



Association for
German Studies in
Great Britain and Ireland

UCML
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
OF MODERN LANGUAGES

His Excellency Andreas Michaelis
German Ambassador to the Court of St James
German Embassy
23 Belgrave Square
Belgravia
London SW1X 8PZ

December 8th, 2020

Your Excellency,

We write to emphasize our urgent concern about the **risk posed by the UK visa regulations post-BREXIT to two flagship DAAD programmes that play a major role in supporting German Studies in British Universities, and to seek your support** in making representations to ensure that these important programmes continue, to the benefit of Germany and of the UK university German studies community.

- The DAAD German lector scheme funds well-qualified German language specialists and some other subject specialists (e.g. in Law) to teach in a university for up to five years at a time. This is a highly successful scheme that greatly enriches German Studies in UK Higher Education in the UK. Salaries – co-funded by the DAAD and the host university – are typically in the region of £30,000.
- The DAAD German language Assistant scheme offers year-long assistantships in British Universities, each funded by DAAD at £13,000. Assistants often go onto become lectors, and again, they make a contribution of comparable importance to the British Council assistants

Both of these schemes will fall foul of post-Brexit skilled worker visa regulations, coming under the heading of “Higher education teaching professionals” (job code 2311 in the [list of eligible occupations](#)), for which a skilled worker visa will be required, according to [guidance published yesterday by UKVI](#). The minimum salary for such a visa is £25,600 per year, which already makes the Assistantship scheme unaffordable. However, the minimum salary may be set even higher if the “going rate” for the job is higher. The “going rate” for Higher education teaching professionals is set at £40,700 (see [here](#) under job code 2311), thus making the lectorship scheme unaffordable too.

DAAD lectors and assistants are, by their very nature, unique roles in German cultural diplomacy, for which UK candidates are not appropriate. (The UK has its own equivalents its own cultural diplomacy, not least through its British Council assistantships.) Both roles should be exempted from standard skilled worker visa regulations.

We hope you will have the opportunity to make this point in any conversations with your UK interlocutors. If we can assist with further information in any way, please let us know.

It was our great pleasure to meet you – alas, only virtually – when you attended the annual Association for German Studies Conference in September.

Best wishes

Professor Nicola McLelland
President, Association for German Studies, and
Head of the School of Cultures, Languages and
Area Studies, University of Nottingham
nicola.mcllelland@nottingham.ac.uk

Professor Allyson Fiddler
University Council for Modern Languages (Representative
for Germanic and Low Countries Studies); Dept of
Languages and Cultures, Lancaster University
a.fiddler@lancaster.ac.uk