



Fettes College

Modern Languages (Mandarin) Language Assistant (part time maternity cover, February 2026)



This is an exciting opportunity to join our Modern Foreign Languages Department. The successful candidate will be an excellent addition to the department who can support students of all abilities and demonstrate a real enthusiasm for Mandarin.

Reporting to the Head of Mandarin, the Mandarin Language Assistant will work directly with the teachers in the Modern Foreign Languages Department to help develop pupils' communication and understanding of the language.



About Fettes

The school stands on a magnificent site of approximately 100 acres, within walking distance of Edinburgh's city centre and is a leading HMC co-educational independent boarding and day school, with a Prep school for students starting at age 7 and from September 2025 a Pre-Prep was introduced. Known for its academic excellence, Fettes is unique in Scotland in following the English curriculum of GCSE examinations and the dual pathway of A Level and International Baccalaureate (IB). Fettes has a strong focus on pastoral care and all-round education, providing their students with '*A place to live. A place to learn. A place to grow*'. Founded by Sir William Fettes in 1870, it was originally a boy's school and started admitting girls in 1970. The main building was designed by one of Scotland's leading architects, David Bryce. We are a community of more than 1000 individuals, made up of just under 700 students and over 300 dedicated staff.



Aims

Fettes College aims to nurture the individual while fostering a happy, well-ordered and caring community with strong family values at its core. To this end, we will do our utmost to ensure our students:

- Receive the highest possible quality of education within a boarding environment
- Feel safe, valued, have a sense of personal worth and are thoughtful and considerate of the needs of others, possessing a willingness to take on responsibility
- Develop their self-confidence, integrity, emotional resilience, loyalty, good manners and humour, leadership skills and teamwork
- Value a sense of community and service, and develop a clear sense of right and wrong, equipping them for life beyond Fettes
- Are provided with equal opportunities regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnic origin, race, or religion
- Are encouraged to stretch and challenge themselves in everything they undertake

The Modern Foreign Languages Department

We are an enthusiastic department and like to bring fun to language learning whilst stretching each of our students and fostering a genuine academic interest in languages and linguistics. We are passionate about the languages we teach and the cultures to which they give access, and we aim to share our enjoyment with our students through a variety of events and activities.

We run regular visits to China, France, Germany and Spain; the Modern Languages Society hosts film evenings and talks; students take part in various speaking, translation and essay competitions; we run Immersion Mornings in conjunction with five nearby schools; and we organise school-wide events such as Languages Week, Chinese New Year and Carnival Week. There are purpose-built rooms for the language assistants who meet regularly with pupils for one-to-one oral lessons, and we are fortunate to have Language Assistants for all our languages.

Pupils can study two modern foreign languages in the Third Form (choosing from French, German, Mandarin and Spanish) and they continue at least one language to GCSE. In the Sixth Form, pupils choose between IB and A level. IB choices are French B, German A or German B, Mandarin B, Spanish B and Spanish ab initio. A-Level courses are offered in French, German, Mandarin and Spanish. Other languages (e.g. Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek and Russian) can sometimes be studied outside the curriculum. We enjoy excellent links with the Prep School where we offer taster sessions in German, Mandarin and Spanish.

We spend time reflecting on the best teaching and learning practice in order to get the most out of our pupils academically and to instill a love of languages for life. We encourage our pupils to become independent, resilient learners so that we can create a strong next generation of linguists. Indeed, many of our pupils continue studying languages at university, including Oxbridge, and beyond.



A Supportive Common Room

We have a friendly and supportive Common Room with a dynamic mixture of age and experience. Every new member of staff undergoes a detailed induction process and engages thereafter in a supportive development in their role. We are committed to inclusion for all staff and welcome staff into our community regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Expectations of Staff

Fettes expects all of our staff to be professional, well-mannered, well-presented and courteous to students, staff and visitors to the College. All staff are expected to read and understand the various school policies, as we must ensure that these are followed.



The Ideal Candidate

The key duties and responsibilities of the role are as follows:

- Help students prepare for oral exams by providing conversational practice with a native level speaker
- Have knowledge of the course specification and oral assessment format and marking criteria, to be able to fully prepare students for their final exams
- Assist small groups of students, on their own or with the class teacher, to introduce basic language skills and improve linguistic ability
- Encourage students to be ambitious and outgoing, and assist in developing abilities to better communicate their own beliefs and view of the world
- Help students understand different cultures
- Contribute to cross-curricular work in collaboration with other subject areas
- Develop lesson plans and extra-curricular activities focused on associated culture
- Work in accordance with the Department Guidelines for Language Assistants

Conditions of the Appointment

- The appointment will date from January 2026 or sooner, depending on availability
- The role is a part time maternity cover (approximately 17 hours per week) and is for the period covering the first week in February 2026 to early March 2027
- Salary will be in keeping with the rate set by the British Council for Language Assistants
- Employment will be subject to one month's notice on either side
- All applicants must be eligible to work in the UK
- A formal offer of employment is subject to a PVG check
- Other details and conditions of service will be discussed at interview

The Mandarin Department is led by Ms Li Zhang. Interested candidates can contact her by email L.Zhang@fettes.com if they wish to discuss the role prior to application.

Applications including the names and contact details of two referees should be made via the Fettes College page on www.fettes.com/about-us/work-with-us. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 10th December 2025, and interviews are likely to take place on Monday 15th December 2025.

We are passionate about creating a diverse workforce and welcome applications from under-represented communities. We particularly encourage applications from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) candidates. If you would like to have an informal chat about the inclusive culture at Fettes College or have any questions about how this might work for you, please contact Anushka Chakravarty Deputy, Head (Academic) at a.chakravarty@fettes.com