

THE INTERNATIONAL U3A MOVEMENT

Ian McCannah

Chairman – International Committee, Third Age Trust

U3As around the World



U3As Around The World

- The "French Model"
 - The First U3A – Toulouse in 1973
 - Attached to Universities
 - Second Agers teach Third Agers
 - Tax payer funded
 - Some emphasis on research
 - the majority of U3As in Europe and in the non-English speaking world follow this model - in one form or other.

EUROPE

Netherlands **Greece** Ireland **UK** Luxemburg

Slovakia Hungary Italy Austria Switzerland Poland

Germany Portugal **Lithuania** Malta Spain

France Belgium Iceland Albania Belgium

Sweden Denmark Finland Bulgaria

U3As Around the World

- The "UK Model"
 - Cambridge in 1982
 - self help ethos -Third Agers learn from / teach to Third Agers
 - not attached to local universities / limited research
 - entirely membership funded
 - this model tends to be favoured by Commonwealth members - Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Cyprus, etc.

- ex-pat Spain. About 12 U3As exactly the same as those in the UK – U3A Javea, Costa Brava, Costa del Sol, Costa Blanca, Vall del Pop, Malaga, Marbella, etc.

Pay a visit!

International Organisations

- AIUTA – established in 1975 to promote the development of U3As internationally – two years after the first U3A was approved by Toulouse University. French Universities were given responsibility for providing life-long education by law in 1968.
- AIUTA's aim is to federate U3As across the world, including organisations with different names but similar objectives. There is an emphasis on research and twice yearly Conferences.
- Membership comprises several national associations. China's 60,000 U3As and 7 million members and the UK's 1010 U3As and nearly 400,000 members are the most active.
- 40 other members from 30 countries.

International Organisations

- APA – ASIA PACIFIC ALLIANCE
- Members - India / Nepal / Australia / Singapore / Malaysia / Kazakhstan, etc
- Given vast distances, APA is an informal group of country representatives. All meetings are by teleconferencing. It has an on-line project called MYU3A – MYU3A.org
- U3aasiapacificalliance.org
- U3A ONLINE
- The world's first virtual U3A delivering 60 online courses via the internet. Based in Australia but 1100 members worldwide – 60 from the UK.
- <http://www.u3aonline.org.au>

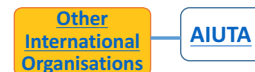
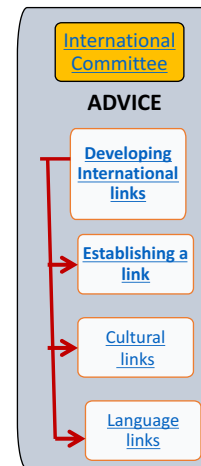
International Organisations

- World U3A
- A free internet service. Not a membership organisation.
- The emphasis is on online projects aimed at encouraging international Third Age understanding and contacts.
- There is a monthly magazine - "Signpost" with items about U3As around the world - www.worldu3a.org

