



Assistant teachers

This handout was made for students (mainly of English) at Konstanz University planning to go to the UK as an assistant teacher of German. There are some tips on where to get information both from books in the University library and from the Internet about living in the UK and teaching there. The actual applications for a place at a school are made through the “Paedagogische Austauschdienst“ (PAD). www.kmk.org/pad/home.htm

(1) Assistant Teacher Reports

First of all, if you are not quite sure that being an assistant teacher is the right option for you, you could read the reports written by Konstanz students who spent a year in Britain, teaching German in schools. For all of them it was a very positive experience.

FyF_ha_assistantteacher_report01 is from Kettering, England
report 02 is from Stevenage, England
report 03 is from Heckmondwike, England
report 04 is from Edinburgh, Scotland

(2) Practical Information for Assistant Teachers

There are two very good and reliable sources which provide practically all the information you need when preparing to go to the UK as an assistant teacher (foreign language assistant), for actually living there, and even for preparing and running classes: The British Council and the Goethe Institut.

www.britishcouncil.org click on Foreign language assistants.

www.goethe.de/london click on Teaching German, Tips, STEPS, and you will find this includes materials to download for use in class.

Specifically for living and teaching in Scotland the following website of the Scottish Executive is good:
www.talentscotland.com

(3) Preliminary Reading

Although the websites above provide so much practical information, you may want to also make use of the books available in the University library, not least because looking for and reading books can be a welcome change from sitting at the computer.

The books in the 'General' category, whether old or new, are fine for browsing, to get a quick overview. Just reading the table of contents can be interesting in itself. Please note that some books refer only to Britain, some to the whole UK, and – beware – some have “Britain” in the title but deal only with England, perhaps also Wales, not with Scotland. Depending on where you are going, this is an important point to be aware of, as there is much in Scotland which is very different from England, for example the Scottish education system.

General

Britain in Close-up.(1999, 2000) fse 528/m12

Grundwissen Landeskunde UK. (2000) fse 525/z24

Contemporary Britain. (2010) gsx 603:n/m22

Großbritannien. (2009) gsa 742/k42

Contemporary Britain: a survey with texts. (2001) fse 528/o15

Dictionary of British Institutions: A student's guide (1993) fse 10c/o15

People and Places. (1990, 1991) fse 550/p25

(This is really old, but the videos are very useful for listening to different regional accents. That is interesting for the ears.)

The Kingdom by the Sea: a journey round the coast of Great Britain. (1983, 1986) ame 959t412:k/k46.

(Also old, but good for getting an outsider's view of the many different landscapes and cultures in Britain.)

English. One language, Different Cultures. (1999, 2011) eng 62/r66

(Information on the different cultures of the main English-speaking countries.)

Studying and living in the United Kingdom. (1999) inf 298:fd/w66

(Deals also with culture shock, and reverse culture shock i.e. what happens when you come back 'home'!)

Living and Working in Britain: a survival handbook. (1999, 2000) soz 83:g/h15

About Germany and the Germans

These are useful for insights into Germany, the outsider's point of view, and for the English terminology for German things:

As others see us: Anglo-German perceptions(1994) fsd 549/h98

Germany and the Germans: The united Germany in the mid-1990s (1995) soz 142:d/a72

The Education Systems

Structures of the Education and Initial Training Systems in the Member States of the European Community. (1991) edz 905/s94a

(This describes clearly the different education systems, including that of Scotland, and although it may be out of date now, it gives you an idea of how systems vary, and more important, it gives you the terminology you need to explain the German system in English.)

Enjoy your stay!

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