MODERN LANGUAGES, TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

The University of Westminster has a rich portfolio of postgraduate courses in modern languages and cultures.

The Specialised Translation MA and the Translation and Interpreting MA focus on professional skills, leading directly into careers in the translation and interpreting industry. The International Liaison and Communication MA focuses on liaison, negotiation and intercultural communication.

Our postgraduate courses are delivered by highly skilled professionals in the field of translation, interpreting and international liaison. Their practice-led approach is complemented by theory informed lectures and seminars, taught by academics, whose research lies in the field of translation studies, intercultural communication and cultural studies.

The Specialised Translation MA and Translation and Interpreting MA have been awarded the prestigious European Masters in Translation (EMT) status.
Our Diploma in Translation (DipTrans) preparation course aims to support students in working towards the Diploma in Translation exam. It is delivered in a ‘blended learning’ mode and comprises a series of Saturday workshops throughout the year as well as regular online translation assignments.

The DipTrans is the oldest professional qualification of its kind, widely recognised by employers in the UK and around the world, and is intended for working translators and for those who wish to embark on a career in professional translation. It is a postgraduate-level professional qualification offered by the Institute of Linguists Educational Trust (IoET).

Who is the course for?
Our Diploma in Translation preparation course is for you if you:
- are a native speaker of the target language (the language you will be translating into in the exam)
- have degree-level (or equivalent) proficiency in the language you will be translating from in the exam
- want to gain a professional qualification to embark on a career in translation

Course content
Our Diploma in Translation preparation course runs for one calendar year and gradually builds your translation competence to exam level. From January to May and again from September to December, you will be attending monthly on-site workshops, which will cover important translation and exam basics as well as topics such as effective subject research and terminology management, text analysis for translation purposes, translation and revision strategies and, towards the end of the year, targeted exam skills training. Each of these topical sessions will be followed by language-specific sessions with your translation tutor*. In addition, you will, throughout the year, complete a monthly translation assignment online and will receive tailored feedback on your translations from your designated translation tutor.

You will learn to:
- analyse and assess a variety of texts or text types in the source and target language
- apply practical translation skills to the standard required of a newly qualified translator
- explain and justify translation solutions
- carry out cultural and lexical research relevant to a variety of topics

Teaching methods
The course is taught through a combination of on-site workshops and online translation assignments, on which you will receive individual written feedback. Our lecturers use a variety of both face-to-face and distance learning methods to equip you with the skills needed to further your translation skills, such as:
- sight translation
- group translation
- text analysis for translation purposes
- strategy discussion
- individual written feedback on translation assignments
- discussion of research methods for translation purposes
- glossary building and editing
- analysis of past exam papers and reports

There will also be a mock exam in October to prepare you for the January Diploma in Translation exams. Before enrolling on the course, all candidates are required to pass an admissions test. More information can be found on our course page: westminster.ac.uk/diptrans

Exam
The DipTrans exam takes place every January. The University of Westminster is one of several exam centres for the Diploma in Translation. It is important that you are aware that the DipTrans exam fee is not included in the preparation course fee. You will need to register for the DipTrans exam independently of taking the course. You can also register for the Diploma in Translation exam without having taken a preparatory course.

For more information on taking the DipTrans exam at Westminster, see westminster.ac.uk/study/language-tests/diploma-in-translation-exams

Cancellations
Please also note that all classes are subject to sufficient enrolment. Each course needs to recruit a minimum number of students in order to run. In the event of a class cancellation due to insufficient numbers of students registering, you will be informed in advance and you will receive a full refund of the fees paid for the course.

Languages subject to annual confirmation

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/diptrans

This is a dynamic, pioneering interdisciplinary Masters course which meets the global demand for greater professionalism in interpersonal and inter-institutional bilingual communication.

The course will focus on enhancing your personal skills as a communicator and facilitator of communication. This can be as an advocate, as a mediator, communication strategist, intermediary or communication facilitator. Firmly grounded on the latest international communications theories and using real life simulations, you will learn to locate and analyse resources, pre-empt communications challenges and develop strategies to overcome obstacles to successful interaction.

The course will enrich your knowledge and application of the key paradigms of international communication, information handling and presentation in a range of contexts in the fields of cultural diplomacy, international media, international business, and international NGOs, among others. It also enhances your competencies in handling information across and between languages and cultures, in various professional settings.

