



JOB of the Week



Job name: Interpreter

Job description: If you're an excellent multilingual communicator who wants to work with languages and are ready to enter a highly competitive industry, interpreting could be your perfect job. As an interpreter, you'll convert spoken or sign language statements from one language to another. You'll need to listen to, understand and memorise content in the original source language and then reproduce it in the target language. This is usually done in only one direction, normally into your native tongue, but you may be required to interpret on a two-way basis. Interpreting can be done in different ways: Simultaneous interpretation (SI) - you'll typically sit in a soundproof booth and immediately convert what's being said. Listeners hear the interpretation through an earpiece while the speaker is still speaking. Consecutive interpretation (CI) - you'll listen to the speaker talking for typically five minutes or more and then interpret what's been said into the target language. You may need to take notes to help during long speeches. This is mainly used in situations such as business meetings, training and presentations. Sign language interpretation – converting signs into spoken language and vice versa (in short 30 minute sessions)

Tasks you will undertake in the job:

As an interpreter, you'll need to:

- assimilate speakers' words quickly, including jargon and acronyms
- build up specialist vocabulary banks
- write notes to aid memory
- use microphones and headsets
- prepare paperwork - reviewing agendas before meetings, or lectures and speeches when received in advance
- conduct research to make sure you're fully informed on topics before assignments
- organise workload and liaise with internal departments, agencies and employers
- work to a professional code of ethics covering confidentiality and impartiality.

Qualifications you will need for this job: Being fluent in two or more languages alone isn't enough to become an interpreter, as the majority of employers also look for a formal qualification in interpreting and/or languages. Undergraduate degrees are available, which can help to demonstrate your skills and knowledge. These include: interpreting and translation; modern languages; British Sign Language (BSL) and interpreting; deaf studies.

It's likely that you'll also need a postgraduate qualification but this can vary depending on the style of interpreting you wish to do. An MA in interpreting is usually required for conference interpreting while if you want to work within the public sector, the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI), or an MA in public service interpreting is usually needed. Business interpreting doesn't have specific training requirements but employers will usually look for a related postgraduate qualification.

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

What to expect from this career: You may be based in a conference centre or working on the telephone for long periods. It's likely you'll need to find work through networking and registration with professional directories or language agencies. It can take time to become established and build a regular client base. Opportunities for employment may arise anywhere, especially for community-based assignments and telephone work, but the main centres for international conferences include Brussels, London, Geneva and Paris. In the UK, employment opportunities outside London are increasing. Business or smart casual dress is usually required, with the exception of telephone interpreting, which is normally done from home. The role requires a huge amount of concentration, which can be tiring. You may be required to be away from home overnight or to be abroad for long periods.

Type of work: You may carry out interpreting in person, by telephone or via video conferencing and internet-based technologies. You can work as an interpreter in the following settings:
Conference - where simultaneous interpreting is the main form used and is based within large conferences, meetings, groups and presentations.
Business - smaller functions such as meetings, negotiations, business discussions, training, business/factory tours, or formal dinners.
Public service interpreting (PSI) - includes the criminal justice system, police and probation service interviews, court hearings, solicitor interviews, arbitration hearings, immigration tribunals and local government meetings. PSI can also include community assignments within social services, health and education.



Salary: The majority of roles are freelance, and hourly rates can vary widely depending on your experience and qualifications, type of interpreting, location and level of demand for the languages.

Working hours: As a freelance interpreter, your working hours will be flexible. Business, routine medical and court-related assignments tend to take place during office hours but evening and weekend work is not uncommon.

Workforce in the UK: 5% male / 95% female workforce

Other skills required for this job: You'll need to show:

- an excellent command of English and the other language(s) you'll use
- knowledge of at least one additional language for freelance interpreting, and two or more for a staff position in conference interpreting
- a good memory and the ability to learn fast
- the skills to interact well with people and work as part of a team
- the ability to use discretion and maintain confidentiality on the matters you're interpreting
- flexibility to deal calmly with unexpected and difficult situations and reliability, dedication and commitment to projects
- knowledge of current affairs, politics and different cultures and customs.

In addition, if you're carrying out conference and court interpreting, you must be a confident public speaker and have a clear speaking voice.

“The amazing brains of the real-time interpreters”

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20141117-the-ultimate-multi-taskers>

<https://www.todaytranslations.com/news/meet-the-interpreters-4-things-you-might-not-have-known/>

<https://www.goodsignsinterpreting.com/interpreters-role>

www.icould.com

www.successatschool.org

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors

www.ucas.com/careers-advice

www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/ (you all have a log on for this service)

www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)

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<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykcZA>

