



# Interpreter Certification Scheme Design Summary

This document outlines the prerequisite requirements, certification pathways and test specifications to become a NAATI-certified interpreter, under the following certification types:

- Recognised Practising Interpreter (RPI)
- Certified Provisional Interpreter (CPI)
- Certified Interpreter (CI)
- Certified Specialist Health Interpreter (CSHI)
- Certified Specialist Legal Interpreter (CSLI)
- Certified Conference Interpreter (CCI)

PREREQUISITES AND SCREENING TESTS		
LANGUAGE COMPETENCY (ENGLISH PROFICIENCY)	ETHICAL COMPETENCY	INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY
<p>Applicants must provide evidence of English proficiency as part of their certification application. Completing a NAATI Endorsed Qualification within the past three years will meet the language proficiency requirements.</p> <p>A range of English proficiency tests will be acceptable noting that there are specific reading, writing, speaking or listening scores required depending on the certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test – General or Academic.</li> <li>• Occupational English Test (OET).</li> <li>• Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT).</li> <li>• Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic.</li> <li>• Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test (also known as Certificate in Advanced English).</li> <li>• Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)</li> <li>• Versant English &amp; Versant Writing.</li> <li>• International Second Language Proficiency Ratings (ISLPR) English test.</li> <li>• Other English proficiency demonstration as assessed as meeting requirements by NAATI.</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of English proficiency for native speakers of English may include records of completing primary and secondary schooling or secondary and tertiary education at an institution where English was the primary language of instruction.</p>	<p>If an applicant has not met the ethical competency requirements as part of their interpreter training, such as by completing a NAATI Endorsed Qualification within the past three years, they will be required to sit an ethical competency test with NAATI.</p> <p>The purpose of the ethical competency test is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable examiners to make inferences about the candidate’s ability to behave ethically in their translation or interpreting practice.</li> <li>• determine eligibility for the certification test and/or a Recognised Practising Translator/Interpreter credential.</li> </ul> <p>The ethical competency test assesses a candidate’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of the relevant code of ethics – AUSIT Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct (2012), ASLIA Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct (2007), or NZSTI Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct (2013)</li> <li>• ability to identify ethical dilemmas in a broad range of interpreting and translation situations</li> <li>• ability to apply the relevant principle/action in the code to the situation.</li> </ul> <p>The test will consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Question type A:</b> answering three (no choice) <b>Knowledge-based short answer questions</b>, and</li> <li>2. <b>Question type B:</b> answering three from a choice of five <b>Scenario-based short answer questions</b>.</li> </ol> <p>Each short answer is expected to be 100-150 words.</p> <p>For candidates under the Indigenous Interpreting Project, the test will be administered orally.</p> <p><b>Time allowed:</b> 1.5 hours</p>	<p>If an applicant has not met the intercultural competency requirements as part of their interpreter training, such as by completing a NAATI Endorsed Qualification within the past three years, they will be required to sit an intercultural competency test with NAATI.</p> <p>The purpose of the intercultural competency test is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable examiners to make inferences about the candidate’s ability to appropriately identify and reflect cultural references in the source and target languages and manage intercultural issues during translation or interpreting practice</li> <li>• determine eligibility for the certification test and/or a Recognised Practising Translator/Interpreter credential.</li> </ul> <p>The intercultural competency test assesses a candidate’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of social, political and cultural institutions in Australia and LOTE country/region</li> <li>• ability to identify culturally and socio-linguistically specific information in a translation and/or interpreting situation</li> <li>• ability to respond to intercultural issues that may complicate communication in translation and/or interpreting assignments.</li> </ul> <p>The test will consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Question type A:</b> answering three from a choice of four <b>Knowledge-based short answer questions</b>, and</li> <li>2. <b>Question type B:</b> answering three from a choice of five <b>Scenario-based short answer questions</b>.</li> </ol> <p>Each short answer is expected to be 100-150 words.</p> <p>For candidates under the Indigenous Interpreting Project, the test will be administered orally.</p> <p><b>Time allowed:</b> 1.5 hours</p>



**RECOGNISED PRACTISING INTERPRETER**

PREREQUISITE PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TEST FORMAT
<p><b>PATHWAY ONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed AQF units in interpreting theory and/or alternate formal education assessed by NAATI as meeting prerequisite requirements or other comparable training delivered by a VET or HE provider.</li> <li>Met NAATI’s standard for language competency, ethical competency and intercultural competency. This may include sitting a test with NAATI.</li> <li>Evidence of recent interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No certification test</b></p>
<p><b>PATHWAY TWO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Recognised Practising Interpreter, Certified Provisional Interpreter, Certified Interpreter, Certified Specialist Interpreter or Certified Conference Interpreter in another language.</li> <li>Evidence of recent interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> </ul>	

