

**Lesser studied Modern Languages
at SQA Higher Grade
Uptake and Centres 2000-13*
Uptake and Attainment 2008-13***

Hannah Doughty

August 2013

hannah.doughty@strath.ac.uk

*2013 data are pre-appeal

Contents

[Slide 03: Entries and Centres 2000-2013 for Higher in lesser studied MLs](#)

[Slide 04: Entries and Attainment 2008-2013 for Higher Italian](#)

[Slide 05: Entries and Attainment 2008-2013 for Higher Gaelic Learners](#)

[Slide 06: Entries and Attainment 2008-2013 for Higher Urdu](#)

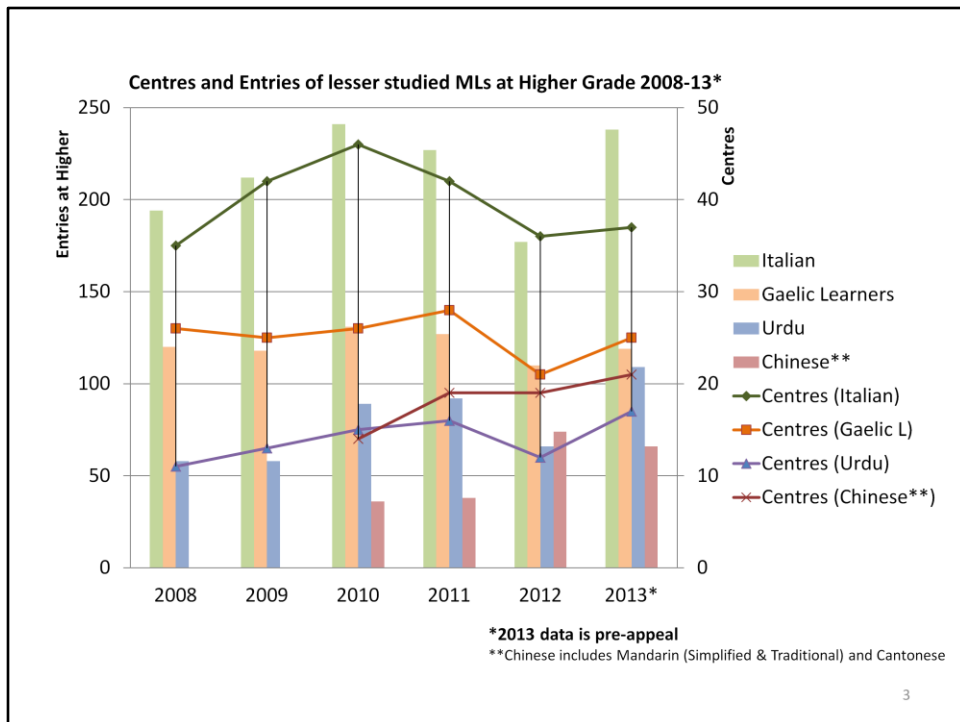
[Slide 07: Entries and Attainment 2010-2013 for Higher Chinese Languages](#)

[Slide 08: Entries & Attainment at Higher Grade of lesser studied MLs in 2013](#)

On **Slide 3** we look at the trend of entries in Italian, Urdu, Chinese Languages and Gaelic Learners at Higher grade since 2000, and the associated number of centres offering the award.

On **Slides 4-7** we examine entries and attainment trends at Higher grade in Italian, Urdu, Gaelic Learners and Chinese Languages between 2010 and 2013.

On **Slide 8** we compare entries and attainment at Higher grade in 2013 across the four languages