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

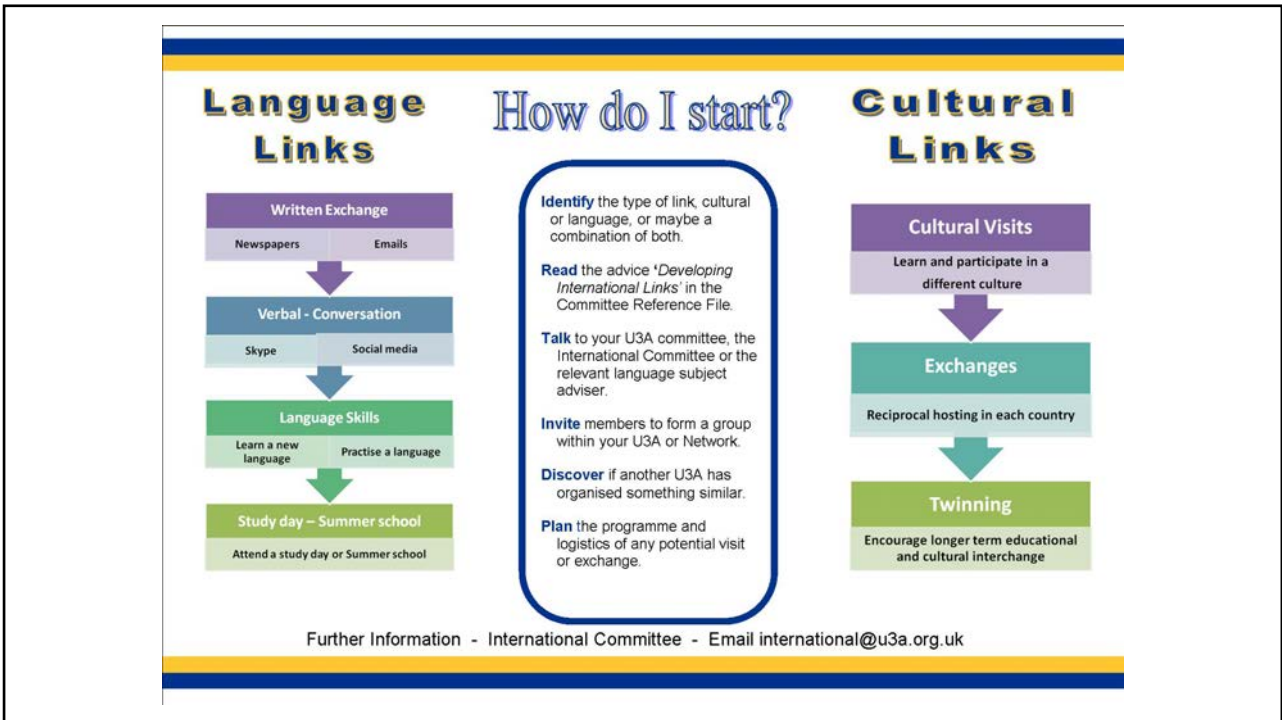


Contact - International committee
Email international@u3a.org.uk



THE TRUST'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- Set up in Spring 2015 in order to:-
- promote awareness amongst U3As, in the UK, of the nature and spirit of the global Third Age movement.
- Promote the "UK Model" around the world.
- work with AIUTA, and other international "Third Age" bodies, to support the worldwide development of the Third Age movement.
- encourage visits, exchanges and twinning arrangements between U3As in the UK and those overseas, as well as attendance at International Conferences and Events.
- provide help and advice to U3As and Networks on the development of international links. Copy in your folder.
- Members – Jenny Carley (ex-Regional Trustee), Maria Chester (AIUTA Secretary General), Mike Head, Ian Funnell (ex-Regional Trustee and ex-Treasurer of AIUTA), Ian McCannah (Regional Trustee / IC Chair), Elizabeth Porter (Regional Trustee) and Heather Westrup (Languages Adviser)
- Produced a detailed Report on the "International U3A Movement". Available on the national U3A website.
- www.international@u3a.org.uk



Benefits

International links:

- Expand learning opportunities in your U3A.
- Have fun learning a language or developing new skills.
- Understand the culture of other countries.
- Explore new countries and make friends with U3A members from different cultures.
- Share U3A experiences.
- Attend an AIUTA or APA international conference, which are open to all U3A members.
- Access to international online courses e.g. www.u3aonline.org.au

Support

The International Committee of the Third Age Trust may be able to provide useful contacts and advice to those members and U3As who wish to develop international cultural or language links with overseas U3As or similar organisations.

Those Networks and U3As, including the virtual U3A, who have already established links may also be of assistance.

When developing links language subject advisers can be a valuable source of information.

International Committee
Email: international@u3a.org.uk

The Third Age Trust
www.u3a.org.uk

International Links




THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



LANGUAGE LINKS.

The benefits of these links are:

- the expansion of learning opportunities in your U3A
- the satisfaction of learning a new language
- greater understanding of the culture of other countries and making new contacts with overseas U3A members

By means of:

- reading foreign language newspapers / exchange of Newsletters
- e-mail / Skype / Social Media contact
- attending a Study Day or Summer School

Establishing an International Link

- Many types of international links can be established – architectural tours, wine tasting, language, twinning etc, by means of:-
- an individual U3A
- a Network
- Set up an Interest Group to develop International Links.
- Contact is made with an individual "U3A" overseas or a national federation of U3As, similar to the Trust
- a Google search for "U3A" in, for example, France, Italy, Spain or Sweden will produce some results BUT
- the term "U3A" is not universally used – in France it is known as UTA - Universite du Troisieme Age, Universite Permanente, etc Can be challenging but perseverance is rewarding!
- Language Subject Advisers – see TAM
- The International Committee has produced a list of some of these overseas U3As. However, many are not organised on the "UK Model".

