UCFL: Northern Ireland

4 July 2025

1 Language Trends NI

Results of this year's survey were published in June. Key findings include the following:

- Primary language provision has increased since the last survey in 2023.
- Spanish has overtaken French at KS3.
- Numbers for Irish are also increasing at KS3.
- Provision for heritage language exams has risen to 70.5% of schools.
- 89% of surveyed pupils (Year 9, equivalent of England year 8) do not see relevance of languages for their future career (consistent with previous surveys in 2021 and 2023).
- As in previous surveys, teachers raised concerns about the difficulty of language GCSEs as a factor discouraging pupils from further study.

The report was commissioned by the British Council and carried out by QUB researchers; it is available on the QUB research repository at `https://pure.qub.ac.uk/en/publications/language-trends-northern-ireland-2025`.

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