

September 2014

## **Language school associations gather in London for annual summit**

Representatives of 14 language school associations (and other related bodies) from across the world met in London on 29 August to discuss matters of common interest.

The group, representing all the major destination countries for language learners, shared the latest information on student numbers travelling for language study and identified a range of challenges currently confronting all destination countries.

- GAELA members re-affirmed the importance and value of study abroad for the purposes of language learning and cultural understanding;
- GAELA members agreed on the need for improved communication and collaboration between GAELA members and governments around the world, particular in the critical areas of industry regulation and access to visas;
- GAELA members asserted the importance of national regulatory frameworks that recognise and incentivise providers of quality language training and have the capacity to deal effectively with low quality providers;
- GAELA members acknowledged that visa regimes need to balance integrity with access, but stressed the need for equity for language students in access to visa and work opportunities;
- GAELA members asserted that improved transparency and adherence to ethical practices by all stakeholders including education providers, agents and students, will ensure a sustainable and credible industry;
- GAELA members noted the welfare concerns related to a trend for increasing numbers of young learners to travel for language study and agreed to share initiatives and strategies focused on young learners;

- GAELA members will seek to act in concert to protect the global reputation of the language travel industry for the benefit of all stakeholders;
- GAELA members confirmed that the current flexible and informal structure adopted by the alliance allows for an inclusive, adaptive and responsive approach to evolving industry issues at a global level;
- GAELA members agreed that the role of the alliance in providing a learning forum enabling members to share successful strategies should be nurtured and maximised;
- GAELA members committed to ongoing dialogue and improved information sharing via technological and other channels, to support a professional and globally consistent stance on industry issues.

GAELA members would like to acknowledge the ongoing and highly valued support of Hothouse Media in hosting and supporting these annual meetings.

Jan Capper (IALC) and Gavin Eyre (Education South Africa) were confirmed as Co-Convenors for the coming year.

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## **About GAELA**

*GAELA (the Global Alliance of Education and Language Associations) was formed in 2000. GAELA Associations represent quality language providers in Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States of America as well as other countries represented by associations with international membership.*

*Key stakeholders including accreditation and quality assurance bodies also attend GAELA meetings to discuss matters of common interest across the language teaching industry.*

*For more information: [www.gaela.org](http://www.gaela.org)*

## **About the language travel industry**

*Approximately 1,500,000 people travelled to an English speaking country to learn English in 2012 – globally the English language travel industry is worth over US\$11.5 billion. In addition, many other students travel for the purpose of learning other languages eg. Spanish in Spain, French in France, Italian in Italy, Portuguese in Portugal etc.*

## National Associations



AEPL  
(Portuguese in Portugal)



ASILS  
(Italian in Italy)



Education South Africa  
(English in South Africa)



English Australia  
(English in Australia)



English New Zealand  
(English in New Zealand)



English UK  
(English in the UK)



English USA  
(English in the USA)



FEDELE  
(Spanish in Spain)



FELTOM  
(English in Malta)



Groupement FLE  
(French in France)



Italian in Italy  
(Italian in Italy)



Languages Canada  
(English & French in Canada)



MEI  
(English in Ireland)



Souffle  
(French in France)

## International Associations



## Accreditation / Quality Assurance Bodies



ABLS Accreditation  
(UK)



ACCET  
(USA)



Accreditation UK  
(British Council/English UK)  
(UK)



CEA  
(USA)



FELTOM  
(Malta)



NEAS  
(International)