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## **WASLI CALL FOR TRANSLATORS**

As you know there are many signed and spoken languages around the world. The main languages for WASLI are English and International Sign. Since 2005, WASLI has realised the need of providing information in other languages for the benefit of our colleagues who do not have access to English. More recently WASLI has been able to provide newsletters in both Spanish and Russian thanks to a number of people who have kindly volunteered their translation services. WASLI is also looking at the possibility of doing so in International Sign.

Now, WASLI is setting up a Translation Department, which Rafael Treviño has agreed to coordinate. The Translation Department will be made up of a network of translators who are happy to volunteer to translate WASLI newsletters and communications. Although not required, WASLI welcomes volunteers who have experience or training in translation.

WASLI thanks you for your service to your community.

**Are you interested in becoming a translator for WASLI?** If so, please email the information requested below, with a CV, to Rafael Treviño at [translations@wasli.org](mailto:translations@wasli.org)

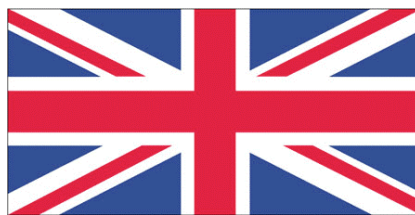
(Rafael is a Certified ASL interpreter, NIC (Adv) and provides interpretation services in ASL-English- Spanish. He studied Spanish - English translation and Legal Interpreting at Florida International University. He is based in the US)

### **TRANSLATORS INFORMATION REQUIRED**

- Full name
- Location (City, State/Province, Country)
- Email address
- Telephone(s)
- Fax
- Skype (if applicable)
- Please list the languages to which you can translate *from* English
- Are you a native speaker of this/these language/s?
- Have you received any formal training in translation? If so, list the institution and time attended
- Please list any experience you have in translation
- Please list any credentials you have received in translation or interpretation

Please email this information to Rafael Treviño at [translations@wasli.org](mailto:translations@wasli.org)

### **UNITED KINGDOM**



Area: 244,820 sq km  
Population: 61,113,205 (July 2009 est.)  
Language/s: English, Welsh (about 26% of the population of Wales), Scottish form of Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland)  
GDP: \$36,600 (2008 est.)  
(Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uk.html>)

# THE SASLI (SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS) APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

**Margo C M Currie, Apprenticeship Co-ordinator**

Since way back when Zane Hema was just another teenage scallywag and before we had a sign vocabulary for video conferencing, SASLI (Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters) and the BDA (British Deaf Association) have been campaigning alongside many of you for better training of Sign Language Interpreters. Well today I am delighted to write to you with details of new Apprenticeship Project which has just started in Scotland as part of the £1.5 million Building Bridges Project commissioned and funded by the Scottish Government .

When such an opportunity is given to just one of WASLI's members, we all gain. It serves as evidence for others to use in their campaigns and also revitalises dispirited activists with much needed hope, inspiration and encouragement.

A group of highly experienced service users, service providers and government representatives consulted over a period eighteen months and came up with this innovative programme and the all important funding to allow working interpreters, experienced trainers Deaf and hearing and, appropriately trained Sign Language Role Models to devote even more of their time to mentor, monitor, supervise and encourage best practice from the much needed recruits to the Interpreting profession



As a Teaching Fellow at the time, how well I remember some of the practical difficulties faced by highly motivated and strongly committed tutors and students at Durham University during the nineties. Most of our students were working interpreters, who had no sponsorship and had to pay their own fees at a time when every day spent at the university meant a loss of personal earnings.

Since then working in other universities on other Interpreter training courses I have witnessed how difficult it has been for diligent tutors to find opportunities for student placements in appropriate agencies where overworked staff just did not have the resources and simply could not afford to commit to the required level of time needed to supervise trainees.

Now we have an amazing opportunity, one for which we are extremely grateful and which has relieved us of these frustrating obstacles to progress and has enabled us to concentrate on recruiting the very best of applicants and the most experienced of trainers to ensure that they achieve the ideal pathway to qualification and registration, one which symbolises standards which equate with the expectations of service users.

Please celebrate with us and share our enthusiasm when I tell what the various components of the project are and what will be covered over the 20 month duration of the scheme:

- Post Graduate Diploma in BSL/English Interpreting delivered by Leeds University
- Advanced BSL Certificate delivered by the British Deaf Association
- Work placements (minimum two days every week) in successful Interpreting SASLI Registered Agencies
- Community placements conducted in the company, language and culture of BSL users
- One to one and group tutorials delivered by the Apprenticeship Co-ordinator and Guest tutors that will support the formal study and experiential learning

Oh how I envy them, these fortunate 10 Apprentices. In some ways I wish I was starting all over again but on the other hand I wouldn't have missed the early days, the 80s & 90s, for anything when Deaf and hearing fought side by side to see improvement in rights and recognition. This Project has only been made possible because of team work ... for too long our training programmes have had insufficient Deaf involvement. We have to fight for each other; we, the Interpreters, need more highly trained Deaf people to both assist in our learning and to work alongside us as equally valued interpreters. One of our ten apprentices is a Deaf woman. Her involvement has raised this project to a higher dynamic and we hope that her success will pave the way for a more specialised Deaf Interpreters' post graduate course.

