drafted and well supported by teachers and staff, including senior university staff who appreciated the benefits the policy could deliver.

Student feedback was also found to be very positive, with students regarding the policy as an important tool for transparency and accountability. The team also found that robust monitoring and evaluation systems were in place and that these provided a strong foundation for quality assurance and further policy development.

Overall, the assessment and evaluation report provided by the Cambridge English team gave the essential feedback required to refine the policy prior to full implementation. UEM's language policy was also developed to reflect the Cambridge English Policy Framework, and as a result has become a model used by other Laureate International Universities when developing their own policies.

Cambridge Assessment English specialists were asked to review and assess UEM's language policy and report on a range of criteria, from context to evaluation.