



Languages XP – Arabic

A language and cultural experience for complete beginners by students of The University of Manchester.

Languages XP is a new initiative by our department of Middle Eastern Studies, designed to give your students the opportunity to meet university language students and to try out a new language. Our student volunteers, who are all in their final-year of a language degree, will come into your school to deliver four taster sessions during March 2014. The project is aimed at Year 8 and Year 10 pupils to aid motivation to continue with language study (to GCSE/A-level). We are running the project for the first time in March 2014 with Arabic.

Through Languages XP your students will...

- ...meet undergraduate language students and gain an insight into studying at university and where languages can take you.
- ... learn a new language & culture: Arabic was recently identified as the second most important language for the UK according to a British Council report¹ and it is also one of the North West's important community languages
- ... gain motivation for language study: Routes into Languages North West, who have long organised language enrichment events for Year 8 pupils, measured a marked increase in pupils' motivation to take up a language option at GCSE, even though the tasters at these events were held in new languages which pupils did not study at school.
- ... find out about the range of languages that can be picked up from scratch at university: All of our volunteers have started studying Arabic as complete beginners and have spent last year in an Arabic-speaking country.

Languages offered

Arabic.

(We also have very limited availability of Japanese – please indicate at time of booking whether you are interested. We will allocate Japanese on a first-come, first served basis.)

Number, length and timing of taster sessions

March 2014: 4 x 30 minutes (3 plus 1 initial 'getting to know you' session)

Sessions can be held either as a lunch-time club or after-school activity. These can be 4 days in a row (a one week club), or once a week throughout March, or a combination suitable to all involved.

Age-range and number of pupils per session

Either Year 8 or 10 pupils

Maximum of 10-12 pupils per group who have no previous knowledge of Arabic/Japanese.

Materials and funding

There are no extra costs for your school: our students are DBS-checked volunteers, who have been trained by our language tutors to develop and deliver these taster sessions.

Our students will prepare their own teaching materials, hand-outs etc at the university, but may need to ask the school to provide material for their own pupils such as pens, paper etc, but we do not expect it will be anything major.

How to book

Please contact Sonja Bernhard by Wednesday, 18th December 2013

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¹ www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/publications/languages-future