

NWTN Academic Liaison Program Report



During the last AGM, as we discussed the questions of new memberships and network promotion, the field of higher education was identified as a potential area for further development. Over the last few months, several promotional events have allowed us to increase our visibility in the academic world, with unforeseen added benefits for the network.

In October 2019, the NWTN ran an informative seminar at the University of Manchester targeting languages and/or translation students. The seminar was organised in collaboration with Dr Anna Strowe, lecturer on the Master in Translation and Interpreting Studies course at UoM. Angela Sigee spoke about the network and gave a comprehensive presentation of the profession of freelance translator. The second part



of the seminar consisted of a panel of NWTN members, with various backgrounds and levels of experience, who volunteered to answer the students' many questions. The panel members were Angela Sigee, Mike Hanson, Joanna Case, Hayley Woods, Joe Williams and myself. The event was highly successful, with a large turnout and a participative audience, and 4 students joined our network shortly afterwards.

On March 4th, at the invitation of Kirsty Heimerl-Moggan, the course leader for the MA in Interpreting and Translation at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Heidi Kerschl and Janice Crossfield spoke to students about careers in languages, life as a translator or interpreter, and CPD and networking opportunities. This was followed by a question and answer session. Several of the students showed an interest in joining the NWTN, and the event was immediately followed by 3 new memberships.

Overall, our membership officer, Laurence Bisot, reports a 30% increase in student memberships compared to last year, as we have welcomed a total of 25 new student members from Manchester University, UCLAN and Leeds but also Bristol, Portsmouth and even South Africa!

As previously mentioned, beyond this increase in student memberships, the network benefits from its connexion with academia in other ways.

First and foremost, this ongoing relationship increases our pool of speakers for seminars and workshops. Secondly, we are also discussing the possibility for network members to attend information sessions, ran by universities, which may be of relevance to our practice. Thirdly, it represents an opportunity for us to stay in touch with current research in the field of translation.

Finally, this collaborative work was to be the subject of a presentation led by fellow Academic Liaison Janice Crossfield and myself during the ITI and Friends Summer Festival in Bristol. Although the event had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the success of our proposal shows that our academic connexion is raising interest in the translation community, and we look forward to seeing this project through in the future.

All in all, a good year for Academic Liaisons!

Katell Sevellec
Academic Liaisons Officer