

How work-ready are graduates of translation programmes?

The translation industry requires highly qualified translators. There have been repeated complaints that graduates of postgraduate programmes are not sufficiently prepared for the challenges of the real world. University programmes are seen as being too theoretical or abstract.

- *Do you share this assumption?*
- *How difficult is it to find suitably qualified translators to work in or for your translation company?*
- *What do you think is missing in university programmes?*

If you are interested in discussing these questions, then please do come along to a short workshop to be held at Aston University, Birmingham, on Wednesday, 25 February 2009, 1.00 - 3.30pm. This event is organised by the Translation Studies group at Aston within the framework of the activities of the National Network for Translation (www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation) with support and input from the Association of Translation Companies.

We want to bring together representatives of translation companies, university departments and graduates of postgraduate programmes to examine what gaps there might be in postgraduate translation degree courses in the context of the demands of the commercial sector and to start the process of closing the divide, by exploring issues such as:

- **What skills and competences does the translation industry expect graduates to have?**
- **Are university programmes sufficiently familiar with the requirements of the industry?**
- **How can the translation industry influence the content of university programmes?**
- **What problems do universities face in making sure their programmes are relevant to the rapidly changing industry?**
- **How can universities and translation companies work more closely together?**

The event will start with lunch, followed by brief statements by university and ATC company representatives, and then devote most of the time to open discussion.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Professor Christina Schaeffner at C.Schaeffner@aston.ac.uk by 16 February 2009.

This event is free of charge.