



Guidelines for university language testing (GULT)

Cahier des charges pour l'évaluation en langues à l'université

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Working languages: English, French

Project website: <http://gult.ecml.at/>

Aim

Will develop guidelines for a task-based approach to testing in languages for special purposes (LSP) at university level.

Abstract

The project aims to extend current trends in language testing, evaluation and assessment. The team will develop guidelines for university language testing within the framework of the CEFR. It will pay special attention to the teaching and testing of LSP at university and to a task-based approach in language testing. It aims to improve university language testing by offering guidance for LSP testing and to stimulate universities to introduce a task-oriented approach into language testing.

LSP courses offered at universities, where subject specificity can vary from a complete content-based approach to the mere inclusion of some subject-specific topics in a general language course, do not always correspond to students' future professional needs. The taskbased approach offers the advantage that tasks can be constructed around the academic or professional context of the students' specific subject.

The task-based approach needs also to be reflected in testing. Relevant testing specifications have to be developed since guidelines for LSP testing according to the CEFR or for task-based language testing are not commonly available at universities. These guidelines will be developed in co-operation with subject-specific departments (e.g. departments of engineering, business and economics, natural sciences etc.) and with specialists in departments of philology (e.g. specialists in language testing, in LSP teaching and testing or in task-based language teaching).

The cooperating partner of this project is CercleS (European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education).

Expected results

By the end of the project, the GULT team will have developed guidelines for university language testing, particularly in the area of LSP testing, based on a task-oriented approach. These guidelines will be available in the GULT handbook and on the project website.

Targeted sector: tertiary level

