

UCML business meeting

Friday 14 January 2022, 10am-12pm



Item 4b: Scotland Representative

1. Proposed Scottish Government mobility programme

I had a useful meeting in November with Owen Griffiths (Team Leader for STEM and Languages curriculum) and colleagues on the Scottish Government's proposed mobility scheme to complement (compensate for the gaps in) the Turing programme. It was reported that the scheme is still at the early stages of development, with concrete proposals due to emerge early in the New Year, on which input from UCML and the HE sector will be sought. It was also emphasised that (certainly in financial terms) the proposed scheme will not and cannot be a full replacement for Erasmus+ but will be modelled on its values and principles in terms of encouraging inward and outward mobility. It will incorporate youth work and sport alongside the education sector, and will be international and not just European in focus.

2. Scottish Modern Languages mentoring programme

Following on from discussions at the November meeting of LANGS (Languages Network Group Scotland), Sylvia Georjin (LANGS/Northern Alliance) and I met with colleagues at SCILT in December to consider how we might develop a Scottish language mentoring programme along the lines of the Welsh scheme. SCILT are keen to help with national coordination, building on existing and planned activities between universities and local authorities around the country. We have established a Short Life Working Group to develop a framework and materials for a pilot scheme to run in AY 2022-23, probably with schools in the Northern Alliance. The SWLG will have its first meeting in February with colleagues from SCILT, UCML Scotland, LANGS and Local Authorities. Unlike the Welsh scheme, interventions will probably focus on the S2/S3 point of the secondary phase, when Scottish students narrow down their study choices and decide between languages and other subjects.

3. Modern Languages 1+2 review

At its November meeting, the Education Scotland Languages Strategic Interest Group agreed to establish three working groups on consolidating the Modern Languages 1+2 policy following its implementation phase. I have joined the SIG working group on the place of Modern Languages in the Broad General Education (BGE) and wider curriculum at primary and secondary levels. The working group has its first meeting in February, and will dovetail effectively with the SWLG on a national languages mentoring programme.

4. UCML Scotland Spring meeting

There will be a meeting of UCML Scotland representatives in February 2022 (date TBC). The meeting will focus on outreach activities, including a briefing on the proposed mentoring programme.

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