



CIOL Professional Level Language Framework

What we expect

At professional levels (typically equivalent to [UK RQF](#) Levels 6 and 7) we would expect a linguist to meet standards (as described below) across the relevant language modalities for their role of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Translators, interpreters, diplomats, members of the armed forces, educators, teachers, academics, business people and other professionals may vary in the extent to which their role requires the highest level in all four modalities however. Different national, qualification and international standards describe these levels as below:

Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

PROFICIENT USER	C2 (Mastery)	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
	C1 (Effective Professional Proficiency)	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

NATO/STANAG 6001

5 Native/Bilingual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In every respect language use is equivalent to that of a highly articulate, well-educated native speaker
---	--

<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expert</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can understand/produce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ language appropriate for all topics, situations and purposes, e.g., negotiations, lectures/ position papers ○ language adapted to specific audiences ○ precise and efficient language for all professional purposes, for persuasion and for elaborations on highly abstract topics ● Demonstrates a vast vocabulary, and the ability to understand/ express subtleties, nuances and culturally appropriate references ● Language use reflects the socio-cultural standards of the country or area where the language is natively spoken
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can understand/produce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ formal and informal language for most social and professional situations, e.g., business meetings, conferences, reports on complex issues ○ well-structured language relating to abstract topics and hypotheses, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation ○ detailed arguments for and against different opinions ○ language to convey implicit information, inferences, and emotional overtones ● Repetition is rarely requested, has a natural flow, without searching for words ● Is easily understood by native speakers.

United Nations

The United Nations describes their equivalent of NATO/STANAG 6001 Level 4 as below:

UN Level IV: Expert Language Competence

- i. Use the language efficiently and flexibly, consistently maintaining a high degree of fluency, accuracy and precision.
- ii. Function in a large variety of demanding contexts and situations, even adverse or unpredictable, when dealing with a wide range of matters, even highly specific or sensitive, in the personal, public and professional domains.
- iii. Show an excellent command of a wide range of linguistic and pragmatic competences and of social language conventions to meet any communication need.



- iv. Respond to and follow up on any required action appropriately and without hesitation. Use reference resources to enhance communication with sophisticated precision.

Reading - Thoroughly understand linguistically and/or conceptually complex written texts of different genres and lengths, capturing implicit meanings and subtleties, concrete or abstract, even in unfamiliar contexts. Understand a wide range of idiomatic and figurative language, and sociocultural references.

Spoken - Take part fluently in a variety of demanding situations, arguing opinions skilfully, building on different contributions, and showing the ability to take the lead and to intervene diplomatically. Produce a wide range of spoken texts with different purposes. Relay and synthesize information contained in texts of varied typology and complexity in oral or written communication

Listening - Understand without any notable effort, capturing implicit meanings and subtleties, linguistically and/or conceptually complex texts delivered at an average to fast rate, in a range of non-standard varieties, even in unfavourable situations. Understand a wide range of idiomatic and figurative language, and sociocultural references.

Written - Write reasonably complex and/or long texts in different genres. In demanding written exchanges, respond effectively, confidently matching register and style to the communicative situation. Relay and synthesize information contained in texts of varied typology and complexity in oral or written communication. Proofread or edit own texts or texts produced by others

Broad read-across to UK Academic standards

UK Academic Qualifications	RQF Level	CEFR	NATO/UN
Masters	Level 7	C1/C2 (depending on focus/modality writing/speaking etc)	Level 4 to 5
Degree	Level 5/6	B2/C1 (depending on degree content)	Level 3 to 4



CIOL Qualifications (CIOLQ)

CIOLQ's interpreter and translator qualifications are developed to meet professional language standards and are regularly reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant, reliable and valid. Created by language professionals they are designed to allow candidates to demonstrate the highest levels of interpreting and translating. They are widely recognised by government departments, agencies, business organisations and public services.

CIOL Qualifications Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI)

The DPSI is registered on the Ofqual Regulated Qualifications Framework ([RQF](#)) at Level 6.

