



École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs

Masters in Conference Interpreting :

www.esit.univ-paris3.fr

Admission

Candidates must have a University degree or equivalent. They do not need to have studied Languages.

They should also have spent at least one full year in the country of their strongest foreign language (B language). It is recommended that they spend several months in a country of their other language(s). Candidates who come from a bilingual background (family or country) or who have worked for extensive periods of time in a bilingual environment may request a waiver from this requirement.

Application forms and information about admissions can be obtained from the ESIT website. A written test is organised in the spring and, for those who pass, an oral examination in early summer, both in Paris. Candidates from outside France or neighbouring countries are not usually required to travel to Paris for the written tests. Oral examinations are also held in China for a limited number of candidates and –depending on applicant numbers and trainer availability – sometimes in Tunis and/or Cairo.

Course Details

The programme is a two-year Masters course, combined with a European Masters in Conference Interpreting (EMCI). Graduates are awarded a Masters degree in Conference Interpreting and the EMCI certificate.

The following languages are on offer as a matter of course:

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish

Other languages can be provided if there is sufficient demand. These include currently:

Bulgarian, Estonian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian

For other languages, candidates should contact the Secretariat (see web site).

All candidates must have French and English in their combination. Candidates should have an ABC, ABCC or ACCC combination.

AB and AA combinations are accepted for French/English or English/French.

Please note: Admission and requirements are the same for all applicants, whether French nationals or not. ESIT has a high percentage of non French nationals (more than 25 nationalities represented for the academic year 2009-2010).



The course is structured around:

- I. a range of Master classes and workshops aimed at providing the tools to interpret
 - a. background knowledge in a range of broad subjects, such as Economics, Law, Sciences; structured,
 - b. advanced language enhancement;
 - c. voice coaching;
 - d. translation and interpretation theory; basic introduction to linguistics.

- II. intensive coaching in interpreting skills in small groups by language pair. The number of students in such coaching sessions ranges from 2 to a maximum of 7. The skills taught are:
 - a. consecutive interpreting: listening, analysis, note-taking, working with speeches;
 - b. sight translation
 - c. simultaneous interpreting
 - d. simultaneous with text.

Financial Information

Tuition fees are approximately 600 euros per year. This is all-inclusive, covering access to libraries, computer facilities, all lectures and classes.

ESIT students have access to all University services and facilities.

Information about grants can be obtained from the CROUS (www.crous-paris.fr).

Foreign students living abroad can apply for grants through the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in their country of residence. Please note: applications must be submitted early in the year before admission decisions. Candidates should request a pre-admission certificate when submitting their application.

Study Abroad and Internships

As a member of the EMCI, the ESIT Interpreting course has close ties with the other Institutions of the Consortium. All students are entitled to attend classes at one other Institution for a short period in the course of the year, as well as visit the European Institutions in Brussels. Travel expenses are covered. The section also has exchange agreements with a wide range of other Institutions worldwide, including China, Japan, Spain.. Students may be advised to spend a year abroad for language enhancement purposes before going up into second year.

Students also have the possibility to visit various International and Regional Organisations, with opportunities to practice in authentic meetings.

Graduate Outcomes

All graduates find employment as conference interpreters. Depending on language combination, they work for the European Institutions, International Organisations or private market conferences. Most graduates begin their career as free lance interpreters, working in a wide range of conferences and settings all over the world.

About one third of graduates chose to move abroad either permanently or for a few years. ESIT graduates also hold posts of responsibility in a number of International Organisations.

Trainers

All interpretation training is provided by practising conference interpreters who are either full AIIC members or candidates to AIIC. Students benefit from their wide-ranging and diversified experience, as trainers work in a wide range of settings as either staff or free-lance interpreters. Trainers provide guidance and assistance to recent graduates.

General Observations

The ESIT Interpreting Section has been in existence for more than 50 years. Over that period it has trained a large number of outstanding conference interpreters. It offers a challenging, but rewarding programme, based on a culture of excellence, in keeping with the demands of the profession.