

Education & Training Questionnaire

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Survey Overview

Description

The purpose of the survey was to obtain information on the CPD requirements of translators and interpreters. The questions were written by ITI's Education Officer with assistance from the General Secretary, the Education and Training Committee and ITI members. The questionnaire layout was designed and placed on-line by ITI's Advertising and PR Officer, Lorraine Gregory, using SurveyGold software.

Instructions Provided To Respondents

ITI wants to build up more accurate information on the professional development and training needs of translators and interpreters. We welcome your help and invite you to fill in this questionnaire, even if you are not an ITI member. If you would prefer to receive the questionnaire on paper or by email, contact the ITI office (email info@iti.org.uk or telephone Madeline Stewart 01908 325253).

It is not essential to give your name, but if you do, you may win a prize! Respondents' names will be entered in a prize-winning draw. The winner will be invited to attend, free of charge, a module of their choice on the ITI Professional Development Course.

This survey closes on 18 December 2005 and all replies must be received by this date. Any replies received after this date will not be included and will not be entered in the free prize draw.

Definitions:

Post-experience training = training received after you started working as a translator/interpreter.

T/I = translation and/or interpreting.

Publicity for the survey

The survey was publicised on the homepage of ITI's website www.iti.org.uk, by an article in the ITI bulletin, and by e-mails to a subset of ITI members.

Respondent Metrics

Respondents:	255 (ITI members: 223; non-members: 32)
First Response:	02/11/2005 08:45 AM
Last Response:	19/12/2005 09:51 AM

All surveys were completed using the web-form questionnaire on the ITI website. No requests were received for a copy on paper or by e-mail.

Survey analysis

The analysis of Questions 1- 26 inclusive was generated automatically. Questions 27 and 28 asked for free-text replies, which were analysed and summarised by ITI's Education Officer, Emma Wagner, who also produced the Brief Summary of results.

Survey Results

Brief Summary

Take-up of CPD

The survey showed that of the 255 who responded, 188 (74%) are currently engaged in CPD activities of various kinds, the most common of which are self-directed study and attending talks and conferences. 67 respondents (26%) are not participating in CPD; the reason most commonly given was 'Cost', mentioned by 30 people.

Use of CPD Record

Relatively few respondents use the ITI CPD Record to record their activities. Of the ITI members in a position to use it, fewer than half (49%) say that they do. Of the excuses given for not using it, the main ones mentioned were having mislaid it, or forgetting to take it to events. Only a small number say that using the ITI CPD Record is pointless (15%) or too time-consuming (6%). In the Comments section a handful of respondents claim to be using the CIoL CPD Record rather than the ITI one.

Attendance at ITI events

A high proportion of respondents have never attended an ITI Conference (59%) or ITI Weekend Workshop (61%). The ITI events most likely to have been attended are Network or Regional Group events; only 38% say they have never attended one. The level of non-participation in newer or more specialised ITI events is even higher (94% have never attended a St Jerome seminar) but this is doubtless due to their newness and specialised nature.

Sources of training

The most common sources of training reported are non-T/I bodies such as universities and professional associations. Only 32% said they have never taken part in post-experience training from these providers. A very high number (70%) have never received any training from their employer, no doubt reflecting the freelance status of our respondents.

Attitudes to CPD and reasons for taking part

The level of interest in CPD is high. Only 11 respondents (4%) feel they don't need it, while 152 (59%) say that they are 'keen to participate in relevant CPD' and 90 (35%) expect it to help them update their skills.

A striking result was that the most popular purpose of CPD and training, mentioned by 179 or 70% of respondents, is 'to meet other translators/interpreters and compare methods and tips'. This may reflect the isolation of the freelance translator. The same number said they expected it to help them fill gaps in their subject knowledge. Slightly fewer, 155 (61%) mentioned that their goals include learning how to use new technology; a similar number expect training to provide a general update and fill gaps in their general knowledge of the profession.

Training location, format and duration

A substantial proportion (42%) said they could not attend training in London, but only near their home. But that still leaves an even larger number (58%) who can attend training anywhere or actually prefer London. A large number of respondents (117 or 47%) would like a combination of on-line and classroom training. Only 14% said they are 'only interested in classroom training'. As regards duration, the most popular are two-day weekend events and whole-day events, preferred by 28% and 27% respectively, but an equal number say they have no preference. Two-day events during the week are preferred by only 3%.

