



Interpreter/Communication Coordinator

About Spiber Inc.

Established in September 2007, Spiber Inc. is a Japanese biotechnology startup utilizing cutting-edge synthetic biology, polymer, and material science for the development of its novel Brewed Protein™ materials. Produced through microbial fermentation and utilizing agricultural feedstocks as their primary raw material, Brewed Protein™ polymers are well positioned to make significant contributions to animal-free and plastic-free initiatives in a range of fields, such as the apparel and automotive industries. Leveraging its R&D expertise, Spiber pursues its mission of positively contributing to sustainable human well-being.

Spiber's Brewed Protein™ materials

Brewed Protein™ materials are the protein fibers, films, resins, and other types of materials manufactured using Spiber's proprietary fermentation process. With a production process that utilizes plant-derived sugars as primary raw ingredients, Brewed Protein™ materials are well placed to address increasing market pressure for animal-free, plastic-free alternatives in the apparel industry. The unique, customizable nature of Brewed Protein™ materials also shows potential to fulfill growing demand in the automotive and aerospace industries for lighter-weight materials. Through an evolutionary and iterative optimization process which begins at the molecular level, Brewed Protein™ materials can be tailored to suit the needs of specific applications in a range of fields and industries.

Job description

We are looking for an individual who is proficient in both English and Japanese to assist with interpreting and other language-related communication tasks as a member of Spiber's Language Support Team. Approximately 10% of Spiber's staff members are originally from outside Japan, and we expect the number of members joining from other countries to only continue to grow, so we take a variety of actions to overcome the language barriers we encounter in both internal and external communication.

This role is not an exclusively interpreting-oriented role; while interpreting activities are expected to make up about 1-3 hours of work per day, the remaining time would be used for other tasks (related to language support and/or other teams within Spiber that match your interests and skill set). Flexibility and a willingness to learn will be crucial to succeeding in—and getting the most enjoyment out of—this role.

Specific tasks include:

- Simultaneous interpreting (Japanese to English and English to Japanese) for various internal meetings
 - Interpreting can be done either verbally or through text (in which the interpreter listens to a meeting in the source language and types into the target language using a messaging application such as Slack)
 - Meeting content covers a range of topics including business development; R&D, production, and material allocation updates; and other topics as needed (sustainability, media interviews, internal seminars etc.)
 - Interpreting would typically be team-based, in which two interpreters alternate every 20-30 minutes, but individual interpreting may be necessary from time to time
 - Depending on the scale and format of the meeting, there may be occasions where consecutive interpreting may be more suitable
- Translation and proofreading of various materials (presentations, emails, press releases etc.)
- Working with other members of the Language Support Team to propose, plan, and execute language support and language learning initiatives in the company
- Working with other teams within the company (e.g. business development, finance and administration, research and development) may be possible depending on your skill set and the specific needs of those teams (details can be discussed with applicants who are invited to the interview stage)

Requirements

- Proficiency in both English and Japanese (preferably with native-level proficiency in at least one)
- Simultaneous and consecutive interpreting experience
- Willingness to learn about topics that you may not be familiar with (such as business development, protein science, production technology etc.)
- Ability to take the initiative in finding problems (especially communications-related problems) in the company and proposing solutions

Preferred experience/skills

- Experience living or working in a multicultural environment
- Experience interpreting in a business environment, preferably using online tools
- General IT competency, and familiarity with tools including Google Workspace and Slack

Core values

- A sense of engagement and responsibility towards Spiber's projects
- The ability to commit to the team's mission over individual interests
- The capacity for flexibility in the pursuit of maximizing the team's performance
- Willingness to step outside individual areas of specialization
- An appreciation for new experiences and challenges
- Ability to deliver and share our company's culture and image
- Ability to work under pressure and react to an ever-changing environment

Location

- Tsuruoka, Japan; remote work within Japan is also possible

How to apply

- Please send your application documents through the application form on our website (<https://www.spiber.inc/en/join/form/>). Please select "Finance & Administration" on the form and mention that you are applying for the role of Interpreter/Communication Coordinator in the "Comments" box.