Introduction to translation theory and practice

Presentation pattern     February to October

Module description
In this module, students will explore different approaches to translation and develop an understanding of the links between theory and practice. With a focus on recent research, students will develop an awareness of the wider cultural, ethical and professional contexts of translation. They will acquire a solid grounding in a range of ideas within translation studies (e.g. linguistic and functionalist approaches, translation as norm-governed behaviour, cultural and sociological turns, gender and postcolonial theories, translation technologies) and apply this to a range of translation activities. The students will enhance their understanding of how this research can be useful in professional practice.

Person specification
The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- A degree in translation, interpretation or a related field (linguistics, languages, language didactics, etc.). A degree in another subject is also acceptable if you have substantial experience both in teaching translation and as a professional translator;
- native or near native speaker competence in written and spoken English.
- knowledge of one of the following languages, other than English, at C1 Level (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) or above: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Arabic;
- recent experience of teaching translation, languages or linguistics in a higher education institution/ at a tertiary level;
- recent professional experience of working in the translation industry;
- knowledge of at least one of the following areas and a willingness to develop knowledge in the remaining areas: translation theory, translation technology audio-visual translation, specialised (technical, medical or legal) translation, web, app or games localisation, or collaborative translation practices;
- a proven ability to tutor students from a wide range of cultural and language backgrounds, a proportion of whom will not have English as their first language;
- the ability to develop and foster in others an open, yet critical approach to intercultural issues.

It would be an advantage to have:

- a postgraduate qualification in a relevant discipline;
- experience of teaching translation at postgraduate level;
- experience in teaching online and at a distance.

Additional information
This module is available for study throughout the world and is tutored entirely online. One of your main roles will be to moderate tutor-group forums, to encourage students to participate, collaborate, and maintain a supportive working environment.

Students can study this module in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese or Arabic, in combination with English. English is the language of tuition. Tutorial groups are arranged by language combination, i.e. English and French, English and German, etc. so that you will be teaching in the language combination you have proficiency in*. Students will be translating in and out of their language and English, and you must be able to provide feedback on both.
*Please indicate in the "specialism" box of section A of the application form which language combination you have proficiency in. You may include more than one if appropriate.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Number of assignments submitted by the student:</td>
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<td>Level of ICT requirements:</td>
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