

Meeting Minutes

Teaching Sustainability Languages Subgroup

23 January 2025

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Fiona Devine (Chair), Emma Rose, Emma Wilson, Fiona Smyth, Camden Reeves, Jayne Hindle, Julia Dobson, Francisco Eissa-Barroso, Ben Cawley, Thomas Schmidt, Lexy Cummins, Helen Dunning (Secretary)

Apologies: Kathryn Howard, Christopher Ford, Fiona Keenan and Jennifer Haworth.

LC confirmed minutes from previous meetings are on SharePoint. BC to add historical minutes to StaffNet.

Action: BC

2. Actions from the last meeting

- **Action 28/32:** Work is well underway on market insight identifying opportunities for the Languages provision. LC has been in touch with Orieb to set up a meeting to create a brief for LEAP. It was agreed that this activity should remain distinct for LEAP and MLC as they are different cohorts with different constituencies. JD to be invited to meeting. **Action:** LC
- **Action 45:** School to review areas of growth in the 2024 registration data. TS to provide update in next TS Languages Subgroup meeting
- **Action 54:** Simplifying exit pathways was an item on the 30 January 2025 Taskforce meeting and will appear as an agenda item at a future Languages Subgroup meeting.
- **Action 50:** Timeline was shared by FD on 27 November (subject: next steps). Revised rationale was shared with main Taskforce at the 10 December Taskforce meeting. Rationale, timeline and key dates summarised here: [Item 3 - Rationale, Timeline and Key Dates.docx](#) JD was encouraged to share this information with colleagues.
- **Action 52:** Risk log will become a standing item on the agenda. FE raised that he does not feel action 1 has been completed, LC to update and include progress on mitigating actions.

3. Market research update

- EM gave a market research update, sharing initial findings from the Market & Student Insight team.
- ER to share data table looking at the 9 subjects offered by UoM and what is offered by our competitors with EM. Table to be circulated with 23 January minutes by HD. **Action:** ER, HD
- JD to speak with contacts at Durham University about their course structure for BA Modern Languages and Cultures with Year Abroad. **Action:** JD

4. Update from MLC

4.1 Vision update

- TS to review areas of growth in the 2024 registration data taking 1st December 2024 census data into account and present findings at the next Subgroup meeting. **Action:** TS

4.2 Programmes for withdrawal

- JD suggested proposed changes for BA Film and French are a good example of what can be done in terms of strategic thinking and practical implementation. In response to JD's paper ([Item 2 - MLC responses to TSP January 2025.docx](#)) The group agreed that BA Hons German Studies and BA Hons Italian Studies should be remain on the Languages portfolio of programmes due to the disproportionate impact withdrawing these subjects would have and will continue to be monitored. It was agreed that English Literature and Italian will be withdrawn and go forward to the SALC QSDE on 27 January. EW to amend paperwork. **Action:** EW

4.3 Focus group meetings with Programme Directors around potential areas of growth and innovation

- JD confirmed that two meetings with Programme Directors had taken place (facilitated by FK). The meeting focused on trust and confidence building and also looked at the key drivers and “why” the work is being done.
- The second meeting focused on the “what” and the “how” – bringing in internal and external environments and mapping out what strategic responses to these might look like.
- The next meeting will take place in February 2025, followed by programme of work with a wider set of colleagues.
- It was suggested that work is needed to explain to applicants the benefits of studying two languages.
- TS confirmed there is an upcoming visit to Birmingham to discuss languages with their team and peers from Warwick. It is an opportunity to consider the modern languages offering in HE and discuss how that should be done in the future. FE suggested including student representatives in conversations about modelling for languages. This was supported but would need to be looked at carefully in terms of timing, structure and set up. JD to discuss with FK to advise. **Action: JD, FK**

5. Admissions update

- FE advised that there have so far been no applications for Arabic and Portuguese, Film Studies and Russian, and Film Studies and Portuguese. These programmes will therefore be closed if no applications are received by 29th Jan.
- FE again raised a question about WP applicants who are aiming to teach English and pursue English Language and a Language. The proposal to retain Linguistics and a Language was intended to ensure this provision remains with Linguistics being an equally good preparation subject for teaching English.

6. Communications update

- The rationale has been refreshed and circulated; this is being used as the basis of a range of comms content. A slide deck containing the rationale, vision and objectives of the Teaching Sustainability project is being created and will be shared with the Subgroup in due course. Stakeholders are encouraged to cascade this information with colleagues. FD confirmed she is meeting each HoD within SALC and will write to HoDs to give context for these meetings. **Action: FD**

7. AOB

- JD highlighted the need to closely monitor the programmes that are with SOSS and review these in each Teaching Sustainability Languages Subgroup meeting going forward.

Actions

Action Number	Action	Action Owner	Deadline
63	BC to add historical minutes to StaffNet.	BC	Next meeting
64	LC to invite JD to join meeting with Orieb to create a brief for LEAP.	LC	Next meeting
65	LC to update action 1 of risk log and change “review date.”	LC	Next meeting
66	LC to check “mitigation” of risk 4 is accurate.	LC	Next meeting
67	ER to share data table looking at the 9 subjects offered by UoM and what is offered by our competitors with EM. Table to be circulated with 23 January minutes by HD.	ER, HD	Next meeting

68	JD to speak with contacts at Durham University about their course structure for BA Modern Languages and Cultures with Year Abroad.	JD	Next meeting
69	TS to review areas of growth in the 2024 registration data taking 1 st December 2024 census data into account and present findings at the next Subgroup meeting	TS	Next meeting
70	EW to amend paperwork for SALC QSDE on 27 January.	EW	ASAP
71	JD to discuss including student representatives in conversations about modelling for languages with FK.	JD, FK	Next meeting
72	FD to write to each HoD within SALC to give context for meetings.	FD	ASAP

[Action Log - Languages Subgroup.xlsx](#)