



ITIA BULLETIN

April 2008

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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

The Irish language has been holding its own in the E.U. for over a year now. As detailed in the article below, a dedicated team are working to give our language a strong position in the E.U. We cannot fault Europe for their stance with regard to this language. If Irish is to regain a strong position within our country, more time and consideration needs to be given to it at local level. How can we convince our compatriots that Irish is not a waste of time and needs to be revived for the sake of our culture? How can the Irish language become more integrated into our daily lives?

Enjoy!

Elizabeth Hayes
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■ New stenography system in The Courts

Big changes are afoot in the Courts. The old stenography system is being replaced by a new Digital Audio Recording system which will record proceedings in courtrooms nationwide. The contract for the work was awarded to *Merrill Legal* in partnership with *Fujitsu*. Merrill Legal recently acquired Wordwave who have offices in Dublin.

Initial implementation of the system will be on a pilot basis in a small number of courtrooms starting in March. The pilot will be followed by an extensive implementation programme which will see the rollout of the system to all courtrooms around the country.

On completion, proceedings in all courtrooms will be recorded providing an accurate record of evidence, which can then be accessed for the preparation of transcripts or for playback within the courtroom or elsewhere.

Merrill Legal has been advertising for graduate level editors for transcribing the material.

Rolling out the system has not been without problems as in mid-April a judge requested that Wordwave apologise to defendants whose sentencing was postponed due to delays in receiving transcripts that had

been ordered. The judge, Mr. Justice Paul Carney, compared the new system unfavourably with the system that had been in place before, "The failure to deliver the overnight transcripts to me is something that never happened before when Gwen Malone Stenography Services Limited was in charge of them in this court".

Time will tell how effective this new system is and whether it has any repercussions on the work of court interpreters.

■ ITIA Submission to Oireachtas Committee

The Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2008 (produced by the *Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights*) contains six references to interpreters and the proviso that they be provided 'where necessary and practicable'.

Interpreters are to be provided on entry into the State, for consultations with solicitors, at interview stage and at the Tribunal. Basically the Bill would maintain the current provisions regarding interpreters in the asylum process. It is up to individual members of the *Garda National Immigration Bureau* (GNIB), the *Garda*, and the *Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner* (ORAC) to make a decision about the need for an interpreter. The ITIA have submitted a response to this bill. To view this response, go to http://translatorsassociation.ie/component/option,com_docman/task,cat_view/gid,28/Itemid,16/

■ Judge refuses payment to unsatisfactory interpreter

Judge Mary Fahy of Galway District Court recently refused to certify an interpreter for payment for the reason that she felt the interpreter was not doing a satisfactory job. The Polish interpreter was interpreting for a Polish man who had pleaded guilty to drink driving. The judge noted that the interpreter had not interpreted the breath sample reading.

Judge Fahy said that during her 15 years on the bench she had only ever made one formal complaint about an interpreter and she said she would be dictating a letter of complaint again to Lionbridge about the interpreter present in court.

■ Sign Language Interpreters at risk

A recent study carried out by the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York shows that sign language interpreting is one of the highest-risk professions for ergonomic injury. The research indicates that interpreting causes more physical stress to the extremities than high-risk tasks conducted in industrial settings, including assembly line work. It also found a direct link between an increase in the mental and cognitive stress of the interpreter and an increase in the risk of musculoskeletal injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis. In developing its findings, the RIT team studied a group of interpreters and measured the physical impact of signing over a fixed time period, utilizing metrics developed for industrial settings. The team found that wrist velocity and acceleration during interpreting, factors used to measure physical impact, were more acute than the high risk limits for industrial workers. In addition, an increase in mental and cognitive stress led to a 15-19 percent increase in wrist velocity and acceleration during interpreting.

■ Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association. There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Concession (undergraduate & senior citizen)
- ◆ Honorary

Ordinary membership is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

Corporate membership is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *concession* membership is for undergraduate students engaged in third level language and/or translation studies and senior citizens. Finally, *honorary* membership is intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field.

