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CANADIAN HEARING SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE L'OUÏE

OIS Interpreter Internship Program (IIP)

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Expanding the Vision: OIS Interpreter Internship Program (IIP)

New Higher Focus on Diagnostics

As the field of interpreting is paying more attention to getting to meaning and intent, the internship program has also shifted its focus from a bridging program to one that takes interpreters, and the work they do, to a higher level. The focus is on diagnostics.

The new vision of IIP is one that looks at analyzing meaning. Trainers scaffold their teaching of language learning with intensive, critical discourse analysis of L1 and L2.

State-of-the-art, innovative technology allows interpreters to objectively view the work they do. Underpinning the program is a focus on ethical decision-making models.

Program Expands to Meet the Needs of the Community

IIP is currently running two parallel programs allowing for eight seats in total, four per program. This unique program is made possible through funding from the Ministry of Health.

The program is open to interpreters wishing to take their interpreting to another level. The OIS Interpreter Internship Program couples practical experience, working with senior staff and freelance interpreters, with one-to-one feedback and instruction. The program's goal is to expand the pool of interpreters eligible to work for OIS and increase resources across the province. This will directly translate into improved access to essential services such as medical and mental health services.

We are very proud to report a high success rate on the OIS Videotape Skills Screening as of six months post-program. The program has been lucky to have interns from across Canada with varying work backgrounds and representing regions from Thunder Bay to Windsor. Interested candidates may wish to get a better picture of the program by reading the FAQ below.

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FAQ

When Does The Program Begin?

Intake varies from session to session. Please contact Debbie Smith, Program Assistant IIP at dsmith@chs.ca to get on our mailing list and to be notified of upcoming intake dates.

What Does The Program Entail?

The program is 10 months in length – 9 months of the program takes place in Toronto; 1 month involves experience as a staff interpreter in one of the CHS regional offices. During regional placement every effort is made to match interns with regions where they already have accommodation (i.e. their home community or a city/region where they have a place to stay).
The program includes

- Classroom instruction with both Deaf and hearing trainers
- One-to-one feedback from trainers and interpreter-mentors
- In-depth critical analysis of L1 and L2
- Hands on interpreting experience in a safe environment under the guidance of experienced staff and freelance interpreters
- Access to OIS video/text resources and innovative lab facilities
- Emphasis on specialized areas such as medical and mental health settings

The program will run two parallel sessions. The sessions each have 4 interns and follow the same curriculum. The two sessions run parallel but not with the same start and end dates. The staggered entrance/exit times ensures that there will always be an opportunity for placement and meaningful assignments in the community.

How Many Interns Will Be Accepted Per Program?

Each session accepts four interns, but some classes run with all eight interns. The two sessions intersect at times but continue to run as separate programs with separate timelines. The program is interested in attracting applicants from regions currently without, or with limited, interpreting resources.

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Will The Interns Be Paid?

Yes, candidates will be paid $ 26,000 per annum, pro-rated to 10 months.

Is there Additional Support for Interns Coming From Out of Town?

We are pleased to offer an additional moving/relocation subside for interns moving to Toronto for the 9-month session of the program.

Who Is Eligible To Apply?

You must be a graduate of an accredited Interpreter Education Program (not currently enrolled in a program) to apply for the OIS Interpreter Internship Program. You may have been working in the field after graduation or be a recent grad.

What Are The Entrance Criteria?

- Graduate of an accredited Interpreter Education Program
- Completion of an OIS Interpreter Internship Program Application
- Completion of the IIP Entrance Screening
- Eligible to work in Canada

How Are Candidates Screened For An Interview?

Candidates will be screened on the basis of their applications and analysis of their IIP Entrance Screening. Consideration will be given to regional need. Candidates must be committed to living and working in Ontario as either an OIS staff or freelance interpreter. Candidates who meet the above criteria may be selected for an interview in Toronto.

All employees of The Canadian Hearing Society must undergo a criminal reference check. If you are accepted into the OIS Internship Program a check must be done in order to accept assignments with OIS. OIS will cover the cost of this reference check.

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Do I Need to Pay a Fee to Take the IIP Entrance Screening?

No, there is no fee involved in taking the IIP Entrance Screening. The Screening can be taken in Toronto or arrangements can be made to take it in a regional office.

What If I Applied to the Internship Program previously? Do I Need to Fill in a New Application and Re-take the IIP Entrance Screening?

If you are re-applying to the internship program you must fill in a new application and re-take the IIP Entrance Screening. This will give you an opportunity to highlight your skills and recent accomplishments.

What If I've Taken the OIS Videotape Skills Screening and I am Awaiting My Results?

You can apply to take the OIS Videotape Skills Screening and still apply to the OIS Internship Program. Should you be successful on the OIS Videotape Skills Screening and wish to withdraw your application from the Internship Program you can do so without penalty.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me.

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