

## Bun-fhiosrachadh air Gàidhlig

'S i Gàidhlig cànan traidiseanta nan Gàidheal agus cànan eachdraidheil a mhòr chuid de dh' Alba. Bhathas ga bruidhinn ann an Alba bhon 4mh linn ro chrìosd 's i aon de na cànan sgrìobhte as sinne san Roinn Eòrpa.

Bha Cunntas Sluaigh Bhreatainn 2001 a' sealltainn 58,969 luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig ann an Alba (1.2% den t-sluagh os cionn trì bliadhna a dh' aois). Lùghdaich an àireimh luchd-labhairt gu mothachail bho 254,415 ann an 1891 gu 58,969 ann an 2001. Tha an gluasad sluaigh bhon Ghàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean gu ruige Galldachd a-nise a' sealltainn gu bheil 45% luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig gu cunbhalach a' fuireach air Galldachd.

Tha na h-Eileanan Siar fhathast nan àite far am bheil an cànan làidir, le 61.1% den t-sluagh a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig. Ach bho chionn bliadhna no dhà air ais tha Gàidhlig air barrachd taic fhaighinn bho luchd-reachdais aig ìre ionadail, nàiseanta agus Eòrpach. Tha a' Gàidhlig a-nise gu ìre air inbhe thèarainte fhaighinn an dèidh gabhail ri Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) a tha air a riaghladh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

## Cultar Gàidhlig

Tha iomadh Albannach, ged a bhruidhneas iad Gàidhlig no nach bruidhinn, a' meas a' Ghàidhlig mar phàirt chudromach de chultair na dùthcha. Tha an cànan làn dualchais, beul-aithris agus sgrìobhte, oir bha i na cànan aig bàird nan cinne Gàidhealach fad linntean agus ri linn sinn tha tèarainteachd na Gàidhlig cudromach ann an poileataics Alba.

Tha meas air ceòl, òrain agus sgrìobhadh Gàidhlig san dùthaich seo agus thall thairis agus tha iomadhach fèis a' gabhail àite – mar "Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail" agus "Blas", a tha a' comharrachadh an dualchas phrìseil seo. Cuideachd, tha iomadh deagh chlàradh de cheòl agus òrain Gàidhlig airson èisteachd no coimhead, gan reic ann am bùithtean ciùil no air an eadar-lìon. Carson nach tadhail sibh air fear de na mìltean de thachartasan Gàidhlig a tha a' gabhail àite an Alba feadh na bliadhna? Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh coimhidibh anns na pàipearan no air an eadar-lìon.

## Foghlam

Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le dà sgoil, aon ann an Inbhir Nis agus aon ann an Glaschu, agus a-nise tha e air a dhol am meud le 60 sgoiltean air feadh Alba le còrr 's 2000 sgoilear. Tha Gàidhlig ga theagasg aig ìre àrd-sgoile agus aig ìre-àrd agus cuideachd aig cròileagan air feadh na dùthcha. Eu-coltach ri Èirinn agus a' Chuimrigh chan eil Gàidhlig na chuspair èigheachail san sgoil san dùthaich seo.

## Eaconomaidh na Gàidhlig

Tha mothachadh ann nach e a-mhàin gu bheil soighnichean Gàidhlig a' togail aire dhaoine ach cuideachd gu bheil iad a' cur ri eaconomach nan gnìomhachasan agus ris an eaconomaidh san fharsaingeachd. Tha barrachd bhuidhnean Albannach a' cleachdadh soighnichean Gàidhlig nan obair gnìomhachais agus nan soighnichean. Tha tabhartasan mu choinneimh soighnichean dà-chànanach rim faotainn bho Chomunn na Gàidhlig.

## Ainmean Pearsanta agus Ainmean Àite sa Ghàidhlig

Tha feadhainn de dh' ainmean pearsanta gan cleachdadh sa Ghàidhlig, mar Aonghas, Mòrag, Coinneach, Eilidh. 'S e na sloinnidhean is cumanta mar a shaoileadh an fheadhainn a tha a' tòiseachadh le mac mar MacGilleathain (MacLean). Airson boireannach thathas a' cleachdadh "nic", mar sin se Catriona Nic a' Phi a thathas ag ràdh airson Catherine MacPhee.

Bho chionn mìle bliadhna air ais, nuair a bha Gàidhlig aig àirde, chluinnear i bho Bhearaig gu Gallaibh agus bho Am Parbh gu Na Rannaibh. A bharrachd air a chòrr bha buaidh aig seo air ainmean-àitean eadhon ann an sgìrean na Galldachd. Tha seo air ar fàgail le iomadh ainm-àite air a bheil sinn glè eòlach le a' bhun a' tighinn bhon Ghàidhlig, mar Auch – bho achadh, Auchte – bho uachdar, Bal – bho baile, Dun – bho dùn, Inver – bho Inbhir, Kin – bho ceann, agus Kil – bho cill no coille.

## Ionnsaich Gàidhlig

Adhbharan airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh....

- Conaltradh nas fheàrr leis an teaghlach 's leis a' choimhearsnachd
- Cothrom air dà chultar
- Fosgailteachd do chànan agus do chultaran eile
- A' dèanamh ionnsachadh cànan eile nas fhasa
- Cothroman cosnaidh

Tha iomadhach seòrsa clas is cùrsa rim faotainn air feadh Alba a bharrachd air iomadh leabhar agus làrach-lìon a tha a' dèanamh cùrsaichean Gàidhlig. Lorgaidh tu cùrsa faisg ort le bhith a' siubhal an eadar-lìon no a' cuir fios gu na seòlaidhean gu h-ìosal.