For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at: www.translatorsassociation.ie

■ Career Questions

ANGELIKA MEITZ IS A WEXFORD-BASED FREELANCE TRANSLATOR WITH 18 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. AS A NATIVE GERMAN SPEAKER, SHE TRANSLATES FROM ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH INTO GERMAN. SHE IS A PROFESSIONAL MEMBER OF THE ITIA.

1. Describe a typical working day.

I don't really have a routine. My activities for the day depend on the projects I am working on, which can be very varied indeed. But first thing in the morning I usually check and reply to mails. I then prepare a brief schedule with projects for the day and sometimes change projects for the week, as required. The biggest part of the day is given to translation or review work which also includes terminology research, usually online. I sometimes get in contact with subject matter experts if I need in-depth knowledge on a certain topic that's not readily available on the Internet. Most projects will be completed in my office at home but I also do on-site work, for instance quality assurance (QA) for localized software or translations at the customer's place of business if company-specific programmes/tools are required. And no day would be complete without the odd bit of admin and maintenance work, time permitting.

2. Describe the professional pathway that led to your current career.

I graduated from the *Sprachen & Dolmetscher Institut* in Munich, Germany, with a B.A. in Translation Studies (English/Spanish/German). Following that, I got my first employment as a patent executive for a patent attorney's office. The work involved written and oral translation as well as all sorts of trilingual correspondence, was varied and interesting but very tough in view of the workload (deadlines/overtime etc.). After 6 years of hands-on experience in technical translations I decided to set up my own translation agency in Singapore. That was more or less the start of my career as a self-employed translator.

It was very exciting, sometimes daunting and quite demanding because in addition to pure linguistic tasks I also had to cope with all aspects of business management, including budgeting, marketing, customer relations etc. Owing to immigration restrictions in the Asia-Pacific region my overseas time was limited to three years at the end of which I decided to take up employment in Ireland with a multinational IT company, Corel. I then went on to work for Berlitz and Bowne Global Translations before I decided to become self-employed again. I have been working as a

freelance translator in Wexford for 5 years now for a variety of companies from the IT and technical sector in Ireland and abroad.

3. Do you have an area of specialization?

I specialize in technical and IT translations, having worked for major IT companies (both as a staff translator and freelance) for almost 10 years now, and for most projects I use the latest translation software. I translate exclusively from English, Spanish and French into my mother tongue, German. In addition to that, ever since my student days I have had a keen interest in literature and poetry. Therefore, whenever I have time - - which is regrettably increasingly seldom -- I try to get involved in literary projects, for instance in the comparative translation of poetry.

4. What are the main advantages of your job?

I love the flexible time management and the freedom as to what work to accept and what not to accept. The sheer variety of topics that comes my way is also a bonus. It broadens the mind because I am compelled to research subject matters I am sure I would not immerse myself in otherwise. It is truly astonishing how much knowledge you can acquire by way of translating.

5. What are the main disadvantages of your job?

I feel that I spend too much time in front of the computer since all my tasks from translation to admin are fully computerized. Secondly, being a freelance translator can be a lonely job where you pore over texts for hours on time. I do, of course, chat and exchange ideas with colleagues, contact clients etc. Thirdly, on a more business-oriented note: It is hard to strike a balance when it comes to accepting projects and/or deadlines. There are peak times where I am simply overwhelmed with work to the point where I have to turn away clients. And then there are quiet times. But the balance is never right. This can be very stressful. And finally, the most frustrating aspect of freelance work, in particular, is the irregularity of payment. A job completed successfully does not necessarily mean money in the bank. Often enough I have to chase after payments which means extra time spent on a non-productive task.

