

Item 3: Chair's Report

UCML Chair's Report: March-July 2020

1. *Policy intervention*

Erasmus+: On 24 February 2020, on behalf of the sector, I coordinated a letter of concern to the new Universities Minister Michelle Donelan, co-signed by the Chairs of the University Council of General and Applied Linguistics, the British Association of Applied Linguistics and the Committee for Linguistics in Education and the Association of University Language Communities (AULC).

A New Plan for Universities: on behalf of UCML, on 17 June 2020, we signed the 'new deal for universities' also signed by 49 professional university associations in the UK.

SHAPE: on behalf of UCML, I contributed to discussions, ambitions and the narrative of this new venture to make visible to social sciences, arts and Humanities, launched in 21 June 2020: www.ThisIsSHAPE.org.uk

2. *Strategic planning and development*

Transfer of Routes into Languages from OfS to UCML. This is in its final stages of assignment with support from OfS. The assignment is now being finalised with support from the legal department at the University of Southampton, the previous subject centre custodian of Routes England. The UCML Routes into Languages sub-committee is now up and running, chaired by the VC Education and Intercultural Communication.

3. *National representation and/or support*

British Council: together with the UCML Project Coordinator and the UCML VC Communication, we have been leading a *#whathasthebritishcouncildoneforme* campaign on value of the language assistantships programme. This has connected with the APPG Modern Languages; received media support/coverage in *The Independent*, *Politico* website and the *THE*. A second phase of the UCML campaign is look at the British Council's work in the UK and globally.

Virtual Year Abroad: special interest group: This group has been working in collaboration with ML sector leads (47 of 64 HEIs), providing framework principles for virtual mobility and development of a curated portfolio of resources. There has been very positive and proactive support from UUKi. I am supporting further at this time, together with the VC Communications, as one of the co-chairs of this group has had to step down due to new professional commitments. I was interviewed for the Guardian on the value of the Year Abroad on 13 June: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jun/13/uk-language-students-prepare-for-virtual-year-abroad-in-their-bedrooms> .

4. ***UCML small grants scheme***: the third round of funding was awarded in April with additional support of £5,000 (for this year only) from the OWRI project, Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community.