

Meeting Minutes

Teaching Sustainability Languages Subgroup

7 July 2025

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Fiona Devine (Chair), Emma Rose, Fiona Smyth, Lexy Cummins, Jayne Hindle, Julia Dobson, Kathryn Howard, Emma Wilson, Thomas Schmidt, Ben Cawley, Helen Dunning (Secretary)

Apologies: Camden Reeves, Frank Eissa-Barroso, Fiona Keenan and Catherine Tann

2. Minutes from the last meeting: for confirmation

The [minutes](#) were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Outstanding actions

Action Number	Action Description	Update
77	FD to discuss partnerships and collaboration with Kate Camden from DDAR, e.g. Andrew Brodie seminars on AI.	Ongoing, FD to make contact.
79	JD to ask Elizabeth Mccullough for data on LEAP provision to STEM programmes.	Ongoing, LEAP provision will be incorporated in report.
81	TS to reach out to Martin Evans at Durham to find out who is most appropriate people to speak to there. JD to contact Leeds and Newcastle.	TS confirmed he has been in touch. JD's action is ongoing.
83	TS to liaise with JS regarding supporting teacher development in primary and secondary schools and engaging with Education.	TS confirmed he has been in touch with Juup Stelma about better coordinating this work.
85	BC to investigate British council pages as suggested by FD.	BC is reviewing the British Council webpages on an ongoing basis, with a summary report due to be published and shared with stakeholders. BC will also analyse the data and circulate a summary of the findings.

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

4. Update on the MLC vision

- JD provided an update on the MLC vision and 2035 roadmap and expressed thanks to Fiona Keenan for her support and her assistance in preparing the presentation slides.
- FD suggested that the MLC purpose should include celebrating similarities as well as differences. JD agreed to reflect on this.

4.1 Umbrella model

- **Decision:** It was confirmed that the umbrella model will be advertised in Spring 2026 for 2027/28 entry.

- **Action:** JD to develop an operational plan for the umbrella model and present it at first Languages Subgroup meeting of next academic year 2025/26, scheduled for 18 September 2025.
- There were discussions as to if the changes associated with the umbrella model could be processed as a programme amendment. EW and ER to pick up outside of the meeting.
- JD outlined the benefits of the umbrella model, noting that it allows us to clearly articulate the value of studying a language in one central place, rather than dispersing information across multiple web pages. The model also offers structural advantages, helping to present a more coherent and streamlined offer.
- JD indicated that they will be able to curate student choice for joint honours students, directing them to optional units that relate to their other subject. MLC also aim to have a presence in the open day sessions for the joint subjects.
- JD expressed the view that MLBM should be included within the umbrella model. However, it's important to ensure that it remains visible and easily discoverable for users searching for Business Management on the website.
- There was discussion about potential changes to the programmes that will sit underneath the umbrella. At present no changes are proposed, however the introduction of the umbrella structure could be the first stage of a more comprehensive review of programmes and curricula.

4.2 Insights from market research and insight work

- An online survey was piloted in May with Year 12 students from Xaverian College (mix of A-level language students and non-A-level language students). Syndicate partners then sent the survey to school/college contacts for year 12 and 13 students, with a deferred deadline of 4 July. Recipients have been asked about the umbrella model.
- **Action:** JD to consider the implications of the MLBM structure and alignment with degree regulations, including the teaching and resource provision for SALC and AMBS.

5. Discussion on delivery of LEAP programmes online

- JD updated on LEAP insights and engagement with schools so far.
- Need to look at how to advise students that they can study an additional language whilst also keeping LEAP separate from degrees programmes.
- **Action:** KH/JD to obtain data on what share of the market for LEAP we currently have.
- FD advised that Charlie Jeffrey of N8 at York has asked Newcastle to think about progressing and mapping work on language provision across the N8 institutions. Subgroup to keep an eye on the external environment.
- JD advised that recruitment is going ahead, and that ongoing marketing work is looking at further development, including search engine optimisation.

6. Admissions update

- ER advised that there has been an increased interest and acceptance from overseas students in Spanish and Japanese.
- Of the 41 programmes that have been withdrawn, 18 have acceptances against them and will run as agreed if students confirm (this will be the last intake).
- 22 of the programmes to be withdrawn have received no acceptances.
- The Languages Subgroup advised TS to speak with Claire Alexander to ensure Politics and Language students are well supported.

7. AOB

- Isobel Morgan, a second year French and Spanish student, will be joining the Languages Subgroup next academic year.
- The next meeting of the Languages Subgroup will be held on Thursday 18 September at 3pm, venue TBC.
- Please find at this link the Post-18 Project review of ten foundational rights for UK students: [Doing better, getting better: Getting a grip on the full-time student experience – The Post-18 Project](#)
- The group recorded their thanks to Frank Eissa-Barraso for his contribution to the Sub-group's work. He steps down as Admissions Lead at the end of July. Huw Twiston-Davies will join the group from September onwards as Admissions Lead.

8. Summary of actions and decisions

ACTION/DECISION	DESCRIPTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
Decision	It was confirmed that the umbrella model will be advertised in Spring 2026 for 2027/28 entry.	N/A	N/A
Action	Develop an operational plan for the umbrella model and present it at first Languages Subgroup meeting of next academic year 2025/26, scheduled for 18 September 2025.	JD	Next meeting
Action	Obtain data on what share of the market for LEAP we currently have.	KH, JD	Next meeting