6. What advice would you give to someone at the beginning of their career?

I think it is essential to get proper training before you start out as a translator/interpreter. Though this is not a prerequisite for a linguistic career, I feel that there is a growing awareness in the market that quality is synonymous with training and experience. Since you obviously won't have much experience at the beginning it is all the more important to get recognition through a

successful course of studies. I would also recommend to try and specialize right from the start. It is better to have one real specialization (yes, even if it's only the one) than to try and cover a lot of subject areas you don't know in-depth. This is particularly important if you translate from or into a major language. If you translate from or into a less common language that in itself might be specialization enough. But it is certainly worth bearing in mind that the market for less common languages is usually much smaller than for major languages. Another point: I don't think it is advisable to start out as a freelance translator/interpreter from the very beginning. A few years of experience as a staff translator/interpreter are indispensable to get to know the industry. It is also a good way to get familiar with the technology that is playing an increasingly important role in our job.

7. What changes have you witnessed in your profession?

In my first job we still used typewriters. There were no translation tools to speak of. All this has changed dramatically. Especially in my field of specialization, technical translations, it is unthinkable today to complete a job without the aid of computer-assisted translation software. The advent of the Internet has revolutionized terminology research. So much information is readily available whereas previously you had to spend entire days in the library doing research. But the excessive supply of information can also be a pitfall if you don't evaluate search results with caution. On a more general note, as the localization industry in particular is expanding rapidly, I find that the fast-paced market also puts more stress on individual translators. Volumes of work are increasing -- which, in itself, is a good thing -- but at the same time deadlines are getting ever tighter. The market has become much more competitive which is also reflected in the going translation rates. Today, you have to increase your output and the speed of your output to stay competitive.

8. How do you see the profession developing?

Globalization is the driving force behind translation. Products and services are distributed all over the world, creating a huge demand and an incredible potential for localization. The industry is also rapidly developing in terms of technology. Translators today need to be computer-literate and keep up-to-date with latest developments or they will find themselves out of a job. Computer-aided translation software has become standard, regardless of specialization. And people are becoming more global as well! I have German colleagues all over the world. In theory, with modern communication technology you can be a freelance

translator anywhere on the globe. There is certainly a lot of potential for professional and individual development but I also foresee a certain risk of marginalization as we are relying more and more heavily on technology.

9. Do you think technology has helped or hindered your earning potential?

Computer-aided translation software has made it possible for me to expand into new fields, like localization and IT. The use of specialised tools also means that I can charge higher rates for my services. On the other hand, since software is being developed and becomes obsolete so fast I am obliged to invest in new technology all the time. Therefore, the bigger earning potential also means higher expenses for software updates. Having said this, it makes sense to invest in translation software that has become industry standard, like Trados. On the other hand, it is sometimes an advantage to work with non-standard software if it means that you can secure interesting and well-paid projects for which that specific software is needed. Apart from translation software, nowadays it is indispensable for translators to spend money on a PC with at least standard applications and modern communication equipment and these needs to be up-to-date as well. On the whole, I think the potential created by technology is balanced by the higher expenses involved in maintaining it.

10. How could standards be improved?

I think it is important to introduce compulsory training/certification for translators and interpreters. Not everybody who can speak two or more languages is necessarily qualified to translate or interpret. When I say compulsory, I mean that anybody who claims to be a translator or interpreter should have completed a recognised training course to prove this. Of course, this approach will not prevent untrained individuals -- who do not even claim to be professional translators -- from offering translation services. But it might change the way our profession is perceived. I feel that the general lack of recognition is a real problem. When I applied for my first job the HR manager made me recite my educational background and then had the cheek to ask whether I had "actually learned a profession"! Many people -- and this includes prospective clients as well -- do not perceive translation/interpretation as a profession but more like a service that any bilingual individual can render. Somewhat contradictorily to that, there is a growing awareness that quality is somehow related to training and experience. If we could manage to increase this awareness and change the way our profession is currently perceived, standards might also

improve. I think the primary aim here would be educational measures, advertising and awareness initiatives by bodies like the ITIA to make potential clients look for professionals to do a professional job.

