



Job Situation

Office, computer workstation. Reference books. Work alone. Reporting to Marketing Manager. Regular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$3,600

Student Loan – Owing

\$30,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$380

Duties

Translate written documents. Revise, edit, and proofread translated material. Interpret conversations.

Prospects

Consulting. Self-employment. Teaching.

Job Title

Translator

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

5125

Job Description

With the recent increase in international trade, companies everywhere are rushing into the global marketplace and looking for production partners in other countries. This means reams of written material must be translated in and out of every major language. Research and technical information is especially likely to cross borders because there are so many specialties. The few experts in any field may all be in different countries!

Translators are the unseen links in these networks, usually working quietly alone at a computer workstation. This suits you just fine—peace and quiet, a love of words and details and an interest in scientific and technical subjects are what drew you to this work in the first place. The basic tools of your trade are your computer and a large shelf full of reference books. You still use a pen too—especially the red one, for editing. Although a professional proofreader will check your work, you like to send it out as close to perfect as you can.

Although some translators grow up in multilingual households, you have invested years of study and practice to acquire your skills in languages and word processing. You, as a translator, specialize in the written word, and you do your best work translating French documents into English. Sometimes you are called on to act as an interpreter when your boss has a French client on the telephone or visiting the office, and needs you to facilitate a conversation.

The work requires good time management, patience and careful attention. Even a small error may eventually cause embarrassment or loss of income to a government, university or business. In the case of a research paper, technicians attempting to duplicate a process from a flawed translation could lose months of time, expensive equipment or materials. Someone could even get hurt. Good translators earn a reputation in their field and if they are fast and well organized they can earn good money as well as the respect.