



YUFE Language Star Fact Sheet

General description

The YUFE Language Star is designed as a reward for the efforts you make in acquiring, improving and perfecting your language skills and competences through a combination of activities.

The YUFE Language Star programme is a threefold model and consists of (1) formal learning, combined with (2) practice and real- life experience of multilingualism, completed by a short personal reflection (3).

Your YUFE Language Star activities are assessed in various ways: formative evaluation by a lecturer or teacher, peer coaching and self-assessment. For each activity, the type of assessment will be indicated in the Personal Development Plan. You and/or the YUFE assessor will complete the data. Along the way, you will be asked to reflect on your language and cultural learning journey: your expectations and goals, your progress and actions, your insights. At the end, this Personal Development Plan will give an overview of the progress you made in the different activities leading you to the YUFE Language Star.

Activities

The following table gives you an overview of the different activities in the threefold model:

OVERALL ACTIVITY	CONCRETE ACTIVITY
1. Formal learning	Successful participation in one YUFE language course chosen from the YUFE course offer: English for Specific Purposes, English for Academic Purposes, one of the local languages or another foreign language.
2. Practice and experience: a range of initiatives in peer learning, autonomous learning, real-life use of language skills, etc.	a) active participation in a YUFE language café chosen from the YUFE course offer. A language café is led by a student tutor and focuses on informal conversation with a group of students/learners practicing the same foreign language.
	b) active participation in a YUFE language tandem chosen from the YUFE course offer. A language tandem is a bilateral language learning format based on the regular exchange between two people practicing each other's native language.
	c) completion of one or several self-study modules with the Open University .
	d) enrolment and successful participation in an academic YUFE course in the local or another foreign language (not English, not your native language) and/or consulting sources (articles, newspapers) and producing output in another language (not English, not your native language)

	for an assignment in an academic YUFE course (paper, presentation, project work).
	e) conducting (a part of) your YUFE Professional Star activities* (Work&Learn, Challenge Teams or Entrepreneurial activities) in English (except for native speakers) or in a foreign language.
	f) conducting (a part of) your YUFE Civic Star activities* (Help Desk, Community Volunteering, YUFE@Home) in a foreign language or in your native language while assisting learners of that language.
	g) playing an active role in a student association in English (except for native speakers) or in a foreign language.
3. Reflection	Progressive completion of the Reflection Report throughout the YUFE Student Journey.

* Refer to the YUFE Professional Star and YUFE Civic Star fact sheets for more information.

Competences

The main focus of the YUFE Language Star is on [multilingual competence](#), which is the ability to use different languages appropriately and effectively for communication.

Moreover, while participating in the Language Star activities, you will also develop some of the competences indicated below. These competences have been identified as those that a YUFE student will have acquired or further developed by successfully taking part in and completing the YUFE Student Journey and YUFE Star System.

The competences that the YUFE Language Star activities most contribute to are highlighted in bold.

	GLOBAL LITERACY / SYSTEMS THINKING	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY / NORMATIVE COMPETENCE	TRANSFORMATIVE ENGAGEMENT
KNOWLEDGE	European Identity and Responsibilities in a Global World (as of AY20/21) Citizens' Well-being (as of AY21/22)		
SKILLS	Intercultural communication	Moral/ethical reasoning	(Glocal) participatory action
	Perspective-taking	Personal responsibility	Change agency
	Self-reflection	Active listening	Connecting and collaborating
	Complex problem solving	Upstander skills	Conflict resolution
	Critical thinking	Emotion regulation	Design thinking
ATTITUDES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS	Commitment to inclusion	Integrity	Courage
	Respect	Sense of purpose	Trust
	Humility	Fairness	Resilience
	Curiosity	Empathy	Serenity

Workload

The following table gives you an overview of the workload for the different activities in the threefold model:

OVERALL ACTIVITY	CONCRETE ACTIVITY	WORKLOAD
1. Formal learning	One YUFE language course	Depends on the language course taken

... counts as accomplished when one YUFE language course is successfully completed.		
2. Practice and experience ...counts as accomplished when two of the suggested activities are successfully completed.	a) a YUFE language café	Participation over the course of one semester according to the local requirements of attendance (workload between 12 and 20 hours).
	b) a YUFE language tandem	Participation over the course of one semester; a minimum of 12 hours is required
	c) self-study modules with the Open University .	A minimum of 12 hours is required
	d) an academic YUFE course in the local or another foreign language	Depends on the academic course taken
	e) YUFE Professional Star activities* in English (except for native speakers) or in a foreign language.	A minimum of 12 hours is required
	f) YUFE Civic Star activities* in a foreign language or in your native language while assisting learners of that language	A minimum of 12 hours is required
	g) an active role in a student association in English (except for native speakers) or in a foreign language.	A minimum of one semester is required
3. Reflection ...counts as accomplished when the Reflection Report is successfully completed.	completion of the Reflection Report	Requires between 15 to 30 hours, depending on your individual working style.

* Refer to the YUFE Professional Star and YUFE Civic Star fact sheets for more information.

YUFE Language Star Award Criteria

In order to be awarded the YUFE Language Star, you will need to have successfully completed within the timeframe of the YUFE Student Journey at minimum:

- 1 language course in the YUFE course offer as part of the “Formal Learning” part (result = pass)
- 2 language activities of your choice amongst the suggested activities of the “Practice & experience” part (the Personal Development Plan contains a detailed description of the assessment criteria for each activity)
- the Reflection Report (included in the Personal Development Plan)

Maastricht University ↔ Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun ↔ Universidad Carlos III de Madrid University of Antwerp ↔ University of Bremen ↔ University of Cyprus ↔ University of Eastern Finland University of Essex ↔ University of Rijeka ↔ Tor Vergata University of Rome ↔ ETS Global European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME ↔ Kiron Open Higher Education gGmbH ↔ The Adecco Group