



CIOL ROYAL PATRON PRINCE MICHAEL PRESENTS CEYDA WITH THE PETER NEWMARK AWARD 2017. © Chris Christodoulou

# The successful student

**Award-winning Diploma in Translation candidate Ceyda Aldemir-Down on her journey from IoLET Affiliate to Chartered Linguist**

Growing up in Turkey, I studied English from the age of 11, and when I worked in a hostel for a year, it became a daily part of my life. As I read the English books left by visitors, it occurred to me that working with books and using my language skills is what would make me happy; I began by translating a romantic novel.

After moving to the UK in 2009, I tried a range of different jobs before starting out as a translator. The first years of freelance life were not easy. I was qualified as a Chemical Engineer and it was difficult to get a translation qualification while raising my two children. I found out about the Diploma in Translation (DipTrans) while researching CIOL membership and it seemed

## THE LINGUIST / OPINION & COMMENT

industry essay.

In August 2016, I applied to take the exam the following January. I didn't have time to do a course; working full-time as a translator was my preparation. As an IoLET Affiliate, I requested past exam papers and examiner reports. The CIOL website is full of resources, free to IoLET Affiliates, and I read *everything*. On the day of the exam, I had a suitcase full of dictionaries, but I didn't use most of them.

We were in Turkey when the results were due, and a friend called me to give me the results. Everything changed! First, I applied to upgrade to full CIOL membership, and to become Chartered. I was so excited to use my designatory letters and wasted no time in updating my CV and online profiles. It has given me such confidence that I regret not doing it years ago. I'm no longer shy to ask for the rate I think I deserve. Since being on CIOL's Find-a-Linguist directory I have been contacted by clients instead of having to compete for jobs posted online.

When I found out I had won the Peter Newmark Award for Best DipTrans Candidate in Literature, I had recently lost my cousin and was struggling to keep going. I could not believe it and asked my husband to read and confirm the email. Receiving an award for something you are passionate about is such a delight. The awards event was a once-in-a-lifetime experience: a day to remember.



*Ceyda Aldemir-Down MCIL won the Peter Newmark Award in 2017.*