I am delighted to have been appointed as the Apprenticeship Co-ordinator and can tell you that the Project has got off to a flying start. All Trainers, Apprentices, Mentors and Agencies are fully committed to this unprecedented opportunity presented to us.

If your Editor will permit me I will be more than happy, indeed honoured, to write to you again when I, and the Apprentices themselves, have more to report on the progress of this fantastic challenge.



**The 10 new SASLI Apprentices: seen here with two of their tutors, Avril Hepner and Tessa Padden of the BDA**

Population: 21,262,641 (July 2009 est.)  
Capital: Canberra  
GDP: \$38,100 (2008 est.)  
(Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/as.html>)

## RURAL AUSLAN INTERPRETING

**Marleen Blake, Australia**

I am an Australian Sign Language (Auslan) Interpreter in the Riverina area of New South Wales in Australia and would like to share some of my experiences since moving from Sydney to Wagga Wagga.

I had this preconceived idea that country life would be sedate and more relaxed for me as an interpreter. However, the extreme opposite is true. I started work last year and began commuting from Sydney to Wagga Wagga (inland, rural New South Wales) to support a Deaf client; the work has continued on into 2008. Since the travel was too tiring I decided to move, so since January this year we have lived here in a smaller community with a slower pace. However, since I am the only Professional Interpreter in the Riverina area and word has got out that Marleen is in town, my life has been booked solid.

Some weeks I travel three hours to a job and then three hours back after a two-hour job. I get to see a lot of our country and appreciate the extreme hardship of those who live on the land. I see many Deaf services and other service providers who are trying to meet the needs of their clients, but due to the lack of interpreter support in the country the service providers find this most difficult. I have been involved with many areas of interpreting, including in the areas of health, education, working for the Deafblind, and even interpreting in operating theatres where clients need to be awake during procedures and have to be able to respond frequently using facial expressions only as their hands are tied to their sides to prevent them moving. I've worked in high level meetings and in situations requiring a lot of flexibility in language delivery suitable for clients. I am now learning that country New South Wales and Victoria have their own unique Deaf communities which, while spread far and wide, are integrally connected.



Due to a lack of Deaf awareness in these country areas I am one of three people involved in the establishment of a social and support group for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (HI) and Auslan students in the Riverina area. Two Deaf people and myself are interim board members and are making contacts within the community to provide interpreting support to Deaf and HI service providers. So far the response has been encouraging

and we look forward to a fruitful year ahead in the Riverina area.

I am currently working for several agencies in both New South Wales and Victoria, as well as performing freelance work. One reason I am writing for the newsletter is to ask whether there are any other Auslan interpreters willing to move to the country. There is plenty of work here for more than one accredited interpreter. I have been booked by a university for the next three years starting next year, meaning my time will be extremely limited for meeting the needs of the community, so if anyone is interested in moving to the Riverina area you will be made most welcome by myself and the Deaf community. Daily I say that I need a helicopter to get around to the various locations quickly as distances are so great, but I love my job and I wouldn't have it any other way. In my time off I am currently studying for a full-time BA of Social Sciences in order to become a bilingual service provider in my retirement.

Cheerio and please contact me if you are interested in moving to the Riverina area. Email: [marleen\\_blake@hotmail.com](mailto:marleen_blake@hotmail.com) or tel: 0416035955.

*Maria H Blake (also known as Marleen) JP, BTh, has a Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training TAA401, and BSocSc (pending).*

*This article has been reprinted with the permission of Marleen and AUSIT (Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Incorporated). It originally appeared in AUSIT's Autumn 2008 National Newsletter.*

### **Update from Marleen Blake 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Since this article appeared in the AUSIT Newsletter, in the Riverina we now have one Para Professional Interpreter in Albury Wodonga area and another person studying to become a Para Professional Interpreter. The work has not slowed down at all for me in fact I am busier now than I ever was living and working in any of Australia's major cities. Some of our Deaf Community members have moved and the establishing of a social group has had to be abandoned. There is still too much work for me alone to cover and am still awaiting for a colleague to join me here in the Riverina. The life style is fantastic, the weather is freezing and lots of snow not far away. Can I entice anyone? Kind regards Marleen.

#### **IMPORTANT**

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To advise a change of email address, please contact [secretary@wasli.org](mailto:secretary@wasli.org)

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