

Comparison between BABEL University Professional School of Translation and Universities with similar Degree Programs in Translation

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Summary

1. We compared BABEL PST with 13 universities in USA, Canada, and Great Britain offering online distance learning courses of translation. Majority of the universities are increasing the varieties of the target language, but not providing subject specialty teaching according to document type. BABEL, on the other hand, restricts the target language to only Japanese and English, and trains students by providing large quantities of translation texts that are categorized into document types. BABEL greatly exceeds other universities in the courses offered, maximum duration for course completion, and the number of faculty members.
2. We compared BABEL with 43 universities in USA offering on-campus teaching in translation. Translation programs at the US universities have wide variation in its degrees and courses offered and in the length of courses, whereas BABEL offers fewer specialized courses. This makes a direct comparison difficult. However, we have confidence in that the contents of the program BABEL offer are of top quality.
3. We compared BABEL with Monterey Institute, the most renowned US university in translation. Monterey Institute offers teaching in both interpretation and translation in as many as 9 different languages whereas the program at BABEL targets translation only between Japanese and English with teaching in each specialty specific area.
4. We compared BABEL with Kent State University, which offers degrees in translation at bachelor's, master's, and PhD level. Although BABEL only offers a

master's degree, it provides a much greater variety of courses in each specialty.

1 . Comparison with Universities offering Online Distance Learning Programs in Translation

(1) Universities in USA, Canada, and Great Britain

Universities offering courses in translation via online distance learning are as below.

(a) US Distance Learning Universities offering Translation Courses

New York University, Center for Professional Studies

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Center for Translation Studies

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center for International and Translation

Adelphi University College Online

Note: Major correspondence universities such as Phoenix University, Kaplan University, and Walden University are advertised as offering translation programs. However, they provide very few courses and do not grant a degree in translation so they have been excluded from the list.

(b) Canadian Correspondence Universities offering Translation Courses

University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies

University of British Columbia, Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology

College University de Saint Boniface

(c) British Correspondence Universities offering Translation Courses

City University London, Institute of Linguistics Diploma in Translation

University of Birmingham

University of West of England

Cardiff University Center for Liberty Learning

Susan James, Institute of Linguists Diploma in Translation

South Tyneside College, Institute of Linguistics

(2) Features of the distance learning educational institutions offering translation programs in USA, Canada, and Great Britain are as follows.

(a) The four US institutions (NYU, U of Illinois, U of Hawaii, Adelphi U) only offer certificate programs except for U of Illinois, which grants a BA degree. This is only in French. The other three schools only offer short term courses (e.g. U of Hawaii: 11 weeks, Adelphi U: 9 months).

Amongst the three Canadian institutions (U of Toronto, U of British Columbia, U de Sant Boniface), two (U of T, UBC) only offer certificate programs. U de Sant Boniface offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Translation; however, this is only in French. Amongst the six British institutions (City U London, U of Birmingham, U of West of England, Cardiff U, Susan James, South Tyneside), only U of Birmingham and U of West of England offer MA (MA in Translation and Language Technology). City U offers a certificate program, and both Cardiff and Susan James offer Diploma in Translation, in which master's degree programs are not offered.

(b) The operating bodies of the online learning translation courses in USA, Canada, and Great Britain are the institutes within the universities. It is run by the institutes, and the Diplomas or Certificates are granted from the institutes. The institutes in USA indicate professional education such as Center of Professional Studies (NYU), Center for Translation Studies (U of Illinois), and Center for International and Translation (U of Hawaii)". However, the institutes in Canada and Great Britain have names suggesting diploma granting institutions, aimed for beginner learners, such as "School of Continuing Studies (U of Toronto) ", "Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (U of British Columbia) ", "Center for Liberty Learning (Cardiff U) ". There are also cases in which the name suggests linguistic research centers focusing on applied linguistics such as "Institute of Linguists Diploma In Translation (City U, Susan James)", "Institute of Linguistics (South Tyneside)", which seem to lack specialized teaching in translation.

