

## Multilingual programmes in higher education: costs and benefits

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There are hardly any figures available that reveal the actual cost of introducing a second official language in academic teaching: it is more expensive than normal university teaching, but less expensive than the creation of two separate universities. Figures from Maastricht University indicate that a minimum application will easily amount to a 10-15% increase of the budget for teaching for an initial period of 5-10 years (language teaching, staff training, communication and translations, parallel programmes, research and evaluation), and a 10-15 % increase of a more structural character (precourses, evaluation and research, marketing & public relations, communication and translations, human resources and professional development, signposting and facilities). It will be clear that hardly any university can face these investments without a rigid budgetteering policy, additional funding and a considerable return in increasing student numbers and student or staff contributions. In this presentation we would like to consider, on the basis of financial figures available in Maastricht and in comparison to some other multilingual universities, the organizational and financial feasibility of multilingual approaches in higher education.