



**AT A  GLANCE**

# Language Policy



**POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTREAL**

| General Secretariat | August 2023

Polytechnique Montréal has adopted a new Language Policy to promote the use of French by all members of its community and to ensure compliance with Quebec language laws under the *Charter of the French Language (RLRQ, ch. C-11)*.



The [Language Policy](#), which is published in French only, is available on the Polytechnique website. Please refer to the full version for details. The official policy takes precedence over this summary document.

## A language policy for the Polytechnique community

As a French-language university, Polytechnique Montréal is committed to supporting French language quality and proficiency among all members of its community. The university's Language Policy applies to all members of its community and to all areas of activity.

According to a Léger survey conducted in January 2023:

**97%** of the Polytechnique Montréal community proudly recognizes and supports the institution's status as a French-language university.

Polytechnique Montréal places value on language quality and encourages clarity and precision in both written and spoken French. The university takes steps as needed to ensure that its community members have access to resources for learning French or advancing their French language skills.



## Student use of French

### Undergraduate programs

Proficiency in French is required for admission to and graduation from undergraduate engineering and certificate programs.

### Non-research graduate programs

Proficiency in French is required for admission to non-thesis master's programs, specialized graduate diploma programs and graduate-level microprograms.

### Research-based graduate programs

Admission to research-based master's or PhD programs may be based on a student's proficiency in either French or English. In order to graduate, students admitted on the basis of English-language proficiency are now required to successfully complete a French language course or otherwise demonstrate their proficiency in French. The French course required for graduation for students admitted on the basis of English only applies to new students admitted this fall 2023 for a research master's or doctorate, and to future students

According to a Léger survey conducted in January 2023:

**73%** of the students concerned are in favour of this requirement.



## French as the language of instruction

French is the main language of instruction at Polytechnique Montréal. All compulsory courses are offered in French.

Polytechnique may offer courses and study programs in languages other than French, subject to specific justification. Information on the language of instruction is available at the time of course registration. When course information indicates that instruction will be provided in French, the language of instruction cannot be changed after the registration period begins.

Any person hired by Polytechnique and asked to perform teaching duties must either demonstrate proficiency or undertake to become proficient in French within a reasonable time frame. Exceptions may be made for lecturers hired to teach exclusively in a language other than French.

## Teaching materials and learning resources in French

Priority is given to French-language teaching materials and learning resources. Students can, in all circumstances, choose to complete assignments and assessments in French.

Students enrolled in a course provided in French may have access to teaching materials, learning resources and assessment questions in English, and complete assessments in English, if circumstances permit and resources are available, and with permission from the course coordinator.

According to a Léger survey conducted in January 2023:

**80%** of professors support this exception.

### **!** Exception

When a compulsory course is only offered in French, graduate students admitted on the basis of English-language proficiency may:

- Submit work in English
- Have access to assessment questions in English
- Complete assessments in English

However, in order to do so, students must submit a request in writing to the instructor within a reasonable time frame prior to the assessment.

According to a Léger survey conducted in January 2023:

**72%** of professors support this exception.

## Use of French by the research community

Polytechnique Montréal encourages its research community to use French in its research, financing, knowledge transfer and dissemination activities, as well as its publications.

According to a Léger survey conducted in January 2023:

**77%** of staff members support the idea of Polytechnique Montréal providing resources to promote and increase participation in conferences held in French.

## French as the working language for Polytechnique staff

French is the working language at Polytechnique Montréal, and all staff have the right to work in French. Polytechnique does not include proficiency in another language as a job requirement unless it is necessary for a specific task.

An employee may not be terminated, laid off, demoted or moved to another position because they:

- Only speak French
- Lack proficiency in a language other than French
- Exercised their rights related to working language as established under the *Charter of the French Language*

However, English can be used for certain activities, in particular those aimed at ensuring the safety of all members of the university community. For example:

- Disciplinary or administrative processes
- Work relations or career advancement processes
- Services offered by the Bureau d'intervention et de prévention des conflits et de la violence (Office for the Prevention of Conflict and Violence, or BIPCV)
- Services offered by the Bureau de la protection des droits (Rights Protection Office)
- Training and communications related to health and safety issues



### Requests and complaints related to the application of the Language Policy

Polytechnique Montréal community members can request information, share comments or file complaints concerning the application of the Language Policy by writing to the General Secretariat.

 [secretariat.general@polymtl.ca](mailto:secretariat.general@polymtl.ca)