(3) The course structures are mostly language based, in which there options from several languages, and are not categorized by the specialty area such as literary art, legal, and medical translation. The languages are mainly European. Courses are

divided into beginner and advanced, but does not make any distinction between the specialty areas. Students will only be working on translating non-specialized text; therefore, cannot gain expertise in translation.

NYU : French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic 5 languages

U of Illinois : French only 1 language

U of Hawaii : Chinese, Japanese, Korean 3 languages

Adelphi U : Spanish only 1 language

U of Toronto : Japanese, Chinese, Korean 3 languages

U of British Columbia : Chinese, Korean 2 languages

College U de Sant Boniface : French only 1 language

City U London : French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Arabic, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Czech 11 languages

U of Birmingham, U of West of England : Spanish, French, German 3 languages

Cardiff U : Chinese, Arabic, Polish, Greek, Malay 5 languages

Susan James : French, German, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Swedish, Russian 8 languages

South Tyneside College : Arabic, Bengalese, Cantonese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Kurdish, Chinese, Portuguese, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serb, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu 21 languages

Note: English is also included in all courses as target or source language.

(4) Three (3) credits in 10 courses, a total of 30 credits are offered on average. Most are practical training courses under names such as Chinese-English Translation and French-English Translation.

Courses regarding translation theories come under title of Principle of Translation and Translation Theory with only 1-2 courses on offer.

(5) Comparison with BABEL PST

Babel PST has the following features in comparison with the aforementioned universities offering online distance learning courses in translation.

(a) Languages are limited to Japanese and English only. Students enrolled have fluent Japanese and English skills, which allow in-depth understanding in translation.

(b) Students choose a specialist translation area from one of the four majors: Literary Arts, Finance, Patent/Medical, and Legal. Each major has further subdivided categories providing a wide variety of courses with a total of 107 including 30 American Law courses and 7 Japanese law courses, or 70 if excluding these law courses. For example, courses for Literary Arts Translation include Romance, Mystery, and Non-fiction, and for Legal Translation, Contracts, Litigation Documents, and Minutes of Corporation.

(c) Basic translation knowledge and translation theory courses offered include Translation Grammar, Translation Theories, Translation World History, English History, Intercultural Communication. In comparison with other universities offering correspondence courses in translation, ample course options are available.

(d) Students at BABEL PST are required 60 credits (15 four-credit courses or 30 two-credit courses) for graduation. This is far above the average of the comparing university institutions. Although our course is designed for completion at a minimum of two years, majority of students take longer, graduating with sufficient skills in translation.

(e) BABEL graduates are granted an official degree in Master of Science in Translation rather than a Certificate or a Diploma of Institute, which is offered by other distance learning universities.

2. Comparison with US Universities offering On-Campus Translation Programs

- (1) Universities offering on-campus programs in translation are the following 43 institutions.

Arizona State University, Language and Literature

Barnard College, Department of French

Brigham Young University, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Brown University, Department of Comparative Literature

Florida International University, Department of Modern Language

Georgia State University, Translation Program

Kent State University, Institution for Applied Linguistics
La Salle University, Bilingual /Bicultural Graduate Studies
Marygrove College, Modern Language Translation
Marymount Manhattan College, Humanities Diversion
Montclair State University, College of Humanities and Sciences
The Monterey Institute of International Studies
New York University, School of Continuing and Professional Studies
Oakland University, Department of Modern Language and Literatures
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
San Diego State University Department of Spanish and Portuguese
State University of New York, University at Albany Slavic and Eurasian Studies
State University of New York, Binghamton University Center of Research in Translation
University of Arizona National, Center for Interpretation
University of Arkansas, Program in Creative Writing and Translation
University of California Riverside, Comparative Literature and Foreign Language
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center for Interpretation and Translation Studies
University of Iowa, Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature
University of Massachusetts Translation Center
University of Nebraska at Kearney, Department of Modern Language
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Department of Language and Culture Studies
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Department
Adelphi University, University College
Bellevue College Translation and Interpretation Program
Bingham University, Translation Research institution Program
Boston University, Center for Professional Education
California State University Los Angeles, Division of Extended Education
Gallaudet University Department of Interpretation
Hunter College of the City University of New York, Continuing Education
International Institute of Buffalo, New York, Interpreting and Translation Department
Miami Dade College, Inter-American campus, Translation and Interpretation Studies
Northern Illinois University, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Southern Nazarene University

