Modern Language Assistants Programme

Long / Short Posts Explained
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In order to minimise costs as far as possible for UK institutions hoping to host a language assistant, we have made some changes to the Modern Language Assistants (MLA) programme.

The overall expenses incurred by host institutions will depend on the length of time that an assistant spends in the UK, and we have therefore introduced new options for the period of appointment which an assistant can be employed for.

Institutions applying for German, French, Italian, or Spanish speaking MLAs have the option of hosting an assistant for a long post or a short post. Read on to find out more about these different options and the costs entailed.
Hosting an MLA: Costs involved

Visa costs and Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

All non-UK/non-Irish nationals coming to the UK from the 2021-22 academic year onwards will require a visa for their time as a Modern Language Assistant. Every MLA will need to apply for a Tier 5 Temporary Worker Government Authorised Exchange visa. The British Council will sponsor visas, meaning institutions will not need to apply to become a UK Visas and Immigration licence holder.

The overall visa costs depend on how long the language assistant comes to the UK for. MLAs will be subject to a general visa application fee (currently approximately £189-£244). In addition, those coming to the UK for more than six months will be subject to an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) (currently approximately £624).

Whose responsibility is it to pay the IHS and visa application fee?

Language assistants are responsible for paying their own visa application fees.

If the host institution requests a French, German, Italian or Spanish-speaking MLA for a long post, or a Mandarin Chinese language assistant, the host institution agrees to reimburse the IHS in full to the language assistant.

What if our institution cannot afford to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge?

If you are still seeking to employ a language assistant but are unable to pay the IHS, please consider hosting a language assistant for a short post of up to six months.

We also recommend you look into the option of sharing a language assistant with other institutions, which can reduce costs. Find out more about sharing a language assistant.
In some rare cases, the Modern Language Assistant may be in a position to pay the IHS themselves. If you are unable to pay the IHS but still wish to host an assistant for the long period of appointment, you will be able to indicate this in your application. This will help us greatly during the allocation process, as we want to ensure we allocate the most suitable candidate to your institution. Please note however that such an allocation cannot be guaranteed.
Periods of Appointment Explained

Long Posts

Costs

If an institution chooses to host a language assistant for the long period of appointment, the host institutions must reimburse their assistant the cost of the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as well as paying their monthly salary. Full information on the IHS and further costs can be found on our website.

Duration

MLAs on long posts will work from the start of October to the end of May. For long posts only, it is possible to extend the assistant’s period of appointment by up to a month, upon mutual agreement between the assistant and their host institution.

Short Posts

Costs

If an institution chooses to host a language assistant for the short period of appointment, costs will be significantly reduced as the institution will not have to reimburse the cost of the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) to their assistant and will only have to pay the assistant’s monthly salary.

Duration

The maximum stay in the UK for language assistants taking up the short posts is limited to 6 months overall due to visa regulations. It is the responsibility of the host institution or local authority to ensure that the assistant’s period of appointment falls within these 6 months. This period should also include reasonable time for assistants to settle into life in the UK and should allow enough time for leaving the UK at the end of the assistantship.
Mandarin Chinese Language Assistants

The official period of appointment for Mandarin Chinese language assistants in the UK is from mid-September 2021 to 30 June 2022 (41 weeks). It is not possible to host a Mandarin Chinese assistant for the shorter period of appointment.

Funding for the programme means that UK host institutions only pay Mandarin Chinese language assistants the National Living Wage (£8.72 from April 2020) for a minimum of 12 hours a week worked, reducing costs dramatically. This wage remains the same regardless of UK region.

The minimum annual cost for a Mandarin Chinese language assistant is £4,914.24. This cost includes the one-off £624 Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) which should be reimbursed directly to the assistant by the UK host institution(s) involved in the sharing arrangements.
## Long/Short Posts: Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Period of appointment</th>
<th>Costs involved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Option 1: Short post (November 2022 – April 2023)</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Option 2: Long post (1 October 2022 – 31 May 2023)</td>
<td>Salary &amp; Immigration Health Surcharge (£624)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>1 October 2022 – 31 May 2023</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Mid-September 2022 – 30 June 2022</td>
<td>National Living Wage &amp; Immigration Health Surcharge (£624)</td>
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# Salary Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Gross monthly salary - £ for a standard 12 hours per week</th>
<th>Standard fixed hourly rate - £ for additional hours beyond the standard 12-hour period.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England (excluding London areas)</td>
<td>£914.05</td>
<td>£13.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inner London</td>
<td>£1,150.39</td>
<td>£17.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outer London</td>
<td>£1,085.75</td>
<td>£16.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London Fringe</td>
<td>£974.65</td>
<td>£14.72</td>
</tr>
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You can also read the terms and conditions for participating in the Modern Language Assistants programme [here](#).

For any further queries, do not hesitate to contact our team on [LanguageAssistants.UK@britishcouncil.org](mailto:LanguageAssistants.UK@britishcouncil.org).