

JSC «Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages»

Faculty of Translation and Philology

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Interview Program for the Educational Program “6B02301 – Translation Studies” for graduates of technical and vocational education institutions applying to related degree programs under the accelerated study track

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Purpose of the Program

This interview program is intended for foreign nationals, as well as for individuals who have completed mandatory military service and graduates of technical, vocational, or post-secondary educational institutions (TPO) who are applying to related educational programs under an accelerated study track.

Purpose of the Interview

To assess applicants' potential to complete the educational program, as well as to evaluate the readiness of TPO graduates to successfully complete the abbreviated educational program in accordance with the requirements of the state compulsory educational standards.

Objectives of the Interview

The objectives of the interview are to:

- assess the student's level of preparation in the field of translation;
- determine their ability to successfully complete the "6B02301 Translation Studies" program;
- assessing their analytical and practical skills;
- identifying their motivation to learn and their professional orientation.

These objectives are achieved through interviews.

Format of the Interview

Interviews are conducted orally.

Interview Procedure

The interview is conducted by the admissions committee for the following categories of applicants:

- foreign nationals;
- individuals who have completed mandatory military service;
- graduates of vocational education institutions applying for an accelerated program.

The interview consists of the following stages:

- verifying the students' identities and explaining the interview procedure to them;
- assessment of basic knowledge related to the educational program's field of study;
- assessment of practical and analytical skills (solving situational or practice-oriented problems);
- assessment of proficiency in the language of instruction;
- assessment of motivation and career orientation.

The interview for each student lasts 10 minutes.

Criteria for Evaluating Results

Interview results are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- level of basic knowledge in the “Translation Studies” academic program;
- ability to think logically and analytically;
- ability to apply knowledge to solve practical problems;
- level of proficiency in the language of instruction;
- motivation to learn and awareness of the choice of educational program.

Grading Scale

Interview results are evaluated on a point scale (from 0 to 100 points):

- **90–100 points** – high level of preparation and motivation;
- **70–89 points** – adequate level;
- **69–60 points** – satisfactory level;
- **less than 59 points** – insufficient level of preparation.

The final evaluation is determined based on a combination of indicators across all established criteria.

A standardized form is completed for each student, recording the results of the interview and assigning a final grade. Based on the results of the interview, the Transfer and Reinstatement Committee makes a decision and determines whether to approve the student’s transfer (or reinstatement) to the second year of the Faculty of Translation and Philology. The reports, prepared in accordance with established procedures, are forwarded to the Admissions Committee for subsequent inclusion in the student’s personal file.

Question Bank

A separate question bank is compiled for the following categories of applicants:

- foreign nationals;
- individuals who have completed mandatory military service;
- graduates of vocational education institutions.

The list of questions includes practice-oriented and motivational tasks related to the “Translation Studies” educational program.

Practical task.

1. Situational problem

Imagine that you are working as an interpreter at an international conference. How would you act if:

- the speaker talks too fast;
- unfamiliar terminology is used;
- there is an urgent need to clarify information?

2. Working with digital technologies

What modern digital tools and software can be used in translation activities? Provide examples of their application.

Motivational tasks

1. Explain why you chose the educational program “Translation Studies” and what professional goals you set for yourself.
2. Prepare a short presentation (2–3 minutes) about yourself, your achievements, interests, and reasons for choosing the translation profession.
3. How do you see yourself in five years after graduating from university? In which field of translation would you like to work?
4. What qualities, in your opinion, should a professional translator have? Which of them do you consider your strengths?
5. Imagine that a client requires you to complete a translation within a very short deadline, which may affect the quality of the work. How would you proceed?
6. Explain the importance of translation activities in the context of globalization and intercultural communication.

Translation case. Analyze the given situation, propose a translation solution, and justify it.

1. I've just had the most frustrating of phone calls. I make a living delivering high-end translations and recently convinced a new client to work with me despite my high rates. I worked really hard on this translation, had it proofread by a colleague, and delivered it ahead of time. The guy who ordered the translation is the Investor Relations Manager. A former journalist, he proofread my translation, thought it was OK and forwarded it to the CFO. Unfortunately, the CFO thought the style wasn't right. Too journalistic. Not simple enough, not to the point enough. So he had it edited internally.

I've asked for a copy of the final text, in order to know what was wrong in the CFO's eyes. But I can't help seeing this as damage control: it's hard to justify a high price when “style” is not OK. What should I do?

2. I am the only in-house translator at a reputable telecoms company in my region. My company sometimes outsources translations for faster turnaround and to reduce my workload, as different departments tend to send a lot of urgent requests. However, some of the translations are sent to PR and marketing agencies whose staff

members are not necessarily translators, just bilinguals. I would like to know your thoughts on that. The same department often sends out translation requests to different vendors, which introduces terminological and stylistic inconsistencies in some of their publications.

Also, I have been given the opportunity to test and select translators and translation agencies that I find good. However, even when the agencies I selected have produced good sample translations, when following up with the departments whom I recommended them to, I find that some of them were not happy or satisfied with the quality. How can I overcome this in the future and how can I better select candidates?

3. Translation Case: Using Artificial Intelligence in Translation

A translation agency receives an urgent order to translate a tourism brochure from English into Kazakh. Due to time constraints, the project manager decides to use an AI translation tool to produce the first draft. After reviewing the AI-generated translation, the editor notices several problems:

- Some cultural references have been translated literally and sound unnatural in Kazakh.
- Tourism slogans have lost their persuasive effect.
- Certain place names and historical references are translated inconsistently.
- The AI system has mistranslated several polysemous words.

Task:

1. Identify the main risks of relying solely on AI-generated translation in this case.
2. Explain what types of errors require human post-editing.
3. Suggest strategies for improving the quality of the final translation.
4. Discuss whether AI can fully replace a professional translator in this situation. Justify your answer with examples.