

MLA Programme Facilitator  
Barnet Education and Learning Service  
2 Bristol Avenue  
Colindale  
London NW9 4EW

**TO:** All Headteachers and  
Language Teachers

contact: Despina Georgiou  
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date: February 2024

Dear Colleague

### **Modern Language Assistants (MLAs) 2024-25**

**Action: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the latest**

(if a minimal extension is required, please contact [des.georgiou@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:des.georgiou@barnet.gov.uk) to agree submission date)

If your school is interested in support for Language Teaching, you will find this service invaluable. The provision of BELS Modern Language Assistants service (October to May) is arranged in liaison with the British Council. This service supports the standard British Council MLA contract (a minimum of 12 hours a week) however it also facilitates a local sharing arrangement for schools wanting an assistant for less than 12 hours a week.

In surveys regarding the benefits of hosting a language assistant, Heads of Modern Languages reported improved exam results, a higher standards in underperforming students, and greater levels of motivation in talented students. More than 90% would recommend the programme to others.

For primaries, now that the teaching of a foreign language has become compulsory, the provision of a modern language assistant is a timely resource.

We would be grateful if you could ask your Head of MFL or Business Manager to let us have your requirements for Modern Language Assistants (MLAs) for the next academic year:

- Whether you intend to employ MLAs this year
- Which languages you wish to support
- Whether you want full time assistants or wish to share
- Whether you have any other special requests or requirements.
- Which year groups the MLA will be working with

The pay rate for MLAs for 2024-2025 has been published by the British Council and is: Gross monthly salary - £1,200.76 for a standard 12 hours per week with the standard fixed hourly rate of £18.15 for additional hours beyond the standard 12-hour period. This includes Outer London Allowance.

These contracts are for eight months from **1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May (35 weeks)** and are now sponsored by the British Council. An additional charge for obtaining this service through BELS and for part funding of the Immigration Health Surcharge (now £1035) will be made – please see the attached SLA which sets out clearly the total hourly cost and responsibilities of each partner in this scheme.

I would be grateful if you would let us have your requests by **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April (any minimal extension to be agreed with Des)**. Would you also please indicate on the form if there are any school(s) you wish to share with (maximum number of schools that can share an assistant is three).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Neil Marlow  
Chief Executive and Director  
Of Education and Learning



Des Georgiou  
MLA Programme Facilitator

Enc:        MLA request form  
              MLA Service Level Agreement (SLA)