

German Educational Trainees across Borders 2013

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 Mainz and Göttingen University are available to work in Scottish schools for a six month placement from September/October 2013 to March/April 2014. 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, or both.

Under the auspices of the **German Consulate General**, the objectives of the scheme are to both boost German language 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 funded by the European Commission's ERASMUS Student Mobility for Placements scheme, which enables students at Higher Education Institutions to spend a traineeship of 3 – 6 months in a 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 the receiving schools and pupils?

German Educational Trainees will support language teaching and intercultural understanding, bringing language alive for learners with a trained and motivated native speaker. They can also inform discussions on citizenship and provide first-hand cultural knowledge. GETs can work alone with small groups to encourage communication and improve pupils' confidence. In this way they can also be used to support less able pupils as well as the gifted and talented.

Hosting a GET will bring an international dimension to the curriculum, preparing your pupils for employability in a global market. GETS can initiate international and cross-curricular projects and take advantage of resources offered by the bilateral government initiative UK-German Connection and the Goethe Institute. They bring a fresh cultural perspective to language learning and provide access to authentic teaching material. GETS could also support teachers who would like to refresh their knowledge of the target language or even provide some taster sessions for parents. GETs can have a positive impact on the whole school and its wider community, not just the classrooms in which they are based. 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 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 partners in Germany are the **Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz** and **Georg-August University of Göttingen**. At the Johannes Gutenberg University, for example, the programme is administered through the EU-Service Point and the web portal (www.eu-servicepoint.de) provides the students with information on how to apply. Candidates are then chosen for the ERASMUS mobility grant according to the following criteria:

- Suitability (incl. academic performance) of the applicant.
- 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 providing the EU Service Point with initial feedback. The trainees can contact the EU-Service Point team at any point during the placement. This includes “Emergency Management” in the event of serious illness or accident. Participating Local Authorities will be expected to support GETs by providing a named mentor. In addition, GETs will receive support from SCILT and from the subject supervisor at the home institution. SCILT will help prepare the trainee teachers, giving them ideas and advice on classroom practice, in the

same way it already supports the British Council's Foreign Language Assistants and the Chinese guest teachers from Tianjin.

Details of the GET Across Borders programme

- The programme is co-funded by the European Commission's Erasmus Student Mobility Placement scheme and the receiving local authority.
- The standard period of the placement is from September/October 2013 to March/April 2014, depending on the autumn and Easter breaks. This period may be extended or amended by mutual consent.
- The placement must consist of a minimum of 10 contact hours per week, up to a maximum of 16 contact hours per week. The weekly work-load should not exceed 36 hours.
- You can share a GET with one other local school. Any combination of hours/schools is possible as long as the GET works in no more than two schools and the timetable is manageable in relation to travel between schools.

Sending Institution

What arrangements are made for the GETs?

Prior to their departure, students are provided with:

- A European Commission "Training Agreement" regarding the programme for the placement period; this agreement must be endorsed by the home Higher Education Institution and the receiving Local Authority.
- A European Commission "Quality Commitment" setting out the rights and obligations of all the parties involved.
- The ERASMUS "Student Charter" setting out the student's rights and obligations with respect to his/her period abroad.
- A police clearance certificate issued by the Federal Register of the Federal Office of Justice, in Germany (the German equivalent of Disclosure Scotland).
- Support, resources, material and teacher training.

Following arrival in Scotland, GETs are provided with:

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

At the end of the period abroad:

- Full recognition is given by the home higher education institution for the period spent abroad. Recognition shall be based on the training agreement approved by all parties before the period of mobility starts and documented in the Diploma Supplement.

Receiving Local Authorities

What arrangements need to be made for the GETs?

Prior to arrival in Scotland, the receiving Local Authority should:

- Complete the "Training Agreement" and "Quality Commitment" regarding the specific programme for the placement period 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.
- Allocate one school as the 'host school' and coordinate the programme and arrangements with a possible partner school.
- Appoint a mentor at the 'host school' and a responsible contact person at the receiving Local Authority. The individuals named should be the first point of contact in case of emergency.
- Advise the GETs on finding accommodation in the local area in advance.

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 and clarify means of payment to the GETs.
- Provide practical support if required, especially as regards finding accommodation, registering with a doctor, opening a bank account 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 as appropriate.

At the end of the placement, the receiving Local Authority should:

- Issue the GET a certificate confirming successful completion of the training programme in accordance with the "Training Agreement".

The Application Process:

Register your Local Authority for this unique programme by contacting SCILT as soon as possible.

Final deadline for registration for 2013/14 is 15 April 2013.

Key contacts

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