

CASE STUDY

5



UNIVERSITY COURSE IN
INTERPRETING - MEDIATION



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UNIVERSITY COURSE IN INTERPRETING - MEDIATION



Location / geographic coverage: Paris, France

Who implements the practice: Paris Diderot University

Category: Training

Created in 2014. (MISC). Upon acceptance of the application file, passing a language exam, and possession of at least three languages, it is available to anybody with a bachelor's degree. The programme lasts for two years (700 hours).

This course's goal is to produce professionals in the field of linguistic and cultural mediation-interpretation who can work either as liaison interpreters supporting global corporate growth or at the interface of foreign populations and institutional settings. The topics covered include oral and multilingual communication, interpretation, translation, civilization/otherness, immigration, and so forth. Students in the second year of the programme have the status of apprentices and spend certain months working full-time in a professional setting.

Graduates in translation and interpreting, ISM (Inter Service Migrant Interpretation) translators and interpreters with at least three years of professional experience, and staff members of social and medical settings who want to specialise in intercultural mediation are all eligible to enrol in the course. Candidates must be fluent in at least one other foreign language and have a master's degree in French.

The course's goal is to train professionals in multilingual mediation in a social and medical setting so that they can provide dialogue in challenging circumstances between foreigners with poor French language skills and administrations, public institutions, or associations.



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A 100-hour training programme lasting a year for translating and mediating in social and medical contexts was established by the university in 2011 and results in a university diploma (DUIM).

Training Content:

Module 1: Context and civilization, the important subjects of the otherness (15h)

1. Race and ethnicity, definition, history
2. Ethnicity in France and UK: put into perspective
3. France and minorities, history, integration policies
4. Evolution of the perception of women's role in the society: gender theory
5. Case study on pain perception

Module 2: Translation and interpreting: introduction to the techniques (18h)

1. Practice of consecutive interpreting: approach and practical workshops
2. Introduction to interpreting studies
3. Introduction to sign language interpreting
4. The written mediation-translation: the public letter-writer

Module 3: Specificities and contents of the interpretation - mediation (35h)

1. Evolution and construction of the role of the interpreter-mediator, the history of a job
2. Position of the interpreter-mediator in a therapeutic and medical consultation
3. The triad: between interpreting and mediation, ethics and code of conduct of the interpreter-mediator
4. The dialogue with four persons: the interpreter, the migrant child and its parents
5. Workshops: role-playing games, situation scenarios



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Module 4: The fields of intervention of the interpreter-mediator (32h)

1. Major principles of the French administration
2. Social law
3. Right of the foreigners
4. The hospital and its structures, presentation and terminological approach
5. Practical case: specificity of the department of the infectious diseases at the hospital Saint- Denis
6. The school system, presentation and the terminological approach

Why it is considered a good practice: Both courses have clear objectives and well-defined content. The courses respond to real needs of the French society. The master has obtained recognition by the French Ministry of National Education for 3 years. The economic sustainability of these courses is rather high. The DU is financed by students or partner organisations, through continuing education. The master course is a state diploma funded by the university and the region as part of the rotation. Teachers are paid by the French State. At the same time, the social sustainability of the practice is very high. In France, the need for mediators- interpreters is increasing. In addition, French law requires institutions to use people who can remove the barrier of language (French law indicates to use interpreters).

Since this practice refers to university courses, transferability level is also very high. It can be easily replicated, serving as a benchmark or a starting point. A challenge in implementing these courses, according to university leaders, is providing a broad language register and finding trained instructors for each culture.

• Developed by Dominika Marcinkowska (January, 2023) with the use of http://www.mediation-time.eu/images/TIME_O2_Good_practices_and_transfer_recommendations.pdf



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