



MY FUTURE CONVENTION

Graeme High School, Falkirk

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CAREERS IN TRANSLATION & INTERPRETING

- What does a Translator/Interpreter do and key skills
- My qualifications and career path
- Have a go at interpreting and look at levels of language
- In-house or freelance
- What employers want
- Interpreters at work



WHAT ARE INTERPRETING/ TRANSLATING?

- Transfer meaning
- Translation = **written text**
- Interpreting = **spoken words**
 - consecutive, simultaneous, chuchotage
 - sign language (**BSL**)
- Diversify
 - Subtitling
 - Transcribing
 - Sight translation
 - Transcreation



KEY SKILLS FOR INTERPRETERS

- Languages
- Articulate
- React & respond in real time
- Impartiality
- Preparation
- Good research skills



KEY SKILLS FOR TRANSLATORS

- Languages
 - Source and target
 - Writing skills
- Research & analysis
- Meticulous, eye for detail
- Subject matter expertise



1

O-Grades (Nat 5):
English, Maths, Arithmetic,
French, German, Latin,
Geography, Chemistry

2

Highers:
English, French, German,
Maths, Geography
6th Year:
SYS (Advanced Higher)
French, Higher Biology, O-
Grade **Italian**, SCOTVEC
shorthand

3

BA (Hons) Marketing with
Modern Languages
(French & Spanish) at
Strathclyde University

4

DSPI – Diploma in Public
Service Interpreting
(French - Scottish Law)
Joined Institute of
Translation & Interpreting
(ITI)

MY QUALIFICATIONS



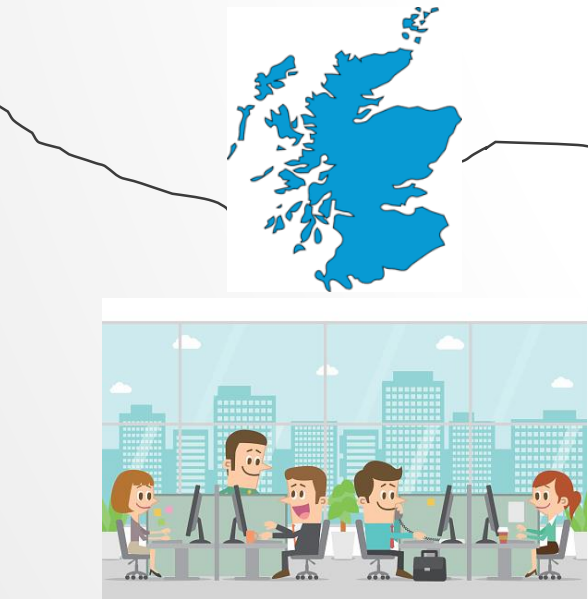
In France:

TEFL at Chamber of Commerce
Sales Office Administrator



In Scotland:

European Order Desk
Project Management (PRINCE2)
Process Improvement (Six Sigma)



Parent:

New skills
Changed priorities



Freelance
Interpreter/Translator:

- Business correspondence
- Websites
- Contracts



MY CAREER PATH



LEARNING TO INTERPRET

- Consecutive interpreting
- Introduction to simultaneous
 - English – English
 - Start 1 or 2 seconds after the speaker
 - Copy their tone of voice (serious or happy)
- Start with short dialogues and build up concentration
- Practise regularly (news, politicians)



INTERPRETING PRACTICE

- Have a go at these activities speaking/interpreting “simultaneously”



- English to English

- https://www.ted.com/talks/lydia_machova_the_secrets_of_learning_a_new_language?language=en#t-210381



- French to English

- <https://www.newsinslowfrench.com/series/news/16300>



‘L’ACCENT DU
PAYS OÙ L’ON
EST NÉ, DEMEURE
DANS L’ESPRIT ET
DANS LE CŒUR,
COMME DANS
LE LANGAGE.’

ROCHEFOUCAULD, 1679.

“The accent of the country where one was born remains in the mind and in the heart, as in the language.”

Google Translate

- Basic linguist: “eh?”
- Level 1: Recognise some words, don’t understand what it means.
- Level 2: Can translate word for word, possibly needing a dictionary, but would not be guaranteed to understand the sense or meaning.
- Level 3: Reflects both the sense and the detail of the quote, given time.
- Level 4: Can quickly achieve something similar to the accepted translation, *‘The accent of one’s birthplace lingers in the mind and in the heart as it does in one’s speech.’*
- Level 5 (professional linguist): ‘Once a Yorkshireman, always a Yorkshireman’ (in an appropriate context), to convey a culturally relevant idiom in English, rather than just a direct translation.



WHAT NEEDS TRANSLATED?

WHO NEEDS AN INTERPRETER?

- Books
- Websites
- Press releases
- Contracts
- Certificates
- Medical reports
- Media (newspapers, tweets, posts)
- Politicians, footballers, celebrities
- Conferences
- Business meetings
- Courtrooms and police
- Hospitals and doctors
- NGOs (humanitarian)
 - Médecins Sans Frontières and Translators Without Borders



IN-HOUSE OR FREELANCE

- In-house
(employed by translation agency):
 - Learn from more experienced colleagues
 - Employer who finds work for you to do and pays you a regular wage
 - You negotiate your terms with your employer: pay, holidays, working from home, pension
 - More security, regular work and pay
- Freelance
(self-employed):
 - Work on your own, for direct clients or for agencies
 - Find your own clients through marketing and networking
 - You agree the price with each client, take holidays when it suits you, work when and where you like
 - More flexibility
- Self-employment is becoming more popular
- Other freelance/self-employment opportunities: hobbies; skills; trades; interests...
- Business Studies: marketing; book-keeping; presentations; business plan



WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT – EXAMPLE FROM UEFA

Profile

The English Translator and Editor is responsible for editing texts written in English by native and non-native speakers and providing translations from French and German into English that meet the quality requirements of UEFA's various divisions, in accordance with UEFA's corporate image and within the given deadlines.

Purpose

- Translating from French and German into English;
- Editing texts written in English by native and, predominantly, non-native speakers;
- Proofreading;
- Coordinating assignments for the English section with the other English translators, including liaising with internal clients and external translators;
- Contributing to UEFA's English style guide;
- Providing ad hoc linguistic support to internal clients;
- Maintaining a good knowledge of UEFA's activities;
- Working with SDL Trados Studio tools.



WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT – EXAMPLE FROM UEFA

Experience required:

- from 4 to 6 years / experience as an in-house and/or freelance English translator working from French and German
- from 4 to 6 years / experience and preferably training in editing and proofreading

Education:

- Masters MA in translation or equivalent, ideally with editing component

Languages:

- English / Native speaker
- French / Proficient
- German / Proficient

Additional requirements:

- Experience of computer-assisted translation tools (SDL Trados Studio)
- MS Office / Advanced



SOME INTERPRETERS AT WORK



SOME INTERPRETERS AT WORK



WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY

- 'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages opens every door along the way.' *Frank Smith*
- 'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.' *Nelson Mandela*





GOOD LUCK!

BON COURAGE!

¡MUCHA SUERTE!

