

# **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS** **(SECTION TRANSLATION STUDIES)**

### **INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DIPLOMA IN** **TRANSLATION**

Consult Part 1 of the Calendar and the Information Brochure regarding the general rules for admission to postgraduate studies, documents which must accompany your application for admission, re-registration, duration of study, applications for cancellation, etc.

#### **Concurrent registration for undergraduate module(s) for non-degree purposes**

Only with the special permission of Senate may students register for a maximum of two undergraduate modules for non-degree purposes (NDP) concurrently with the Diploma in Translation, provided that the NDP module(s) has a bearing on the Diploma in Translation, or that a written justification acceptable to the University has been submitted. Please note that students must apply before the closing date for registration for the undergraduate module(s) for permission for concurrent registration. Please refer to the Information Brochure for the relevant registration dates.

#### **1. GENERAL**

##### **NB:**

**No new registrations will be accepted for this Diploma from 2006. Registered students have until end of 2008 to complete this qualification. Students interested in a postgraduate qualification in translation should register for the BA Honours in Linguistics (Specialisation: Translation Studies).**

1.1 The curriculum of the Diploma comprises four papers.

1.2 Practical translation comprises a large section of each paper.

1.3 Admission to the examination will be decided upon by the Head of Department on the basis of your assignments.

1.4 The examinations are held in January/February.

## 2. DURATION OF STUDY

2.1 Students wishing to complete the Diploma in one year are advised to register as soon as registration opens.

2.2 Other students wishing to spread the curriculum over at least two years should refer to COMPLETION OF CURRICULUM in this brochure.

## 3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 To register for the Diploma in Translation\*, you must

- (a) hold at least a recognised Bachelor's degree;
- (b) for the purposes of the course, choose TWO LANGUAGES from the list below (See 3.2);
- (c) have a high degree of proficiency in the two languages chosen in accordance with (b) above.

3.2 Afrikaans	Italian	Tsonga
English	Northern Sotho	Tswana
French	Portuguese	Venda
German	Spanish	Xhosa
Southern Sotho	Zulu	English to Arabic

**3.3 Students should indicate on the registration form from**

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\* The Department of Linguistics also offers an Honours degree in Translation Studies. Should you require more information, please consult the relevant brochure or Part 2 of the Calendar.

**which language they intend to translate (source language) into which other language (target language).**

**NB:** The University will not necessarily provide translation tuition in respect of all the languages mentioned under 3.2 every year.

Students who do not include Afrikaans or English in their language combination or who wish to offer a language not listed above, must contact the Department beforehand.

**4. CURRICULUM (Diploma code: 0313-1)**

The curriculum for the Diploma in Translation comprises four papers:

PAPER 1: Introduction to translation (INTRAN-P)

PAPER 2: Equivalence in translation (EKTRAN-D)

PAPER 3: Translation for specific purposes (SETRAN-9)

PAPER 4: Professional practice (PATRAN-V)

**5. COMPLETION OF CURRICULUM**

**No new registrations will be accepted for this Diploma from 2006. Registered students have until end of 2008 to complete this qualification.**

5.1 You are advised to register for the papers in chronological order.

5.2 You may take the four papers separately or concurrently.

5.3 Students who have not yet passed any of the papers are advised to register for at least Papers 1 and 2 simultaneously.

- 5.4 Paper 3 may be taken only together with or after Paper 2.
- 5.5 Paper 4 may be taken only together with or after Paper 3.
- 5.6 You must register for the Diploma in consecutive years. Students must pass at least two papers after three years of study to qualify for registration for the fourth year of study. Students who at the end of the third year of their studies have not passed the required number of papers, can only be allowed to register again with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Faculty.
- NB:** The above is the absolute minimum requirements. You should progress much faster.
- 5.7 Students wishing to defer their studies for any academic year must submit a motivated application beforehand.

