

Gaelic Awareness

Aim

This course 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 to develop and implement their own Gaelic Language Plan.

Target Group

The course is targeted at staff who deal with the public, who have an input into policy or who might have a role, great or small, in implementing a Gaelic Language Plan for their organization. It is also suitable for anybody interested in finding out more about the Gaelic language.

Objectives

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- 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 in broad terms the differences, and similarities, between Gaelic and English orthography, and how each language has affected the other.
- understand 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 cover the following topics:

- The importance of language.
- Gaelic's place in a multilingual Scotland.
- Languages globally and multilingualism.
- The Indo-European and Celtic languages.
- Some simple Gaelic words and phrases.
- Cross-over between Gaelic, English and other languages.
- Place and personal names.
- Gaelic in education – historically and today.
- The last census.
- The Gaelic Language Act and Gaelic Plans.
- Examples of language revival.
- The opportunities for Gaelic speakers today and in the future.
- Learning Gaelic.
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The course is 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 organizations, there is some content specific to the delegates present and their organization.

Entry requirements

There are no entry requirements, except fluency in English – the language in which the course is run. It is assumed that delegates speak no Gaelic, but even a fluent speaker of the language will find much of the content stimulating, informative and enjoyable.

Duration

The course duration is one day from 0930 to 1615.