



## Edinburgh Branch Volunteer Information

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Edinburgh branch of Bilingualism Matters. Please read the following information before completing our online application form.

### What is Bilingualism Matters?

Bilingualism Matters (BM) is a research and information centre founded and directed by Professor Antonella Sorace. Established in 2008, Bilingualism Matters aims to bridge the gap between research and different sectors of society, enabling people to make informed professional or personal decisions on bilingualism and language learning that are based on facts rather than prejudices, misconceptions, or misinterpretation of current research findings. The Centre also carries out specific research projects sponsored by stakeholders.

We think that everyone can enjoy the benefits of having more than one language, and we believe that real change happens through dialogue between researchers and the community. So the Centre collaborates with a wide range of partners including policy makers, education authorities, and health professionals; it also has an increasing presence in the private sector.

Bilingualism Matters operates an **international network** of 18 branches (and 3 more under negotiation) in the UK, in other European countries, and in the United States.

### Who are the Edinburgh branch group?

The Edinburgh Branch Group is formed from students, at both undergraduate & postgraduate level, UoE staff and members of the public. It is led by Bilingualism Matters staff and academically supervised by the BM's Director and Co-directors.

### What does the Edinburgh branch group do?

The Edinburgh Branch Group supports BM in achieving its aims and objectives in the Edinburgh area and throughout Scotland. Volunteers can:

- support BM in creating and delivery of **projects** in smaller working groups.
- assist the directors with the **community talks**.
- support BM at **larger events and shows**, with travel and subsistence expenses covered e.g. the Language Live Show in Glasgow.
- present completed projects at **BM annual event** at end of academic year.
- publish a **blog post** on the BM website.
- participate in BM Edinburgh **branch meetings** where we discuss upcoming events and projects.

### Who can join the BM Edinburgh branch group?

- Membership is open to all interested undergraduate, Masters, PhD students and postdocs, as well as all PPLS/UoE members of staff and members of the public.
- Membership is free and unpaid, related travel expenses are covered by us.
- The application process involves completing an online form and attending an introductory meeting. If successful, participant will be offered the chance to attend relevant training courses.

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- The size of the group depends on the projects we run each year.
- We meet during the academic year (September to June)
- Existing group members are invited to continue to following years.

### How would you benefit from involvement?

We will work with you to try to make your time as productive as possible for all of us. You may be able to:

- gain experience working alongside other researchers, community members and external organisations to promote BM objectives.
- broaden your networks – meet students, university staff, and external organisations.
- get valuable experience for your CV – research, communication skills, events organisation, public engagement, managing projects etc.
- get references from us with details on the experience you gained.
- receive public recognition of your contribution on the BM webpage during our collaboration and beyond, as you will always be represented and acknowledged in our ‘previous collaborators’ section.
- enhance your knowledge of bilingualism research and its impact on society.
- get personal satisfaction by contributing to an organisation that aims to improve people’s lives through the provision of accurate information on bilingualism.
- you can also get formal external recognition:
  - Uni of Edinburgh students <http://edin.ac/2zXexWY>
  - Others: <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/volunteer/awards-and-qualifications/>

### Still want to be a BM Edinburgh volunteer? Great!

1. Complete our online application form: <http://edin.ac/2vYqJ3S>
2. Kat and/or Christy will arrange for you to come to office for a chat about your areas of interest and discuss possibilities.
3. We will let you know within the week if a space is available on the group.



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