

Languages provision in Further Education

A report published in January 2023 by the British Academy

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/news/landmark-report-warns-about-emergence-of-geographic-cold-spots-in-language-provision-across-further-education/>

The report highlights that there are substantial numbers of FE colleges with no languages provision and a widespread lack of clear progression pathways through appropriate vocational qualifications. This contributes to creating breaks in the pipeline, with ‘cold spots’ for languages in FE created in the north, east and southwest of England. To counter worrying trends, the report makes a number of recommendations for intervention including:

- **Increase co-operation between colleges and sectors:** There is untapped potential for languages education to forge a link between schools, FE colleges and higher education, enabling a more diverse community of learners to engage with post-compulsory education.
- **Develop a unifying voice for languages in FE:** Modelled on the related [Strategic Committee for Languages in Higher Education](#), a collaboration between the British Academy and the University Council of Modern Languages launched in 2021, a Strategic Committee for Languages in FE could act as a single, unifying voice.
- **Improve and expand qualifications in Further Education:** The UK is potentially a linguistic powerhouse, with many languages spoken across different communities. Together with a review of qualifications, strategic investment in languages other than French and Spanish could provide employment for people in the UK.
- **Research Languages Provision in FE:** On the basis of this research it is possible to provide insight into language provision in FE across four jurisdictions and make recommendations. However, more in-depth and longer-term research projects would allow for more detailed evidence and enable further recommendations.

The pdf report is here: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publications/languages-provision-in-uk-further-education/>