European Master's in Translation (EMT)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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General questions

1. How does the EMT cater for a variety of local contexts in Europe?

In its [EMT competence framework 2022](#) the EMT defines an overall framework for generic and transversal professional competences, but each member can freely choose the way it applies the framework in terms of teaching methods, adjustment to specific environments or response to the distinct needs of their market. For instance, local labour markets may need multilingual operators, audio-visual translators, translators specialising in law and other highly specialised language workers. There may also be a need for combinations of English and a neighbouring language (e.g. Croatian in Slovenia, Russian in Finland or Polish in Lithuania) or for knowledge of languages used outside Europe (e.g. Japanese or Vietnamese). The EMT focuses on the result and the resources, whereas the choice of training methods and procedures remains totally open: distance training, learner-centred teaching, portfolios, simulations, mentoring, etc. The EMT framework does not explicitly define the resources necessary for achieving the objectives of high-quality training, as human, institutional, financial, legal, technical and pedagogical contexts vary among universities and cannot be standardised throughout the EU. However, a minimum level of equipment and infrastructure is needed to pass the evaluation procedure.

2. Why is there a distinction being made in the call for EMT membership between universities in EU Member States and universities in non-EU countries?

Although the EMT is coordinated by DG Translation of the European Commission participation is not limited to universities in the EU alone. Translation study programmes run by universities in certain countries outside the EU are also eligible. If selected for membership, they participate in the activities of the EMT network on the same footing as EU members. The only difference is that non-EU members attend the EMT meetings at their own expense and that they cannot take part in the elections of the EMT Board. The list of eligible countries is available on the [EMT website](#).

3. Is the EMT project intended exclusively to meet the needs of the European institutions or other international institutions?

No. The EMT project has grown out of the rapidly growing need for high-level linguistic services, fuelled by globalisation of the economy, unprecedented technological progress and demographic movements. Additionally, developments in the translation professions and the new impetus towards modernising higher education systems in the framework of the European Strategy for universities require much more cooperation in the field of translator training at European level with a view to satisfying the needs of all key actors operating in the language services sector. The EMT thus includes the needs of international institutions but has relevance beyond them.

4. What is the current role of the European Commission and the Directorate-General for Translation (DGT) in the EMT project?

DGT is the main coordinator of the EMT. It supervises the evaluation procedures for translation programmes applying for membership and takes the final decision regarding the selection of member programmes for the EMT Network.

DGT is providing the secretariat for the EMT network and coordinates the organisation of regular network meetings.

5. Is there a limit to the number of EMT member programme per EU member state?

The EMT does not impose any limit on the number of programmes per country, so any number of higher education translation programmes at Master's level may be selected from a member state, provided they fulfil the admission criteria.

EMT competences

6. How were the five areas of competence defined?

The EMT competence framework 2022 is largely based on the EMT competence profile developed in 2009 by a group of renown translation scholars. This competence profile was reviewed by the members of the EMT network 2014-2019 to take account of the changes in the translation industry that occurred since then. The main objective was to adapt the competence profile to new market developments, new technological developments and changing academic contexts. The areas of competence were defined in consultation with the members of the LIND expert group providing a useful reality check from the language industry point of view.

7. Are there preferred working languages and specialisations for the EMT translation programmes?

No. The EMT does not list working languages, nor does it give preference to particular specialisations. In their diversity, the markets have varying requirements in terms of occupations, specialisation and working languages. It is up to each programme, according to its own objectives, ambitions and resources, to define its areas of specialisation and working languages, and to specify the status it wishes to give e.g., to English (as a working or teaching language). Henceforth, programmes that focus on literary translation or terminology with a view to preparing professional editors or technical writers for the labour market are eligible for the EMT Network membership as long as they fulfil the minimum set of criteria specified in the competence framework.

8. What is the status of research within the EMT framework?

Research is an important element of translation master's programmes (as are Doctoral level programmes affiliated to the same institute) to ensure that students acquire state-of-the-art knowledge about translation theory and practice, as well as insight into research methodologies and working in research teams.

Although research is not one of the five core competences indispensable for EMT membership, it is still recommended that each programme application includes competences in research and other competences considered essential to its graduates' profile, in addition to the minimum set of competences defined in the EMT framework.

EMT selection procedure

9. In which language should applications for the EMT network be submitted?

For organisational reasons, DGT has decided to use the three procedural languages of the European Commission during the evaluation procedure. Therefore, interested parties are asked to complete the forms comprising the application for the EMT Network in German, English or French. However, the supporting documents required may be submitted in the original language, provided that it is an [official language of the EU](). Supporting documents in other languages should be accompanied by a translation into German, English or French.

10. Can a study programme covering both translation and interpretation apply for EMT membership?

Indeed, this is a very common situation across Europe – many programmes do cover both translation and interpretation. The answer is yes, such a programme can apply, but only the translation strand of the programme will be taken into account during the selection process. Applicants should ensure that the information they give in the application form clearly refers to the translation strand.

