

Simultaneous Interpreting: French - Dutch (A704021)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 9.0

Study time 270 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

B (Year)	Dutch, French	Gent	practical
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Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Cochie, Wouter	LW22	staff member
Defrancq, Bart	LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Rampelberg, Helke	LW22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Postgraduate Certificate Conference Interpreting(main subject Dutch, English, French)	9	B
Postgraduate Certificate Conference Interpreting(main subject Dutch, French, German)	9	B
Postgraduate Certificate Conference Interpreting(main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	9	B
Postgraduate Certificate Conference Interpreting(main subject Dutch, French, Russian)	9	B
Postgraduate Certificate Conference Interpreting(main subject Dutch, French, Spanish)	9	B
Postgraduate Certificate Conference Interpreting(main subject Dutch, French, Turkish)	9	B

Teaching languages

French, Dutch

Keywords

Simultaneous interpreting French - Dutch

Position of the course

The aim of this study unit is to train various skills required for the technique of simultaneous interpretation, whereby the interpreter translates the speaker's message almost simultaneously while the latter is speaking, something that requires perfect control of simultaneous input and output. To deploy this technique successfully, various skills are trained, including those of memory, listening skills, understanding the source language, summarising, formulation, anticipation and instant problem resolution.

Students with Dutch as A-language should eventually be able to interpret formal and informal speeches by speakers speaking in regional accents, in a conference situation (interpreting booths) from French into correct, rich and idiomatic Dutch, paying due attention to the internal cohesion of the text and the essence of the message, without too many omissions, presented in a pleasant fashion, with appropriate intonation and in a suitable register.

Students with French as A-language should eventually be able to interpret formal and informal speeches by speakers speaking in regional accents, in a conference situation (interpreting booths) from French into fluent and, to the listener, comprehensible Dutch, paying due attention to the internal cohesion of the text and the essence of the message, without too many omissions, presented in a pleasant fashion, with appropriate intonation and in a standard language acceptable to the mother-tongue listener.

Contents

Attention is paid to both the technique of simultaneous interpretation and to understanding and interpreting texts (speeches) on a wide range of topics and of varying degrees of difficulty. We start with simple and well-structured texts (speeches) that do not pose too great a challenge in terms of content and

technique, but gradually, we move on to more challenging topics. During this process, students are taught how to listen, speak and monitor the quality of their interpreting all at the same time. This involves, among others, analysing and identifying the core message, anticipating, decalage, waiting, following, changing the pace, handling syntactically different language systems, dealing with figures and proper names, monitoring one's own output, intonation and voice, microphone technique and collaboration with colleagues in the interpreting booth. Students are also gradually exposed to different regional accents, technically more complex topics, extemporaneous interpreting etc.

Initial competences

The student:

- has an excellent command of French and Dutch, whereby Dutch, or French, is the A-language selected by the student;
- has a very broad general knowledge about a wide range of topics, including politics, economics, culture, technology and science;
- has an adequate command of consecutive interpreting;
- is stress-resistant and displays sustained powers of concentration.

Final competences

- 1 The student is able to interpret a speech of some length simultaneously from French into Dutch.
- 2 Moreover, the student with Dutch as A-language is able to achieve a professional conference-interpreting level, both in terms of cohesion and of rendering the essence of the message, thereby making use of a correct, rich and idiomatic standard language and brought in a pleasant manner, with the appropriate intonation and in a suitable register.
- 3 The student with French as A-language:
 - is able to achieve a professional conference-interpreting level, both in terms of cohesion and rendering the essence of the message, and in terms of presentation and intonation;
 - is able to achieve a level acceptable to a mother-tongue listener in terms of using the standard language and pronunciation. The level achieved is sufficient to establish a reliable relay.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Practical

Study material

None

References

Mikkelsen, H. & R. Jourdenais (2015) *The Routledge Handbook of Interpreting*. Oxon: Routledge

Course content-related study coaching

The interpreting assignments are continually assessed, both individually and in group. For this purpose, we draw on sound recordings or renditions listened to in real time. We constantly seek to remedy any shortcomings by setting individual tasks, and additional feedback is given in a mock conference, in which the entire team of lecturers is involved.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Oral exam (100%)

the exam consists of the interpretation of a structured conference text of 10-15 minutes of an average degree of difficulty. For the assessment, we involve the entire team of lecturers and even a few professional interpreters.

Second session: same

Calculation of the examination mark

See heading 'explanatory note to the evaluation methods'.

Facilities for Working Students

Can be requested from the learning track counsellor.

Addendum

CSFN