## Fiosrachadh bho

- **Comunn na Gàidhlig** – Buidheann Nàiseanta Leasachaidh Gàidhlig  
[www.cnag.org.uk](http://www.cnag.org.uk) - 01463 234138
- **Bòrd na Gàidhlig (Alba)** – Buidheann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig  
[www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk) - 01463 225454
- **Clì Gàidhlig** – Buidheann cothroim is adhartachaidh na Gàidhlig  
[www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk) - 01463 226710
- **Fèisean nan Gàidheal** – Comunn Nàiseanta Teagaisg Òigridh Ealain Ghàidhlig  
[www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org) - 01478 613355
- **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** – Colaiste Ghàidhlig na h-Alba  
[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk) - 01471 888000
- **An Comunn Gàidhealach** – Glèidheadh agus a' leasachadh Gàidhlig  
[www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk) - 01463 231226
- **BBC Alba** – [www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba)
- **Comhairle nan Leabhraichean** - [www.gaelicbooks.net](http://www.gaelicbooks.net) - 0141 337 6211



# Explore Gaelic

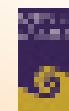
A mini guide to the Gaelic language in Scotland



[www.cnag.org.uk](http://www.cnag.org.uk)



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## Background to Gaelic

Gaelic is the traditional language of the Gaels, and the historical language of the majority of Scotland. It has been continually spoken in Scotland since around the 4th century BC and is one of Europe's oldest written languages.

The 2001 UK Census showed a total of 58,969 Gaelic speakers in Scotland (1.2% of population over three years old). The numbers of Gaelic speakers declined sharply from 254,415 in 1891 to 58,969 in 2001. Internal migration from Highlands and Islands to Lowlands has resulted in 45% of all Gaelic speakers today normally residing in Lowland, urban Scotland.

The main stronghold of the language continues to be the Western Isles (Na h-Eileanan Siar), where the overall proportion of speakers remains at 61.1%. In recent years however Gaelic has received increased support from local, national and European legislators. Gaelic has now achieved a degree of official recognition with the passage of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act which is regulated by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

## Gaelic Culture

Gaelic is recognised by many Scots, whether or not they speak Gaelic, as being a crucial part of the nation's culture. It has a rich oral and written tradition, having been the language of the bardic culture of the Highland clans for several centuries, and the survival of Gaelic has been therefore a very important factor in Scottish politics.

Gaelic music, song and writing are very popular at home and abroad and there are many festivals - including 'The Royal National Mod' and 'Blas' which celebrate this wealthy tradition. There are also many high quality audio and video recordings of Gaelic music and song available to purchase in music shops and on the web. Why not attend one of the thousands of Gaelic language events held in Scotland throughout the year? See local press and the web for details.

## Education

Gaelic-medium primary education, which commenced in 1985 with two schools at Inverness and Glasgow, has grown to 60 schools throughout Scotland, with over 2000 pupils. Gaelic is also studied at secondary and third level as well as a number of Gaelic preschool groups (cròileagain) scattered throughout the country. Unlike Ireland and Wales, Gaelic is not a compulsory subject in school.

## Gaelic Economy

It is recognised that the use of Gaelic signs not only attracts attention but also has a positive economic benefit to business and the economy. Scottish companies are increasingly using Gaelic in their business and signs. Grants are available from Comunn na Gàidhlig for bilingual usage.

## Gaelic Personal Names and Place Names

Gaelic has a number of personal names, such as Aonghas, Dòmhnall, Mòrag, Coinneach, Eilidh. The most common form of Gaelic surname is, of course, those beginning with mac (Gaelic for son), such as MacGillEathain (MacLean). The female form is nic, so Catherine MacPhee is properly called in Gaelic, Cairtriona Nic a' Phi.

About a thousand years ago, when Gaelic was at its height, it could be heard from Berwickshire to Caithness and from Cape Wrath to the Rhinns of Galloway. It has left its mark above all else, in place names, even in areas including much of lowland Scotland. It has left us with thousands of familiar place names containing scores of Gaelic elements, such as Auch- from achadh, Auchter- from uachdar, Bal- from baile, Dun- from dùn, Inver- from inbhir, Kin- from ceann, and Kil- usually from cill or coille.

## Learn Gaelic

Reasons why you might want to learn Gaelic...

- Better communication with the whole family and community
- Increased awareness of other languages and cultures
- Makes learning other languages easier
- Enhanced Employment opportunities

There are various types of classes and courses available throughout Scotland as well as many excellent books and websites offering Gaelic tuition. You can find a course near you by searching on the internet ([www.learn-gaelic.info](http://www.learn-gaelic.info)) or by getting in touch with one of the contacts below.

## Contacts

- **Comunn na Gàidhlig** - National Gaelic Development Agency  
[www.cnag.org.uk](http://www.cnag.org.uk) - 01463 234138
- **Bòrd na Gàidhlig (Alba)** - The national Gaelic Agency  
[www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk) - 01463 225454
- **Clì Gàidhlig** - The Gaelic access and promotion organisation  
[www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk) - 01463 226710
- **Fèisean nan Gàidheal** - National Assoc of Gaelic Arts Youth Tuition  
[www.feisean.org](http://www.feisean.org) - 01478 613355
- **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** - Scotland's Gaelic College  
[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk) - 01471 888000
- **An Comunn Gàidhealach** - Preservation and development of Gaelic  
[www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk) - 01463 231226
- **BBC Alba**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba)
- **Gaelic Books Council**  
[www.gaelicbooks.net](http://www.gaelicbooks.net) - 0141 337 6211



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# Rannsaich a' Ghàidhlig

Gèarr-iùil air cànan Gàidhlig na h-Alba



[www.cnag.org.uk](http://www.cnag.org.uk)



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