

Question for written answer E-004316/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sandro Ruotolo (S&D)

Subject: Language certification: a barrier to academic mobility in the EU

More and more universities in Europe are offering undergraduate courses that are taught exclusively in English. In order to enrol, candidates who are not native English speakers must obtain expensive international language certificates which expire after two years.

Students use these certificates to prove that their English skills are strong enough to study for degrees taught entirely in that language, and it is fair to expect that those who graduate from such courses are as proficient, if not indeed more so, than they were when they first matriculated. However, many European universities require candidates for master's degrees in English – including graduates of bachelor's courses belonging to the same pathway – to provide valid certificates to replace those that have expired.

As a result, many students are forced to sit the generic language certification test again, and have to fork out a second time for the privilege.

This requirement constitutes an unjustified barrier to free movement, is at odds with the EU's goal of fostering fair academic mobility and penalises economically disadvantaged students in particular.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission hold that the aforementioned requirement restricts student mobility, particularly in the EU?
2. Does it consider this practice to be compatible with the principles of the single market and the mutual recognition of qualifications?
3. What concrete measures will the Commission implement to grant exemptions to the alumni of courses taught in English in the EU?

Submitted: 4.11.2025