Achieving Quality in Translation through Postgraduate Studies

Dr Agnieszka Biernacka Institute of Applied Linguistics

... IPSKT...

Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies in Translation and Interpreting

- * ... a unique specialized Programme
- * ... every year
- * ... 2 semesters (October-June)
- * ... weekend sessions only
- * ... group sizes: from 12 to 20 students

... trademark...

- * ... Institute of Applied Linguistics as the oldest translator/interpreter training institution in Poland (since 1972)
- * ... member of EMT, EMCI, CIUTI
- * ... IPSKT since 1999 uninterruptedly

... enrolment ratios...

		English	German	French	Spanish	Russian	Italian	Total
2013/14	Candidates	77	26	19	23	21	13	179
	Admitted	43	11	11	15	16	13	109
2014/15	Candidates	69	20	15	28	27	9	168
	Admitted	63	13	14	22	22	8	142
2015/16	Candidates	46	20	23	17	23	14	143
	Admitted	43	19	17	13	19	12	123

... let's talk about quality in translation...

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* ... aim...
* ... students...
* ... curriculum...
* ... teaching staff...
* ... facilities...
* ... IT-supported teaching...
* ... internal control system...
* ... market requirements...
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... aim...

* ... to prepare highly skilled specialists in legal translation and court interpreting working with Polish and a foreign language

... intake requirements...

- * Polish is a must,
- * fluency in one foreign language of those in the offer: DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, RU
- graduates of BA or MA studies (irrespective of the field of studies)
- * previous experience in translation is an asset

... entrance exams...

- * ... written entrance examination (2 texts; one into Polish and one into a chosen foreign language),
- * ... designed to assess a candidate's competence of a relevant foreign language, their aptitude for translation, and their general knowledge.

... IPSKT Curriculum...

- * ... 360 teaching hours = 60 ECTS points
- * ... all aspects of specialized and certified translation from such areas as law (civil, criminal, administrative, constitutional), economy, finance and others, and of interpreting, with special focus on court interpreting (strategies and techniques)

... IPSKT theoretical components...

- * ... 120 teaching hours:
- * Certified translation
- * Methodology of court interpreting
- * Fundamentals of law of a selected B language area
- * Fundamentals of Polish law
- * ... assessment at the end of each semester and/or at the end of the Programme based on a written exam

... IPSKT practical components...

- * ... 240 teaching hours:
- * Translation and interpreting: practical classes
- * Computer-aided translation classes
- * Stylistics of legal Polish language
- * Analysis of legal discourse in B language
- * Methodology of legal translation
- * ... continuous assessment: attendance, preparation, participation, individual and classwork or short terminological tests + final assessment based on a written exam

... teaching staff...

- * ... highly qualified practitioners or practitioners-researchers with many years of professional experience and/or solid scientific background, members of national and international professional organizations and EU accreditations
- * ... certified translators (legal translators and court interpreters), conference interpreters
- * ... lawyers, judges

... facilities...

- * ... library resources
- * ... computer labs
- * ... fully equipped classrooms

... IT-supported teaching...

* ... electronic documentation and terminological resources: links to the sites of professional organizations, terminological databases and glossaries of major international organizations, other Internet glossaries and specialized, translation/interpreting discussion for and speech banks.

... IT-supported teaching...

* ... computer-aided translation (commercial and open-source CAT Programmes as OmegaT, Wordfast Pro, MemoQ, SDL Trados) together with issues of translation memories and terminology management

... internal quality control...

- * The system of ensuring and enhancing the quality of education at the University of Warsaw (UW) is supervised by the **Office for Quality of Education and its local branches at each faculty**.
- * The **Faculty of Applied Linguistics**, which ILS is part of, also has its own quality assurance system
- * The quality of education is reviewed bi-annually through anonymous surveys among students conducted for each course separately at the end of each semester by the **Office for Evaluation of Education**. The results of the survey are used for promoting good practices and improving quality in education.
- * The general quality of education and research is also regularly assessed by the internal **University Accreditation Committee** and the external nation-wide **Polish Accreditation Committee**

... market requirements...

- ... reflected in language combinations and content selections
- * ... high ratio of practical to theoretical curriculum components
- * ... highly qualified translators and interpreters
- * ... certified translators: services to courts and tribunals, as well as to police, border guard and immigration authorities
- * ... career milestone
- * ... IPSKT staff

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