

Supporting and developing  
language professionals  
worldwide



# Why become a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists?



Karine Chevalier-Watts  
Rachel Wingfield  
Rosa Insua-Salgueiro  
Natalia Racheyskova  
Danielle Coleman

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# Introduction

New year, new resolutions! January is the time of year when millions of people make New Year's resolutions, hoping to spark positive change in their lives. Recurring themes include a more active approach to health and fitness, improved finances and learning new things for personal and professional development. We at the CIOL Translating Division thought it would be the perfect opportunity to mention the benefits of joining CIOL and make it your personal resolution to become a member of this amazing organisation or to make the most of your existing membership!

We interviewed five professional linguists and asked them what in their own opinion were the best advantages of being a CIOL member and here are their contributions.

We hope that by the time you've finished reading their arguments, you will be convinced that joining CIOL is the best resolution that you can make for yourself this year!

For further information on CIOL Membership grades and how to join, please visit: [Apply and join CIOL today | CIOL \(Chartered Institute of Linguists\)](#)



**Karine Chevalier-Watts MCIL CL**  
Coordinator of CIOL Translating Division Steering Group

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# How CIOL membership has benefited me



**Danielle Coleman** MCIL CL (Translator),  
BA Hons, DipTrans

Whether you are just starting out on your professional journey or have many years of experience under your belt, I would strongly recommend CIOL membership to any translator.

**These are the key benefits I have taken advantage of personally since joining CIOL in 2019 and becoming a Chartered Linguist in 2022:**

## **Independent accreditation**

Because ours is an unregulated profession, I've found that being a CIOL member and, more recently, having Chartered Linguist status, has been invaluable. Potential clients are reassured to see that my language credentials have been independently assessed. For example, when contacting new translation agencies or when participating in tenders as a proposed translator for a specific agency, it's been an advantage to refer to my MCIL status.

## **Visible and verifiable badge**

The same goes for the logo and digital verification link provided by CIOL. I use these as footers in my email signature and add them to my CV and invoice as a useful visual shorthand for guaranteed quality.

## **Direct individual clients**

Through the Find-a-Linguist directory on the CIOL website, I have been approached by both individual clients and agencies. Although the jobs for individual clients often relate to the translation of civil status certificates and so are small and not particularly lucrative, it's satisfying to know I am helping people overcome bureaucratic hurdles in their lives. This is work I would otherwise not have been offered.

## **Sense of community**

I always like to take advantage of opportunities to connect with other translators. I attended the in-person CIOL 2020 conference in March, possibly one of the last in-person conferences that year! It was invaluable to chat with other translators in the breaks between talks, exchange experiences and business cards, and find out from people actually doing it what it's like to perform other roles. For example, I spoke to a translator who had started doing subtitling and she gave me an honest view of how that area of work compares to translating.

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In addition, I've benefited from joining CIOL's divisions and local networks and attending talks, webinars and workshops. I would recommend following up on these by connecting on LinkedIn with speakers or attendees you think might be useful contacts. You are bound to come across translators working in other language pairs, with experience in different areas, or contacts in subject areas you want to explore, etc.

### **Online CPD record**

The CIOL online CPD record tool is a great way to keep track of your Continuing Professional Development and I have definitely benefited from this, becoming more organised and focused about my CPD. It can reveal areas where you might need to invest in more training, and it is also essential if you are thinking about applying for Chartered Linguist status.

In addition to the benefits mentioned above, I've also used templates provided by CIOL, discount vouchers for new glasses

and have been interviewed for the quarterly membership magazine *The Linguist*.

I can't think of a downside to becoming a member, and once you are one, I would recommend regularly exploring the website to check on everything on offer.

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*... in an unregulated profession, I've found that being a CIOL member, and more recently having Chartered Linguist status, has been invaluable.*

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## Why I am a member of CIOL



**Rachel Wingfield MCIL CL**  
**BA (Hons) MA, CELTA DipTrans**

Being a member of CIOL for the past three years has provided me with invaluable support and guidance right from the beginning of my journey as a freelance translator. I am still enjoying the benefits of membership, not only thanks to the recognition I get as a language

professional by being a member of a well-known organisation and being able to use the designatory letters after my name, but also thanks to the high-quality events and training offered by CIOL. These enable me to keep up to date with latest developments and debates within the industry, and significantly contribute to my ongoing professional development.

If I reflect on my decision in 2019 to join CIOL I can only conclude that it was a profoundly positive one! Initially, I joined as an affiliate member, whilst I was studying for the Diploma in Translation. I threw myself in to the Institute by volunteering to help and assist at a few seminars organised by the Translation Division. Through these, I had the opportunity to meet fellow translators and CIOL staff, and I was subsequently invited to join the Translation Division's Steering Group.