■ Facebook attempts collaborative translation

The next stage of Internet development is all about user participation and dynamic collaboration. This evolution is known as *Web 2.0* and it is coming to a computer near you (whether you like it or not). Social networking is a central part of Web 2.0 with sites like *MySpace*, *Bebo*, *Digg* and *Facebook* making phenomenal profits.

Facebook is currently being valued at \$15 billion so it is fair to say that the social networking market is alive and well. And yet, for the launch of the non-English versions of the website, the billion dollar company is calling on users to donate their time and energy to translating these sites. Instead of spending money on qualified translators, they spent time developing software to enable collaborative translation. Those who are participating in the project suggest translations for site guidelines and especially terms specific to Facebook that are in tune with local cultures.

The ploy by Facebook has come under much criticism and the website has been slated for stinting on quality and penny-pinching. While I am delighted to report that quality has indeed been patchy, I am not convinced that saving money was the motivation for the collaborative translation technique (known in the industry as 'crowd-sourcing'). While Facebook is currently a market leader in social networking, there are more sites coming online all the time and competition is fierce. To maintain their strength in the market, Facebook is forging a reputation as a cool, trendy team-player. We only have to look at the success of Google to see how successful this can be as a marketing strategy.

Furthermore, this is not the first time amateur translators have collaborated for no rewards. In the world of open source software, collaborative translations are par for the course for obvious reasons. Also, remember how various illegal translations of the Harry Potter series appeared online before the official translations were released. In this case, fans got together online to produce translations of the English version in a matter of weeks if not days. In the process, online communities are formed and those participating really feel part of it.

The real question for all of us in the T/I world is does quality suffer? The simple answer appears to be yes. On the Facebook forum for the translators, there are many complaints about the quality of the languages that have been released already - French and Spanish. One person commented on the Spanish translation, "I don't want to be mean, but the translation to Spanish is horrible. There are many mistakes, and some of them are not only grammatically incorrect, but also badly spelled. For example: **ase dos horas** instead of **hace dos horas**." There are several complaints about the quality of the French version also. This is perhaps not surprising as the people who are interested in this project are often young and frequent MSN users who see no problem in bringing text speak to a professional website. While the damage from the poor translation can be easily fixed by employing professional translators, the damage to Facebook's reputation may prove longer lasting as many users attack their approach as amateur and exploitative.

Elizabeth Hayes

■ Irish Language Department in the European Commission

Since independence in 1922, Irish government policy has been to keep the Irish language from dying out. The policy has been successful, although governments have been less successful in making it the language of habitual use in Ireland, despite it being a compulsory school subject. As a result, truly native speakers number only in the tens of thousands, most of whom live in isolated areas along the western seaboard, these areas being collectively known as the *Gaeltacht* (population in 2006 census: 91 862, of whom 60% speak Irish on a daily basis).

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out next month. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to

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These bald numbers do not tell the full story, however. According to the 2006 census, 29.7% of the population aged three years and over regard themselves as having competent Irish, although true ability probably varies in this group. Irish-medium schools are increasingly popular, however, and it is hoped that new generations of school children taught mostly through Irish will help to ensure the language's survival and expansion into the future. The *Official Languages Act of 2003* has made Irish more visible in terms of its official use by State bodies. More recently, in December 2006 the Irish government announced a 20-year strategy to help Ireland become a fully bilingual country. This involves a 13 point plan to encourage use of the language in all aspects of life. It has to be said that this strategy joins a long series of similar, unsuccessful strategies, so it is too early to say how successful this latest one will be.

