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Nick Gibb MP
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Ms Linda Parker
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Dear Ms Parker

Thank you for your letter of 8 November regarding the Language Assistants programme.

You are clearly very familiar with this programme and understand that due to the complex nature of this reciprocal scheme, which involves working with representatives of 17 countries, recruitment usually begins a year in advance. However, the start of the recruitment campaign for English Language Assistants for the 2011/12 academic year was initially delayed because of the cross-government freeze on paid-for advertising. Since then government Departments have begun working through the detail of budget allocations following the spending review, with all funded programmes closely examined to determine their value for money and contribution to government priorities.

Nick Gibb MP

I am pleased to confirm that the process has been completed for the Language Assistants programme and that recruitment of English Language Assistants for the 2011/12 academic year is now open. The application process can be found on the British Council website at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/languageassistants-ela-how-do-i-apply.htm>. The closing date for applications is 14 January 2011 (except for China, which has a closing date of 28 February 2011).

I hope this is a helpful response to your letter.

With best wishes.

Your sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP

Department for
Education