In our globalised world, multilingualism plays an increasingly important role, and the need for experts in multilingual communication is growing all the time. As a result, qualified professional interpreters are in high demand. Professional conference interpreters work:

- for government offices
- for national and international parliaments and organisations
- in private industry
- for trade unions, political parties, professional associations, etc.

In addition to background studies and theory-based courses in linguistics and interpreting studies, the programme includes practice-oriented courses in:

- simultaneous and consecutive interpreting
- note-taking, voice and speech training
- conference terminology and phraseology
- terminology management
- professional skills

You have the opportunity to gain a direct insight into professional practice by:

- visiting potential client institutions
- interpreting at simulated conferences
- practising in “dummy booths” at conferences
- interpreting in real-life settings

The School of Applied Linguistics at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences offers an MA Specialisation in Conference Interpreting as one of the pathways within the MA in Applied Linguistics programme. Our full-time study programme lasts 3 semesters (part-time study is also possible) and begins in the spring semester (end of February) each year. The MA Specialisation in Conference Interpreting is designed for all graduates interested in becoming professional conference interpreters. Our programme provides the tools and academic skills you need to compete – and remain competitive – in the challenging field of multilingual communication. You will learn to interpret at a professional level by analysing language transfer problems, developing solutions and strategies and applying appropriate methods and tools.
Language combinations

In addition to your native language (A), you will study an active foreign language (B) and a passive foreign language (C) or three passive foreign languages.

- A + B + C
- A + C + C + C

You will interpret out of your B and C languages into your A language and out of your A language into your B language. German, English, French and Italian are our standard A, B and C languages, but if there is enough demand, we may offer additional languages. One of the languages you study must be German. Please consult our website to see the languages currently being offered.

Teaching

You will study with recognised experts from academia and/or professional practice. With their international orientation – due to their own background, practice and networks – our lecturers will provide you with clear insights into various aspects of the profession and an ideal preparation for your career as an intermediary between languages and cultures.

A special feature of our MA programme is its excellent teacher-student ratio, which allows us to pay close attention to individual needs.

Admission

In order to be admitted to the MA Specialisation in Conference Interpreting, you need:

- a BA or equivalent undergraduate degree in modern languages or media/communication studies
- if your degree is in another field, a successful result in our test of competence
- a successful result in our professional aptitude test (for all candidates)
- evidence of English language competence (at least C1 level) and German language competence for non-native speakers of German (at least C2 level)

Interpreting preparation course

We offer a preparation course in interpreting techniques and skills to prepare students for the professional aptitude test. This course includes:

- sight translation
- note-taking and memory training
- introduction to consecutive interpreting
- liaison interpreting
- key terminology for business and economics
- background studies

Related MA programmes at the School of Applied Linguistics

We offer two other MA pathways specialising in Professional Translation and Organisational Communication.

For more information about the MA programme, please visit: www.zhaw.ch/ma-applied-linguistics