

Russian Language Assistants - Bringing Russia to the UK

Dear all,

The British Council Language Assistants team are accepting requests for Russian Language Assistants for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Russian Language Assistants can work in a wide range of ways to bring the language alive in a classroom. Hosting an assistant could be a valuable way to enhance any international work you are doing with Russia and are a fantastic resource for Russian language learning in the UK classroom.

The Russian Language Assistant programme aims to support the teaching of Russian language and culture in UK schools. It is managed by the British Council and supported by the Department for Education. Schools hosting a Russian Language Assistant pay a monthly allowance at a rate determined by the DfE based on the teacher pay scales.

Depending on the current provision of Russian in your school, assistants are able to:

- work with Russian teachers in the classroom if Russian is already formally taught at your school;
- work on their own with groups of pupils if they are introducing Russian to your school;
- work across the curriculum, contributing a Russian perspective to enrich other subjects like art and design, technology, geography and history etc. or
- run lunchtime/after-school Russian clubs where the focus is mainly on Russian culture.

All Russian Assistants are graduates currently in employment in education in Russia; this programme takes people directly out of the country and culture for a year so that they arrive not only with their country's culture embedded in their thinking and way of life but they return to Russia with new perspectives, ideas and understanding.

Feedback we have received illustrates the benefit that Russian assistants bring to schools and students; even those not directly involved in their classes and assistants continue to report how enriching the experience is for them both personally and professionally.

Russian Language Assistants are in the UK from 1 October 2011 until 31 May 2012. The British Council provides pastoral and professional support for the Russian assistants throughout their year in the UK.

More information, including how to apply, how much it costs to employ an Russian assistant, and how they can be shared between up to three schools, can be found on our website - <http://www.britishcouncil.org/languageassistants-uk-schools-and-authorities.htm>

If you are interested or have any further queries, please contact me on james.bishop@britishcouncil.org or by phone on 0207 389 4215.

With best wishes,
James

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