

CHRISTOPHER S. VIDLER

PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR, GERMAN & RUSSIAN & FRENCH TO ENGLISH
BA MODERN LANGUAGES • MA TRANSLATION STUDIES • MA COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS
QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING (MITI)

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Summary

I am an experienced language professional with master's degrees in translation studies and computational linguistics. In addition to my knowledge of various foreign languages and expertise as a translator, proofreader and post-editor, I have gone on to expand my skills in IT and programming (Python, JavaScript, SQL, VBA), first through my computational linguistics degree at the University of Wolverhampton and subsequently through a web development bootcamp with Haiku Academy, as well as through my own projects (see **Programming** section below for details).

I have over seven years of experience as a translator, three of which were spent in-house at various companies working primarily from German to English. My main areas of specialism include technical subject matter, programming documentation, contracts and legal information, press releases, and marketing and tourism material. Other services I've provided professionally include translation from Russian and French into English, as well as English-only editing and localisation work (e.g. US to UK). I also have a good understanding of Spanish and Swedish and varying levels of working knowledge in other languages (see **Languages** section below). I am enthusiastic about exploring other cultures and have spent extended periods studying and working abroad in Sweden, Austria, Russia and Thailand.

Experience

October 2024 – Present

Freelance Translator/Reviewer/Editor (German & Russian & French > English)

Have currently resumed freelance work as prior to summer contract with Geo, mainly with the same client base as before (regular DE>EN translation and post-editing jobs via an agency for a major end client in the German automotive sector; regular localisation work from US English into Commonwealth English variants via an agency chain for a major end client in the technology sector; RU>EN translations of cybersecurity articles and software manuals for an agency in the IT sector; DE>EN translations of technical manuals for various agencies/previous employers).

July 2024 – September 2024*, Geo Language Services, Guildford (*Temporary contract)

Linguistic Quality Assurance Checker

Assisted with project preparation and QA work during the company's busy summer period, focusing on the migration of existing content obtained from legacy printable clinical outcome assessments into JSON strings for use in new digital versions (eCOAs). Worked with an extensive range of world languages (both understood and unfamiliar to me), including non-Latin scripts, and ensured that these were repopulated in projects with accurate markup placement and source-target alignment. Assisted other members of staff with tasks and queries as necessary; also wrote SQL expressions to create custom segment filters in the Déjà Vu CAT tool, and experimented with using VBA to write macros, e.g. to automatically resize and reformat table cells for projects exported in RTF format.

October 2020 – July 2024

Freelance Translator/Reviewer/Editor (German & Russian & French > English)

Completed translation, review and editing work on a freelance basis, working primarily with the CAT tools Trados Studio and Transit NXT, as well as Passolo, Memsource/Phrase, Crowdin and XTM Cloud. Took on work primarily for previous employers, as well as other agencies I'd interacted with in the past. Work of note included providing review and feedback for intern translators at a previous employer, extensive website translation/review projects for a drug store chain and a watch/calculator producer, and regular DE>EN translation/post-editing jobs via an agency for a major automotive manufacturer.

January 2020 – October 2020, SDL* (English Language Office), Sheffield (**Part of the RWS group since November 2020*)

Associate Senior Translator (& Reviewer/Editor, German & Russian & French > English)

Translated and reviewed (and post-edited machine-translated) texts primarily from German to English for a vast number of clients using SDL's own Trados Studio translation software package, focusing on key accounts within the technical vertical that included manufacturers and suppliers of filling systems, fasteners and electronics equipment as well as energy providers and fashion retailers; text types included technical manuals, catalogue descriptions, press releases, internal corporate communications and a variety of other materials. Also translated and reviewed Russian and French tasks on a more occasional basis, as well as assisting members of my own team and other teams with any Russian-related queries. During my last few months at the company, I helped to select a test piece and assess translations from external RU>EN freelancers for upcoming work for a major commercial client. Carried out a variety of other linguistic tasks, including US <> UK English localisations, target-only reviews, transcriptions and subtitling jobs.

January 2018 – January 2020, STAR UK, Guildford

Translator (& Reviewer, German & Russian > English)

Translated texts primarily from German to English for a wide range of clients using STAR's Transit NXT translation software package; areas of focus included power tools, industrial equipment, smart home systems, luxury goods (watchmaking); text types included press releases, technical and automotive manuals, company profiles, website text, presentation/webinar slides, video subtitles, as well as occasional SEO-related jobs. Reviewed and provided detailed feedback on German to English translations produced by colleagues in-house and external freelancers; carried out ad hoc Russian to English translation/review tasks as well as assisting with tasks relating to other languages.

February 2017 – August 2017, LingServe, Aldershot

Intern (Translator, German > English)

Used Transit NXT and company term bases to translate texts from German to English for a range of business sectors in Germany; areas of focus included key clients in tourism, marketing and the automotive industry; text types ranged from annual reports, job postings and reference letters to content marketing articles, travel news and social media posts. Additional duties included proofreading texts translated into English as well as extracting, formatting and preparing text from PDFs and other file formats for import into translation software.

November 2016 – January 2017, Meggitt Sensing Systems, Basingstoke: Temporary Materials Handler

September 2016 – November 2016, Canadean, Basingstoke: Temporary Beverage Analyst

October 2013 – January 2014, Landesschulrat für Salzburg, Salzburg: English Foreign Language Assistant

August 2011 – September 2011, Office Furniture Advisory Service (OFAS), Crowthorne: Database Work

Education

October 2020 – September 2021, University of Wolverhampton

MA Computational Linguistics – Distinction

Completed all components of this second taught MA. Modules of note included Computer Programming in Python, Corpus Linguistics in R, Machine Translation, and Machine Learning for Language Processing.