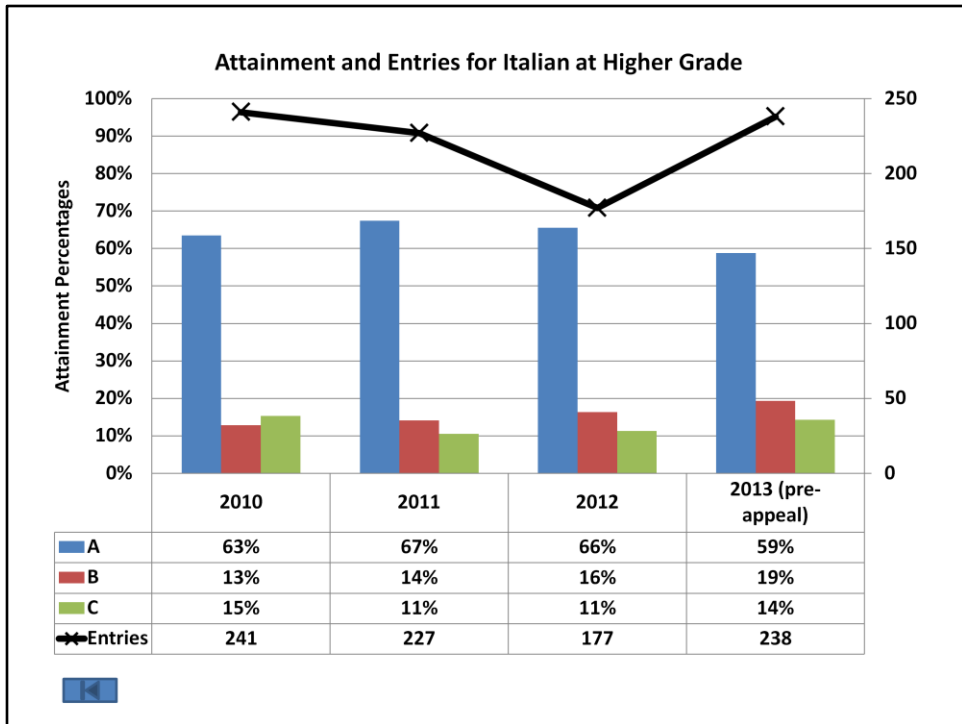
In this slide we examine the trend of uptake in lesser studied modern languages (Italian, Urdu, Gaelic Learners and Chinese Languages) at Higher grade, and the number of centres offering the language in question.

The graph shows that entries for **Italian** at Higher grade have fluctuated over the last six years, with a significant dip experienced in 2012. However, entries for 2013 (238) are up by 23% compared to 2008, and just below the high point in 2010 (241 entries). However, after a rise between 2008 and 2010 there has been a drop in the number of centres offering the language, although it is just above the 2008 figure (37 and 35 respectively).

Entries for **Gaelic Learners** at Higher grade have also fluctuated, albeit to a lesser degree. They also reached their peak in 2010, and current entries (119) are just below those of 2008 (120), but up by 8% from the dip in 2012 (110). The number of centres offering the language reached a peak in 2011 (28 centres) but has since dropped to 25, again just below those of 2008 (26).

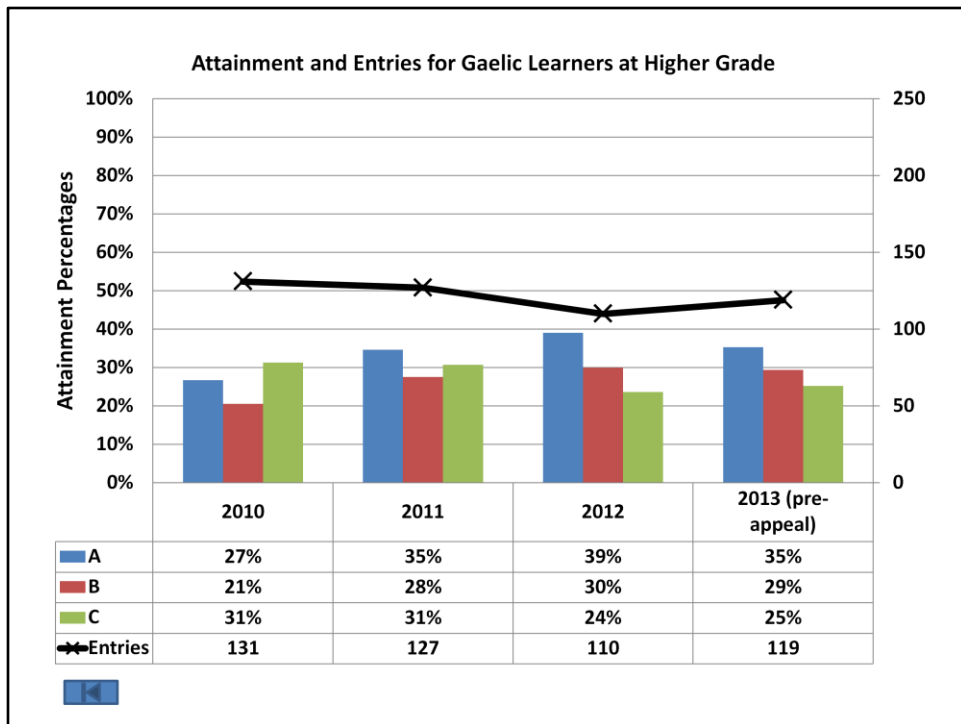
Entries for **Urdu** at Higher grade have been on an upward trend, apart from a dip in 2012. Entries for 2013 (109) are up by 88% from 2008. The number of centres offering the language has also been rising, again apart from a dip in 2012. The language was offered in 17 centres in 2013, compared to 11 in 2008.