## 6. SYLLABI

### 6.1 Paper 1: Introduction to translation (INTRAN-P)

#### STUDY UNIT 1: Text processing skills

(Aim: Text analysis, refining of text-processing strategies, exposure to monolingual "translation")

1. Text analysis
2. Paraphrase
3. Précis/Summary
4. Editing
5. Writing to a brief

#### STUDY UNIT 2: Translation and basic translation skills

(Aim: Introduction to bilingual translation.)

1. What is translation? (Theoretical approaches to translation)
2. Source text analysis with a view to translation
3. Translation methods
4. Translation aids (eg the use of dictionaries, parallel texts, consultation of experts, etc)
5. Translation criticism

STUDY UNIT 3: Translation as intercultural activity

(Aim: To make students aware of the influence of extratextual factors on translation)

1. The text as cultural phenomenon
2. Translation of culture-bound texts
3. Translation in South Africa

**6.2 Paper 2: Equivalence in translation (EKTRAN-D)**

STUDY UNIT 1: Equivalence from word level to sentence level (Aim: Exposure to problems with regard to the transfer of a message into another language)

1. Equivalence at word level
2. Equivalence above word level

STUDY UNIT 2: Equivalence at text level

(Aim: Exposure to different types of text)

1. Principles of text linguistics
2. Text typology and text comparison
3. Problems in obtaining equivalence for eg the following text types:
  - Service prose/administrative texts

- political texts
- legal texts
- economic texts
- literary texts
- journalistic texts
- tourist brochures
- public education texts

### **6.3 Paper 3: Translation for specific purposes (SETRAN-9)**

#### STUDY UNIT 1: Terminology skills for translators

(Aim: To refine basic terminology and research skills)

1. Principles of terminology
2. Relevance of terminology for translators
3. Terminological documentation and term banks and setting up own term lists
4. Information on National Terminology Services

#### STUDY UNIT 2: Specialised translation strategies

(Aim: To teach students how to translate particular text types in particular ways)

1. Text types and modes of translation
2. Reformulating to a brief: making specialised texts accessible

### **6.4 Paper 4: Professional practice (PATRAN-V)**

#### STUDY UNIT 1: Refining translation skills

(Aim: Exposure to typical translation tasks in the translation market; role of the client)

1. Further translation according to a brief/rewriting for different markets and readerships

#### STUDY UNIT 2: The translator as professional

(Aim: Exposure to practical aspects of translation outside the actual process of translating; importance of professional ethics)

1. Rights and duties of the translator
2. Client contact
  - 2.1 Examples of contracts and invoices
3. Practical advantages of using a computer/indexing system

#### STUDY UNIT 3: Translation project

(Aim: Exposure to a typical freelance translation situation)

Brief; contract; invoice; annotated translation; discussion of translation problems; list of sources.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 In a multilingual country such as South Africa, translation not only implies technical expertise, but also the ability to bridge cultural and linguistic differences. The modern translator can no longer be someone who concentrates solely on reconstructing a text in the target language as closely as possible to the source language text, but must also be trained to make information accessible and acceptable to the target readership.
- 7.2 The Diploma in Translation is offered at postgraduate level, on the assumption that students who already possess a first degree will have the basic language and communication skills necessary to become good translators. In view of the interdisciplinary nature of translation, students with a background in education, psychology, biology, medical science, pharmacology, law, politics, agriculture,

engineering, literature, economics, anthropology, communication studies, computer science, etc as well as an interest in languages can register for the Diploma.

- 7.3 The Diploma therefore aims to assist students in developing advanced text-processing skills so that they will be able to meet the growing need for professional translators in a variety of areas such as public education, commerce, marketing, advertising, science and technology.
- 7.4 The course is also aimed at familiarising students with professionally acceptable standards of translation (general as well as specific). This is done through the development and enhancement of language and communication skills, text analysis, subject knowledge where necessary and the study of translation methods and techniques.

**TEACHING STAFF**

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