



University of the
West of England



Regional Languages Network (South West) Project

Who we are

RLN SW, based in Exeter, offers free advice to businesses on developing a successful foreign language and cultural strategy. It aims to help improve the performance of South West businesses in international markets and to contribute to raising skill levels in the workplace by showing the benefits of using languages and cultural understanding. There are 3 local delivery partners to help businesses across the South West region maximise opportunities to trade in other countries. One of these is the West of England hub, based in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies at the University of the West of England, Bristol. We utilise our foreign language and culture expertise to advise and support local businesses on international communications.

What we offer

The project involves our contacting a large number of companies in the region who are already exporting their products or services or are considering doing so. When a company chooses to participate in the project, we conduct a visit to discuss and assess its language needs and to explore international communications strategies. We then come back with recommendations on a plan of action and tell you where you can get the help you might need from appropriate providers. The visit takes no more than one hour, and there is no charge for that or for our recommendations. So far, some 150 companies in the region have participated in the project.

The hub also holds free events at UWE for exporting companies. At these, issues around intercultural communication with a specific country or region are discussed, and participants are offered taster sessions in learning the language and receive a briefing on business culture.

How to contact us

The hub director of the project is Dr Peter Gold, Head of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies. The Research Associate is Rosie Gilmour. For further information, please contact the RLN office by phone on 0117-3284321 or by email: rln@uwe.ac.uk