

Questionnaire

Consent and screening

No.	Question	Response options
1	(Informed consent statements)	[Tick boxes to confirm agreement]
2	As a professional translator, do you work freelance, in-house or both?	Options (single selection): Freelance; In-house; Both freelance and in-house

Your profile

No.	Question	Response options
3	What is your age?	Options (single selection): 18-24 years; 25-34 years; 35-44 years; 45-54 years; 55-64 years; 65-74 years; 75 years and older
4	What is your gender?	Options (single selection): Man; Woman; Non-binary; Prefer not to say
5	Please tick all qualifications that you hold. List any qualifications not covered by the list under 'Other', especially where the UK-focused qualifications provided do not correlate neatly with the system in your country of residence.	Options (multiple selections): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSEs, O-levels, or equivalent (general secondary education); • A-levels or equivalent (post-16 education); • Undergraduate Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BSc); • Postgraduate Master's degree (e.g. MA, MSc); • Postgraduate research degree (e.g. MPhil, PhD); • Other [Open-text response]
6	Do you have any specific professional accreditations? UK-based examples are listed below, but you can add more via the 'Other' option.	Options (multiple selections): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific professional accreditations; • Chartered Linguist (CL, via the Chartered Institute of Linguists); • Qualified Member (of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting); • Postgraduate Diploma in Translation (DipTrans, via the Chartered Institute of Linguists); • Postgraduate Certificate in Translation (CertTrans, via the Chartered Institute of Linguists); • Other [Open-text response]
7	If applicable, what is the title of your undergraduate Bachelor's degree? (For example, BA French and Economics)	[Open-text response]
8	If applicable, what is the title of your postgraduate Master's degree? (For example, MA Translation Studies)	[Open-text response]
9	What is your nationality?	Options (single selection): [drop-down list of nationalities]
10	Where is your primary residence?	Options (single selection): [drop-down list of countries]
11	In what type of area do you live?	Options (single selection): Urban; Suburban; Semi-rural; Rural

Your professional profile

No.	Question	Response options
12	How would you describe your mode of working as a freelance translator?	Options (single selection): Full-time; Part-time alongside other employment; Part-time; Occasional
13	On average, how many hours per week do you work as a freelance translator?	[Numerical open response]
14	How long have you worked as a freelance translator?	Options (single selection): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 1 year; • 1 to 3 years; • 4 to 6 years; • 7 to 10 years; • 11 to 15 years; • 16 to 20 years; • 21 to 25 years; • More than 26 years
15	What professional services do you offer?	Options (multiple selections): Translation; Machine translation post-editing; Editing; Proofreading; Software localisation; Subtitling; Public service interpreting; Conference interpreting; Other interpreting; Desktop publishing; Copywriting; Transcription; Voiceover; Other [Open-text response]
16	When advertising your services, what job title(s) do you use to describe yourself?	[Open-text response]
17	Which languages do you translate from and into? Please select up to 4 language combinations. For additional language combinations or any languages that are not listed, please state these in the space below. (N.B. No language varieties are listed. E.g. for Latin American Spanish, select Spanish.)	[Drop-down lists of languages; space to enter four source and target language pairs]
18	What is/are your current specialism(s)?	Options (multiple selections): Art/Literary; Automotive; Business/Financial; Cinema/Film/TV/Drama; Clothing/Fashion/Textiles; Games; Information technology; Law/Patents; Marketing; Medical; Religion; Science; Social sciences; Technical/Engineering; Tourism/Travel; Other [Open-text response]
19	On the scale below, what is the approximate balance of work that you receive from language service providers (translation agencies) relative to direct clients?	10-point scale (single response): from “0% LSPs / 100% Direct clients” to “100% LSPs / 0% Direct Clients”
20a	Do you belong to any professional associations? If so, which associations? (Note: The associations listed below are based in the United Kingdom. If you belong to associations outside the UK, please use the ‘Other’ option and state the name of the association(s).)	Options (multiple selections): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association membership • Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) • Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) • National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) • Other [Open-text response]
20b	If you are a member of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI), what is your membership category?	Options (multiple selections): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am not a member of the ITI • Student member • Affiliate member • Associate member (AITI) • Qualified translator (MITI) • Qualified interpreter (MITI)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow (FITI) • Project manager • Academic member
20c	If you are a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL), what is your membership category?	Options (multiple selections): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am not a member of the CIOL • Student affiliate • Study affiliate • Career affiliate • Associate member (ACIL) • Member (MCIL) • Fellow (FCIL)

