

Nicky Brown | Curriculum Vitae

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30/8 Lutton Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9PG | Date of Birth: 05/01/1976

PROFILE

Russia and the Russian language are my passions. With a First Class Honours degree in Russian Studies and an MA in Applied Translation Studies, I have a thorough and advanced knowledge of both the Russian language and Russian culture. Using this knowledge, I am able to deliver high-quality, accurate and relevant translations across a variety of genres and registers. My specialist areas are global affairs; literature; culture and the arts, with a particular knowledge of music; human rights; and business and finance.

EMPLOYMENT

Freelance translator | May 2010 – present

I work for a variety of agencies and individuals (including the United Nations World Health Organization) translating and editing texts in various fields including literature, global affairs, economics and finance, legal, marketing, and business.

Notable projects to date:

- (300,000 words+) Regular translator for the Russian think tank and online journal *Strategic Culture Foundation*, www.strategic-culture.org (*foreign affairs/politics/economics*).
- (200,000 words) Working full-time for historian Orlando Figes over a period of seven months, I translated letters written in the 1940s and early 1950s and my translations form the basis of his book *Just send me word*, published in the spring of 2012. I was the principal translator for the entire project (*literary/historical translation*).
- (100,000 words) Translation of Yuri Gordon's book *Книга про буквы от Аа до Яя* (*A book of letters from Аа to Яя*) to be published in 2017 (*graphic design/typography*).
- (40,000 words+) Volunteer translator for www.rightsinrussia.info, a human rights organisation that provides news, views and reviews about human rights in the Russian Federation (*journalism*).
- (23,000 words) "Investing for impact against HIV, tuberculosis or malaria" – Global Fund concept notes, programmatic gap tables and modular templates (*international development*).
- (22,000 words) Translation of writings on William Shakespeare's Hamlet by the Soviet actor Michael Chekhov for a Special Issue of the academic journal "Theatre Dance and Performance Training" (*literary/arts translation*).
- (14,000 words+) Regular translator for the open dialogue research journal *Oriental Review*, www.orientalreview.org (*foreign affairs/politics/economics*).
- (6,000 words) Translation of documentary interviews on Russian photographer Oleg Videnin (*arts/cultural translation*).

Marketing and Communications Officer | February 2005 – September 2005

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, 4 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5AB

I was responsible for designing, proofreading and producing all print media including concert programmes, advertising posters and flyers. I was also in charge of the Orchestra's monthly newsletter, which involved sourcing and commissioning all articles and interviews and layout of the finished product. The position involved everyday use of Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator to a high professional standard. I resigned from the position to return to university.

Freelance Graphic Designer | October 2002 – February 2005

Working as a freelance graphic designer involved exploring customer needs, agreeing specific objectives and designing in a variety of formats, including magazines (clients have included the Securities Institute, the Futures and Options Associations, Atradius, the International Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Defence), CDs (design and photography for Phil Alexander, Canadian band Cremer and contemporary group Trio Fuego), corporate stationery (McCartney's Search & Selection, GuerillaSound, Powerbase Records) and flyers (Tam White, Miller, Bannermans Bar).

Designer/Production Manager | August 1999 – September 2002

Newsdesk Communications, 130 City Road, London, EC1V 2NW

Working for this contract publishing company, I was responsible for the design, editorial layout, proofreading and day-to-day management of all publications from the clients' initial design brief to delivery of the finished product. The company produces magazines for financial companies such as the IFC and FSA as well as government departments and the Ministry of Defence. I also liaised with advertisers on a daily basis, providing technical telephone support and in many instances taking on the additional responsibility of designing their advertising copy. I was also responsible for checking all artwork, including all advertisements, before sending them to press. This role not only gave me a great eye for detail but also extensive knowledge of these subject domains.

Production Assistant/Administration Assistant | July 1998 – August 1999

Newsdesk Communications, 130 City Road, London, EC1V 2NW

I was the initial point of contact for all visitors and took charge of all incoming calls. Other duties included all paperwork and secretarial duties necessary for a busy contract publishing team of 15 and PA duties for the MD. My duties also included picture research, management of the picture library, proofreading and copy editing. Promotion meant that I moved into the design/editorial office.

KEY SKILLS

Technical Skills:

- A thorough working knowledge of computer-assisted translation software: SDL Trados Studio 2009, SDL Multiterm, Wordfast and OmegaT.
- A thorough working knowledge of design software: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Indesign and QuarkXPress.
- 80 wpm typing speed (for both the English and Russian language).
- SDL Trados Studio certified.

Personal Skills:

- Highly-organised.
- Self-motivated.
- Adaptable.
- Always eager to learn and improve.

EDUCATION

University of Leeds, Leeds | September 2009 – August 2010

MA in Applied Translations Studies (specialised language pair Russian-English) | Merit

This Masters course helped me develop the high-level translation and project management skills I now use as a practising translator, with direct experience of a wide array of translation tools used in the profession (Deja Vu X, OmegaT, Passolo, SDL Trados, STAR Transit and Wordfast). For my final project I completed two extended 5,000 word translations – an article on renewable energy in the Irkutsk region (*scientific translation*) and a decision by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation (*legal translation*).

University of Leeds, Leeds | September 2005 – June 2009

BA in Russian Studies | First Class (Hons) with a Distinction in Spoken Russian

Winner of the Tchertkoff Prize for Academic Excellence.

This degree course included a year spent in Moscow studying Russian at the Centre for International Education (TsMO), part of Moscow State University. Whilst in Moscow, I also found employment teaching conversational English to adults at Moscow State University.

Goldsmiths College, University of London, New Cross, London | September 1994 – June 1997
BMus (Hons) Music | Upper Second-Class Honours

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls, Gravesend, Kent | September 1992 – July 1994
A Level Sociology: A | A Level English Literature: B | A Level Practical Music: B | A Level Music: C

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls, Gravesend, Kent | September 1989 – July 1992
9 GCSEs – Grades A and B.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Most of my free time is spent enjoying the many facets of Russian culture, including Russian classical music (especially the works of Dmitri Shostakovich), Soviet ‘bards’ (such as Vladimir Vysotsky and Yuri Vizbor), literature (with a particular love of Tolstoy and Solzhenitsyn, as well as more contemporary writers such as Viktor Pelevin) and art. I also love to travel when I have the opportunity and most recently spent a month travelling through Russia from Vladivostok to Moscow by train, residing with Russian families along the way.

On a more general level I enjoy all types of music and all aspects of the arts, both as a performer (I play the piano and bassoon) and a listener. I visit the theatre and cinema regularly and am a voracious reader of all types of contemporary literature and current affairs.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.