

Join ITS. BC's Premier Interpreting Services Provider

FAQs for Interpreters

What is interpreting?

In simple terms, interpreting means taking what someone says or signs in one language and saying or signing it in another language. The interpreter makes sure to convey not just the words, but also the meaning and style of the original message.

Professional interpreters play a crucial role in facilitating effective communication across language barriers by accurately and impartially conveying messages between individuals who speak different languages in various settings.

Where do interpreters work?

Interpreters can be found in a wide range of environments, including community centers, legal contexts, healthcare facilities, clinics, social service agencies, educational institutions, and government offices.

What qualifications do I need to work as an interpreter at your agency?

While specific requirements may vary, typically, you'll need fluency (reading and writing) in at least two languages and relevant interpreter training from a recognized training program (or willingness to undertake such a program) or have obtained Canadian Certified status (e.g. CTTIC or member bodies).

What training is required for interpreters?

At ITS, we recognize the vital importance of training for professional interpreters and only recruit interpreters that have undergone specialized training programs to enhance their language proficiency, ethical awareness, interpreting techniques and overall competencies required of interpreters.

Do you provide training?

No, ITS does not provide interpreter training directly. However, we collaborate closely with local organizations to offer high-quality training in community interpreting, healthcare interpreting, legal and court interpreting, and mental health interpreting. Additionally, we partner with colleagues across British Columbia to facilitate programs aimed at supporting ongoing professional and career development for interpreters.

Do I need to have interpreting experience?

While experience is valuable, if you have not had any training, we would rather support and provide opportunities for entry-level interpreters to gain experience and training.

FAQs for Interpreters Con't

What types of assignments can I expect?

Assignments vary widely, ranging from legal proceedings and medical appointments to community or public services settings and business meetings.

How flexible are the working hours?

Flexibility in scheduling is often essential in this field to accommodate clients' needs, which may include evenings, weekends, or irregular hours. You will be free to pick and choose the hours and days you prefer.

Do I have to be a Certified Interpreter to work for ITS?

You don't necessarily need to be a Certified Interpreter to join ITS, but you must have completed at least 50 hours of training with a reputable and/or recommended training program. Having passed an interpreter skills and language assessment, like the CILISAT, is also highly advantageous.

A Certified Interpreter, as defined for our purposes, is someone who has successfully passed the CTTIC exam and is a member in good standing of a provincial member organization like STIBC.

What are the different types of interpreting?

Interpreters work in a variety of settings, both formal and informal. In community settings, can be found working alongside professionals and assisting with social services, education, and immigration matters. Legal interpreters work in courtrooms, while healthcare interpreters aid in health-related and medical consultations and procedures - both in and out of the institutional settings. Interpreters also play crucial roles in formal settings such as conferences, administrative tribunals, diplomatic settings, and formal business meetings.

How do interpreters work?

Interpreters employ two main ways, or MODES of interpreting: consecutive, where they speak after the speaker pauses, and simultaneously, where they speak while the speaker is still speaking. However, interpreting goes beyond these techniques. Interpreters adhere to strict professional standards and ethical guidelines in every context.

What support and resources does the agency offer to interpreters?

We prioritize and actively support the continuous professional development of our interpreters. Collaborating closely with local training organizations, we ensure that our interpreters receive high-quality education, access to interpreting tools and resources, and support for professional development.

FAQs for Interpreters Con't

Can I work remotely?

Yes, interpreters work both remotely (via phone or video) and face-to-face.

Do I need specialized equipment to work remotely?

To work as a remote interpreter, you need to have the basics, which includes:

- A private space that protects confidentiality of all people
- A quiet space that will not be disrupted by others or by noise
- Stable, fast and secure internet connection
- A well functioning computer camera
- A well functioning microphone - a headset works best

A desk at which to sit to facilitate any note-taking

How much do interpreters earn?

Interpreters' pay can vary depending on experience, language combination, certification, and the setting they work in. Hourly rates can range from \$25 to \$70 or more.

What are the benefits of becoming an interpreter?

Becoming a community interpreter in Canada offers numerous benefits, including the opportunity to contribute to society by facilitating communication between individuals of different language backgrounds. With Canada's growing diversity, there is a high demand for qualified interpreters across various sectors, providing ample job opportunities and potential for career advancement.

Many interpreters find personal fulfillment in knowing that their work directly helps individuals access essential services and fully participate in Canadian society. Additionally, working as an interpreter fosters cultural understanding and empathy by exposing individuals to different languages, customs, and perspectives.

The flexible work environment of community interpreting allows interpreters to choose assignments and manage their schedules, while continuous exposure to diverse situations leads to ongoing learning and skill development. Finally, the networking opportunities inherent in community interpreting provide connections with professionals from various fields, opening doors for collaboration and further career opportunities.

How do I apply to become an interpreter with your agency?

To apply to ITS Archway, visit our [careers page](#) on our website and complete the online application form and attach your resume. We will contact you to follow up.