

Repositioning Translation Studies and Translation Education in Contemporary Technological Contexts

Host university: Tallinn University, Estonia

Target group: Teaching Staff (and PhD students if spots available)

Virtual component: Is combined with the onsite component in 8-12 June 2026

Onsite component: 8-12 June 2026, Tallinn, Estonia

Content of the course

In recent years, the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Translation has significantly transformed the position and perception of translation. These changes have created an urgent need to reassess Translation Education and to discuss new theoretical insights, pedagogical approaches, and methodological frameworks. At the same time, it is crucial to address potential risks associated with these developments, including the danger of undermining achievements gained through the institutionalization of translation and the establishment of Translation Studies as an academic discipline. Such risks include the tendency to no longer approach translation as a complex socio-cultural and cognitive practice, as well as a possible decline in its recognition within society, public institutions (including at the governmental level), and related academic fields.

The Blended Intensive Programme (BiP) course organized by Tallinn University aims to bring together researchers in Translation Studies and specialists in Translation Education to engage in a critical discussion of the challenges currently facing the field. The course provides a platform for sharing experiences, reflecting on established and emerging practices, and (re)defining methods, methodologies, and conceptual approaches that support the sustainable development of Translation Studies and Translation Education in contemporary contexts.

The seminar will address the following topics:

- The position of Translation Studies in current socio-technological realities
- Translation awareness
- Machine Translation (including AI-based translation) and Machine Translation literacy
- Translation Education: insights, methods, and didactical approaches

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Critically assess the implications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Translation for the theoretical foundations and societal positioning of Translation Studies.
2. Demonstrate translation awareness and Machine Translation literacy by analyzing translation as a socio-cultural, cognitive, and technologically mediated practice.

3. Evaluate pedagogical approaches in Translation Education, identifying strengths, limitations, and challenges in relation to current technological developments.
4. Develop perspectives on the sustainable future of Translation Studies and Translation Education within academic and institutional contexts.

Assessment methods (for PhD students)

Active participation

Participation in lectures, discussions, and collaborative activities, including preparation for sessions and engagement with pre-course materials.

Individual analytical or reflective assignment

A short written assignment, submitted after the on-site component.

Assessment Criteria for PhD students

Students are able to:

- Demonstrate critical understanding of theoretical and methodological issues in Translation Studies and Translation Education
- Integrate insights from lectures, discussions, and relevant scholarly literature
- Present coherent, well-structured arguments appropriate to advanced academic discourse
- Contribute actively and reflectively to collective learning activities.

Lecturers of the BIP:

Prof. Emeritus Yves Gambier (University of Turku)

Prof. Luc van Doorslaer (University of Tartu, KU Leuven, Stellenbosch University)

Associate Prof. Joss Moorkens (Dublin City University)

Lecturer Triin van Doorslaer (Tallinn University)

Associate Prof. Mari Uusküla (Tallinn University)

Senior Specialist Siret Laasner (Tallinn University, Interlex)

Junior Researcher Jekaterina Maadla (Tallinn University)

Research Fellow Tanya Escudero (Tallinn University)

For signing Staff Mobility Agreements for Training please contact Maris Peters
maris.peters@tlu.ee