

Language Trends Scotland Entries at National 4 and 5 2014-2016

Hannah Doughty

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hannah.doughty@strath.ac.uk

Overview of Findings

An increasing number of schools are entering candidates for the Modern Languages for Life and Word Award (MLLWA). This move appears to have had a negative impact on entries at National 4 for the 'Big 3' languages French, German and Spanish. The trend of entries at National 4 for the lesser studied languages (Gaelic Learners, Italian, Mandarin, Urdu) has been variable.

At National 5 for the 'Big 3', French and German have experienced a decrease since 2014, whilst entries in Spanish have continued to increase. Entries in the lesser studied languages have again be variable, with Mandarin showing the most positive trend.

In the light of Latin being considered as a possible L3 in the 1+2 approach to languages, we have included it in our analysis. Uptake is fairly stable for the period 2014-16, and entries are consistently above those for Italian.

Quick Links

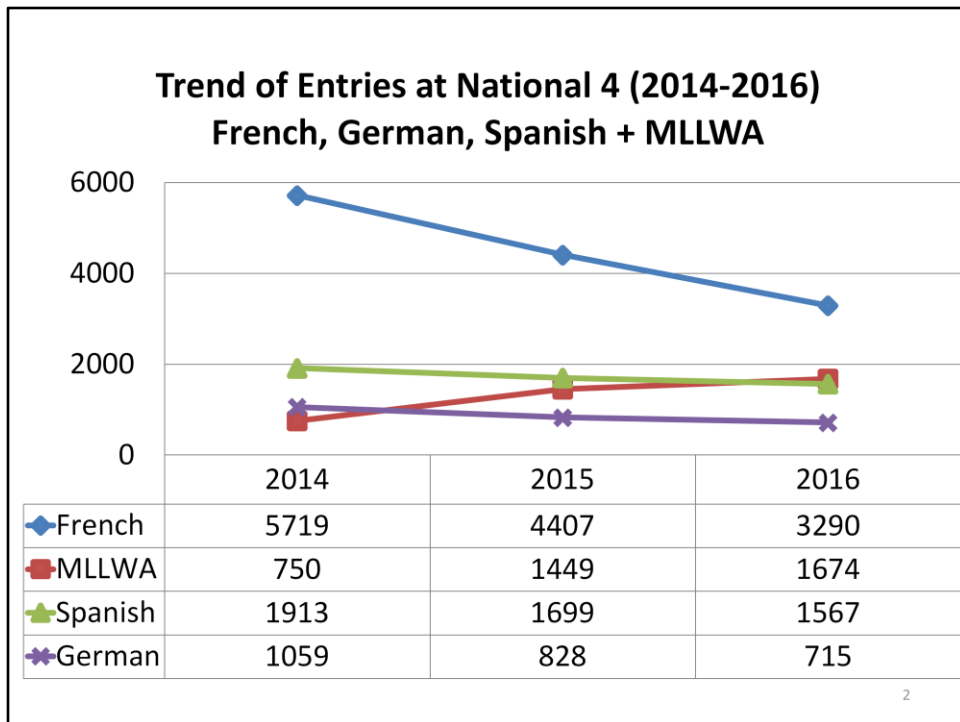
[Slide 2](#) Trend of Entries at National 4: French, German, Spanish, MLLW