Useful International links

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Country	Association	Web link	Notes
America	LIF - American Life Long Learning Institute (Road Scholar) (The Elderhostel Institute Network) The Bernard Osher Foundation	http://www.road scholar.org/about/lifelong-learning-institutes/ http://www.osherfoundation.org/index.php?index	Many across America
Asia Pacific	Asia Pacific Alliance of Universities of The Third Age (APA)	http://www.us3a-asia-pacificalliance.org	Countries in Asia Pacific
AUSTRALIA	USA online Australia USAAA - USA Alliance Australia	http://www.us3online.org.au/ http://us3aaa.org	online courses and links to Australian USAs
EUROPE	EFOS European federation of older students	http://www.efos-euroopa.eu	
FINLAND	University of Helsinki and Eastern Finland, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Joensuu, Kuopio, Lapland, Seinäjoki, Tampere, Turku Vaasa	http://www.uvoin.helsinki.fi/uta/ Networks : http://www.uvoinlogisto.fi/en-GB/UTA	member of AIUTA 1987-2008
FRANCE	AIUTA- International Association of Universities of the Third Age French Union of Universities of All Ages UTLs - University of Free Time (UFT)	http://aiuta.com http://www.ufuta.fr search on "Temps Libre +name"	
INDIA	Network for USAs - Indian Society of USAs	http://us3india.weebly.com/	individual and institutional members
ITALY	UNITRE - University of the Third Age National Association	http://www.unitre-an.it/ http://www.federun.it	250 USAs
LITHUANIA	Medardas Cebotas University of the Third Age (MCTAU)	http://www.litchojovnm23a02m1versitetas.lt/en/locatuo	Link to 24 USAs
NEW ZEALAND	A network of USAs around Christchurch NZ USA organisation	http://us3netcanz.nz/index.html?Region=Canterbury&group=Pegeus http://www.us3a.nz	Some Christchurch USAs All USAs in NZ
NORWAY	Norway USA organisation -links to senior universities in Norway	http://www.us3a.no	Link to oUSAs.
POLAND	New association - Society of University of the Third Age. Operates from Pozan University	http://www.u3w.pozan.pl	Established link with Surrey Network
PORTUGAL	RUTIS	http://rutises.wix.com/Rutis	
SOUTH AFRICA	University of The Third Age South Africa South Africa association of Retired Persons SAART	https://sites.google.com/site/us3africa/ http://saraa.net/en/	Link to 27 USAs
SWEDEN	Uppsala USA - The Third Age Trust	http://www.us3a.se http://www.us3a.org.uk	Links to 32 Swedish USAs
UK	World USA	http://www.worldusa.org/	Approx. 1000 USAs in UK
Worldwide	Association Internationale des Universités du Troisième Age (AIUTA)	http://www.aiuta.com	Free internet service

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Establishing an International Link

- The International Committee has produced an Advice Sheet - "Delivering International Links" covering the following points:-
 - Insurance
 - ATOL / ABTA
 - Reciprocity
 - Finances
 - Expenses
 - Memorandum of Understanding – more formal agreement. Template available from the IC.
- All in the Committee Reference File and a copy is in your folder.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the U3A Mauritius website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, U3A Mauritius, About U3A, Courses, News, Events, Gallery, and Contact Us. Below the menu is the site title "U3A MAURITIUS" and the slogan "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN". A search bar and social media icons for Facebook and YouTube are also present. The main content area features a large graphic with the text "U3AM Is where you should be!!" and several icons representing different activities: a person, a hand pointing, a graduation cap, an envelope, a microphone, and headphones. Below the graphic, there are three columns of text: "If you are 55 years of Age", "If you have lots of Energy", and "If you want to have fun". At the bottom, there is a paragraph describing the organization's mission: "The University of Third Age (U3AM) values the experience of its members and provides a platform to indulge in social communities to share and spread their knowledge. It is dedicated towards building a sense of service, justice, dignity and autonomy among the senior citizens of the country." There are also some decorative colored shapes and a small "Off" icon at the bottom right.

Shared Experiences

If you would like to share your international experience send a short summary to international@u3a.org.uk



Submitted reports

[BACK](#)

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.

Types of International Links that a U3A may consider

A Cultural Links

1. Cultural Visits

A cultural visit is undertaken by individual U3As or Networks to a country of choice in order to learn and participate in its culture. Examples are: architectural tours, wine tasting, classical tours.

