

QUALIFICATIONS

CIOL



A guide to the

CIOLQ Level 6 Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI)

CIOL | Chartered Institute of Linguists

Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI)

The Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI) is a professional qualification, set at level 6 (Degree level) and regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual).

Specialist qualification for public service interpreters

The DPSI is a specialist qualification for public service interpreters. It is recognised and highly respected throughout UK public services and shows that holders of the qualification possess the skills necessary to provide interpreting services to a high standard.

NRPSI and Police recognition

The DPSI is recognised by the National Register of Public Service Interpreters and the Police (Law pathway) as the benchmark qualification for professional interpreters. It forms a major part of their requirements for the most challenging, complex and life changing assignments. The DPSI is designed for working interpreters and for those wanting to work at the highest level in public service interpreting.

The benchmark qualification for public service interpreting for over 30 years

The DPSI was first offered in 1989 and demonstrates CIOL's commitment to language training for the workplace. The qualification is aimed at career development as it gives confidence to users of public services living in communities where English is the second language. It can be combined with parallel training for professional or vocational work in a work place based context and successful DPSI candidates can apply for registration on the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI).

Now available fully online

The qualification can be taken from the comfort of your own home via the CIOLQ Virtual Centre.

Qualification structure

What format does the exam take?

The qualification is composed of five units for each pathway:

- Unit 01 (Level 6): Interpret consecutively and simultaneously in the public services
- Unit 02 (Level 6): Provide a sight translation into English in the public services
- Unit 03 (Level 6): Provide a sight translation from English in the public services
- Unit 04 (Level 5): Translate into English in the public services
- Unit 05 (Level 5): Translate from English in the public services

For detailed information on the content and format of the qualification please refer to the [DPSI Qualification Specification](#).

Key points:

- An invigilator will support you during your Unit 01- Part A and Part B exam.
- Your laptop/pc must always have a camera and microphone access.
- You must ensure you have good quality headphones.
- You must have either Microsoft - Windows 10 or for Macs - OS-X10.9 or later.
- Minimum bandwidth requirement of at least 2 Mbps down/1Mbps up.
- It is highly recommended that where possible an ethernet cable is used, for faster internet and more reliable connectivity.

If you have any questions, please contact our Client Services Team (CST) by email to info.dpsi@ciol.org.uk

Languages

CIOLQ seeks to offer the DPSI in a broad range of languages. The following languages have been offered over time, paired with English, but candidates must check on the CIOL website what is being offered at each session:

Albanian, Arabic (MSA), Bengali, Bulgarian, Cantonese (Traditional or Simplified Script), Czech, Dari, Farsi, French, German, Gujarati, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Kurdish (Sorani), Mandarin (Traditional or Simplified Script), Panjabi (Indian), Pashto, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Portuguese (European), Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu.

Linguistic proficiency and pre-requisites

There are no set pre-requisites to take the DPSI, however you are strongly advised to ensure that your level of linguistic attainment in English and your other language is equivalent to a good Honours degree level, that you are familiar with the relevant public service and cultural contexts, and that you prepare sufficiently for the exam. Your spoken languages will need to be very strong.

CIOLQ will accept candidates who have not attended a course of study, but you may wish to consider a [preparatory course](#).

How to register for the exam

Availability of the DPSI

The exam is available online via our CIOLQ Virtual Centre.

How do I register?

Registration and payment are now offered wholly online [here](#). Please contact info.dpsi@ciol.org.uk with any queries.

Please note that Centre enrolment fees are independent from CIOLQ exam fees; you must ensure the payment for the Centre and the exam are cleared before your exam takes place – a candidate is only fully registered when the exam fee has been received and payment has been cleared.

Where a minimum number of candidates is required for a particular exam, and where that number has not been reached by the close of registration, CIOL Qualifications reserves the right to withdraw that language and pathway exam, at which time the candidate will receive a full refund of the exam fee.

Support while studying

Candidates are able to register for CIOL membership as Study Affiliates. Being an affiliate of the Chartered Institute of Linguists at this level offers:

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Study Affiliate members have full access to the CIOL webinar library, a collection of over 120 training videos, which is added to each month.

Networking

Study Affiliates are eligible to join one or more of CIOL's professional special interest groups, which provide unique face-to-face networking events and online group forums. The specialist groups available include: Interpreting Division, Translating Division, or Business, Professions and Government (BPG) Division.

Professional journal

A free digital copy of *The Linguist*, CIOL's professional journal, issued four times a year.

Professional status and Chartership

Study Affiliates are part of a respected professional network of practising linguists. On completion of a CIOL Qualifications diploma, they can apply to be a CIOL Associate or Member.

The Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) is the UK's Royal Charter professional body for language practitioners, setting the professional standard for linguists worldwide. CIOL is the only body to offer Chartership, recognised globally as a mark of quality and competence for professions. Founded in 1910 to promote high standards in the use of foreign languages in public services, industry and commerce, CIOL has over 5,000 professional members.

CIOL Qualifications (CIOLQ) is CIOL's Awarding Organisation and is registered with the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Ofqual is a non-ministerial government department with jurisdiction in England. It is responsible for making sure that regulated qualifications reliably indicate the knowledge, skills and understanding students have demonstrated. With decades of experience, CIOL Qualifications is at the centre of a community of over 5,000 highly qualified and experienced assessors and language specialists.

Contact

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For full information on dates, courses, venues, fees and how to register for the CIOLQ DPSI visit <https://www.ciol.org.uk/ciol-diploma-public-service-interpreting-dpsi>