

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS OF THE INTERPRETER'S LAB

1. What is The Interpreter's Lab?

- The Interpreter's Lab is one of the longest-running, independent interpreter training programs in Canada — and we're proud of that. But what really sets us apart is how much we care about your success.
- We know many of our students are adult learners with busy lives, juggling family, work, and community commitments. That's why we design our courses to be flexible, supportive, and grounded in real-world experience.
- We also understand that going “back to school” can feel overwhelming — but we're here to support you every step of the way.

2. What does The Interpreter's Lab do?

- The Interpreter's Lab is an organization founded in 2012. It provides training and educational programs for bilingual individuals who wish to work as interpreters in various settings, including general, community settings and specialized fields such as health, mental health, law enforcement, legal and court settings.

3. Our courses are taught in English.

- Because interpreters often work between English (or French, in some regions) and another language in Canada, all course instruction, materials, and live sessions are delivered in English. You'll practice interpreting into and out of English during activities, but you **do need to be fluent in both languages** in the classroom setting — and able to follow the course and participate fully in English.
- All our instructors, and support staff are bilingual, and instruction or mentoring can be provided in multiple languages.
- You can specify the languages you wish to work in as an interpreter, in addition to English, during registration to help us better structure the course to student profiles.

4. What equipment and materials do I need for the course?

To succeed in the course, you'll need:

- A laptop or desktop computer for online learning and live sessions.
- A second device, like a smartphone or tablet, for recording practice sessions.
- A notepad and pen for taking notes.
- A stable and quiet space for participating in live sessions.
- A stable internet connection (an Ethernet cable connection is recommended).
- Optional: Proper headsets for remote interpreting work (recommended for future use).

5. What's the format of the course, and how does it work?

- This is a **blended learning program**, which means you'll learn through a mix of self-paced online modules and live weekly sessions.

Here's how it works:

- **Course modules:** You'll move through several modules that include short readings, videos, audio clips, quizzes, and occasional assignments. Topics include the interpreter's role, ethics, communication skills, and more. Each module is made up of 5 to 7 short lessons, depending on the topic.
- **Live sessions:** Every week - for 8 weeks - you'll join a 120-minute online session led by an instructor. These sessions help you apply what you've learned and focus on key skills like memory, note-taking, ethics, and real-world communication.
- **Easy reminders:** Before each live session, you'll get a reminder to register so we can plan for your participation and make sure you get the most out of the class.
- This format gives you **flexibility to learn on your own time**, while still staying connected to a live learning community and getting support from experienced instructors.

6. How do I access course materials and assignments?

- When you register as a student, you will join an Orientation Session with your instructor, before the class starts, where we will guide you through how the course will progress and the expectations.

7. How long is the course, and how much time do I have to complete it?

- The course runs over 8 weeks of live classes, with one live session each week in the evening. These sessions help you build practical interpreting skills and connect with your instructor and peers.
- You'll also have **access to the full course content** — including all modules, recordings, and materials — for **16 weeks** total, so you can review and revisit the material at your own pace.
- As a bonus, you'll have the **option to join up to 8 extra practice sessions** after the main 8-week program ends, giving you even more time to strengthen your skills if you choose.

8. Will I get practical experience in this course?

- While formal practicum placements can be difficult to arrange because of privacy and confidentiality rules, this course is designed to give you real training for real-world interpreting.
- You'll take part in live, interactive role plays and hands-on activities that simulate the types of interpreting assignments you'll encounter in community settings — from healthcare to legal to social services.
- Throughout the course, you'll be guided by expert instructors from across Canada, and you'll leave with a nationally recognized certificate that shows you've completed foundational interpreter training.
- We've also designed the course to be flexible and accessible for busy adults, with evening live sessions and 16-week access to course materials — and we work with **partner agencies who looking for our graduates for job opportunities**.

Questions? Comments? Contact us at: admin@interpreterslab.org.