

Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences

**Memorandum of Understanding
on the training of conference interpreters for the academic years 2023-2025**

The following Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up between the Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences of the European Parliament (hereinafter 'DG LINC'), represented by Director-General Agnieszka Walter-Drop, and the Higher Education Institute or University of (hereinafter 'the University'), represented by

Having regard to Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union, which lays down respect for the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of the European Union,

having regard to Regulation 1/1958, which defines the official languages of the European Union,

having regard to Rule 167.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, which enshrines the right of Members to address the Parliament in the official language of their choice or any other language the Bureau may consider necessary,

whereas, under the principle of subsidiarity, Member States alone bear responsibility for training and education,

whereas universities have a vital role in the preservation and transmission of European culture,

whereas the University has a Masters course (or equivalent) to train conference interpreters,

whereas the profession of interpreter in the European institutions requires sound command of languages, broad general knowledge and thorough professional training,

whereas technology influences methods of study and opens up new channels of communication with potential employers,

now, therefore, DG LINC and the University (hereinafter separately referred to as a 'Party' and jointly referred to as the 'Parties') have agreed on the following:

Article 1
Purpose

The Parties shall strive to cooperate in training conference interpreters with the aim of preparing a new generation of highly skilled professionals, able to integrate modern information and communication technologies in their workplace and to pass the EU accreditation test.

Article 2
Contributions by DG LINC

DG LINC shall, when consulted, provide advice on the content and structure of a curriculum likely to achieve the above purpose, and communicate its desired recruitment profile.

DG LINC shall, when consulted, provide advice on the technical and pedagogical aspects of distance/virtual learning in interpreter training.

DG LINC shall, when consulted, provide information material and/or information sessions on the role of multilingualism in the European Parliament and of DG LINC.

In accordance with its priorities, DG LINC may assign staff to participate in the final exams of the Master's course.

In accordance with its priorities, DG LINC may assign staff to teaching sessions by video conference with the interpretation students of the University.

In accordance with its priorities, DG LINC may assign staff to mentor students under the Enhanced Virtual Coaching scheme.

DG LINC shall host a short annual visit of the University's interpretation students to Brussels, whereby travel and accommodation costs related to this visit cannot be financed by DG LINC.

DG LINC may organise and/or finance training for interpreter trainers. These courses can be e-learning or blended courses.

Traineeships of limited duration based on European Parliament recruitment needs may be offered to students demonstrating a high potential.

DG LINC may ask a university to organise tailor-made courses, subject to a separate contract.

No financial liability shall arise directly from the present Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 3
Contributions by the University

In the design of its interpretation course and in the choice of students the University shall strive to take account of the recruitment profile of DG LINC and ensure use of teaching material related to the European Parliament.

The University shall ensure that students are trained to the highest professional standard, by progressively exposing them to speeches of a realistic level of difficulty and by employing amongst others practising interpreters accredited to the European institutions or international organisations to teach interpreting classes.

The University must ensure that the university and the students have the right equipment, including a stable internet connection, in order to participate fully and easily - ideally from the classroom - in virtual classes.

If compliant with the national and/or regional legislation, the University shall strive to appoint as coordinator of the Masters course an experienced conference interpreter, preferably accredited to the European institutions or international organisations, with strong training background. Where this is not the case, an interpreter with the aforementioned profile shall be involved in designing the programme and setting the pedagogical objectives for the course.

The University shall strive to avoid fixing a minimum number of participants for the course to take place.

The Masters course should strive to meet EMCI standards, last between one and two academic years and award between 60 and 120 ECTS (or equivalent).

The Masters course should include around 400 hours of teaching in its curriculum of which at least 70% of practical classes in consecutive and simultaneous interpretation and incorporate the use of new technologies. This includes teaching students how to use CAI (computer-assisted interpreting) tools as well as how to use remote simultaneous platforms in a sustainable and professional way.

The University shall strive to offer language combinations, which meet the needs of the European Parliament.

The University may invite a member of staff of DG LINC to participate in the panel for the final exams of the Masters course. If compliant with the national and/or regional legislation, the staff member of DG LINC shall have full voting rights.

The University shall publicise broadly the opportunities offered by a career in conference interpretation among potential students of the Masters course, bearing in mind that candidates may come from a variety of disciplines. They must ensure that their students are aware of the deadlines for applications to the inter-institutional tests.

The University will make it clear to students that enrolment on the course is not a guarantee of passing the inter-institutional tests, and that they cannot work for the EU institutions as interpreters unless they pass those tests.

The University shall submit to DG LINC an annual report on the interpretation course. DG LINC will provide a standardised form for the report.

The University shall recommend the best-suited students for any training activity organised by DG LINC. This information will be treated confidentially and processed in accordance with data protection rules.

The University may offer language courses and other relevant training courses for European Parliament staff, for which the conditions and requirements will be subject to a separate contract.

No financial liability shall arise directly from the present Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 4
Scope of action of the parties

Each Party shall implement its responsibilities and obligations under this Memorandum in accordance with its regulations and procedures, the regulations and rules applicable to it under national or European law, and the limits of available staff and finance.

Neither party nor its personnel shall be considered as an official, agent, employee, representative or joint partner of the other party. Neither party shall enter into a contract or commitment on behalf of the other party.

Article 5
Duration, amendment, termination

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon its signature by both Parties and shall be in effect for two (2) academic years. Either Party may terminate the Memorandum at any time, for cause, upon thirty (30) days' notice, in writing, to the other Party.

This Memorandum may be amended by written agreement of the Parties.

In witness whereof, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

For DG LINC:

For the University of

Date

Date