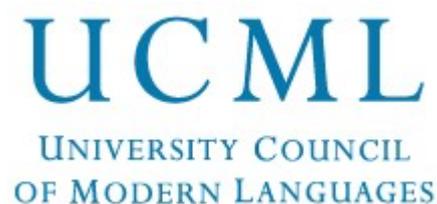


# UCML Winter Plenary

15th January 2021 10:00-11.30am



## Item 3a: Chair's Report (July 2020 to January 2021)

### 1. *Policy intervention*

**Continued lobbying and intervention.** I attended the British Academy Language Advisory Group (17 September) to input into the action plan for 'Towards a National Languages Strategy'. There was continued discussion of severe grading at GCSE and A level and the reform of the GCSE curriculum in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Work is now developing on the creation of **Strategic Committee for Higher Education**, one of the recommendations of 'Towards a National Languages Strategy'. The UCML Chair will sit on this Committee.

I 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).

We are working to lobby UK and devolved governments on the UK's withdrawal from the **Erasmus programme** and to express concerns on the current Turing scheme. I drafted a letter to UK government for circulation to other learned societies for signature (January) and am working with colleagues at UUKi and in the devolved administrations to urge the UK government to reconsider its decision.

### 2. *Strategic planning and development*

**Working with British Academy on SHAPE:** I am Chair of the SHAPE Education working group to provide training materials for SHAPE (and languages) workshops in schools. The first SHAPE Education working group met 7 December. The group has begun work on developing a SHAPE days in secondary schools to be piloted on a small scale in all 4 nations/devolved jurisdictions in mid-2021.

**Working with British Academy on the analysis of the granular UCAS data and languages.** We have now a filtered spreadsheet of UCAS admissions data for degree programmes with languages, 2012-2018. We are in the process of writing a report and analysis. James, Vicky, and I are working in concert with Harriet Barnes (BA) on delivering the report in Spring 2021.

### 3. *National representation and/or support*

**Scotland:** I 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 (UCMLS) wrote a short opinion piece for *The Times*. UCML was quoted in an article in *The Times* on the lack of foresight in Scotland not to build upon the 1+2 language policy.

**England:** I co-signed a letter to the University of Wolverhampton on the closure of IWLP (end of all language study) with AULC and their President Mark Critchley

4. **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'. This has been developed to be able to be delivered by other UCML reps if helpful.
5. **Virtual Year Abroad: special interest group/student focus groups:** I worked 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' was 'live' (16 November to 14 December) with 340 student delegates. These are students from modern language departments currently on their YA or in the UK on virtual preparation/placement. MOOCs from Southampton/British Council and Leeds will run in January and March 2021, respectively.*
6. **UCML small grants scheme:** 4 rounds of funding allocated. Two projects were successful in Round 4 (September 2020).