



A Griffin statant, wings enfolded.



In House v. Freelance Translation

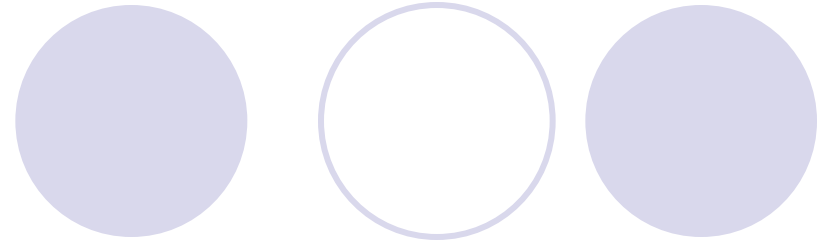
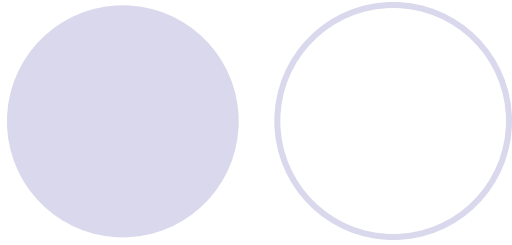
University of Westminster
Careers in Languages Day
Saturday 28th January 2012

Sarah Griffin-Mason

www.griffin-mason.com

The translation career path – maze or labyrinth?

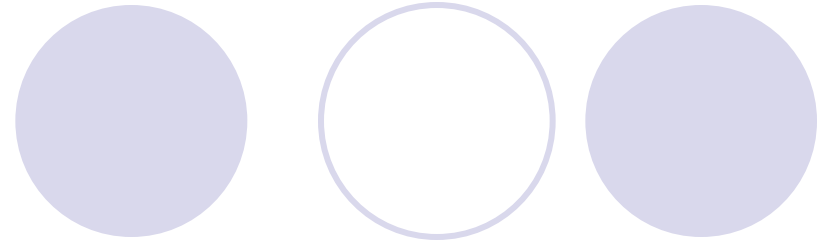
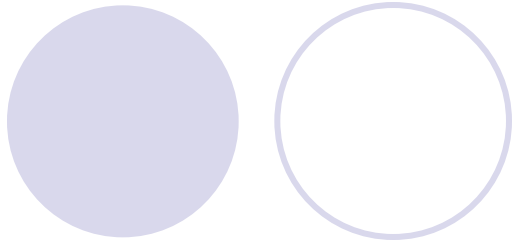




Before you start

Why might you want to become a translator or interpreter?

Star Trek, universal translator, 23rd Century



What qualities, skills and knowledge do you need before considering becoming a translator or interpreter?

What you can offer translation and what translation can offer you:

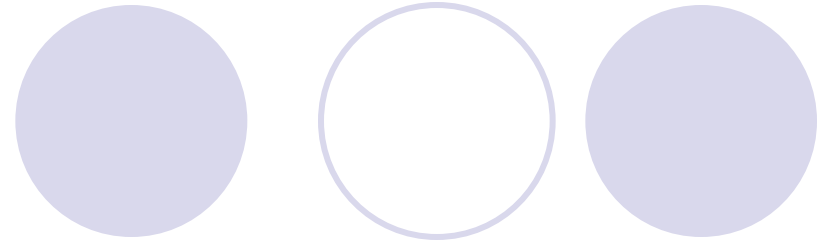
- Deep bilingual knowledge of two languages
- Good writing skills in your native language
- Subject knowledge someone will pay you to translate
- A good livelihood if managed well
- Flexibility
- Independence and freedom
- Variety
- Stimulation, excitement and travel

My story...



- Lived in Brussels from the age of 7 to 12 as the EC began – became fascinated by languages
- Learned languages through primary and secondary school to A level
- Found a place at university reading modern foreign languages, took a year out to travel around Europe

...followed by...



- Read Archaeology at university, graduated with a 2:1
- Completed a PGCE in primary education
- Taught in Canning Town, East Ham and Blandford Forum



...and back to languages

- Partner became editor of the Ecologist magazine then editor for ITeM
- ITeM offered me a post as editor and corrector of translations by non-natives

Finding opportunities along the way

Fell in love with Uruguay and stayed on, making contacts and improving my Spanish:

- ITeM and Redes
- Eco-comunidad
- Beatríz - Lolapress and UITA
- COP 4
- IPS

InterPress Service



- Trained me up as a trans-editor
- Learned a massive amount about translation
- I worked there for the rest of the 90s producing 4,000 words per day
- Married a Uruguayan and started a family

Back to England



- Launched a freelance career
- MA in Translation Studies UoP
- Joined Institute of Translation and Interpreting
- Have now been freelancing here for 7 years