Equivalencies

- Degree with honours - for example Bachelor of the Arts (BA) honours
- C1 level (Effective Professional Proficiency) as described in the CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference for languages (see above)

DPSI Recommended level of linguistic proficiency

Candidates entering for the DPSI should speak two languages fluently (C1 level) – English and another language – and be able to interpret (consecutively and simultaneously) and translate both into and out of English. Candidates are expected to be familiar with procedures and specialist vocabulary relating to chosen public service pathway. These are tested in all of the examination tasks both in English and the other language.

DPSI Outcomes Tested

- Able to consecutively interpret between English and other language with accuracy, completeness and coherence.
- Able to deliver interpretation between English and other language smoothly and clearly, switching easily between languages and techniques with competence.
- Able to interpret between English and other language and vice versa using appropriate vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.
- Able to convey written information orally from other Language into English with completeness, accuracy and appropriateness.
- Able to convey written information orally from other Language into English with fluency and clear and distinct pronunciation.



- Able to convey an accurate translation of the source text without omissions, additions or distortions.
- Able to provide a text which reads like an authentic piece of writing in the target language with good coherence and sentence structure and linkages.
- Able to provide a well-presented text suitable for the intended purpose displaying good awareness of intercultural differences.

CIOL Qualifications Diploma in Translation ([DipTrans](#))

The Diploma in Translation is registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Level 7.

Equivalencies

- Master's Degree
- Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma in Translation
- C2 level (Mastery) as described in the CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference for languages (see above)
- European Qualification Framework – Level 7
- DipTrans also meets the standards of the National Occupational Standards in Translation (Professional Translator) and is recognised by the [Association of Translation Companies for ISO 17100](#)

DipTrans Recommended level of linguistic proficiency

The CIOL Qualifications Level 7 Diploma in Translation tests professional translating skills at a postgraduate level of competence and the ability to produce appropriate texts in the target language which are fully and wholly ready for direct publication under time pressure.

DipTrans Outcomes Tested

- Able to produce translation of general and semi-specialised text that shows the correct transfer of information and evidence of comprehension and accuracy, transfer of names, dates and figures.
- Able to produce translation of general and semi-specialised text that is grammatically sound, cohesive and coherent, as well as well organised and accurate in punctuation, orthography and accentuation.



CIOL Qualifications Certificate in Translation ([CertTrans](#))

The Certificate in Translation is registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Level 6.

Equivalencies

- Degree with honours - for example Bachelor of the Arts (BA) Hons, Bachelor of Science (BSc) Hons
- Degree apprenticeship
- Graduate Certificate
- Graduate Diploma
- Level 6 Vocational Award, Certificate or Diploma
- CEFR language proficiency C1 level

CertTrans Recommended level of linguistic proficiency

The CIOL Qualifications Level 6 Certificate in Translation tests translating skills at a graduate/post graduate level of competence and the ability to produce appropriate texts in the target language in a working context under time pressure.

CertTrans Outcomes Tested

Unit 01- General Translation Skills

- LO1: Be able to produce translation of a general text that shows accurate transfer of information
- LO2: Be able to produce translation of a general text that is grammatically sound, cohesive and coherent in the target language

Unit 02 – Business and Commercial Translation Skills

- LO1: Be able to produce translation of a semi-specialised text that shows accurate transfer of information
- LO2: Be able to produce translation of a semi-specialised text that is grammatically sound, cohesive and coherent in the target language

Unit 03 – Government and Public Service Translation Skills

- LO1: Be able to produce translation of a semi-specialised text that shows accurate transfer of information
- LO2: Be able to produce translation of a semi-specialised text that is grammatically sound, cohesive and coherent in the target language

Summary of Level Equivalences

CIOLQ Professional Qualifications	Reference/Proficiency Levels		Academic/RQF Levels	
	CEFR	NATO/UN	Equivalent Academic Level	RQF Level
CIOLQ DPSI	C1	Level 3+/4	Degree/ Masters	Level 6 (5 translation-reading and writing)
CIOLQ DipTrans	C1/C2 (notably writing at C2 in target language)	Level 4+	Masters	Level 7
CIOLQ CertTrans	C1 (notably writing at C1 in target language)	Level 3+/4	Degree/ Masters	Level 6