

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
TRANSLATION**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa for a Bachelor of Arts in Translation in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this program.

Description of proposed program. The proposed major in translation awarded with the BA degree will require 33 semester hours, including three semester hours in an internship or a similar applied learning experience. The major will provide academic training designed for the novice learner by providing successive levels of proficiency in practice, methods and the theory of translation while helping the student to choose a specialization in a sub-discipline such as literary, legal, medical and technical translation for a future career or for further professional or graduate training.

The Translation major will contribute to the UI as a destination for undergraduate writing and will draw students nationally to Iowa, just as do the Screenwriting and the English and Creative Writing undergraduate majors. Undergraduate students in these programs actively engage in writing, editing, and publishing while becoming involved not just in classroom learning but also in applied literary activities sponsored by both the University of Iowa and by Iowa City, an UNESCO City of Literature. The illustrious history of writing at the University of Iowa includes over 40 Pulitzer Prize winners and seven US Poets Laureate. The major in Translation will encourage and enhance expertise in writing and career opportunities for undergraduate students at the University of Iowa.

Academic objectives. The major in translation is designed for undergraduate students to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Develop critical global literacies necessary for purposeful and productive participation in global professional and cultural environments.
- Learn research methods to enhance creativity.
- Develop foundational knowledge and practice of translation, in its various modes and contexts, necessary for graduate study in specialized translation programs.
- Attain pre-professional competencies toward building a career as professional translators and language mediators.
- Gain awareness of the business & industrial dimensions of translation through networking and building communities.

Need for program. In response to the significant role translation plays in the global context, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) introduced an undergraduate minor in Translation for Global Literacy in fall of 2015. Approximately 50 students have progressed through the minor in the last two years and translation courses have been fully enrolled.

Nationally, the teaching of translation at the undergraduate level has gained importance. This is due in part to the leadership of professional organizations, especially that of The American Literary Translators Association that has remained in the forefront of advocacy and training in translation across both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Adding urgency to these efforts is the growing demand for trained translators to serve as language mediators in global sectors such as business, communication and diplomacy. Forbes recently

projected that language services (including translation) will be among the top ten growth fields in the coming decade. Principal employers of language mediators, such as the United Nations and the US federal and state governments, report a one-in-ten success rate in their internal certification exams for translators.

The major in Translation is being proposed in response to both campus interest and these national and global needs.

Relationship to existing programs at the institution. Within the constellation of programs of distinction in the literary and other writing arts at the University of Iowa, translation has held a special place since 1964 when the first translation workshop in a US academic institution was offered at UI to support the work of the international writers who held residency in Iowa City in a program now offered as the International Writing Program. Translation is an essential aspect of this international residency program, with undergraduates invited to readings, talks, and other activities involving writers from around the world. An undergraduate minor in Translation for Global Literacy is currently offered. A graduate certificate and MFA in Literary Translation are also offered. The proposed major in Translation will create a structure for this undergraduate participation, helping these students to enter more deeply into the topic.

Additionally, the study of world languages at the undergraduate level at the University of Iowa is comprehensive and will help to support this new major through faculty's expertise in language learning and their interest and experience with translation. The Department of Linguistics will also play a key role in the new major since language understanding is based on the fundamental differences and similarities across language families. The new undergraduate major in Translation will help to create synergy across areas of language learning and will support faculty research projects in these related areas.

The major will thus not duplicate existing programs but augment them by better including undergraduates in this academic area while also opening related research activities for faculty teaching languages and linguistics at the University of Iowa.

Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. Currently, an undergraduate translation major is not offered in the state of Iowa. Even looking outside of Iowa, the noteworthy exception is a BS in Translation at Kent State University (Ohio) and a handful of undergraduate minors/tracks at other institutions, including a minor in Spanish/English Translation at the University of Northern Iowa. The national presence of translation in the undergraduate curriculum is limited to individual courses, less visible tracks in language programs, and several free-standing certificate programs offered outside of academia. The proposed UI Translation major set within the academic context and awarded with the BA degree would be unique.

Resources to establish a high-quality program. The major will be administered by the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (Division), the same unit that also administers related majors, minors, and certificates in languages other than English as well as in linguistics. The Division will deliver language courses, courses in linguistics, and translation courses and will provide faculty mentorship for undergraduate capstone projects as well internships and community outreach projects. The departments of Spanish, French, German, Russian and Japanese already have courses in translation that will fulfill either the practicum or the elective requirements for the proposed major. Faculty in Korean, Arabic and Chinese will also offer translation workshops in these languages. Support will be additionally provided from instructors in International Studies and English and Creative Writing, two areas already active in the undergraduate translation minor. Courses from the Linguistics department will be an especially

important ally in the proposed major since linguistics (stylistics, typology, phonetics, etc.) is a crucial complement to any formal training in translation.

An undergraduate minor in Translation for Global Literacy is currently offered by the Division. A graduate certificate and MFA in Literary Translation are also offered. In addition to providing administrative leadership for all of its units, the Division fosters interdisciplinary scholarship in languages, literatures, and cultures. It encourages synergy and collaboration among its faculty and enhances opportunities for cross-cultural course development and research.