Entries for **Chinese Languages** at Higher grade (most of which are for Mandarin – Simplified), have also risen since the introduction of the qualification in 2010, although the entries in 2013 (66) are slightly down from 2012 (74). The number of centres offering the language has also risen, up from 14 in 2008 to 21 in 2013.



- Italian

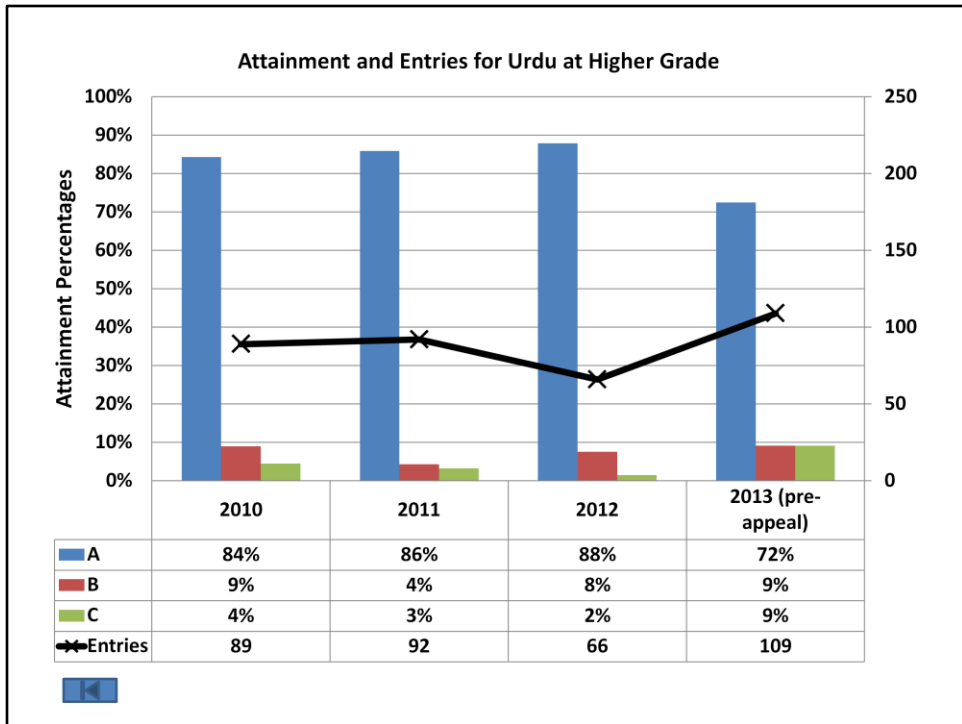
Attainment at A grade for Higher dipped below the 60% level in 2013 (pre-appeal), but there was a significant rise in entries compared to those in 2012.



- Gaelic Learners

Attainment at A grade for Higher rose steadily between 2010 (27%) and 2012 (39%) but dipped to 2011 levels in 2013.

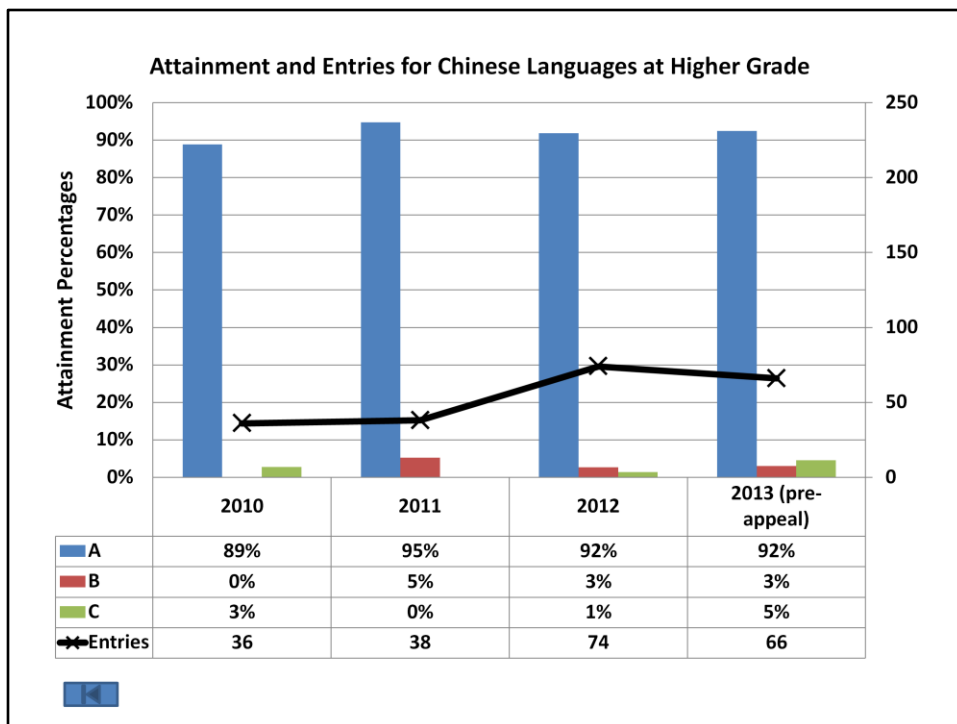
Attainment at A grade is significantly below that of the other lesser studied languages examined here.