Dissertation topic: "Patently Similar: A Comparative Study of European Patent Claims Machine-Translated from French and German into English Using WIPO Translate, Google Translate and DeepL Translator" (Supervisor: Dr Frédéric Blain)

October 2015 – September 2016, Durham University

MA Translation Studies (German & Russian <> English) – Distinction

Completed all components of this taught MA, working primarily out of German and Russian into English as well as receiving some tuition on translating in the opposite direction. Other modules included Translation Theory, Research Skills for Translation Studies, and a Translation Work Placement at the university's Oriental Museum.

October 2011 – June 2015, Durham University

BA Modern Languages (German & Russian with Arabic) – Class II Division 1

Studied German and Russian to final year level and Arabic to second year level, having taken up Russian and Arabic as beginner's languages from 1st and 2nd year respectively. Particular areas of study included modules in German Interpreting, German Translation and Russian for Professional Communication.

September 2004 – June 2011, Reading School

Secondary Education – A-Levels: AAAB, GCSEs: 8 A*s, 3 As + A in Additional Maths

Skills

Language Skills:

ENGLISH: Native speaker of British English

- Experience of teaching English as a foreign language, school qualifications in English & English Literature

GERMAN: Able to translate from professionally, business-level speaking fluency

- 9 years' study from GCSE to MA level, 3+ years' experience as an in-house DE>EN translator

RUSSIAN: Able to translate from professionally

- 5 years' study through BA & MA degrees, nearly 3 years of in-house RU>EN translation tasks

FRENCH: Able to translate from professionally (+ DELF B2 qualification)

- 5 terms of evening classes at Surrey University (2017-19), nearly half a year of in-house FR>EN translation tasks

SPANISH: Good working proficiency (+ DELE B2 qualification)

- 3 terms of evening classes at Durham University (2011-12) and self-tuition towards DELE exam

SWEDISH: Working proficiency

- Achieved through intensive summer courses at the Uppsala International Summer Session (2013 & 2014)

MODERN STANDARD ARABIC: Limited proficiency

- 2 years' study as part of BA Modern Languages degree

MANDARIN CHINESE: Limited proficiency (600+ characters) (+ HSK3/HSKK Elementary qualifications)

- 1 term of evening classes at Surrey University (2018) and self-tuition towards HSK exams

BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE: Limited proficiency

- 1 term of evening classes at Surrey University (2021) and self-tuition

Computer-Aided Translation Software (CAT Tools):

I have extensive professional experience of using SDL's **Trados Studio** (now owned by RWS) and the STAR Group's **Transit NXT** package to complete jobs for clients, having worked at in-house translation offices for both of these companies. I have also completed string localisation jobs using SDL **Passolo**, and have acquired experience in working with translation tools such as **Déjà Vu**, **Phrase** (formerly **Memsources**), **Crowdin**, **XTM Cloud** and **Smartling**, as well as internal translation management systems used by Amazon and Google.

Transcription and Subtitling:

I used the **Subtitle Edit** editor to create .srt files for clients in the course of my work at SDL, and have since used **CaptionHub** to review subtitles for clients as a freelancer. I also worked with the **Amara** subtitling platform to transcribe and translate subtitles for TEDx talks in September 2015 as a volunteer subtitler for TED's Open Translation Project.

Programming, Natural Language Processing and Web Development:

My Computational Linguistics degree at Wolverhampton included a module that taught the **Python** programming language from scratch, with portfolio assessments that utilised the **Natural Language Toolkit** and the **pandas** library and ultimately tasked us with building a basic automatic summariser. I then applied this programming knowledge in a module on **machine learning**, with assignments that included developing kNN and Naïve Bayes classifiers and a linear regression model, and working with libraries such as **scikit-learn**. This knowledge was subsequently revised and expanded on through a CPD course in **Translation and AI** taught by the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey (May-July 2024), which also explored the use of **large language models** and prompt engineering.

Between January-March 2024, I also completed a **full-stack web development** bootcamp with Haiku Academy, through a combination of remote learning followed by on-site tuition in Thailand. Modules studied included back-end-related courses covering database management with **SQL**, programming with **JavaScript**, and development of **APIs** with **Node.js**, as well as modules focusing on front-end logic and design (**React.js**, **CSS/Tailwind**). The overall project throughout the bootcamp was to build an effective clone of the AirBnB website using technologies learnt throughout the course, involving coordinated groupwork in teams of three using an agile approach, kanban board planning, daily stand-up meetings and extensive use of **GitHub** to commit and collate code. Through my work as a translator, I'm also already very familiar with working with markup languages such as **HTML**, and have a good understanding of **XML** through working with XLIFFs and other file formats.

My GitHub account can be found at <https://github.com/CSVidler> and features a program I wrote for transliterating Cyrillic into Latin characters as one of the assessments for my degree at Wolverhampton, as well as a macro using **Visual Basic for Applications** that automatically reformats the table cells for translation projects exported in RTF format.

Content Writing/Article Research:

As a member of the Institute of Translation & Interpreting, I've written **published articles for the ITI Bulletin** investigating **translation and terminology in various fitness disciplines**, including **parkour** (Jan-Feb 2023 pp.18-19), **calisthenics** (Jul-Aug 2023 pp.13-15) and **jiu-jitsu** (Jan-Feb 2025, pp.20-22). My parkour article was also published online for all to read at <https://www.iti.org.uk/resource/from-traceur-to-traducteur.html>.