

Developing International Links

This document provides information and advice to any U3A in the UK wishing to further international links with similar Third Age organisations around the world

Background

The International Committee (IC) was set up in 2015 by the Third Age Trust's National Executive Committee. Its objectives are:

- To promote knowledge of the international nature and spirit of the U3A Movement.
- To work with the International Association of Universities of the Third Age (AIUTA), and other international Third Age bodies, to support the worldwide development of the U3A Movement.
- To encourage visits, exchanges and twinning arrangements between U3As in the UK and those overseas and attendance at international conferences and events.
- To provide help and advice to U3As and Networks on the development of international links.

Establishing a link

The Third Age Trust is a member of AIUTA. Many types of international links can be established, either with an individual U3A or Network in a country or with a 'Federation' of U3As similar to The Third Age Trust.

An individual U3A or Network may wish to approach any U3A or equivalent organisation overseas to develop international links. A search on Google for 'U3A' in France, Italy Spain or Sweden will produce some results, but not all. The situation is made more difficult as internationally many names are used to describe a Third Age organisation, e.g. U3A tends to designate an English speaking group, whereas UTA - Université du Troisième Age usually denotes a French speaking group.

A list of some international organisations can be found in the Appendix... International Third Age organisations are generally not structured on the 'UK model' it may take some perseverance to find a suitable partner. However success can be a rewarding experience and well worth the effort.

Requests from overseas organisations to form links in the UK are often received via the U3A National website or the International Committee. These requests are passed to the appropriate U3A or Network.

All international links, visits, exchanges are unique and should enhance your own U3A experience. Changing committee roles and data protection mean that contact information cannot be made freely available to all U3A members. Further information can be requested through the National web site. Follow the link in Members Area Homepage – NEC – International or by email to international@u3a.org.uk.