

Certified Translation for NBSS Students in Boston: A Practical How-To + FAQ

International applicants and students at North Bennet Street School (NBSS) often need *certified translation*, *official translation*, or *certified document translation* for admissions, credential evaluations (e.g., WES/ECE), M-1 visa paperwork, and everyday life in Massachusetts. This guide explains what to translate, how to do it right, and where to get help—locally and online.

certified translation

document translation

official translation services

WES / ECE

M-1 visa

Boston, MA

USCIS translation

NBSS is located in Boston's North End at **150 North Street, Boston, MA 02109**. ([Contact & Visit](#))

Quick checklist (60 seconds)

1. Identify the destination: NBSS Admissions, a credential evaluator (WES/ECE), USCIS/SEVIS, a consulate, an employer, or a Massachusetts agency.
2. Confirm whether you need a *certified translation certificate* (a signed "certificate of accuracy translation").
3. Prepare clear scans/photos of the *entire* document (including seals/stamps).
4. Order from a professional *certified translation agency* (online or local) and request the correct format (PDF, hard copy, notarization if required).
5. Review names, dates, and document numbers; keep originals safe; submit copies + certified translations as instructed.

Why "complete" matters (USCIS rule)

"Any document containing foreign language submitted to USCIS shall be accompanied by a full English language translation... certified as complete and accurate..." ([8 CFR § 103.2\(b\)\(3\)](#)).

This is why "partial," "summary," or "only the key lines" translations can lead to delays—especially for immigration filings.

NBSS-specific context (international students)

- **English proficiency**

may be documented via TOEFL/IELTS, ESL coursework certificates, U.S. college English transcripts, or proof of English-taught study. ([NBSS International Students](#))

- **Academic records**

from outside the U.S. typically need translation (if not in English) and professional evaluation (e.g., WES). ([NBSS International Students](#))

- NBSS international students attend on an

M-1 student visa

and receive an

I-20

from NBSS after financial documentation steps. ([NBSS International Students](#))

Fast stats (Boston + Massachusetts)

- **NBSS impact:**

3,000+ graduates worldwide; 70% of students receive financial aid. ([NBSS Homepage](#))

- **Massachusetts:**

82,000+ international students; 17.6% of postsecondary enrollment (among the highest shares in the U.S.). ([Boston Indicators](#))

- **U.S. total:**

1,177,766 international students studied in the U.S. in 2024/25. ([Open Doors Data](#))

1) When do NBSS students typically need certified translation?

Students and applicants commonly search "*certified translation services near me*" only after a deadline appears. In reality, you may need *certified translation* across three phases:

A. Admissions & international application documents (NBSS)

- **Transcripts, diplomas, academic certificates**

(especially from outside the U.S.)

- **ESL certificates**

or proof of English proficiency

- **Credential evaluations**

(WES / other evaluators) and any translated attachments

NBSS notes that credentials from outside the U.S. may need translation (if not in English) and evaluation by a professional evaluation service such as WES. See [NBSS International Students](#).

B. Immigration & status paperwork (M-1 / USCIS / SEVIS)

- **Birth certificate translation**

(certified translation of birth certificate)

- **Marriage certificate translation**

/ divorce decrees

- **Police clearance certificate**

, ID documents, household registration (e.g., Chinese hukou), family relation certificates

- **Bank statements / affidavits**

that must be translated for filings or supporting documentation

For the federal translation rule used in USCIS filings, see [8 CFR § 103.2\(b\)\(3\)](#).

C. Everyday life in Boston & Massachusetts

- Housing: lease/tenancy agreements, proof of address documents
- Healthcare: vaccination records, medical records, insurance paperwork
- Work: resumes, trade certificates, employment letters
- Local agencies may have their own “official translation” requirements—always verify on the agency’s site first.

2) How to get a certified translation (step-by-step)

Step 1 — Confirm the exact requirement (who is the “end user”?)

- **NBSS Admissions**

(international students): academic records + evaluation requirements ([NBSS International Students](#)).

- **WES credential evaluation**

: WES requires translations for non-English documents in the U.S. process and expects translations to be word-for-word and done by a professional translator ([WES Translation Requirements](#)).

- **ECE credential evaluation**

: ECE's translation expectations can differ (including optional translation waiver) ([ECE Documentation Requirements](#)).

- **USCIS filings**

: "full English translation" with translator certification of accuracy and competence ([8 CFR § 103.2\(b\)\(3\)](#)).

Step 2 — Gather "clean" source files

- Use flat, glare-free photos or scans.
- Include **all pages**, backs, stamps, seals, signatures, and annotations.
- Keep file names organized (e.g., "BirthCertificate_CN.pdf", "Transcript_JP.jpg").

Step 3 — Choose a trusted provider (local or online)

You can use a local language service provider in Boston, or a *certified translation services online* provider. For high-stakes uses (USCIS, credential evaluation, licensing, courts), prioritize:

- **Document completeness**
 - : no missing stamps or side notes
- **Format fidelity**
 - : tables, course titles, grades, IDs copied accurately
- **Certification statement**
 - : "certificate of accuracy translation" with contact details
- **Confidentiality**
 - : secure handling of passports, bank statements, and immigration evidence

Step 4 — Request the deliverables you actually need

- **Certified translation PDF**
 - (common for admissions, WES uploads, and many digital submissions)
- **Hard copy**
 - (if a school/employer/agency requires paper)
- **Notarized translation**
 - only if the end user explicitly demands it (requirements vary)

Tip: If you are unsure, ask the receiving office: "Do you require certified translation only, or notarized translation as well?"

