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Claire Bessant

Freelance translator and conference interpreter

FR/AR > EN

EXPERIENCE

Trainee, Banque Cantonale Vaudoise

July 2021 – August 2021

Working on a range of financial texts within the communications department of BCV, and handling data. This has enabled me to apply my knowledge of finance acquired during my Master's, become more comfortable with financial turns of phrase, and gain experience working as part of a team within a bank.

Freelance translator and conference interpreter

May 2019 - present

Translation from Arabic and French into English, specialising mainly in finance and banking.

Simultaneous interpreting from Arabic and French into English at international events including the budget committee of the World Health Assembly, bilateral meetings and Human Rights Council side events.

SPOC/MOOC Coordinator, University of Geneva

April 2019 - October 2020

A part time role coordinating the creation of a Small Private Online Course (SPOC) and a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on international organisations. The course aims to give budding interpreters the basic knowledge they will need to work for international organisations, including the impact of the shift in the nature of funding received by international organisations, their legal status, and the tax exemptions enjoyed by international civil servants.

Volunteer in house translator, Syria Direct

January 2018 - February 2018

Translating interviews and press statements for an Amman based office of Syrian journalists. Speed, precision and accuracy were key.

Pro bono community interpreter, Setis Bruxelles

April 2017 - September 2017

Working mainly with Syrian refugees, providing interpreting in hospitals, doctors' surgeries and schools. Discretion dealing with sensitive information was essential, as well as keeping calm in distressing or conflictual situations.

Intern - Arab Women's Solidarity Association

November 2016 - September 2017

Conducting a research project involving young Belgian women and girls recruited by so-called IS.

Pro bono interpreter, Reading Refugee Trust

June 2016 - October 2016

A volunteer position assisting a family of Syrian refugees. My responsibilities were varied, including interpreting at job centre appointments, patiently and determinedly liaising to help the children's reintegration into education, and assisting with tasks such as reading post.

EDUCATION**University of Geneva — MA Translation**

2020-present

Studying both the theory and practice of translation to further hone my skills as a translator.

Saint-Joseph University, Beirut — Islamic Finance certificate

March 2021

A remote course on the core concepts of Islamic finance, how Islamic finance differs from the prevailing model in Europe, and the terminology used to describe its idiosyncrasies.

University of Geneva — MA Conference Interpreting

2017-2020

Simultaneous and consecutive interpreting from Arabic and French into English.

University of Durham — First Class BA Hons Modern Languages and Cultures, French and Arabic (with year abroad, with distinction in oral French and oral Arabic)

2012-2016

Including an Erasmus year abroad spent in Dijon, France and Amman, Jordan

Competitive rowing with Hatfield College Boat Club, Vice-President of Durham University Arabic Society