

New MLA Project Manager

Gerry McIntosh has taken over from Lynsey Pilcher as the new Project Manager for Language Assistants. As a linguist, Gerry has a passion for languages and has worked overseas for British Council as a teacher and Project Manager prior to joining the team in Edinburgh. Contact details: Gerald.McIntosh@britishcouncil.org Tel: 0131 524 5718.

Case Studies on Internationalisation in schools

Liz Neil (Education Portfolio Manager) is working with colleagues at British Council and with partners at Education Scotland and SCILT on how internationalism, developing a global mind-set and the European dimension in schools can contribute to school improvement. The British Council schools offer includes: eTwinning, Erasmus+, Connecting Classrooms, Language Assistants, International School Awards, as well as school linking information, classroom resources and more.

She is keen to hear from local authorities and schools who have good examples of how international activity has been embedded in school and links to school improvement and attainment. In particular, she is keen to hear about innovative use of MLAs in support of interdisciplinary activity in school. Please contact Liz.Neil@britishcouncil.org or tel: 0131 524 5724.

Modern Language Assistants

The closing date for requests to host an MLA was the end of May, but we will still accept requests right up until the new school term begins. Obviously the sooner requests are made, the easier it will be to source high calibre candidates to match requirements.

We encourage local authorities and schools to think creatively in how they use and allocate their MLAs to get the maximum benefit and can offer advice and guidance to individual schools, clusters and authorities. In terms of funding for MLAs, both 1+2 and PEF funding can be used to meet the costs of a classroom assistant.

It is worth remembering that the MLA programme is long running, and reciprocal. We receive MLAs to support language learning and teaching in Scotland, and this enables Scotland to send several hundred students and recent graduates overseas to teach overseas. We are currently researching the extent to which the MLA programme contributes to initial teacher training and hope to update LANGS on this at a future meeting.

Please contact the team on languageassistants.uk@britishcouncil.org and a link to make an online request will be provided.

Erasmus+

It is encouraging that so many schools in Scotland are benefitting from Erasmus+ funded projects that support learning and teaching of languages and the 1+2 agenda.

In the first three calls (2014, 2015 and 2016) 263 schools in Scotland benefitted from around £2million in Key Action 1 funding, with a further £2million allocated to 15 Key Action 2 strategic partnership projects co-ordinated from Scotland. Statistics and results are available [online](#), and the 2017 call results should be published soon.

We want to encourage institutions to be bolder and ambitious in their thinking. As the funding available in the final years of Erasmus+ grows, institutions should be thinking more strategically about how European mobility opportunities to work, study, job shadow and undertake professional development can affect whole school development. This could be in languages, but also a whole lot more!