



HEI Funding for Promotion of Languages 2025-2026

Information Sheet

Introduction

Funding is available, under the Languages Connect awareness campaign, to support higher education institutions (HEIs) in promoting their language courses and raising awareness of the importance of languages to post-primary students and primary pupils.

The funding scheme is administered by Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), which delivers the Languages Connect awareness campaign as part of the implementation of *Languages Connect: Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026*. The funding acknowledges the key role of HEIs as stakeholders of the Strategy.

Applications for HEI Funding are made in early summer, and each funding cycle lasts one academic year. This year, there is additional funding available for HEIs who wish to organise a lesser-taught language summer camp in 2026.

Objectives:

The aims of HEI Funding are to:

- Support HEIs in their work as stakeholders of the awareness campaign Languages Connect, which is a key action in the implementation of *Languages Connect: Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026*
- Support HEIs in their promotion of foreign languages
- Support HEIs in conducting outreach to secondary and primary schools
- Encourage post-primary students to consider studying languages at third level, whether at major, minor, or elective level

Activities under HEI Funding:

Funding should be used on activities and events that promote modern foreign languages (MFL), as part of the awareness campaign Languages Connect.

To receive funding, **HEIs must commit to taking part in #ThinkLanguages Week**, a national Transition Year festival of languages and cultures. The aim of this is to foster mutually beneficial relationships and engagement between post-primary schools and HEIs, and in particular, to raise awareness amongst post-primary students of the options available to them to study languages after school. More information on #ThinkLanguages Week can be found at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages/

Additional activities under the funding could include, but are not limited to:

- Campus events, particularly those aimed at post-primary students, that raise awareness of language courses in the HEI and languages for careers and study abroad
- Engagement of student language ambassadors at various events raising awareness of language courses in the HEI, and languages for careers and study abroad



- Outreach to secondary schools, including guidance counsellors, that raises awareness of language courses in the HEI and languages for careers and study abroad. Such outreach could include workshops and school visits.
- Videos that have a targeted audience and a purpose of promoting language courses at the HEI
- Competitions, aimed at primary pupils and/or secondary students, that promote foreign languages
- Awareness-raising activities to support the retention of first year undergraduates studying languages

HEI commitments:

HEIs applying for funding must commit to:

- Taking part in #ThinkLanguages Week 2025 (Monday 17 – Friday 21 November 2025)
- Organising additional activities and/or events that promote modern foreign languages
- Informing PPLI of details of all funded events and activities in advance
- Providing contact details of two active coordinators who will lead the funded activity
- Informing colleagues across all relevant departments that the funding is available and that an application is being submitted
- Adhering to reporting requirements, as described in the section “Reporting and accountability” below

Funding amounts and limits:

Funding of up to €10,000 can be granted to each HEI under HEI Funding.

HEIs are encouraged to spend approximately half of their allocated funding on #ThinkLanguages Week activity. This weighting is taken into account when application proposals are being assessed.

See **Terms and Conditions** below for details of funding limits, payment schedules, and pay rates.

Additional funding can also be requested for a lesser-taught language summer camp taking place in 2026. Application for this additional funding is made in December 2025. See “Summer Camps” in **Terms and Conditions** below for more information. Further information on this funding will be made available closer to the opening of applications.

Reporting and accountability:

HEIs receiving funding must:

- Submit an Annual Report for 2024-2025 activity as part of the application process
- Submit an Interim Report half-way through the funding cycle, no later than Friday 5 December 2025
- Submit an Annual Report on completion of activity, no later than Friday 19 June 2026



- Inform the Project Officer in PPLI of all funded events in advance. Where feasible, a representative from PPLI will attend.

Promotion:

Funded events and activities must include the Languages Connect logo, and must be promoted on official HEI channels. Correct use of the Languages Connect logo must be adhered to.

See “Promotion and Branding” under **Terms and Conditions** for further details.

Application process:

One application only is accepted from each HEI. Departments are encouraged to collaborate on the application, and supporting proposal, where relevant.

To apply, HEIs must:

1. Fill out the HEI Funding **application form**. This is a SurveyMonkey form, available at languagesconnect.ie/he-funding/
2. Within this application form, HEIs will be asked to attach the following two supporting documents, using the templates available at languagesconnect.ie/he-funding/
 - a. **Annual Report** accounting for 2024-2025 HEI funding (This applies only if the HEI received funding in 2024-2025.)
 - b. **Proposal** for 2025-2026 HEI Funding
3. Submit the application form by the deadline of **Friday 20 June 2025**.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by Friday 29 August 2025.

