

Research Assistant

Collaborating for Change: Outreach and Advocacy for German at UK Universities

(closing date: 17:00 on Wednesday 17 December 2025)

Thanks to generous support from the Schröder Fund at the University of Cambridge, UCFL is seeking to appoint a research assistant for the new 'Collaborating for Change' project. This is a collaboration between The Languages Gateway, the Association for German Studies, the Queen's College Translation Exchange and UCFL. It builds on the Making the Case for German campaign, led by the German Embassy in the UK, the Goethe-Institut and the German Academic Exchange Service.

The aim of this project is to **develop capacity and infrastructure for university German departments to share outreach/advocacy learning and resources.**

This is Phase 1 of a pilot project. Phase 2 will complete and evaluate the German pilot project, and Phase 3 will roll it out to other languages. The Languages Gateway is seeking funding from relevant stakeholders to support phases 2 and 3.

The research assistant will be hosted by UCFL and supervised by Dr Charlotte Ryland and Dr Ian Ellison, allowing them to benefit from the expertise of The Languages Gateway, the Association for German Studies and UCFL, as well as support from across the sector.

Project aims and outcomes

The project will develop a set of materials to be published on The Languages Gateway, to support German departments to share good practice, evidence, evaluation and analysis, and tools.

Outcomes

- Materials and learning for outreach and advocacy shared between universities
- Significantly reduced duplication and 'reinvention of wheels'
- Improved communications between universities and schools
- Regional organisation of outreach activity, including collaboration with regional Goethe-Institut networks

Project outputs

Outreach/Advocacy Category	Action	Output (all published online)
1: Content-based events led by researchers, at universities	Share messaging and statistics, based on research into what works. Adapted for different stakeholders – e.g. parents/younger pupils need different messages.	Package of presentation materials (ppts & PDFs) with key messaging for different stakeholders.
2: Events with other advocates at universities, e.g. employers	Centralise links to employers and other advocates – a school speaker/language advocates network.	Database of advocates, with links.
3: Sessions led by student mentors/ambassadors*	<i>Share existing training/resources for mentors/ambassadors</i>	<i>Toolkit containing training materials and other resources.</i>
4: Teaching resources and CPD sessions, competitions*	<i>Develop infrastructure for filtering and curating resources and CPD opportunities</i>	<i>Searchable database of CPD opportunities.</i>
All	Share case studies, examples of good practice Share evaluation methodology, templates & materials	Collection of searchable case studies. Collection of evaluation templates and materials.

**NB: Work on section 3, mentors and ambassadors, is already in train for all languages via a TLG working group. The RA may liaise with the working group and contribute some material, but will not need to focus on this area.*

* Section 4 will be scoped in phase 1, and delivered in phase 2.

The post is suitable for a graduate student or postdoc who would be able to conduct this work alongside teaching, research or other administrative type roles. This will provide a very good opportunity for an ECR to learn more about languages outreach and advocacy; about the project's partner organisations; and about the German Studies HE landscape.

Applicants should have a strong interest in advocacy and outreach for German, and ideally expertise and experience in this area; fluent English, with good drafting skills; strong interpersonal skills; and the ability to respond quickly and efficiently to queries. Technical skills related to website content management would be an advantage, though support will be provided.

The post is available from 12 January 2025. It will be paid in the form of an honorarium of £3,500, in two instalments at the beginning and end of the project. We suggest that

the postholder works 5.5 days a month (41.25 hours) for 4 months, although alternative working patterns might be possible to fit with existing commitments. Interested candidates are invited to consult Dr Charlotte Ryland and/or Dr Ian Ellison (charlotte.ryland@queens.ox.ac.uk; ian.ellison@wadham.ox.ac.uk).

DETAILS OF THE POST'S DUTIES

Primary Duties

Gather information from German departments about good practice in outreach/advocacy, and develop structures and materials to share this nationally.

- 1. Audit current good practice**
Design and deliver survey.
Analyse survey: identify duplication and gaps; best practice; useful templates.
- 2. Create key documents**
Collate and streamline messaging and statistics; useful evaluation methodologies; templates (e.g. letters for school visits).
Write up case studies.
- 3. Collate key contacts**
Research and produce database of employers and language advocates.
- 4. Scope Phase 2**
Draft plans to develop database of teaching resources and CPD opportunities offered by German departments.

Primary Outputs

1. Report on survey findings and recommendations.
2. Package of presentation materials (ppts & PDFs) with key messaging for different stakeholders.
3. Best practice toolkit on designing and evaluating outreach/advocacy projects.
4. Database of advocates.
5. Contribution to ambassadors/mentors toolkit.
6. Plan for developing database of teaching resources and CPD opportunities for teachers, for Phase 2 of project.

Research Assistant Application form

Please send your application on the form below to Charlotte Ryland (charlotte.ryland@queens.ox.ac.uk) by 17:00 on Wednesday 17 December 2025. Please also attach a one-page CV detailing your qualifications and relevant experience (if any).

1. Your name:

2. Your current university affiliation (if any):

3. Your email address:

4. Name & email address of one referee:

Below please give your reasons for applying for this post and show how you match the role requirements, including any relevant experience (max. 500 words)

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About the project partners

[The University Council for Languages \(UCFL\)](#) was established in 1993 and is the overarching national organisation representing the interests of modern languages, linguistics, cultural & area studies in Higher Education throughout the United Kingdom. UCFL advocates for and on behalf of its members who are primarily Subject Associations, Schools and departments or units of modern languages. Its membership currently numbers 71 Higher Education providers and 30 Subject Associations, representing a total of ca 4000 individual researchers and teachers.

[The Languages Gateway \(TLG\)](#) is the UK's new portal for languages. The Languages Gateway is a portal for, and on behalf of, everyone engaged in the sector; a collaborative venture through which we can facilitate access to information, and communicate a clear narrative to prospective and future linguists. It is a gateway to opportunities, resources and information about the wider field of languages, and how they link to an understanding and appreciation of cultures and societies. The Gateway is a key element in a new strategic approach for languages, in both educational and professional contexts, formal and informal.

[The Association for German Studies \(AGS\)](#) was founded as the Conference of University Teachers of German in Great Britain and Ireland (CUTG) in 1932; in 2009 it became the AGS. As the biggest professional association for university-level German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland, it seeks to support, foster, and increase the visibility, vitality and inclusivity of German Studies in Britain and Ireland. It offers grants for PGRs and ECAs, as well as for conferences and workshops. The annual conference focuses on cutting-edge research and pedagogy in German Studies.

[The Queen's College Translation Exchange \(QTE\)](#) is a centre for languages advocacy and outreach based at The Queen's College, University of Oxford. QTE's mission is to inspire lifelong engagement in languages and international culture, and in particular to encourage young language learners to continue with their studies through their schooling and beyond. Its main programme is the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators.