

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 2 November 2018 12.30 – 16.00
Monnet Room, Europe House
32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU



Scotland report

i. Dundee University hosted the UCMLS conference “Looking inward and outward” on 15th September. This was well attended by delegates from across the languages sector in Scotland (HE, FE, schools, government and local government &c.). Marion Spöring (Dundee) and Hannah Doughty (SCILT, Strathclyde) gave a paper assessing the impact of cross-sector initiatives in Scotland between 2014 and 2017, demonstrating that despite a significant fall in languages uptake post 2nd / 3rd year in High School, there was now some sign of a gradual upturn.

Claire Gorrara and Lucy Jenkins (Cardiff) gave an insightful and inspiring paper on MFL student mentoring in Wales, before Janice Carruthers (QUB & AHRC ML Lead Fellow) brought us all down to earth again with an overview of the issues and challenges of language policy in Northern Ireland.

ii. 1 & 2 (languages in Primary School). A reminder, since 2012 primary pupils have been supposed to be learning a foreign language (L2) as of P1, and a second foreign language (L3) as of P5 or P6. Figures indicate that the uptake of L2 is now near 90% nationwide, but is much lower for L3.

A new “entitlement” policy should mean that the scheme does not disappear after funding runs out in 2020.

Attempts to make language pedagogy (not even language learning) part of initial teacher training are faced with some resistance.

Chair UCMLS intends to meet with stakeholders in the near future to discuss this situation.

Joe Carson
Chair, UCMLS
University of St Andrews
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