- Urdu

Attainment at A grade for Higher dipped significantly below the 80% level for the first time in 2013, but entries for that year (109) were at their highest during the four year period, significantly above the dip of 66 entries in 2012.

Attainment at A grade is the second highest of the four lesser studied languages examined.

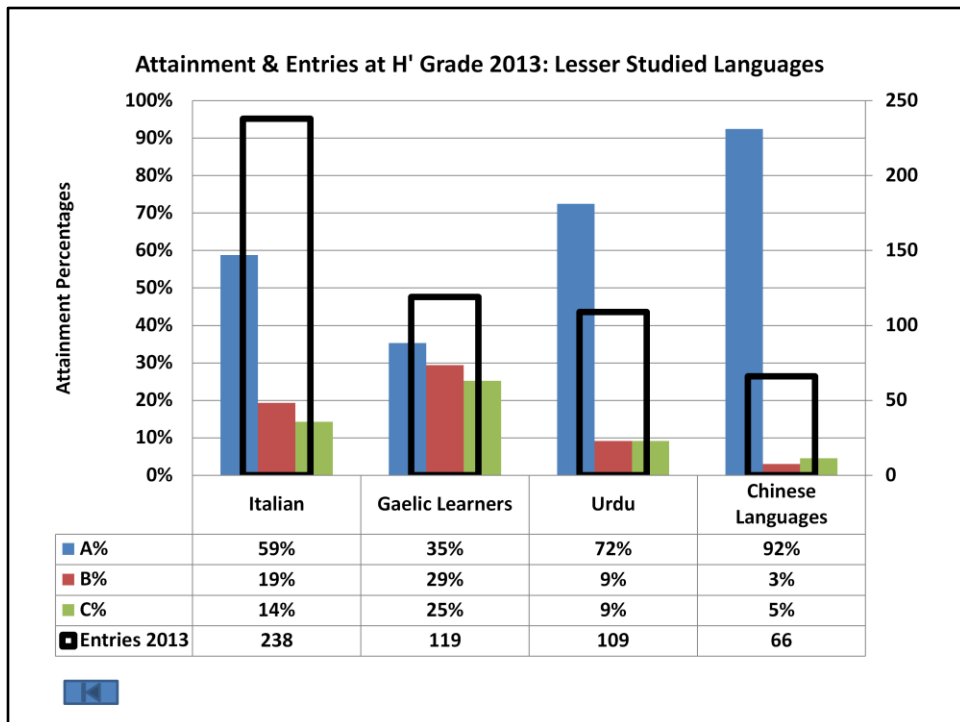


- Chinese Languages

NB: The majority of entries relate to Mandarin (Simplified) but there may also be entries for Mandarin (Traditional) and Cantonese.

Attainment at A grade for Higher has remained consistently high, and above the 90% mark since 2011.

Attainment at A grade is the highest of the four languages examined.



- Comparison of Attainment and Entries at Higher Grade in 2013

Of the four lesser studied languages, Italian is the currently the most popular, with the other three language having significantly lower entries.

Chinese, which is rising in terms of uptake but still has the lowest entries overall, has by far the highest attainment.

It is possible that the above average attainment rates (compared to the main three languages studied) in Italian, Urdu and Chinese may be due in part to learners speaking these languages at home, or otherwise using this language frequently outside of school.