

Job requirements

# Professorship for Theory and Practice of Interpreting (English)

With a focus on multilingualism and society

**Application deadline: June 24, 2026**

The professorship is based in the **Institute of Translation and Multilingual Communication**.

Starting date: **as soon as possible**

**The general legal requirements** in compliance with paragraph 36 of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act (Hochschulgesetz – HG) are as follows:

1. A university degree
2. Proven track record of experience in teaching (if not available, teaching within the course of the first year will be evaluated in the context of a contractual probation period)
3. Particular proficiency in scientific work, usually demonstrated by the quality of the doctorate  
In the case of a lack of a doctorate, the special ability to carry out scientific work can be proven by doctorate-adequate achievements on the basis of a report/recommendation by a university professor. The report/recommendation must be submitted with the application.
4. A strong track record in the application or development of research findings and methods, gained during a minimum of five years of professional employment in a relevant field – at least three years of these five years must have been outside of a university environment

## Professional, didactic and methodical competencies:

You have a university degree in the field of conference interpreting or in a different field closely related to the vacant position, as well as a doctoral degree in a relevant area of expertise. In the absence of a doctoral degree, you may provide an academic assessment letter issued by a university professor certifying that you have demonstrated academic achievements equivalent to a doctoral degree. This letter should be included as part of your application materials for the position.

You have a minimum of five years of professional experience, of which at least three years are outside of higher education. This practical experience must include your own professional work as a conference interpreter, evidenced by documentation of specific interpreting assignments.

You have excellent communication skills in your working languages, English (A language) and German (B or C language). Ideally, you bring experience in interpreter training and/or related assessments.

## Professional Competence

English as an A language and German as a B or C language are essential requirements for this position.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> A-Sprache: „Als A-Sprache wird die Muttersprache des Konferenzdolmetschers bezeichnet. Der Dolmetscher dolmetscht aktiv aus dieser und in diese Sprache (beide Sprachrichtungen).“

B-Sprache: „Die B-Sprache ist eine Fremdsprache des Konferenzdolmetschers, die dieser auf quasi muttersprachlichem Niveau beherrscht. Der Dolmetscher dolmetscht aktiv aus dieser und in diese Sprache (beide Sprachrichtungen).“

C-Sprache: „Die C-Sprache ist eine passiv beherrschte Fremdsprache des Konferenzdolmetschers. Das bedeutet, der Dolmetscher dolmetscht nur aus dieser Sprache (eine Sprachrichtung).“

Quelle: <https://vkd.bdue.de/fuer-auftraggeber/dolmetschen-von-a-z>

Questions on the recruitment process to:

**Maïke Schwering**

T: + 49 221-8275-5198

E: [maïke.schwering@th-koeln.de](mailto:maïke.schwering@th-koeln.de)

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54

50968 Köln

Position-related questions to:

**Prof. Dr. Anja Rütten**

T: +49 221-8275-5929

E: [anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de](mailto:anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de)

You have excellent skills in specialized communication in English and German and are well versed in the theory and practice of conference interpreting. You are well versed in socially relevant aspects of multilingualism, such as interpreting and political discourse, or English as a foreign language or lingua franca. You bring solid business skills and experience working with international, multilingual teams and their operational processes.

### **Research competence**

Field-specific publications and lectures/presentations are expected, ideally along with experience in securing external funding. Research expertise and the ability to communicate research findings must be demonstrated through a research presentation.

### **International competence**

You are well connected within the international scientific community as well as within institutional and private-sector professional interpreting practice. You also have good connections with universities outside of Germany and with international organizations, as well as international professional associations. Intercultural competence is a prerequisite, given the international nature of our training programs, the large number of international students and the international faculty and staff at our institute.

### **Didactic competence/communication skills**

You have the ability to select and convey knowledge and concepts in a manner that is aligned with learning outcomes and tailored to the target audience. Ideally, you have experience in designing, planning and delivering courses for modern, market-oriented training of conference interpreters.

In addition, you are interested in applying methods of modern university didactics, especially in the area of project-oriented teaching and learning.

These competences must be demonstrated through a sample teaching session, along with a submitted teaching concept and teaching exposé.

### **Management competence**

We are seeking a candidate with good leadership and organizational skills. You have very good strategic expertise, ideally demonstrated by experience in project management and/or other professional leadership roles.

### **Social skills**

You are a team player, able to handle conflict, and willing to work across different locations and disciplines. You are open to different perspectives and willing to collaborate with other disciplines.

