

UCML Executive

Friday, 26th May, 2023

Scotland Report

1. Scotland's Languages Explorer Programme

In March, we successfully completed the pilot of our new languages mentoring scheme, Scotland's Languages Explorer Programme (SLEP). Five University of Aberdeen students worked with S2 students from five schools in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (c. ten students/school) over a six-week period. Colleagues at SCILT and the participating local authorities are undertaking a programme evaluation via feedback and interviews with mentees, mentors and teachers which will lead to a published report. Initial indications are that the scheme has been successful in encouraging a majority of participants to continue with language study once they enter S4. A celebration event to mark the completion of the pilot is taking place at the University of Aberdeen on Wednesday 31 May.

We are now working on extending the programme in a 'phase two' pilot to run next year through collaboration with a further three or so Scottish HEIs and their local authority partners. The aim is to have nationwide coverage by AY 24/25 or AY 25/26. The team at SCILT has been instrumental in providing training and organisational support for the scheme, and rolling it out without them would have been very challenging if not impossible.

2. Senior Phase Modern Languages Workshops

Following the success of last year's workshops for Senior Phase students (Higher/Advanced Higher) from across Scotland, SCILT is leading on the development of a new round of workshops to take place in the autumn with six partner HEIs. Each session focuses on different skills (translation, cultural and critical analysis, grammar and language) with the aim of giving a taste of language study at university as well as tips and guidance to support students with their current studies.

Unfortunately, due to cost pressures, SCILT has had to pause the Language Linking, Global Thinking (LLGT) scheme which pairs students on their year abroad with schools in Scotland. SCILT hopes to reinstate the scheme as soon as it is practical to do so.

3. UCML Scotland meetings

The next meeting of UCML Scotland representatives will take place in June 2023, where we will discuss the implementation of the next phase of the language mentoring programme.

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22/05/23