Training topics

The most popular training topics in each of the various categories mentioned are (in order of numbers interested, shown in brackets):

Translation workshops (169)

Increasing your earnings (167)

Specific topics in the individual's subject area (163); the most-wanted subject area is **Law** (various special aspects were mentioned). Finance and Medicine come second equals.

Updates on developments in the profession (IoL Charter, CEN standard) (156)

Terminology handling, using corpora (151)

Marketing and networking (149)

New forms of translation (e.g. subtitling, voiceover) (110)

Other topics were close runners-up in each category, and these findings will help ITI to plan and target training activities in future.

The following is a tabular depiction of the responses to each survey question.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

1. Are you currently engaged in any CPD (i.e. activities to maintain, improve and broaden the knowledge, skills and personal qualities necessary to do your job)?

73.7%	188	Yes
26.3%	67	No

2. If so, which? (Tick all that apply)

31.6%	152	Study and learning undertaken on your own (reading, on-line tutorials etc)
24.1%	116	Attending talks and conferences on any professionally relevant subject
17.0%	82	Taking part in T/I workshops
15.8%	76	Following formal training courses on any professionally relevant subject
6.4%	31	Teaching T/I, mentoring, giving presentations to clients about T/I
5.0%	24	Writing book reviews or articles about T/I

3. Do you use the ITI CPD Record to record this? (Tick one)

58.0% 109 No
 25.0% 47 Yes
 17.0% 32 Not applicable (I am not an ITI member)

4. Please tell us why you don't use the CPD record: (Tick one)

37.6% 44 None of the above
 20.5% 24 I have mislaid it
 20.5% 24 I keep forgetting to take it along
 15.4% 18 I don't see the point
 6.0% 7 It's too time-consuming

Past participation in ITI training**5. Have you attended the ITI conference? (Tick one)**

58.8% 147 Never
 19.2% 48 Occasionally
 14.4% 36 Once
 7.6% 19 Regularly

6. Have you attended any module(s) of the ITI Professional Development Course? (Tick one)

85.0% 209 Never
 8.9% 22 Once
 4.1% 10 Occasionally
 2.0% 5 Regularly

7. Have you taken part in ITI Peer Support Scheme? (Tick one)

84.8% 207 Never
 7.4% 18 Once
 5.7% 14 Regularly
 2.0% 5 Occasionally

8. Have you attended an ITI Network or Regional Group event? (Tick one)

38.4% 96 Never
 26.4% 66 Occasionally
 26.0% 65 Regularly
 9.2% 23 Once

9. Have you attended an ITI weekend workshop? (Tick one)

61.6%	154	Never
16.4%	41	Occasionally
16.4%	41	Once
5.6%	14	Regularly

10. Have you attended St Jerome Seminars? (Tick one)

94.3%	231	Never
3.7%	9	Once
1.2%	3	Occasionally
0.8%	2	Regularly

11. Have you attended any other training organized by ITI? (Tick one)

67.6%	167	Never
19.4%	48	Occasionally
10.9%	27	Once
2.0%	5	Regularly

Post-experience training from other providers**12. Have you received training from other translation/interpreting associations (ATA, IoL, LISA, SFT etc.)? (Tick one)**

63.8%	157	Never
24.4%	60	Occasionally
6.1%	15	Regularly
5.7%	14	Once

13. Have you received training from your employer? (Tick one)

69.8%	157	Never
16.4%	37	Occasionally
8.4%	19	Regularly
5.3%	12	Once

14. Have you received training from other non-T/I bodies (universities, professional associations)? (Tick one)

39.8%	100	Occasionally
32.3%	81	Never
18.3%	46	Regularly
9.6%	24	Once

CPD and training preferences

15. Your attitude to CPD and training (Tick one)

47.4%	152	I am experienced in T/I and am keen to participate in relevant CPD and training
28.0%	90	I am working in T/I and feel the need to update my skills in some areas
10.0%	32	I am a beginner and need help starting out in T/I
7.8%	25	I am already working in T/I but have never received any formal training
3.4%	11	I am happy with my level of skill in all areas and don't need any CPD
3.4%	11	None of the above