When I decided to change career, to obtain the Diploma in Translation and set myself up as a freelance translator, it was all quite daunting. But I need not have worried, because, by joining CIOL I was able to tap into a large pool of resources and a supportive community of like-minded linguists to help me along the way. I gained access to the much-needed information I required to learn what it meant to work as an independent translator and the approaches to take to establish my business. I made a point of accessing the numerous CIOL online guides and attend relevant seminars and webinars, as well as face-to-face events and conferences. These gave me practical advice and allowed me to meet fellow translators within the CIOL community of linguists to reach out to and to exchange ideas and useful tips with. It really is like having a family of mentors, and mentees!

I believe a key benefit of CIOL membership is that I get the professional recognition that comes with being accredited and this has truly opened doors and brought me a number of business opportunities. This is a brand that potential clients know they can trust, knowing that members need to meet CIOL's rigorous criteria and standards for best practice in the use of languages professionally.

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In addition, as a member you can share in an enormous collective set of experiences and industry knowledge, covering a wide range of related topics that can help develop and improve your skillset. There are numerous opportunities to connect with other linguists through its member networks, so you can reach out to fellow language professionals for advice and exchange of views within a safe platform.

To conclude, being a member of CIOL has had a very positive impact on my professional life, right from the moment I entered the world of freelance translation. It was a big stepping stone and a key enabler of my career change thanks to the support and confidence boosting it gave me. And, thanks also to the breadth of online and in-person events CIOL organises for its members, it continues to provide me with opportunities for further professional development and business growth.

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Attendees at the CIOL Conference

## Why CIOL? Why not?



**Natalia Racheyskova**  
MA MCIL CL

I am one of 5,000 CIOL Members worldwide, becoming a Member in 2014 and a Chartered Linguist in 2018.

In 2015BC (Before COVID), I attended several of CIOL's one-day workshops on literary translation, voice-over, subtitling and transcreation, which helped me to focus and to figure out what I wanted and didn't want to do as a translator.

As a member of the Translation Division Steering Group, I was a volunteer at CIOL workshops and training sessions, including a workshop with Chris Durban - my idol in the translation field. It gave me a chance to meet and to communicate with many interesting people from the linguistic field.

During the COVID lockdowns, CIOL helped me (and many other translators and interpreters) to stay sane and focused by offering free webinars for linguists. I attended 18 webinars in 2020 and became addicted. In 2021 I attended 56, and in 2022 - 47 webinars

and counting... Each webinar enriched my knowledge as a linguist, translator and interpreter. I discovered two new types of translator/interpreter which were totally new and unknown to me - UX (user experience) translator and fixer (interpreter as well as qui peut tout).

Our Translation Division Steering Group contributed to boosting the morale (during lockdown and beyond) by creating different CIOL Guides, including "Recipes for resilience in challenging times", "Health and wellbeing advice for CIOL translators", "Working with foreign languages", and "Working with direct clients".

Being a CIOL Member also helped me not only to translate/interpret, but also to write - my article "A life with languages" was published in *The Linguist*, CIOL's membership magazine.

The various CIOL networks include the Spanish Division, Brazilian Division, German Language Society, Scottish Society, Midlands Network, and Gloucestershire Network. You don't need to be a member of these networks to participate in their English-language webinars and meetings - you are of course more than welcome to join them.

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CIOL Members have access to the Webinar Library with more than 200 webinars covering different types of translation and interpreting.

CIOL Membership gave me considerable exposure through the Find-a-Linguist directory on the CIOL website and added to my credentials as a translator/interpreter. Every week, for the last three years, I have been receiving numerous emails starting with the phrase: "I found your details on the CIOL website..." I practically stopped chasing new clients, as new clients are chasing me!

CIOL even helped me to fulfil my dream of becoming a literary translator. For several years I attended the London Book Fair, hoping to secure a literary translation contract, but with zero result. I even started to think that it was never meant to be. But recently, again through Find a Linguist, I was contacted by two different publishers. As a result, to date I have translated six children's books from English into Ukrainian and can proudly call myself a proper literary translator.

I would recommend becoming a CIOL Member to everybody - the Institute has been supporting and representing linguists worldwide since 1910, becoming CIOL in 2005 when it was awarded a Royal Charter, and the benefits of different kinds of CIOL membership considerably outweigh the surprisingly affordable annual fee.





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# Why I joined CIOL as a member



**Rosa Insua-Salgueiro** MCIL CL  
English to Spanish translator and interpreter

As an English to Spanish translator and interpreter, I joined CIOL while I was still studying for my MA in Translation and Interpreting. What attracted me at the time was the discounted student fee, and more importantly, the thought that it would be a great way to launch my career.

I am now a full member and a Chartered Linguist. In an unregulated profession such as ours, it's extremely important to offer high quality services and quality assurance, not only to prove to our clients that we are committed to our career but also that we are true professionals and not just doing a part-time gig!

