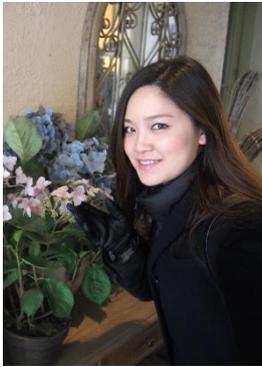


## Messages from MA Translation Alumni

### MA Translation Theory and Practice

With its diverse culture around the campus and strengths in the regional studies, SOAS is the best place to put you into the world of Translation Studies.

Especially I liked the practical translation class as its relatively small sized classroom made it a very interactive and proactive learning environment. Both academically and professionally outstanding professors in the field of translation helped me explore not only the method of translation in different categories but also how it's crucial to consider the role of translators in this rapidly globalizing world. Also, I had several opportunities to participate interdisciplinary conferences and symposia related to Translation Studies. Definitely, a fruitful moment in my life.



(Chisa Arai: 2014-15)

### Translating Cultures

This course really broadened my horizon and made me rethink the question “what is translation”. It was a one year course that provided me with a wide range of knowledge, our tutor led us into the world of anthropology, post-colonial studies and also gender studies and I was surprised at how closely these subjects were connected with translation studies! In this course we had the opportunities to see how cultures are represented in the British Museum and sit together with a migrant family, listening to their life stories. We were given plenty of time to share ideas with classmates and it was not only a good way to digest concepts but also a great opportunity to practice English! I really enjoyed the time in this course and I would love to recommend it to you!

### Practical Translation- English to Chinese

As a native speaker of Chinese, I expected translating from English to Chinese to be comparatively easy, however, this course totally changed my idea by showing me how profound the Chinese language is! We were exposed to various text types, including literary, fictional, journalistic and prose, each text presented me with unique difficulties and challenged me to research, analyze and think hard. Each week we would compare and discuss our translations, I was constantly surprised by

other students' beautiful word choice and it really helped me improve my own translations. This course reminded me that a good interpreter should never forget to read extensively in his or her first language!



(Jingwen Deng: 2015-16)

### **Practical Translation from English/Japanese into Japanese/English**

I really enjoyed the courses of Practical Translation: English into Japanese and Japanese into English, which are based on practice and discussion. A text from various genres, such as advertising, technical texts, recipes, film script, and literature, is assigned for homework every week and we produce an improved translation in class discussion. The lecturers are very friendly and helpful, and encourage a lively discussion in a harmonious atmosphere. Since there is a diversity of students in these courses, including native English speakers, native Japanese speakers, and non-native speakers of English and Japanese, who have various cultural backgrounds, discussion with them presents a new perspective on translating and how to approach a text. I am very grateful to the lecturers and classmates for giving me a great opportunity to learn translation.

(Rihito Mitsui: 2014-15)

### **Translation of Journalistic Texts from and into Chinese**

I really enjoyed the courses of Practical Translation: Translation of Journalistic Texts from and into Chinese. I found the course extremely interesting since translating journalism is a great challenge! The texts given to us for practice were taken from various fields of interest and were all relevant to our studies as well as culturally engaging. As a non-native Chinese speaker, I learned a lot from this course including new ways to approach journalistic texts and often used expressions. In addition, I feel my translation skills were greatly improved and the fertile discussion in class increased my understanding of the different methods and the logic behind things. I would like to thank our teacher as well as my classmates for a very enriching experience!



(Lior Zahavi: 2015-16)

### **Translating Cultures**

I took the Translating Cultures module with Dr Sato-Rossberg at SOAS in 2016. We studied community interpreting and the status of interpreters in different countries. What I particularly liked about this module is that we were students of many different horizons and cultures, and we had several opportunities to exchange points of view. I found this course particularly mind-opening, and it confronted me with topics or questions I had never thought of before. For example, we carried out a fieldwork in Southall, where we met a multi-cultural couple who told us about their story and how one compromises roots and expectations when living both in a specific cultural community and a globalised world. I would strongly recommend this course to students who want to become translators or interpreters, as it shows the "bigger picture" of the profession, beyond the mere linguistic aspect.



(Meredith Helene Lacuve, Erasmus student 2016)

### **Theory And Practice Of Swahili Translation**

At SOAS I was able to study two subjects that I am passionate about - Translation and Swahili Language, this could only be explored and come together at SOAS. For my PhD I was supervised by Dr Chege Githiora and I looked at norms of Swahili prose translations. I was later invited to teach Swahili translation at SOAS, a module that is now firmly part of core language studies. I was also able to meet like minded people with whom I have remained in touch. I would highly recommend studying Translation at SOAS!

(Ida Hadjivayanis)

### **Practical Translation from English/Japanese into Japanese/English**

The class of Practical Translation has been my constant source of fun and enjoyment throughout the year. I could fully enjoy lively and animated discussion with my class mates in an open atmosphere every time in the class.

Covering almost all areas of translation including advertisement, cooking recipe, journalism, poetry, technical, and so on, the course has not only taught me what the translation is theoretically, but also given me valuable hints to deal with the actual difficulties and problems you might face on translation. On top of this, I could have precious opportunities to review and refresh my idea about the culture, language, and tradition of Japan vis-à-vis those of other countries, which has been truly amusing.

It looks to me that the practical translation is a kind of 'multidisciplinary' area that is full of new inspiring ideas, theories and flexible approaches. I believe those who are interested in translation would be able to find a place where the reality of the translation act meets the theory in the course.

(Nobuko Yamashita: 2015-16)

### **Translating Cultures**

I really enjoyed this course. The relationship between culture and translation has always been my interest. However, the approach of this course that applying the concept of "translation" itself to not only languages but also cultures and even persons was an eye-opener to me. It gave me new insights.

In addition to fruitful discussions in the classroom with other students who have various cultural backgrounds and first languages (English, French, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Korean and Japanese), we also had the great opportunity for fieldwork outside of the classroom (for example, museums, ethnic community in London, etc. ) to gain practical skills for "translation".

All of the experience that I got through the course enabled me to deepen my knowledge and understanding about culture and translation.

(Machiko Sano: 2015-16)