



Bridging cultures through language: Charlotte's journey as a British Council Language Assistant

For Charlotte, being a [British Council Language Assistant](#) (LA) in Germany was more than teaching English—it was about creating connections and fostering curiosity.

Her first assistantship in 2021/22 took her to a Realschule in Maisach, Bavaria. After graduating, she returned in 2023/24 for a second placement at a Berufsoberschule in Munich, where she helped students refine their English for final exams.

Beyond language lessons, Charlotte brought English-speaking cultures to life—guiding students through Shakespearean pronunciation, introducing them to British seaside traditions, and supporting young adults from migration backgrounds as they adapted to life in Germany.

“The LA role naturally facilitates a multi-directional cultural exchange,” she reflects. “By sharing British linguistic and cultural quirks, I also learned more about what mattered to my students. That was one of the most rewarding aspects.”

Her time in Germany strengthened her resilience, deepened her cultural literacy, and even inspired new interests—like volunteering at her local arts and culture venue back home. Through the British Council Language Assistants programme, Charlotte not only helped students build confidence in English but also experienced the power of language in connecting people across cultures.

From Bulgaria to London: bridging education cultures for a global future

Dyani Kurulenko, an International Cooperation Officer at Bulgaria's National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, has worked closely with the British Council to build stronger ties between the UK and his home country. But it was his recent experience in London that truly expanded his vision of global education.

‘My experience with the British Council has been excellent. Their team is always available and committed to advancing international cooperation,’ says Dyani.

In the summer of 2024, Dyani participated in the [British Council's International Quality Assurance Programme \(IQAP\)](#), a five-day course for higher education professionals. Sponsored by the British Council, the programme explores trends in quality assurance and fosters global networking.

For Dyani, the key takeaway was the difference between the UK's progressive ‘Quality Culture’ and Bulgaria's compliance-driven approach. ‘The UK's shift to a more holistic approach was new to me, but it was exciting to see how effective it is,’ he explains.

The programme allowed Dyani to engage with experts from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and peers from around the world. ‘It was a great opportunity to challenge my perspective and rethink how we approach quality in education,’ he says.

Dyani recommends the programme to anyone in higher education: ‘It is a unique forum not only for learning but for expanding your own perspective.’





Changemakers unite: A journey of impact and collaboration

The British Embassy in Spain, the British Council, and VisitBritain have teamed up to promote equality and diversity in sport through *Gamechangers*, an initiative that highlights how sport can drive social change. As part of the [GREAT campaign](#), it showcases the transformative power of sport and education.

Jade Boho Sayo, former international footballer, reflects: *"The world of sport opens a billion doors. Football has made me discover different cultures, face challenges and above all appreciate the importance of inclusion and equality."*

Cristina Vega Leandro, 'Keka,' another Spanish veteran who played for British teams, agrees: *"Sport is inclusion. On the pitch, the only language spoken is that of the ball."*

Education is at the heart of this campaign. *"In the Early Years classroom, sport has no gender! It teaches respect, resilience, inclusion, and teamwork,"* says Miss Bea, an educator involved in the programme.

Kate Wright, another teacher on the project, has seen the impact firsthand: *"It's great to see more and more girls playing football, from Early Years to after-school clubs."* Through *Gamechangers*, the British Council reinforces that sport, like education, has no boundaries. By combining the two, we can open doors to new opportunities and build a more inclusive future.

Photo by ©Alberto García. From left to right: Jade Boho Sayo (former international footballer), Miss Katie Wright (British Council School teacher), Cristina Vega 'Keka' (former international football player) and Miss Bea (British Council School teacher).



Students and machines: elevating the English learning experience with AI tools

General English for Employment Purposes (GEEP), the British Council's AI-developed tool, has been successfully introduced into the speaking component of our [English Online](#) courses for B2 learners. Today, we speak to our colleague Johnathan Cruise, from the English Language Research team, about how Artificial Intelligence can enhance students' experience at this crucial stage of their learning journey.

'General English for Employment Purposes (GEEP) gives the opportunity for English Online students to practice adaptive, spoken English in real-world situations using customised AI technology.

The tool can be used anywhere to support students' English speaking, refining what they have learnt after they have progressed through each learning module.

The student will experience realistic tasks with rich content and do them as often as they like, knowing that the chatbot will give them a similar (but not exactly the same!) experience in a safe space.

Chatbots never judge or get bored or frustrated, and GEEP provides meaningful and actionable feedback each time, aimed at targeting the student's learning gaps. We've tried very hard to make each task as immersive and relevant as possible for the students.

There's a lot still to do in terms of AI-tools development for English learning, teaching and assessment. We want to create tasks with multiple bot speakers, to move to C1 (we've already finished B1) tasks, and use this tool and process to democratise the process of task and test creation for non-specialists, if possible.

There's a lot to do, but it will take time and...you know what rhymes with "funny" and starts with "m" _ _ _ y? ☺'.



Transforming art into action: a creative producer's mission for change

With a deep belief that artists must be catalysts for change, Lusine MLKE-Galstyan has spent her career blending music, theatre, and community-driven initiatives to reshape the cultural landscape.

Lusine MLKE-Galstyan, a creative producer and musician from Armenia, has spent over a decade blending contemporary and indie Armenian music with theatre and film. As a co-founder of the band [Tiezerk](#), she has helped share Armenian music globally, reinforcing that art transcends borders. Tiezerk has collaborated with [MIHR Theatre](#) for nearly ten years, recently representing Armenia at the 2024 Avignon Festival, with an invitation to perform at the 2025 Edinburgh Festival.

Born in a conflict zone, Lusine's perspective on art shifted after the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh Second War. She believes artists must be catalysts for change, not just observers. This conviction led her to establish Hrach's Art Space, a creative hub empowering forcibly displaced communities through art.

Her participation in the [British Council's Creative Producers Training](#), in collaboration with Curated Place, was a turning point. 'I believe in the power of art to inspire change, and I'm dedicated to making that happen, one project at a time', she says. The programme provided her with essential skills and international connections, fostering collaboration across borders. Her latest project, "We Are Our Songs," preserves the intangible cultural heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh through collaborative live shows. The first performance, funded by the British Council, marked the culmination of her training, proving that art can serve as a bridge between communities, history, and the future.

