NRPSI Annual Review Focus | Qualifications

Our latest Annual Review reveals that the most popular qualification held by registered interpreters is the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI) in Law.

NRPSI Board member Silvina Katz, who has more than 30 years' experience as an interpreter and translator, and who is a language tutor and associate university lecturer on the DPSI, provides insight into current trends in interpreting professional qualifications…

Why do two thirds of Registrants have the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI) in Law?

"I believe a key reason for this is that interpreters who work within a police or court environment are often required to have a Level 6 qualification, a qualification equivalent to a bachelor's degree with honours, which the DPSI is. Not all the public services do request this standard of qualification. However, by obtaining the DPSI – whether in Law, Heath or Local Government – interpreters can ensure they are trained to the highest level and can maximise the opportunities to progress their careers by working across all areas of their chosen specialism.

The benefits of obtaining the relevant interpreting qualification really are many. It not only equips you with the skills to work in a particular field, but the confidence as well. When you are interpreting or translating in what can be highly pressured and emotionally charged circumstances, which legal and health situations can often be, your training is invaluable. It is what guides you through and enables you to maintain your objectivity and professionalism."
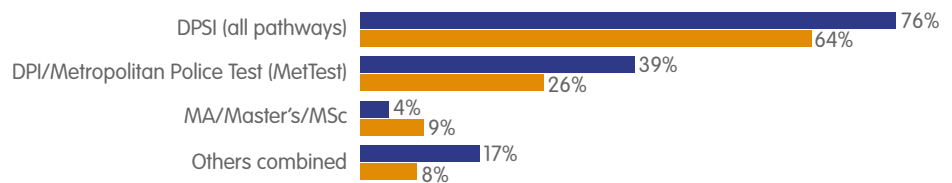
Most popular qualification is
DPSI (76%/64%)
for Full and Interim status languages

■ Full
■ Interim

DPSI (all pathways): 76% / 64%
DPI/Metropolitan Police Test (MetTest): 39% / 26%
MA/Master's/MSc: 4% / 9%
Others combined: 17% / 8%

NRPSI PRIDE database, 'On Register' (1,878)

65%
DPSI Law qualifications
1,238 people

10%
DPSI Health qualifications
199 people

9%
DPSI Local Government qualifications
169 people

Find out more about the qualifications held by Registrants on pages 13-14 of the Annual Review:
http://www.nrpsi.org.uk/downloads/AnnualReview2014.pdf