

Item 3 Chair's Report

1. Policy intervention

Continued lobbying and intervention:

I am working with colleagues on behalf of the British Academy to shape a one-stop languages website LanguagesUK to offer comparable support/web presence to STEM. The first meeting of the **Strategic Committee for Higher Education** was on 9 March 2021, with follow up actions on resources and case studies for the new LanguagesUK website.

Following lobbying UK and devolved governments on the UK's withdrawal from the **Erasmus programme**, we received a response that reiterated the current UKGOV position. We have pivoted to support and promote the new **Turing scheme**. UCML co-convened a session on Turing with Colin Riordan (VC Cardiff, UUKi), Martin Cunliffe (DfE) and Sion Jones (British Council) on 22 March 2021. There is advance planning for an event on transnational campuses in May, hosted by the IMLR.

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. SHAPE materials for schools are now developed and were piloted in schools in Wales in March. 10 schools across all 4 nations/devolved jurisdictions will roll out in June/July. There is excellent cross-UK and cross-sector interest. We have also made contact with an interdisciplinary group/NGO in France.

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 will provide a UCML 'headline' overview of the data patterns and are commissioning a full report from an external evaluator for delivery in May/June 2021.

Working with other Learned Societies: I attended a workshop led by Simon Swain of the British Academy on 26 March to review how learned societies in humanities and social sciences responding to virtual working. Lessons learnt and what we may take forward in terms of changing practice were to the fore.

3. National representation and/or support

England: We wrote to signal our concern on the non-start for a degree programme on languages and intercultural communication to the **University of Sussex**. I met with colleagues at the **University of Hull** over the consultation on closure of degree language programmes.

We wrote to UKRI colleagues on the current funding regime being offered for **PhD student extensions** during the pandemic.

4. Partnership building: we have made contact with colleagues in the US and Australia to prepare exploratory sessions on study abroad in other Anglophone countries – ongoing.

5. **Virtual Year Abroad: special interest group/student focus groups:** We have continued our three MOOC offer: Cardiff (Nov/Dec 2020), Southampton (Jan-Feb 2021), Leeds (March 2021) to support year abroad/virtual mobility students.
6. **UCML small grants scheme:** 1 round 2021: 5 projects submitted: 3 approved, 1 resubmit, 1 reject. A further round of funding will be available in April 2021
7. **Comms/sector representations:** I contributed to two stories for *the Guardian* and 1 for the *THE*. I have been involved in wider interest in and beyond HE on the 'Welsh Erasmus' International Learning Exchange Programme. There is substantial interest from colleagues in England to lobby for a comparable programme.