

## **Bi- and multilingual universities - Challenges and future prospects**

**Theme:** Multilingualism at the universities in practice

**Topic:** Examples of good practice from bi- and multilingual universities

**Paper Title:**

*Models of language support for instruction given in English: Examples from Forestry, Natural and Political Sciences*

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The University of Helsinki has seen a steady increase in instruction given in English during the last couple of decades. This instruction aims to cater not only for the bilingual Finnish student population but also for the increasing numbers of foreign students and teachers in our university.

In the 1990s, the university administration wanted to find out how well both the teachers and the students (mostly non-native speakers of English) were coping with this situation, and asked Language Centre English teachers to observe what was happening and offer help if needed. Following an initial needs analysis study we began to develop models of language support to suit very different departmental needs.

This presentation will describe in detail the models developed for Forest Products Marketing, the Boreal Biota and Ecology Programme in Biosciences and the Argonaut Programme in Political Sciences. Special attention will be paid to teacher versus student needs. We will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the existing models, the teacher and student feedback, and the most important outcomes from the language teacher's point of view.