UCML Winter Plenary 2019

Friday 18 Jan 2019   10.00 – 17.00

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

VC Education report

1) **UCAS releases**

   The next set of data re. UG 2018 applications cycle will be released on 31 January 2019. The first set of data re. UG 2019 cycle will be released on 7 February 2019.

   In the meantime, the first general instalment of the End of Cycle Report for 2018 on undergraduate Applicants and Admissions data was released in November. Our digest can be accessed here.

   New future reports will include subsections on the situation in the UK nation states.

2) **UCAS granularity project**

   We have finally received a sample of what the data will possibly look like. I'd like to discuss this with the Exec and possibly the Steering group on how to limit the data for the languages we would like to consider for the project. Currently, the over-optimistic scenario was that we would get applications data for *all* languages in the sector, especially focussing on joint honours in Langs + Langs and also Langs + Other (this would reveal the 'hidden' presence of languages being taught and not formally seen on tables). However, we are going to have to choose which languages we want to obtain data for as the updated quote has got very expensive and we may get more data than needed.

3) **Languages mapping project**

   The final report was published in October 2018 and can be accessed here, co-authored by Language Acts and Worldmaking, UCML and AULC. This reports and future reports (generated by UCML alone or in collaboration with other bodies) will be hosted in a new 'Reports' section under the Education tab on our website.

   Plans for the future: Language Acts have additional funds to support a similar survey and report for 2019 and part of 2020, which we would like to support. UCML has also been asked that such survey become an integral part of the VC Education portfolio with the objective of producing an annual survey on relevant data we would like to collect on the sector. This is a good and worthwhile opportunity which needs to be discussed as it will have both financial and practical implications for us in the future. Issues to consider: will UCML pay any future collection and coding of data? Can the VC Education be expected to carry this out under their umbrella as part of their remit? In this case, are constitutional changes required for this to be incorporated?

   I will meet our collaborators on 11 January and will have updates for the Plenary.

On a related note, Language Acts are publishing, through Paul Spence and Renata Brando, a new report on attitudes towards digital culture and technology in MFL in the coming weeks. I provided an introduction for the report on behalf of UCML.

4) **OneHE and possible future collaborations**

OneHE is a new 'global network for educators who share a passion for learning and teaching in higher education' who 'drive impact and innovation in learning and teaching – championing the value of educators, funding new ideas and acting as a force for social good.'

We have been in touch with One HE with the objective of exploring the possibility of future collaborations and maximise the effectiveness of a common e-platform to that effect. I will have a discussion with the Director of Partnerships and report back. In particular, we will look into the feasibility of linking the Routes programme to OneHE.

5) **Linguistics Survey**
Work is in progress to finalise the questions of the survey. Federico Falloppa is leading on this and we are hoping to circulate the survey in the spring.

6) **Advance HE**
The former Higher Education Academy (now Advance HE) are conducting a series of events to gather data on what stakeholders envisage the new institution did. I took part to an online meeting, in which suggestions were made. Advance HE will collate all feedback and circulate it in due course.

7) **OFQUAL**
Following the recent OFQUAL statement on the decision not to adjust A-Level examination grades in Languages, we published a response available here. Subsequently, OFQUAL and invited us to an A level MFL research workshop in Coventry on 17 January, which I will attend. Many thanks to our Chair for her support with this.

8) **Positive news on Languages**
These are urgently needed to combat the perception that Languages and the Humanities are not useful, especially following the news from Hull. I'd like to do a quick brainstorming on how to go about this.

Elena Polisca
9 January 2019