Perhaps emboldened by moves at home to improve the status of Irish in official circles, a grass-roots lobby began to campaign in the early years of this decade for Irish to be made an official EU language. When Ireland joined the Community back in 1973 the Irish government decided – rightly or wrongly - to request only Treaty status for the language, meaning that only primary legislation (Treaties and Acts of Accession) had to be translated into Irish. Public lobbying paid off and in 2004 the Irish government officially asked that Irish be given full official status. The Council of Ministers unanimously agreed and Irish was made an official EU language from 1st January 2007.

An interinstitutional competition was launched by EPSO in May 2006 to establish a reserve list of Irish language translators. The competition went well, although it was obvious that the reserve list would not be ready in time for recruits to be in place by the 1st January 2007, so the DGT made efforts to recruit a small number of translators on a temporary basis. Unfortunately, complications outside the DGT's control meant that only one translator (Cora de Paor) was in a position to begin work on 2nd January 2007. Over the following months the little translation team increased in number to reach the dizzying heights of.... five!

Although the translation of Commission web pages into Irish is not yet a legal requirement, the DGT is very conscious of the power of the Web in communicating with EU citizens. So a seconded national expert (Seán Ó Riain) was recruited to the web unit last September, to ensure an Irish presence there. The volume of work has been rather higher than expected, so in addition to the professional and dedicated work of the Irish team, outsourcing has been of great support. The unit has

worked very hard to provide detailed feedback to freelance colleagues and this approach has paid off handsomely: the quality of the freelance translations has improved immensely.

So what of the future? The Treaty of Lisbon if ratified will extend the codecision procedure and the EU will also gain responsibility for a broad range of new policy areas formerly dealt with at national level. This has implications for all of the DGT's language departments, but none more so than the little Irish unit, which will have to cope with a much increased workload.

THIS ARTICLE IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF A FEATURE BY DONAL CAREY WHICH APPEARS IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF DGTINFO, THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR TRANSLATION.

■ ITIA Launches Continuing Professional Development Courses

The Irish Translators and Interpreters Association is pleased to announce that two seminars will be offered by Nataly Kelly, a Boston-based language industry consultant.

Many public services in Ireland are using telephone interpreting more and more. Examples include the Garda (who have just commenced a tender process for a telephone interpreting provider), hospitals, International Organisation for Migration, Refugee Legal Services and the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Telephone Interpreting can seem an attractive option because it is fast and anonymous. However, there are issues around confidentiality if the interpreter takes a call in a public place. Also, some calls are very long and it may be difficult for the interpreter to maintain concentration and quality.

The event will take place on Saturday, 17th May 2008 at the Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (Reading Room, first floor).

There will be two sessions:

- ◆ Session 1 for interpreters from 10.30 -12
- ◆ Session II for Government Service Providers and commercial vendors of interpreting services from 2 - 3.30.

Those interested are welcome to attend both sessions.

■ Renowned translator dies

Robert Fagles, renowned translator of the classics has died at the age of 74. His versions of Homer and Virgil were unlikely best sellers and became fixtures on classroom reading lists. Mr. Fagles translated Aeschylus and Sophocles, among other authors, but he is most famous for his versions of “*The Iliad*” published in 1990; “*The Odyssey*” in 1996; and “*The Aeneid*” which came out in 2006.

Fagles, an American, said he had never planned to tackle the big three of classical literature. He began by setting himself some smallish tasks of translation, just as an exercise. His first published translation, of the Greek poet Bacchylides, came out in 1961, and it was followed by versions of “*The Oresteia*” by Aeschylus, and of Sophocles’ three Theban plays (“*Antigone*” “*Oedipus the King*” and “*Oedipus at Colonus*”) before he felt ready to take on the epics. To get through them, he remarked later, required a “lot of nerve and a lot of luck.” He also said he couldn’t decide which of the epics was his favourite. Some days were Iliadic, he said — you felt you were in a war — and some were more like the Odyssey, when all you wanted to do was go home. But “*The Aeneid*” he said, had proved to be unexpectedly timely and relevant, describing it as “a tale of exhortation.”