Income

No.	Question	Response options
21	In GBP (British Pounds Sterling), what is your estimated overall revenue (or turnover) from freelance activities? By 'revenue' we mean the total amount that you receive before deducting any permitted business expenses.	Options (single selection): Below £9,999; £10,000 to £19,999; £20,000 to £29,999; £30,000 to £39,999; £40,000 to £49,999; £50,000 to £59,999; £60,000 to £69,999; £70,000 to £79,000; £80,000 to £89,999, £90,000 to £99,999, More than £100,000
22	In GBP (British Pounds Sterling), what is your estimated overall annual income (before tax) from freelance activities? By 'income' we mean the profit that you would report to the tax authorities for your freelance work. This is your revenue minus any permitted business expenses.	Options (single selection): Below £9,999; £10,000 to £19,999; £20,000 to £29,999; £30,000 to £39,999; £40,000 to £49,999; £50,000 to £59,999; £60,000 to £69,999; £70,000 to £79,000; £80,000 to £89,999, £90,000 to £99,999, More than £100,000
23	As a rough percentage, what proportion of your income comes from translation-related activities?	[Numerical open response]
24	Which of the following best describes how you view your earnings?	7-point scale (single response): Very low earner; Low earner; Low-to-average earner; Average earner; Average-to-high earner; High earner; Very high earner
25a	How satisfied are you with your income from freelance activities?	5-point scale (single response): Very dissatisfied; Somewhat dissatisfied; Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied; Somewhat satisfied; Very satisfied
25b	Do you wish to elaborate on your response?	[Open-text response]
26	To what extent do you feel you are able to negotiate higher rates for your freelance activities?	5-point scale (single response): Not at all; A little; Sufficiently; Considerably; Fully
27	What kind of lifestyle does your income from translation and translation-related activities allow you to have?	5-point scale (single response): Precarious; Money-conscious; Neither precarious nor lavish; Comfortable; Lavish
28	How financially sustainable do you feel translation is as a career now?	5-point scale (single response): Not at all; A little; Somewhat; Fairly; Very
29	How financially sustainable do you feel translation will be as a career in future?	5-point scale (single response): Not at all; A little; Somewhat; Fairly; Very
30	Based on your responses to the previous two questions, why do you feel that translation will be more/less sustainable in future? Alternatively, why do you feel that the sustainability of translation will remain unchanged?	[Open-text response]
31	Do you wish to elaborate on any of your responses in this sub-section on 'income'? In this section, we have covered topics such as earning potential, lifestyle, and the financial sustainability of your work. If you wish to add any detail to your responses or to provide	[Open-text response]

	any related insights from your experience, please use this space to do so.	
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Status and perceptions

No.	Question	Response options
32	In a different industry, how much would you expect to earn in a job requiring a similar level of education to your own?	3-point scale (single response): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd expect to earn more • I'd expect to earn the same • I'd expect to earn less
33	In a different industry, how much would you expect to earn with your current level of professional experience?	3-point scale (single response): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd expect to earn more • I'd expect to earn the same • I'd expect to earn less
34a	How important do you feel professional translators are to society in the country where you live?	5-point scale (single response): Unimportant; Slightly important; Moderately important; Important; Very important
34b	What do you think the general public's perception is of professional translators' importance to society in the country where you live?	5-point scale (single response): Unimportant; Slightly important; Moderately important; Important; Very important
35	How well regarded do you feel as a professional translator in society?	5-point scale (single response): Disregarded entirely; Somewhat disregarded; Indifferent; Somewhat well regarded; Highly regarded
36	Who do you feel has the most scope to influence the ways in which translators are perceived in society? Please score each of the following stakeholders in order of influence, where 1 is the least influential and 5 is the most influential. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients • Language service providers (translation agencies) • Industry/professional associations • Freelance translators • Academic institutions 	Ranking exercise (single response for each rank): from "1 – Least influential" to "5 – Most influential"
37	How much scope do you feel that you have yourself to influence the ways in which translators are perceived in society?	5-point scale (single response): None; Little; Some; Reasonable; Extensive
38	Do you wish to elaborate on any of your responses in this sub-section on 'Status and perceptions'? In this section, we have covered topics such as the role of translators in society, influence over perceptions of translators, and, more generally, the status of professional translators. If you wish to add any detail to your responses or to provide any related insights from your experience, please use this space to do so.	[Open-text response]

