

Scots language and culture CPD

Induction tutorial
21 September 2026



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Jamie Fairbairn, Faculty Head
Humanities, Banff Academy and
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Scots language
and culture



Addressing societal challenges in partnership

Not teaching Scots in Scottish classrooms is doing a disservice to the linguistic landscape of Scotland and its people.

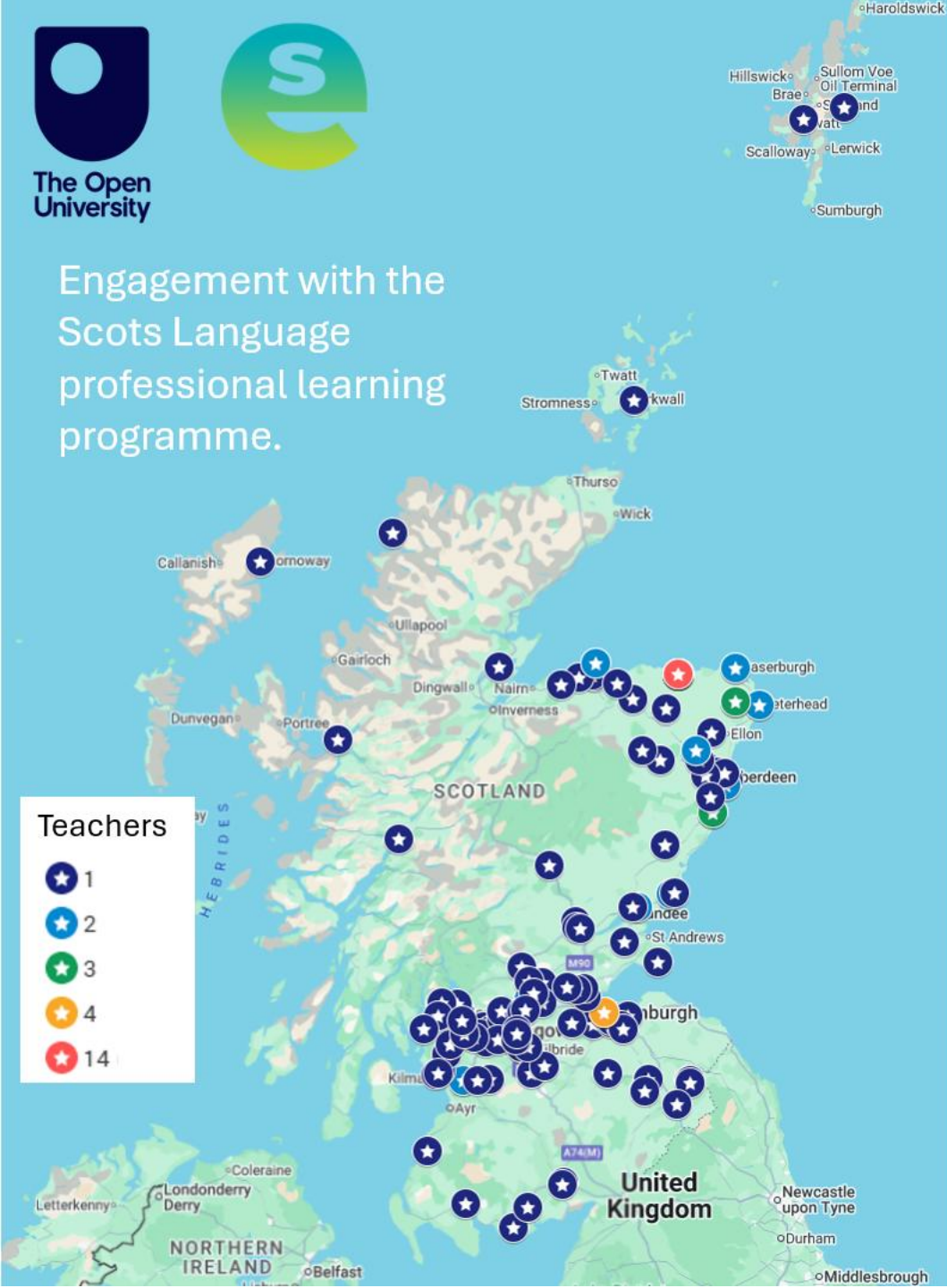




The Open University



Engagement with the Scots Language professional learning programme.



