

German Educational Trainees Across Borders 2016/17

SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages invites you to host a German Educational Trainee (GET) to help boost language learning and intercultural dialogue in your schools whilst providing an invaluable opportunity for German trainee teachers to enhance their classroom practice.

German trainee teachers from Universities in Mainz, Leipzig and Koblenz are available to work in Scottish schools for a six month placement from September/October 2016 to March/April 2017. Participating students are native German speakers, training to become secondary teachers of English, so their level of English is advanced, as is their knowledge of the pedagogy associated with teaching modern languages. They are looking to gain invaluable teaching experience in an English-speaking country, as a compulsory component of their teacher training. This experience can be in either primary or secondary schools, or both.

Under the auspices of the **German Consulate General**, the objectives of the scheme are to both boost German language teaching and learning in schools across Scotland and to contribute to the development of a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced young professionals. This programme is co-funded by the European Commission's ERASMUS+ scheme, which enables students in higher education to do work placements in another European country. The receiving Scottish local authority would become the other funding partner at a cost of only **£350 per month** per trainee.

What are the benefits for schools and pupils?

German Educational Trainees (GETs) support language teaching and intercultural understanding, bringing language alive for learners with a trained and motivated native speaker. GETs support German teachers in the classroom and can work alone with small groups to encourage communication and improve pupils' confidence. They can initiate international and cross-curricular projects and take advantage of resources offered amongst others by the Goethe-Institut or UK-German Connection. GETs can also support teachers who would like to refresh their knowledge of the language or even provide taster sessions in German.

Hosting a GET will bring an international dimension to the curriculum, preparing your pupils for employability in a global market. GETs have a positive impact on the whole school and its wider community. The opportunities are endless!

Scottish Context – the 1+2 Approach

This offer of support from native speakers is particularly timely, given the new 1+2 Languages Policy. In November 2012 the Scottish Government responded to the report of the Languages Working Group, accepting all 35 of the recommendations (4 partial acceptances) and in the same month hosted a joint summit with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) to consider how these far-reaching recommendations can be implemented.

“...the Report recommends regular access to native and fluent speakers to stimulate young people's interest in language learning and other cultures.”

(Foreword: Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach)

“The Working Group recommends that teachers continue to engage with the languages they are teaching through CPD, study, use of media and IT as well as through personal and professional engagement with native speakers of the languages which they teach.”

Recommendation 29

“The Working Group recommends that schools and local authorities consider the engagement by schools of other skilled and trained native speakers of additional languages to work under the direct and explicit supervision of the classroom teacher in schools.”

Recommendation 31

“Scottish Ministers recognise the value that learners can derive from hearing native or fluent language speakers.”

Scottish Government Response

“I am convinced that our commitment to a new direction in language learning is one that is right for Scotland’s young people for their future prospects. It sends a strong signal that Scotland is open to business and the world and that we are determined to give our young people every advantage as they engage with this world.”

Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Languages (ADES/SG Languages Summit)

The GET programme can make a very valuable contribution towards realising this ambitious policy.

German Context

Where do GETs come from?

In line with the growing significance of internationalisation at higher education institutions world-wide, our partner in Germany is the **Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz**. At the Johannes Gutenberg University the programme is administered by the EU-Service Point and the web portal (www.eu-servicepoint.de) provides the students with information on how to apply. Candidates are chosen for the ERASMUS+ grant according to the following criteria:

- Suitability (incl. academic performance)
- Professional integration of the placement in the study course.
- Programme conformity and the requirements for the traineeship, including recognition.

The **EU-Service Point prepares** the candidates in collaboration with several faculties and offers training on intercultural (or cross-cultural) competence. The students also receive helpful information from returning trainees, via the internet-platform of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

In the first 4 weeks of the internship, the GETs send a short e-mail report to the EU Service Point with initial feedback. The trainees can contact the EU-Service Point team at any point during the placement. This includes for “emergency management” in the event of serious illness or accident. Participating local authorities will be expected to support GETs by allocating a mentor. The GETs also receive support from their subject supervisor at their home institution and from SCILT.

Details of the GET Across Borders programme

- **Funding:** The programme is co-funded by the European Commission’s ERASMUS+ scheme and the receiving local authority, which provides a monthly grant of 350 GBP per trainee.

- **Placement period:** The period of the placement is from September/October 2016 to March/April 2017, depending on the autumn and Easter breaks.
- **Working hours:** The placement must consist of a minimum of 12 contact hours per week and up to a maximum of 16 contact hours per week. The weekly work-load should not exceed 36 hours. The remaining (non-contact) hours can be made up with preparation, marking or any other appropriate projects.
- **Schools:** The GETs can work at more than one school. For example, they can work at a secondary school and the primary schools within its cluster. However, both the workload and travel arrangements must be manageable and must not exceed the maximum number of working hours listed above.

Sending Institution

What arrangements are made for the GETs?

Prior to their departure, students are provided with:

- A 'Learning Agreement' regarding the placement; this agreement must be endorsed by the sending university and the receiving local authority.
- An 'enhanced police clearance certificate' issued by the Federal Register of the Federal Office of Justice in Germany (the German equivalent of disclosure).
- Support, resources, material and teacher training.

Following arrival in Scotland, GETs are provided with:

- An introductory training day at the Goethe-Institut Glasgow.
- Continual support, resources, material and teacher training from SCILT and the Goethe-Institut Glasgow.

At the end of the period abroad:

- Full recognition of the period spent abroad is provided by the sending university. Recognition is based on the 'Learning Agreement' approved by all parties prior to the period of.

Receiving Local Authorities

What arrangements need to be made for the GETs?

Prior to arrival in Scotland, the receiving local authority should:

- Complete and sign the 'Learning Agreement' regarding the placement and return it to the sending institution.
- Make arrangements for a monthly grant of 350 GBP to be paid to the GET during the course of the placement, with the first payment to be made within one month of the GET's arrival.
- Allocate a 'host school' and coordinate arrangements with any other schools.
- Appoint a mentor at the 'host school' and a contact person at the receiving council. The individuals named will be at the same time the first point of contact in case of assistance or emergency.
- Advise the GETs on finding accommodation in the local area.

Following arrival in Scotland, the receiving local authority must:

- Contribute to subsistence costs during the placement by way of a monthly grant of 350 GBP.
- Provide practical support if required, with finding accommodation, registering with a doctor and other administrative procedures.
- Support GETs in their placement, assigning tasks and responsibilities that match their knowledge and competency, while supplying regular feedback from the mentor.
- Ensure that the GETs are granted student status, rendering them exempt from council tax.
- Organise travel between schools if applicable.

At the end of the placement, the receiving local authority should:

- Issue the GET a certificate confirming successful completion of the placement in accordance with the 'Learning Agreement' and a reference from the school(s)..

The Application Process:

To register your council's **non-binding** interest in hosting a GET(s), please return the note of interest by email to Alice.Lister@strath.ac.uk and get-across-borders@uni-mainz.de by **Friday, 29 January 2016.**

Local Authorities will then need to confirm their participation in the programme by **Friday, 15 April 2016.**

Key contacts

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