Working conditions

No.	Question	Response options
39	How satisfied are you with your working conditions as a freelance translator?	5-point scale (single response): Very dissatisfied; Somewhat dissatisfied; Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied; Somewhat satisfied; Very satisfied
40	Which aspect(s) of your working conditions are you most happy with?	[Open-text response]
41	Which aspect(s) of your working conditions are you least happy with?	[Open-text response]

42	How much control do you have to positively influence your working conditions as a translator?	5-point scale (single response): None; A little; Enough; A lot; Full
43	How important do you think it is to feel part of a community of practice as a translator, such as being a member of associations, social media communities, etc.?	5-point scale (single response): Unimportant; Slightly important; Moderately important; Important; Very important
44	Do you currently feel part of a community of practice?	5-point scale (single response): Not at all; A little; Somewhat; Very much so; Fully
45	In your opinion, how important is career progression to you as a translator?	5-point scale (single response): Unimportant; Slightly important; Moderately important; Important; Very important
46a	How satisfied are you with your own career progression as a translator?	5-point scale (single response): Very dissatisfied; Somewhat dissatisfied; Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied; Somewhat satisfied; Very satisfied
46b	Do you wish to elaborate on your response?	[Open-text response]
47	How important are each of the following factors to you in your working life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being part of a professional community • Being in control of my own working schedule • Having a suitable work-life balance • Affording my regular monthly outgoings • Having opportunities for progression and personal development • Looking after my mental and physical wellbeing • Doing what I love • Having support from my peers and colleagues • Enjoying status and respect within and beyond the translation community • Having the ability to work on my own terms 	5-point scale (single response for each factor): Unimportant; Somewhat unimportant; Neither unimportant nor important; Somewhat important; Very important
48	Are there any items missing from the list above which you consider important in terms of your working conditions?	[Open-text response]
49a	Over the next few years, how do you see working conditions for translators changing?	5-point scale (single response): Deteriorating significantly; Deteriorating slightly; No change; Improving slightly; Improving significantly
49b	Do you wish to elaborate on your response?	[Open-text response]
50	Do you wish to elaborate on any of your responses in this sub-section on 'Working conditions'? In this section, we have covered topics such as your satisfaction with working conditions, the role of communities of practice, continuing development, and the prioritisation of different needs. If you wish to add any detail to your responses or to provide any related insights from your experience, please use this space to do so.	[Open-text response]

Feelings about the profession

No.	Question	Response options
51	How often would you say you feel positive as a result of your translation and translation-related activities?	5-point scale (single response): Never; Occasionally; Regularly; Often; All the time
52	What positive emotion word (noun or adjective) do you most associate with working as a translator?	[Open-text response]
53	How often would you say you feel negative as a result of your translation and translation-related activities?	5-point scale (single response): Never; Occasionally; Regularly; Often; All the time

