



Statement of Qualifications for Translation Consultants Forum of Bible Agencies International

The member organizations of the Forum of Bible Agencies International (FOBAI) affirm the importance of practices and processes that lead to trustworthy translations. One of these practices is translation consultancy. This statement of translation consultant qualifications reflects the consensus of the member organizations yet recognizes that each organization may (1) maintain its own standards regarding the expected level of competency for people serving in this role and (2) have their own processes for the recognition and/or certification of consultants. This statement may also serve as a reference point for other organizations in the global Bible translation movement.

Translation consultants demonstrate a high standard of professional integrity and an ongoing commitment to increase their knowledge and develop their skills in ways that will help them to become increasingly effective in their service as consultants. This includes awareness of the best practices and expectations of the signed, oral, or written translation spaces they work in.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Translation consultants are expected to demonstrate competence in the areas listed below. They may often have an advanced degree, but these competencies can also be developed through experience in translation, formal or non-formal training programs, or being mentored by someone with more experience. It is also common practice for consultants to be able to train and/or mentor others in these areas.

Interpersonal Skills: A consultant relates well with others of different backgrounds, demonstrates sensitivity to different viewpoints, and can facilitate group dynamics, team discussion, and conflict negotiation.

Intercultural Intelligence: A consultant interacts well with people from other cultures, understands cultural values, works well with multicultural teams, and interacts appropriately in diverse cultural settings.

Language Skills: A consultant demonstrates familiarity with the language of wider communication and the language family of the translation. It is preferable for consultants to sign or speak at least one language of the translation team(s).

Translation: A consultant demonstrates a clear understanding of translation, translation theories, translation studies, and the best practices for signed, oral, or written translation.

Linguistics & Communication: A consultant demonstrates competence in applying the aspects of linguistics and communication theory that have relevance to the translation process.

Biblical Languages: A consultant demonstrates competence in the source language of the biblical text being consulted to use commentaries, software, and other resources for exegesis.

Biblical Studies and Theology: A consultant demonstrates familiarity with the Bible's historical and cultural backgrounds, hermeneutics, and exegesis, and works charitably with those of diverse theologies.

Technology: A consultant knows how to use the software and technologies used by the team(s) where they consult.

Program Planning: A consultant can provide input and facilitate discussion of the translation brief, project design, appropriate modalities of translation, and strategic planning.

Quality Assurance: A consultant demonstrates awareness of quality assurance processes and practices and is able to work with teams to implement them.

Consultancy: A consultant serves as a resource to the translation team, language community and ministry partners, building trust, encouraging, and offering humble expertise at all stages of the translation process. Consultants often train, advise, and mentor others in the Bible translation movement.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Forum has also adopted standards on [Basic Principles and Procedures](#) for Bible translation which complements the Qualifications for Translation Consultants. The member organizations of the Forum offer these standards to foster cooperation and collaboration among all organizations in the global Bible translation movement.