



HEI Funding for the Promotion of Languages 2026/2027

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.

Objectives:

The aims of HEI Funding are to:

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

Activities under HEI Funding:

Funding supports activities and events that promote modern foreign languages (MFL), as part of the awareness raising campaign Languages Connect.

As a condition of funding, HEIs are asked to commit to participating in #ThinkLanguages Week, a national Transition Year festival celebrating languages and cultures. The initiative aims to strengthen engagement between post-primary schools and HEIs, and to raise awareness among post-primary students of opportunities to study languages after school. Further details are available on:

languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages/

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

- Campus events, particularly for post-primary students, that promote language courses in the HEI and languages for careers and study abroad
- Engagement of student language ambassadors at events focused on raising awareness of language courses in the HEI, and progression pathways
- Outreach to post-primary schools, including guidance counsellors, such as workshops and school visits to highlight language study options in the HEI
- Targeted videos promoting language courses within the HEI
- Competitions, aimed at primary pupils and/or post-primary students, that encourage interest in foreign languages
- Awareness-raising activities to support the retention of first year undergraduates studying languages

HEI commitments:

HEIs applying for funding are asked to commit to:

- Participation in #ThinkLanguages Week 2026 (Monday 16 – Friday 20 November 2026)
- The organisation of additional activities and/or events that promote modern foreign languages
- Sharing details of all funded events and activities with PPLI in advance of delivery
- Nomination of two active coordinators who will lead and oversee the funded activity
- Ensuring that relevant colleagues in the HEI are informed that the funding is available and that an application is being submitted
- Compliance with the reporting requirements, outlined in the “Reporting and accountability” section below

Funding amounts and limits:

Funding allocations are based on the activities proposed. For 2026/2027, there is no per-HEI funding cap.

HEIs are encouraged to allocate approximately half of their funding to #ThinkLanguages Week activity, the balance of which will be taken into account during application assessment.

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

Reporting and accountability:

HEIs receiving funding are asked to:

- Submit an Annual Report on 2025-2026 activity as part of the application process

- Submit an Interim Report midway through the funding cycle, no later than Friday 4 December 2026
- Submit a final Annual Report on completion of funded activity, no later than Friday 18 June 2027
- Share details of all funded events with the PPLI project officer in advance. Where feasible, a representative from PPLI will attend

Application process:

Each HEI is invited to submit one proposal. Departments are encouraged to collaborate on the application, and supporting proposal, where relevant.

To apply, HEIs must:

1. Complete the HEI Funding **application form**. This is a QuestionPro form, available at languagesconnect.ie/hei-funding/
2. As part of the application, upload the following two supporting documents, using the templates provided at languagesconnect.ie/hei-funding/
 - a. **Annual Report** accounting for 2025-2026 HEI funding (this applies only if the HEI received funding in 2025-2026)
 - b. **Proposal** for 2026-2027 HEI Funding
3. Submit the completed application by **Friday 19 June 2026**

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by Friday 28 August 2026.

Key dates and deadlines:

Thursday 21 May 2026	Annual meeting between HEIs and Post-Primary Languages Ireland (Venue: Digital Hub, Dublin 8)
Friday 19 June 2026	Submission deadline: 2025-2026 HEI Funding Annual Report
	Submission deadline: 2026-2027 HEI Funding application
Friday 28 August 2026	HEIs hear of result of their HEI Funding application by this date
Mon-Fri 16-20 November 2026	#ThinkLanguages Week
Friday 4 December 2026	Submission deadline: 2026-2027 HEI Funding Interim Report
Friday 18 June 2027	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:

- Once dates for funded events or activities have been confirmed, we kindly ask that the Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) Project Officer be informed as soon as possible
- To ensure fairness and transparency, PPLI retains the discretion to withdraw or withhold funding where the agreed commitments or terms and conditions are not fulfilled

Funding purposes and limits:

- Funding supports the events and activities outlined in the approved proposal at application stage. Should any changes to the planned activity be considered we ask that prior approval is sought in advance
- HEIs availing of funding are encouraged to allocate a substantial portion of it to the delivery of #ThinkLanguages Week activity. As a guideline, this would normally represent approximately half of the total funding awarded
- Funding is intended to support the promotion of languages other than Irish and English
- With the exception of student language ambassadors, funding may not currently be used to cover staff costs, student bursaries, staff activities, or administrative costs

Pay rates:

- Student language ambassadors may be paid up to a maximum of €20 per hour
- Workshop facilitators may be paid up to a maximum of €55.92 per hour (where the facilitator is a part-time staff member on the payroll, annual leave is already included in this rate [€55.92 = €49.21 + €6.71 (value of annual leave)] and PRSI should be deducted from it)
- Workshop facilitators should be paid for the workshop hours delivered only, with a minimum of one hour and a maximum of six hours per day as per the school day
- Funding is not intended 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 released following the submission of a satisfactory Interim Report by the coordinator/s due no later than Friday 4 December 2026
- The Interim Report should provide an update on activity originally proposed, including those delivered as part of #ThinkLanguages Week, and the remaining planned activity

Promotion and branding:

- Funded activities should be owned by the HEI and promoted through official HEI channels, including websites and social media. Promotion on personal accounts is welcome as an additional support
- Activities and events should be publicly promoted across a range of channels (e.g. HEI platforms, partner platforms and local media). Promotion limited to a small number of schools alone is not sufficient
- All social media posts should tag Languages Connect:
 - **Instagram:** @languagesconnect

- **Facebook:** Languages Connect
- Promotion of any funded activity should include the Languages Connect logo in addition to the HEI logo, and adhere to Languages Connect brand guidelines with approval from the PPLI project officer prior to printing
- Final designs for any relevant merchandise or printed materials should be submitted to PPLI for approval before going to print
- High resolution photos from events, etc. should be shared with the PPLI Project Officer afterwards