■ Conference Report

A congress aimed at the creation of a European community interpreting and translation services network took place in Brussels on the 6th and 7th of March. The congress was organised by the Brussels-based organisation COFETIS-FOSOVET which is recognised for carrying out important lobbying work at a European level to promote public awareness of trained community interpreters and to ensure that reliable community interpreters are available throughout Belgium. There was a broad range of associations representing the community interpreting sector including translation agencies, representatives of community interpreter centres and public bodies as well as freelance interpreters representing the following countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. The presentations were concerned with the current community interpretation services on offer in the aforementioned European countries. The Irish community interpreting report was presented by Mary Phelan, PRO ITIA, Diana Nacu,

from the School Mediation Project and Ulrike Fuehrer from Context.

It was a very intensive Congress which was broken up into smaller working groups. The working groups were facilitated by Michael Baumgartner from Swiss partner INTERPRET and Mary Phelan from the ITIA.

Together, we started to define the European network; we discussed the objectives and activities of such a network and its potential future activities such as exchange of best practices, thematic meetings, research and publications, tools for raising awareness, training sessions, terminological lists, lobbying, code of ethics and other future tasks.

In this section I will highlight the Finnish experience, as I believe it may be considered a best practice to follow. Anna Sahanan, from the Finnish group of experts on Community Interpreting, referred to the experiences of the Helsinki Region community interpreting centre and another seven municipal community interpreter centres in Finland. In Finland there is a Community Interpreter Qualification Committee appointed by the National Board of Education that monitors the planning and implementation of the further qualifications of community interpreters. The interpreters' profession is governed by ethical rules drawn up by international interpreters' organisations.

Between 1992 and 1994, the number of refugees and asylum seekers together with the re-immigration of Ingermanland Finns from the former Soviet Union had an impact on the demand for community interpreters in Finland as various municipalities received asylum seekers. The first community interpreter centres were set up as a commercial enterprise. Currently, they have a total of eight local community interpreter centres in Finland. Currently, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Employment to ensure the integration of immigrants and the reception of asylum seekers, but each town is responsible for providing the interpretation and translation services for refugees and asylum seekers. The community interpreter centres employ administrative and clerical staff as well as interpreters; they also provide freelance translators with assignments.

The community interpreter centres offer interpretation/translation in more than 60 languages. The most important minority languages in Finland are from outside Europe: Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, Somali and Vietnamese. The most commonly used European languages in community interpreting are Russian, Albanian, Bosnian, Serbo-Croatian, Estonian, French

and Turkish. Professional skills must be demonstrated and the training for community interpreting was established by the further education centres of universities. Until now universities offered combined training in translation and interpretation but the emphasis is now on translation. Regarding the future in Finland, the National Group of Experts in Legal and Community Training, was set up in January 2008, which receives funding from the Ministry of Education. Its aim is to produce a report on the status of the community interpreting sector in Finland and to determine a basis for a joint working group of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice in order to standardise the education and training of interpreters.

Another presentation, which was very useful, was presented by Kulwant Manku from the Coventry Interpretation and Translation Unit (CITU) in the UK. They provide services in more than 40 languages and organise training sessions for interpreters and for service users about how to work effectively with the interpreters. They ensure that the interpreter understands the code of practice for interpreters. Practitioners and interpreters can share their experience with other interpreters. He explained that those local authorities in the UK that fail to use an interpreter where such a service should be provided may be failing to fulfil their statutory duty by not providing adequate interpretation services thus undermining the subject's right to be able to understand what is being said to or with regard to them, and also their right to make their views, preferences and choices known.

Also highlighted was the importance of providing our social and public servants and clients with adequate, linguistically diverse and well-trained translators and interpreters. Currently, there is a lack of regulation within the sector and the working groups were a useful exercise towards understanding current needs, possible improvements and how to make this network a reality. Through the experiences presented in Brussels I learned that the qualifications and requirements demanded vary, that the profession of community interpreter must be recognised, and that a European quality standard for community interpreting is essential. The conclusions and recommendations on the creation of the network will be posted on the COFETIS website within the next few weeks.

