

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Christopher Patrick Fitzsimons

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Sex Male | Date of birth 16/10/1985 | Nationality British, Irish

WORK EXPERIENCE

Oct 12 - Present

Member of Management Committee

Euronua

I am a Member of the Management Committee of Euronua, a charity currently being registered with the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, set up to encourage educational and cultural exchanges between Northern Ireland and other European countries in the context of European lifelong learning programmes. This role involves participating in Management Committee meetings (remotely), voting in these meetings, assisting with setting up operational regulations and generally contributing my expertise to the charity's work. I am passionate about both lifelong learning and European cohesion and this work enables me to use my skills for a very good cause and to broaden my experience in these fields.

02/05/2012 - Present

Translator, editor and proofreader

Tipik Communication Agency
Avenue de Tervueren 270 BE-B-1150 Brussels (Belgium)

I am responsible for translating texts, proofreading work outsourced to freelance translators and editing texts drafted by non-native and native speakers. The main clients which require these services are the various Directorates-General of the European Commission. I also provide linguistic services to the teams of lawyers, journalists, graphic designers, event managers and commercial managers in the company and to Tipik's clients in the private sector (such as Total S.A. and Huawei) and in addition prepare documents for tenders. The majority of my work involves editing texts written by non-native speakers and the main language I translate from is French.

At Tipik I have worked on translation, proofreading and editing projects for the European Commission's Directorates-General for Development and Cooperation, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Education and Culture, Research and Innovation, Home Affairs, Regional Policy, Economic and Financial Affairs and Communication, among others.

During my time at Tipik Communication Agency, I designed and developed an English Guide for non-native and native speakers, intended to help those writing in English to produce more fluent, effective and grammatically correct texts and to standardise the English used within the company.

I led the working group on this project over a series of weeks, meeting regularly with editors, commercial managers, journalists, the in-house language coach and graphic designers to produce the guide. I drafted the majority of the content of the guide and proofread and edited additional content.

Please note that I spent the first three months at Tipik working in the company's offices in Brussels and since then have been working remotely from Geneva as my partner was offered a position with the UN.

17/10/2011 - 17/04/2012

Translator, editor and proofreader

Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union
Bâtiment Nouvel hémicycle, 1 rue du Fort Thüngen LU-L-1499 Luxembourg (Luxembourg)

My work here mostly involved translating and editing legal documents (intellectual property, trade marks and designs) which are sent to the Centre by one of its clients, the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market. I also translated and edited documents for a wide variety of the agencies and decentralised bodies (such as the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, the European Food Safety Authority and the European Railway Agency, among others) from French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian into English. I used a broad range of electronic tools and applications (such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Trados Translator's Workbench, TagEditor and IATE) on a regular basis.

During my time at the Centre, in addition to on the job training in the fields of intellectual property, editing and CAT tools, I also attended an interinstitutional seminar on 'The art and craft of fit-for-purpose editing' and a seminar organised by the Centre entitled 'A Presentation of the Lisbon Treaty'.

Having the opportunity to work within a European Union agency enabled me to further develop and perfect my knowledge of European affairs and law. I also worked in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual environment in Luxembourg and lived in Germany for six months, all of which has allowed me to improve my language and communication skills.

01/10/2008 - 01/10/2011

Freelance translator, editor and proofreader

Self-employed

I worked as a professional translator from French, German, Spanish and Portuguese into English while based in Portugal. I also frequently edited documents authored by non-native speakers and proofread translations.

My experience as a freelance translator, reviser and editor enabled me to acquire expertise in the fields of European and international affairs and law and to specialise in these areas. In particular I acquired expertise in the translation, revision and editing of documents on development aid and intellectual property and amassed considerable transferable experience in more general fields such as law, economics, politics and international relations. Among my regular clients while working freelance were the European Regional Development Fund, the United Nations Millennium Campaign, the European Commission and the European Parliament. During this time I was based in Portugal and as such was able to perfect the knowledge of the Portuguese language and Lusophone culture I had gained during my undergraduate studies.

Feedback on my services from some regular clients:

"Great translator, translations that read like originals, swift response, highly recommended"
Veerle Vanderplasschen, Director of Absolute Translations, Australia

"Professional work, fast turnaround time, easy communication. Thank you!"
Kristina Bitvai, Founder and Business Development Manager at Eurideas Linguistic Services, Belgium

"Sound professional approach. Produced a well-researched text that read like an English original. Heeded instructions and communicated efficiently. Recommended."
Carl Gibson, Owner and Managing Partner at Linguanet Quality Translations, Belgium

1 Oct 08 - 1 May 09

Information Services Assistant

Queen's University Belfast
Student Guidance Centre UK-BT7 1NN Belfast (United Kingdom)

I was responsible for processing feedback from students on the quality of the careers service at Queen's University Belfast, updating careers information, providing administrative support to the careers advisers and other staff, assisting students and representing the careers service at several events. I developed excellent research, time management and administrative skills as a result of my work here.