Tennessee Foreign Language Institute
University of California, San Diego Extension Interpretation
University of Chicago, Graham School of General Studies
University of Denver, School of Professional and continuing Studies
Western Michigan University, Department of Foreign Languages
University of Texas Dallas, Center for Translation Studies
American University, Graduate Certificate in Translation

Note: The above list of US universities have been drawn up from reference to Institutional Members Offering Translation/Interpretation by ATA (American Translators Association), US Top Ten Translation School by ALTA Language Service, and Degree Program in Translation by Word2Word.

(2) Wide Varieties for Translation Programs on Offer by these On-Campus Schools

The schools mentioned above have a great variety of programs in translation. The degrees granted vary from Certificate in Translation, Bachelor (BA) in Translation, Master (MA or MS) in Translation, and even to a PhD. The PhD is only offered by Kent State U. 50% of the degrees offered are MA and the other 50% is BA or Certificate. MA degree is not necessarily an MA in Translation. There are many others without “Translation” in its degree title such as MA in Foreign Language, MA in Communication. Course duration is also varied, from several weeks to 10 months or so taught on campus. MA in these on-campus universities needs a one-year or two-year duration.

Various languages are studied, and the numbers of language options range between 15 or more (Arizona State U, U of California Riverside) to single language (French or Spanish). Most universities offer European languages, and only a few (Monterey Institute and University of Hawaii at Manoa) have Asian languages (Japanese, Chinese, Korean) on offer.

Majority of the universities place translation studies as an extension of the foreign language departments, and the curriculum is based on teaching a foreign language. Thus, most institutions are under the name of the University. And only one of the schools: “Monterey Institute for International Studies Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation”, can be inferred to be specializing in translation. Apart from Kent State University Institute for Applied Linguistics, which teaches translation as an

academic program, most institutions do not offer academic translation program, and offer a few course such as Principle of Translation. Adopting more academic translation theory courses are limited because the average total number of courses range between 10 and 15 which are mostly applied to practical training.

Faculty member can vary from a few to a several dozen, but at most it is around 30 members. On average 10 languages are taught making the number of staff per language much less. One to three professors teaches one language at different levels (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), and is not structured to teach in each specialized area (Legal, Medical, Patent, etc).

Many universities combine interpretation and translation as a single course. Interpretation is taught together and translation is not taught individually.

(3) Comparison with BABEL PST

BABEL PST is a professional school specializing in translation teaching and excluding interpretation. All programs, apart from one course (Translation in Chinese-Japanese Contracts), deal with only Japanese and English unlike many other US universities, which offers multiple language combinations. There are four majors: Literary Arts & Film, Finance & IR, Patent/Technical/Medical, International Paralegal, each offering more in-depth specialized courses.

As Literary and Film Translation major have courses in Mystery, Romance, and Non-fiction and many other specialized courses, and as in Legal Translation major, Contracts, Litigation Documents, and Minutes are some of the courses offered, the courses are both specialized and practical. BABEL's curriculum is truly unique compared to other programs in translation at US universities. It trains students to become professional translators with highly specialized translation skills whereas students of US universities are trained as general translators.

A direct comparison with BABEL courses and an average translational studies course at US universities can prove difficult; however, we will look at the two top US schools offering translation programs: Monterey Institute for International Studies and Kent State University, to get an idea of their features.

