

**Certification Examination for
Professional Interpreters (CEPI)**
专业译员资格认证

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Introduction

SIM University (UniSIM)'s **Certification Examination for Professional Interpreters (CEPI)** was launched in 2008 to provide official recognition to interpreters who have acquired the necessary skills to interpret for significant occasions.

Currently, there is no professional certification system for interpreters in Singapore, even though Singapore has had a bilingual education system for the past 40 years and training programmes on translation and interpretation have been available for a decade.

UniSIM is well placed to fill this gap, having developed a niche in the field of translation and interpretation through the offering of a Diploma in Chinese-English Translation and the first and only Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpretation (BATI) in Singapore.

On 7 May 2008, UniSIM and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Diplomatic Academy signed an Memorandum of Understanding to recognise the value of co-operation in the area of certifying professional interpreters and developing the profession. An officer from the MFA and a Language Executive from the Parliament participated the pilot run of CEPI in November 2008.



Objectives

The Certification Examination for Professional Interpreters (CEPI) is a professional certification system that examines competence in interpreting between English and Chinese. The CEPI represents the minimum level of competence for qualified interpreters and aims to set the national benchmark for professional interpreters in Singapore.

Benefits

CEPI offers a range of benefits. The certification

- ensures that there is a consistent standard of professionalism in interpreting in Singapore;
- recognises the expertise and experience of interpreters;
- certifies the professional readiness of translators and interpreters in training to enter the business and service industry;
- enables employers to make informed hiring decisions and evaluate their staff who work as an interpreter



Recognition

Candidates who pass the CEPI will be issued a Professional Certificate of 'Accredited Professional (Consecutive) Interpreter'.

Holders of the certificate may be deployed to interpret for official and business functions by selected government and non-government agencies. A list of these agencies will be consolidated and made available to the holders of the certificate.

Advisory Committee

The Examination Advisory Committee has been set up to provide strategic advice and recommendations to the CEPI. Members are drawn from distinguished academics and expert interpreters:

1. Professor Eddie Kuo (郭振羽教授), Founding Dean (1992-2003) of the NTU Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a member of the multi-agency Translation and Interpretation Steering Committee and a former member of NTU council (2003- 2006), UniSIM Academic Advisor
2. Associate Professor Goh Yeng Seng (吴英成副教), Head of Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group, National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) , a member of the multi-agency Translation and Interpretation Steering Committee
3. Mr Lau Ping Sum (刘炳森先生), Executive Director, PAP and PAP Community Foundation, former Member of Parliament and part-time interpreter for Parliament
4. Mr Lee Hui Huan (李慧垣先生), former Chief Interpreter of Parliament (retired in January 2007) and the first Singaporean member of International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC).



Format

CEPI is a performance test that lasts approximately 45 to 60 minutes. The examination is administered to candidates on an individual basis by a panel of examiners.

The examination consists of the following three parts:

- Part I : Dialogue Interpreting between English and Chinese speakers in consecutive mode
- Part II: Conference Interpreting from Chinese to English and English to Chinese in Consecutive mode
- Part III: Sight Translation from Chinese to English and English to Chinese

The examination presents common challenges posed to professional interpreters in Singapore context.

Orientation

Accepted candidates will be invited to attend an orientation which provides a practical introduction to the examination. A set of specimen examination materials will be given to the candidates during the orientation.

Administrative Details

Eligibility

To be eligible for CEPI tests, candidates must satisfy at least two of the following criteria:

- a diploma or degree from a recognised institute of higher learning in any field as well as satisfactory proficiency level in English and Chinese
- relevant work experience in interpreting between English and Chinese to which an employer has attested;
- relevant professional training in translation and interpretation between English and Chinese.

Fees and Dates

The examination is held in **October / November** every year. The examination fee is SGD\$500 (subject to prevailing GST) per candidate.

Application

The deadline for application is **30 September**. Application fee is S\$32.10 (inclusive of GST).

If you wish to make payment by cheque, the application fee of S\$32.10 should be made payable to "SIM University":

CEPI Administration School of Arts and Social Sciences

SIM University
535A Clementi Road
Singapore 599490

Interested applicants may submit their application via the following steps:

- Log onto UniSIM website: www.unisim.edu.sg to submit your on-line application and application fee.
- Download the application form and submit it together with the supporting documents within one week upon your on-line application.

Contact Details:

SIM University
School of Arts and Social Sciences
Telephone: (65) 6248 9129 / 6248 5985
Email: sass_cepi@unisim.edu.sg



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