

Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Dept. Linguistics and Literary Studies

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The Multilingual and Multicultural University in Contemporary Society.

Universities have a social responsibility in building knowledge societies. Contemporary society is multilingual and multicultural. Knowledge transfer and scientific research, therefore, take place in a multilingual and multicultural environment. The question is, how universities deal with this contemporary setting where the plurilingual and pluricultural individual is rather the norm than the exception.

We believe that the department of Linguistics and Literary Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel sets an example for an open and transnational view on knowledge transfer and research in contemporary society. Focusing on the synergies between languages, the department directs its research and teaching practice at plurilingualism, foreign language acquisition and multiculturalism in the Arts. On an institutional level the department is engaged in European and intercontinental exchange programmes and as such always looking for new opportunities. It is shown, how the 'Multilingual Master in Linguistics and Literary Studies' shapes and caters for the plurilingual and pluricultural arts student.