Living in Luxembourg

Luxembourg is a small and picturesque country close to several major European cities. The city of Luxembourg is the seat of the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and the European Investment Bank, but it also has some departments of the European Commission and the European Parliament. As a result, it is a busy, cosmopolitan place.

The following websites give an idea of life in Luxembourg:

- http://www.luxembourg.co.uk

Working as an English-language lawyer linguist at the Court of Justice of the European Union

Contact
recruitment.tradEN@curia.europa.eu

Links
Court of Justice
www.curia.europa.eu
Gateway to the European Union
www.europa.eu
European Personnel Selection Office
www.europa.eu/epso
The Translation Service of the Court of Justice

It is responsible for the translation, from and into any of the EU languages, of the documents required for the participation in, and understanding, resolution and publication of, proceedings brought before the Courts of the Union.

The Directorate-General for Translation currently includes 22 language units, one for each official language into which the Court’s case-law must be translated, and four support units providing research, documentation, terminology and training, and coordinating all translation requests.

The English-language Translation Department

It is responsible for the English-language translation of all documents required. The translations of judgments, orders and Opinions of the Advocates General are published, usually in the European Court Reports.

Unpublished translations include orders for reference from national courts, written pleadings and Reports for the Hearing.

The English-language lawyer linguists

- Translate legal texts into English
- Revise such texts
- Serve as “pivot” translators from Czech, Danish, Lithuanian and Swedish, for the benefit of the other translation units
- Provide advice on English legal terminology within the Directorate-General
- Provide legal analysis in cooperation with the Registries and other departments of the Court

Qualities required

The work of the translation service is complex and demanding, in terms of quality, quantity and deadlines, and English-language translations are of particular significance in the numerous cases which have English as the language of the case.

English-language lawyer linguists therefore need to satisfy the following conditions:

- Have a perfect command of English (mother-tongue level)
- Have a thorough knowledge of French, the language in which the Court, by custom, deliberates and drafts its judgments and orders
- Have a thorough knowledge of a third official language of the European Union, in which orders for reference, pleadings and Opinions may be drafted
- Have successfully completed a suitable course in law (to ensure adequate knowledge of the national law and legal system of one of the English-speaking Member States) i.e. hold a degree in law, or its equivalent, awarded in the UK or Ireland or have qualified as a barrister, advocate or solicitor in the UK or Ireland
- Have an adequate knowledge of Community/EU law
- Have the ability, though not necessarily from experience, to translate complex, legal texts
- Have the ability to use standard office technology
- Have the ability to adapt and develop throughout their careers
- Have the ability to fit into a multi-lingual, multicultural environment

Points of entry to the Department for (aspiring) lawyer linguists

- When a vacancy cannot be filled by a successful candidate on a competition reserve list, a temporary contract is possible as an English-language legal translator
  http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_10298/2EN
- Five-month paid traineeships are available
  http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_7006/
- One-month paid student contracts are available in the summer, to candidates aged between 18 and 25
- Successful competition candidates are recruited from reserve lists at Grade AD7. When EU tax has been deducted and a number of allowances added, the single person with no dependants will receive a net monthly salary of at least EUR 5000
- EU officials have generous medical insurance and pension benefits
- Staff are entitled to at least 24 days of paid annual leave per year, plus a number of public holidays
- Newly-recruited lawyer linguists receive detailed training in the IT applications and working methods to be used in their work
- Lawyer linguists are encouraged throughout their careers to learn additional languages by following in-house and residential courses
- Lawyer linguists are also encouraged to improve their legal knowledge, and law lectures are regularly organised

Further information

If you would like to find out more about working as an English-language lawyer linguist at the Court of Justice, please feel free to e-mail your queries to the following address:
recruitment.tradEN@curia.europa.eu