Course Units 2017-2018

French Translation Skills

Prerequisite for entry
Successful completion of French Business and Current Affairs at the UCL CLIE, or equivalent qualifications/experience. Students who have completed French for Academic Purposes or French for Professional Purposes courses will also be considered.

Course duration
40 x 2-hour classes.

Self-Study
160 hours in total.

Course codes
LCFR6967, LCFRG967 and LCFRM967.

Aims and Objectives
The course is designed for very advanced level non-linguist students to enable them to produce accurate translations from a range of subjects and text types.

The course covers translation skills development mainly from English into French (although some translation into English will also be practised), with the objective of producing different types of written translations, some of them relating back to the students’ degree subjects.

The course will cover fundamental theoretical concepts of translation but with the focus on teaching practical translation skills, making students aware of linguistic and cultural differences in subject-related areas.

The course will enhance knowledge and use of linguistically complex structures (a variety of styles and registers from a range of authentic academic material). Various transferable skills will also be further developed.

Functions
- Analysing various types of source text (ST), being aware of cultural issues, and taking into account the purpose of the text and its intended readership in order to produce well-researched, accurate and communicative target texts (TT)
- Applying linguistic knowledge to translation tasks, learning to consider equivalence issues
- Managing information content, dealing appropriately with cohesion and coherence
- Editing text, including proofreading and revising, to produce a grammatically accurate, coherent TT with appropriate punctuation, correct spelling and layout

Course Content
Often working in small groups during class time, students will produce and discuss translations and assess each other’s work. They will prepare and submit well-researched translation pieces on a regular basis, and will receive regular
feedback on their work. Texts will be chosen from a range of topics and domains, and taking into account the students’ areas of study. These may include:

- **Science and technology**
- **International relations and global issues**
- **Business, trade and economics**
- **Social sciences**
- **Law**
- **Art and literature**
- **Media and communication**

Exercises focusing on specific aspects (e.g. text analysis, grammar, writing in the TL, vocabulary) will be offered to further develop language skills and to prepare students for translation tasks.

**Skills**

**Reading**
- Reading for gist, scanning for specific information in source texts
- In-depth analysis of topics in relevant publications
- Developing research skills for translation
- Comparing information content in source and target texts
- Revising and proofreading

**Writing**
- Producing communicative translations from English into French and French into English
- Editing texts, writing summaries in the target language
- Adapting text according to specific readership
- Writing glosses, translator’s notes, annotations and short text analyses using appropriate language and applying key theoretical concepts

**Speaking**
- Explaining own translation strategy and choices, using some of the fundamental translation theory concepts appropriately

**Linguistic Structures**

**Discourse Strategies**
- Analysing/comparing texts from various sources (different text types, styles and registers)
- Adapting translation strategy according to text features and the purpose of ST and TT
- Working within the constraints of multimodal discourse, e.g. film subtitling

**Main Aspects of These Strategies**
- Structuring (logical structures)
- Linking devices (lexical and grammatical cohesion)
- Textual and pragmatic equivalence, awareness of registers and styles
- Use of appropriate collocations
- Appreciation of embedded meaning in discourse
- Acquisition of terminology relevant to specific domains and to student’s areas of study.

**Learning Resources**

There is no textbook for this course, although extracts from the following texts may at times be given to read:


Regular access to large bilingual and monolingual dictionaries is essential for this course.

Materials for the course will be drawn from authentic written material from various sources, to be provided by the tutor. In addition there is a wide range of language-learning materials available for self-study in the Self-Access Centre.