

Get involved in...

Languages

The number of young people studying a foreign language has fallen dramatically in the last five years. By getting involved in the National Centre for Languages' new employer programme, you could help to influence students to take up languages.

Why get involved?

The number of young people taking a language GCSE has dropped since 2000, and has fallen sharply since 2004, when studying a language after the age of 14 became optional. In an attempt to change this trend, the National Centre for Languages (CILT) is developing a programme in which employers help to promote language learning and intercultural awareness in schools.

Research shows that young people find messages that come directly from employers more credible and powerful. So your involvement could make a big difference to students' perception of language learning, and help to increase the take-up of language.



Benefits for young people

In a global competitive market, language skills and an intercultural understanding are becoming increasingly important. Language skills can increase young people's employability and open up opportunities to travel and work. They also enable young people to gain insight into foreign cultures and form relationships with communities both in the UK and abroad.

Benefits for employers

The current decline in language learning indicates that young people do not see the benefits of learning a foreign language. However, a recent survey conducted by the Confederation of British Industry showed that 75% of employers want new recruits to have conversational ability in a foreign language (but not necessarily full fluency). Influencing students at a young age to take up languages will result in a better-skilled and well-adapted workforce – something that both you and our competitive job market need.

Next steps

For more detailed information about CILT's work and how to get involved, please contact Michelle Brassell on **020 7633 3326** or email michelle.brassell@cilt.org.uk

For more information about CILT's new programme, go to www.cilt.org.uk

For the final report of the Languages Review (published in 2007) and the accompanying consultation report, go to www.teachernet.gov.uk/languagesreview