3. Comparison with Monterey Institute and BABEL PST

Monterey Institute of International Studies has 12 areas of study including International Management, Language Education, Environmental Studies and so forth. The Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation among them has the highest number of students and is the one of the oldest departments. It has the highest reputation within the US translation institutions and rank at the top of “Top Ten Translation School”.

(1) Location, History, and Reputation

Monterey Institute is located on the coast of Monterey in Central California. Monterey is home to the official foreign language school owned by the US Department of Defense from Pre-World War II and is also closely located to the Silicon Valley. Call for high demand in translation led major translation service companies basing in the area. This has attracted a good population of highly skilled translators as well as a large number of prospective translators. Monterey Institute was founded in 1955 and has a history of 55 years. Progression of globalization has led to an increase in demand for interpretation and translation on a global scale, but Monterey Institute retained its reputation as a top interpretation and translation school in the United States.

BABEL PST is located in Hawaii with also offices in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan. BABEL PST was founded in Honolulu in 2000 with now 11 years of history as a graduate school. As a translation teaching institution, it originally started in 1974 in Tokyo, which can be said to have 37 years of tradition.

(2) Comparison of Languages, Course Duration, Degree, and Major

(a) Languages

Monterey Institute offers the following 9 languages in translation and interpretation: Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese (all paired with English).

BABEL offers one course in Chinese-Japanese Contract Translation and the remainder of the 87 courses (50 if excluding courses of 30 American laws and 7 Japanese laws) is all Japanese or English related.

(b) Course Duration

Course duration at Monterey Institute is 2 years. BABEL has a minimum enrollment period of 2 years.

(c) Degrees

Both Monterey Institute and BABEL grants a master's degree. Neither has an undergraduate program of BA nor a PhD program.

Monterey Institute grants one of the four degrees upon completion of the translation/ interpretation program.

MA in Translation

MA in Translation and Interpretation

MA in Translation and Localization Management

MA in Conference Interpretation

BABEL grants MS (Master of Science) in Translation.

(d) Major

Monterey Institute has a choice of four majors with its Graduate School of Translation & Interpretation.

Translation

Translation and Interpretation

Translation and Localization Management

Conference Interpretation

BABEL has four majors on offer.

Literary Arts and Film Translation

Finance and IR Translation

Patent, Technical and Medical Translation

International Paralegal

(3) Comparison of Faculty and Students

(a) Faculty

Monterey Institute has a total of 34 members (for 9 language) of faculty at its Graduate School of Translation & Interpretation, in which three are professors of Japanese for J-E, E-J courses. The number of instructors and teaching staff is unknown.

BABEL has 52 faculty members including professors for American and Japanese laws or 32 excluding professors of American and Japanese laws. Apart from two American and one Chinese professor, the remainder is all Japanese. There are also 30 instructors beside the above professors.

(b) Student Number and Nationality

Monterey Institute has a total of 860 students. This includes students in other international courses; thus, the students at the Graduate School of Translation & Interpretation is estimated to be around 400. Students majoring in Japanese are around 20 according to hearing from an ex-professor of Monterey Institute. BABEL has around 200 students enrolled in 2011 in total.

Students at Monterey Institute come from 61 different countries. The ratio of US students to international students is unknown, but students have various ethnic backgrounds. All students at BABEL are Japanese except for one American, one Russian, one Chinese, and two Korean students. Their countries of residence of Japanese students, however, are spread across 34 different countries including Japan.

(3) Curriculum and Courses

Details of the curriculum and course syllabus at Monterey Institute are not available, but reference to academic calendars, comments by faculty members, and the course catalog, the curriculum and course details is outlined as below.

Students study the language of their major in translation and interpretation from Introduction, Intermediate, to Advanced level. There are 20 courses in translation such as Business and Economics, Court and Legal, Health and Medical, Literary, and Scientific, which allows students to gain skills and experience in each specialized area. Teaching materials are made by members of the faculty. Classes are designed to develop professional translation skills through exercise with authentic texts. There are no

academic courses such as Theory of Translation Studies. Graduation thesis is optional.