Some items to consider

- *Using ATOL/ABTA registered tour companies*
- *Personal Health Insurance(see Note below)*
- *Agree a programme between the hosting and participating U3As.*
- *Overseas visits for extended periods –members who wish to contact a local U3A e.g. English speaking U3As in Australia, Spain and France are advised to carry their U3A membership card. They are usually made very welcome.*

2. Exchanges

An exchange of U3A members between countries is often hosted by local U3A members. At a later date the UK U3A hosts a reciprocal visit along the same lines. There are several ways of organising a visit or exchange; much will depend on your U3A's individual geography and members. In all cases it is advisable to ensure that all participants are aware of the programme and of their obligations. All costs involved in exchanges are members' personal responsibility.

Some items to consider

- *Using an ATOL/ABTA registered tour company*
- *Agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for those who wish to establish a more formal arrangement. A suitable template is available from the International Committee should you wish to use it.*
- *Funding – Funding can be from individual members, U3As, Networks or the Third Age Trust. All expenditure and responsibility for payments must be detailed at the outset.*

Items to include are:

- *Transport – any mobility requirements? Use of member's cars*
- *Expenses - travel, printing, postage, meals etc.*
- *Catering – including any dietary requirements*
- *Insurance – see Note below*
- *Next of kin cards - obtainable from National Office*

3. Twinning

Twinning is an agreement between towns to encourage educational and cultural interchange.

- *Some towns have already negotiated a twinning arrangement. It may be possible to use the existing arrangement.*
- *Twinning arrangements between U3As are the remit of individual U3As.*

B Language Links

The above cultural links may also include language links as part of their programme

1. **Written exchanges** –e.g. exchange of emails, correspondence, newspapers, between individuals or groups
 - *Consider setting up a pen friend group*
 - *Exchange your U3A newsletters*
 - *Share local free newspapers and magazines*
2. **Conversation** – via Skype/Face Time or other video conferencing software.
 - *Many video conferencing software packages are available free of charge*
 - *Social media may also be considered*
3. **Language Exchange/Visit**
 - *An exchange visit between U3A members whose purpose is to develop their language skills. Sometimes organised as total immersion in the culture and language of the country.*
 - *A visit or field trip designed to enable members to practice their language skill, at the same time experiencing the local culture by touring cultural sites and conversing with the local community or local U3A members.*
4. **Study Days/Summer schools.**–Information available from the hosting country or U3A.
 - *Often incorporated into a visit or exchange. A visiting U3A is invited to attend a U3A or U3A Network study day or lecture.*
 - *Visiting U3As may be invited to contribute to a National or Regional summer school or Conference, Language Study day or U3A event.*

Note:

In all cases, the implementation and organisation is the responsibility of the interested parties. All members MUST ensure that they are adequately insured. The Third Age Trust insurances are for third party liability only and do not protect members for personal, accident, health, or travel insurance. EHIC cards are currently valid on European visits and exchanges.

Useful Links The Appendix to this document contains a list of some useful web links to Third Age educational associations who may be suitable partners for a UK U3A. The list is not comprehensive: more information may be available through the International Committee email international@u3a.org.uk or contact National Office.

Subject Advisers

The Language advisers are a valuable source of information. Their contact details are located on the National website <http://www.u3a.org.uk> and in every issue of Third Age Matters.

Follow the link in Members Area Homepage - Subject 'Advice - Language Advisers – General, - specific advisers for German French Latin and Russian

8th December 2016

APPENDIX

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AUSTRALIA	U3A online Australia U3AAA – U3A Alliance Australia	http://www.u3aonline.org.au/ http://u3aaa.org	online courses and links to Australian U3As
EUROPE	EFOS European federation of older students	http://www.ufos-europa.eu	
FINLAND	University of Helsinki and Eastern Finland, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Joensuu, Kuopio, Lapland, Seinäjoki, Tampere, Turku Vaasa	http://www.avoin.helsinki.fi/uta/ Networks : http://www.avoinyliopisto.fi/en-GB/UTA	member of AIUTA 1987–2008
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8th December 2016

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AUSTRALIA	U3A online Australia U3AAA – U3A Alliance Australia	http://www.u3aonline.org.au/ http://u3aaa.org	online courses and links to Australian U3As
EUROPE	EFOS European federation of older students	http://www.ufos-europa.eu	
FINLAND	University of Helsinki and Eastern Finland, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Joensuu, Kuopio, Lapland, Seinäjoki, Tampere, Turku Vaasa	http://www.avoin.helsinki.fi/uta/ Networks : http://www.avoinyliopisto.fi/en-GB/UTA	member of AIUTA 1987–2008
FRANCE	AIUTA- International Association of Universities of the Third Age French Union of Universities of All Ages UTLs – University of Free Time (UTL)	http://aiu3a.com http://www.ufuta.fr search on 'Temps Libre +name	
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