

Welcome, Foreign Language Assistants!



Teangacha
Iar-bhunscoile Éireann
Post-Primary
Languages Ireland

Summer 2025

A warm welcome to all Foreign Language Assistants (FLAs) planning to commence their work in Ireland this coming Autumn! Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), a unit of the Department of Education and Youth, plays a key role in supporting the teaching and learning aspect of the FLA programme and our team is very much looking forward to meeting you soon.

In the meantime, please take note of some key points to support you with your advance planning:

Annual Induction

On **Thursday, 2 October 2025**, PPLI, together with the Department of Education and Youth, will host your annual induction at the **Hotel Riu Plaza The Gresham, 23 O'Connell Street Upper, Dublin, D01 C3W7**. To ensure that we can provide you with as much individual support as possible, we are arranging the induction as follows:

10am–12.30pm: Induction for FLAs assigned to schools in Cavan, Donegal, Dublin, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo

Where possible, FLAs will be seated with their PPLI Link Associate

10:00am	Registration and tea/coffee, with session commencing at 10:30am
10:30am	Icebreaker and networking
10:45am	Opening of induction: PPLI and Department of Education and Youth
11:30am	Q&A session
11:45am	Voices from the Classroom: A Cooperating Teacher's Perspective
12:30pm	End of induction

2pm–4.30pm: Induction for FLAs assigned to Carlow, Clare, Cork, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Kildare, Laois, Limerick, Meath, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow

Where possible, FLAs will be seated with their PPLI Link Associate

2:00pm	Registration and tea/coffee, with session commencing at 2:30pm
2:30pm	Icebreaker and networking
2:45pm	Opening of induction: PPLI and Department of Education and Youth
3:30pm	Q&A session
3:45pm	Voices from the Classroom: A Cooperating Teacher's Perspective
4:30pm	End of induction

Due to venue capacity limits, we are unable to accommodate requests from FLAs to attend a session other than their designated one. The event is for FLAs only; cooperating teachers do not attend.

Optional online pre-arrival support sessions

We invite you to attend one of our **pre-arrival online support sessions** for FLAs. These sessions will run on **Zoom** at **7:30pm (GMT)** across a series of **evening dates** in September and may assist you with queries to facilitate your initial arrival at your host school. Unlike induction, for which attendance is mandatory, these sessions are offered as optional events.

These events are intended for FLAs only; similar sessions were provided for your cooperating teachers in May 2025.

Calendar of events

Date	Event
9, 10 and 11 September 2025 at 7:30pm (GMT)	Online Pre-arrival Support Sessions for FLAs (optional) These sessions are optional and aim to support you as you plan your arrival to Ireland.
2 October 2025	FLA Induction, Hotel Riu Plaza The Gresham, 23 O'Connell Street Upper, Dublin, D01 C3W7 This event aims to support you as an FLA shortly after your arrival at your host school. Attendance at induction is mandatory.
13–23 October 2025	Support Session for Cooperating Teachers (CTs) and FLAs You will be notified of registration for this in September. These support sessions are held in person, at venues nationwide, in October. A selection of dates and venues are available, and you will attend on one evening of your choice with your cooperating teacher(s).
2–3 December 2025	FLA Community of Practice (CoP) We offer dedicated online CoPs for FLAs. These CoPs are meetings for FLAs to come together to share good practice, create new knowledge, and exchange ideas. The activities depend on the participants and are based on mutual respect and trust, which encourages a willingness to share ideas, expose one's knowledge gaps, ask questions, and listen to others. These sessions take place online during the evenings.
19–21 January 2026	Thematic Communities of Practice (CoP) You will be notified of registration for these optional online events in December and the sessions are held in January. For these CoPs, you may attend with your cooperating teacher(s).

PPLI Link Associates

PPLI Link Associates are a network of experienced teaching professionals located across Ireland. You will be linked to a specific associate, and they will be available to you throughout the school year to assist with any teaching and learning queries you may have. Your Link Associate will also 'check in' with you at designated intervals to see how you are getting on and to offer any advice or support you may need.



Online forum for connection and sharing of resources

We are delighted to offer a Facebook group, with the aim of acting as a forum for FLAs to connect with each other and to share teaching and learning resources. We hope that each of you will contribute to making it a positive space in which to engage with each other. Use the platform to connect with each other before arriving and feel free to introduce yourself and mention where you will be based for the year!

Map of FLA-designated schools 2025-26

Please access the link below to see schools in Ireland that will be assigned an FLA. This information should inform you as to where your nearest FLA colleague will be located:

ppli.ie/teaching-and-learning/language-assistant-scheme/



Hear from a language assistant

Learn more from an FLA who outlines her experience working in an Irish school by visiting the following webpage, and scrolling down to access the video: ppli.ie/mfl-department-information/

Culture boxes

The preparation of a culture box can be used to support the teaching and learning of socio-cultural knowledge and intercultural awareness. Please see ppli.ie/culture-boxes/ for more information. You may wish to consult sample ideas [here](#) or consider bringing items from your home country with you in order to create your own culture box!

Supporting school exchanges

We are always eager to promote and support school exchanges as they are of such tremendous benefit to students. As an FLA, with your local knowledge of schools in your home country, you have a unique opportunity to support your host school in developing a school exchange. In the meantime, please see the following link for more information: languagesconnect.ie/exchanges/

#ThinkLanguages Week

#ThinkLanguages Week is a national Transition Year festival of languages and cultures that takes place in schools nationwide. The annual event, taking place this year from **Monday 17 to Friday 21 November**, inspires students to value languages as a life skill and to see the benefits of keeping up their foreign languages for Leaving Certificate and beyond. We will be supporting schools to celebrate through a mix of live and pre-recorded workshops, an inspiring Opening Ceremony, interactive nationwide quiz, partnerships with universities and a network of cinemas, and more! There may be opportunities for you to get involved through facilitating workshops. In the meantime, please see the following webpage for more information: languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages/

Potential part-time employment opportunities for FLAs





Please note that to engage in employment outside of your FLA hours that you will need to request a Personal Public Service (PPS) number. While PPLI does not advise on PPS numbers, you can find more information [here](#).

Say Yes to Languages






The Say Yes to Languages module allows primary schools in Ireland to integrate additional languages alongside English and Irish to their fifth and sixth class pupils, over a ten-week period. Training for all teachers/tutors will be provided by PPLI. A list of participating schools can be found on our website languagesconnect.ie/primary-sampler-participating-schools/. You may wish to consult with participating local primary schools in your host region to ascertain their need for a modern foreign languages (MFL) tutor. For more information on becoming a tutor, please see: languagesconnect.ie/primary-sampler-module-teachers-tutors/. Feel free to reach out to our Primary team if you have any queries at primary@ppli.ie.

Follow us across our social media channels:

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We look forward to working with you and to meeting you soon!