

UCML Executive

Friday, 26th May, 2023

Germanic and Low Countries report

Since my last report there is little new to report. The major issues remain the same (a) sustainability and student numbers (esp. Low Countries studies); b) the year abroad; c) language teaching post-Brexit), but there is some cautiously positive news to report. First, the threatened cuts to the DAAD have been reversed (perhaps UCML's letter of protest had some effect!); and second, the newly-established National Consortium for Language Education has as one of its major aims the promotion of German in schools. This promotion project ("GIMAGINE") will be led by the Goethe-Institut. It is as yet unclear how universities will be involved in this project (or indeed if we will be), but discussions are ongoing.

The annual Heads of German UK and Ireland meeting (HoGMeet) took place at the ILCS and online on 22nd May, organised by Sarah Bowden (UCML) and Nicola McLelland (AGS) with the support of the ILCS and the DAAD, who provide funding for the day. We had an excellent and productive series of discussions on the NCLE; language teaching (including machine learning tools); creative and inclusive pedagogies; PGR and ECA matters. Jonathan Long reported on the work of the UCML year abroad SIG. As ever, the support of the DAAD in bringing together colleagues from across the country and supporting German studies was enormously valuable.

The Association for Low Countries Studies is holding a postgraduate symposium ('Beyond Dutch: Multilingualism in the Neerlandophone World) on 15th June 2023 at the ILCS. The Association for German Studies will hold its conference in person at Trinity College Dublin, 29th–31st August.

Sarah Bowden
23/5/23