

**CIOL**

Supporting language  
professionals  
worldwide



**Working as a  
Translator**



# Work as a Translator and every day is different



**A career in translation is highly-rewarding – if you enjoy being the boss of yourself, variety, exciting and challenging work, this is for you. Study translation and you'll be surprised where it takes you!**



**Vasiliki Prestidge**  
**MCIL Chartered Linguist**  
**Member of Council**  
**Director of Greek to Me Translations**

I'm here to disprove the popular rumour that "Google Translate will take your job over soon" and that "You don't need to study translation to be able to translate". Don't worry – there is more than enough creative and exciting work for people with languages.

## **Every day is different**

I'm running my own business working as a full time translator, interpreter, transcreator, culture insight consultant, and university lecturer.

One day, I was working on the French Open, following the first ever Greek tennis player to claim the Grand Slam title at Roland Garros, by providing the creative copy from English into Greek for all sponsorship messages and live captioning for Greek national television.

The next, I was providing a private client with an English into Greek certified translation, and later, delivered 5,000 words helping a new brand launch their website into Greek so that they could reach more Greek clients.

And the day after, I prepared for a high-level financial crime court case during which I interpreted between Greek and Japanese parties with the assistance of an English interpreter and colleague providing English as a pivot language between the two.

## **Our work brings people and cultures together**

It helps everyone around the world access information, live entertainment, legal aid, and healthcare to list just a few aspects of life to which we contribute priceless value.

A career in languages is highly-rewarding. It doesn't come easily. But if you enjoy being the boss of yourself, variety, exciting and challenging work, this is for you. Work in languages and you'll be surprised where they take you.



You will get to work with amazing people.

**Rosa Insua-Salgueiro**  
MCIL Chartered Linguist  
English to Spanish translator  
and interpreter



# Career benefits of working as a Translator

## You will be able to use your favourite languages

**One, two, three languages, the sky is the limit...**

You have studied hard to learn languages or maybe you were brought up in a bilingual household and you speak two or three languages and yes, you would love to use them in your job, every day of the week.

## Never a dull moment

**You will always be learning**

Translators tend to specialise in specific subjects such as law or medicine. You will need to familiarise yourself with different terminology and cultural differences between legal systems (e.g. British vs. Spanish).

## You will work with wonderful people

**Wide network of contacts**

Although translation is often considered a solitary profession, the truth is that you will get to work with amazing people, for example when

you join a professional translators' association such as CIOL. Also, you will have the chance to work with some of your colleagues, that you have met, for example at uni.

## You can also become an interpreter

**Really?**

Translators work with the written word, interpreters with spoken language. While their working techniques are quite different (translators often work with dictionaries and different resources) the subject matter of specialisation often overlaps. You can excel at being both an interpreter and a translator – I certainly do!

## It's a rewarding career

**You will be able to help others**

At the end of the day, you will have helped a tribunal to make a decision about a child protection plan or a family to access the health system. Your work is not in vain, it certainly fits a purpose. And it's a very good purpose.

# Translation skills lead to wider career opportunities



You can combine your passion for sports with working as a football translator, or if you're into IT or gaming, video games translation and localisation is a huge market.

**Jenni Radford**  
MCIL Chartered Linguist  
Legal and business translator  
from Spanish into English



## Working as a Freelance Translator

I speak French and Spanish and now work as a freelance translator.

## What's so great about being a translator?

Using my languages every day! What I like best is that my job can be used in so many different areas. I translate all sorts of different texts so it gives me the chance to use my other interests too.

For example, if you love TV and films, you could do audio-visual translation. If you love sports, you could work as a football or maybe Olympics translator, or if you're into IT or gaming, video games translation is a huge market at the moment.

I started out working for international companies, specialising in law or travel, and this led to using my languages full time.

## Working remotely

Working remotely from home is clearly the future for many. For freelance translators, the digital workplace is now the norm and translation offers the opportunity to work remotely from just about anywhere.





What do I love about my work? The possibility of working from home or anywhere in the world as long as I have my laptop and good Wi-Fi access.

**Karine Chevalier-Watts**  
MCIL Chartered Linguist



# A translator's work can be more varied than you would ever imagine!

I started learning languages at high school in the French port of Marseille. Later on I took a gap year to work as a French language assistant in Dorset and after finishing my studies I moved back to the UK with my English husband.

I've had the most varied and interesting international career, from teaching French to British business people to running a wine-broking agency with clients from all around the world, using my translating and interpreting skills along the way. I now run my own language service provider working with companies worldwide.

## What do I love about being a translator?

- It's more varied than you could ever imagine: one day I'm translating websites and marketing materials, another day I'm subtitling for movies and documentaries or translating for fashion and cosmetics, press and media.

- Being able to work with different people from different nationalities, cultures and backgrounds.
- The freedom of being self-employed, of being able to manage my own timetable.
- The possibility of working from home or anywhere in the world as long as I have my laptop and good Wi-Fi access.