Being a CIOL member, and in particular a Chartered Linguist, proves that you are committed to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) which means you are always learning, sharpening your saw, not only in your specialisations and languages but also in topics related to business development. There is an array of resources to which any CIOL member can access: from free webinars and paid workshops to guidance on

Model Terms of Business for translators and interpreters as well as professional support.

I have to admit that the aspect that I enjoy the most as a member of CIOL is networking and being part of the CIOL community. I've been a member of the Translating Division Steering Group for the last three years and I have met wonderful colleagues, linguists with different backgrounds and language combinations and great ideas, whose main aim is to be a beacon of light in this somehow dark world of translation and interpreting.

Don't get me wrong, this is a wonderful industry and one can make a very decent living out of it. The difficult part is finding your way, especially when you are new to the profession and out of university.

That's why I'm grateful to CIOL for supporting me along my professional journey with the best resources and networking opportunities.

That's why I'm a member.  
You should try it too - why not give it a go!

*When Rosa's not dealing with words and communication she loves knitting and crocheting. [rosa@translategy.com](mailto:rosa@translategy.com) | [www.translategy.com](http://www.translategy.com)*

# The benefits of being a CIOL member



**Karine Chevalier-Watts**  
MCIL CL

*Director & Owner of KLAS Languages*  
[www.klaslanguages.co.uk](http://www.klaslanguages.co.uk)

I became a self-employed translator and language teacher in 2011 when I created a small language services business in Wiltshire, offering teaching, translating and interpreting services in various languages to local small businesses and private individuals. However, as I started receiving more and more enquiries for certified translations and for more language combinations, I realised it was necessary to seek professional recognition and I therefore became a full CIOL member in 2015.

I attended my very first Members Day and Annual Conference that same year. I was quite intimidated at first, as I did not yet know many people, but was most impressed by the quality of the speakers and participants in attendance. I started networking and, by the end of the day, had gained multiple contacts in various languages and from different parts of the UK who had expressed an interest in collaborating with me.

Supported by all the wonderful contacts that I had thus made I was able to offer more services to my clients and expand my business to other regions of the UK than just the Southwest of England where I was based.

Becoming a CIOL member and having my profile on the CIOL directory brought me far more clients than I would have ever expected; I suddenly found myself approached by companies, agencies, law firms as well as individual clients who now fully trusted me and my professional capabilities. This trend only increased when I gained Chartership status in 2017 in both translation and education. It is important to realise that “Chartered Linguist” is a protected title, that is recognised throughout the world and that only CIOL is allowed to bestow it. For this alone, I would say that it is extremely valuable to become a member of CIOL with the aim of ultimately acquiring the Chartership title that will recognise you as an expert in the profession and will open a lot of new work opportunities.

Aside from the practical business advantages, CIOL has allowed me to meet amazing, like-minded colleagues and make genuine long-lasting friends! CIOL has offered me the opportunity of volunteering as the Coordinator of its Translating Division, which has enabled me to work closely with other members in setting up exciting CPD and networking events both online and in person. This has proved of invaluable help to

me in challenging myself, gaining new skills, meeting key people in the profession, and has led me to even further opportunities of expanding my career.

A CIOL membership also gives access to a range of added benefits such as preferential rates for your Professional Indemnity Insurance or even access to a free legal helpline which has been incredibly useful to me when I once needed some urgent legal advice regarding a financial dispute with a supplier.

My business has now been established for 12 years and I can genuinely state that becoming a CIOL member, then a Chartered Linguist, has simply been life-changing for me, both professionally and personally with the incredible opportunities it has offered me since I joined 8 years ago. I would never have acquired the status I now enjoy, working both nationally and internationally, was it not for the tremendous boost that CIOL has given my business.

I would strongly urge any professional linguist taking their career seriously to join CIOL and see for themselves all the benefits it can bring to them.

## Find-a-Linguist

Search CIOL's free to access directory to find a professional, qualified and/or Chartered translator, interpreter, educator or other linguist.

Click here



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## About CIOL

CIOL (Chartered Institute of Linguists) is the leading professional body for people using foreign language skills at work, setting the standard for linguists worldwide. Membership offers professional recognition, and our range of membership grades leads to Chartership, recognised worldwide as the gold standard for practitioners, whatever their profession, publicly understood as a badge of quality and competence. We offer many benefits and services, such as mentoring and access to networks. Our awarding organisation, CIOL Qualifications, delivers fully regulated professional language qualifications, such as the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting, the Certificate in Translation and the Diploma in Translation, recognised by government departments, agencies, business and universities.

For more information on membership and qualifications, visit [ciol.org.uk](http://ciol.org.uk)

## How do I join CIOL?

CIOL offers linguists and language professionals a range of entry points depending on your stage of study qualifications, career and work experience. You can find all the information you need, as well as our three-step guide to apply, on the [Apply page](#) of the CIOL website.

We aim to make the online application process as straightforward and smooth as possible but please contact the [membership team](#) if you need help or advice.



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