

# **Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education**

***(VITE)***

## ***Language Policy***



## **1. PREAMBLE**

As a national institution of excellence for the education and training of primary and secondary teachers in the Republic of Vanuatu who are required to deliver education services in English and French, VITE hereby adopts this Language Policy on \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_.

## **2. PRINCIPLES**

2.1 In developing this language policy, the committee has taken into consideration several factors:

- i) the linguistic diversity of the trainees on campus
- ii) the functional multilingualism that exist in this institution
- iii) the constitutional provisions regarding the national language, the official languages and the principal languages of instruction
- iv) the provision of the VITE Act relating to languages
- v) the linguistic right of each student to use any language of their choice in appropriate situations.

2.2 The Institute's prime goal is to produce graduates who not only have a profound knowledge of their subjects, but are linguistically competent and fluent in the language (s) of instruction they will use in their teaching careers.

2.3 It is acknowledged that the practice of functional multilingualism at the Vanuatu institute of Teacher Education is strong and even encouraged in appropriate situations.

2.4 The rights of trainees to use their vernacular or the national language of Vanuatu in appropriate situations on campus is recognized.

2.5 It is accepted that VITE is currently a dual-language (English & French) institute and that it may develop into a bilingual institution in the future.

2.6 It is recognised that not all the provisions of this language policy can be enforced. It is hoped that the language policy will motivate trainees to improve their proficiency in English and French, which constitute the languages of instruction in the educational system in Vanuatu.

## **3. POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **3.1 Admission to the Programme**

3.1.1 To be accepted to undertake a programme of study at the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education, an applicant has to achieve a “B” or better grade in Year 12, 13 or 14. Furthermore, a student has to get at least 40% in an oral interview and a “B” or better grade in a written test.

### **3.2 Compulsory Language Courses**

3.2.1 A trainee who has been accepted to undertake a programme of study at the Institute shall take the following courses in Year 1 before proceeding to Year 2:

- i) LAP111 Communication and Study Skills 1
- ii) LAP121 Communication and Study Skills 2
- iii) French Foreign
- iv) English Foreign

### **3.3 Languages of Instruction**

3.3.1 The medium of instruction at the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education shall be English and French for all courses approved by the Academic Board.

3.3.2 All interaction during lecture times shall be in English or French.

3.3.3 For all English language courses, the accepted spelling system to be used shall be system used in United Kingdom. For all French courses, the accepted spelling system to be used shall be the system used in France.

3.3.4 The accepted referencing system to be used at the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education shall be the Harvard system.

3.3.5 Informal interaction about course work outside the classroom should be in the language of instruction.

3.3.6 Lecturers shall take the initiative to communicate with students in English or French in discussing matters relating to their courses. They must be role models for their trainees.

3.3.7 Where a lecturer is bilingual in the languages of instruction, he or she may be called upon to teach any course within his/her department.

3.3.8 Bilingual trainees should be given extra assistance to improve their language proficiency so that they may teach in either an English-medium or a French-medium school.

### **3.4 English/French Foreign and French/English Foreign Major**

3.4.1 The Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education takes pride in offering a major in the following subject combinations in its Diploma program; (i) English/French Foreign and (ii) French and English Foreign.

### **3.5 Assessment of content and language**

3.5.1 All assessment components in every subject shall be conducted in English or French.

3.5.2 Assessment in all disciplines apart from language courses must take into account the language component. Ten percent (10%) of marks shall be allocated to the language component in every assignment in a course. Lecturers shall devise their own criteria for assessing the language component in their course assignments.

### **3.6 Leisure Reading**

3.6.1 Leisure reading is an important way of improving trainees' language proficiency. Every trainee must be encouraged to read their course textbooks as well as other non-fiction and fiction literature.

3.6.2 Leisure reading should be promoted annually at the institute by Simeliu Library. The Library Committee shall develop ways of promoting reading at the Institute.

3.6.3 VITE lecturers shall be good role models in leisure reading to the trainees.

### **3.7 Graduate Language Attributes**

3.7.1 Every trainee who graduates from the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education shall have reached the level of automaticity in their language fluency and accuracy.

3.7.2 Every graduate shall have reached the level of communicative competence, which involves linguistic competence and pragmatic competence.

## **4. LANGUAGES OF ADMINISTRATION**

4.1 The administration shall use all official languages in conducting business at the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education.

4.2 The administration shall communicate with students, staff and the campus community in any of the official languages as appropriate.

4.3 Meetings with students or/and staff will be conducted in Bislama. English and French may also be used in meetings.

4.4 Student notices should be given in English and French, or in Bislama if necessary.

## **5. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR LECTURERS**

5.1 It shall be the responsibility of the administration to provide courses and training for staff to improve and enhance their bilingualism in English and French.

## **6. CAMPUS COMMUNITY LANGUAGES**

6.1 The main language for formal and informal functions at the Institute shall be Bislama. However, English, French and vernaculars may be used if deemed necessary.

6.2 Campus community notices and announcements may be publicised in Bislama, English or French.

## **7. MONITORING OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY**

7.1 It shall be the responsibility of the Academic Board to ensure that departments and lecturers comply with this language policy.

7.2 The Academic Board may further authorize changes and amendments to this language policy.

**END**