

Opportunities for language learning a guide for students and parents Teacher Notes



These teacher notes have been written to support the “Opportunities for language learning – a guide for students and parents” booklet which has been sent to your school/college. They are aimed at teaching and support staff who are involved in providing information, advice and guidance to post-16 learners regarding the wide range of language learning opportunities available at university. These notes suggest a range of ways in which the booklet and the information it contains can be used, along with sources of additional information and resources.

The Aim

Language curriculum mapping carried out in the West Midlands by the regional Routes into Languages Consortium identified that students in KS3, KS4 and KS5 are taking an increasingly diverse range of language qualifications and courses within a wide range of curriculum and extra-curricular delivery models. This has an impact both on the type and level of accreditation being achieved by learners, and on their experiences of language learning. It can also be observed that HEIs are offering an increasingly wide range of language learning opportunities at different levels, of which potential undergraduates may not be aware. It is therefore important to provide potential undergraduates, and all those who advise them,

with up to date information on the full range of study opportunities available.

The booklet aims to communicate the wide range of opportunities available for language learning at HE level to students, their parents and advisers, along with the importance of language skills. It contains an outline of the different types of opportunities, specific examples of study options and a number of illustrative case studies.

How should it be used?

At its most basic the booklet is a source of information primarily for post-16 students to support them in making decisions about university. It should be accessible by all students, not just those studying a language. We therefore recommend that a copy is located alongside other university information and prospectuses. You will also have received a copy to be kept by teaching staff and an electronic version is available from the Routes into Languages West Midlands website www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/westmidlands. The guide gives students a list of useful websites to visit if they want to find out more. A number of these are also very useful for teachers and support staff as many have dedicated teacher sections and downloadable resources.

There are also a number of other ways in which the booklet can be utilised.

- Use by language department staff to encourage language students to continue their studies at university in some way
- Use by other subject areas to communicate to students the value of language skills for many careers and how language study can be linked or included in other subject degrees.
- Disseminate during careers advice and at events.
- Disseminate during university advice sessions and events.
- Tutor groups – tell your students about the booklet and encourage them to read it. Run related activities described in these notes.
- Ask students to create a blog or podcast to tell others about the opportunities available.
- Sixth form assemblies – tell students about the booklet and encourage them to read it. Ask a small group of students to present some of the key information.
- Include information in sixth form newsletters, intranets or radio stations.
- Supplement the booklet with other available resources:
 - Why Study Languages? Presentation and resources available from www.llas.ac.uk
 - 700 reasons to study languages. Available from www.llas.ac.uk
 - The Cilt website contains a wide range of quizzes and games. www.cilt.org.uk
 - The Languages Work resources bank can be found at www.languageswork.org.uk
- Turn the information contained in the booklet into a quiz – use an IWB and voting technology for interactivity.
- Use the information to promote paired, group and

whole class discussions. For example ask students to think about why languages might be useful for specific careers or to try and think of a career where they would not be.

Additional information and resources.

The guide gives students a list of useful websites to visit if they want to find out more. A number of these are also very useful for teachers and support staff as many have dedicated teacher sections and downloadable resources.

Cilt, the National Centre for Languages

www.cilt.org.uk

The Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies

www.llas.ac.uk

Languages Work

www.languageswork.org.uk

Aimhigher

www.aimhigher.ac.uk

Connexions

www.connexions-direct.com



To find out more about the Routes into Languages and Links into Languages programmes and what is happening in your region please visit www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk