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Michelle Donelan MP
Minister of State for Universities

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Dr Gee Macrory
Chair of the Committee for Linguistics in Education

By email: g.macrory@mmu.ac.uk

22 October 2020

Dear Dr Macrory,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July, addressed to the Secretary of State, about access to support and fee status for EU and EEA nationals, and the implications for Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teacher supply. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area, and I am sorry for the delay in responding to you.

We recognise that languages recruitment will continue to be challenging given the increasingly competitive graduate employment market and competitive salaries available to languages graduates. We do, however, recognise the need for schools to have a sufficient supply of teachers qualified to teach EBacc subjects and the Department for Education continues to take action to improve teacher supply. We continue to take action to improve teacher supply in MFL. In September 2018, we announced a renewed package of generous financial incentives for initial teacher training (ITT), including tax-free scholarships worth £28,000 and tax-free bursaries worth £26,000 for trainees in MFL.

We are also developing specific national initiatives to support schools to recruit languages teachers. We have developed a number of measures to encourage more MFL specialists into ITT. These include targeted marketing campaigns; providing support to potential MFL ITT applicants to increase the proportion of successful applications; and **providing seed funding to higher education institutions to develop an offer for MFL degree students to opt-in to complete QTS alongside their undergraduate degree.**

We have also developed programmes to attract existing teachers into MFL. These aim to boost the MFL skills of current teachers and provide more targeted support to help returning teachers and career changers into the profession. You may be interested to know that we are also piloting a financial incentive to incentivise retention of MFL teachers in 25 local authorities that are most in need.

Those starting MFL teacher training, or in years 1 - 5 of their career teaching MFL, will be eligible for a reimbursement of the student loan repayments they have made in the previous year, through the Teachers' Student Loan Reimbursement scheme.

To support the national initiatives, and as we grow the domestic pipeline of teachers, we have instigated some international recruitment initiatives. We are

working in partnership with the Spanish government to recruit visiting teachers from Spain through the Spanish Visiting Teachers Programme. We will continue to discuss any plans for recruiting teachers from Europe with the Home Office and inform the Department for Exiting the European Union as necessary.

Eligibility for home fee status is outlined for Higher Education (HE) providers in The Higher Education (Fee Limit Condition) (England) Regulations 2017. In order to automatically qualify for home fee status, students must meet one of the eligibility categories listed in the regulations and have lived in the UK and Islands for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of the course.

The long residence category which became effective from 6 June 2016 extends eligibility for student support to those persons who are:

- under 18 years of age and who have lived in the UK for at least seven years prior to the first day of the academic year of their course; or are
- aged 18 years and above and who have either spent at least half their life in the UK or at least 20 years in the UK prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course

To be eligible to support under this category the student must also:

- be ordinarily resident in England and have ordinary lawful residence in the UK and Islands throughout the three year period immediately prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course; and
- not have moved to the UK and Islands wholly for the purposes of education

It is for universities and colleges to determine the rate of tuition fee for those students who do not meet the residency requirements and therefore do not qualify for home fee status. HE Institutions are independent, self-governing organisations that follow the above regulations for determining fee status. However, they have discretion to consider individual cases for determining the fee status of students and can waive or reduce fees where they consider it appropriate.

EU, other EEA and Swiss nationals **not in scope of the citizens' rights protections** will not be eligible for home fee status, undergraduate, postgraduate and advanced learner financial support from Student Finance England for courses starting in academic year 2021/22. It will not affect students starting courses in the 2020/21 academic year. Nor will it apply to students from Ireland whose right to study and to access benefits and services will be preserved on a reciprocal basis under the Common Travel Area arrangement.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Donelan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Donelan MP

Minister of State for Universities