

AUPHF+ is alarmed by the proposed cuts to academic and support staff at Birkbeck, University of London, revealed recently by UCU. Once again, these appear to target the Humanities (as well as Politics and Geography). We are particularly distressed at the news that up to six of our colleagues from the Department of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics may face compulsory redundancies. The managed, and in many cases deliberate and accelerated, decline of languages in many HEIs is contributing directly to the UK's international isolation and its cultural introspection. In the case of Birkbeck, it is denying the right to study other languages and cultures to one of the most diverse student bodies in the UK and impoverishing employment perspectives of future students. We call upon Birkbeck to consider the impact such a move will have upon its staff, its students and the institution's international standing.