

## Symposium report

The German Language Association (GLA) marked its launch with an inaugural symposium, held on Wednesday, 10 September 2025 at King's College London. Under the theme "*Deutscher Sprachunterricht an britischen Universitäten: Vergangenheit, Gegenwart, Zukunft*", the event brought together educators, researchers, and cultural partners to discuss the challenges and opportunities for German language education in UK Higher Education.

Welcome addresses were delivered by representatives from King's College London, the German Embassy, the Austrian Cultural Forum, the DAAD, and the Goethe-Institut London, underscoring the institutional support from key stakeholders for the German Language Association.

In her introductory remarks, GLA-president Dr. Ulrike Bavendiek explained the mission and purpose of the German Language Association highlighting that the newly founded association intends to fill the gap of a hitherto lacking forum for German language educators working in UK Higher Education. Positioning the GLA as complementary to existing organisations such as AGS (Association for German Studies) and ALL (Association for Language Learning), collaboration and mutual support between these organisations were set out as key principles of the association.

In her keynote, Professor Nicola McLelland (University of Nottingham) highlighted key moments in the history of language teaching in the UK, with a view to inform discussions of current challenges in the UK context. Looking back to its history, McLelland showed how the aims, purposes and methodology have changed throughout the centuries, and are still changing.

Organised in two parallel sessions, four presentations gave insight into a vibrant culture of scholarship and reflective practice in the field of German language education. The presentations covering topics such as new pedagogical approaches, Artificial Intelligence, as well as cross-institutional collaboration generated lively discussions and thus underlined the mission of the German Language Association to become a forum of collaboration, exchange and innovation.

The symposium concluded with a round table discussion and networking opportunities, affirming the GLA's purpose to represent and support German language educators nationwide. The event was generously supported by the DAAD and the Goethe-Institut.