

Item 3: Chair's Report

Policy intervention

Continued lobbying and intervention. Attended the British Academy Language Advisory Group (17 September) to input into the action plan for the National Languages Strategy. Continued discussion of severe grading at GCSE and A level and the reform of the GCSE curriculum in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Focus on development of Ambassadorial/mentoring programme for languages in schools. A level 'premium' for languages still on the table as an 'ask'.

Met with colleagues at **University of London Birkbeck to lobby/advocate around Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs)** and languages as part of forward planning in response to outcomes of the Augar Review and Higher Education funding (25 November).

1. *Strategic planning and development*

Working with British Academy on SHAPE: Chair of the SHAPE Education working group to provide training materials for SHAPE (and languages) workshops in schools. The first SHAPE Education working group will meet on 7 December and begin work on developing a SHAPE days in secondary schools

Working with British Academy on the analysis of the granular UCAS data and languages. This is ongoing as data has been filtered/processed and we now need to move toward analysis and report writing. There is the option of student internships supporting this project. Ongoing with James and Vicky as a team project

2. *National representation and/or support*

Scotland: worked with UCMLS in October on likely closure of all language programmes at degree level, within the tourism and hospitality programme at Edinburgh Napier University. Joe Carson wrote a short opinion piece for *The Times*. UCML was quoted in an article in *The Times* on the lack of for-sight in Scotland not to build upon the 1+2 policy. Other programmes in Scotland are under scrutiny/duress.

England: Letter to the University of Wolverhampton on the closure of IWLP (end of all language study) with AULC and their President Mark Critchley

Wales: Likely end of Italian at a Welsh University

Partnership building: presentation with James on 27 November at the **Language Testing Forum 2020** conference. 'The Picture for Languages in the UK: A View from UCML'

3. **Virtual Year Abroad: special interest group/student focus groups:** working in collaboration with sector leads (54 of 64 HEIs) on the MOOC offer and coordination of 3 MOOCs to be hosted through Cardiff University.
The Cardiff MOOC on 'Working with Translation' is 'live' (16 November to 14 December) with over 300 delegates. These are all from modern language departments and students currently on their YA or in the UK on virtual preparation/placement. MOOCs from Southampton and Leeds to run in Spring 2021.
4. **UCML small grants scheme:** 4 rounds of funding allocated. Two projects were successful in Round 4 (September 2020).