With the advertisement of this position and the publication of the requirement profile, TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences specifies which competencies are necessary to successfully fulfill the duties of the professorship. Depending on the focus of the professorship, these competencies are weighted and checked in the selection procedure. Pre-selection is based on the written application documents submitted by applicants. The necessary competencies of the shortlisted candidates will be assessed in an application procedure that includes a lecture, a research presentation and a structured interview. If applicants are shortlisted and invited to a personal interview, they will be asked to submit a written teaching and research concept in advance. Short-listed candidates will receive more detailed information concerning the lecture, the research presentation and the structured interview with their invitation.

Please take note of the [application information](#) at the end of this list of requirements for the position.

Questions on the recruitment process to:

**Maike Schwering**

T: + 49 221-8275-5198

E: [maike.schwering@th-koeln.de](mailto:maike.schwering@th-koeln.de)

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54

50968 Köln

Position-related questions to:

**Prof. Dr. Anja Rütten**

T: +49 221-8275-5929

E: [anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de](mailto:anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de)

## Additional information

### Place of residence

You are expected to move/relocate to the city in which your campus is located/situated or its region.

### Remuneration

Professors are remunerated in accordance with the W2 remuneration scheme ([www.lbv.nrw.de](http://www.lbv.nrw.de): the remuneration scale for North Rhine-Westphalia as well as information on the family supplement are available on the website of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Office for Salaries and Pensions – LBV NRW). In addition to the family supplement, the remuneration provisions make allowance for other benefits (performance-related benefits), in particular benefits related to the appointment as well as benefits granted on the grounds of outstanding contributions and/or for securing third-party funding for research purposes. The Provisions on Performance-Related Benefits at Universities in North Rhine-Westphalia are in accordance with the law (Hochschul-Leistungsbezügeverordnung – HLeistBVO) of December 17, 2004. Additionally, TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences has introduced individual regulations in its guidelines on W2-remuneration. Detailed information on the W2-remuneration bracket is available here: [th-koeln.de/besoldung](http://th-koeln.de/besoldung)

### Employment as a civil servant or as a non-civil servant

Professors may only be employed as tenured German civil servants if they hold a full-time position and comply with all legal provisions (e.g. being younger than 50 years old). The possibility of becoming a tenured German civil servant is always determined on an individual basis, and candidates should therefore contact the above-mentioned contact person in the division for lecturers and assistants in the human resources department. When employed under non-civil-servant conditions, professors will be remunerated in accordance with W2 gross remuneration. In contrast to tenured civil servant contracts, professors employed under such provisions are required to pay social security contributions.

During employment, part-time employment may be granted upon request, e.g. for familial reasons, provided that this does not interfere with fulfilling the duties of the position.

### Additional employment

Full-time professorship: additional employment of up to eight hours per week may be authorized in compliance with the legal regulations for North Rhine-Westphalia (thus permitting work in positions of practical relevance). If you work on a freelance basis with your own office, this will be subject to specific conditions as outlined in the legal stipulations concerning additional employment for university personnel.

Part-time professorship: The execution of other activities not part of the professorship is subject to the regulations governing part-time employment.

If your work as a professor is less than 50 %, then the legal stipulations on additional employment do not apply.

Questions on the recruitment process to:

**Maike Schwering**

T: + 49 221-8275-5198

E: [maike.schwering@th-koeln.de](mailto:maike.schwering@th-koeln.de)

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54

50968 Köln

Position-related questions to:

**Prof. Dr. Anja Rütten**

T: +49 221-8275-5929

E: [anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de](mailto:anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de)

## Application information

Please submit your application materials via our application management system. Return to the [job advertisement](#) and click here:

[Apply here](#)

In our application management system, we ask you to submit information relevant for the processing of your application and to upload the following documents (maximum file size 10 MB per file):

- cover letter
- photo (optional)
- curriculum vitae including a list of publications and an overview of courses held  
Please list your periods of work experience (inside and outside of the university contexts) in tabular form and provide the month and year of each period. In the case of parallel employment, please indicate the percentage of work time spent at the given institution, if possible. Please list work experience that was gained after receiving the first university degree.
- certificates (max. 5 files)
  - copies of university diplomas/certificates
  - job reference letters and/or performance reviews to provide evidence for periods of work experience gained from the first university degree onwards
  - certified translations in German or English of foreign certificates
- other documents
  - e.g. a list of publications, overview of the courses held, evaluations  
**if necessary: professor's report/recommendation (see page 1: The general legal requirements)**  
In the application form you can select the option to submit the required professor's report/recommendation within two weeks after the end of the application period.

Questions on the recruitment process to:

**Maike Schwering**

T: + 49 221-8275-5198

E: [maike.schwering@th-koeln.de](mailto:maike.schwering@th-koeln.de)

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54

50968 Köln

Position-related questions to:

**Prof. Dr. Anja Rütten**

T: +49 221-8275-5929

E: [anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de](mailto:anja.ruetten@th-koeln.de)