Step 5 — Verify before you submit

- Names and dates match passports/IDs (spellings, order, diacritics).
- Numbers match exactly (document ID, registry numbers, course codes).
- Certification is attached to each translated document where required.

Practical note for credential evaluations (WES)

WES requires translations to be “exact and word-for-word” and completed by “a professional translator.” ([WES guidance](#))

3) Campus + Boston resources that help (language, international support, student services)

NBSS contacts students use most

- **Admissions (International Students)**
: [International Students page](#) (email: admissions@nbss.edu).
- **Financial Aid / SEVIS support**
: NBSS lists its Financial Aid Director as a key contact and SEVIS officer for international students. See [Tuition & Financial Aid](#) and [International Students](#).
- **Student Life & Career Services**
: studentlife@nbss.edu (Student Life contact is shown on NBSS “Living in Boston” page). [Living in Boston](#)

Boston language learning & conversation practice

If you’re building English confidence for interviews, presentations, or TOEFL/IELTS prep, Boston Public Library offers free adult ESOL classes and conversation groups across locations. [BPL English Language Learning](#)

This is especially helpful if you need to document ESL coursework (where applicable) or simply want more “real-world” speaking practice.

Why this matters for students

Massachusetts is one of the most international-student-dense states in the U.S., and Boston is a major study destination. That means more interactions where “official translation” and “certified document translation services” come up—academics, immigration steps, jobs, and local life. See: [Boston Indicators](#) and [Open Doors](#).

Budget reality

NBSS notes that nearly 75% of students receive some form of financial aid and the school provides over \$1.1M in scholarships in a year. [Tuition & Financial Aid](#)

If you’re cost-conscious, ask providers for page-based vs word-based pricing, and confirm what “certified translation” includes (certificate, stamps/seals, formatting, revisions).

Need certified translation quickly? (Recommended option)

NBSS students often prefer an **online certified translation** workflow because it’s fast, easy to upload from anywhere, and designed for digital submissions (WES uploads, PDF delivery, etc.). One recommended option is **CertOf** (*certified translation services online*)—built for official document translation, including USCIS-style certified translations, academic records, and legal document translation.

[Start your order \(upload & quote\)](#)

[Questions? Contact CertOf](#)

Helpful reading before you upload: [How online ordering works](#) · [PDF vs Word vs paper](#) · [USCIS requirements](#)

Policies: [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Refund](#)

4) FAQ (common student questions)

- ▶ What is a “certified translation” in the U.S. (and what’s the certificate)?
- ▶ Certified translation vs notarized translation vs sworn translation — which one do I need?
- ▶ Can I translate my own documents or use Google Translate for USCIS or WES?
- ▶ I’m applying to NBSS as an international student. What exactly needs translation?

▶ **Do WES and ECE have the same translation rules?**

▶ **What documents do students most often translate (examples)?**

▶ **How fast can I get a certified translation (fast certified translation)?**

▶ **Do I need to mail originals? What about privacy and sensitive data?**

5) Compliance & good-practice notes (important)

- **This guide is informational, not legal advice.**

Requirements can vary by agency, country, and case type.

- **Always confirm the "end user" requirement**

(NBSS, evaluator, USCIS, consulate, employer, state agency).

- **Avoid partial/summary translations**

when a full translation is required (common in immigration contexts).

- **Protect your identity:**

share documents only through secure upload channels; keep originals and backups.

References (authoritative sources cited)

1. NBSS International Students: English proficiency, academic record requirements, M-1 visa overview. <https://nbss.edu/admissions/international-students/>
2. NBSS Contact & Visit: location in Boston's North End and address. <https://nbss.edu/contact-visit/>
3. 8 CFR § 103.2(b)(3) (USCIS translation rule): "full English language translation... certified as complete and accurate..." <https://www.ecfr.gov/.../section-103.2>
4. WES: Translation Requirements for a WES Credential Evaluation (word-for-word, professional translator). <https://www.wes.org/.../translation-requirements...>
5. ECE: Documentation Requirements (translations and optional translation waiver). <https://www.ece.org/.../Documentation-Requirements>
6. ATA: Four-Step Guide to USCIS Certified Translation Requirements. <https://www.atanet.org/.../blog-uscis-certified-translation/>

7. Open Doors Data (2024/25): 1,177,766 international students in the U.S.
<https://opendoorsdata.org/.../international-students/>
8. Boston Indicators: Massachusetts international student totals and share of enrollment.
https://www.bostonindicators.org/.../international_students
9. Boston Public Library: English Language Learning (ESOL classes and conversation groups).
<https://www.bpl.org/ell/>
10. NAFSA: International students' economic contribution (\$42.9B in 2024–25).
<https://www.nafsa.org/.../international-students-contributed-43-billion...>