

# **The Master of Translation and Interpreting Program**

## **at Shanghai Polytechnic University**

### **(for educators)**

#### **I. Purpose of the program**

The Master of Translation and Interpreting (MTI) program at Shanghai Polytechnic University (SSPU) aims to train high-level professional English-Chinese translators in the field of science and technology, especially in advanced manufacturing. Graduates from the program are expected to have a broad knowledge structure and proficient translation skills, who can serve various translation needs from home and abroad.

#### **II. Basic qualifications to be achieved**

1. To have a broad knowledge structure (especially in the field of science and technology) and an international perspective;
2. To have cross-cultural communication capability and be skilled in the application of modern technology;
3. To have professional competence in translation and be able to provide language services that meet professional requirements.

#### **III. Specializations**

English-Chinese Translation in Science and Technology

#### **IV. Program duration and main features**

This is a full-time program that lasts 2.5 years. It is possible to shorten or extend the period of study upon applications, but the maximum period of extension is one year. The program, which combines course teaching with practicum training and thesis writing, has the following main features:

1. Adopting the academic credit system. Students must pass the assessment of the prescribed courses to get credits. They can proceed to the thesis writing phase only after they have achieved the prescribed credits; and can apply for the master's degree only after they have completed practicum training and passed the final defense of the thesis.
2. Introducing workplace-simulated teaching. Some translation courses bring real translation

projects into classrooms to help student develop translation skills in near real-world conditions; interpretation and translation courses are taught in relevant language laboratories.

3. Emphasizing translation practice. It emphasizes translation practice and translation case studies. The program attaches great importance to translation practice, and students are required to translate a total of at least 150,000 words during their school years.
4. Cooperating with the translation industry. Under the program, students are required to finish practicums at off-campus practice bases to develop practical working skills, and senior translators or professionals from language service enterprises are invited to undertake some of the teaching responsibilities or guide translation practice.
5. Adopting the joint mentoring scheme. The joint mentoring scheme allows students to choose a mentor from the foreign language discipline, the specialized field and the translation industry, respectively.

## V. Credit Requirements and Courses

Students enrolled in the MTI program are required to get at least 47 credits within the stipulated study period, including 5 credits from general courses (compulsory), 24 credits from core courses (compulsory), 16 credits from core courses (elective) and 2 credits from other compulsory courses.

The courses offered at SSPU are listed in the following table:

Category	Course Name	Course Hours	Credit	Semester	Provided by	Assessment
Core Courses (compulsory)	A Brief History of Translation	32	2	1	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Corpus Construction and Application	32	2	1	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test
	Computer-aided Translation	32	2	1	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test
	Translation I	32	2	1	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Translation II	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Introduction to Translation	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	News Translation (Science and Technology)	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Translation Workshop I ( Science and Technology)	32	2	3	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test

	Theory and Skills of Interpretation	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Translation of Technical Texts	32	2	3	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Translation	32	2	3	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication / School of Computer and Information Engineering	Non-test
	Translation Workshop II (Advanced Manufacturing)	32	2	4	School of Intelligent Manufacturing and Control Engineering	Test
Core Courses (Elective)	Literary Translations	32	2	1	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Public Speaking	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test
	Topical Interpretation	32	2	3	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Technical English	32	2	1	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	New Media Communication Technologies	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test
	Intercultural Communication	32	2	2	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Test
	Translation Project Management	32	2	3	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test
	Foreign Communication of Chinese Culture	32	2	4	School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication	Non-test
	Text Data Analysis and Mining	32	2	4	School of Mathematics, Physics and Statistics	Non-test

## VI. Translation Practicum

Students are required to take translation and interpreting practice and finish translating materials with a total of at least 150,000 words, including no less than 100,000 words in science and technology, during their school years.

Under normal circumstances, students are requested to go to translation enterprises and institutions for practicum training in the fourth semester to improve their translation job skills. At the end of the practicum, students must obtain a certificate of work performed as proof of completion of the training.

## VII. Graduation Thesis

The graduation thesis is usually required to be completed in one semester and must be written independently under the guidance of the supervisors. It may be in either of the following two forms:

1. Case analysis report: For case analysis reports, students should focus on specific translation problems arisen out of specific translation cases. In particular, they should describe the

background, special circumstances and translation process of the translation tasks, analyze the shortcomings of the existing translations and lessons learned, and discuss possible solutions to the translation problems by applying their professional knowledge. A graduation thesis must have clearly defined research questions that delve into areas of the students' specializations, such as translation process and products, translation project management, terminology collation, translation project corpus, and project quality review.

A thesis in the form of a case analysis report may generally include the sections of introduction, case description, case analysis, and conclusion, and must contain a total word count of at least 8,000 English words or 12,000 Chinese characters.

2. Research report: For research reports, students should focus on specific problems concerning the language service industry. In particular, they are required to describe the object of the research, the tools and methods used, the process and the data obtained, and analyze the data by applying their professional knowledge before drawing final conclusions. Students should select objects of research based on their practical experience in the language service industry and establish a clear purpose for the research. Researches should be oriented towards investigating certain problems, such as those concerning translation policies, the development of translation industry, translation project management, translation process and products, use of translation tools.

A thesis in the form of a research report may generally include the sections of introduction, research process, research results and analysis, and conclusion, and must contain a total word count of at least 8,000 English words or 12,000 Chinese characters.

## **VIII. Thesis Defense and Degree Conferral**

During the thesis stage of the program, students have to pass both the proposal defense and the final defense. The proposal defense is usually scheduled in the fourth semester, and only after passing it can the students proceed to write their theses and prepare for the final defense. The proposal defense committee is usually composed of three experts, who are responsible for evaluating the relevance of the thesis topic, the applicability, innovativeness and technicality of the thesis, as well as its compliance with academic norms. Those who fail to pass the proposal defense may apply again as stipulated.

Students who have passed course evaluations and practicum trainings and acquired the

prescribed credits are eligible to apply for thesis final defense. Theses will be anonymously reviewed by a number of experts, one of whom must come from outside the university. Those approved by at least two reviewers will be accepted for final defense. The defense committee shall consist of at least three experts, one of whom must have rich practical experience in translation and hold senior professional and technical titles.

Students who have passed the final defense and had one representative achievement can apply for the MTI degree. They will be awarded the degree after their applications are approved by the Academic Degree Evaluation Committee of the School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication and the Academic Degree Evaluation Committee of the university, respectively. A representative achievement may be one of the achievements in the following four categories:

Translation practice category:

1. 10,000 words of translations adopted by enterprises and institutions;
2. one book translated and published, either independently or in collaboration with the supervisors;

R&D category:

3. software copyrights or patents for translation products developed independently or in collaboration with the supervisors;

Research category:

4. one academic paper published independently or in collaboration with the supervisors, or his/her research presentation at an academic conference on the recommendation list of the School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication; and

Certificate category:

5. China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI) at level 2 or above and the corresponding certificate obtained.