

# REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2006

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### This newsletter is distributed to:

- Registered BSL/English Interpreters, Deafblind Interpreters (Manual), Lipspeakers and Speech to Text Reporters;
- Approved NVQ Assessment Centres;
- The Independent Registration Panel;
- The Registration Panel for Speech to Text Reporters, Deafblind Interpreters (Manual) and Lipspeakers;
- The Consortium of Interpreter Assessment and Training Providers.

### Editor

Rosie Addis, CACDP Qualifications Officer – BSL/English Interpreting

## 1. General Information

The final figures for the 2005-2006 registration year show a welcome increase when compared with 2004-2005.

Category	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
Member of the Register of BSL/English Interpreters	201	270
Trainee Interpreter (BSL/English)	46	44
Junior Trainee Interpreter (BSL/English)	87	84
Member of the Register of Deafblind Interpreters (Manual)	31	31
Member of the Register of Speech to Text Reporters	11	14
Member of the Register of Level 3 Lipspeakers	27	33
Registered Level 2 Lipspeaker	20	24

Registration is now under way for the April 06 - March 07 registration year. If you missed the deadline for April 2006 registration, the next registration date is 1 September 2006 with a closing date for receipt of applications of 31 July 2006.

Just a reminder to please keep us informed of any changes to contact details, changes of address, etc as they occur. This applies to everyone, not just those who advertise in the directory. Any changes should be sent to Angela Nunn, Senior Admin Officer – Registration, at [angelan@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:angelan@cacdp.org.uk).

## 2. BSL/English Interpreting

### Review of the National Standards for Interpreting (NSI)

Last year, we asked for feedback on CILT's proposed revisions to the National Standards for Interpreting, which describe the role of spoken and sign language interpreters. Thanks to all of you who sent in your comments. At the time of writing, the revised standards have been written but have not yet been approved. The draft standards can be found at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/standards/nsireview.htm> in their draft form.

The standards have not changed fundamentally – that is, interpreters are still expected to work to the same level of skill – but there are some structural changes to the layout. For example:

- The language standards (for BSL at Level 4) have been removed from the interpreting standards. This means that training providers must satisfy themselves of the standard of BSL of interpreter applicants, or continue to offer Level 4 NVQ in BSL as a separate qualification.
- The skill of interpreting has been split into two separate units: one-way and two-way.
- There is a more explicit requirement for the interpreter to be able to show that they can use technology (e.g. videophone, microphone), and 'troubleshoot' if there is a problem.

Once the standards are approved, the CACDP Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English) will need to be re-accredited to reflect the changes in the National Interpreting Standards. It is anticipated that a revised version of this qualification will be accredited for use by September 2006. The current version of this qualification remains accredited until February 2007.

The new structure also provides an opportunity for CACDP to develop additional units outside the NVQ framework, and combine them into new non-NVQ qualifications, provided that there is a demand for such qualifications.

Any comments or suggestions on current or future qualifications in interpreting should be sent to Rosie Addis, Qualifications Officer – BSL/English Interpreting, at [rosiea@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:rosiea@cacdp.org.uk).

### **Intercultural skills**

'Intercultural skills' are defined as those skills needed to work effectively with clients and/or colleagues from a range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Currently there are no nationally recognised standards relating to this area, but over the past year, CILT has been conducting research with employers to ascertain the feasibility of creating such standards in the future. Their findings to date can be read online at: [www.cilt.org.uk/standards/icresearch.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/standards/icresearch.htm).

However, the report does conclude that:

*"The consultation process to date gives no clear consensus about views of the need to develop national standards in intercultural skills. There is a balance of views with some ambivalence about whether it is possible to achieve a set of standards that would be able to measure such skills."*

Given the obvious potential relevance to those working between different cultures and the languages associated with these, it would be helpful if anyone interested in this could access the website and provide feedback on this subject. This should be emailed to Rosie Addis, at [rosiea@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:rosiea@cacdp.org.uk).

## **3. Deafblind and ACE Unitisation of Qualifications**

Consultation has taken place for the forthcoming unitisation of the Deafblind and ACE suite of qualifications.

This means updating the current portfolio to become a suite of unit-based qualifications. Unitisation does not mean cutting qualifications into slices, like a cake, and re-assembling into the same thing as before. Unitisation means creating fit-for purpose units and building them up into qualifications that are needed.

Our Unitisation Project has now been defined – it will run from October 2005 to December 2006. The end of the current accreditation period for many existing CACDP qualifications is September 2006 – this gives us a unique opportunity to review, revise, and update.

Units will assess discrete areas of skills, knowledge and/or understanding. A unit can belong in several qualifications. This avoids candidates having to learn the same thing twice and is more flexible: we can also add new units as needed.

The outcome of this work may change the look of our portfolio - some qualifications will be virtually unchanged from before, but this must not be assumed. New units and qualifications may not have familiar titles or describe familiar roles.

Units at Level 2 will be about direct (one-to-one) communication with a deaf person. They will not define a job role: they will focus on the skills needed in order to communicate effectively.

At Level 3, units will focus on facilitating communication between deaf and hearing people, and will relate to the roles fulfilled by many registered Language Service Professionals (LSPs).

CACDP expect that most of these new units will be available from the autumn of 2006. It is hoped that many current LSPs will see these units as an opportunity to develop further, enhance their communication skills and extend their range of qualifications.

## 4. Unitisation Advisory Panel

In November 2005, CACDP's Board of Trustees resolved to replace its Qualification Committees (QCs) with a new 'Unitisation Advisory Panel' (UAP), to provide advice and expertise on an *ad hoc* basis to assist staff with the unitisation programme described above. Some members of the UAP will be invited to form a Registration Panel covering all the registered LSPs other than BSL/English Interpreters. This Registration Panel will provide the necessary independence in ratifying applications for the various registers.

## 5. Agency Steering Group

(Many thanks to Norma White STTR practitioner for this article).

The Agency Steering Group (ASG) was set up in 2003 with the aim of developing standards and eventually establishing a regulatory body for agencies who employ LSPs.

Over the past year, there have been three rounds of consultations, to decide on the minimum standards required. For example, the agencies have agreed that there is a need to ensure that all LSPs who they employ hold a CRB certificate, are registered and are benefiting from regular training and monitoring. The voluntary sign-up for these conditions is currently set for April 2006.

The ASG has also commissioned the production of a DVD, outlining the main standards and their benefits, which will be distributed to other agencies and to service users.

## 6. Questionnaire

CACDP is currently looking at the most efficient way of communicating information to registered LSPs and would like to explore the possibility of emailing Registration Newsletters plus other information to you in the future. We would be grateful if you would take a few moments to complete the questionnaire at the back of this newsletter, and return by the closing date so that we can consider all responses before making a final decision on this. Thank you.