



Explore Languages Programme: A Teacher Guide



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Overview

This programme is designed to ignite your students' passion for languages, highlighting the benefits of studying languages at GCSE and beyond! Students will explore a new language, as well as the career options available for linguists and the skills that they'll develop through language learning. The programme hopes to support schools who have seen a recent decline in the take-up of languages at GCSE - this project is looking to tackle this issue directly with a series of talks and workshops delivered in your school at a targeted time.

Aims

- Inspire the students to continue their languages to GCSE level (and beyond)
- Raise aspirations towards Higher Education
- Introduce students to a new language and the value of learning multiple languages

Gatsby Benchmarks

This activity is designed to support schools to work towards the Gatsby 'Good Career Guidance' Benchmarks. Participants will **learn from career and labour market information** (benchmark 2) and carry out **encounters with further and higher education** (benchmark 7) and the activity **links curriculum learning to careers** (benchmark 4).

| Workshop 1 Meet our language Ambassadors | Workshop 2 Beginners language workshop | Workshop 3 Careers and skills in languages | Explore Languages Competition |
|--|---|---|--|
| November | December | January | February |
| Our Ambassadors will tell your students all about language learning at university, their journeys and experiences and the benefits of language learning. | Choose to introduce your students to Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Italian or Russian with a beginner's language workshop. We'll either visit to deliver this session or provide you with a resource pack to deliver it yourself. | Another visit from our Ambassadors, as they deliver a workshop about the skills developed through language learning and the amazing careers available for people that study them! | In groups, your students will work in groups to put together a creative presentation that they'll film and send to us for judging! Our judges will deliberate, and prizes will be sent to the winning students. |



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Following the Explore Languages programme, depending on capacity, there will also be the option for us to refer you to our Education Outreach Team who may be able to organise for your school group to visit campus for the day!

Frequently asked questions

How do I select the group of students to take part in the project?

This is a widening participation programme, and so we would like to work with students from groups who are underrepresented at university – we ask you to take this into account when selecting your cohort. For example, students who in the future would be eligible for our Year 12 widening access scheme, Access to Leeds – you can find the criteria for this [here](#). We also welcome students who are in receipt of free school meals or who are eligible for pupil premium.

We will need to deliver the workshop in a classroom, so we recommend that you select 25-30 students for the programme.

How much time do I need to put aside for the programme?

Teachers should allow one hour for each of the workshops. Teachers will then need to organise time for groups/individuals to complete their competition entries. This could be done during lessons, lunchtime or you could ask the students to do this as homework. Teachers will then need to send entries across to the University of Leeds by the agreed deadline.

How are the workshops delivered?

We will send our specially trained Student Ambassadors and Education Outreach Fellows to deliver the workshops in your school, at flexible times to suit you.

How much does the programme cost?

This programme of activity is free of charge, but before each workshop teachers may be required to print worksheets for the students participating. We do require you to support us with the evaluation of the programme, as detailed below.

Will we have the opportunity to visit campus?

After you have taken part in the programme, we will refer you to our general Education Outreach Team who will be able to organise for your students to visit campus during one of their Higher Education Experience Days.

Evaluation

Due to the guidelines set by the Office for Students, we need to place greater emphasis on the evaluation of our activities. We would therefore be very grateful if you and your students could complete a pre-event questionnaire before the first workshop, and a post-event questionnaire after the competition. We would also like to, where students and parents agree, track your students through the Higher Education Access Tracker to find out whether, in the future, your students go onto university or college, where they go and whether they get a job afterwards. Your students and their parents will need to complete a form to consent to this. This is not a requirement of taking part in the activity, but we would be grateful if you could ask your students to take part and complete the necessary paperwork.