[Slide 3](#) Trend of Entries at National 4: Lesser studied languages

[Slide 4](#) Trend of Entries at National 5: French, German, Spanish

[Slide 5](#) Trend of Entries at National 5: Gaelic (Learners), Italian, Latin

[Slide 6](#) Trend of Entries at National 5: Cantonese, Mandarin, Urdu

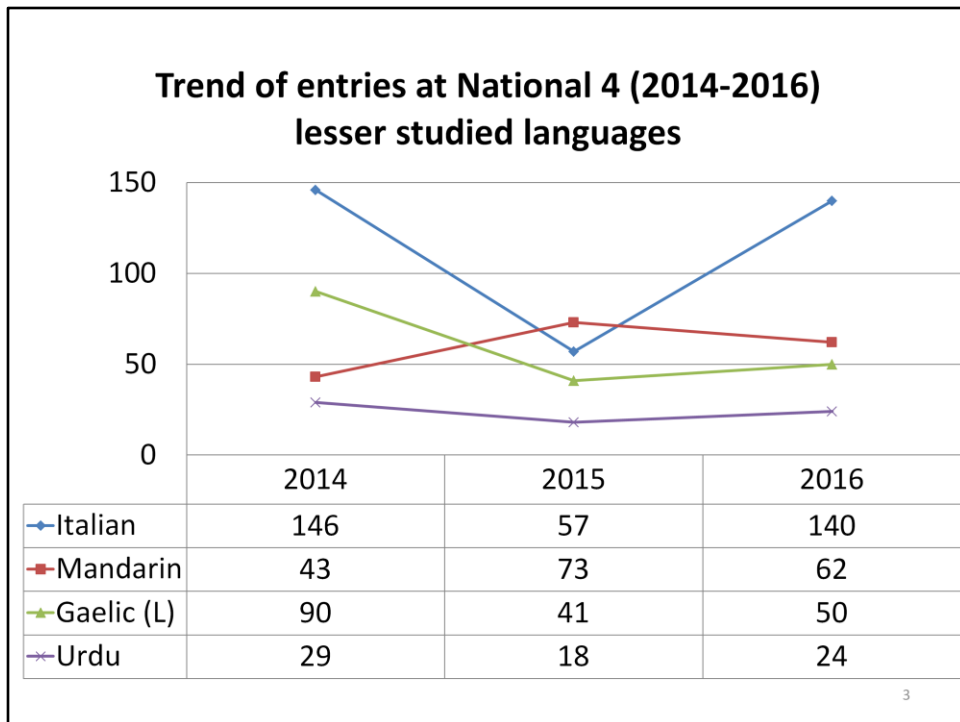


Notes

The entries at National 4 show that an increasing number of schools are entering candidates for the Modern Languages for Life and Word Award (MLLWA). This move appears to have had a negative impact on entries at National 4 in each of the 'big 3' languages, French, German and Spanish.

- Entries in **French** decreased by 42% (from 5719 to 3290 entries).
- Entries in **Spanish** decreased by 18% (from 1913 to 1567 entries).
- Entries in **German** decreased by 32% (from 1059 to 715 entries).
- Entries in the **Modern Languages for Life and Work Award** increased by 123% (from 750 to 1674 entries).

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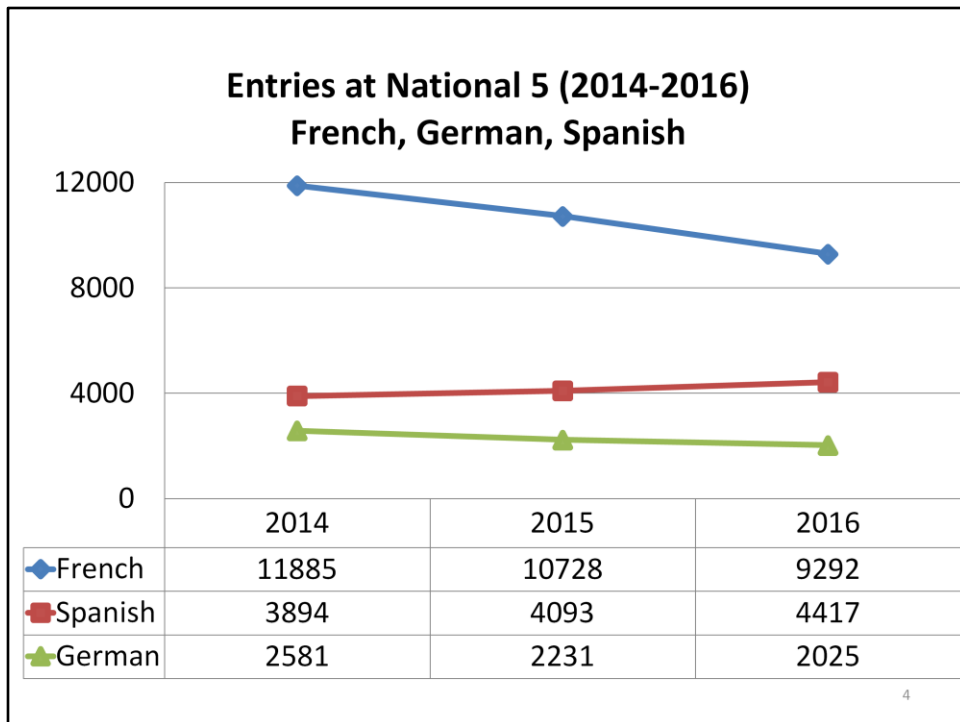


Notes

The trend of entries at National 4 for the lesser studied languages has been variable.

- Entries in **Italian** are about the same in 2014 as in 2016 (146 and 140 entries respectively); however there was a marked dip in 2015 to just 57 entries.
- Entries in **Mandarin** increased by 44% (from 43 to 62 entries). However, entries in 2015 were slightly higher than in 2016.
- Entries in **Gaelic (Learners)** decreased by 44% (from 90 to 50 entries).
- Entries in **Urdu** decreased by from 29 entries in 2014 to 18 entries in 2015, and increased again to 24 entries in 2016, slightly below the 2014 level.

