

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Pilot Linguistic Residential Scheme

1. Introduction

Currently, Queen's offers degree courses in French, Irish, Spanish and Portuguese; French and Spanish are also offered as part of degree programmes with Business, Law and Maths & Physics. Additionally, German and Mandarin are offered with Business.

In future, if there sufficient demand from students, studying one of the language degree courses at the university, consideration will be given to the provision of dedicated language accommodation, which will be available as an option to select when making an application for Queen's accommodation.

The aim of the **Pilot Linguistic Residential Scheme** is to create an environment where students have an opportunity to speak their chosen language of study on a sustained and regular basis. The regular use of language in students' personal and social lives should consolidate and improve their linguistic skills.

As participants on the pilot scheme, students may be required to work together on various projects and events throughout the academic year to promote awareness of, and encourage participation in linguistic activities, providing valuable leadership, organisational, creative and teamwork skills.

Any associated outreach events which may be delivered by participants, would seek to support the commitment made in the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy which states: "The University will proactively seek opportunities to work with staff, students, Student Union Sabbatical Officers, the Irish Language sector, the Ulster Scots Language sector and others to promote the importance of linguistic diversity through outreach events, education, campus and off-site activities, and through supporting staff and student access to language courses, networks, information and resources." Para 6.5

In its first year, it is proposed, that if sufficient demand is demonstrated, a pilot scheme will operate providing students studying an Irish Language degree course at the University, with the option of living together in dedicated accommodation.

In all instances, places on this Scheme will be for Queen's students who are studying full-time on a course in which Irish language is taught.

2. Equality Screening

In fulfilling the University's obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the University's Equality Scheme includes a commitment to consult on the implementation of new and revised policies, as defined by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland with regards to equality of opportunity and good relations.

The University is undertaking an equality screening of the proposed pilot Linguistic Residential Scheme and welcomes feedback from both internal and external consultees on the proposal (equality screening) document.

The consultation period will last for nine weeks, **closing on 15 July 2022**, as per the University's Equality Scheme (2018-2023) to allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves as part of the process of forming a view and to enable the University to meet the required internal approval deadlines.

Following the conclusion of the equality screening process, any changes to the proposal (equality screening) document will be made so that the University's Senate can make a fully informed decision.