IWLP Report for UCFL Executive Meeting: 24th May 2024

IWLPs in 2023-2024 and AULC Survey

IWLP activity across the UK continues to be mixed but ongoing, with some full or partial closures but also new or returning IWLPs.

The 2022-23 AULC survey focuses specifically on IWLPs and it is still open. Please ask relevant colleagues to fill this if they haven't done so yet: https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/oxford/aulc-annual-survey-2022-23

A report will be published later in the year, but a preview of interim results shared at the AULC Conference in April shows an overall confidence in the positive future of IWLP but also a growing sense of the need for collaboration between IWLPs and Languages Departments.

Areas of concern in the sector continue to be:

- Differences in types of contracts (fractional, zero-hours, fixed-term, term-time only) and workload for staff in Language Centres/IWLPs.
- Impact on (lack of) time and funding allocated to CPD and scholarship.
- Challenges to employ staff abroad (for online teaching)

There is a strong willingness from LCs and IWLPs to work together on the above issues. Furthermore, at the AULC Conference in April, there were discussions about ways to:

- Share online provision.
- Share staff and resources.

AULC Conference 2024

The 25th Annual AULC Conference took place on 25th and 26th April in Exeter with the title *New Directions for University-Wide Language Programmes: Challenges and Solutions in Innovation, Inclusivity and Community Building.* It was attended by more than 100 language educators from 70 universities across the UK and Ireland.

Keynotes focused on intercultural awareness, blended and hybrid learning in higher education, and why language teachers can no longer afford to ignore AI tools.

Parallel sessions included several presentations on digital skills and AI but there was also a focus on how to enhance LGBTQ+ representation in language materials, how to use gender-fair language in modern foreign language teaching, and how to incorporate equity and neuro-inclusivity.

There were sessions led by the SIG groups on Language Centre Management, Language Centre Professional Development and "Modern Language Provision – Academic Directors/Leaders Collaboration SIG" addressing the issues pointed above.

A new Networking for Coordinators of Open-to-All Programmes is being led by Jo Brown (U. of Nottingham) and Astrid Hermes (U. of Exeter).

The Italian Network Italian teachers in the UK (NILI-UK) was presented by Marilena Minoia (U. of Nottingham) and Chiara Cirillo (U. of Reading).

XVIII CercleS International Conference 2024, "Multilingualism & the Anglosphere" to be held 12-14 September 2024, hosted by AULC at Durham University.

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