

# **FAQ: LXT192/3/4/7 *Learning to teach Languages in primary school (French/German/Spanish/Mandarin)***

- 1. When does the course take place and how long is it?**
  - a. This course starts in October 2018 and runs until the end of June 2019.
  - b. The course will run over 35 weeks. However, there will be a two-week break over Christmas and a 2 week-break over Easter. There is also a two-week induction in mid-September to allow teachers to familiarise themselves with the course websites, IT setup and the Languages policy background.
- 2. How much of a time commitment does studying this course mean?**
  - a. You will have to spend about 3 to 4 hours of study per week on this course.
  - b. The advantage of studying this as an online course is that your study pattern can be very flexible - you can decide when you have the time during the week to work on this.
- 3. Will there be any recognition of the work I am doing on this course?**
  - a. Yes, the language learning part of the course will be accredited and you can gain 15 Level 1 study credit points, which can count towards an OU Open Degree.
  - b. In addition, you have the opportunity to opt in a GTCS-accredited professional recognition programme for your study of the pedagogy strand of the course.
- 4. Where will I have to 'go' online to study?**
  - a. The course will have its own course website, where all students and tutors meet to work on the pedagogy part of the course.
  - b. From this course website, you will access the language course of your choice together with some of your fellow students.
  - c. All materials and online tools for your study will be located on these websites, including the link to the online tutorial room.
- 5. What kind of things do I need to do when studying this course?**
  - a. For the language part, you will:
    - i. be supported by your OU language tutor who also marks your assignments.
    - ii. undertake guided self-study with the course activities and audio/video recordings. These materials are online, so that you can do all the work on your computer. Most of the materials can be downloaded, the course activities can be printed off, if you wish.
    - iii. work on the interactive online activities of the course, i.e. quizzes to test your reading and listening skills, as well as activities to help you with vocabulary and grammar revision.
    - iv. produce two short assignments, one written and one spoken (which you will record and send electronically to your tutor).
  - b. For the pedagogy part, you will:
    - i. be supported by your SCILT pedagogy tutor who will also assess your GTCS professional recognition contributions.
    - ii. study input materials we have selected to give you an overview of key aspects of the areas of modern foreign languages teaching at primary level studied in this course.

- iii. communicate with your fellow students in the online forum to exchange views on what you have studied.
- iv. apply what you have learned in your own classroom in planned activities.
- v. reflect on how the teaching went and summarize your findings in a forum discussion with your peers.
- vi. produce 5 short written tasks at the end of each of the 5 course Units, which will be reflective pieces on your experiences applying pedagogical theory and the language you have studied, in your own classroom and talking about this with your fellow students. This only applies if you have opted into the GTCS professional recognition programme of this course.

**6. Will I learn more about modern foreign languages in the Scottish context?**

- a. Yes, we will include interviews with people who work in cultural institutions, run successful professional support networks for teachers as well as a range of community initiatives to show you what is 'out there'. We will provide contact details for these institutions and initiatives so that you can invite them to your school and set up collaborations, if you wish.

**7. Will there be any face to face sessions as part of this course?**

- a. Yes. We will offer at least 2 face to face day schools, one near the beginning and one near the end of the course, where you will practise the language you are studying, learn more about teaching modern foreign languages at primary school level, and have the chance to meet and share your views and experiences with other participants and your tutors.
- b. The venues, times and dates tbc. We aim to run day schools in a range of places across Scotland depending on where the students on this course are located.
- c. In case you are not able to attend the face to face sessions, we will be offering online equivalents to allow you to cover the same content as other students.

**8. Will there be any other workshops/tutorials?**

- a. Yes, we are offering online tutorials for the language study part, where you have the opportunity to practice your speaking, as well as vocabulary and grammar aspects of the language you are studying, meet your tutor and fellow students and ask any questions you may have.
- b. These sessions are not obligatory, but we recommend that you try to attend as many as you can, as they will boost your confidence in speaking, and you will be able to see how to teach this language in practice – you will experience language teaching from the student perspective, understand good practice in MFL classroom teaching and take part in activities you might want to replicate in your own classroom.
- c. And, we will also offer workshops with your tutors revolving around the study of the pedagogy of teaching MFL online.
- d. The workshops and tutorials will be taking place in the evening at different times and dates to give you a choice. Usually, they run for about 60 to 90 minutes per session. There will be a set timetable for these sessions and you will be able to book a place in these tutorials.

**9. Is there an obligation to then train teachers at my school in what I have studied in this course?**

- a. No. The main objective is that you begin to teach the language in your own classroom and feel confident in doing so.
- b. A great side-effect of this course would be for you to encourage other teachers to study a language as well and to form a 'language teaching champions' group at your school to actively promote languages in your school.