Oct 08 - May 09

Language tutor

Self-employed , Belfast, United Kingdom

I regularly provided English, Spanish and Portuguese language tutoring services to various clients, on a freelance basis. My clients included a Polish lawyer who had recently relocated to Belfast and was interesting in studying business English, an A-Level Spanish student and a client intending to move to Brazil who was studying Portuguese for professional purposes. I therefore taught students with very different requirements and was able to provide a bespoke tutoring service to meet their individual needs, while further developing my own pedagogic and research skills in parallel.

1 Jul 08 - 30 Sep 08

Events Co-ordinator for International Students

University of Ulster

Cromore Road UK-BT52 1SA Coleraine (United Kingdom)

I was responsible for organising and coordinating a programme of activities for international students at the University of Ulster. This entailed logistics planning, liaising with transport authorities, choosing, marketing and booking excursions suitable for large groups and arranging the payment of invoices for these services. I also assisted students in person and by phone, in several languages, and was the first point of contact for the International Student Marketing Department of the University of Ulster during this period of time. I worked closely with the International Marketing team, especially the Market Managers for different global regions, and developed and perfected my communication and organisational skills as a result of this work.

Jun 04 - Oct 04

English language tutor

Travellers Worldwide

I worked as an English language teacher, through a programme organised by Travellers Worldwide, in several schools and language institutions as well as in homes for single mothers and orphans, across the city of Buenos Aires for a period of several months. I taught all age groups and people from many different backgrounds, including socially marginalised people, children affected by HIV, teenagers studying in bi-lingual schools and business people. I was responsible for planning lessons, teaching large classes on my own and assisting with assessments. This was a rewarding and fascinating experience which required me to be extremely independent and well-organised. I have returned to Argentina many times since this first trip, for various purposes.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/09/2004 - 01/07/2008

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Hispanic Studies with Portuguese, awarded with upper second class honours

Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road UK-E1 4NS London (United Kingdom)

Hispanic and Lusophone Studies. Spanish, Portuguese and French, linguistics, grammar, interpreting and translation

01/09/2008 - 01/07/2009

Master of Arts in Film, Photography and Visual Studies, awarded with commendation

Queen's University, Belfast, University Road UK-BT7 1NN Belfast (United Kingdom)

Visual Studies, Film Theory, Photography

01/02/2011 - 01/02/2012

Postgraduate Certificate in Translation

University of Portsmouth, Winston Churchill Avenue UK-PO1 2UP Portsmouth (United Kingdom)

German and French into English translation including specialised translation in the fields of business, marketing and law. Studied part-time by distance learning.

1 Sep 12 - Present

Graduate Diploma in Law

University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield West (United Kingdom)

Modules include: The English Legal System, Contract Law, Criminal Law, EU Law, Public Law, Equity and Trusts, Land Law and Law of Torts.

Studied part-time by distance learning while working full-time. To be completed in 2014.

- 1 Sep 08 - 1 Jun 09
C2
Superior level (C2) Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE)
 Belfast Metropolitan College, 125-153 Millfield UK-BT1 1HS Belfast (United Kingdom)
 Spanish language and culture
- 1 Nov 06 - 31 Jan 07
Advanced specialised level Spanish language diplomas (levels VI, VII and VIII)
 University of Buenos Aires, Junín 222 Buenos Aires (Argentina)
 Spanish language and culture, Latin American studies.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) English

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Portuguese	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Spanish / Castilian	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1
German	C1	C1	B1	B1	B1
Italian	B2	B2	A2	A2	A2
Arabic	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/files/questdoc/2008/08/12/CEFR.pdf)

Communication skills Having spent time living in several countries (Germany, Argentina, France, Portugal, Francophone Canada and Belgium), all with very different cultures, has enabled me to perfect my interpersonal skills.

Organisational / managerial skills Excellent time management and general organisational skills gained from running my own translation and editing business as I was responsible for marketing, administrative tasks, financial obligations and the day-to-day challenges presented by operating as a self-employed professional, working for clients across the globe.

Job-related skills Advanced online and offline terminology research skills. Competent user of a variety of linguistic resources such as glossaries, terminology databases, translation memories and parallel texts.

Computer skills Proficient user of CAT tools (Trados and Wordfast) and of Microsoft office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Time spent abroad:

Portugal (27 months)

Argentina (15 months)

Germany/Luxembourg (6 months)

France (4 months)

Francophone Canada (3 months)

Brazil (3 months)

Belgium (3 months)

Switzerland (3 months as of December 2012)

I am an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists.