

## Second Language Acquisition and Second Language Learning (A704051)

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

**Credits 3.0**                      **Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture
			independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Eyckmans, June	LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Plevoets, Koen	LW22	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Language Technology)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Language Technology)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Russian)	3	A
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Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Language Technology)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	3	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Language, Diversity and Policy	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Language, Diversity and Policy	3	A
Elective Set Linguistics	3	A

## Teaching languages

Dutch

## Keywords

Second language acquisition, second language learning, second language pedagogy

## Position of the course

In this introductory course, students will be familiarized with the basic principles, methods and developments of second language acquisition and learning.

The course's objectives are:

- Provide insight in the characteristics and nature of the field of second language acquisition and learning
- Provide an overview of the main research methods in second language acquisition
- Teach students how to select, read and interpret scientific papers within this domain
- Teach students data literacy (make them familiar with interpreting result sections, graphic illustrations of data in scientific papers)

## Contents

The course focuses on:

- second language learning history
- second language learning research is distinguished from related disciplines such as psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics and sociolinguistics
- the methodology of assessment is discussed and illustrated
- contextual and individual variables in second language learning are discussed and illustrated
- the methodology of empirical research is discussed
- basic principles of descriptive statistics are illustrated and exercises are presented through the online platform
- national and international research concerning multilingual education are discussed
- vocabulary acquisition research serves to illustrate the importance of memory for language learning
- CALL is discussed and illustrated

## Initial competences

Average general knowledge that can be expected from someone who has completed secondary education; no specific starting competences required.

## Final competences

- 1 Having knowledge and understanding of different aspects of second language acquisition and learning,
- 2 Having knowledge and understanding of assessment methodology, being able to identify central tendency measures and standard deviation, being able to interpret graphic representations of data
- 3 Having knowledge and understanding of the contextual and individual factors that influence language learning
- 4 Being able to select, read and interpret scientific papers with the domain of second language acquisition and learning
- 5 Having knowledge and understanding of simple, descriptive statistics and being able to apply this knowledge

## Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

## Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

## Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

## Extra information on the teaching methods

6 lectures (two sessions of 75 minutes)

self-study: reading scientific papers about second language acquisition autonomously (7.5 hours)  
independent study: exercises on the online learning platform (7.5 hours)

### **Study material**

Type: Syllabus

Name: Introduction in foreign language acquisition and didactics  
Indicative price: € 4  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch

Type: Slides

Name: Slides  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes

### **References**

DeKeyser, Robert (2007). *Practicing in a second language: Perspectives from applied linguistics and cognitive psychology*. Cambridge University Press.  
Gass, S. & Mackey, A. (2012) *Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*. London: Routledge.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive support through the online learning platform.  
Feedback possible after appointment.

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

The written exam consists of multiple choice question (no correction for guessing).

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Final score for the course is 100% determined by the exam result.

### **Facilities for Working Students**

Student may be exempt from attending the course.  
No possibility of taking the exam at a different date.  
Feedback can be provided outside of office hours.