

# CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

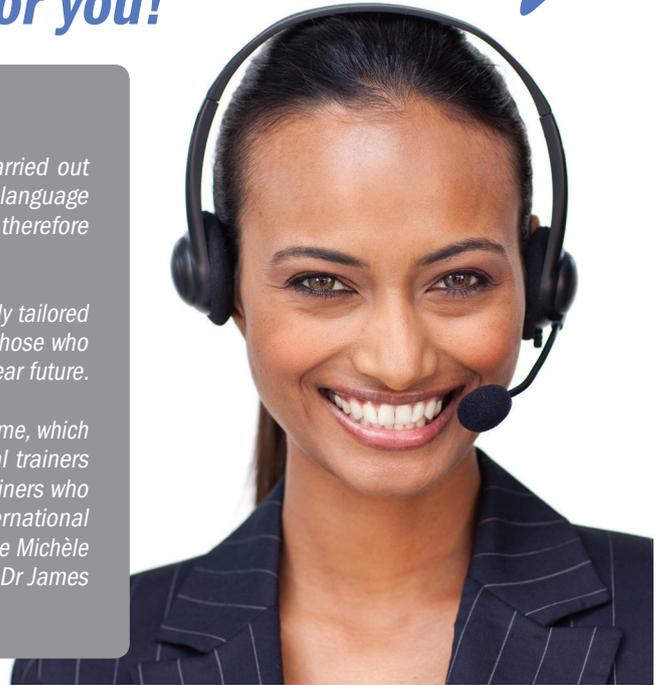
## Make your languages work for you!

### WHAT IS CONFERENCE INTERPRETING?

Conference interpreting is highly specialised, well paid and generally carried out in an interpreting booth, using equipment (except in the case of sign language interpreting). Conference interpreters are language experts and should therefore have very high-level language skills.

Wits Language School offers high-level, specialised training courses, carefully tailored to the needs of experienced practising conference interpreters, as well as those who would like to become conference interpreters in Africa and abroad in the near future.

Wits Language School presents a dynamic, adaptable interpretation programme, which can benefit the most talented students and instructors. The international trainers for these courses are internationally-renowned conference interpreting trainers who themselves interpret at the highest level. They are all AIIC members (International Association of Conference Interpreters). Some of our previous trainers include Michèle Bo-Bramsen (AIIC, Copenhagen), Hans-Werner Muehle (AIIC, Strasbourg), Dr James Nolan (AIIC, Miami) and Veronica Pérez-Guarnieri (AIIC, Buenos Aires).



### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Aspiring and professional conference interpreters wishing to work for institutions such as the Pan-African Parliament, provincial and national legislatures, the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO), the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB), World Health Organisation, United Nations, as well as in various freelance conference contexts.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

#### THESE COURSES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH:

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent OR
- Extensive simultaneous interpreting experience  
(Experienced practitioners should submit a cv plus contactable references)
- Computer literacy and a reliable internet connection

#### SUITABLE APPLICANTS WILL HAVE ONE OF TWO LANGUAGE COMPETENCE PROFILES, REFLECTING THE TWO DISTINCT PROFILES OF PRACTISING CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS:

**PROFILE 1:** Applicants with any South African language (including South

African Sign Language), French, Portuguese, Arabic, Swahili, Chinese, German, Spanish, or other language\* as their native language (A language) and English as an active foreign language (B language). These students will work in both simultaneous and long consecutive interpreting in both directions (ie. B-A and A-B).

**PROFILE 2:** Applicants who have English as their native language (A language) and two passive foreign languages (C languages). These students will work in both simultaneous and consecutive interpreting out of both C languages into their A language. For the purposes of a short course, participants may choose to focus on one language combination.

\*Please contact us to confirm your language combination.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

All of the conference interpreting courses operate according to a blended learning approach, with an online component followed by an on-site component at a later stage. Courses run for 8 weeks part-time in total, consisting of a six-week online component followed by a face-to-face master class and assessment. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly but professional. Students must complete an aptitude test in order to gain admission and will receive a Certificate of Competence from the University of the Witwatersrand if they pass the course.

