

Multilingual, Multitalented

TEXT JAIME SCHWARTZ | PHOTOS: ALPHATRAD

Alphatrad, part of Optilingua group, has provided an array of professional translation services for over thirty-five years.

Founded in France, this cleverly named company, "Alpha" being the first letter of the Greek alphabet and "trad" short for the french word "traduction," works with over 3,500 specialists in more than 100 languages.

The firm's three main branches are located in Germany, Austria and Switzerland with additional European offices. Their large network of native translators ensures that clients get the best person for the job. "All of our translators understand the nuances of language and culture very well," says Strategic Director for Europe Daniel Sommerlade. "Most specialize in specific areas such as medicine, law, or engineering which makes our team unique."

Precision is an important element of translation work and is essential in order to communicate the intricacies of one language into another. The company offers varied services in technical and medical translations, translations of websites, proof-reading, and audio transcriptions, among others. The differing nature of each kind of translation requires an ability to determine the right approach so a level of integrity to the original is maintained. "Translation," Mr. Sommerlade explains, "in the end is a human labour dependent on picking up on a particular style or tone. In this

way there is no one correct translation, our task is to adapt as best as possible to the needs of the customer and determine the appropriate style so he is satisfied."

www.alphatrad.at



A unique training model from Austria

Unique in Europe, the private Higher Technical College Hollabrunn offers high-quality, praxis-oriented technical training in food safety, while offering optimal individual support and promoting independent learning, curiosity, team spirit and social competence.

TEXT NANE STEINHOFF | PHOTOS: HTC HOLLABRUNN / GABRIELE HAGER-WIESBÖCK

Established in 1985, the boarding school in the north-east of Austria, offers the country's only apprenticeship with this particular emphasis. The course is designed for students who have finished the 8th grade, and who want to gain a vocational training in the production, quality control and overall food safety control with a spe-

cial focus on chemical and microbiological methods.

Pupils are prepared for the professional environment in a contemporary way through an intelligent combination of academic and practical elements. Throughout the five-year-long education, they gain a well-founded chemical, technological, sen-

sory analytical and microbiological training in the school's own laboratories.

"Our students value our support-oriented school atmosphere and the extensive practical work in the laboratories. We are a small school with 140 students in five classes. We know our students personally and maintain a very good relationship with parents and our former graduates, who provide us with lots of job offers," school Principal Mrs. Hager-Wiesböck says.

The intensive practical experience makes the students much sought-after on the job market: "We have considerably more job offers for our graduates than we can pass on. Some start up their own business or go into higher education, while a big percentage works in quality management in food producing companies, as well as in chemical or microbiological laboratories or as production managers," Hager-Wiesböck says.

www.htllt-hollabrunn.ac.at

