

“I’m interested in becoming a professional translator/interpreter. What do I do now?”

Getting ready

- Join professional associations
 - General:
 - Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association (MITA): network, meet experience translators/interpreters, educational sessions <http://dfw-mita.com>
 - American Translators Association (ATA): subscription to ATA chronicle, great articles about our industry, educational webinars <http://www.atanet.org/>
 - Specialized:
 - Medical: Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT)
 - Judicial: Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT)
 - Literary: American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)
- Gain industry experience
 - Try to find a small translation agency where you could do an internship learn how translation projects are being managed from beginning to end
 - Volunteer
- Start learning about running a freelance business
 - Must read: ***How to succeed as a Freelance Translator*** by Corinne McKay, ISBN 978-4116-9520-7. A recommended resource for beginning translators who want to launch and run a successful freelance translation business.
 - Industry blogs:
 - <http://translationtimes.blogspot.com/> by Judy and Dagmar Jenner
 - <http://thoughtsontranslation.com/> by Corinne McKay
 - Online course: Getting Started as a Freelance Translator by Corinne McKay http://translatewrite.com/?page_id=484
 - Attend an ATA conference (\$\$\$) awe-inspiring experience
 - Webinars:
 - Many associations offer webinars free to members
 - Eve Bodeux and Corinne McKay offer excellent webinars <http://speakingoftranslation.com/listen/speaking-of-interpreting/>

Getting started

- Have a ready to send resume (one page)
- Have a web presence (LinkedIn, website)
- Get business cards (Vista Print)
- Invest in a Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tool and learn how to use it well (a MUST)
- Apply to translation agencies as a junior translator (also to the one you did the internship)
- Try to work with/for an experienced translator to gain experience (non-disclosure agreement)
- Set your rates (ask for advice from experienced translator) and stick to them
- **Be ready to treat yourself as a business owner!**
 - Business side can't be stressed enough; many translators fail because of the lack of basic business skills

Investment \$\$

- ATA membership (\$190/year)
- MITA membership (\$25/year as a student, \$40/year as a full member with directory listing)
- CAT tool (~\$1000)
- High performance computer (PC, unfortunately)
- Continuing education (ATA conference, webinars, seminars)
- Membership to Payment Practices™ list (\$20/year)
This database contains information on translation agencies and clients