

Bi- and multilingual universities

Abstracts

The language policy at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Our university has long experience in bilingual administration - since its foundation in 1889, our alma mater has functioned bilingually. Our experience with bilingual studies and diplomas (French and German) is much more recent but after about 25 years, our university has developed a written version of its language policy. In my presentation, I will describe the specific background of our university and its effects on the issue of languages. The following questions are central:

- What specific possibilities does our university offer for bilingual studies and diplomas?
- What importance can English as an academic lingua franca have in a bilingual context of French and German?
- What offers should a bilingual university provide to support languages?

The presentation will conclude with a short discussion of general rules for concepts of language use at bi- and multilingual universities.