



invite you to a regional challenge

## MIND THE LANGUAGE GAP

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
The University of Sheffield

This challenge is a partnership event between the University of Sheffield,  
The Rail Alliance and Business Language Champions



Mind the Language Gap is a business challenge aimed at students studying French, German or Spanish in **Years 10 and 11**, who would like to find out about international opportunities in a major industry and put their language skills into practice. Students will also practise key employability skills. It is open to all schools.

### Overview

These are exciting times for the rail industry. Trains are getting faster and more sophisticated whilst challenging air travel to offer quick and easy journeys as well as offering a more environmentally friendly way of moving freight. The rail industry employs 190,000 people in the UK and with its many partnerships on the continent offers ample opportunity to use languages in a business context. Outside of Europe, investment by the Japanese, world famous for their bullet trains, offers significant interest further afield and for that reason we are including a Japanese taster in the afternoon. Yorkshire is a hub of the rail industry in the UK with its many suppliers, so it is fitting that we are basing this event in Sheffield.

### Outline of the day

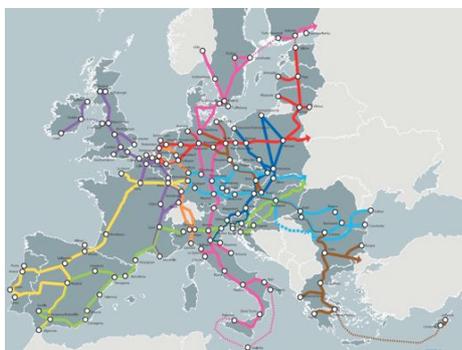
The day will include:

- Keynote talk by Lucy Prior MBE of the Rail Alliance
- A business challenge based on the rail industry using French, German or Spanish, for which there will be a prize for the winners
- Language taster in Japanese
- A presentation by the students in their target language
- The opportunity to meet students and staff from the University, as well as business people working internationally



**NOTE:** There will **not** be a tour of the university included in the day. However, you will be welcome to tour at 3.30pm or alternatively you may like to talk with Linda Billam during the day to arrange a suitable date for a full tour.

Business Language Champions, members of the Rail Alliance and university students will be on hand to advise the students and help with language issues.



## Who can take part?

You are invited to send one or more groups of **6 language students** from **Year 10 or 11** to take part. The group may be of mixed ages. The students must all be learning **French, German or Spanish** and may be a mixture of learners of **different languages and different year groups**. *They will be allocated to teams working with students from other schools.*

**Deadline:** As many of our regional events are over-subscribed, please register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as we have a limited number of spaces, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Our deadline is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**Applications:** To reserve your places, please submit the names of the students, their Year Group(s) and the language they will work in. Note that we will only reserve places against receipt of names, but you are welcome to advise us of your intention to take part so that we can keep you informed. Remember to include contact details for your school. You will then be sent a request for more detailed registration information.

**Cost:** £165 plus VAT per group of 6 students. Lunch will be included. Please note that once the invoice has been issued, the full £165 will be charged for cancellation unless the place can be filled by another school.

**Timing:** The day will run from 9.00a.m. (registration) for a 9.20 start to 3.30p.m

**Preparation:** We will send out some preparatory work for the students.

### **Please send your application electronically to:**

*Sally Fagan, Business Language Champions Ltd*

*Email: [sally@blcevents.co.uk](mailto:sally@blcevents.co.uk)*

### **Checklist for applications:**

- Names, year group and language(s) studied for each student
- Name and address of your school
- Name, email and mobile number for the main contact



**If you have any queries about this challenge please ring Sally Fagan on 01949 860167 or 07967 699614, or email [sally@blcevents.co.uk](mailto:sally@blcevents.co.uk)**

**We would like to thank the University of Sheffield for hosting this event and the Rail Alliance for their support in putting together the materials.**