**CERTIFIED PROVISIONAL INTERPRETER (CPI)**

PREREQUISITE PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TEST FORMAT
<p><b>PATHWAY ONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a NAATI endorsed interpreting qualification no more than three years before applying - Diploma or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> level 5 or comparable). *</li> </ul>	<p>The test will be in both language directions.</p> <p><b>Each test will consist of three tasks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One telephone dialogue interpreting (consecutive mode) role play</li> <li>Two face-to-face dialogue interpreting (consecutive mode) role plays</li> </ul> <p>Each dialogue will relate to different domains and will be based on real-life exchanges as encountered by non-English speakers in everyday life situations in non-specialised and non-complex contexts (e.g. enquiry about government services for new immigrants, a customer purchasing a car, enquiry about parental payments at a government office).</p> <p><b>Approximate length:</b> 40 minutes</p>
<p><b>PATHWAY TWO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a non-NAATI endorsed interpreting qualification - Diploma or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> level 5 or comparable), or an Endorsed Qualification more than three years before applying.</li> <li>Met NAATI’s standard for language competency, ethical competency and intercultural competency. This may include sitting a test with NAATI.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY THREE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Provisional Interpreter, Certified Interpreter, Certified Specialist Interpreter or Certified Conference Interpreter.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FOUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed AQF units in interpreting theory and/or alternate formal education assessed by NAATI as meeting prerequisite requirements, for example a 40-hour Skill Set Course. In situations where accredited training is not available, unaccredited interpreter training and education will be assessed by NAATI to determine its eligibility.</li> <li>Met NAATI’s standard for language competency, ethical competency and intercultural competency. This may include sitting a test with NAATI.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Recognised Practising Interpreter credential in any language.</li> </ul>	



## CERTIFIED INTERPRETER (CI)

PREREQUISITE PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TEST FORMAT
<p><b>PATHWAY ONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a NAATI endorsed interpreting qualification no more than three years before applying - Advanced Diploma or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 6 or comparable).</li> </ul>	<p>The test will be in both language directions. <b>Each test will consist of six tasks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Sight Translations, one from the language other than English (LOTE) into English and one English into LOTE</li> <li>Two monologue interpreting (consecutive mode) tasks of an information session, one from English into LOTE and one LOTE into English</li> <li>Two monologue interpreting (simultaneous mode) tasks of an explanation of a situation, event or process, one from English into LOTE and one LOTE into English</li> </ul> <p>All interpreting tasks will be based on real-life exchanges as encountered by interpreters in everyday life situations at the level of experts communicating with an educated but non-specialist audience (e.g. a doctor-patient consultation at a medical centre, a client applying for a business loan at a bank). Tasks will cover different domains and at least one assessment task will relate to a topic in the health domain and one in the legal domain.</p> <p><b>Approximate length: 1 hour</b></p>
<p><b>PATHWAY TWO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a non-NAATI endorsed interpreting qualification - Advanced Diploma or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 6 or comparable).</li> <li>Met NAATI's standard for language competency, ethical competency and intercultural competency. This may include sitting a test with NAATI.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY THREE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Interpreter, Certified Specialist Interpreter or Certified Conference Interpreter.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FOUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Provisional Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>Evidence of at least two years' interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> <li>Completed professional development activities to support advanced practice.</li> </ul>	

## CERTIFIED SPECIALIST HEALTH INTERPRETER (CSHI)

PREREQUISITE PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TEST FORMAT
<p><b>PATHWAY ONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a NAATI endorsed interpreting qualification (with specialised units in health interpreting) no more than six years before applying – Bachelor's degree or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 7 or comparable).</li> <li>Provides evidence of at least <b>two</b> years' interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> </ul>	<p>The test will be in both language directions.</p> <p><b>Each test will consist of five tasks:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One health knowledge test (English with LOTE elements)</li> <li>Two consecutive interpreting (monologue) tasks – one in each direction</li> <li>Two simultaneous interpreting (chuchotage) tasks – one in each direction</li> </ol> <p>The knowledge test is an online test which covers a broad range of knowledge in the medical field, advanced interpreting knowledge, and ethical and intercultural competence as relevant to health interpreting. Interpreting tasks will be based on real-life exchanges as encountered by interpreters in specialised health contexts, at the level of experts communicating with other experts. Tasks will cover different sub-domains within health and at least one task will relate to mental health.</p> <p><b>Approximate length: 4 hours</b></p>
<p><b>PATHWAY TWO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a non-endorsed interpreting qualification (with specialised units in health interpreting) – Bachelor's degree or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 7 or comparable).</li> <li>Provides evidence of at least <b>four</b> years' (current, regular and ongoing) interpreting work experience in the language combination in the area of specialisation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY THREE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Specialist Health Interpreter in another language.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FOUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>Provides evidence of at least <b>six</b> years' (current, regular and ongoing) interpreting work experience in the language combination in the area of specialisation.</li> <li>Completed 50 hours professional development activities in the area of specialisation over four years to support advanced practice.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>Provides evidence of at least <b>four</b> years' (current, regular and ongoing) interpreting work experience in the language combination in the area of specialisation.</li> <li>Holds health qualifications at bachelor's degree level of higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 7 or comparable).</li> </ul>	



