

Proposed closure of Modern Languages

Dear Professor Lerner,

FLEUR, the Association of French Teachers in Further and Higher Education in the UK, are writing to express its deep concern regarding Cardiff University's recent proposal to close its language programme. While we understand the financial challenges the university faces, we believe that the closure of this department would have significant negative implications for the university, its students and the broader community.

For Cardiff to uphold its mission statement to '[offer] an excellent educational experience for students of all backgrounds and experiences'; and for Cardiff to '[generate] new knowledge that tackles the big challenges, co-creating solutions with global and local communities', it must offer a language provision worthy of its name.

Withdrawing languages from the university's portfolio would be tantamount to depriving students from a range of opportunities, both present and future. Learning a new language gives students fresh perspectives and valuable skills. It helps them understand diverse cultures, enhances cognitive abilities, and improves communication.

These skills make students more adaptable and competitive in the global job market, enriching their personal and professional lives. More broadly, these skills prepare students to evolve and thrive in an increasingly complex and fragmented world where language proficiency, intercultural communication and adaptability play a key part in breaking down such barriers.

For Cardiff to uphold its mission statement to '[act] as an anchor institution in [its] city-region, delivering cultural, social, economic and environmental benefit for Cardiff, Wales and the world', it must maintain its status as the largest provider of modern languages degrees in Wales. Closing this department would create a significant gap in language education in the area; and would create a substantial loss of jobs.

In light of these considerations, we urge Cardiff University to reconsider its proposal to close the language provision. Preserving and enhancing language education is not only beneficial for the university but also essential for fostering a more inclusive, culturally aware, and globally connected society.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

The FLEUR executive committee

<https://fleurnetwork.org/>

