

## German Educational Trainees Across Borders 2017/18

**SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages invites you to host a German Educational Trainee (GET) to help boost language learning and intercultural dialogue in your schools whilst providing an invaluable opportunity for German trainee teachers to enhance their classroom practice.**

German trainee teachers from Universities in Mainz, Leipzig, Koblenz and Saarland are available to work in Scottish schools for a six month placement from September/October 2017 to March/April 2018. Participating students are native German speakers, training to become secondary teachers of English, which means that their level of English is advanced, as is their knowledge of the pedagogy associated with teaching modern languages. They are looking to gain invaluable teaching experience in an English-speaking country, as a compulsory component of their teacher training. This experience can be in either primary or secondary schools, or both.

Under the auspices of the **German Consulate General**, the objectives of the scheme are to both boost German language teaching and learning in schools across Scotland and to contribute to the development of a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced young professionals. This programme is co-funded by the European Commission's ERASMUS+ scheme, which enables students in higher education to do work placements in another European country. The receiving Scottish local authority would become the other funding partner at a cost of **£350 per month** per trainee.

### **What are the benefits for schools and pupils?**

German Educational Trainees (GETs) support language teaching and intercultural understanding, bringing language alive for learners with a trained and motivated native speaker. By supporting German teachers in the classroom as well as working alone with small groups to encourage communication and improve pupils' confidence, GETs make an active contribution to raising attainment. They can also initiate international and cross-curricular projects and take advantage of resources offered amongst others by the Goethe-Institut or UK-German Connection. GETs can also support teachers who would like to refresh their knowledge of the language or even provide taster sessions in German.

Hosting a GET will bring an international dimension to the curriculum, increasing your pupils' cultural capital and prepare them for employability in a global market. GETs have a positive impact on the whole school and its wider community. The opportunities are endless!

### **Scottish Context**

*Regular access to native and fluent speakers to stimulate young people's interest in language learning and other cultures is recommended as part of Scotland's 1+2 Language Policy (Foreword: Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach). Despite German often being perceived as a difficult language to learn, over the last couple of years, German Educational Trainees have helped to transform the image of German language learning in Scotland's schools. Statistics from the Scottish Qualifications Authority demonstrate that pupils sitting National Qualifications in German tend to perform very well: in 2016 49% of candidates sitting Higher German achieved an A grade and 45.2% of Advanced Higher achieved an A grade. Having the support of a native German speaker in the classroom is a key contributor to*

achieving these high standards and can help to raise attainment by offering less able pupils the chance to receive additional 1:1 support for instance.

## **German Context**

In line with the growing significance of internationalisation at higher education institutions world-wide, we work with the **Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz** and its partners.

<http://www.get-across-borders.uni-mainz.de/>

At the University the programme is administered by the EU-Service Point and the web portal ([www.eu-servicepoint.de](http://www.eu-servicepoint.de)) provides the students with information on how to apply. Candidates are selected to receive ERASMUS+ funding according to the following criteria:

- Suitability (incl. academic performance)
- Professional integration of the placement in the study course.
- Programme conformity and the requirements for the traineeship, including recognition.

The **EU-Service Point prepares** the candidates in collaboration with several faculties and offers training on intercultural (or cross-cultural) competence. The students also receive helpful information from returning trainees, via the internet-platform of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

In the first 4 weeks of the placement, the GETs send a short e-mail report to the EU Service Point with initial feedback. The trainees can contact the EU-Service Point team at any point during the placement. This includes for "emergency management" in the event of serious illness or accident. Participating local authorities will be expected to support GETs by allocating a mentor. The GETs also receive support from their subject supervisor at their home institution and from SCILT.

## **Details of the GET Across Borders programme**

- **Funding:** The programme is co-funded by the European Commission's ERASMUS+ scheme and the receiving local authority, which provides a monthly grant of 350 GBP per trainee.
- **Placement period:** The period of the placement is from September/October 2017 to March/April 2018, depending on the timing of the autumn and Easter breaks.
- **Working hours:** The placement must consist of a minimum of 12 contact hours per week and up to a maximum of 16 contact hours per week. The weekly work-load should not exceed 36 hours. The remaining (non-contact) hours can be made up with preparation, marking or any other appropriate projects.
- **Schools:** The GETs can work at more than one school. For example, they can work at a secondary school and the primary schools within its cluster. However, both the workload and travel arrangements must be manageable and must not exceed the maximum number of working hours listed above.

## **Sending Institution**

**What arrangements are made for the GETs?**

**Prior to their departure**, students are provided with:

- A 'Learning Agreement' regarding the placement; this agreement must be endorsed by the sending university and the receiving local authority.
- An 'enhanced police clearance certificate' issued by the Federal Register of the Federal Office of Justice in Germany (the German equivalent of a Disclosure Scotland certificate).
- Support, resources, material and teacher training.

**Following arrival in Scotland**, GETs are provided with:

- An introductory training day at the Goethe-Institut Glasgow.
- Continual support, resources, material and teacher training from SCILT and the Goethe-Institut Glasgow.

**At the end of the period abroad:**

- Full recognition of the period spent abroad is provided by the sending university. Recognition is based on the 'Learning Agreement' approved by all parties prior to the placement.

## **Receiving Local Authorities**

### **What arrangements need to be made for the GETs?**

**Prior to arrival in Scotland**, the receiving local authority should:

- Complete and sign the 'Learning Agreement' regarding the placement and return it to the sending institution.
- Make arrangements for a monthly grant of 350 GBP to be paid to the GET during the course of the placement, with the first payment to be made within one month of the GET's arrival.
- Allocate a 'host school' and coordinate arrangements with any other schools.
- Appoint a mentor at the 'host school' and a contact person at the receiving council. The individuals named will be at the same time the first point of contact in case of assistance or emergency.
- Advise the GETs on finding accommodation in the local area.

**Following arrival in Scotland**, the receiving local authority must:

- Contribute to subsistence costs during the placement by way of a monthly grant of 350 GBP.
- Provide practical support if required, with finding accommodation, registering with a doctor and other administrative procedures.
- Support GETs in their placement, assigning tasks and responsibilities that match their knowledge and competency, while supplying regular feedback from the mentor.
- Ensure that the GETs are granted student status, rendering them exempt from council tax.
- Organise and provide funds for travel between schools if applicable.

**At the end of the placement**, the receiving local authority should:

- Issue the GET a certificate confirming successful completion of the placement in accordance with the 'Learning Agreement' and a reference from the school(s).

## The Application Process:

To register your council's non-binding interest in hosting a GET(s), please return the note of interest by email to [Alice.Lister@strath.ac.uk](mailto:Alice.Lister@strath.ac.uk) and [get-across-borders@uni-mainz.de](mailto:get-across-borders@uni-mainz.de) **by**  
**Friday 10 February 2017**

Local Authorities will then need to confirm their participation in the programme **by Friday, 28 April 2017.**

### Key contacts

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For further information please see: <http://www.get-across-borders.uni-mainz.de/>