Key dates and deadlines:

Thursday 15 May 2025	Annual meeting between HEIs and Post-Primary Languages Ireland (Venue: Digital Hub, Dublin 8)
Friday 20 June 2025	Submission deadline: 2024-2025 HEI Funding Annual Report
	Submission deadline: 2025-2026 HEI Funding application
Friday 29 August 2025	HEIs hear of result of their HEI Funding application by this date
Mon-Fri 17-21 November 2025	#ThinkLanguages Week
Friday 05 December 2025	Submission deadline: 2025-2026 HEI Funding Interim Report
	Submission deadline: 2026 Summer Camp Funding application
Friday 19 June 2026	Submission deadline: 2025-2026 HEI Funding Annual Report

Contact information:

For more information, contact **Nellie Tattersall, Project Officer** nellie.tattersall@ppli.ie

Terms and Conditions:

HEIs applying for and receiving funding must adhere to below terms and conditions:

General terms and conditions:

- One proposal only per HEI is permitted
- The Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) Project Officer must be informed of all funded events and activities as soon as dates of same have been confirmed
- PPLI reserves the right to withdraw or withhold funding in the event that any of the commitments or terms and conditions are not adhered to

Funding purposes and limits:

- Funding is for events and activities approved in the proposal at the application stage. There are to be no changes to planned activity without prior approval
- HEIs availing of funding must use a significant portion of it to conduct #ThinkLanguages Week activity. The suggested amount is approximately half of allocated funding
- Promotion of Irish and English language is excluded from funding
- With the exception of student language ambassadors, funding cannot be spent on staff costs
- Funding cannot be spent on student bursaries
- Funding cannot be spent on staff activities
- Funding cannot be used to pay full-time staff

Pay rates:

- Student language ambassadors must be paid a maximum of €20 per hour
- Workshop facilitators must be paid a maximum of €54.62 per hour (if the workshop facilitator is a part-time staff member and on the payroll, PRSI can be added to this figure)
- Workshop facilitators should be paid for the workshop hours they provide, i.e. minimum one hour and a maximum of six hours per day as per the school day
- Funding is not to be used to cover travel and subsistence costs

Funding payment:

- 50% of approved funding will be transferred at the beginning of Semester 1
- The outstanding 50% will be transferred after a satisfactory Interim Report has been submitted by the coordinator/s no later than Friday 5 December 2025
- The Interim Report must provide an update on activity originally proposed, including what activity has taken place for #ThinkLanguages Week, and the remaining planned activity

Promotion and branding:

- All activities, events, and initiatives that receive funding must be owned by the HEI rather than by an individual, and must be promoted on official websites, social media, etc.
- All funded activities and events must be publicly promoted using all channels available including, but not limited to, local media, HEI website and social platforms, any relevant partner platforms, etc. Communication to a select number of schools alone is not sufficient

- Promotion of approved and funded activity on social media must take place on an official HEI account, i.e. main HEI account or languages department account. Promotion on a personal account is a bonus, but not in itself adequate
- All social media posts must tag Languages Connect:
 - **X:** @langsconnect_ie
 - **Instagram:** @languagesconnect
 - **Facebook:** Languages Connect
- Promotion of any funded activity must include the Languages Connect logo in addition to the HEI logo, and correct use of the Languages Connect logo must be approved by the PPLI project officer
- Use of the Languages Connect logo needs to adhere to the relevant Languages Connect brand guidelines, which are provided to the HEI on approval of funding
- For any relevant merchandise or printed material development, final design must be submitted to PPLI for approval before going to print
- High resolution photos from events, etc. should be sent to the PPLI Project Officer soon after the event

Summer camps:

Applications for additional funding for a lesser-taught language summer camp can be made in December 2025. HEIs will be provided further details on Summer Camp Funding closer to the time.

- Summer camp funding is for the promotion of lesser-taught languages, i.e. excluding French, German and Spanish, offered as a main or elective part of an undergraduate degree at the HEI
- Camps must cover one language only
- Camps should take place over two consecutive weeks, from 10 am to 3 pm, Monday-Friday
- Camps are exclusively for students already attending a post-primary school in Ireland, in 1st to 5th year
- Camps should have a coordinator and two teachers
- Teachers should have a degree, and experience of teaching at second level, and should be present for 50 hours each. A workshop facilitator can be taken on if a workshop is to be included in the programme
- The maximum fee for the coordinator is €1,000. The rate of pay for the teachers is €54.62 per hour
- A PPLI staff member will visit the summer camp and may or may not be accompanied by a photographer/videographer. Coordinators should make students, parents and teachers aware that photos will be taken for the purpose of promoting summer camps under the Languages Connect awareness campaign
- A refundable deposit of €150 must be charged to encourage students attend on time and for the full duration of the summer camp. The deposit must be returned after the summer camp
- 50% of the summer camp budget will be transferred in May and the final balance will be transferred in September
- PPLI staff are not involved in administration of the camp, and will not be in contact with attendees or prospective attendees, their parent(s) / guardian(s), etc.