

**Friday 26 April 2019**

**12.30 – 16.00**

**Room C60b/c, InfoLab21**

**School of Computing & Communications**

**Lancaster University, LA1 4WA**

## **Item 9c – Wales report**

### **Erasmus**

On behalf of colleagues in HEIs across Wales, the UCML Wales representative (LWO) met with the Welsh Government Deputy Director of European Transition in HE. LWO shared our concerns regarding the future of the Erasmus programme in the light of the withdrawal of assurances by the UK government of funding for Erasmus exchanges in the event of a no deal, and underlined the impact of this for our programmes. Thanks to the swift responses of colleagues across Wales LWO was able to provide a fuller picture of the likely cost to underwrite the scheme in Wales. There were no assurances that Welsh Government would cover these costs, but it is to be hoped that by giving the Deputy Director more information, she will be able to advocate more strongly for us in her dealings with the Department for Education. This was followed up by actions within institutions seeking assurance that the HEIs would underwrite the costs, and by advocacy of the UCML at a national level.

### **UCML Wales event**

Following consultation with colleagues from across Wales, the UCML Wales event for 2019 will be themed around 'Languages and Civic Mission in Wales: Universities and their Communities'. This is currently in the planning stages, and aims to involve colleagues from HE, from the schools sector, and the PGR community.

### **Student Mentoring programme**

The scheme has completed a further semester of mentoring, including turbo tutoring events and digital mentoring. Presentation ceremonies will take place across Wales during April. The leadership team visited Brussels (26th-28th Feb) with a group of mentors in collaboration with the Welsh Higher Education Bureau (WHEB). The team were invited to participate in the Welsh Government St. David's Day celebrations to promote partnership work occurring in Wales. This was funded by a small grant from the AHRC's Open World Research Initiative project 'Language Acts and Worldmaking'. The project has taken on an international dimension, and the national co-coordinator has worked with the Cardiff School of Modern Languages to train 4 students from the final-year Student Teaching module to mentor in a primary school in Valladolid. Claire Gorrara and Sally Blake have had an open access article published on the project in the Wales Journal of Education: <https://doi.org/10.16922/wje.21.1.3>. Claire Gorrara bid successfully for additional funding from the AHRC's 'Languages Acts and Worldmaking' fund (£1,500) to deliver a 'Languages Summit' in September 2019 in Cardiff in collaboration with Routes into Languages Cymru. The Digi mentoring project in England has progressed: The Language Horizons 5-week cycle has now been completed. The project has just entered its evaluation phase. Mentors from the MFL Student Mentoring Project have been involved in delivering peer-peer support to mentors trained in Sheffield.

## **Routes into Languages Cymru**

Since January, Routes into Languages Cymru activities have included:

- 17 A Level Masterclasses were delivered at Cardiff, Swansea, Bangor, Aberystwyth and Glyndŵr universities this academic session with a reach of over 220 AS and A Level students.
- Pupil Language Ambassadors Training days were held in locations in all four Welsh regional education consortia and 370+ year 8 and 9 pupils have been trained to support the visibility and uptake of modern languages in their schools. Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr received the 2018 PLA team of the year award for the fantastic work they had done in their school to support their MFL department.
- Routes Cymru in collaboration with Oxford University and the Seren Network invited 44 year 9 pupils, and their teachers, from 11 secondary schools from across Wales to the Seren Network Modern Languages Oxford Residential on the 28th-29th March. The two-day programme of activities provided pupils with stretch and challenge opportunities as well as raising aspirations as they gained insight into what it would be like to live and study languages at university.
- Routes Cymru Language Ambassadors continue their delivery of careers talk and providing classroom support sessions in schools across Wales. Our ambassadors have attended many year 9 option evenings this academic year, providing real live perspectives to the advantages of continuing the study of languages as a GCSE subject and beyond.

## **Swansea University**

- Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting at Swansea University are planning a pan-Wales Symposium in German Studies for staff and research students on the 12 July, 2019.
- The next Roy Knight Memorial Lecture will be on the 20 May, 2019. It will be delivered by Stephen Hart.
- The recently launched CENTRE FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND THE AMERICAS at Swansea University is organizing a Conference on Green Hispanisms for May 2020.

## **Cardiff University**

The new Global Cultures and Creativity MA has had a positive first year, and recruitment is promising for the programme, and for the MA in Translation Studies, for next year.

The School Research Seminar Series has had a full and varied programme, drawing speakers nominated by the School research themes 'Bodies and Borders', 'Capitalisms, Crisis, Ideology', 'Conflict, Development, Disaster', 'Picturing Others', and 'Translation, Adaptation, Performance'.