

Court-Interpreter Internship Pilot Program for Multilingual Students: Challenges and Accomplishments

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New York State Unified Court System (UCS)

- Commitment to making legal proceedings accessible to all regardless of the ability to communicate in the English.
- *Ensuring Language Access* identifies a need for qualified language interpreters, for myriad languages for the New York State Courts.
- Spring 2017, two innovative internship programs for students: a 20-hour introductory and a 100-hour advanced.
- Students recruited from CUNY (John Jay, Hunter, Baruch, LaGuardia, BMCC, Medgar Evers, Brooklyn and Queens College).
- Languages mirror CUNY and LaGuardia diversity: Arabic, ASL, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Pashtu, Polish, Punjabi, Spanish, Thai, and Urdu.

Introduction to Court Interpreting

Week 1: Office of Language Access (OLA)

- Court Interpreter Ethics
- Overview of protocol
- What the court expects of the interpreter
- What the interpreter can expect from the court

Weeks 2, 3, and 4

- Students rotate throughout NY Citywide Courts
- On site observation of Court Interpreters
- Observe the implementation of theory learned in week 1

Week 5: OLA

- Recap experiences

Presentations from staff

- Analysis of Interpreter Errors
- Common Misinterpreted Legal Terms
- Sample oral assessment
- Feedback

FIRST COHORT

- 41 students from LaGuardia University applied
- All students were accepted
- All students completed the internship program

SECOND COHORT

- 32 students from LaGuardia University applied
- All students were accepted
- 29 students completed the internship program
- 1 student declined
- 2 students did not appear

LaGuardia Students Early Test Results

Exam Enrollment

- 35

Appeared

- 15

Passed

- 7

Oral assessments are pending

Participating Schools

Spring 2017 Introductory Internship Commenced

- John Jay, Hunter, Baruch, Pace University, NYU, and Montclair State University

Fall 2017

- LaGuardia CC, City College, Queens College

Spring 2018

- BMCC, Medgar Evers, Brooklyn College

Introductory Program – 20 Hour

Spring 2017

- Baruch, Hunter, John Jay, NYU, Pace & Montclair State University
- 41 Students

Fall 2017

- Hunter, City College, Queens College, LaGuardia CC, Montclair & John Jay
- 49 Students

Spring 2018

- Hunter, John Jay, LaGuardia CC, Brooklyn College, BMCC, NYU, & Montclair
- 56 Students

Program Expansion

Fall 2017

- 100 Hour Internship

Students begin practicing interpreting in formal and informal settings under mentor's supervision

Advanced Program – 100 Hour

Fall 2017

- Hunter, Montclair & John Jay
- 16 Students

Spring 2018

- Hunter, John Jay, Montclair, NYU, Medgar Evers
- 8 Students

Program Availability

Students enrolled in language programs are encouraged to participate and explore the world of court interpreting

Enrollment Since Spring 2017

Introductory Program

- 156 Students

Advanced Program

- 24 Students

Total: 180 Students

Join Us