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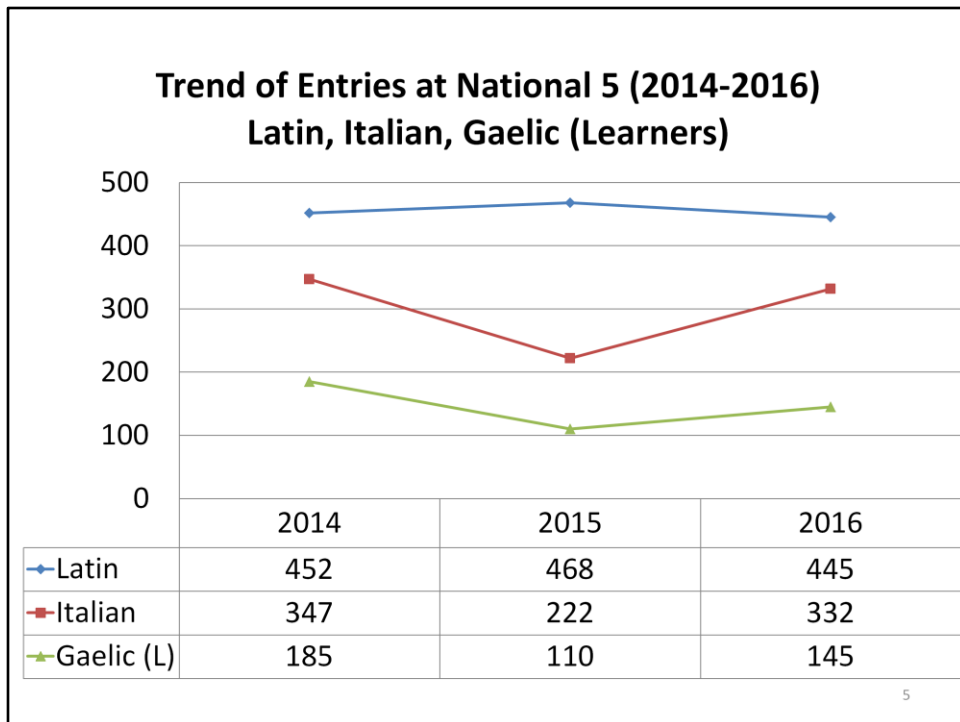


Notes

With regard to entries at National 5 for the 'Big 3' (French, German and Spanish) French and German have experienced a decrease, whilst entries in Spanish have continued to increase.

- Entries in **French** decreased by 22% (from 11,885 to 9,292 entries).
- Entries in **Spanish** increased by 13% (from 3,894 to 4,417 entries).
- Entries in **German** decreased by 22% (from 2,581 to 2,025 entries).

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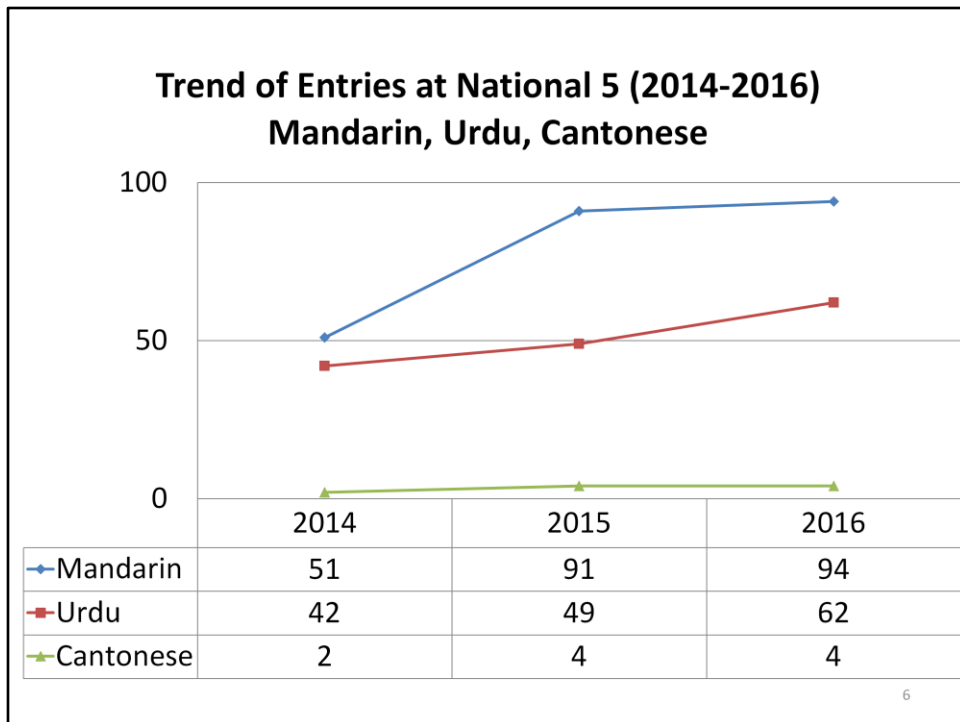


Notes

On this slide we have included the entries in Latin even though it is of course a classical rather than a modern language. Entries in **Latin** have consistently been above those in Italian, but there was a surge of entries in Italian in 2016 so it will be interesting to see whether the 2015 dip was a 'one-off' event.

- Entries in **Latin** have remained relatively stable (452, 468, 445 between 2014 to 2016)
- Entries in **Italian** dipped in 2015 but in 2016 moved back up to 332 entries (just 4% below the 347 entries in 2014).
- Entries in **Gaelic (Learners)** decreased by 22% (from 185 to 145 entries).

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Notes

- Entries in **Mandarin** nearly doubled in entries (from 51 entries in 2014 to 94 in 2016) but entries between 2015 and 2016 have remained virtually the same
- Entries in **Urdu** increased by 48% (from 42 to 62 entries).
- Entries in **Cantonese** have remained very low but did increase between 2014 and 2016 (from 2 to 4 entries)

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