## CERTIFICATION

All of these courses are offered at Honours/MA level (NQF 8/9) and students receive a recognised Certificate of Competence from Wits University if they pass. Participants who pass will receive credit for one module in the Honours/MA in Interpreting should they comply with entrance requirements.

Student numbers would ideally be 10-15 students per course, as conference interpreting training is by nature intensive and requires a great deal of personal attention. WLS reserves the right to postpone or cancel a course should there be insufficient participants. Please check our website - [www.witslanguageschool.com](http://www.witslanguageschool.com) - for any changes in course dates.

## WHERE DO I STAY?

The contact component of the course is taught on-site at the Professional Development Hub, in close proximity to comfortable and secure accommodation. Our Student Liaison Officer, Frederika Baxter, will assist participants in booking suitable accommodation, from affordable homestays to luxurious guest houses or hotels, and can assist with transport to Wits Language School where needed. These costs are not included in the course fees.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED STUDENT NUMBERS PER COURSE?

Student numbers should not exceed 10 per course, as conference interpreting training is by nature intensive and requires a great deal of personal attention. WLS reserves the right to postpone or cancel a course should there be insufficient participants. Please check our website - [www.witslanguageschool.com](http://www.witslanguageschool.com) - for any changes in course dates.

## CONFERENCE INTERPRETING COURSES

### Principles and Practice of Interpreting

In this course, offered at Honours level (NQF level 8), we focus on the principles and practice governing the interpreting profession in a number of advanced liaison and consecutive interpreting contexts. Monolingual and bilingual pre-interpreting skills are refined and participants perform liaison interpreting in the consecutive mode (short and long), simultaneous interpreting (whispered/signed) and sight interpreting. Participants are also taught to negotiate mismatched power relations, as well as to conduct an interpreting business ethically and professionally.

Students may take this short course as a stand-alone short course or as part of the Honours in Interpreting. Students who receive a Certificate of Competence may receive credit for one module in Honours in the Field of Translation or Interpreting (which consists of five modules in total).

**Note:** The online component of the course must be passed before participants may attend the on-site component.

### Conference Interpreting Skills

This course, offered at Honours level (NQF level 8), is aimed at professional interpreters who have passed Principles and Practice of Interpreting.

The aim of the course is to improve the student's grasp of the principles and professional practice which govern the interpreting profession, in intermediate conference interpreting contexts. Students enhance their conference preparation techniques and terminology management, and improve their ability to assess the interpreting process and apply interpreting coping tactics. Participants carry out conference interpreting practice in the simultaneous mode (including simultaneous interpreting with text).

**Note:** The online component of the course must be passed before participants may attend the onsite component.

Students who have successfully completed the course Principles and Practice of Interpreting may take this short course as a stand-alone short course, or as part of the Honours in Interpreting. Students who receive a Certificate of Competence may receive credit for one module in Honours in Interpreting (which consists of five modules in total).

### Specialised Conference Interpreting Practice

This course, offered at MA level (NQF level 9), is aimed at experienced conference interpreters who have passed Conference Interpreting Skills. We focus on the principles, norms and professional practice governing the interpreting profession, in intermediate

to advanced conference interpreting contexts.

This may include at least two of the following:

- Interpreting for business
- Conference interpreting in the South African context
- Interpreting for the diplomatic service
- Interpreting for provincial and national legislatures (Parliament)
- Conference interpreting in international contexts

Students who have successfully completed the Conference Interpreting Skills course may take this short course as a stand-alone short course or as part of the MA in Interpreting.

**Note:** The online component of the course must be passed before participants may attend the on-site component. Participants who receive a Certificate of Competence may receive credit for one module in the MA in Interpreting.

### Course fee

Each course: R19 000

## UNIT CONTACT DETAILS

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[www.witslanguageschool.com](http://www.witslanguageschool.com)

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