

Language training and the schools

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Language training is a matter of importance for the financial centre. Geneva's state schools teach French, German from primary level and English, in accordance with the curricula of French-speaking Switzerland, while the international schools, which are numerous in the canton, teach in English or bilingually. The University of Geneva has a faculty of translation and interpreting of international renown, the heir to the school founded in 1941.¹

The financial institutions, which benefit from this system that trains multilingual staff, contribute to it through in-house training and support for programmes. A command of German remains the weak point of many Genevans, despite its compulsory teaching, which limits access to the federal institutions and to Zurich. The command of French among the foreign staff of English-speaking institutions is another issue, on which their integration into the city depends.

The cantonal authorities, attached to French, have an interest in cooperating with the institutions, which are oriented towards English, so as to maintain a linguistic balance that preserves the identity of the city and the attractiveness of the financial centre. This balance is one of the elements of the quality of life that the financial centre puts forward to attract talent.

1 Notes

1. University of Geneva, Faculté de traduction et d'interprétation, presentation page (unige.ch): founded in 1941 as the École d'interprètes de Genève, became the École de traduction et d'interprétation in 1972 and a faculty in 2011; more than 600 students, seven languages taught (German, English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian), more than one hundred teaching and research staff, 70 partner universities in more than 20 countries. ↩

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