

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

	crdts	offering
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
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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

9 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)
Lectures recordings conditional.

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.