16. Your goals - what you would like post-experience training to help you achieve? (Tick all that apply)

15.5%	179	To meet other translators/interpreters and compare methods, share tips
15.2%	176	To fill gaps in my specific knowledge in certain subject areas
13.4%	155	To learn how to use new technology
11.4%	132	To provide a general update and fill gaps in my general knowledge of the profession
10.3%	119	To increase my earnings
8.6%	99	To fulfil the CPD requirements to obtain individual chartered status
8.2%	95	To reassure me that I am doing things right
7.4%	86	To help me break into a new subject area or a new type of T/I work
6.0%	69	To become a MITI (I am not yet a qualified member)
3.5%	41	To help establish myself in T/I (I am new to the profession)
0.4%	5	To help me go freelance (I am a staff translator/interpreter)

17. Please indicate your preferred location for training (Tick one)

41.6%	104	I can only attend training near my home, which is not near London
30.4%	76	I prefer training to take place in London or within the M25 boundary
15.6%	39	I can attend training anywhere, including abroad
12.4%	31	I can attend training anywhere in the UK

18. Please indicate your preferred format for training (Tick one)

46.4%	117	I prefer a combination of on-line and classroom training
27.0%	68	No preference
13.9%	35	I am only interested in classroom training
12.7%	32	I prefer on-line training

19. Please indicate your preferred duration of classroom training (Tick one)

27.8%	68	Two-day weekend event
27.3%	67	Whole-day event
26.9%	66	No preference
14.7%	36	Evening or afternoon event
3.3%	8	Two-day event during week

Training topics - Which general areas interest you most?

20. Moving into a different area of T/I work (Tick one)

- 43.7% 110 New forms of translation (e.g. subtitling, voiceover)
- 38.1% 96 Quickstart advice on a new subject area
- 18.3% 46 Other areas of interpreting (e.g. conference, community service)

21. The bigger picture (Tick all that apply)

- 34.8% 156 Update on developments in the profession (IoL Charter, CEN standard)
- 24.3% 109 Users of T/I : the client's point of view
- 16.5% 74 Ethics of T/I
- 15.2% 68 Academic translation studies
- 9.2% 41 Professional standards and definitions for interpreters

22. Language skills (Tick all that apply)

- 22.3% 169 Translation workshops
- 20.2% 153 Keeping source language skills up to date
- 17.7% 134 Keeping target language (usually mother tongue) skills up to date
- 16.6% 126 Revision workshops (revising each other's work)
- 15.9% 121 Writing skills in the target language
- 7.4% 56 Interpreting workshops

23. Subject knowledge (Tick all that apply)

- 35.7% 163 Specific topics in your subject area
- 34.6% 158 Workshops (practical work) with others specializing in the same subject area
- 29.6% 135 Subject research skills and resources

24. Business skills (Tick all that apply)

- 38.7% 167 Increasing your earnings (advice from high-earning translators/interpreters)
- 31.1% 134 Pricing, negotiating deadlines, dealing with clients
- 16.2% 70 Taxation
- 13.9% 60 Financial planning; sources of assistance; making a business plan

25. IT skills (Tick all that apply)

- 30.0% 151 Terminology handling; using corpora
- 19.9% 100 Translation memory - beginner
- 17.9% 90 Translation memory - intermediate
- 11.9% 60 Word processing, formatting, Excel, PowerPoint
- 10.9% 55 Dictation software
- 9.3% 47 Internet and email: tips on use; firewalls, virus protection

26. Personal skills (Tick all that apply)

41.4%	149	Marketing and networking
24.4%	88	Time management
17.5%	63	Outreach (teaching and presentation) skills
16.7%	60	Ergonomics, fitness, exercise, nutrition

Comments**27. Please indicate specific subjects which you are interested in**

Number of people who replied to this question: 165

An analysis of the free text replies to this question shows the following main areas of interest:

Subject	Number of respondents
Law (various special areas)	39
Finance	25
IT and CAT tools*	24
Medicine & pharmaceuticals	24
Business	10
Tourism	10
Arts	10

* Several who mentioned translation memory are in fact interested in learning how to use it (a topic already covered by Question 25), not in doing translations about it.

Many other subjects were mentioned by fewer than 10 respondents.

28. If you are not interested in CPD, please tell us what puts you off (cost, time etc)

Number of people who replied to this question: 68

An analysis of the free text replies to this question shows the following reasons:

Reason	Number of respondents
Cost*	30
Time	19
Access/location of training	17
Other, [incl. level offered is too low (4), subject I need is not available (4)]	15

* Several said they were deterred by the additional cost of travel and overnight accommodation, as well as lost earnings, rather than the cost of the training itself.