

Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme for Primary Teachers Information and Guidelines for Course Providers

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Context

Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) is a dedicated unit providing expertise and support for foreign languages education in Ireland. PPLI, fully funded by the Department of Education, is issuing a call for proposals for foreign language upskilling provision to primary school teachers in Ireland. Funding is provided under the terms of a grant scheme.

The policy background for the Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme is the introduction of modern foreign language education in a redeveloped Primary School Curriculum, as advocated by [Languages Connect - Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 - 2026](#). The proposed inclusion was also strongly supported by many stakeholders in the consultation process on the *Primary Curriculum Framework*.

The [Primary Curriculum Framework](#), published in March 2023 acknowledges and harnesses the diversity of languages used in Irish primary and special schools. It supports the introduction of modern foreign languages in stages 3 and 4, incrementally building on children's existing knowledge and awareness of language and progressing from a language awareness model to a competency model in fifth and sixth classes. The redeveloped [Primary Language Curriculum](#), which includes a Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) specification is expected to be published in September 2025.

Purpose and priorities of the scheme

The purpose of the Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme is to fund a range of foreign language upskilling courses for primary teachers in Ireland, enhancing their proficiency in foreign languages.

The Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme is open to organisations and institutions that have experience in providing language courses to adults and wish to create bespoke courses for primary school

teachers, in alignment with a course specification which will be provided by PPLI to successful applicants.

Prospective applicants should read this document carefully before making an application for funding.

Every effort has been made to ensure that all documentation associated with this call is clear and unambiguous. Applicants should note that any misleading statements or false information submitted during the application process may render the application invalid, irrespective of the cause.

Eligibility requirements for applicants

To be considered eligible for assessment, applications must:

- Be complete in all their parts
- Be in the name of a registered company/organisation/institution
- Demonstrate the applicant's capacity to provide foreign language upskilling courses specifically aimed at primary teachers working in the Republic of Ireland, in the context of the new [Primary Curriculum Framework](#) and redeveloped [Primary Language Curriculum](#).
- Demonstrate the applicant's capacity to manage the administrative workload associated with courses.

Eligibility requirements for courses

Entry levels: Until further review, in order to be eligible for funding, courses offered to teachers must have entry levels ranging from A2.1 to B1.2 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Course curriculum: Courses must be designed in alignment with the course specification provided by PPLI to successful applicants.

Course duration: Total contact time of each course can range from a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 30 hours (excluding self-directed learning).

Eligible expenses

The scheme can cover the following expenditures:

- Administration fees
- Lecturing fees for course tutors
- Catering (where applicable)
- Room rental (where applicable)

Expenses for items not listed above are not eligible.

Timeline – Spring/Summer Call

No.	Stages	Indicative period
1	Call for expressions of interest opens	April
2	Eligible organisations are invited to complete the Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme application	May
3	Notification of outcome of applications	June

Timeline – Autumn/Winter Call

No.	Stages	Indicative period
1	Call for expressions of interest opens	November
2	Eligible organisations are invited to complete the Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme application	December
3	Notification of outcome of applications	January

The assessment process

Expressions of interest (EOI) are reviewed by an assessment panel. All organisations and institutions submitting an EOI that is considered eligible, are invited to apply for the Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme.

Foreign Language Upskilling Scheme applications are processed as follows:

1. Applications are assessed against eligibility criteria.
2. All applications meeting the eligibility criteria progress to the assessment stage.
3. The assessment panel evaluates eligible applications and makes recommendations.
4. Decisions are communicated in writing to all applicants.