Undergraduate and graduate programs in the Division serve students with varied interests and career aspirations. Students are educated to become global citizens who understand and are understood by diverse populations. They are trained to be critical thinkers and problem solvers who are also capable scholars, lucid writers, and proficient speakers. The division offers instruction in numerous fields related to language, literature, and culture.

Instruction in the following languages and cultures is offered: American Sign Language, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, French, Italian, Swahili, German, Portuguese and Spanish. The Department of Linguistics within the Division provides scientific study of familiar languages, as well as less well-known languages. The Division's Second Language Acquisition Program brings multidisciplinary resources together to examine the processes that underlie non-native-language learning. The translation programs of study explore the literary, cultural and historical contexts of work and their linguistic, aesthetic, and ideological dimensions while it builds skills for translating works from one language to another. Translators in the MFA program focus on creating works that can convey the distinctness of the original languages and the immediacy of contemporary languages.

Student demand. As noted above, approximately 50 students have progressed through the minor in translation in global studies in the last two years and translation courses have been fully enrolled.

Workforce need/demand. There is a need for trained translators to serve as language mediators in global sectors such as business, communication and diplomacy. Forbes recently projected that language services (including translation) will be among the top ten growth fields in the coming decade. Principal employers of language mediators, such as the United Nations and the US federal and state governments, report a one-in-ten success rate in their internal certification exams for translators. Currently, with the noteworthy exception of the BS in translation at Kent State, and a handful undergraduate minors/tracks (i.e., at the University of Michigan, University of Iowa, and Princeton), the presence of translation in the undergraduate curriculum is limited to discrete courses or limited tracks in language programs and to a free-standing certificate programs. The proposed University of Iowa major in Translation is developed in response to these disciplinary and professional needs as well as an enhancement of UI as "the Writing University."

Funding and Cost. The Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures includes the Departments of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures, French and Italian, German, Linguistics, and Spanish and Portuguese, and the programs in American Sign Language, Literary Translation, and Second Language Acquisition. As such, facilities and faculty needed to offer the undergraduate major are currently in place.

The proposed BA in Translation will require one additional FTE in instructional support. This new position will be provided by CLAS, likely no sooner than academic year 2023-24.

Projected student enrollment.

	Y1	Y 2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Undergraduate	20	30	45	60	70

Accreditation. Program accreditation will not be necessary for this program.

Evaluation plan. Each year, every major at the University of Iowa participates in campus-wide assessment of programs, with departments submitting their annual plans for improvement of the major to the Office of Assessment. Additionally, the college reviews new programs after the third year, asking the departmental chair or the program director to meet with the Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (UEPCC) to discuss the enrollments, course offerings, progress toward degree, assessment outcomes and other details related to the major. UEPCC then makes recommendations to the college on any needed changes to the program of study. Departments are also reviewed every five years by the college and by outside reviewers who are experts in the field and, at that time, all existing majors within a department are also reviewed, with curricular offerings and requirements discussed and with changes recommended.

Date of implementation. Fall 2022.

Letters of Support

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean

202 Catt Hall

Ames, Iowa 50011-1301

515 294-3220

FAX 515 294-1303

schmittb@iastate.edu

DATE: December 8, 2021

TO: Cornelia Lang, Associate Dean



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
Iowa State University

RE: Proposed undergraduate major in Translation

Thank you for sharing the proposal for the new major in Translation to be offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa. The proposal clearly builds on the strong reputation of your MFA in Literary Translation and the success of the undergraduate minor in Translation and Global Literacy.

I shared the proposal with other stakeholders on our campus. While Iowa State does offer coursework in translation and interpretation, the signature program of our World Languages and Cultures Department, Languages and Cultures for the Professions (LCP), is quite distinct from this proposal. The demand for professionals with the kinds of skills students develop in our LCP program and those they will develop in the proposed translation program is certainly growing. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State is happy to support the proposed major. We wish you all the best as you build this new opportunity for students.



Department of Languages & Literatures

2 December 2021

Dear Professor Aji:

Hello from Cedar Falls where we met briefly when you presented one of the last pre-pandemic talks we had on campus. That seems a long time ago now. Thank you for contacting us as part of the consultation process for the proposed Translation major at the University of Iowa. I am writing to offer our department's QUALIFIED SUPPORT for this proposal.

We are glad to see increased interest in Translation, which merits your proposal to create a BA to supplement the University of Iowa's existing MFA concentration and BA minor. In recognition of the different missions of the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa, we do not see that there will be any conflict with the long established and popular Spanish/English Translation minor at UNI. We have historically focused on non-literary translation exclusively. As a result, we have been able to offer extensive support to community organizations via our translation of documents and have helped prepare our students for common translation challenges that they might encounter in the workplace. This approach has been appropriate to our mission, important for our students, and different from the focus on literary translation that has been the hallmark of the University of Iowa's Translation MFA.

However, if at some future date, we deemed it appropriate to expand our Translation minor into a major (there are no plans to do so at this time), I hope we would also be able to count on the support of UIowa's Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, as such a prospective major at the University of Northern Iowa would not directly compete with the program that is the subject of your current proposal.

Thank you again for contacting us. Please get in touch if you have any further questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim O'Loughlin".

Jim O'Loughlin