BABEL offers a wide range of courses focusing on practical training. In Literary and Film Translation major, together with a compulsory course in Translation Grammar Basics, electives in Romance, Mystery, Non-fiction and so forth are offered. International Paralegal majors have various options in legal translation such as Contract Translation, Litigation Document Translation, and Minute Translation. Students are able to choose from a wide variety of courses in each of their specialized course area. There are also many electives applying tools in IT technology and courses in Translation Business Management preparing students to work as an independent translator. As an Internet-based university, BABEL puts emphasis on educating students to become translators with such techniques. BABEL offers 87 courses (50 courses if excluding courses of 30 American laws and 7 Japanese laws), much greater than the 20 courses at the Monterey Institute. BABEL also has a large number of faculty members reaching as much as 52(or 32 if excluding 15 for American laws and 5 for Japanese laws).

4. Comparison with Kent State University and BABEL PST

Kent State University is a leading US research university, which offers translation programs at both undergraduate and graduate level. Kent State University is the only US university offering three degrees.

BA in Translation

MA in Translation

PhD in Translation Studies

Kent State University is a state research university located in Ohio with eight departments including College of Arts, College of Arts and Science, College of Business Administration. The translation degree is granted from Kent State University Institute for Applied Linguistics.

(1) Bachelors Degree (BA in Translation) in Kent

BA in Translation is granted upon completing liberal education requirements at the Undergraduate School plus approved translation courses of the Institute for Applied

Linguistics. Students do not study at the Institute for Applied Linguistics for the four years during undergraduate, but study with different colleges in General Liberal Education, Language Culture Cluster, Course Area Specialty as well as 25 credits of Translation/Business Language leading to BA in Translation. Students can choose from various Course Area Specialty including business, accounting, legal studies, international relations, political science, computer science, and other science and technology areas. Students are encouraged to take a double major or a dual degree in their Course Area Specialty. The curriculum has been designed so that students can study a Course Area Specialty during their undergraduate course. This is under their philosophy that “translator working in today's market cannot simply have been trained as a general translator, but must have deeper knowledge of a discipline”.

The number of graduates with BA in Translation is not available, but inferring from the number of students going on to MA in Translation, there are a few dozen per year.

BABEL does not have an undergraduate program. Application requirement for the master's program is to have graduated from a four-year university, and most students enrolled on to the program have business experience after studying a specialized subject in undergraduate.

(2) Master's Degree (MA in Translation) in Kent

Kent State University Institute for Applied Linguistics offers a two-year program at the Graduate School of Translation granting a Master of Arts (MA) in Translation. Details are as follows.

(a) Language, Students, and Faculty

There are five language options for the MA in translation which are Japanese, French, German, Russian, and Spanish. Small number of students between 20 and 30 enroll and graduate with MA in Translation every year. In 2011, there was a total of 23 graduates; 4 Japanese majors, 4 French, 3 German, 2 Russian, and 10 Spanish.

Faculty members consist of 1 Japanese, 4 French, 3 German, 1 Russian, 2 Spanish, and 2 American Graduate Studies professors, a total of 13.

BABEL only offers one language combination Japanese and English.

(b) Curriculum and Courses

The course structure for MA in Translation at Kent State University is largely divided into three categories: 1. Translation Practice in the Majoring Language, 2. Practical Translation Skills, 3. Translation Studies and Translation Theory.

The six compulsory courses in translation practice in each language majors (Japanese, French, German, Russian, Spanish) are Non-specialized Translation Practice; Literary and Cultural Translation; Commercial, Legal and Diplomatic Translation; Scientific, Technical, and Medical Translation; Variable Topic; and Case Study Translation Thesis.

There are six courses in Practical Translation Skills including Terminology and Computer Application for Translation, Software Localization, Project Management in Language Industry, Documents in Multilingual Context-Translation Tools. These are either compulsory or selective core requirements.

