

MLA Programme Facilitator
Barnet Education and Learning Service
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TO: All Headteachers and
Language Teachers

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date: February 2025

Dear Colleague

Modern Language Assistants (MLAs) 2025-26

Action: Thursday 3rd April 2025 at the latest

(if a minimal extension is required, please contact des.georgiou@barnet.gov.uk to agree submission date)

If your school is interested in support for Language Teaching, you will find this service invaluable. The provision of BELS Modern Language Assistants service (October to May) is arranged in liaison with the British Council. This service supports the standard British Council MLA contract (a minimum of 12 hours a week) however it also facilitates a local sharing arrangement for schools wanting an assistant for less than 12 hours a week.

- Employing a language assistant adds a brilliant resource that the classroom teacher can use to grow their own language abilities and confidence, supporting their own continuous professional development, as well as enhancing language learning and enriching pupil experience.
- In the annual end of year evaluation of over 200 UK institutions hosting language assistants, mentor teachers reported that their language assistant made a significant impact on attainment and learning outcomes in the following areas:
 - *improved exam grades (92%)*
 - *improved cultural awareness (96%)*
 - *increased enthusiasm or motivation for language learning (92%)*
 - *improved standards in listening and speaking (95%)*
 - *improved vocabulary and general understanding of the language (96%).*

“All the language assistants had the confidence to lead the language learning in the classes, working alongside the teachers. They showed creativity, flexibility, good organisation skills, resilience, the ability to reflect on the success of previous lessons and what to do next. They were receptive to feedback, approachable and passionate about sharing their knowledge of their language and culture.” (Dawn Wilde, Trafford Local Authority)

For primaries, now that the teaching of a foreign language has become compulsory, the provision of a modern language assistant is a timely resource.

We would be grateful if you could ask your Head of MFL or Business Manager to let us have your requirements for Modern Language Assistants (MLAs) for the next academic year:

- Whether you intend to employ MLAs this year
- Which languages you wish to support
- Whether you want full time assistants or wish to share
- Whether you have any other special requests or requirements.
- Which year groups the MLA will be working with

The pay rate for 2025-26 has not yet been published by the British Council but, the rate for MLAs in 2024-2025 was: Gross monthly salary - £1,200.76 for a standard 12 hours per week with the standard fixed hourly rate of £18.15 for additional hours beyond the standard 12-hour period. This includes Outer London Allowance.

These contracts are for eight months from **1st October to 31st May (35 weeks)** and are sponsored by the British Council. An additional charge for obtaining this service through BELS and for part funding of the Immigration Health Surcharge (now £1035) will be made – please see the attached SLA which sets out clearly the total hourly cost and responsibilities of each partner in this scheme.

I would be grateful if you would let us have your requests by **Thursday 3rd April (any minimal extension to be agreed with Des)**. Would you also please indicate on the form if there are any school(s) you wish to share with (maximum number of schools that can share an assistant is three).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Neil Marlow
Chief Executive and Director
Of Education and Learning



Des Georgiou
MLA Programme Facilitator

Enc: MLA request form
 MLA Service Level Agreement (SLA)