

UCML Executive Group Meeting

Friday 11th November 2022

UCML Report, Chair

A very warm welcome to new members joining us.

IMLR/ILCS and SBS consultation

On 10th October I chaired a workshop organised by the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies (ILCS), formerly known as the Institute for Modern Languages Research (IMLR). The main focus of the workshop was to launch the Subject Benchmark Statement consultation for Languages, Cultures and Societies. The consultation was open until 6pm, 2nd November. There will be a further meeting of the SBS Advisory panel to discuss the consultation responses, and I will feed back from that.

[Consultation on revised Subject Benchmark Statements \(qaa.ac.uk\)](http://qaa.ac.uk)

Trends in Admissions for Languages in HE – a UCML/BA report (follow on from Granularity report July 2021)

Publication week commencing 21st November. Working with Vicky and Michelle Langley/Connor McKenzie at BA – the report is nearly ready for release after sign off in the BA. We are discussing comms with the Press team at the BA and with Fransiska for UCML. We decided to do the report with the BA rather than with an external consultancy as was the case for the previous report. This has enabled us to buy more data points than last time (200 rather than 100).

Consultation, campaign and policy paper on Home and Community Languages with BA/LAGB

Working with Charles Forsdick, Yuni Kim from LAGB, Vicky, Mary, and Sky to gather data, anecdotes for a policy paper on acceptance of home/community languages. This work will be presented at the Strategic Committee on Languages in Higher Education in later November (18th).

Campaign for Translation Studies

Working with Callum Walker, Begoña Rodríguez de Céspedes, and Fransiska to launch package of action around recruitment and closures in Translation Studies. Actions agreed at recent meeting. Fransiska to take forward comms. Begoña is drafting a report on behalf of UCML.

BA Languages Gateway

Ongoing consultation with UCML on the new Languages Gateway, one of the outcomes of TNLS. Liaison with Philip Harding-Esch, APPG ML. A working site is up and running and in the consultation phase.

Paper on visas for language assistants and lectors to be jointly published with BA

Awaiting the sign off of a note on visas for language assistants and lectors from BA which will be published jointly on our websites and promoted on social media.

Collaboration with CUCD/CA

20/10/22: Held a meeting with Helen Lovatt, Chair of CUCD (we will catch up with Sharon Marshall of CA). Discussion of common ground where we could act together on issues. One key issue to tackle first: language teaching as resource-intensive and therefore often vulnerable in Universities restructuring and redefining curricula. Suggestion of joint workshop on this area.

Plans and actions:

- Joint round table on employability at next summer's UCML event (July) [UCML to lead, CUCD to find Classics participants]
 - o Involve those doing research into employability i.e. Arlene Holmes-Henderson
 - o Involve employers (GCHQ?)
 - o Involve policy people (WonkHe?)
- Event on language teaching, workload and assessment [CUCD to lead, UCML to find ML participants]
 - o What different models are there of efficient language teaching when student numbers vary?
 - o What different successful ways of assessing language teaching are being used in online assessment/take home exams?
 - o How are student anxieties managed given the need for exam assessment?

SIGs:

ECA - ECA code of practice launch – this has now been launched with a short promotional video, we would urge all members to ask their Schools and Departments to engage with it: <https://university-council-modern-languages.org/early-career-academics/code-of-best-practice/>

Heads SIG – Helen Abbott at Birmingham will co-chair the SIG with David Cowling (Durham).

YA SIG – James and Jonathan have held a meeting, and will launch a campaign around Turing – there are shortfalls in the funding in many Universities this year, and no planned renewal yet confirmed of the scheme; James and Jonathan are both attending the Executive meeting to give a fuller report of their activities

Lesser taught languages SIG (jointly with AULC – planning to launch this with Mark Critchley)

Widening Participation Languages network – have held first meeting. Chaired by Becky Muradás-Taylor who is attending today

AMLUK - regular contact with Charles Burdett

Routes into Languages –

Vicky and Sky have a forthcoming meeting, and we are consulting with DfE and ALL on tenders.

AULC/UCML report

We are aiming to prioritise this before the end of the year. Now that we have the Heads SIG, communication may be easier with individual Universities to gather information for the survey. So far we have 21 responses from 54 possible respondents.

Plenaries:

Jan plenary – discussion of additional topics. We have invited Tamar Hodos, Director of the South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership to speak on the impact of arts research beyond the arts, and we have also invited our two PGR bursary winners: Emily Marzin (Open University) and Elena Sottilotta (University of Cambridge) to discuss their winning projects.

Summer plenary – suggested joint round table with CUCD on WP/employability in languages.

AHRC Fellows – request

Emmanuelle, Michelle and Nicola have proposed a set of very short papers (one by each) to appear in the online journal *Languages, Society & Policy* <https://www.lspjournal.com/>

The editorial team have invited Liz on behalf of UCML to contribute a response paper.

SCLHE – next meeting Friday 18th November

UCML items: health of the discipline, update on Trends report, less widely-studied languages, non-acceptance of home/community language A levels at UK Universities.

We have written to Birkbeck on behalf of UCML to offer support to the Head of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics, and are also writing a letter to the VC, deputy VC and chair of governors to protest the proposed redundancies.

British Academy: Strategic Forum for the Humanities – 7th December

I have asked to deliver a UCML update on activities. Any items welcome from reps and SIGs. I will certainly present the ECA code of best practice and discuss the Trends report.

AOB:

1/Possibility of putting out a UCML statement about the value of in-person assessments (language orals etc.)?

2/Name change to fall in step with ICLS, SBS statement for our disciplinary fields, and strength of feeling about the ‘M’ in UCML. We thought of UCoL - University Council of Languages. Some other acronym developed from University Council of Languages? Other possibility is retaining the acronym but updating everything to University Council of Languages. This may be problematic. Other thoughts very welcome.

EC, 11/11/22.