## CERTIFIED SPECIALIST LEGAL INTERPRETER (CSLI)

PREREQUISITE PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TEST FORMAT
<p><b>PATHWAY ONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>• Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a NAATI endorsed interpreting qualification (with specialised units in legal interpreting) no more than six years before applying - Bachelor's degree or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 7 or comparable).</li> <li>• Provides evidence of at least <b>two</b> years' interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> </ul>	<p>The test will be in both language directions.</p> <p><b>Each test will consist of five tasks:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One legal knowledge test (English with LOTE elements)</li> <li>2. One consecutive interpreting (dialogic extracts) task – both LOTE and English</li> <li>3. Two consecutive interpreting (monologue) tasks – one in each direction</li> <li>4. One simultaneous interpreting (chuchotage) task – English into LOTE</li> </ol> <p>The knowledge test is an online test which covers a broad range of knowledge in the legal field, advanced interpreting knowledge, and ethical and intercultural competence as relevant to legal interpreting. Interpreting tasks will be based on real-life exchanges as encountered by interpreters in specialised legal contexts, at the level of experts communicating with other experts. Tasks will cover different legal domains and types of courts.</p> <p><b>Approximate length:</b> 4 hours</p>
<p><b>PATHWAY TWO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>• Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a non-endorsed interpreting qualification (with specialised units in legal interpreting) - Bachelor's degree or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 7 or comparable).</li> <li>• Provides evidence of at least <b>four</b> years' (current, regular and ongoing) interpreting work experience in the language combination in the area of specialisation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY THREE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Specialist Legal Interpreter in another language.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FOUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>• Provides evidence of at least <b>six</b> years' (current, regular and ongoing) interpreting work experience in the language combination in the area of specialisation.</li> <li>• Completed 50 hours professional development activities in the area of specialisation over four years to support advanced practice.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language combination.</li> <li>• Provides evidence of at least <b>four</b> years' (current, regular and ongoing) interpreting work experience in the language combination in the area of specialisation.</li> <li>• Holds legal qualifications at bachelor's degree level of higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 7 or comparable).</li> </ul>	

## CERTIFIED CONFERENCE INTERPRETER (CCI)

PREREQUISITE PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TEST FORMAT
<p><b>PATHWAY ONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a NAATI endorsed conference interpreting qualification no more than three years before applying – Master's degree or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 9 or comparable). *</li> <li>• Recommended to have at least two years' conference interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> </ul>	<p>There will be separate tests for LOTE into English and English into LOTE certification.</p> <p><b>Each test will consist of three tasks:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consecutive interpreting (monologue) of an unseen speech</li> <li>2. Simultaneous (booth) interpreting (monologue) of a seen speech</li> <li>3. Simultaneous (booth) interpreting (monologue) of an unseen speech</li> </ol> <p>Speeches will be based on real-life speeches at international conferences, summits and negotiations at the level of experts communicating with an expert audience. Each speech will come from a different domain and setting. For signed languages this may include conferences, summits and negotiations at national level.</p> <p><b>Approximate length:</b> 1.5 hours</p>
<p><b>PATHWAY TWO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed (graduated or eligible to graduate) a non-NAATI endorsed conference interpreting qualification – Master's Degree or higher (AQF<sup>1</sup> Level 9 or comparable).</li> <li>• Met NAATI's standard for ethical competency and intercultural competency. This may include sitting a test with NAATI.</li> <li>• Recommended to have at least two years' conference interpreting work experience in the language combination.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY THREE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Conference Interpreter in another direction or another language pair.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FOUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds AICC membership.</li> <li>• Met NAATI's standard for ethical competency. This may include sitting a test with NAATI.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PATHWAY FIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds Certified Interpreter credential in the language.</li> <li>• Evidence of at least three years' conference interpreting work experience and at least 50 days (35 booth days) in the language combination as a conference interpreter.</li> <li>• Completed professional development activities to support advanced practice.</li> </ul>	

\* If the qualification was completed more than 3 years prior to the date of application, the applicant must meet requirements as per the non-endorsed qualification pathway.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Qualifications Framework. For more information about AQF levels please visit <http://www.aqf.edu.au>