317 teachers from all 32 local authority areas:

- 161 institutions
- 68 primary
- 99 secondary
- 4 FE colleges
- E-Sgoil, Kaimes School, Strathclyde University ESOL, Royal Hospital for Children education unit

26 subject areas:

- English French/German/Spanish
- History, Drama, Music, Modern Studies
- Classics, Politics, Religious Education
- Criminology, ESOL, Media
- ASN and more

Whit's new wi Scots?

- Scots was included in the Curriculum Improvement Cycle across the curriculum
- Scots has become part of the Languages curriculum for Scottish schools – a subject in its own right
- Read the blogs by colleagues collaborating on this work:
 - Focus on **Hashtag#Scots** – Guest Blog from Jamie Fairbairn – **<https://ow.ly/QWPm50ZejuK>**
 - Focus on Scots – Guest Blog from David Scott – **<https://ow.ly/gbqi50ZejuQ>**



Scots Language Awards 2026

- **Scots Book o the Year:** *Wirds o Banff: A Doric Glossary o the Wild*
- **Scots Schuil o the Year:** Banff Academy
- **Scots Teacher o the Year:** Antonia Cant of Peterhead Academy
- **Scots Community Project o the Year:** Doric Bootcamp

Scots language week 2027

A new **Scots Language Week** has been announced for **6 to 11 September 2027**. It will be the **inaugural nationwide Scots Language Week**, created to celebrate the importance, prevalence and uniqueness of the Scots language across Scotland. The initiative is supported by the **Rubric Foundation**.

To create opportunities for:

- Curriculum-related Scots language activities.
- Public lectures and cultural events.
- Creative writing, storytelling and performance.
- Community engagement celebrating Scotland's linguistic heritage.

The course:

**applying your new
skills in your
classroom as you
are gaining them
on the course and
reflecting**

- 9 months of study – 60 study hours
- 7 course units including input from [open Scots course](#)
 - Study at least 6 units which must include units 1 and 7
 - Notify your tutor which unit you will omit
- 8 60-minute online tutorials
- 6 formative assessment tasks
 - Submit assessment for at least 5 units which must include unit 7
 - Notify your tutor which unit assessment you will omit
- 6 GTCS Professional recognition award-related tasks
 - Award will be for successful completion of at least 5 GTCS recognition tasks, including Unit 7
 - Notify your tutor which unit assessment you will omit
- Group discussion in the course forum
- 3 tutors
- 7 authors

Course staffing

- **Bruce Eunson:**

- facilitates discussions on the course forum, specifically supports discussions around the application tasks in each unit;
- co-facilitates tutorials;