MIREN-MAIALEN SAMPER HOLDS A POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION IN COMMUNITY INTERPRETING (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY INTERPRETING) BY DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY AND IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE ITIA INTERPRETING SUB-COMMITTEE.

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

Postgraduate Studentships

Two-year Masters studentships and four-year PhD awards available. See below for details.
New closing date is 16th May 2008.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

The Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) would like to invite suitably qualified graduates to apply for the unique two-year Masters studentships available at the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester. The studentships will start in September 2008 and will cover tuition fees and an annual stipend.

For September 2008 entry, there are a total of 5 two-year Masters studentships available at the three Universities. The two-year Masters degree in Arab World Studies comprises 8 months in Edinburgh dedicated to intensive study of the Arabic language and training in research methods followed by 4 months at an approved institution in the Arab world. Students will be based in their primary institution for the second year of the degree. Masters students enrolled at Durham University will have the opportunity to apply for additional funding (+3 PhD) after successful completion of the two-year Masters. There is also one four-year PhD award (either track described below) available at Durham. In addition to the Masters studentships available, Manchester University invites suitably qualified graduates to apply for 3 four-year PhD awards. The PhD awards will follow either of the following tracks: (1) one year of intensive language training for students already holding a research-based Masters plus a three-year PhD; (2) one-year Research-based Masters for those already proficient in Arabic plus a three year PhD.

Applicants must apply through one of the three universities mentioned above. This university will be known as the student's primary institution. Further information on application procedures and regulations can be obtained by contacting the respective university's postgraduate office. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be UK citizens or EU citizens who have completed three years' residency in the UK (not for studying purposes). For further details on eligibility requirements, please see

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/>

[UPDATED%20Postgraduate%20Funding%20Guide%20Aug%2007_tcm6-12067.pdf](#).

Applicants for CASAW studentships should also send the following supporting documents to the postgraduate office of the University to which they are applying, before 16th May 2008:

- ◆ Covering letter
- ◆ CV
- ◆ 2 References - please ask two referees to send references directly to the postgraduate office
- ◆ Prospective PhD students should include a 3000-word proposal describing the research they plan to undertake.

If you have any further queries about the application procedure, please contact the CASAW Administrator. The respective University's websites are as follows:

Edinburgh

To download a postgraduate application form, see the webpage:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applications/forms.html>

Manchester

The University of Manchester encourages on-line applications and this is our preferred method of application:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply/>

PhD FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES 2008-9

Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies, School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, University of Manchester, UK

The School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures is offering 6 Graduate Teaching Fellowships and 7 PhD fee bursaries for PhD students starting in September 2008. Applicants wishing to do PhDs in translation, interpreting or intercultural studies are eligible to apply for the fee bursaries and for Graduate Teaching Fellowships in German, Arabic, Spanish, Film Studies or Greek (0.5). Please note that applicants for the Graduate Teaching Fellowships MUST have relevant teaching experience.

- ◆ The deadline for applications for the Graduate Teaching Fellowships is 16th May 2008.
- ◆ The deadline for applications for the fee bursaries is 27th June 2008.

For further details and application forms see: <http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/ctis/postgraduate/funding/>

The TRANSLATION-STUDIES list is archived at:

<http://listserv.manchester.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa?A0=TRANSLATION-STUDIES>

Graduate Certificate in Community Interpreting - Russian/Romanian

Dublin City University has been running the Graduate Certificate in Community Interpreting since 2004. We have trained interpreters who speak French, Spanish, Russian and Polish. In September we plan to train interpreters who speak Romanian or Russian. This is the only accredited training course for interpreters in Ireland. It is a one semester (twelve week) course with classes taught on Thursday evenings and on Saturdays to ensure that people who are working can attend.

