



Languages Upskilling Scheme for MFL Teachers **guidelines**

PHASE 3



1. MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme Information

What is the MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme?

The MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme was developed under Action 2.A.3. of the Department of Education and Skills strategy 'Languages Connect: Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026'. The MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme enables Post-Primary schools / MFL Teachers to apply for funding to upskill teachers qualified in a language they are not currently teaching and which they can introduce and develop in a school to build additional language teaching capacity in their school/s.

Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) is administering the scheme which is available to all Post-Primary schools.

The overall goal is to increase and diversify languages provision in Post-Primary schools. The MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme intends to support schools introducing and developing the main curricular languages in the school.

What is meant by upskilling?

Upskilling refers to improving MFL Teachers' language proficiency. MFL Teachers are, however, encouraged to access language courses which have a pedagogical element.

Which languages are included?

Curricular languages **French, German, Spanish, Italian.**

Who is the upskilling for?

The target group are teachers who are qualified to teach a Target Language they are currently not teaching and which they can introduce and develop. The Target Language can currently be on offer in the school or can be offered in the coming year/s.

MFL Teachers who can introduce and develop a language in the school are encouraged to apply.

What is Phase 3?

Phase 3 covers MFL Teacher Upskilling from January 2021 until further notice.

What is the commitment the school and the teacher need to make?

1. The teacher and the school will commit to teaching the language in the school (academic year of school's choosing). This can be a language subject for 1st - 6th Year, a JC short course or a TY module.
2. The teacher will commit to completing the chosen upskilling course
3. PPLI will reimburse the teacher fully for the upskilling course once the course is completed
4. The teacher will commit to working to achieve a B2.2 CEFR level of proficiency or provide evidence that there has been an improvement from current level of proficiency
5. The teacher will commit to providing a feedback report upon completion of the upskilling course
6. The Principal will commit to creating an opportunity for the teacher to introduce the language in the school

How does the school benefit?

1. **Financial benefit :**
Available funding enables the teacher to upskill
2. **Quality Assurance :**
Upskilling scheme provides Quality Assurance Criteria for Course Providers including appropriate CEFR levels
3. **Evaluation :**
End assessment will inform the school of the achieved CEFR level outcome
4. **Follow-up :**
The feedback report will form part of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the scheme
5. Benefit to the school of capacity to offer additional languages

2. Upskilling Options

What are the options for upskilling?

Teachers' upskilling needs vary and practical issues such as geographical location or personal circumstances determine what type of a course best suits each individual MFL Teacher. To ensure that each MFL Teacher can access a course which is best suited to their needs, a variety of options are available. One can choose the course option most suited to one's needs. However during COVID-19 the online course option may be the only viable option.

1. Intensive Language Course based in Ireland
2. Intensive Language Course in Target Language country (e.g. Mid-term course)
3. On-going (e.g. weekly) on-site Language Course
4. On-going On-line / Blended Language Course
5. Other : If none of the above are suitable please contact PPLI to discuss solutions

Who are the Course Providers?

The teacher needs to independently access a suitable course which fulfills the Quality Assurance Criteria.

The teacher must fill in the details of the course they seek funding for in the application form.

3. Criteria for inclusion in the MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme

Criteria for Course Providers:

All Course Providers must be quality assured and comply with the PPLI Quality Assurance Criteria.

1. The Course Provider is accredited by the relevant Authority (Ireland or Target Language country) and has a proven track record of delivering high-quality language courses. The Course Provider has ideally experience in providing MFL Pedagogy
2. The Course Provider offers courses for minimum CEFR level B2.2
3. End assessment included to provide proof of a successful learning outcome
4. Cost ceiling will apply
5. PPLI will reserve the right to refuse an application

Criteria for Applicants :

1. Teacher is qualified to teach a language they are not currently teaching and the teacher is introducing / developing a language in the school
2. School and teacher must be committed to teaching the relevant language in the school (academic year of school's choosing)
3. Teacher will access a course which complies with Course Provider Quality Assurance Criteria
4. Teacher will agree to provide a feedback report
5. If the applicant is availing of other publicly funded educational programmes in the same academic year this disqualifies them from the PPLI MFL Teacher Upskilling Scheme
6. Agreement that PPLI will reimburse the applicant fully after the completion of the course
7. Principal must sign off on the application

Eligibility checklist for MFL Teachers :

- ✓ I am a qualified and Teaching Council-registered teacher in the target language I wish to upskill in
- ✓ I am employed in a post-primary school with a Department of Education school roll number in the Republic of Ireland
- ✓ I am not teaching the target language or I could expand teaching the target language
- ✓ My school is committed to introducing/expanding the target language and my principal has agreed to it
- ✓ I am not currently accessing other publicly funded educational programmes



4. What expenses are covered

Upskilling covers the following:

The language course:	Course fee, course books, CEFR level assessment
Travel :	Transport to and from the course where relevant and appropriate (flights, train, bus etc). Most inexpensive transport mode
Accommodation :	In the target language country inexpensive reasonable accommodation. In Ireland inexpensive reasonable accommodation costs paid if distance from the course site to home is more than 100km. If staying with friends or relatives, a reasonable contribution
Childcare :	Childcare is not covered. You can apply for childcare costs if childcare costs are the reason you cannot access upskilling, this will be assessed case by case
Subsistence :	Subsistence is not covered. You can apply for subsistence costs if subsistence costs are the reason you cannot access upskilling, this will be assessed case by case
Financial hardship :	Please contact PPLI if there are expenses not covered by the scheme which impact on your ability to access upskilling

5. How to apply

Application process

Applications will remain open until further notice but you are advised to apply as soon as possible as each application will be processed when it is submitted and considered on a case-by-case basis. Budgetary limitations may affect the allocation of individual funding.

1. Choose a course which is appropriate for your needs and which meets the criteria
2. Fill in the application form (link below) and submit
3. When your application has been approved, book the course
4. PPLI will reimburse the applicant fully once the course is completed with an end assessment
5. Keep in touch with PPLI and don't hesitate to ask for assistance

For more information contact :

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complete the application form online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MFLTeacherUpskilling