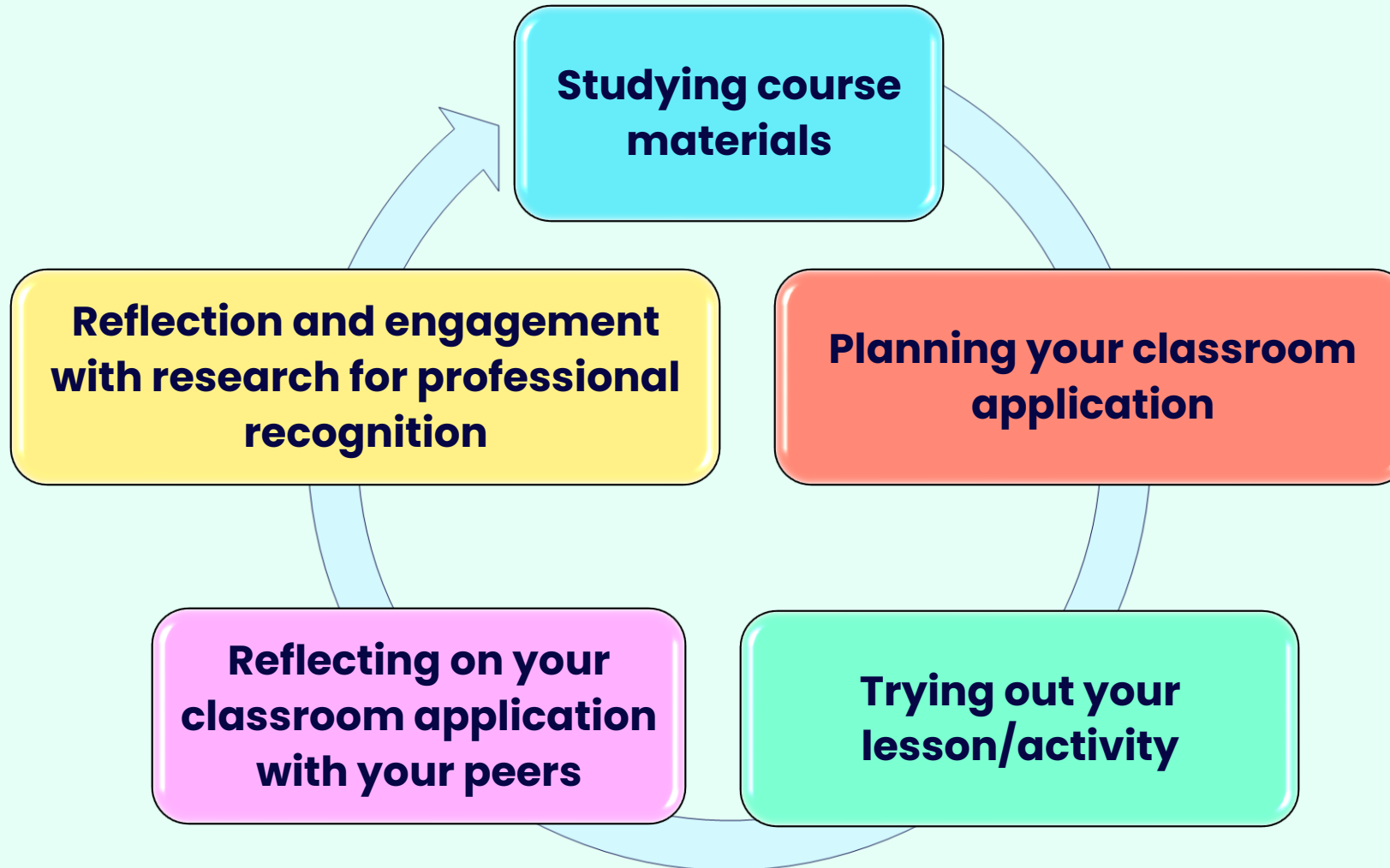
- **Jamie Fairbairn:**

- marks and provides feedback on the GTCS professional recognition task submission in the reflective blog;
- co-facilitates tutorials;
- runs 1-2-1 support sessions where required

- **Sylvia Warnecke:**

- co-facilitates tutorials;
- runs 1-2-1 support sessions where required;
- leads GTCS certification for participants

Learning approach



The assessment

- Read the [Assessment section](#) in your Course Guide carefully
 - All assessment is formative
 - It includes a **focus on inclusive education**
 - It relates to the Application and Professional Recognition tasks in each unit
 - Use [reflection prompts](#) for writing your responses to the assessment tasks
 - **For certificate of successful completion:**
 - Reflection on classroom application in the [course forum](#)
 - in at least 5 units
 - Needs to include Unit 7
 - Move beyond describing your lesson
 - **For GTCS professional recognition award:**
 - Reflection on application discussion in the forum linked to learning from each unit and [engagement with research](#)
 - in at least 5 units
 - needs to include unit 7
 - Post in the [reflective blog](#)
 - Include your own and your colleagues' reflections and outline your own learning from these
- The OU will present all students who have successfully completed the required amount of assessment tasks to the GTCS at the end of the course. **The GTCS award** is valid for 5 years and can be renewed for a further 5 years with an additional activity. We will offer options for teachers for the renewal activity in due course.
- **Opting out** possible – you must notify your tutor!



Introductions



Your motivation to study the course



Your background and previous experience



What are you looking to learn?



Any initial questions or concerns

Getting started

1. Create an OpenLearn Create account:
<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/>
2. Access the course website:
<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/view.php?id=6513>
3. When prompted, enter the enrolment key: **Fankle**
4. Find the induction activities in Course content, Course induction and tools
5. Find the Course forum in Course content, Course induction and tools and post a short message there

How to make your study a success...



OpenLearn Create

Hosting resources for creators and learners

Search for free courses and collections

Home

Get started

Create a course

Free courses

Collections

My Profile

Home

Courses

Private collections

Scots language teacher professional learning programme

Scots language teacher CPD March 2026

Course induction and tools

Induction

Turn editing on

Table of contents

Induction Activities

1. Website Tour

2. Course Guide

3. Live online induction tutorial

4. How to record your learning and monitor your progress

5. Meet your fellow students

6. Our course on Twitter

7. Assessment

8. The coaching wheel for professional recognition

8.1 Working towards Professional Recognition

9. Critical evaluation and writing practice

Acknowledgements

Rate and Review

★★★★★



YOU ARE ON THIS COURSE

Scots language teacher CPD March 2026

This course has now been added to your Profile.

