#DiscoverTranslation

Skills profiles in the language industry

The days when translators worked with a pile of dictionaries on their desk are long gone. Nowadays, they are tech-savvy language professionals, able to work with a range of tools.

Not only that, they are problem-solvers and consultants. Being a successful language professional means so much more than just 'being good at languages' – excellent translating ability is the baseline, fleshed out with a long list of complementary skills. The profile of a typical translator would look like this:

- advanced knowledge and excellent understanding of the language of the original text
- perfect command of and excellent writing skills in their native tongue
- in-depth knowledge of the cultures behind the languages they translate from and into
- in-depth knowledge of the subject matter of the text
- digital literacy, especially in language-related technologies (modern translation tools)
- knowledge of neurolinguistics, for contributing to machine translation systems
- communication and interpersonal skills
- research skills
- business and marketing skills (including branding)
- customer service skills
- curiosity and willingness to learn about new specialist fields
- self-motivation and discipline
- good organisational and time-management skills
- a good general level of education – at least to undergraduate level or equivalent

Translation

Profiles include:

- Translator / editor / proofreader
- Reviser
- Quality assurance specialist
- Technical literature specialist
- Transcreator[1]
- Cultural advisor
- Games/software tester
- Translation workflow manager
- Translation project manager

- Legal translator
- Terminologist
- Localiser
- Audiovisual translator (subtitler/dubber)
- Post-editor of machine translations
- Pre-editor
- Account manager
- Localisation project manager
- Software localisation engineer

So there's more to the language profession than you might think – it's an innovative, dynamic multilingual and multicultural sector, where people use cutting-edge technology on a daily basis. And it offers plenty of opportunities for an exciting career.

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[1] Transceation is translating and 'recreating' the original text in a new language while making sure it is still appropriate in the context for which it is intended. A transcreator must understand the desired outcome thoroughly, and be given the freedom not only to translate the original but also to make significant changes to it in the process. Used in marketing/advertising copy, localising video games or mobile apps.

'Translation all around us'

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A campaign to promote the translation profession to audiences outside the language industry

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