I have never regretted my choice of career as it has given me access to incredible experiences and enabled me to meet amazing people from everywhere in the world. I do hope some of you will follow in my footsteps and have as great a career as I have in this wonderful, worthwhile profession.



**My language skills have opened the door to many job opportunities.**

**Rachel Wingfield**  
MCIL Chartered Linguist  
Freelance Translator and Language Tutor



# I was determined to travel, discover new cultures and meet people...

I'm from France and studied English and German at school. I enjoyed learning languages so much that later I decided to learn Italian too.

I wanted a career using my language skills because I was determined to travel, discover new cultures and meet people.

I'm happy to say that I've been lucky enough to do exactly what I set out to do! My language skills have opened the door to many job opportunities, and I have worked in a wide variety of interesting jobs in many different areas.

For example, my first job was in import/export where I translated sales material, and was in charge of customers in France, Germany and Italy – using my language skills and gaining new experience at the same time.

My strong language skills were key to getting a job in marketing for a media company where I was in charge of European business development, carrying out market research and translating sales material. I was in contact with clients across Europe and travelled to meet them in person.

Travelling and meeting customers was a very rewarding part of my career, and I went on to work in other parts of the world, such as Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and the USA.

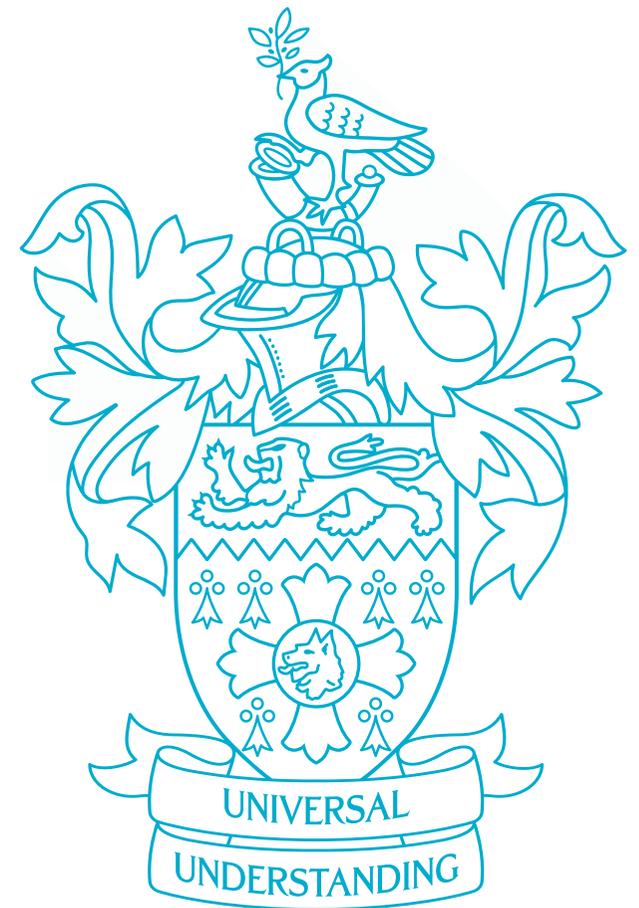
I am now working for myself as a freelance translator and language teacher. I enjoy being my own boss and continuing to do something I love – using my language skills for a living!

CIOL Qualifications (CIOLQ) serves language professionals by providing the benchmark qualifications for translators and interpreters, which are recognised widely in the UK and around the world. These qualifications are also of lasting value to other linguists who may have different roles and who use languages on a regular basis within their work in business, the professions and government.

The CIOLQ Diploma in Translation (DipTrans) has been the gold standard translation qualification for over 30 years and is taken in around 40 countries annually. Translators all around the world recognise the career benefits that the highest level translation qualification brings.

The DipTrans has been recently joined by the CIOLQ Certificate in Translation (CertTrans) which is a new benchmark qualification for anyone wanting a career as a translator or to work for international organisations. The CertTrans has been developed with early career translation skills as its focus, with progression opportunities to higher levels of professional translation in mind for those wanting to work as a translator for translation companies or to build a career as a freelance translator.

The CertTrans offers the opportunity to acquire a degree-level translation qualification that demonstrates the ability to work in languages, which will also assist those who want to use their written skills in international organisations worldwide.



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language professionals  
worldwide



# About CIOL

The Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) is the UK's Royal Charter professional body for language practitioners, setting the professional standard for linguists worldwide. CIOL is the only body to offer Chartership, recognised globally as a mark of quality and competence for professions. Founded in 1910 to promote high standards in the use of languages in government, public services, industry and commerce, CIOL has over 7,000 members.

CIOL Qualifications (CIOLQ) is CIOL's Awarding Organisation and is registered with the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Ofqual is a non-ministerial government department with jurisdiction in England. It is responsible for making sure that regulated qualifications reliably indicate the knowledge, skills and understanding students have demonstrated. With decades of experience, CIOL Qualifications is at the centre of a community of over 3,000 highly qualified and experienced assessors and language specialists.

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