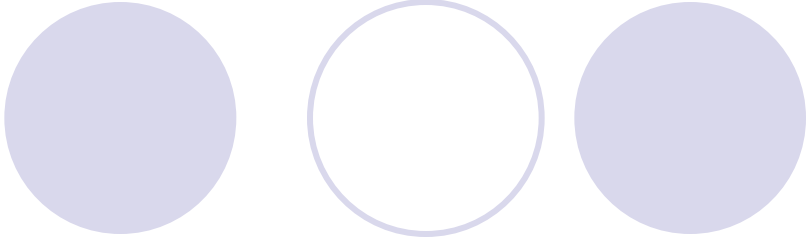
In house

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide consists of two groups of three circles. The left group has a solid light purple circle on the left and an outlined light purple circle on the right. The right group has a solid light purple circle on the left, an outlined light purple circle in the middle, and a solid light purple circle on the right.

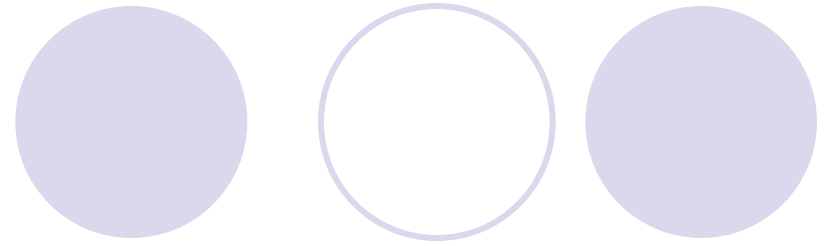
- **Pros**
- Insider knowledge of an area of the profession/specialism
- Networking
- Feedback on your work in a supportive environment
- Time to learn and be paid at the same time

In house



- 
- **Cons**
 - Beware the project management trap
 - Work may be underpaid you may be overworked
 - Training may not be all you expected
 - Office politics

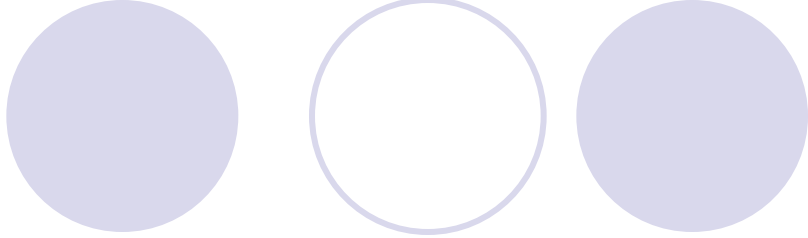
Freelancing



- **Pros**
- You are your own boss
- You can work with who you want to work with
- You set your own rates

Freelancing



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- **Cons**
 - You are all alone and reliant on your own self discipline
 - You have to find your own clients
 - You have to get them to pay you

Websites



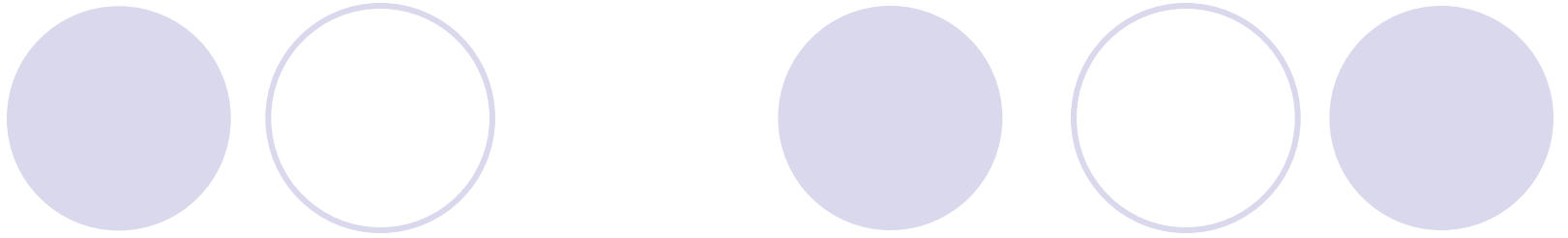
- The National Centre for Languages
- <http://www.cilt.org.uk/home.aspx>
- Routes into Languages
www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation
- Check out CloL and ITI sites
<http://www.iti.org.uk>
<http://www.iol.org.uk/>
- Translator on-line forums like ProZ
<http://www.proz.com/>
- On-line journals and websites
<http://www accurapid.com/journal>-+

Get Experience



Get real experience in an area you will be able to use as a subject for subsequent translation:

- www.adamsrecruitment.com
- www.europa.eu/eures
- www.bluelynx.com
- www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk
- <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/> 21 to 23 Oct 2011 has a recruitment village and 80 free seminars.



Thank you for listening.

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