



Bring language
and culture
alive with a
native speaker
in the
classroom

Language Assistants work in UK primary and secondary schools, including sixth form and further education colleges. By bringing up to date knowledge of the language and culture of their native lands, British Council Language Assistants inspire teachers and students alike to achieve success in language learning. Hosting a Language Assistant will broaden pupils' horizons, improve their language skills and increase their cultural awareness.

What is the role of the Language Assistant?

Work together with a teacher in the classroom.

Work on their own with small groups of students to introduce basic language or improve linguistic ability, with a focus on oral skills.

Help to prepare pupils for oral examinations.

Contribute to cross-curricular work in collaboration with other subject areas.

Develop lesson plans and extra-curricular activities (e.g. lunch time clubs) focused on their country's culture, suited to particular age-groups.

Support the creation and/or development of an [international partnership](#) with a school in their country.

What are the benefits of hosting a Language Assistant?

In addition a Language Assistant can help pupils to develop all four of the capacities on which the Curriculum for Excellence is built:

- Successful learners - by making languages more exciting, pupils become more engaged and eager to learn. They apply what they learn in the classroom to other situations and settings out in the world.
- Confident individuals – Language Assistants encourage pupils to be more ambitious/outgoing, develop abilities to communicate their own beliefs and view of the world.
- Responsible citizens - Language Assistants help pupils to understand Scotland's place in the world and understand different cultures.
- Effective contributors – Language Assistants help pupils to learn how to communicate in different ways and different settings, to adapt what they learn.

In **primary schools** Language Assistants can:

- help to introduce language learning
- work across the curriculum
- support teachers
- help to implement government policy on language learning.

Schools and assistants can access a range of [primary language resources](#), including our new primary languages starter pack.

In **secondary schools** Language Assistants can:

- increase pupils' confidence
- improve overall standards
- enhance teachers' knowledge of languages
- prepare for exams
- help to implement government policy on language learning.

All schools hosting Language Assistants are eligible for the [Foundation Certificate of the British Council International School Award](#).

What do I need to know before applying?

- Language Assistants are usually between 20- and 30-years-old, and are either studying English or are trainee teachers in their home country. Chinese Language Assistants are all qualified teachers.
- They can work in your school from 12 to 18 hours a week.
- The compulsory appointment period is 1 October to 31 May in England and Wales and 1 September to 31 May in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- The British Council provides induction and training on arrival, and continued support for schools, local authorities and Language Assistants throughout the year. Support for visa applications is offered to all non-EU Language Assistants.
- Costs can be shared between up to three schools, reducing the cost to as little as £2,300 a school on average.

New funding opportunities to host Chinese Language Assistants.

Apply before 27 March 2015 to host a Chinese Language Assistant at a significantly subsidised rate.

How do I apply for a Language Assistant?

Apply before 27 March 2015 to guarantee your Language Assistant for 2015-16. Provisional applications must be finalised by 31 May 2015.

If you are a local authority school please consult the list of UK local authority contacts below before getting in touch with the British Council. If your school has a Local Authority Co-ordinator included in the list you should contact him or her directly. The local authority will submit an application on your behalf.

List of [UK local authority contacts](#)

If your school does not have a Co-ordinator you must apply directly to the British Council.

Non-local authority schools (including all academies) should also apply directly.