

Developing Scotland's young workforce through languages

A guide for schools
and businesses



Introduction

SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages and the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS) work with businesses, schools and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) groups across Scotland. The aim is to support the Scottish Government's youth employment strategy and to build capacity in language and employability skills.

We offer several different initiatives to support the employability agenda and the role languages play within it.

01	Introduction
02	Business Language Champions
03	Language promotional events
04	Job Profiles
05	Business Brunches
06	Why learn languages?

Business Language Champions

Business Language Champions (BLC) aims to build partnerships between schools and local businesses to support teachers in developing young people's learning about the world of work, with a particular focus on providing meaningful contexts for language learning.

Language promotional events

The SCILT/CISS team is available to support language promotion in your school. A promotional event may include a talk at an assembly, local businesses visiting the school and providing pupils with the opportunity to hear from them, career fairs, parents' nights or other similar input. Applications for SCILT support are open from May to October every year.

Job Profiles

Our series of Job Profiles demonstrates to young people that having a knowledge of a language is useful in a wide range of different professions. The profiles bring real-life contexts into the classroom and teachers should use them to demonstrate to young people the relevance of language learning in the world of work.

Business Brunches

Our annual Business Brunches take place in January and February in various locations across Scotland. The aim of these events is to provide young people with the opportunity to hear directly from a number of our key business partners about the role languages play in the workplace, to offer careers advice, and to help young people choose an appropriate range of subjects in the senior phase, and beyond.

Business Language Champions



Business Language Champions (BLC) is a partnership between a school and a business. SCILT/CISS will support you in your search to identify a suitable business partner local to your school. We will share ideas and suggestions for sustainable joint projects that will have a positive impact on language learning.

Case studies from successful partnerships can be found on the [BLC pages of our website](#) and provide replicable ideas for projects to build partnerships between a school and a local business.

A guide to getting started

[Contact SCILT](#) to request a BLC form. In the form, we ask you to provide:

- the year group you wish to involve and why
- the number of pupils involved
- business sector preferences (e.g. hospitality, tourism)
- existing business links in the school
- details of local businesses

The DYW co-ordinator in your school should be able to provide information on any existing links. Other departments may have business links that you could use.

If your school does not have a designated DYW member of staff, contact your local DYW group. Your school ought to have the contact details, or you could [search online on the DYW website](#). You may find your local DYW group has already organised events specifically for languages in your local authority.

Language promotional events



SCILT/CISS provides support for various language promotional events for all year groups. Requests for input at these events can be made between May and the end of October each year. **Please note that we will be unable to support any requests received after the deadline.** Information on how to apply will be in the [SCILT e-bulletin](#) or you can make a request by [contacting SCILT](#). We will send you a promotional request form to complete in which we will ask you to detail the type of support you require.

Language promotional events can take several different formats:

- A whole year group assembly where one or more speakers addresses the whole cohort.

- A keynote speaker addresses the whole cohort in the assembly hall, followed by a carousel of four speakers in classrooms. Each speaker presents to four different groups of pupils in turn. These presentations normally last 20-25 minutes each. Your DYW contact and SCILT/CISS may be able to help with sourcing speakers, or you may wish to contact parents.
- SCILT/CISS participates in a careers fair organised by the school. We will bring a stand and leaflets and will speak to groups of young people about the benefits of learning a language and the employability skills they help develop.

In the case that we are unable to support an event, SCILT/CISS will provide leaflets and a short promotional video on request.

Job Profiles



Our Job Profiles provide relevant, labour-market focused careers advice on languages, direct from the workplace. Teachers can use these profiles in the classroom to enhance learning about the world of work.

Profiles cover a wide range of sectors, from engineering to hospitality, conservation and technology. They also include a range of languages, experiences and qualifications. We are confident our Job Profiles will inspire your learners!

Promotional videos complement the Job Profiles. These short video clips demonstrate how languages have helped professionals in their careers.

Teachers may also like to download and print our careers pack or posters to use in class.

Access all these resources through the [Job Profiles pages of our website](#).

Short videos made by Project Trust volunteers, who have spent up to 12 months abroad, are also available on the [Beyond School pages of our site](#).

Business Brunches



Our series of Business Brunches take place annually in partnership with local DYW groups and the University Council for Modern Languages Scotland (UCMLS). The events happen in January and February each year, and to date we have held them in Aberdeen, Paisley, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Inverness. Schools send up to 10 pupils from S3-S6 and one teacher.

Information for these events is shared in the [SCILT e-bulletin](#) in October/November when registration opens. As places go very quickly, it is important to register your school early in order to avoid disappointment.

Format of the day

On arrival, pupils will have the opportunity to browse the marketplace stalls while enjoying their brunch. They will be set a challenge to find out about local companies and businesses; job opportunities within the company or business; employability skills and the role languages play.

A keynote speaker and the first of two presentations will follow. After a short comfort break, in which pupils can revisit the marketplace, they will hear the second presentation. A plenary with a question and answer session will round off the day.

For further information on previous years' Business Brunches, as well as feedback from pupils and teachers, visit the [Business Brunches pages on our website](#).

Why learn languages?

Languages enhance employability and give learners a passport to the world.

Learning languages develops:

- confidence
- presentation skills
- a global outlook
- intercultural understanding
- interpersonal skills
- communication skills
- attention to detail
- concentration
- transferable learning strategies
- L1 literacy
- cognitive skills

For more information on the skills languages develop, please [visit our website](#).



[How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#) (Education Scotland, 2018) provides advice on effective partnership working.

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini
Italian film director

“No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.”

Mohandas K Gandhi
Indian nationalist and spiritual leader

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At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.

