

## UCML Executive Committee

Friday 29th April 2022 10am-12pm

Via MS Teams



### Item 10.k: IWLP (including UCML/AULC report)

#### 1. IWLPs 2021 delivery and intake

Information regarding IWLP delivery and registrations continues to be relevant since last reported in November 2021. Classes continue to move to face-to-face, although some programmes have retained an online element and registrations continue to be stable for institutions where they have semester 2 courses.

Nevertheless, there are still departmental and IWLP closures happening across the country: University of the Arts, London is proposing to close their Modern Language Department - a fellow member of AULC - that offers access to language learning to staff and students across its 4 campuses. 11 staff will be made redundant. An open letter has been sent to management at UAL to ask them to re-consider this decision.

There is also [this petition](#) by the union at UAL which is available for all to sign.

#### 2. AULC Survey 2022

The AULC has just launched their IWLP survey. It is accessible via: <https://durham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/aulc-survey-2022-2> and IWLP programme directors and Language Centre managers are encouraged to complete it by 13:00 Friday 27 May 2022.

This survey is intended to gather information regarding the status and health of institution wide language programmes in UK higher education. The specific objectives are:

- To assess the scale of IWLP activities to compare with 2016-17 (changes over a 5 year time horizon)
- To evaluate the scope of IWLP activities beyond conventional language courses, and to better define, understand and promote the role and purpose of IWLPs
- To identify trends in different languages
- To identify challenges and opportunities across the sector
- To develop strategies for future developments within AULC
- To provide information to policy makers

#### 3. UNILANG

The **UNILANG** scheme inevitably took something of a back seat since the COVID pandemic started, but it will be entering the next phase of its implementation over the coming few months, aiming at expanding the number of external examiners and language programmes that use it.

The UNILANG recognition scheme serves to help UK university students articulate and translate what their language learning outcomes mean in terms of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It provides a recognised certificate that will inform students' CVs and will explain to careers services and employers the value of their languages. The scheme runs alongside the award of credits or other HE awards by the HEI concerned. UNILANG is also designed to assist course providers to map their courses onto a transparent and translatable model.

#### **4. Sector conferences and publications**

##### **4.1. CercleS**

The XVII CercleS Conference: "The Future of Language Education in an Increasingly Digital World: Embracing Change" will take place September 15<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Organised by the European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS). The event is hosted by ReCLES.pt, the Association of Language Centres in Higher Education in Portugal, at ISCAP – The Porto Accounting and Business School, Porto, Portugal.

##### **4.2. AULC conference 2022**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> AULC conference took place 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and was hosted by the University of Nottingham. The conference title was *Envisage the Future: Reshaping Language Teaching and Learning*, and a good number of language centre practitioners, language educators and scholars presented their practice, pedagogies and research around the following three broad strands: Assessment, Student Agency, and Sustainability of Institution Wide Languages Programmes. Opportunities and challenges around the incorporation of technologies to assessment and the move to online was one of the key issues discussed.

AULC AGM took place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, where it was announced that the terms of office for AULC Chair and Welsh Members representative are both coming to end in May 2022. Current postholders, Mark Critchley as Chair and Dr Catherine Chabert as Welsh rep have both offered to stand for a second term of office from May 2022 to May 2025.

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