See more courses

Induction

Induction Activities

These activities will help you study the course effectively as well as complete all required elements successfully. Therefore, it is important that you engage with all induction activities before you start the study of Unit 1. Engaging with the induction activities before course start will also ensure that you spend the right amount of time on your study, as outlined below.

Watch the [website tour](#) in the [induction activities](#)

Embedding Scots language and culture in Scotland's schools

Launch of the first Scots professional learning programme for teachers

6 February 2024



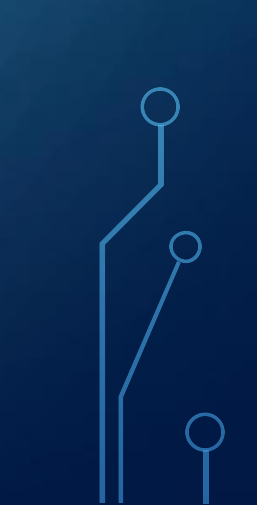
Daes an Dinnaes o the Trainin Coorse
Dr Jamie Fairbairn, PT Humanities, Banff Academy





BEWARE – AWITHIN IS AFFA INTERESTIN!
AND TIME IS TIGHT!

3 TIPS:

- 1/ GET YER **HEID AROON** THE HALE UNIT FIRST
 - 2/ THINK **PRACTICAL** FOR APPLICATION TASKS
 - 3/ DEVELOP A **STRUCTURE** FOR YOUR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TASKS
- 
- 

1 GET YER HEID AROON THE HALE UNIT FIRST

Table of contents

1. Introduction

2. Input 1

3. Input 2

4. Input 3

5. Input 4

6. Tutorial

6.1. Lesson planning

7. Application

8. Community Links

9. Research on teaching Scots

10. Professional Recognition
Reflective Task

11. Further reading

12. References

- Use the table o contents bar at the left
- Orient yersel
- Get yon overview
- See what Mandatory Hand ins are
- Plan time you have available
- Resources there forever

THINK PRACTICAL FOR APPLICATION TASKS

- LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITIES
- INTERACTION WITH PUPILS
- PUPIL RESPONSE, THOUGHTS
- THOUGHTS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE SCHOOL

DEVELOP A **STRUCTURE** FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION TASKS

I FOUND I SETTLED INTO A STRUCTURE:

- 1 / **Personal thoughts** and responses about the unit
- 2 / Brief **analysis** of reading material (issues, policy, practice, research)
- 3 / Application of the unit to **my practice** (evaluation of classes, pedagogy, confidence of delivery, the school)



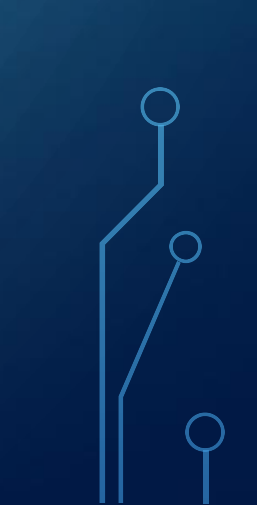
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The background is a blue gradient with decorative white circuit-like lines in the corners. The lines consist of straight segments and small circles, resembling a stylized electronic circuit.

BE CREATIVE!

SUPPORT ILKANITHER

MAIST O AA

ENJOY IT!

This course and the Scottish Parliament

DFM Kate Forbes highlights that this pioneering programme shaped the Scots measures of the Scottish languages Act 2025.

December 2024:

- GTCS professional recognition award 'Teaching Scots Language and Culture'
- The Scottish Parliament celebrated this very first official educational recognition of Scots in a dedicated debate. Minister for Further and Higher Education, Graeme Day, labelled the CPD 'an important step in Scottish education'.
- The chair of the Scots language CPG, MSP Emma Harper, applauded the pioneering work of all CPD participants transforming learning in their schools.

Since then:

- 41 teachers gained the GTCS award
- 2 teachers embarked on (EdD and PhD) study focused on Scots education
- Many teachers introduced regular Scots language and culture teaching in their schools