The modules covered are Introduction to Interpreting, Ethics, Terminology and Interpreting Practice. The last module is particularly important because it gives interpreters an opportunity to practise working Romanian-English-Romanian or Russian-English-Russian and to receive feedback on their performance. We use authentic material from the district courts and garda stations for roleplays.

The course is excellent preparation for anyone who already works or wishes to work as an interpreter in hospitals, with GPs, in garda stations and the lower courts.

More information email mary.phelan@dcu.ie or visit

http://www.dcu.ie/prospective/deginfo.php?classname=GCCl&originating_school=61

Course: Introduction to Interpreting

If you are interested in starting a course in interpreting, or considering it as a possible career path, but you are not sure whether it is for you, then consider attending the next short course organised by the University of Salford on the 5th and 6th of June.

The short course, entitled 'Introduction to Interpreting', aims to show participants what interpreting is, to get them to try out simultaneous, liaison and consecutive modes of interpreting, in a supportive and friendly environment.

The course is particularly suited to those who would like to try it out before committing themselves to this career, or to a longer more expensive course. Information and registration details are available on our website: www.languages.salford.ac.uk/scti.php

■ Employment

Are you passionate about languages?

Are you results-driven and ambitious? Do you want to play a key role in growing a successful business in a young and dynamic start-up environment?

Company

Nova language solutions Ltd. is a lean, professional, quality-driven language service provider that aims to become the benchmark for localisation and translation into English. We are based in the Rubicon Centre in Cork and are currently recruiting for the following position:

Position

- ◆ • English Translator/Editor

Profile

- ◆ • English as native language
- ◆ • Excellent German, with good French a distinct advantage
- ◆ • Clear, accurate and meticulous writing style
- ◆ • Familiar with Microsoft Office applications and open to learning new technologies
- ◆ • Ability to handle stress and work to tight deadlines
- ◆ • Proactive, highly motivated and ambitious

Tasks

- ◆ • Translate, edit and proof IT-related material into English
- ◆ • Perform spot checks on work completed by freelance translators
- ◆ • Project coordination

Benefits

- ◆ • Competitive salary for the right candidate
- ◆ • Continuous training
- ◆ • Excellent scope for career development

Deadline for submission of applications is May 15th, 2008. To apply, please forward your CV with salary expectations and cover letter to [s.healy\(a\)novallanguagesolutions.com](mailto:s.healy(a)novallanguagesolutions.com)

■ Conferences

Mediterranean Editors and Translators Meeting 2008: Communication Support Across the Disciplines

University of Split, Split, Croatia, 11th-13th September 2008

10th September: Pre-meeting workshop on corpus-guided editing and translation

The preliminary program of METM 08 including abstracts of the plenary lectures, training workshops and a list of accepted presentations has now been posted on the website. The program is still open and we welcome proposals related to promising practices and research at the writing-editing-translation-publishing interface. The focus will be on professional disciplines that communicate knowledge internationally through English. For more information on the call for proposals, please visit www.metmeetings.org/?section=metm08_call.

Registration forms are also now posted (early registration deadline 31st July). Early planning is advised, as Split is a popular holiday destination. Details regarding travel and accommodation can be found at http://www.metmeetings.org/?section=metm08_local_info. In addition to the annual meeting, MET runs a workshop program in Barcelona, see <http://www.metmeetings.org/?section=workshops>

Note: MET's guidelines for clients have just been published and we welcome feedback on their usability. See <http://www.metmeetings.org/?section=guidelines>

ITIA

ITIA

■ Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

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ITIA BULLETIN

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
- ◆ *Joining the ITIA*
- ◆ *Ordinary Membership Application*
- ◆ *Professional Membership Application*
- ◆ *Database Entry*
- ◆ *Code of Practice*
- ◆ *Background Information*
- ◆ *Translation Services in Ireland*
- ◆ *Admission Criteria*
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