11. What if a university offers several translation study programmes – should they submit one application for all, or each programme a separate application?

Given the variety of national situations, it is difficult to give precise requirements here. The following elements may help find the right approach:

- If the different programmes that a university offers in the field of translation all lead to the same degree, it may be more efficient to submit a joint application. If the programmes each lead to a different degree, then separate applications should be considered.
- In some cases, the different translation programmes may lead to different degrees, while being based on the same main trunk of courses and modules, differing only in the last part of the training. Here a joint application can be considered. If the programmes only share a small proportion of courses, it is advisable to submit separate applications.

12. Can programmes where translation is not a programme on its own but included as a separate strand also apply?

The EMT is primarily aiming at MA programmes in translation. However, since education systems still differ across Europe, applications from programmes offering translation as a particular strand are not excluded, provided they lead to the acquisition of the EMT

competences. They have to make sure, that the information given in the application only relate to this translation strand. If successful, the EMT label would not be granted to the overarching programme but only to the particular translation strand.

13. The translation study programme for which I would like to apply will be re-organised in the academic year following the EMT selection. Do I apply for the current programme or the new one?

The evaluation of the EMT applications will cover the last five years of the programme concerned, i.e. it will concern the data provided for the current programme.

In the descriptive part of the application (i.e. the open questions concerning the strategies to which you should reply directly on EU Survey) you have the possibility to describe the changes that the new programme will bring.

If successful the EMT label will be granted to the current programme. The EMT label will not be automatically transferred from this programme to the new programme! EMT members have the obligation to notify the EMT Board in writing of all changes that might affect their compliance with EMT requirements. A reorganisation is considered as such a change.
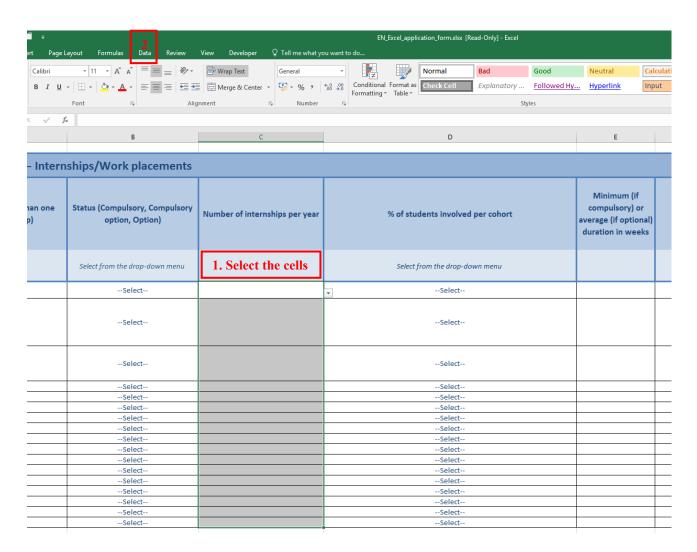
Online application tool

14. How can I save and print the draft version of my online application as pdf?

In the 2023-2024 selection EMT applications shall be submitted online, via the application tool on EUSurvey. Please note that clicking on 'Download PDF version' on the right-hand side of the menu will only download the questions. The easiest way to print and save your draft answers as PDF is to print the webpage to PDF directly from your browser.
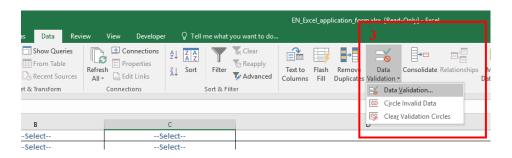
15. The template of the Excel-sheet does not allow me to enter figures in Table 4.1.B

In column C of Table 4.1.B candidates are supposed to enter the number of internships per year. If you are unable to enter data in this column because it is blocked by a drop down menu please follow the steps below:

1) Select the cells in Table 4.1.B, column C.
2) Click on the 'Data' tab in Excel.

3) Click on 'Data validation'.

4) Click 'Clear All' and 'OK'.

16. The number of characters is limited in some sections of the online application form (e.g. 5000 character(s) maximum). Does this include white spaces or not?

White spaces are included in the character count.

17. Before submitting the application for my study programme, I would like to verify all elements of the draft application, but the system does not let me open or consult the uploaded documents.

The system configuration does not allow opening or consulting uploaded documents. You can only see the titles of your uploaded documents.

If you would like to verify the content of the documents that you wish to add to the application you have to verify the original documents that you have saved as a local copy on your PC before you uploaded them.

There is only one way to check if the uploaded documents really correspond to the documents that you would like to join: Delete the uploaded documents in the system, verify the original documents and upload them again. To avoid confusion make sure you give them specific titles.

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