UCFL: Northern Ireland

5 July 2024

1 Executive

Northern Ireland Executive Office is working on the establishment of the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression; as part of this, it has "given initial consideration to the appointments process" for the new posts of Irish language Commissioner and Commissioner for the Ulster Scots and Ulster British tradition.

2 QUB: Mentoring project

This scheme for GCSE-level pupils is being coordinated by QUB Modern Languages and NICILT for three years, starting September 2024. A large number of schools applied to take part in 2024–25 and ten have been selected from across NI representing a mix of demographics. A small number of their pupils will be mentored in pairs by undergraduate Languages students from QUB, who will also deliver a session for the full cohort.

3 Structural changes

The School of Arts, English and Languages at QUB now comprises three distinct departments, including a department of Modern Languages and Translation. Prof. Isabel Torres will be department head. Some hourly paid native speaker teaching assistant posts have been replaced by temporary fractional contracts.

Merryn Davies-Deacon