You will have the training and preparation to make significant contributions in your chosen profession.

Course applicants typically come from fields such as language studies, translation and interpreting, social work, teaching, journalism and other areas of the media as well as from public office. However, the course will prove invaluable to anyone with high-level bilingual competence and experience in mediation between peoples from different cultural backgrounds.

Course content
You will take four core modules, three of which are taught and the fourth is research-based. Theories and Practice of Global Communication covers the key underpinning knowledge and analytical tools for the programme as well as your abilities as a bilingual presenter of information. Intercultural Communication examines the influence of culture on our own values and behaviours and the ways we communicate with others. International Liaison focuses on your practical bilingual communication competences.

In the research component you have the choice of an MA Thesis (the Dissertation module), conducting research into a topic of your choice, or a Professional Project where you apply your knowledge and expertise to creating a communication strategy. In both you are required to demonstrate research competence at Masters level. You then have the choice of three option modules to complete the MA.

Core modules
- Intercultural Communication
- International Liaison
- Professional Project OR Dissertation
- Theories and Practice of Global Communication

Option modules
- Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse
- International Organisations and Institutional Discourse
- Migration and Cultural Encounters
- Sociolinguistics
- Values, Beliefs and Media Narratives

Associated careers
Course graduates have gained success in communications-related positions in NGOs, diplomatic missions, international divisions of business and international organisations, as well as achieving a step-change in their original professions.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/international-liaison-and-communication-ma

Location: Central London (see map p.196)
The Specialised Translation MA is open to native and non-native speakers of English, who combine English with any of the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, or Spanish. At the heart of the Specialised Translation MA lie our weekly practical translation classes between English and one of the languages listed.

If you are studying the Specialised Translation MA with English and one other language, you will also be attending modules that introduce you to computer-assisted translation, revision, editing, postediting, quality assurance, and project management skills for translators. If you are a native speaker of English and would like to study translation with two of the above languages, you can elect to replace the Computer-assisted Translation, Quality Assurance and Project Management modules with a further two Specialist Translation modules in your second foreign language.

The Specialised Translation MA will prepare you for a career in the translation market. Building on your existing language skills, you will learn how to research specialised subjects to produce, with and without the use of translation memory software tools, commercially usable translations of specialised technical and institutional texts, applying insights drawn from linguistics and translation and interpreting theory as well as from professional practice. All students will also attend a comprehensive programme of professional development activities and will further complement the knowledge and skills acquired on the core and option modules.

You will also complete an MA Thesis or MA Translation Project. Your studies are further supported by weekly lectures on the theoretical concepts and principles of translation, introductory workshops to a range of translation memory tools, guest lectures and workshops delivered by external speakers from industry and international institutions, and a post-graduation mentoring programme.

Course content
The course emphasis is on practical training in translation, developing your skills to a high level and learning about the professional environment. Your core Specialised Translation modules will involve both direct and inverse translation training between English and Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, or Spanish. The majority of your translation assessments, including the final translation exam, will, however, be conducted into your mother tongue only. All students will translate institutional texts (such as economic, political, legal and EU/UN texts) and technical material, and acquire a wide range of additional skills, including career building and professional development skills, through the remaining core and option modules.

You will also complete an MA Thesis or MA Translation Project. Your studies are further supported by weekly lectures on the theoretical concepts and principles of translation, introductory workshops to a range of translation memory tools, guest lectures and workshops delivered by external speakers from industry and international institutions, and a post-graduation mentoring programme.

Core modules
- Specialised Translation 1 & 2
- Computer-assisted Translation*
- Quality Assurance and Project Management for Translators*
- Professional Development
- MA Translation Project or MA Thesis

Option modules
- International Organisations and Institutional Discourse
- Translation as Cultural Practice

Associated careers
Graduates of the Specialised Translation MA go on to work as in-house translators within industry, commerce, international organisations and translation companies, as freelance translators, as translation project managers, or as editors, revisers, proofreaders, terminologists, or specialists in translation tools.

*Native speakers of English studying the Specialised Translation MA with two foreign languages will take Specialised Translation 1 & 2 in their second foreign language instead of Computer-assisted Translation and Quality Assurance and Project Management for Translators.