

How to become a translator

Being a translator is so much more than being bilingual. A translator must have:

- an excellent **grasp of their native language** in its written format. Errors related to grammar, spelling, punctuation and sentence structure are unacceptable.
- an excellent **understanding of the source language** and culture.
- an excellent **understanding of the subject** they are translating. For example, translators specialising in legal translations must understand the legal system. Translators specialising in engineering translations should have either studied technical translation, engineering or worked in a related field.
- the **ability to think creatively** to create content that sounds natural in their language, and not like a “translation”.
- **experience of working with industry-standard software** such as CAT (Computer Aided Translation) tools; e.g. Trados or MemoQ.

There are many different paths to becoming a successful translator. These all involve training to develop the key attributes listed above.

1. University degree (in any field) + MA in translation.
2. University degree in a language + MA in translation.
3. University degree (any subject) + internationally recognised translation qualification*

*this would be awarded/accredited by an organisation such as the [IOL](#) in the UK, the [ATA](#) in the US, or the equivalent institution in your local country.

Once you have the necessary qualifications, develop your portfolio and gain experience by doing pro-bono translation work for non-profit organisations or interning at a translation company. If you have not opted for a university degree in translation, pursue additional CAT tool training.

With the right qualifications, experience and skills, you can now work for Web-Translations!