

Plenary Business Meeting  
Friday 18 January 2019, 10.30 – 12.00



Churchill Room, Europe House,  
32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU

## Northern Ireland report

In preparing this report I was in contact with the subject leads for Spanish, French and Irish at Queen's University Belfast and Ian Collen, NICILT (The Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research), Professors Janice Carruthers and Isabel Torres (both in the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University Belfast).

Following the last UCML meeting a report was circulated to all of the above as well as to colleagues at the University of Ulster (Professors Barr and Gillespie).

This report noted, among other things, the invitation issued at the meeting for colleagues to approach UCML for small amounts of money (£300-500) for "language activism" in NI to promote positive messages around studying languages. It was noted that UCML would be particularly keen to support NI and events could involve working with Schools / Policy makers.

Matters to report:

- NICILT has worked with Welsh awarding body WJEC to get Level 2 Global Business Communication (French, German, Spanish) accredited by CCEA Regulation, allowing this vocational qualification to be taught in schools in Northern Ireland from September 2019. This is a welcome development given the challenges of the new CCEA GCSE which is beyond all but the most able;
- Northern Ireland remains the only part of the UK where children do not have an entitlement to learn a modern language as part of the primary curriculum. NICILT would appreciate support from UCML to encourage the introduction of an entitlement for primary languages.

Sarah Bowskill

UCML N. Ireland rep