Courses in Translation Studies and Translation Theory include Theory of Translation, Applied Translation Research, and Semiotics. There are more options for academic courses with PhD in Translation, and this is a feature of translation studies at Kent State University offering the program at the Institute for Applied Linguistics. Students are required to write a graduation thesis.

(c) Comparison with BABEL PST and Kent State University

Kent State University offers 5 languages (Japanese, French, German, Russian, Spanish) while BABEL only offers Japanese and English. The variety of translation practice courses in Japanese-English at BABEL is much greater than that of Kent State. BABEL has 52 (32 if excluding professors of American laws and Japanese laws) faculty members teaching in each of their specialist area at a total of 87 (50 if excluding the courses for American laws and Japanese laws) courses. Literary Arts & Film Translation major has courses divided further including Romance, Mystery, Drama, and Non-fiction. Courses in Finance & IR major include Translation of Financial & Securities Documents, Translation of Banking Documents, Translation of Accounting Documents, and International Finance Translation. Courses for Patent, Technical and Medical Translation major are subdivided each into the three areas of study in

Japanese-English and English-Japanese translation, each also having Level I and II. In legal translation, Contract Translation is ranked from Level I through level III while offering each combination of Japanese-English and English-Japanese translation. There are also various courses in each legal document types such as litigation documents and corporate minutes. Students are able to acquire high skills by translating large amount of text in each subdivided document types.

Another feature of BABEL's curriculum is the wide range of courses in practical skills related to translation including Synopsis (Outline) Writing and Summarizing. There are also many courses in IT skills to improve the productivity in translation such as Using Translation Software, Text Processing for Translation, Technology to Improve Translation, Multi-step Translation Workshop, and Building Website.

For students wishing to run their own translation business there are courses in Starting up Translation Business, Translation Business Management, Practical Legal Knowledge for Translators, and Practices for Freelance Translator.

Courses in Translation Studies and Translation Theory include Translation Grammar, Translation Theories, History of Translation in the World, History of English and Different Culture Communication.

Students are required to complete a Master's Thesis or a Graduation Project.

(3) Doctor's Degree (PhD in Translation Studies)

PhD in Translation Studies offered at Kent State University Institute for Applied Linguistics does not specify the duration for completion; however, generally over 4 years is required after completing MA in Translation or MA in Foreign Language and entering the program. There are 13 members of faculty as mentioned previously in the master's program, and each year there are several students enrolled on to the PhD program (4 students in 2007, 3 in 2008, 5 in 2009, 4 in 2010, 8 in 2011).

Courses offered on the PhD program include Applied Linguistics, Language Industry, Translation Pedagogy, Corpora in Translation, Translation and Cognition, which are related to applied linguistics (the operating body being Institute for Applied Linguistics). There are also regular seminars held on current affairs in translation studies.

Translation practice in each target language is not included in the PhD program. On completion of the coursework, students start writing the dissertation. The dissertation must be approved by the dissertation advisory committee. A large proportion of the PhD is spent on research and writing for the dissertation. Many students completing the PhD program go on to take professorship in translation studies at other universities.

There will be no comparison with BABEL as BABEL does not offer a PhD program.

(4) Foreign Language Department at Kent State University

For reference, we will also include information on the foreign language department at Kent State University. The department is considered a separate organization to the Institute for Applied Linguistics, which offers a BA, MA, and PhD in translation. Although teaching is done separately, there is a close relationship between the two departments.

Foreign Language Department

The Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies at the College of Arts and Science is the foreign language department of Kent State University. Below is a list of the subjects available.

American Sign Language

Arabic

Chinese

Classics

French

German

Greek

Italian

Japanese

Russian

Spanish

Kiswahili

Bachelor of Arts and Sciences is granted upon completion. The faculty for these courses

is separate from the faculty of translation. For example, there are 7 faculty (1 professor, 6 instructors) for Japanese Language Studies.

BABEL PST does not have a foreign language department.

(end)

Translation Education Research Group of Japan Translation Association takes full responsibility for the wording and content of this article.