

The Independent Registration Panel

IRP

for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

**Factsheet issued by the Independent Registration
Panel following its meeting on
9 November 2005**

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1. Registered Interpreters

Number of Registrations 2005 - 2006

At its November meeting, the IRP's Ratification Committee approved 32 applications for registration and upgrading to a higher category of registration.

The number of registered interpreters (as of January 2006) will be:

Members of the Register	=	266
Trainee Interpreters	=	40
Junior Trainee Interpreters	=	83

Total number of registered interpreters	=	389
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We would like to thank everyone who met the deadline for registration and supplied all of the necessary evidence before the closing date.

The IRP is delighted to report on the increasing numbers of registered interpreters, and welcomes all applicants with the relevant qualifications to apply to become Members of the Register (MRSLIs), Trainee Interpreters (TIs) and Junior Trainee Interpreters (JTIs).

2. Applications for 1 April 2006 Registration

Please remember that the current registration year runs from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. **All** registered interpreters are required to renew their registration from 1 April 2006 regardless of when they registered during 2005-06. A renewal pack will automatically be sent out to all registered interpreters at the beginning of January 2006 and the closing date to return the application form will be 31 January 2006. New applicants should contact the IRP Administrator for an application form (at the address below) as soon as possible.

For 1 April 2006 registration, please note that the deadline for applications is:

31 January 2006

Only applications with current supporting evidence received by Tuesday 31 January 2006 can be considered for April registration.

If you are awaiting results which will be verified by the registration date, please submit your application form by the deadline with all other supporting information. Your application will be ratified conditional on receiving confirmation of results by 31 March 2006.

3. Summary of Decisions from Recent Ratification Committees

May we remind you of the following:

- Photographs of all shapes and sizes, types, colours and quality have been sent in with applications. An outside company now processes the ID badges and the photographs are digitally printed onto the badges. In future, please send in **two colour photographs of passport size, standard and type, i.e. close-up of head and shoulders.**

(We are investigating the possibility of applicants sending in digital images but logistically this is not possible for 2006-07. We will continue to pursue this.)

- Evidence of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure must be less than three years old for registration purposes. If evidence is provided other than the actual CRB Enhanced Disclosure Certificate, then this must state the date of when the disclosure was carried out.
- A number of incorrect titles have been used for the training programmes candidates are undertaking or have completed. Please ensure that the titles used match the titles on the application form.
- The progression forms that were completed by interpreters who have been JTI or TI for three years (RJTI-05 and RTI-05) are working well, and have identified the efforts TIs and JTIs are making to progress towards MRSLI status. Please note that the three years start from when you first registered in a particular category and gaps in registration will be counted as part of the three years. Interpreters will not be denied registration in 2006-07 because they have been registered as TI/JTI for three years or more.
- It is the responsibility of each individual interpreter to ensure that their Professional Indemnity Insurance covers them for all assignments they undertake and that it is valid for the full registration period. If you are covered by your employer's insurance, you may need additional cover for any freelance work you undertake.
- The declaration section of the application form was not always completed, resulting in a lot of time and effort being spent chasing up the missing information. Applicants really do need to take the time to tick all of the declaration boxes and cannot be registered until this section is complete.

4. New Interpreter Training Programme

The Ratification Committee have approved a new Interpreter Training Programme from Middlesex University and City Lit, entitled BA (Hons) Deaf Studies: Communication Support and Education (Interpreting Option). Final year students who are due to graduate in 2006 will now be eligible to register with the IRP as JTIs.

The Independent Registration Panel

The Registration Department, c/o CACDP, Durham University Science Park, Block 4
Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3UZ
Telephone: 0191 383 1155 (voice) or 0191 383 7915 (textphone)
Email: administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk

5. Membership of the IRP

Agencies/Employers	Gloria Ogborn
	Martin Colville
Deaf Consumers/Tutors	Shirley Farthing (Vice-chair)
	Ilan Dwek
Interpreters	Trudy Field (Chair)
	Liz Mercer
	Chris Stone
Training Providers/Assessment Centres	Sue Spencer
	Frank Harrington
External Examiners/Verifiers	Roger Beeson
Non-voting – Co-opted	Philip Gerrard
CACDP	Miranda Pickersgill
Administrator – Angela Nunn	
Registrar – Christine Wagstaff	

6. Complaints

At present, the IRP are dealing with one complaint. The IRP has received four other complaints, but unfortunately they were made against unregistered interpreters and so cannot be investigated.

In these cases, whenever possible we write to complainants about the benefits of using registered interpreters. One of the advantages of using registered interpreters is being able to take action if not satisfied with the service provided. We try also to inform the non-registered person about the complaint and about the benefits of being a registered interpreter.

7. Future Developments

Following the joint statement issued by the IRP and CACDP in October 2005, the IRP has met to form a feasibility group to prepare a business case, to be presented to CACDP, for the IRP to establish a freestanding self-financing registration body, which will hold the registration policy and the register, and which will be fully independent of CACDP. IRP members will be reporting to their stakeholder groups on this exciting development, explaining progress so far and inviting comments and suggestions.