

GAELIC AWARENESS TRAINING (Half-day)

Aim

This training course, which is run through the medium of English, aims to make delegates aware of the importance of the Gaelic language to Scotland, particularly in the light of the Gaelic Language Act (2005) and the statutory requirement of named public bodies in Scotland to develop and implement their own Gaelic Language Plan.

Target Group

The course is targeted at managers and staff who have a role in creating and/or implementing a Gaelic Language Plan for their organisation. It is also highly suitable for staff who deal with the public or whose remit includes communication with the public. It presumes that delegates have minimal knowledge of the subject matter.

Objectives

By the end of the course you should better:

- understand the origins of the Gaelic language and its importance to Scotland and the Scottish identity.
- appreciate the issues affecting minority language revitalization – globally and locally.
- appreciate the advantages of bilingualism and multilingualism.
- appreciate some of the unique attributes of Gaelic culture.
- understand the aims and *modus operandi* of Gaelic Medium education and the current situation of the language in education and public life.
- understand in broad terms the Gaelic Language Act and what a Gaelic Language Plan might entail.
- understand the aspirations of the Gaelic community.

Course content

The course will include the following topics:

- The importance of language.
- Gaelic's place in a multilingual Scotland.
- Languages globally and multilingualism.
- The Indo-European and Celtic languages.
- Gaelic in education – historically and today.
- Examples of language revival.
- The opportunities for Gaelic speakers today and in the future.

The course was created, and is generally led, by Ruairidh Maclean, a Gaelic journalist and broadcaster who has been running this type of course for many organisations throughout Scotland. While much of the content is general and applicable across geographical regions and organisations, there is an opportunity to make some content specific to the delegates present and their organisation.

Entry requirements

There are no entry requirements. It is assumed that delegates speak no Gaelic, but even a fluent speaker or an advanced learner of the language will find much of the content stimulating, informative and enjoyable. Delegates who have had minimal

contact with Gaelic, and those who might harbour negative sentiments towards the language, are particularly welcome.

Duration

The course's duration is a half-day.