54	What negative emotion word (noun or adjective) do you most associate with working as a translator?	[Open-text response]
55a	How important do you feel it is to have access to a personal support network as a translator?	5-point scale (single response): Unimportant; Slightly important; Moderately important; Important; Very important
55b	How important do you feel it is to have access to a professional support network as a translator?	5-point scale (single response): Unimportant; Slightly important; Moderately important; Important; Very important
56	How well supported do you currently feel as a translator?	5-point scale (single response): Not at all; A little; Enough; A lot; Fully
57	All things considered, how fulfilling do you feel your career as a freelance translator is?	5-point scale (single response): Very unfulfilling; Somewhat unfulfilling; Neither unfulfilling nor fulfilling; Somewhat fulfilling; Very fulfilling
58	How likely would you be to recommend a career as a freelance translator?	5-point scale (single response): Very unlikely; Somewhat unlikely; Neither unlikely nor likely; Somewhat likely; Very likely
59	How often do you think about leaving translation as a profession?	5-point scale (single response): Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Frequently; All the time
60	Do you wish to elaborate on any of your responses in this sub-section on 'Feelings about the profession'? In this section, we have covered topics such as what you like and dislike about the profession, the importance of support networks, and the extent to which you consider translation a fulfilling career. If you wish to add any detail to your responses or to provide any related insights from your experience, please use this space to do so.	[Open-text response]

Focus group prompts

Morning session

No.	Question	Duration
Opening		
1	Tell us briefly your name, how long you've been working as a freelance translator, and what you enjoy doing most when you're not at work	10m
Introduction		
2	What aspects of your job do you value the most?	10m
3A	Using Slido, please submit three words you would use to describe how you feel about your job as a freelance translator	15m
3B	From the Slido responses, which word(s) resonate(s) with you the most at the moment, and why?	
Transition		
4A	How would you say your job as a freelance translator has evolved over the last 5-10 years?	10m
4B	Which of the changes we've just mentioned has affected you the most?	
Key		
5A	Imagine that you go to bed tonight and wake up in a parallel universe where all freelance translators enjoy optimal working conditions. What will you notice about your new working conditions that will help you realise you are in a parallel universe?	20m
5B	How does this imaginary parallel universe make you feel about current working conditions for freelance translators?	
6A	How would you describe the current status and sense of worth enjoyed by freelance translators compared with similar professions?	20m
6B	How does what we've just discussed make you feel about your own professional status and worth as a freelance translator?	
Ending		
7	Looking ahead, what do you feel could be done to improve freelance translators' working conditions?	10m

Afternoon session

No.	Question	Duration
Opening		
8	Would you mind sharing, briefly, the most memorable translation job you’ve ever had?	10m
Introduction		
9A	What would you say initially brought you to translation as a profession?	15m
9B	Now that you are a translator, do you feel your expectations and aspirations have been met?	
Transition		
10A	On Slido are ten potential priorities for translators. Individually, pick the five most important. Rank those five from most important (1) to least important (5). [Priorities:] Being part of a professional community; Being in control of my own working schedule; Having a suitable work-life balance; Affording my regular monthly outgoings; Having opportunities for progression and personal development; Looking after my mental and physical wellbeing; Doing what I love; Having support from my peers and colleagues; Enjoying status and respect within and beyond the translation community; Having the ability to work on my own terms	20m
10B	(Discussion of results from Slido and results from survey)	
Key		
11A	“24,581” (What is this number?)	20m
11B	[Image:] The Telegraph: “The ‘Mickey Mouse’ degrees that are the worst value for money / Graduates of these university degree courses have the lowest average salaries five years after graduating”	

	<p>[Quotation:] “Adzuna’s research revealed that photography degrees offer the worst value for money, as graduates earn an average salary of £24,242 five years after graduation. It was followed by courses in translation (£24,581), criminology (£24,637), and fine art (£25,015).”</p> <p>How do you feel about these figures and such reports?</p>	
12	<p>[Quotation:] “Financial translator Neil Inglis of the IMF observed two decades ago that there is a widespread ‘poverty cult’ among freelance translators. This term has since been adopted [...] as a broad label for an excessively frugal, economically unambitious, arguably anti-capitalist approach that [...] tends to prevail among many translators [...]. [T]his ‘poverty cult’ puts translators both behaviorally and ideologically at odds with many of their business clients, ultimately reducing their chances for economic prosperity in the profession. Translators might be perceived as more businesslike (and less ‘poetic’) if they aligned themselves more closely with the expectations, codes and language of the business world.”</p> <p>What do you make of this? Does this resonate with you?</p>	20m
<i>Ending</i>		
13	Looking ahead, what do you feel could be done to improve freelance translators’ rates of pay?	15m